

## TEXAS SHEEP AND GOAT VALIDATION PROCEDURES FOR A BETTER TATTOO

\*\*\*Market sheep/goats AND wether dams/does only\*\*\*

During validation, the County-Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee is required to place a tattoo in every market sheep and goat, as well as wether/commercial dam and wether/commercial doe validated. The following steps should be helpful in having a good, legible tattoo:

**NOTE: REGISTERED SHEEP AND REGISTERED GOATS DO NOT REQUIRE A COUNTY TATTOO**

### Step 1. Clean Ear & Select Tattoo Site – MARKET SHEEP/GOATS AND WETHER/COMMERCIAL DAMS/DOES ONLY

- Clean the inside of the ear of any dirt, oil, or wax materials before applying tattoo.
- Locate a spot for the tattoo in the ear, just below the cartilage rib, centered from outside to inside of ear. Avoid the ribs and major blood veins of the ear.
- **Do not apply tattoos on the edges of the ear because the edges are usually haired and dark colored, making the tattoo not legible.**

**\*\*If a tattoo is NOT legible at time of show, the project is subject to disqualification.\*\***

### Step 2. Apply Ink

- Place a generous amount of tattoo ink inside the ear, on the area that is to be tattooed.
- Use a paste-type ink, which leaves a more legible print. Avoid using roll-on inks, as they are too thin and do not fill up the tattoo with a good legible print.
- The person applying the tattoo ink should wear a pair of plastic surgical gloves.

### Step 3. Apply Tattoo

- Place the tattoo pliers parallel with the ribs of the ear and press firmly. Apply enough pressure so that the tattoo needles penetrate the skin, but not too much that blood pushes out the applied ink.

### Step 4. Rub in Ink

- Firmly rub tattoo ink into puncture holes using a toothbrush or your thumb.
- In case of excessive blood, apply more tattoo ink and continue to rub in ink until bleeding lessens or stops.

**IMPORTANT! Tattoos will be checked at all Major Livestock Shows! If a project is found to be missing a tattoo or the tattoo is not legible at time of show, the project will be subject to disqualification!**

If the validation chairperson or committee finds an **animal without a sufficient tattoo during the feeding period, a replacement tattoo may be given up to THREE weeks prior to the intended date of show**. A tattoo may **ONLY** be redone in the presence of the validation committee, and **ONLY** after proper notification and approval has been given and received in the form of an email to the State Sheep and Goat Validation Office.

### Deadlines for Submitting a Tattoo Replacement Form

Once the retattooing process is complete, a *Tattoo Replacement Form* **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the State Coordinator via email **THREE WEEKS** prior to the intended date of show. The *Tattoo Replacement Form* can be found online at <https://sheepandgoatvalidation.tamu.edu/>. Forms may be emailed to [whitney.whitsel@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:whitney.whitsel@ag.tamu.edu).

