2027 Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program Guidelines

Please be aware that dates listed on these guidelines are *state deadline dates* only. Local deadlines take priority over the listed dates on this document. Additionally, the validation fees listed in these guidelines are the *state validation costs* only. Local fees may apply and will take priority over the fees listed in this document.

IMPORTANT DATES

- ***August 1 - August 31, 2026*** www.texaslivestockvalidation.com is open for County Validation Chairman to submit tag orders. **$25.00** validation fee. ONLY one order per county. Late tag orders can be made **September 1- October 23, 2026** for **$30.00**. Please do not mail payment until you receive invoice.
- ***September 13, 2026*** Invoice generated for all original tag orders and sent to Validation Chair. Late tag orders will be invoiced **October 31, 2026.**
- ***September 15, 2026*** www.texaslivestockvalidation.com is open to ASTs/CEAs ONLY for registration paper upload. Instructional video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDb3h8MaDBM
- ***October 1 - October 31, 2026*** Heifers to be eligible for the 2027 Spring shows must be physically validated. Once validated, a heifer remains eligible unless breed or ownership is changed.
- ***October 31, 2026*** Deadline: original registration papers must be in exhibitor's name
- ***November 8, 2026*** Deadline to upload registration papers and enter heifer validation information to www.texaslivestockvalidation.com
- ***November 8, 2026*** Physical validation paperwork, including DNA hair envelopes, must be postmarked and sent to Texas 4-H Headquarters (note address change).
- ***November 21, 2026*** Projected deadline for all validation information to be reviewed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- ***November 30, 2026*** Projected deadline for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to notify all exhibitors with ineligible heifers and major livestock show officials for fall shows.

Texas 4-H and FFA are founded on integrity, accountability, and ethical behavior as essential to youth development. These programs provide meaningful learning experiences that build character, responsibility, and life skills through active participation and personal effort. Upholding these standards ensures fairness, preserves the educational purpose of the programs, and prepares youth for success beyond their 4-H and FFA experiences. Any action that violates these expectations or impedes the ability to uphold program standards constitutes a rule infraction.

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Note: Once a heifer is validated, she is eligible until the end of her show career unless she changes breed or ownership. *Important: If there are any changes made on the registration papers at any time during the feeding period, contact dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu.

The Texas Major Livestock Shows are participating in a program supported by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Education Agency, Department of Agricultural Education, whereby all 4-H and FFA heifers exhibited at their shows will be required to be validated through the Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program. Heifer projects will be identified appropriately with an official Texas Heifer Visual/Electronic Identification (EID) Tag, tattoo, assay. The validation program will utilize the website www.texaslivestockvalidation.com to house and process validation information.

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Reminder!
Sole ownership is required for heifers

Definition of Terms

County-Level State Validation Committee:
This committee is comprised of a minimum 4 individuals including the chair and co-chair (as needed). This committee is responsible for the facilitation of physical validation which includes, but is not limited to: selecting validation dates, times, and locations, gathering equipment needed to conduct validation (including the documentation provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension), and is responsible for any locally incurred expenses resulting from the administration of the Texas 4-H and FFA Validation Program. This committee will also oversee the physical validation process, as well as any matters throughout the feeding period including retagging of livestock.

County-Level State Validation Chairperson:
This individual (or individuals in the case of a co-chair) is responsible for establishing a local committee, ordering validation materials, submitting validation information online, and overseeing the overall responsibilities of the committee. The chair and co-chair must be a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. A co-chair is necessary if the chairperson also serves as a parent or supervisor. Each individual should only sign once per form/DNA envelope for each validated animal. The chairperson will be the main point-of-contact for any validation communication throughout the validation and feeding period.

Species Specific State-Level Validation Chairman:
This chairman is responsible for the oversight of each species validation program across the state. They manage and facilitate each species' related documentation, deadline dates, and are available to answer any questions or concerns regarding the Texas 4-H and FFA Validation Program.

State Species Specific Validation Programs:
Texas Steer and Heifer Validation – Dr. Billy Zanolini
Texas Lamb and Goat Validation – Mr. Marty Gibbs
Texas Swine Validation – Ms. Tammy Glascock

State Validation Program Executive Committee:
This committee serves as a final evaluation and declaration of determinations or disqualifications made by the State Level Species-Specific Validation Committee regarding appeal requests.

State Validation Compliance Team:
This team is comprised of employees of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Serve who are dedicated to providing support to the Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Validation programs by working alongside local county-level state validation committees to uphold the integrity of the Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Validation programs. This group is called upon to assist in making validation compliance check as needed.

County Level State Heifer Validation Committee Structure and Responsibilities

1. A 4-H and FFA "County Level State Heifer Validation Committee" shall be organized in each county where heifers are being fed by members of either organization for exhibition at the major livestock shows that require heifers to be state validated. The committee *shall be composed of County Extension Agents-Agriculture and/or 4-H* (CEA) and *Agricultural Science Teachers* (AST) in the county. Validation committees are encouraged to include local volunteer stakeholders as committee members when appropriate. He/she must have an interest in the program and be mutually acceptable to the County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers. When needed, the 4-H and FFA County Validation Committee may also include representatives from the county show/fair boards or other local leaders in the youth livestock program.

2. If there is not a "County Level State Heifer Validation Committee", the County Extension Agent is responsible for calling the first meeting to *organize* one. All County Extension Agents-Agriculture and/or 4-H and all Agricultural Science Teachers in the county shall be invited to this meeting. The number and composition of the committee will be determined at this meeting. It may be as large as the local agents and teachers deem practical; *however, there may not be fewer than **four** members on this committee.* A chairperson, who MUST be present at validation, shall be selected from this group. The chairperson must be a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. A Co-Chair may be selected (and must be a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher) to serve as well. This is necessary for instances where the chairperson may also be a supervisor or parent of an exhibitor. Each signing party on validation forms must only sign once. Therefore, a co-chair may be selected to sign when needed. There may be many counties wherein this committee will be all County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers. County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers who have members or students validating in a particular species are highly encouraged to participate in that species committee and be present at validation.

3. In counties *where there are fewer than **four** people* eligible to serve on this committee, a ***fourth** member shall be selected locally*. He/she must be representatives from the county show/fair boards or other local leaders in the youth livestock program and be mutually acceptable to the County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers.

