2017 GUIDELINES FOR VALIDATING 4-H/FFA MARKET STEERS, MARKET LAMBS, MARKET HOGS, AND MARKET GOATS IN KENTUCKY

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All 4-H/FFA market steers, market heifers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats that will participate in market livestock shows in Kentucky (i.e., County Fairs, District Shows, Junior Livestock Expos, Kentucky State Fair, etc.) must be tagged with Radio Frequency Identification (R.F.I.D.) tags. The R.F.I.D. tag number will be used as the Kentucky Uniform Identification Program (K.U.I.P.) number. In addition, to be eligible for participation in the Kentucky State Fair, market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats must have samples collected for DNA testing. To ensure that all market animals meet the required provisions, the following validation guidelines and procedures must be followed.

Any market steer, market heifer, market lamb, market hog, or market goat that is unofficially K.U.I.P. tagged/validated off-site at an unapproved location (i.e., at a home farm, and/or at any location other than an approved Validation Site location) will be subject to the K.U.I.P Tags being removed and the said market animal being ruled ineligible to participate in any of the above mentioned market livestock shows in Kentucky. The one (1) exception would be on-farm K.U.I.P tagging/validation at a legitimate closed swine herd where a waiver has been granted.

★ Animals that will only be exhibited as breeding animals (breeding heifers, breeding gilts, breeding ewes, and breeding does) do not need to go through the validation process. However, all breeding animals are required to be identified by June 1 by completing a Kentucky 4-H/FFA Breeding Animal Project Nomination and Location Form (these forms can be obtained from your supervising Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher).

★ The Kentucky Department of Agriculture Division of Shows and Fairs requires breeding gilts that will be shown in breeding gilt classes at shows they sponsor (District Shows, Preview Shows, Expos) to be K.U.I.P. tagged.

GUIDELINES:

1. All market steers, market heifers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats that will be tagged with K.U.I.P tags will be required to have samples taken for DNA testing.

   NOTE: There will not be an initial charge for taking the samples for DNA testing. The only time a cost for DNA testing will be incurred is when an animal is entered for participation in the Kentucky State Fair. At that time, a $4 per head increase in the entry fee for market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats will be accessed.

2. Co-tagging of animals with K.U.I.P. tags will only be permitted among siblings. For special circumstances where exceptions to this rule may be needed (e.g., legitimate county or club co-ops, special needs, etc.), a written application for a waiver may be applied for. The application for waiver must outline in detail why a waiver is needed. The application for waiver must be submitted by February 1, 2017 for market steers and market heifers and by April 1, 2017 for market lambs, market hogs, and market goats. Waivers will only be granted for legitimate circumstances where a special need is identified. Applications for waiver should be sent to:

   Steve Austin
   Department of Animal and Food Sciences
3. All 4-H and FFA market animal exhibitors must be members in good standing within their local 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, and have met all necessary requirements prior to validation.

   a. All 4-H market animal exhibitors must have completed six (6) hours of educational training under the coordination of the local Certified Volunteer Leader prior to the time of validation. Both the local Certified Volunteer Leader and the supervising 4-H Youth Development Agent must sign Section 1 of the appropriate validation form to verify this requirement has been met. Section 1 of the validation form must be completely filled out (and signed) and sent with the exhibitor to the validation site (a copy of the form signed by the local Certified Volunteer Leader and the supervising 4-H Youth Development Agent should be kept on file). Animals will not be verified (tagged and DNA sampled) for 4-H members who have not met the 6 hour educational training requirement.

   b. All FFA market animal exhibitors must be a bona fide FFA member in good standing within their local FFA Chapter prior to the time of validation. The FFA members supervising Vocational Agriculture Teacher must sign Section 1 of the appropriate validation form to verify this requirement has been met. Section 1 of the validation form must be completely filled out (and signed) and sent with the exhibitor to the validation site (a copy of the form signed by supervising Vocational Agriculture Teacher should be kept on file). Animals will not be verified (tagged and DNA sampled) for FFA members who do not have their validation form signed by their supervising Vocational Agriculture Teacher.

4. All 4-H and FFA market animal exhibitors must complete the Ownership, Possession, and Care Rules portion of the validation form prior to animal being validated. Animals will not be verified (tagged and DNA sampled) if this portion of the validation form is not filled out and signed.

   a. The following signatures are required for the Ownership, Possession, and Care Rules portion of the validation form to be considered valid:
      i. The 4-H or FFA member, AND
      ii. The 4-H or FFA member’s parent/legal guardian, AND
      iii. The 4-H or FFA member’s local supervising Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher, AND
      iv. (For 4-H member’s only) The 4-H or FFA member’s Local Certified Volunteer Leader.

5. 2016 validation sites for K.U.I.P. tagging and sampling for DNA testing, and Validation Site Coordinators, have been predetermined by the Kentucky State Fair Youth Livestock Show Advisory Committee. A listing of the 2016 validation sites and each Validation Site Coordinator is shown in Attachment A-1 and Attachment A-2.

