TEXAS 4-H AND FFA LAMB 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 lambs exhibited at their shows will be required to be identified appropriately with an official Texas Lamb Tag, county tattoo number, nose print, and a hair sample for the DNA Assay. A special tag has been designed specifically for the Texas 4-H/FFA Lamb Validation Program.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. A 4-H and FFA County Lamb Validation Committee must be organized in each county where lambs are being fed by members of either 4-H or FFA for exhibit at the major livestock shows that require lambs 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 Lamb 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 Lamb Validation Committee is responsible for any locally incurred expenses resulting from the administration of the Texas 4-H and FFA Lamb Validation Program. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide ear tags, validation forms, hair sample envelopes, nose print cards, and other appropriate written materials.

   The committee will meet as a group to conduct the validation of all 4-H/FFA lambs in the county.

2. The 2016 State Fair of Texas is requiring all lambs to be ear tagged, nose printed, tattooed, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay between June 1 to June 30. All lambs 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. Lambs 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 validation tags will not be accepted at the winter/spring major shows. This will help eliminate the confusion with the Texas Lamb Breeders Association tags as all TLBA tag numbers will have to be on the validation forms when they are submitted by October 31 for the winter/spring major shows. No TLBA tag numbers will be added to the validation forms after the October 31 deadline.

4. 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 this form.** The Lamb 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 Lamb 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, nose print card and the hair sample envelope is completed,

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

   c) Nose print cards are to be 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 sample envelopes should be submitted in numerical order.

5. The State Fair of Texas Validation Excel form will be retrieved 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 lamb validated will have hair taken for the DNA Assay identification program. Hair samples will be taken by a member of the County Lamb 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.

7. 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, unruled cards. The nose print card should also have the name of the exhibitor(s), county name and number, breed, and the validation number of
8. The County Lamb Validation Committee Chairperson will send the original (white copy) and fourth (hard copy) to the Lamb 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 Lamb Validation Committee Chairperson and the third copy (pink) should be retained by 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 Lamb 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.

9. The County Lamb 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.

10. 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 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

Be sure that all possible exhibitors sign the validation form.

11. 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.
12. Each County Lamb Validation Chairperson will maintain a complete record of all lambs validated in the county.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 Lamb 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. Along with notification in writing you will also need to provide a nose print from the lamb and return the damaged tag.

16. If an exhibitor transfers from one county to another or from one FFA chapter to another, the county in which the lamb was validated must contact the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program, 7887 US Highway 87 North, San Angelo, Texas 76901-97814, 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 Lamb Validation Committee.
17. 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 Lamb Validation Committee and/or County Lamb Validation Committee has the right to inspect the listed projects at any reasonable time during the feeding period.

18. There may be a case when a lamb has been validated to one family, but prior to the June 30th 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 state validation headquarters prior to the July 1st postmark deadline. This form can be found on the Lamb and Goat Validation website. [http://sheepandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/](http://sheepandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/).