4. In counties with a County Extension Agent vacancy, the appropriate District Extension Administrator may serve on the "County Level State Heifer Validation Committee". Further, the District Extension Administrator may assign a County Extension Agent from another county within the corresponding district to serve on the validation committee. In cases of vacancies by County Extension Agents and/or Agricultural Sciences Teachers to serve, the State Level Species Specific Chairperson must be contacted to provide guidance on selecting a chairperson and committee.

5. The county validation chairman is responsible for ordering official Texas Heifer Visual/Electronic Identification (EID) tags for his or her county.

6. The committee may make arrangements for a tattoo kit (not required) and any other equipment necessary for carrying out this program. The County Level State Heifer Validation Committee is responsible for any locally incurred expenses resulting from the administration of the Texas 4-H and FFA Heifer Validation Program.

7. The ***committee will meet as a group*** to conduct the validation of all 4-H/FFA heifers in the county. **Heifers must not be validated by less than three committee members and must have County Extension Agent and Agricultural Science Teacher representation. The chairperson (and co-chair, if applicable) must be present for physical validation.**

8. *Participating shows are requiring all (Livestock) to be validated at a time, place, and date determined by the "County Level State (Livestock) Validation Committee" between June1 and June 30. If exhibitors have conflicts that interfere with the scheduled validation day(s) or acquires additional (Livestock) after scheduled validation day(s), the exhibitor must contact the County Level State (Livestock) Validation Chairperson and request an alternate validation. The County Level State (Livestock) Validation Committee has the authority to set an alternative validation at the time, place, and location of their choosing. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES will fewer than three committee members be present during an alternate validation. To minimize excessive conflicts, the committee is strongly encouraged to set a non-published make-up validation day at the end of June to proactively prepare for unforeseen needs and circumstances. *Note – Committees should make every effort to grant all reasonable requests for an alternate validation on or before **June 30, 2025.** The Texas Validation Executive Committee reserves the right to settle disputes between the "County Level State (Livestock) Validation Committee" and exhibitors state validating livestock.*

Managing Validation Conflicts

- The county committee will meet to determine the validity of the conflict.
- If the conflict is determined to be valid, the committee is expected to make reasonable accommodations to validate the project, including scheduling a separate validation day, time, and/or location.
- Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES will fewer than three committee members be present during an alternate validation.

Exceptions to these guidelines may be granted by the State Heifer Validation Coordinator/Chairperson.

It should be noted that validation is a proof of ownership as required by major livestock shows in Texas. It does NOT automatically enter exhibitors in a major livestock show or county livestock show.

"By signing this document, the exhibitor and parent/guardian, recognize his/her responsibilities for the primary and continuous care of livestock projects throughout the feeding period and hereby authorizes the State Validation Coordinator or designated representatives and/or State Validation Compliance Team, supervising AST/CEA and the "Species Specific County Level State Validation Committee" the right to inspect your livestock project(s), along with any other state validated livestock projects on premises, at any time during the feeding period with or without prior notice. State validated livestock must be made available for inspection at any time requested at the address listed on validation record or any other property (public or privately owned) where the livestock may be located. Failure to make inspection available as requested will constitute a violation of validation rules and will lead to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other validated livestock. Additionally, any exhibitor in violation of the primary and continuous daily care rule is subject to disqualification." –Rule 3, Ethics Policy

Rule #3 of the Ethics Policy has been enhanced to include a process for approving state validated livestock to be outside of the direct care of the livestock exhibitor, their immediate family, and/or County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE RULE #3 FOR A FULL EXPLANATION OF THIS RULE.
To obtain prior approval, exhibitors must complete an official 4-H/FFA Validation Rule #3 Prior Approval Form. Exhibitors not obtaining prior approval as outlined ON THE ETHICS POLICY will be subject to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other state validated livestock projects. The form can be accessed here:
https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Rule-3-Approval-Form.pdf

Validation Checks and State Validation Compliance Team

As noted in the Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy, exhibitors and their families authorize, *"the State Validation Coordinator or designated representatives and/or State Validation Compliance Team, supervising AST/CEA and the "Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee" the right to inspect your livestock project(s), along with any other state validated livestock projects on premises, at any time during the feeding period with or without prior notice. State validated livestock must be made available for inspection at any time requested at the address listed on validation record or any other property (public or privately owned) where the livestock may be located. Failure to make inspection available as requested will constitute a violation of validation rules and will lead to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other validated livestock. Additionally, any exhibitor in violation of the primary and continuous daily care rule is subject to disqualification."*

These validation checks may be conducted by any of the parties stated above. These checks may occur at the time of physical validation or during the feeding period. These checks may be random or directed in nature, as deemed necessary by the Species-Specific State Validation Coordinator. Additionally, counties found to be in violation of validation process procedures are subject to review by the Species-Specific State Validation Chairperson.

Parties suspected to be in violation of the Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy will be further investigated by the Species-Specific State Validation Chairperson and the State Validation Executive Committee. As signed in the Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy, "*a violation of validation rules will lead to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other validated livestock."* Additionally, any exhibitor in violation of the rule is subject to disqualification.

The State Validation Compliance Team are employees of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and serve as a means to help uphold the integrity of the Texas 4-H and FFA livestock program. These employees are trained and trusted by both organizations to carryout processes as set forth by the state-level livestock validation programs.

Validation Paperwork

The County Level State Heifer Validation Committee Chairperson shall double-check all validation materials before submitting the **ORIGINALS** to the State Coordinator.
Be sure to check these items:

- ❑ Make sure **ALL** exhibitors' signatures have been included
- ❑ All information requested on paperwork is completed

Special note: no signatures should be obtained on forms before validation. Signatures should be obtained after physical validation to confirm the process was executed.

The only signatures that should be present before validation are in the event that a Parental Waiver is needed due to parent/guardian absence.

Heifer Validation Committee Form

The Heifer Validation Committee Form (See Page 15) collects the names and signatures of those conducting physical validation. The form also secures contact information of the County State Level Heifer Validation Committee Chairperson. The State Validation Heifer Validation Coordinator will communicate directly with the validation chairperson for the county.

Parental Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement

If the parent or guardian of an exhibitor is unable to attend the validation, the parental waiver form must be utilized (See Page 16). The validation committee should be notified in advance if a parent/guardian will not accompany the exhibitor during validation. The County Level State Heifer Validation Chairperson should retain a copy of the waiver for county records. A Parental Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement does not substitute a parents' or legal guardians' signature on any of these forms or hair sample envelope(s).

