

Arkansas Livestock Show Validation Program Guidebook

What is validation?

The purpose of the Arkansas Validation Program is to promote positive youth development for Arkansas youth by ensuring rules are adhered to for the integrity of the livestock show. The validation process creates a level playing field, facilitates youth engagement, builds responsibility, and fosters life skill development - respect, teamwork, communication.

Animals will be tagged with an 840 Electronic Identification (EID) tag and DNA (hair sample) will be collected. All market (steers, lambs, goats, and hogs) and commercial females (heifers, gilts, wether dam lambs, wether dam goats) will be required to participate in the Arkansas Validation Program to exhibit at the 2021 Arkansas State Fair, Arkansas Youth Expo, and other county or district fairs that choose to participate. Please check each fair's rules for validation requirements.

Note that participating in the Arkansas Validation Program is a proof of ownership by livestock shows in Arkansas. It does **NOT** automatically serve as entry into a livestock show.

How do I validate my animal?

Exhibitors will be required to complete a Validation Registration Form and pay online and attend one of the in-person validation locations where the animal will be identified with an 840 EID Tag and DNA Assay.

What is a Validation Registration Form and where can I find it?

Validation Registration Forms will be available on the 4-H Livestock website (4h.uada.edu/livestock). Each registration form will contain the following:

1. Exhibitor Information – Fill in names and contact information for EACH potential exhibitor.
 - Animals may be validated in the name of two or more exhibitors as a family/household validation.
2. Animal Information – What are you showing and how many animals are you validating?
3. Appropriate Signatures
 - All possible exhibitors must sign the Validation Form as well as a parent or guardian.
4. Payment – Once you have completed the form, payment is due, and an email will be sent with a transaction receipt.

Will I receive anything in the mail once I complete a Validation Registration Form?

No. Once the Validation Registration Form is complete, you will receive an email receipt of your transaction. Ear tags and DNA envelopes will be at the physical validation sites so you will not receive either in the mail.

Can we validate as a family/household?

Yes. All eligible siblings or youth who legally reside in the same household, share the same legal physical address, and materially and actively participate in the care of the project can be listed under the family/household name. This allows all eligible youth within the family/household to exhibit animals validated under the family/household name. Youth will determine which specific animal they will exhibit when they enter the show. Therefore, this decision does not have to be made during validation. All potential exhibitors within a family/household need to sign the Validation Registration Form AND DNA envelopes for each animal. If an exhibitor within a family/household does not sign a piece of paperwork, they will not be eligible to exhibit that specific animal at the show.

What is the fee for a family/household validation?

\$10/animal/exhibitor is the fee. Example: You want to validate a steer and a hog for two siblings. One animal for two siblings is $\$10 \times 2 = \20 . Since you are wanting to validate two animals for two siblings it would be $\$20 \times 2 = \40 .

What are the deadlines and fees for submitting Validation Registration Forms?

June 1 – Deadline to submit Validation Registration Form online \$10/animal

June 15 – Late Deadline to submit Validation Registration Form online \$20/animal

June 26 – Last Minute Deadline to submit Validation Registration Form online \$50/animal

*Note: Family/household validations are the fee/animal/exhibitor.

**Note: If there is already an 840 EID tag currently in the animal's ear, we will not issue a new one at validation and use the one the animal currently has. If the 840 tag is not an EID tag, a 982 EID tag will be issued.

When and where can I get my animal validated? (Updated April 9, 2021)

