

# 2022 GUIDELINES FOR VALIDATING 4-H/FFA MARKET STEERS, MARKET LAMBS, MARKET HOGS, AND MARKET GOATS IN KENTUCKY

*Developed by Dr. Richard Coffey (Youth Programs Coordinator, Dept. of Animal and Food Sciences) and Zach Bartenslager (Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs, Dept. of Animal and Food Sciences)*

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.

- ★ **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 an online *Kentucky 4-H/FFA Breeding Animal Project Nomination and Location Form*.**
- ★ **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:** A \$5 per head tagging fee will be assessed on each market steer, market heifer, market lamb, market hog, and market goat that a K.U.I.P. tag is ordered for. Supervising County Extension Agents and/or FFA Advisors are responsible for collecting the tagging fee for exhibitor's they supervise and for submitting the tagging fees.

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 **March 4, 2022 for market steers and market heifers** and by **May 6, 2022 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:

**Zach Bartenslager, [zach.bart@uky.edu](mailto:zach.bart@uky.edu)**

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 March 18, 2022 Beef Validation Deadline and May 20, 2022 Sheep, Goat and/or Hog Validation Deadline.** The supervising County Extension Agent must verify the educational training requirement has been met when ordering tags for the exhibitor.

- 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 respective FFA membership status will be verified by the Advisor at the time of tagging.
4. All 4-H and FFA market animal exhibitors must complete the *Ownership, Possession, and Care Rules* portion of the validation online submission for the animal to be validated. Animals will not be verified (ineligible for state fair) if this portion of the validation form is not completed.
5. The following activities are required for the validation process:
  - 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.
    - 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 electronic validation form as a second form of identification.
    - 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 electronic 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. **After the R.F.I.D. tag has been applied, the exhibitors parent or legal guardian must acknowledge terms and conditions of the Kentucky Youth Livestock Validation Form/Guidelines by clicking "I acknowledge" to the button presented on the validation submission form.**

*NOTE:* A **\$5 per head tagging fee** will be assessed on each market steer, market heifer, market lamb, market hog, and market goat that a K.U.I.P. tag is ordered for. Supervising County Extension Agents and/or FFA Advisors are responsible for collecting the tagging fee for exhibitor's they supervise and for submitting the tagging fees.
  - c. Hair or wool 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. 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. The following individuals must sign the sample envelope after the hair or wool sample has been placed inside the sample envelope:
    - i. The exhibitor.
    - ii. The exhibitor's parent or legal guardian.
  - d. 4-H agents and/or FFA Advisors are responsible for submitting the DNA envelope back to the Kentucky State Fair by the Validation deadline.
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 FFA Advisor. The supervising County Extension Agent or FFA Advisor shall then contact the Kentucky State Fair to arrange for a replacement tag to be placed in the animal. Exhibitors should replace the lost tag upon receiving a new tag from Kentucky State Fair. Upon replacing the ear tag, the supervising County Extension Agent or FFA Advisor should immediately complete an *Ear Tag Replacement Form*, 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 FFA Advisor's records, and a copy given to the exhibitor for their records:

Kentucky State Fair  
Attn: Bobby Bell  
937 Phillips Lane  
Louisville, KY. 40209  
(502) 367-5294

9. At the 2022 Kentucky State Fair, the following animals will have hair or wool samples collected and tested against the hair or wool 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, Reserve Grand Champion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall, 4<sup>th</sup> Overall and 5<sup>th</sup> Overall market steers, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats.
  - b. 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 supervising FFA Advisor, as well as state level personnel responsible for rules enforcement (or their designee), has the right to inspect any validated market animals at a time of their choosing during the feeding period. Prior notification is not required before inspection. Exhibitors that refuse to allow inspection to occur will have their market animals banned from further participation in Kentucky 4-H/FFA Youth Livestock Shows.