Ethics Policy

The "2026-2027 Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" Form (See Page 17) has been included to ensure all exhibitors and parents/guardians are aware of **the practices or procedures that are unacceptable and defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in care, fitting, preparation, and showing of all classes of livestock.** Consequences of and penalties associated with these practices are noted. **ORIGINAL** forms should be returned to the State Coordinator along with all other Validation Forms. A separate ethics policy is required per person, not per family.

Special note: each exhibitor should be given a copy of the Ethics Policy to keep for their reference.

Special emphasis on rule #3:

"To gain the life skills developed through the livestock project; exhibitors must be closely engaged in the feeding, maintenance, training, grooming and overall welfare of his/her animals. Exhibitors and immediate family/guardians are responsible for providing the primary and continuous daily care of livestock projects throughout the validation period. The validation period begins immediately following the county-level state validation date (not the validation deadline date listed previously) through exhibition at all livestock shows (*exhibitors must provide continuous care for breeding heifers, sheep, swine and goats throughout the animal's eligibility to show*).

a. **4-H and FFA livestock project exhibitors are under the supervision of an Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent who serves as the advisor for that project.** Excessive involvement of third-party consultants, breeders, fitters not affiliated with the Texas 4-H and/or Texas FFA programs is prohibited. Third party involvement interfering with the exhibitor's ability to provide primary daily care of and engagement with livestock projects may result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock projects owned by all associated exhibitors/families. Likewise, third party involvement interfering with the County Extension Agent and Agricultural Science Teacher's ability to properly supervise the livestock project may result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock projects.

b. Livestock projects must be raised at the physical address of validation record. Prior approval must be granted by the "Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee" in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor, immediate family/guardian, and/or the supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. Failure to gain approval from the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher/County Extension Agent and the Species-Specific County-Level State Validation Committee will result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock.

c. To obtain prior approval, exhibitors must complete an official 4-H/FFA Validation Rule #3 Prior Approval Form. Exhibitors not obtaining prior approval as outlined above will be subject to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other state validated livestock projects. The form can be accessed here: https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Rule-3-Approval-Form.pdf

d. By signing this document, the exhibitor and parent/guardian, recognize his/her responsibilities for the primary and continuous care of livestock projects throughout the feeding period and hereby authorizes the State Validation Coordinator or designated representatives and/or State Validation Compliance Team, supervising AST/CEA and the "Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee" **the right to inspect your livestock project(s), along with any other state validated livestock projects on premises, at any time during the feeding period with or without prior notice**. State validated livestock must be made available for inspection at any time requested at the address listed on validation record or any other property (public or privately owned) where the livestock may be located. Failure to make inspection available as requested will constitute a violation of validation rules and will lead to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other validated livestock. Additionally, any exhibitor in violation of the primary and continuous daily care rule is subject to disqualification."

Special emphasis on rule #4:
"Animals validated for major livestock shows may also be exhibited at other shows. Be advised, however, that if any validated animal is exhibited and SOLD at any other show (including a county show), the animal will be ineligible to show at any subsequent major livestock show. **Additionally, state validated livestock offered for sale during the feeding period via private treaty, private or public auction will be ineligible to show at any subsequent major livestock show. If ownership changes or has the possibility of changing through a sale offering (including animal(s) purchased back by the exhibitor of validation record), regardless of method or length of time, that chain of animal ownership is considered broken and will be ineligible to show at any remaining livestock shows in the feeding period requiring state validation."**

Special note: no signatures should be obtained on forms before validation. Signatures should be obtained after physical validation to confirm the process was executed.

The only signatures that should be present before validation are in the event that a Parental Waiver is needed due to parent/guardian absence.

Validation Form

The validation form collects required data:

1. Exhibitor information - **only ONE exhibitor per heifer. No partnerships with siblings or others.**
2. Exhibitor/Family email required
3. Tag Number – assigned at physical validation
4. Breed – **only ONE breed, cannot validate in two breeds, even if the heifer is dual-registered**
5. Heifer Information – found on original or copy of original registration paper
    a. Registration Number
    b. Date of Birth (DOB)
    c. Breed Identification **(reg. papers must match what is physically on the heifer)**
6. Appropriate signatures

Special note: breed ID, including tattoo and/or brand, must be present on the animal and match the registration papers at the show.

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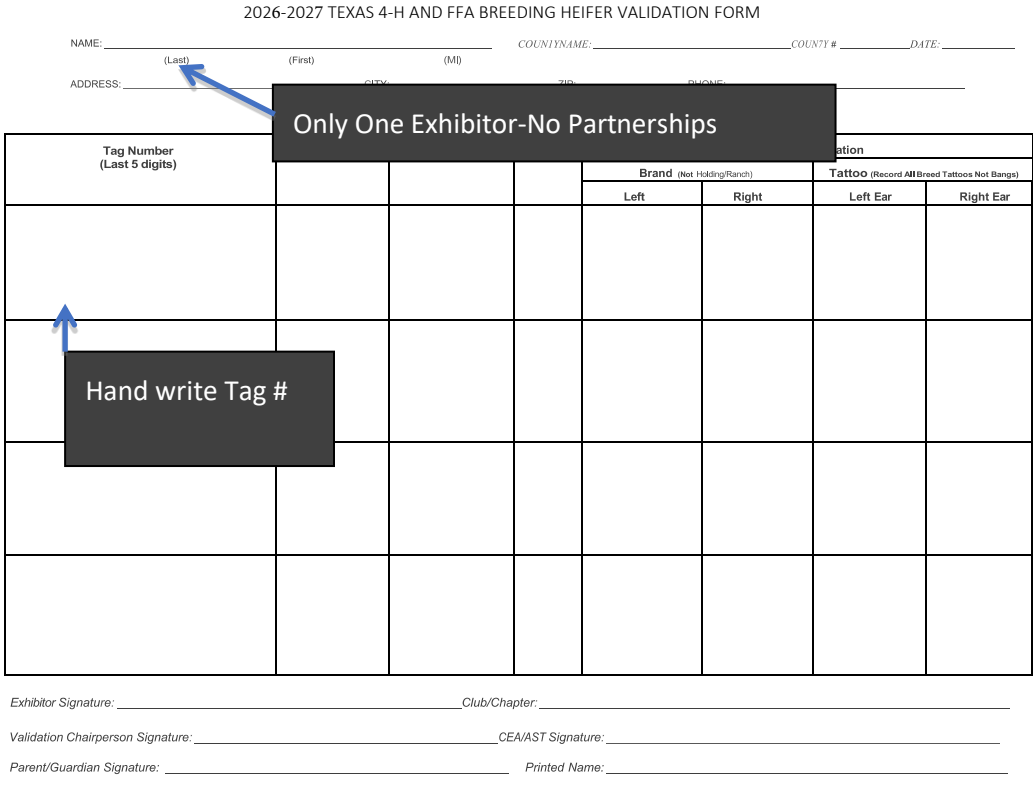


