Texas 4-H and FFA Market Lamb 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. Only wether lambs are included in the Market Lamb Validation Program.

2. The Texas 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program requires all market lambs to be ear tagged, tattooed, nose printed, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay between October 1 and October 31 for the 2015-2016 show season. All lambs must be validated at a time, place, and date determined by the County Level State Validation Committee between.

3. The County Level State Validation Committee will make arrangements for ear tagging tools, tattoo pliers, tattoo ink, extra nose print cards, ink pads, alcohol, swabs, and any other equipment necessary for carrying out this program. The county level committee(s) are responsible for any locally incurred expenses resulting from the administration of the Texas 4-H and FFA Lamb Validation Program. The State Sheep and Goat Validation Program will provide ear tags, validation forms, nose print cards, hair sample envelopes, and other appropriate written materials.

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 needs and situations which do not allow some 4-H/FFA members to participate on scheduled validation date(s).

5. The Texas 4-H and FFA Lamb Validation Form will be completed at the time the lamb is tagged, tattooed, nose printed, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay. The 15 digit E-ID number does NOT need to be recorded on the form. Remember each tag has a specific back (button). The last five digits of the fifteen digit EID button must match the five digit number on the tags.

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

6. The Excel Report Template along with detailed instructions can be retrieved at [http://lambandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/](http://lambandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/). Complete the 2015-2016 Lamb and Goat Validation Excel Reports and email it to TXLambGoatVal@ag.tamu.edu.

7. Texas Lamb Breeders Association (TLBA) tag numbers should be recorded on the validation form under the TLBA # column if lambs were purchased from a TLBA member. The TLBA tags
must be in the lamb’s ears at the time of validation. **The tag numbers must be recorded on the validation form when validated. Late additions will not be accepted. To be eligible to compete in the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo a lamb must have a TLBA ear tag present in the ear at the show.** For the other major shows at which the Texas Lamb Breeders Association awards money the tag must be in the ear and comply with the validation records in order to receive said money. Also, hair sheep wethers were added to the San Angelo Stock Show in 2015 and must have TLBA tags.

8. Each lamb 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 lamb. Detailed instructions for collecting hair samples are attached.

9. Each lamb 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 card must contain two (2) nose prints that are clear and legible. Make sure they are not smeared or blurred. Prints may be taken side by side or one print on the front of the card and one print on the back of the card. A third nose print for the county files should be retained. Official nose prints are to be taken on 3 X 5 inch, un-ruled cards. The nose print card should also have the name of the exhibitor(s), county name and number, breed, and the validation number of the lamb reflected. (See example on next page)

10. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson will retain all unused or damaged tags. These tags can be used within your county, but they must not be given to or shared with any other county. Each set of tags is specific to your county only.
11. Market lamb(s) may be validated in the name of two or more exhibitors, if they meet the following criteria.

1. They are siblings, step-siblings, or legally adopted. If siblings have different last names, it must be noted on the validation form.
2. All listed are bonafide junior exhibitors and eligible to show as junior exhibitors as stated in the stock show rule book.
3. All permanently reside in the same county.
4. Any exceptions must be granted by State Sheep and Goat Validation Executive Committee.

When a lamb is validated in the name of two or more exhibitors, the validation form should read as follows:

RIGHT: Johnnie Jones or Susie Smith (step siblings)
RIGHT: Johnnie Smith or Susie Smith or Joey Smith
WRONG: Johnnie Smith and Susie Smith and Joey Smith

12. Lambs will be tagged in the left ear with the validation number facing toward the rear of the lamb. Please use the tags in successive order. The county number will be tattooed in the right ear.

EXAMPLE:

EARTAG- Left Ear

“Free Air Space” is critical for proper healing and retention. Inspect placement after tagging to ensure there is sufficient space between ear and EID tag.
13. County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson will maintain a complete record of all lambs validated in the county.

14. Lamb exhibitors should be instructed to immediately notify their supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher when an ear tag is lost or damaged. If a tag is lost or damaged to the extent that it is no longer legible, the supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher should notify the Chairperson of the County Lamb Validation Committee within ten (10) days for consideration of replacement. The chairperson will arrange for the committee to determine the validity of loss. If the County Level State Validation Committee concurs, a replacement tag will be requested. The chairperson will secure a replacement tag by completing the Replacement Tag form and submitted the form to the Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714.

The County Level State Validation Committee may retain unused tags. These tags can be used as replacement tags. When a request for a replacement tag (Replacement Tag form) is approved by the local committee and the Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program, an unused tag assigned to the county may be used to replace the lost tag.

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

16. It is the responsibility of exhibitor(s) and/or parent(s) or guardian(s) to insure market lamb 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.
17. There may be a case when a lamb has been validated to one family, but prior to the October 31 deadline the lamb is sold to another family. This lamb can be properly validated to the new owner(s) if the Change of Ownership Form is completed and returned to the Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program prior to the November 3 postmark deadline. In such cases, the tattoo in the lambs’ ear should be “XXX”ed out and the corresponding new tattoo put in the ear.

18. 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 and materials.

19. 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.

20. Specified copies of validation forms, nose print cards, DNA hair samples, and required ethics policy forms should be mailed to:

State Sheep and Goat Validation Program
7887 US Highway 87 North
San Angelo, TX  76901-9714
Phone:  325/653-4576

Must be postmarked on or before November 6, 2015 and should be sent registered mail, return receipt requested.