Best Management Practices for Validation

1. Review validation materials early
   - Make sure you received the number of tags you ordered, you have enough validation forms, and you understand instructions for validation.

2. Review Validation Resources
   - Websites are available for all species which will include detailed instructions and guidelines for validation.
     https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/Index.aspx
     https://sheepandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/
     https://www.texasffa.org/swine-validation
     https://texasyouthlivestock.com/steer-validation/

3. Committee
   - There **must be three members present** during validation of livestock. Exhibitors and parents should also be present at validation.

4. Assign Duties
   - It works best to have one person tagging, another person nose printing, another person pulling hair, another person tattooing, and one person in charge of recording data.

5. Validation is recommended to occur at a central location.
   - There may be special circumstances that require the validation committee to travel to exhibitors' homes for validation, but this should be kept to a minimum. There are too many opportunities for lost paperwork or mistakes to occur when traveling to numerous sites.

6. Communicate with Exhibitors and Families
   - Make sure that exhibitors and families know how their livestock are validated. Breeding animals are often validated differently than market animals and can affect how those livestock can be shown at shows.

7. Emails
   - Make sure exhibitors include a valid email address on the *Validation Form*. The online validation system will send an email to the family notifying them of their completed validation.

8. Signatures
   - Exhibitors and parents should sign the *Validation Form* and DNA envelopes **AFTER** validation is completed. They are verifying the information on the *Validation Form* is correct and that validation of those animals was completed correctly.
   - **INITIALS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS SIGNATURES!**

9. Validation information for exhibitors can be downloaded from the online system and emailed to families to verify all information is correct.

10. Continuous Care of Livestock Projects
    - Exhibitors should notify and get approval from supervising AST or CEA, and local validation committee, if projects are to be out of their care for any time during the feeding period. This approval should include date the project(s) left, date the project(s) will return, for what purpose, where the project(s) will be, and must be approved by the State Sheep and Goat Validation Office.