HEIFER

TEXAS 4-H AND FFA BREEDING HEIFER VALIDATION FORM

NAME: _____ *COUN1YNAME:* _____ *COUN7Y #* _____ *DATE:* _____

(Last) (First) (MI)

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

FAMILY EMAIL ADDRESS (Required): _____

Tag Number (Last 6 digits)	**Breed**	**Reg. Number**	**DOB**	**Breed Identification**			
				Brand (Not Holding/Ranch)		**Tattoo** (Record All Breed Tattoos Not Bangs)	
				Left	**Right**	**Left Ear**	**Right Ear**

Exhibitor Signature: _____ *Club/Chapter:* _____

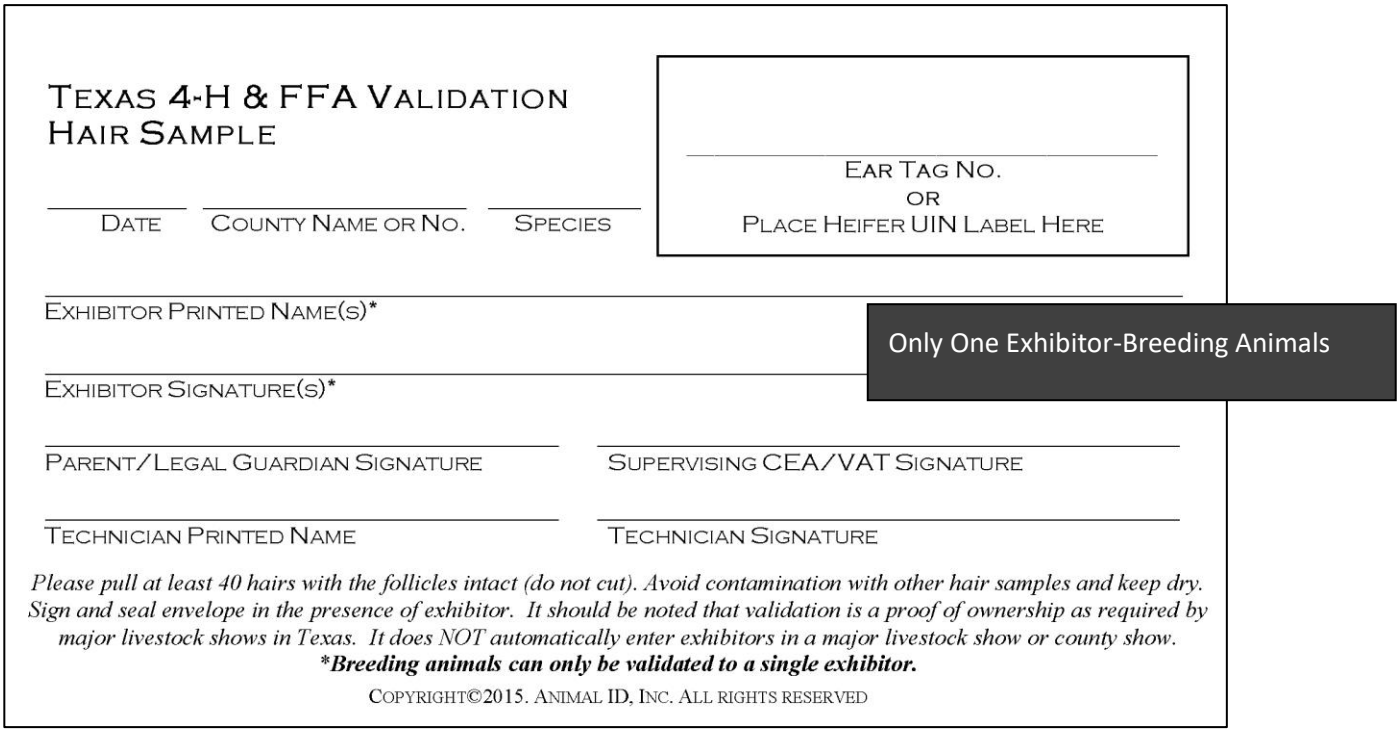
Validation Chairperson Signature: _____ *CEA/AST Signature:* _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ *Printed Name:* _____

ATTENTION: Exhibitor, parent/guardian, supervising teacher/agent and committee members are equally responsib for making sure heifers are validated properly and that all information found on this validation form is correct. It should be *noted that validation Is a proof of ownership as required by major livestock shows in Texas. It does NOT automatically* enter *exhibitors In* ***a*** *major livestock show or county show.*

DNA Collection Envelope

Each heifer validated will have hair taken for the DNA Assay identification program. Hair samples will be pulled by a member of the County Level State Heifer Validation Committee or local veterinarian at the time of validation and then put in individual DNA Assay envelopes provided for each heifer. Below is a picture of the DNA envelope. Detailed instructions for collecting hair samples are attached (See Page 26).



TEXAS 4-H & FFA VALIDATION
HAIR SAMPLE

DATE | COUNTY NAME OR NO. | SPECIES

EAR TAG NO.
OR
PLACE HEIFER UIN LABEL HERE

EXHIBITOR PRINTED NAME(S)*

EXHIBITOR SIGNATURE(S)*

Only One Exhibitor-Breeding Animals

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

SUPERVISING CEA/VAT SIGNATURE

TECHNICIAN PRINTED NAME

TECHNICIAN SIGNATURE

Please pull at least 40 hairs with the follicles intact (do not cut). Avoid contamination with other hair samples and keep dry. Sign and seal envelope in the presence of exhibitor. It should be noted that validation is a proof of ownership as required by major livestock shows in Texas. It does NOT automatically enter exhibitors in a major livestock show or county show.