- April 17 – Four States Fairgrounds, Texarkana – Early Validation for Steers and Commercial Heifers
- April 30 – Arkansas State Fairgrounds, Little Rock - Early Validation for Steers and Commercial Heifers
- May 8 – Arkansas State Fairgrounds, Little Rock – Three Species Prospect Sale
- June 19 – 4:30-7:30 p.m. – Sevier County Fairgrounds, DeQueen – South Arkansas Swine Series
- June 21, 7-10 a.m. – Southeast District Fairgrounds, Pine Bluff
- June 21, 6-9 p.m. – Story Arena, Magnolia
- June 22, 7-10 a.m. – Southwest District Fairgrounds, Hope
- June 22, 6-9 p.m. – Polk County Fairgrounds, Mena
- June 23, 7-10 a.m. – Pope County Fairgrounds, Russellville
- June 23, 6-9 p.m. – Washington County Fairgrounds, Fayetteville
- June 24, 7-10 a.m. – Carroll County Fairgrounds, Berryville
- June 24, 6-9 p.m. – Baxter County Fairgrounds, Mountain Home
- June 25, 7-10 a.m. – Greene County Fairgrounds, Paragould
- June 25, 6-9 p.m. – White County Fairgrounds, Searcy
- June 26, 7-10 a.m. – Arkansas State Fairgrounds, Little Rock

*Note: More early dates and locations may be added. June 26 is the final date to get an animal validated.

*Note: You do not have to participate in the show to be validated.

Do I have to show up at the location in my area?

No. You can show up at any location that works with your schedule.

Are there any location and date alternatives for getting animals validated than the ones listed above?

Yes. You may submit a request for an alternative validation location and date other than the ones listed above IF:

- There are a minimum of 40 animals at the requested location,
- The date occurs prior to June 26 (last date to request is June 25),
- If the date occurs during the week of validation (June 21-26), the location MUST be in route to the next location.

I meet the above stated guidelines for an alternative validation location and date, now what?

You may submit the Alternative Validation Request Form located on the 4-H Livestock website (4h.uada.edu/livestock). **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE YOUR REQUEST WILL BE GRANTED.** If your request is granted, a \$250 fee will incur and must be paid when the request is approved.

What if the parent or guardian cannot attend the validation?

We highly encourage a parent or guardian to attend, but, if the parent or guardian of an exhibitor is unable to attend the validation, a Parental Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement must be completed. The Validation Coordinator should be notified in advance if a parent/guardian will not accompany the exhibitor during validation and who the parental/guardian representative will be. A parent or guardian or parental/guardian representative signature will be required on the DNA envelop.

Does the exhibitor have to be present during validation?

We highly encourage the exhibitor to attend, but, if the exhibitor is unable to attend the validation and is over 18, an Exhibitor Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement must be completed. If the exhibitor is under 18, an Exhibitor Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement is not required. The Validation Coordinator should be notified in advance if an exhibitor will not be present during validation. The parent/guardian or parent/guardian representative signature will be required on the DNA envelop in the place of the exhibitor signature.

Who can act as a parent/guardian representative?

The exhibitor's Agricultural Education Instructor, County Extension Agent, or immediate family member can act as a parent/guardian representative during validation. An immediate family member to the exhibitor is defined as a parent, sibling, or grandparent.

What information will be collected at the physical validation site?

1. 840 Tag Number: assigned at physical validation
2. Other identification numbers as appropriate: scrapie tags, ear notches
3. Description and Color: specific color(s), animal name, etc. This is to help correctly identify animals with lost ear tags and exhibitor or family/households with multiple animals.

Will there be any paperwork at the physical validation site?

Yes. A parent/guardian, parent/guardian representative, or the exhibitor will be required to review information collected, that the animal(s) was tagged, and DNA was pulled via a signature.

Will biosecurity measures be taken during validation?

Yes. Proper sanitation of equipment between animals utilizing disinfectant, disposable boot covers, hand sanitizer, and other sanitation measures deemed necessary will be utilized.

How will I know if my validation is complete and double check tag numbers?

A database will be regularly updated with the status of validated animals. The database will be sorted by species and 4-H County or FFA Chapter. This database will be available on the 4-H Livestock website (4h.uada.edu/livestock) for viewing. If you believe the information is incorrect, contact the Validation Coordinator immediately.

What ear tags are being utilized?

840 electronic identification (EID) tags will be utilized on all animals being validated. An 840 tag is an official, federally recognized form of identification. 840 tags comply with the Animal Disease Traceability framework for both visual and electronic identification. Each tag contains 15 digits and will begin with the numbers 840 (the USA country code). The next 12 digits are unique to the individual animal. It is important to note that 840 tags are unlawful to remove.