   NOTE: These validation sites are the only ones that will be held in 2017. Exhibitors that will be participating in market livestock shows in Kentucky (i.e., County Fairs, District Shows, Junior Livestock Expos, Kentucky State Fair, etc.) must attend one of these validation sites. To ensure each Validation Site Coordinator has an understanding of the number of animals that will be attending their site, exhibitors (or their supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher) should contact the appropriate Validation Site Coordinator to indicate their intent to attend the validation site.

   NOTE: THE ONLY animals that will not be required to be delivered to one of the predetermined validation sites are market hogs that originate from and reside on legitimate swine farms which operate as closed herds. In these limited cases, the exhibitor’s supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher should contact the acting director of the Division of Animal Health, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (contact information below), to arrange a time when the validation process can be conducted on the farm. The validation process must be completed by no later than May 20, 2017. The exhibitor’s supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher and a representative from the
Division of Animal Health must be present during the farm visit. The visit must follow any biosecurity protocols the swine farm currently has in place.

Division Director
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Health
109 Corporate Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601
Telephone: (502) 573-0282, option 3

6. Validation Site Coordinators are responsible for ensuring all preparations are made at the validation site. This includes having all needed equipment (loading/unloading chutes, restraining chutes, hog snares, etc.), having adequate help to make the process run in a smooth and timely manner, ensuring all forms are properly filled out, and ensuring all completed forms are mailed to the appropriate location. Specific guidelines outlining the details of each validation site will be provided to each Validation Site Coordinator.

   a. Validation Site Coordinators are strongly encouraged to organize a Validation Committee to provide assistance with the activities of the validation site. Potential members of the Validation Committee might include:

      i. County Extension Agents (4-H Youth Development and/or Agriculture) from surrounding counties with youth exhibitors that are expected to participate at the validation site.

      ii. Vocational Agriculture Teachers from within the county or from surrounding counties with youth exhibitors that are expected to participate at the validation site.

      iii. Adult livestock leaders with interest in youth livestock projects from within the county or from surrounding counties.

7. A representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health will be present at each validation site. The Division of Animal Health representative will be responsible for bringing the K.U.I.P. tags and the DNA testing materials to the validation site, and for collecting the DNA samples.

8. The following activities are required for the validation process at each validation site:

   a. For all market animals (market steers, market heifers, market lambs, market goats, and market hogs), a single Radio Frequency Identification (R.F.I.D.) tag will be placed in the center of one of the animal’s ears. The R.F.I.D. tag number will be used as the K.U.I.P. number. The R.F.I.D. tag also takes an ear tissue sample that will be collected for DNA analysis.

      i. **Market lambs and market goats are required to be identified with a Scrapie Animal I.D. Ear Tag or other official individual animal I.D. (such as a Registration Tattoo) at the time of validation.** The Scrapie Tag number or other official number, in addition to the R.F.I.D. number, will be recorded on the validation form as a second form of identification. If an animal loses their scrapie tag prior to the validation date, the exhibitor should contact the breeder from which the animal was purchased to obtain a replacement scrapie tag.

      ii. Market steers, market heifers, market lambs, market goats, and market hogs that are participating in the Kentucky Proud Livestock Tag Program (signifying they are animals that are raised or bought from Kentucky producers) are required to possess a Kentucky Proud tag at the time of validation. The Kentucky Proud tag number will be recorded on the validation form.
b. The R.F.I.D. tag will be placed in the animal’s ear in front of, and evident to, the exhibitor and his/her parent or legal guardian, by the Validation Site Coordinator or a member of the Validation Committee. After the R.F.I.D. tag has been applied, the following individuals must sign Section 2 of the appropriate Kentucky Youth Livestock Validation Form (Attachment B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, or B-5):

   i. The representative from the Division of Animal Health that applies the R.F.I.D. tag and takes the sample for DNA testing (see below).

   ii. The exhibitor.

   iii. The exhibitor’s parent or legal guardian (or the Validation Site Coordinator if the exhibitor’s parent of legal guardian is unable to attend the validation and has signed the Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement).

**NOTE:** For 4-H exhibitors, the signatures of the local Certified Volunteer Leader and the supervising 4-H Youth Development Agent verifying they have met their six (6) hours of educational training must be present on the validation form prior to the time of validation. Section 1 of the appropriate validation form must be filled out in advance of the validation date and sent with the 4-H exhibitor to the validation site.

**NOTE:** For FFA exhibitors, the signature of the supervising Vocational Agriculture Teacher verifying they are bona fide FFA members in good standing with their local FFA Chapter must be present on the validation form prior to the time of validation. Section 1 of the appropriate validation form must be filled out in advance of the validation date and sent with the FFA exhibitor to the validation site.