***Breeding animals can only be validated to a single exhibitor.**

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Physical Validation

Suggested Physical Validation Supplies

- ❑ Hair pulling pliers
- ❑ Squeeze and/or clipping chute
- ❑ Rubbing alcohol
- ❑ Rags to clean ears
- ❑ Powerful flashlight to read tattoos
- ❑ Tattoo kit (not required but a best practice)
- ❑ Green (preferred) tattoo ink
- ❑ All paperwork and envelopes
- ❑ Portable color scanner (not required)
- ❑ Tag remover
- ❑ Ear tagging tool (EID compatible)
- ❑ Ear tags

No Nose Prints-No Ink Pad or Nose Print Cards

Summary of Validation Procedure

1) Tag animals
2) Collect DNA
3) Record heifer information (breed, registration number, date of birth)
4) Record breed identification (breed tattoos and brands)

Special note: if showing a cow/calf pair, the calf does not need to be validated until it will be shown as an individual.

Detailed Overview/Workflow of Physical Validation

1) Family enters personal information on validation forms upon arrival to physical validation.

2) Validation committee member records heifer information on validation form, based on data from registration paper.
   a) Breed
   b) Registration Number
   c) Date of Birth

Special note: brand/tattoo must be on the animal by the state validation deadline and presented to the committee before this date.

Special note: a heifer may only be validated under ONE breed. This is true even if the heifer is dual-registered.

3) Evaluate Breed ID
   a) Breed ID Brand
      i) This should be numbers or characters and match the Breed ID and location found on registration papers. **(This is not a holding or ranch brand).**
      ii) If no brand is present, the committee may require the exhibitor or family to have the heifer branded and presented to at least two committee members at a later date, time, and location.

Special note: brand/tattoo markings should be included. Dash (-) indicates space or bar. Slash (/) indicates over.

   b) Breed ID Tattoo **(This a Breed ID Tattoo <u>not</u> a Brucellosis Tattoo)**
      i) Clean both ears to look for tattoos.
      ii) If tattoo is found, be sure the tattoo matches the tattoo and location indicated on registration papers and can be clearly read.
      iii) Record both ears if applicable
         1. Circle the recorded number (on validation form) that is on corresponding registration paper.
      iv) If no tattoo is present or is too faded to read, the validation committee may:
         1. Require the heifer be tattooed and presented to at least two committee members at a later date, time and location. This must be presented before the state validation deadline.
         2. Tattoo the heifer onsite.
         3. Request the exhibitor or family tattoo the heifer on-site (If exhibitor/family is willing and necessary equipment is onsite).

Special note: make sure if the tattoo and tag are in the same ear, the tag is not covering the tattoo.

v) If heifer has incorrect tattoo:

1. Committee may tattoo heifer with correct tattoo according to registration papers.
2. Committee may require exhibitor/family to have heifer be tattooed with correct number and presented to at least two committee members at a later date, time and location. This must be presented by the state validation deadline. **Important Note** The county validation chairperson MUST notify the Texas 4-H Steer and Heifer Validation Program (dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu) at LEAST 3 weeks prior to the show if an animal is retattooed.
3. Exhibitor/family may work with the breed association and or breeder of said heifer to change registration papers to match existing tattoo. Important – the re- issued original papers must still meet the ownership requirements of the Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program. If incorrect paper has been previously uploaded to ww.texaslivestockvalidation.com to physical validation, the incorrect paper, along with the heifer project, must be deleted from the system and the corrected registration papers must be uploaded by **July 8, 2027.**

*Important: If there are any changes made on heifer registration papers at any time during the feeding period, contact **dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu**. **This includes print date (even if the paper was reprinted).**

4) Collect DNA-See Page 16 for instructions

Special note: breed ID, including tattoo and/or brand, must be present on the animal and match the registration papers at the show. **The State Validation Committee reserves the right to disqualify an animal if its tattoo, brand, or primary form of identification cannot be read safely.**

5) Ear Tag
   a) Tag animals' LEFT ear with the visual tag number facing the back of the heifer and the EID button on the inside of the ear. *Make sure the EID button number and Visual Tag numbers match.*
   b) Place tag between ribs of the ear, about ¾ of the length of the ear from the tip. ***Do not tag through the animals' tattoo!!***

6) Scan Original Registration Paper (Optional)
   a) Scan on **Color** scanner
   b) Save as .PDF or .JPG file (Maximum file size of 4MB)
   c) Save as "Animal Name, Exhibitor's Last Name"

Special note: heifer registration papers must be presented at the time of show. The papers presented must match **EXACTLY** with what was uploaded to **www.texaslivestockvalidation.com**, no digital copies will be accepted for state validation.

7) Validation Chairperson Takes Possession of All Original Validation Paperwork
   a) Copy of Validation Form may be given to the exhibitor's supervising CEA or AST for "Heifer Project Submission" on www.texaslivestockvalidation.com.
   b) All information may be submitted to www.texaslivestockvalidation.com by a single validation chair (CEA or AST) or a combination of supervising CEAs or ASTs. This is a local County Level State Heifer Validation Committee decision.

Checklist for Submitting Validation Materials

Organize and sort validation materials:

_____ CHECK THAT ALL SIGNATURES ARE OBTAINED. Processing of materials will be delayed, and additional paperwork will be required for missing signatures.

_____ Validation forms: Place in alphabetical order by exhibitor last name.

_____ DNA Envelopes: Place in numerical order and secure in separate stack for shipping. DO NOT staple the DNA envelope.

_____ Ethics Policy Forms: place in alphabetical order by exhibitor last name and secure in separate stack for shipping (submit ORIGINAL forms). Verify ONE Ethics Policy Form Completed PER EXHIBITOR.

_____ Parental Waiver/Hold Harmless Form (if applicable): place behind exhibitors corresponding Ethics Policy. A Parental Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement does not substitute a parents' or legal guardians' signature on any of these forms or hair sample envelope(s).

_____ Return unused hair sample envelopes and validation forms, *free of markings.*

_____ Return completed Heifer Validation Committee Form with validation materials.

_____ Upload registration papers and enter heifer validation information online at www.texaslivestockvalidation.com.

The County Level State Heifer Validation Committee Chairperson will send the **original white copy, DNA envelopes, and other validation paperwork *postmarked on or before July 8, 2027*, via priority/certified mail, return receipt requested to:**

Dottie Goebel
ATTN: Heifer Validation
TAMU 2473
College Station, TX
77843

All forms MUST be signed by the exhibitor, exhibitor's parent or exhibitor's legal guardian, the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent, and the County Level State Heifer Validation Committee Chairperson. If the Committee Chairperson is the supervisor of the exhibitor of the heifer, another committee member will sign for the chairperson.

