Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Sheep Validation Guidelines

County Extension Agents, Agriculture Science Teachers, and exhibitors should review the major show rules and be aware of requirements regarding state validation programs.

County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee(s) Structure and Responsibilities

A County Level State 4-H/FFA Validation Committee(s) shall be organized in each county where sheep and goats are being fed by members of either 4-H or FFA for exhibit at the major livestock shows that require sheep and goats to be state validated. Each county has the option of organizing a county level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee to support and conduct the sheep and goat validation OR a county may organize separate committees to conduct sheep validation and goat validation. The committee(s) must be composed of County Extension Agents, Agriculture Science Teachers, and a minimum of two representatives of the local fair boards or other youth livestock leaders from the county. All County Level State 4-H and FFA Validation Committees must have a minimum of four members. The County Level State 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Committee can request an exemption from requirements regarding committee members that represent local fair boards or serve as youth livestock leaders local. The request for an exemption must be presented to the Executive Committee of the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program in an email or letter. All FFA Chapters in the county and the county 4-H program must be represented on the County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee(s). The committee(s) must select a County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher to serve as the chairperson.

If a county does not have an active County Level State Validation Committee, the County Extension Agent(s) are responsible for calling the first meeting to organize one. All County Extension Agents-AG/NR and/or 4-H and all Agricultural Science Teachers in the county shall be invited to this meeting. County Extension Agents and Agriculture Science Teachers will identify local Fair Board members or other local leaders to serve on the County Level State Validation Committee(s).

The County Level State 4-H/FFA Validation Committee will meet as a group to conduct the validation of 4-H and FFA market lambs, breeding sheep, market goats, and breeding goats in the county. The committee(s) will determines the dates, times, and locations for conducting the state validation. There must be a minimum of three committee members present during validation. County committees are encouraged to plan for unforeseen needs and situations which do not allow some 4-H/FFA members to participate on scheduled validation date(s). The State Validation Program does not require a local committee to offer a minimum number of validation opportunities, but the County Level State 4-H and FFA Validation Committee should conduct the program in a positive manner that encourages participation in the youth livestock program.
1. To be eligible to compete at participating major shows, all breeding sheep must abide by the rules presented in the Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Sheep Validation Guidelines. Rams and ewes are included in the breeding sheep validation program.

2. The ownership deadline for breeding sheep is October 1st. Purchase, delivery, possession and registration must all take place on or before Oct. 1, 2015. In the event that the date of transfer and ownership date are not consistent on the Original Registration Certificate, the most recent date will be interpreted as the official date of ownership for the exhibitor. Rams and ewes must be registered in the Herdbook of their Association in only the name of the junior owner. The information on the papers should be reviewed by the committee during the validation process. Breeding sheep that do not meet the guidelines should not be validated.

3. Validation will be conducted between October 1 and October 31, 2015. Existing breeder tag numbers and tattoos that correspond to the registration papers will be used. Therefore, NO validation tags and county tattoos numbers will be required, except on Wether Dams.

4. The County Level State Validation Committee determines the dates, times, and locations for conducting the state validation. County committees are encouraged to plan for unforeseen situations which prohibit some 4-H/FFA members from participating on scheduled validation date(s) or times.

5. The Breeding Sheep Validation Form must be completed at the time breeding sheep are nose printed, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay. The Breeding Sheep Validation Forms should indicate the county name only. Do not list FFA or 4-H chapter names.

Validation forms must be signed by the exhibitor(s), exhibitor’s parent or exhibitor’s legal guardian, the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent, and the Validation Committee Chairperson. If the Committee Chairperson is the supervisor of the exhibitor(s) of the lamb, another committee member will sign for the chairperson.

The County Level-State Validation Committee Chairperson will send the original (yellow copy) and fourth (hard copy) to Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program. The second copy (blue) will be retained by the County Level-State Validation Committee Chairperson and the third copy (green) will be retained by the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent.

6. All breeding sheep validated will have hair taken for the DNA Assay identification program. Hair samples will be taken by a member of the County Level State Validation Committee at the time of validation and placed in an individual hair sample envelope provided for each breeding sheep. Detailed instructions for collecting hair samples are attached.

7. All breeding sheep will be nose printed and the nose print cards will be stapled to back of the hard copy (in numerical order) of the validation form. Each nose print card must contain two
8. The registration number for each animal will be recorded on the Breeding Sheep validation form and a copy of the original registration papers will be attached to the validation form. County Level–State Validation Committee must review the registration papers and ensure that ownership deadlines are met.

9. A breeding sheep must be validated in the name of individual exhibitors only and that exhibitor must be a bona fide junior exhibitor and eligible to show as an junior exhibitor as stated in the show rules. No partnerships are allowed on breeding animals.

10. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson will maintain a complete record of all breeding sheep validated in the county.

11. If an exhibitor transfers from one county to another or from one FFA chapter to another, the county in which the breeding sheep was validated must contact the Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program in writing of this transfer immediately. Copies of this correspondence should be sent to the new County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher to share with the new County’s committee.

12. It is the responsibility of exhibitor(s) and/or parent(s) or guardian(s) to insure breeding sheep projects are fed and cared for in compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by
major livestock shows. Coordinators of the State Sheep and Goat Validation Program, supervising county Extension agents and Agriculture Science Teachers, and the County Level State Validation Committee have the right to inspect the listed projects at any time during the feeding period.

13. Junior Wether Dams are exhibited as ewes suited for club lamb production and are not required to be registered. All breed types will show together within the three age classes (ewe lamb, 2 tooth ewe, aged ewe). Both commercial and registered ewes are eligible to show in the Wether Dam Show, however, ewes may NOT be validated as a registered breeding sheep and as a Junior Wether Dam. This is a rule change from the 2014-2015 guidelines.

Ewes validated for Junior Wether Dam shows must be validated using the same protocol as market lambs. Validation includes a state validation tag, nose print, and a hair sample for DNA analysis. The ownership date for ewes validated as a Junior Wether Dam is October 31, same as market lambs. Ewes must be re-validated each year.

14. The San Angelo Stock Show added the Jr. Concho Pearl Dorper Ewe Lamb Futurity in 2015. Ewes entered in the futurity must be validated as registered breeding sheep.

15. All 4-H and FFA exhibitors participating in the State Sheep and Goat Validation Program along with their parents or guardians must read and sign the 2015-2016 TEXAS 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS POLICY FORM. Signatures confirm that exhibitors, parents, and guardians understand the consequences of and penalties involved for illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unfair practices in livestock competition. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson must also sign the forms. The original signed ethics policy forms must be returned with the validation forms.

14. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson shall double check all validation forms and materials prior to submission to the State 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program. Chairperson should check the following:

a) All information requested on the validation forms, the ethics policy forms, and the hair sample envelopes are complete.

b) All required signatures are on the validation forms, the ethics policy forms, and the hair sample envelopes.

c) Nose print cards are securely attached to the back of each exhibitors validation form. Nose print cards should be in numerical order. County validation forms should be submitted in alphabetical order.

d) Hair envelopes should be submitted in numerical order.

e) Registration papers should be included, and attached to the back of each individual’s hard copy. Ownership date should be prior to October 1, 2015.

15. Specified copies of validation forms, nose print cards, copy of registration papers, DNA hair samples, and required ethics policy forms should be mailed to:
Must be postmarked on or before November 6, 2015 and it's recommended that the materials be sent registered mail, return receipt requested.