TEXAS 4-H AND FFA GOAT VALIDATION PROGRAM
2016 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS GUIDELINES

Officials of major livestock shows in Texas are participating in a program supported by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Texas Education Agency, Department of Agricultural Education, whereby all 4-H and FFA goats exhibited at the State Fair of Texas will be required to be identified appropriately with an official Texas Goat Tag, county tattoo number, and a hair sample for the DNA Assay. A special tag has been designed specifically for the Texas 4-H/FFA Goat Validation Program.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. A 4-H and FFA County Goat Validation Committee shall be organized in each county where goats are being fed by members of either 4-H or FFA members for exhibition at the major livestock shows that require goats to be validated. The committee shall be composed of County Extension Agents-Agriculture and/or 4-H and Agriculture Science Teachers in the county.

If there is not a County Goat Validation Committee, the County Extension Agent is responsible for calling the first meeting to organize one. All County Extension Agents-Agriculture and all Agricultural Science Teachers in the county shall be invited to this meeting. A chairperson shall be selected from this group, and the number and composition of the committee will be determined at this meeting. It may be as large as the local agents and teachers deem practical; however, there may not be less than four members on this committee. There may be many counties wherein this committee will be all County Extension Agents and all Agricultural Science Teachers.

In counties where there are less than four people eligible to serve on this committee, a fourth member shall be selected locally. He/she must have an interest in the program and be mutually acceptable to the County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers.

The committee will make arrangements for an ear tagging tool, tattoo pliers, ink pads, alcohol, swabs, and any other equipment necessary for carrying out this program. The County Goat Validation Committee is responsible for any locally incurred expenses resulting from the administration of the Texas 4-H and FFA Goat Validation Program. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide ear tags, validation forms, hair sample envelopes, one set of hair collection pliers, and other appropriate written materials.

The committee will meet as a group to conduct the validation of all 4-H/FFA goats in the county.
2. The 2016 State Fair of Texas is requiring all goats to be ear tagged, tattooed, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay between June 1 to June 30. All goats must be validated at a time, place, and date determined by the County Validation Committee between June 1st and June 30th. If exhibitors have conflicts which interfere with the scheduled validation day(s), alternative arrangements must be made prior to the validation in that county.

3. Goats validated for the 2016 State Fair of Texas will have to be re-validated for the 2017 winter/spring major shows. State Fair of Texas lamb and goat validation tags will not be accepted at the winter/spring major shows.

4. The Texas 4-H and FFA Goat Validation Form will be completed at the time the goat is tagged, tattooed, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay. The 15 digit E-ID number DOES NOT need to be recorded on this form. The Goat Validation Committee Chairperson shall double check all validation forms before submitting them to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714. The Texas Goat Validation Form should list the county name only. Do not list FFA or 4-H chapter names! Be sure to check these items:

a) Make sure all information requested on the validation form, the ethics policy, and the hair sample envelope is completed,

b) All signatures have been included on the validation form, the ethics policy, and the hair sample envelope, and

c) County validation forms should be submitted in alphabetical order, and

d) Hair envelopes should be submitted in numerical order.

5. The State Fair of Texas Validation Excel form will be retrieved and along with detailed instructions at, http://sheepandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/. Complete the 2016 State Fair of Texas Goat Validation Excel Report and email it to TXLambGoatVal@ag.tamu.edu.

6. Each goat validated will have hair taken for the DNA Assay identification program. Hair samples will be taken by a member of the County Goat Validation Committee at the time of validation and placed in individual hair sample envelopes provided for each goat. Detailed instructions for collecting hair samples are attached.

7. The County Goat Validation Committee Chairperson will send the original (blue copy) and fourth (hard copy) to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714, postmarked on or before July 7th, 2016 via registered mail, return receipt requested. Any materials postmarked after July 7th, 2016 will not be accepted.

The second copy (yellow) will be retained by the County Goat Validation Committee
Chairperson and third copy (green) is retained for the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent.

NOTE: All hair samples collected for the DNA Assay must be sent directly to:

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

These samples should be submitted by registered mail, return receipt requested.

All 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 County Goat Validation Committee Chairperson. If the Committee Chairperson is the supervisor of the exhibitor(s) of the goat, another committee member will sign for the chairperson.

8. The County Goat Validation Committee Chairperson will retain all unused or damaged tags. These tags can be used within your county, but the must not be given to or shared with any other county. Each set of tags is specific to your county only.

9. An animal may be validated in the name of two or more exhibitors only if all of these criteria are met.

   a) Where brother and sister may have differing last names, it must be noted on the validation form.
   b) They are brother/sister by blood relationship or are legally adopted.
   c) All listed are bona fide junior exhibitors and eligible to show as junior exhibitors as stated in the stock show rule book.
   d) All permanently reside in the same county.

When a goat 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

Be sure that all possible exhibitors sign the validation form.

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

EXAMPLE:

11. Each County Goat Validation Chairperson will maintain a complete record of all goats validated in the county.

12. Goat exhibitors should be instructed to immediately notify their supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher when an ear tag is lost or damaged.

13. 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 Goat Validation Committee within ten (10) days for consideration of replacement.

14. The chairperson will arrange for the committee to determine the validity of loss. If the
committee concurs, a replacement tag will be requested. The County Goat Validation Chairperson will secure a replacement tag from the State Coordinator. When replacing an ear tag, the county records should reflect the change, with notification in writing, to the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714, showing the exhibitor’s county, new tag number and the tag number being replaced.

15. If an exhibitor transfers from one county to another or from one FFA chapter to another, the county in which the goat was validated must contact the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, Texas 76901-9714, 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 Goat Validation Committee.

16. It is the responsibility of exhibitor(s) and/or parent(s) or guardian(s) to insure these projects are fed and cared for in compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by major livestock shows. The State Goat Validation Committee and/or County Goat Validation Committee have the right to inspect the listed projects at any reasonable time during the feeding period.

17. There may be a case when a goat has been validated to one family, but prior to the June 30th deadline the goat is sold to another family. This goat can be properly validated to the new owner(s) if the Change of Ownership Form is completed and returned to the state validation headquarters prior to the July 7th postmark deadline. This form can be found on the Lamb and Goat Validation website. http://sheepandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/.