Payment Process

The Validation Chairperson that **submitted the order** will be invoiced for validation fees for the entire county. ***They will receive an invoice for the whole county based on how heifers were entered into the system for the entire county (both 4-H and FFA, see example below).***

The cost is **$25.00** per heifer tag ordered to www.texaslivestockvalidation.com. County and/or Chapter checks can be payable to **Livestock Validation Account 218400** and mailed to the address below. Please mail checks **AFTER receiving invoice.**

Dottie Goebel
ATTN: Heifer Validation
TAMU 2473
College Station, TX
77843

*A county may choose to have all heifers submitted under 4-H or FFA to http://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com **regardless** of exhibitor membership. The previous is completely acceptable and will have **no bearing** on how a student will actually enter the major livestock shows. The exhibitor will be affiliated with the organization of the CEA/AST that enters him or her in the major livestock show.

Important Note:

The county validation committee will make arrangements for all equipment and shipping necessary for carrying out this program. The "County Level State Heifer Validation Committee" is responsible for any locally incurred expenses resulting from the administration of the Texas 4-H and FFA Heifer Validation Program. The County Validation Committee may not charge more than $5.00 more than the original cost of the validation materials - $30.00 total. If the local cost to validate is more than what an additional $5.00 per validation fee will provide, please contact Texas Heifer Validation for assistance.

Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation Committee for

_____County _____ Month/Year

Validation Chairperson Contact Information:

Address _____
City/ZIP _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
Email _____

Date: _____

POSITION	CEA, AST, or Leader/Show Board Rep. *Check Appropriate*	NAME	Signature
Chairman	☐ CEA ☐ AST		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST ___Co-Chair ☐ Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST ☐ Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST ☐ Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST ☐ Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST ☐ Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	☐ CEA ☐ AST ☐ Leader or Show Board Rep.		

For the Chairperson

- Please clarify to your committee members that signing this form verifies that they are members of the heifer validation committee for the above-mentioned county. With this membership comes the responsibility of overseeing the heifer validation process.
- As chairperson, you are responsible for ensuring that you and/or at least one member of this committee witnesses the validation and hair collection of each validated animal.

Parental Waiver

I,_____, being the parent or legal guardian

of_____, a minor and an exhibitor (hereinafter referred to as Exhibitor) in the 2024-2025 Texas 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Steer Program, am unable to be present during the Steer Validation Process and at the time hair samples will be collected for steer identification purposes.

I hereby authorize the_____County Level State Steer Validation Committee to complete the validation process for Exhibitor's heifer(s) in his/her presence. I recognize that he/she is a minor child and will be acting without my parental guidance and oversight.

Finally, I agree and acknowledge that because I am not able to be present during the Heifer Validation Process , I hereby waive any and every right to challenge , question , or contest any and all actions or inactions of the County Level State Heifer Validation Committee during the Validation Process for Exhibitors heifer (s). As parent and /or legal guardian of Exhibitor (s), I fully understand and acknowledge that if the requirements for the validation of his/her heifer(s) are not completed correctly, (1) the heifer (s) will not be eligible for competition in the Junior Livestock Heifer Program at Major Livestock Shows, and (2) I hereby agree to hold harmless for any and all purposes and to relinquish any present or future claims against all members of the County Level State Heifer Validation Committee and/ or other person(s) that participated in my attempted validation of Exhibitor's heifer(s).

_____ _____

Date **Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian**

NOTE: A Parental Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement does not substitute a parents' or legal guardians' signature on any of these forms or hair sample envelope(s)

2026-2027 TEXAS 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS POLICY
(Updated April 2026)

Texas 4-H and FFA are founded on integrity, accountability, and ethical behavior as essential to youth development. These programs provide meaningful learning experiences that build character, responsibility, and life skills through active participation and personal effort. Upholding these standards ensures fairness, preserves the educational purpose of the programs, and prepares youth for success beyond their 4-H and FFA experiences. Any action that violates these expectations or impedes the ability to uphold program standards constitutes a rule infraction.

This ethics policy applies to any 4-H/FFA member planning to exhibit animals at livestock shows in Texas, as well as the exhibitor's parents/guardians, advisors, and third-party personnel acting on behalf of the exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the 4-H/FFA member and their parent/guardian to inform any person acting on behalf of the exhibitor of the Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy and all associated rules and consequences. All classes of livestock offered at livestock shows in Texas are subject to this policy, including, but not limited to: cattle, goats, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, equine, and any other livestock classes offered. This "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" will be enhanced with additional rules and guidelines which individual fairs and livestock shows adhere to on the local, county, regional, and state levels. The provisions contained in this policy do not constitute a contract, express or implied, between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas 4-H, Inc., or Texas FFA and any applicant, participant, or parent. Additionally, the terms and conditions contained herein do not create or expand legal rights already existing under the law.

4-H and FFA livestock project exhibitors are under the supervision of an Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent who serves as the advisor for that project. The major livestock shows of Texas support the educational content and leadership provided by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas. Also, the major livestock shows of Texas fully support the administrative authority of Agricultural Science Teachers and County Extension Agents to certify the fulfillment of all validation protocols and appropriate paperwork between the exhibitor, Texas 4-H/Texas FFA, the major livestock shows of Texas and the supervising educator. Exhibiting livestock is a privilege, and exhibitors must comply with this document and respect the authority granted to his/her supervisor. Additionally, any verbal, physical, or otherwise demonstrated threats or comments toward validation personnel, volunteers, or show leadership will not be tolerated.

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in the care, fitting, preparation and showing of all classes of livestock. The use of any illegal drug is prohibited. Any practice used to alter the appearance of an animal entered in livestock events is prohibited (See Rule #9 & #10). Proof of any animal being subjected to illegal and/or unethical practice(s) and/or procedure(s), including inhumane animal treatment, abuse, or neglect, described herein may result in disqualification. If a violation is found of any of the rules or requirements of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to: interim suspension, disqualification, a cancelled validation record, and/or future validation records.

All 4-H/FFA exhibitors must follow these rules to validate livestock through the Texas 4-H/FFA livestock validation program.
1. Exhibitors must be bona fide members of a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in the State of Texas and be in good standing and eligible to compete in accordance with each respective organization. The exhibitor must care for their animals under the direct supervision of a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. Exhibitors must be enrolled in, and attending, public or private and/or accredited home school elementary or secondary schools in Texas. Texas 4-H and/or Texas FFA reserve the right to seek verification of enrollment, records, and/or passing status from the accredited governing homeschool association. Exhibitors must be Texas residents. State validated livestock must be housed and cared for in Texas.

