September 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Lamb, Goat, and Breeding Sheep Validation Committees
    County Extension Agents - Agriculture and 4-H
    Agricultural Science Teachers

FROM: Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program

SUBJECT: Texas 4-H and FFA Market Lamb Validation Program
         Texas 4-H and FFA Market Goat Validation Program
         Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Sheep Validation Program
         Texas 4-H/FFA Breeding Goat Validation Program

The Texas 4-H and FFA Validation Program for market lamb, market goat, breeding sheep and Breeding Goats are required to be conducted from a central location or office. A three person committee will be coordinating the 2015-16 Validation. There are several updates, reminders, and changes that are included in an attachment to this letter. Also attached are check sheets to be used when submitting validation materials.

The procedures for the 2015-2016 major shows validation have not changed this year. However, Breeding Goats have been added to the validation program this year to include registered Boer Breeding Bucks and Does as well as wether does. The second major change is that validation for wether dams and wether does will be done with tags marked WD and recorded on the breeding sheep and breeding goat validation forms instead of the market lamb and market goat forms. Wether does may use the flock tattoo as the official tattoo and record it on the validation form. Do not put a county tattoo over a flock tattoo as that can void the registration of those does.

Another significant change is the County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee structure has been defined to include all agents and ag science teachers as well as at least two individuals for a minimum of 4 persons serving in each County. During the physical validation process, there must be at least 3 members of the validation committee present. A County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee form is attached and must be returned with validation materials.

Guidelines for Market Lamb Validation, Market Goat Validation, Breeding Sheep Validation and Breeding Goat Validation are available for download at:

http://lambandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/
The DNA Assay will be conducted by Animal ID out of Round Rock. Individual hair samples will be collected for each animal, put in the hair sample envelopes, and returned to Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program. Although the procedure for collecting individual hair samples is straightforward, specific instructions are available online. At the time of validation, a lamb/goat/breeding sheep/breeding goat validation form, tattoo, and hair sample envelope for the DNA Assay identification program will be completed. Each exhibitor must complete the Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy. The ethics policy must be returned with your completed validation materials with a copy being retained by your County Validation Chairman. Nose prints will be required for lambs and breeding sheep, but not for goats. Signatures of the exhibitor(s), exhibitor=s parent or legal guardian, county lamb/goat/breeding sheep Validation Chairman, and supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent will be required on the validation forms, the hair sample envelopes, and the ethics policy.

The Texas Market Lamb and Market Goat Validation Program will be using electronic identification tags for the 2015-2016 show year. Additional tags will not be required for the registered breeding sheep and breeding goats as existing breeder’s tags will be utilized. Yellow validation tags marked WD must be used to validate Wether Dams and Green validation tags marked WD must be used to validate Wether Does. Counties will also be required to record their county information on an Excel Report similar to that for steer validation. Instructions for completing this process are enclosed. All other lamb and goat validation procedures will remain the same. Counties that have unused tags at the completion of validation will not be required to return these tags to our office. These unused tags can be used at your counties discretion. If your county runs short on tags, extras must be ordered from the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program using the online order form. Lambs and goats validated for the State Fair of Texas in June will have to be revalidated in October for spring 2016 shows.

Please find enclosed the lamb and goat validation tags (Yellow tags for lambs, Green tags for goats) that you ordered for your county along with the new lamb, goat, breeding sheep and breeding goat validation forms. Hair sample envelopes for lambs, goats, breeding sheep and breeding goats are enclosed. Nose print cards for lambs and breeding sheep only are enclosed. We ask that you throw away all previous validation forms and only submit your county’s information on the new forms. All validation should occur at a time, place, and date determined by the State Level County Validation Committee between October 1st and October 31st. Extra tags may still be ordered at a cost of $20.00 per tag.

Copies of the following materials are on the website for your information and use:

- 2015-2016 Texas 4-H and FFA Lamb Validation Program Guidelines
- 2015-2016 Texas 4-H and FFA Goat Validation Program Guidelines
- 2015-2016 Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Sheep Validation Program Guidelines
- 2015-2016 Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Goat Validation Program Guidelines
- Steps for Completing the 2016 Lamb and Goat Validation Excel Report
- Procedures for Changing Ownership of a Texas Validated Lamb or Goat and Change of Ownership Form
- Procedures for a Better Tattoo
- Procedures for DNA Assay Hair Collection
- Texas 4-H and FFA Lamb/Goat Validation Program Parental Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement
- List of County Numbers for Tattooing
- Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy
- Ear Tag Replacement Form
The Texas 4-H and FFA market lamb, goat, breeding sheep and breeding goat validation forms, hair samples collected for the DNA assay, nose prints (lambs and breeding sheep only), ethic policies and validation committee form should be postmarked on or before November 6, 2015 and submitted by registered mail, return receipt requested, directly to:

Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program  
7887 US Highway 87 North  
San Angelo, TX 76901

All unused forms and hair sample envelopes must be returned.

Thanks for your support of the 2015-2016 Texas Market Lamb, Market Goat, Breeding Sheep and Breeding Goat Validation Programs. If you should have questions, refer to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program website or call (325) 653-4576.

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http://lambandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/