**NOTE:** In the event of an emergency or special situation that prevents the exhibitor’s parent or legal guardian from being present at the time the animal(s) are tagged and validation occurs, a Kentucky 4-H/FFA Parental/Legal Guardian Validation Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement (Attachment C) must be completed. This form must be attached to the validation form.

**NOTE:** A $4 per head tagging fee will be assessed on each market steer, market heifer, market lamb, market hog, and market goat that is tagged with K.U.I.P. tags. The Validation Site Coordinator is responsible for collecting the $4 per head tagging fee at the time the validation occurs. In addition, within one week after the date that the validation site has occurred, the Validation Site Coordinator is responsible for sending one check (made out to Kentucky 4-H Foundation, with “K.U.I.P. Tagging Fee” on the memo line of check) covering the total tagging fee for their site to the following:

   Steve Austin  
   Department of Animal and Food Sciences  
   911 W.P. Garrigus Building  
   Lexington, KY 40546-0215

c. Ear tissue samples (collected when R.F.I.D. tags are applied) will be taken from all market steers, market heifers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats for DNA testing by a representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health. The DNA sample will be taken and placed in a sample envelope and the R.F.I.D. tag number placed on the sample envelope in front of, and evident to, the exhibitor and his/her parent or legal guardian. The following individuals must sign the sample envelope after the ear tissue sample has been placed inside the sample envelope:

   i. The representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal that took the sample.

   ii. The exhibitor’s supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher if present for the validation, or the Validation Site Coordinator or a Validation Committee member if the supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher is not present for the validation.

   iii. The exhibitor.
iv. The exhibitor's parent or legal guardian.

**NOTE:** In the event of an emergency or special situation that prevents the exhibitor's parent or legal guardian from being present at the time the DNA sample is collected and validation occurs, a *Kentucky 4-H/FFA Parental/Legal Guardian Validation Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement* (Attachment C) must be completed. This form must be attached to the validation form.

d. At the conclusion of the validation process, the representative from the Division of Animal Health will be responsible for sending the DNA samples to the testing agency. The Validation Site Coordinator is responsible for:

i. Entering validation information into an Excel template (will be provided) and e-mailing the file within one week after the date that the validation site has occurred to Shawn Zollman at Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Show and Fair Promotion (Shawn.Zollman@ky.gov) and Steve Austin (Steven.Austin@uky.edu).

ii. Making copies of all forms (a copy should be kept for the Validation Site Coordinator's and/or Validation Committee's records, and a copy should be given to the exhibitor for their records).

iii. **Within one week** after the date that the validation site has occurred, the Validation Site Coordinator shall mail:

   a) The original *Kentucky 4-H/FFA Youth Market Animal Validation and Location Form* to the Division Director, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Show and Fair Promotion, 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601, **AND**

   b) A copy of the entire *Kentucky 4-H/FFA Youth Market Animal Validation and Location Form* to the 4-H/FFA member's local supervising Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher, **AND**

   c) A copy of the entire *Kentucky 4-H/FFA Youth Market Animal Validation and Location Form* to Steve Austin, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, 911 W.P. Garrigus Building, Lexington, KY 40546-0215.

   **NOTE:** When making copies of the *Kentucky 4-H/FFA Youth Market Animal Validation and Location Form* to mail to the 4-H/FFA member's local supervising Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher and to Steve Austin, **two-sided copies (one two-sided page) are required.**

8. **LOST TAGS**—In the event the R.F.I.D. tag becomes lost after validation, the exhibitor should immediately notify their supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher. The supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher should then contact the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health to arrange for a replacement tag to be placed in the animal. A representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health will be responsible for placement of the replacement tag in the animal's ears. Upon replacing the ear tag, the supervising County Extension Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher should immediately complete an *Ear Tag Replacement Form* (Attachment D), obtain the required signatures, and submit the completed form to the following (a copy should be kept for the supervising County Extension Agent's or Vocational Agriculture Teacher's records, and a copy given to the exhibitor for their records:

   Division Director  
   Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
   Division of Show & Fair Promotion  
   111 Corporate Drive  
   Frankfort, KY 40601  
   Telephone: (502) 573-0282
9. At the 2017 Kentucky State Fair, the following animals will have hair or wool samples collected and tested against the ear tissue samples that were collected during the validation process for DNA comparison (samples will be collected by a representative from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health):
   
a. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats (those animals in the Sale of Champions).

b. Class winning market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats.

c. Any other market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats at the discretion of the superintendents for beef cattle, sheep, swine, and goat shows.

   NOTE: DNA samples may also be collected for testing on animals participating in the various district shows sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Show and Fair Promotion.

10. The exhibitor's supervising County Extension Agent, or the exhibitor's supervising Vocational Agriculture Teacher has the right, with prior notification, to inspect any animals at a reasonable time during the feeding period.