2. County-Level State Validation serves as proof of ownership for state validated livestock. For breeding animals, the official ownership date is the date reflected on the registration papers. This date is the specific date for each breed of record as recognized by the validation program. (Individual show rules may determine ownership requirements for non-market animals.) Registered breeding heifers must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal on the breed association papers. Registered breeding heifers with additional registration papers within the breed association of validation record or in another breed association may be evaluated for multiple ownership. If additional registration papers are found active within an association indicating ownership information conflicting with the exhibitor's ownership designation, the livestock may be subject to disqualification.

3. To gain the life skills developed through the livestock project, exhibitors must be closely engaged in the continuous feeding, maintenance, training, grooming and overall welfare of his/her animals. Exhibitors are responsible for providing the primary and continuous daily care of livestock projects throughout the validation period. Immediate family members and/or guardians are permitted to provide assistance at the approved livestock housing address. The validation period begins immediately following the county-level state validation date regardless of the validation deadline date listed. Exhibitors must provide continuous care for all state validated livestock through exhibition at all livestock shows and/or the animal's eligibility to show. Facilities and location/space are a major determining factor in livestock species selection by the exhibitor. In some instances, it may be in the best interest of the exhibitor and his/her learning experience to select a species project that is best suited for his/her facilities and feasibility of housing projects.

a. 4-H and FFA livestock project exhibitors are under the supervision of an Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent who serves as the advisor for that project. Excessive involvement of third-party consultants, breeders, or fitters not affiliated with the Texas 4-H and/or Texas FFA programs is prohibited. Third-party involvement interfering with the exhibitor's ability to provide primary daily care of and engagement with livestock projects may result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock projects owned by all associated exhibitors/families and any projects at locations associated with such third party. Disqualification due to excessive third-party involvement could result in notification to all state level validation committees in Texas of the involved third-party affiliation and all Texas livestock shows requiring state validation. Likewise, third-party interference with the County Extension Agent and/or Agricultural Science Teacher's ability to properly supervise the livestock project may result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock projects or future validation records.

b. Livestock projects must be raised at the physical address of validation record (the "Premises"). All projects of one species must be housed at the same approved location, provided, however, that exceptions may be made for limitations placed by school/county livestock housing facilities. **Prior approval** must be granted by the "Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee" in the event the state validated livestock will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor, immediate family/guardian, and/or the supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. Failure to gain **prior approval** from the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher/County Extension Agent and the Species-Specific County-Level State Validation Committee may result in the disqualification of all of the exhibitor's state validated livestock.

c. To obtain **prior approval**, exhibitors must complete an official 4-H/FFA Validation Rule #3 Prior Approval Form. Exhibitors not obtaining prior approval as outlined above will be subject to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other state validated livestock projects. The form can be accessed here: https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Rule-3-Approval-Form.pdf

By signing the Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy, the exhibitor and parent/guardian, recognize his/her responsibilities for the primary and continuous care of livestock projects throughout the feeding period and hereby authorizes the State Validation Coordinator or designated representatives and/or State Validation Compliance Team, supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher and the "Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee" **the right to inspect any state validated livestock at the Premises, at any time during the feeding period with or without prior notice**. State validated livestock must be made available for inspection at any time requested at the address listed on validation record (Premises) or any other property (public or privately owned) where the livestock may be located. Failure to make state validated livestock available for inspection as requested will constitute a violation of validation rules and may lead to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other state validated livestock. Additionally, any exhibitor in violation of the primary and continuous daily care rule is subject to disqualification.

d. The following is intended to serve as a guideline for housing state validated livestock. Texas 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors are expected to follow these guidelines under the supervision and approval of their County-Level State Validation Committee and supervising Agricultural Science Teacher and/or County Extension Agent. In any instance of discrepancy, the Species-Specific State Validation Chairperson and the State Validation Executive Committee have the right to interpret these rules and will have the final decision on all housing inquiries.

i. All state validated livestock should be housed at the home of the livestock exhibitor or a family member or at a county or school ag facility. Any exhibitor who has existing livestock facilities or existing land to build such should house their livestock projects at their residence or at a county or school facility. It is the burden of the livestock exhibitor's family to research and contact all school or county facilities in the county before exploring alternative options.

ii. If the facilities described above do not exist, an alternative facility may be investigated to house the livestock. A facility of this nature can only be explored after efforts to house livestock at the facilities described above have been exhausted. Alternative facilities must be within the exhibitor's county and/or school district, unless deemed appropriate by designated approval documents. Alternative housing addresses must be listed on the Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy Acknowledgement/Signature Form. Additionally, alternative facilities may only be used with approval from the County-Level State Validation Committee. These requests may be denied based on existing evidence of possible housing facilities listed in #1 AND/OR due to concerns of excessive third-party involvement. The burden of seeking approval is on the livestock exhibitor's family. The

Species-Specific State Validation Chairperson and the State Validation Executive Committee have the right to interpret these rules and will have the final decision on all housing inquiries in instances of disagreement or interpretation. If an exhibitor is concerned of a potential housing facility that may not be acceptable according to the listed criteria, please contact the Species-Specific State Validation Chairperson for an advisory opinion. All interpretations, decisions and settlements will be made by program leadership to align these rules with the best interest of the program and participants. Any requests and/or appeals concerning alternative housing will be approved/denied based on, but not limited to, the following criteria: existence or availability of housing facilities listed above; location and proximity of the alternative housing to the exhibitor; excessive third-party involvement; and previous instances of rule violation or excessive third-party involvement at the proposed alternative location. Excessive third-party involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1) Decision making or advice counter to that of the supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher
2) Daily or frequent feeding, training, maintenance, washing, rinsing, blowing, or other care practices
3) Interfering with or denying access to CEA, AST, and/or any other county or state level committee member as listed in Rule #3 to supervise or check state validated livestock
4) Encouragement of or use of unethical fitting or showing practices as listed in Rule #9
5) Excessive or misleading advice at livestock shows; or
6) Any rule violations by the livestock housing provider

iii. Violation of livestock show rules or validation regulations by a livestock housing provider may result in the removal of that location from the list of approved validation housing sites, including Rule #3 Approval Form address.