I would prefer to tag my own hog ahead of time. Is it possible to have the 840 tag sent to me?

Yes. If you are a swine exhibitor, on the Validation Registration Form, there is a box you can check indicating you want the 840 tag sent to you. You **MUST** have the tag in the animal's ear when you arrive at the validation location. We will not pull DNA unless the 840 tag issued is in the animal's ear.

Will DNA be collected?

Yes. Each animal validated will have hair taken for DNA identification. Hair samples will be pulled and put in individual DNA envelopes.

What if my animal loses or damages its ear tag?

Exhibitors should immediately notify the Validation Coordinator when an ear tag is lost or damaged. An Ear Tag Replacement Form must be completed with a detailed explanation of how the tag was lost or damaged along with supporting photos. The Validation Coordinator will arrange for the executive committee to determine validity of loss. If the committee concurs, a replacement tag will be issued. The exhibitor will be notified and a representative from the executive committee will retag, repull a hair sample, and the Ear Tag Replacement Form must be reviewed and signed. The hair sample will be processed for verification. The fee for a replacement ear tag is \$100.

What is a scrapie tag?

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting sheep and goats. All exhibition market lambs, wether dam lambs, market goats, and wether dam goats are required to have a scrapie tag. The original producer of the animal should scrapie tag the animal prior to it leaving the farm. When entering the scrapie tag number, it should include both the premise ID AND the individual animal number. See images below on how to read a scrapie tag.

Scrapie Tag Examples

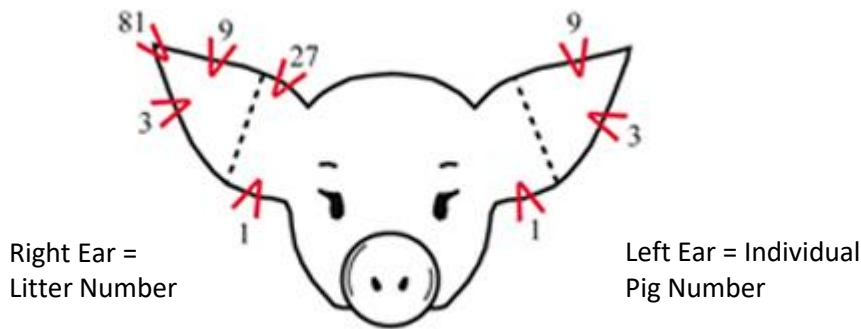


Custom Scrapie Tag Example



What are ear notches?

Ear notching is the universal method of permanently identifying swine.



Once I have validated my animal, does that mean I am entered in the show?

No! A validation does not constitute a show entry. The validation and show entry processes are completely separate. Validation is done through the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Livestock Program, but show entry must be done through the individual show.

Is there a committee that oversees this program?

Yes. The Arkansas Livestock Show Validation Executive Committee shall be comprised of representatives from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Agriculture Education, and Arkansas livestock show personnel. The executive committee serves as a final evaluation of the Arkansas Livestock Show Validation Program. Additionally, they will make final determinations or disqualifications regarding appeal requests due to the validation process and replacement ear tag requests.

Who is the Validation Coordinator and how do I contact them?

Dr. Chelsey Kimbrough is the Validation Coordinator. You can reach her by phone at 501-503-6592. Feel free to call or text her. Or you can email her at ckimbrough@uada.edu.

All livestock that attend validation will be under the direction of the validation committee, but it is agreed as a condition of validation that the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service will in no event and under no circumstances be responsible or liable for any loss, injury, or damage that may occur to livestock exhibitors, livestock parent/guardian, livestock parent/guardian representative, and/or their livestock. He or she shall indemnify and hold harmless the University of Arkansas System Division of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, employees, and board of regents from and against all loss, claims, judgments, damages, actions, or causes of action or other proceedings of and brought by third parties in regard to and arising from animal transportation to or

from validation locations, or other matters or events related thereto, including damage or injury occurring or manifesting itself at any time to any such person or his or her property, caused directly or indirectly by the exhibitor, parent/guardian, parent/guardian representative, or any of the animals, arising out of or in any way connected with validation or transportation of animals.



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