4. Animals validated through the Texas state validation program may also be exhibited at other shows. Be advised, however, the sale or participation in terminal shows will impact the state validated animals per the directives outlined below involving chain of animal ownership.

a. If any Texas state validated animal is exhibited and SOLD at any other major livestock show officially sanctioned by Texas state validation, the animal will be ineligible to show at any subsequent major livestock show in the animal's lifetime. These shows include: Heart 'O Texas Fair, State Fair of Texas, Grandstand/Hill Country District Livestock Show, Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo, Sandhills Stock Show, San Angelo Livestock Show and Rodeo, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Rodeo Austin, Texas' Elite Showcase, and the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show.

b. Additionally, Texas state validated livestock offered for sale during the feeding period via private treaty, private or public auction (including terminal county livestock show auctions) will be ineligible to show at any subsequent major livestock show during the feeding period. If ownership changes or has the possibility of changing through a sale offering (including animal(s) purchased back by the exhibitor of validation record), regardless of method or length of time, that chain of animal ownership is considered broken and the animal will be ineligible to show at any remaining livestock shows in the feeding period requiring state validation.

5. DNA samples obtained from livestock at the time of County-Level State Validation must match DNA assays obtained any time during the feeding period for the state validated animal and exhibitor record.

6. A state validated livestock project may not be simultaneously validated in more than one county or state. Additionally, a state validated animal may not be county or state validated under a different exhibitor's name in another county. State validated livestock projects must be validated through the County 4-H Program or Texas FFA Chapter in which they will enter and show the livestock project in Texas major livestock shows.

7. Any method used to misrepresent the age of an animal for a class in which it is shown is deceptive and considered a violation of the rules and guidelines. Any method used to misrepresent the breed or falsification of documents for a breeding animal, as determined by a recognized breed association or livestock show, is deceptive and considered a violation of the rules and guidelines and may result in disqualification of the state validated livestock.

8. Family validation is permitted under certain circumstances. "Family validation" means state validating livestock with related family members in the same household, or separate, in the case of split family divorce situations. To be eligible for family validation, the youth participants must be related family members. "Related family members" for the purpose of state validation means nuclear family, stepfamily, or siblings via guardianship. Failure to utilize the student's legal name on any validation form or livestock show entry form is a violation of the Ethics Policy and may result in disqualification. Documentation, including official government-issued documents, may be requested in order to certify the identity and/or custody status of the youth participant.

9. Showing an animal for another individual by claiming ownership in order to show in a specific livestock class/event or claiming ownership through signage, social media, or any other advertising method is prohibited. A false claim of ownership is a violation of these guidelines and will lead to disqualification.

10. Treating an animal internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance used to artificially change the conformation or appearance, or enhance performance, of an animal for show is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. Surgery, injection or insertion of foreign material under the skin and/or into the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation or appearance of an animal's body is illegal. This includes, but is not limited to, **injection of gas, air, oil, or other foreign substances**; cutting/tearing of the hide/underneath the hide or removal of tissue in any attempt to alter the physical appearance of the animal; numbing or "deadening" an animal's tail; cutting tendons of an animal; using foreign substances to build or cosmetically re-shape feet; as well as "twining" which includes the attachment of hair or hair substances (i.e. baling twine, cloth, fiber, etc.). Acceptable practices of physical preparation which are allowed include: clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, dehorning, removal of ancillary teats, and docking of tails.

11. The use of unethical fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices compromising animal welfare will not be tolerated.

12. Livestock exhibitors will be held accountable for the Species-Specific Validation Guidelines for each species in which they state validate livestock projects. Livestock exhibitors will also be held accountable for the rules and guidelines for each major livestock show in which they exhibit state validated livestock. Validation Guidelines may be found at www.texasyouthlivestock.com. To remain in compliance, livestock must be fully validated. A full validation is specific per species and may include: tag, tattoo, nose print, ear notches, and all associated paperwork. Livestock will be held to the full validation as stated in each species validation guidelines. Animals not in compliance with a full validation may be subject to disqualification.

13. The Texas 4-H and FFA State Validation Executive Committee reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and to settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, or connected with, or incident to this "Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy". All interpretations, decisions and settlements will be made by program leadership in order to align these rules with the best interest of the program and participants.

Any violation of the Texas 4-H and FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy and/or associated validation guidelines, as well as specific rules as designated by individual livestock shows, including the use of deceptive information, or any action that impedes, interferes, or obstructs with an investigation or the determination of eligibility, may result in any one or combination of the following: interim suspension pending investigation or appeal, probation, disqualification, ineligibility status, loss of eligibility for future validations and/or participation in organized livestock competition. Additionally, depending on the nature of the infraction, violations could result in notification to all state level validation committees in Texas and all Texas livestock shows requiring state validation of the infraction and the involvement of any third-party. **Possible civil or criminal penalties may be imposed by the proper authorities based on evidence provided by the livestock show of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act/or the animal mistreatment, neglect, and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state, and/or national levels.** All rule violations will be dealt with on an individual basis by the Species-Specific State Validation Committee, State Validation Coordinators, and/or appropriate livestock show officials.

2026–2027 Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy Acknowledgement/Signature Form

I, the parent/guardian and exhibitor, am verifying that I have read the "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" and understand the consequences of and penalties involved for illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unfair practices in livestock competition. I am also verifying knowledge that my family and I may be prohibited from future participation in organized validation programs in the State of Texas and could face possible criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties if implicated in any of the aforementioned acts.

ATTENTION: Please list the address the livestock will be housed below. The address where the animal(s) will be located should be approved by the local validation committee. If a housing address change occurs during the feeding period, the exhibitor is responsible for notifying their supervising CEA/AST who-in-turn must notify the county-level state validation committee for approval. It will be the responsibility of the county-level state validation chair to notify the State Specie Specific Validation Chair of the address upon arrival.

IMPORTANT: Only one exhibitor per form.

_____	_____	_____
Physical Address (Livestock Housing)	**City**	**Zip Code**
_____	_____	_____
Exhibitor Mailing Address	**City**	**Zip Code**

Signatures of Acknowledgement: These signatures verify you have read the 2026-2027 Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy in its entirety (Pages 1-4). Please return this page completed and signed.

_____	_____	_____
Exhibitor (Printed Name)	Exhibitor (Signature)	Date

Exhibitor Family Phone Number:_____ Exhibitor Family Email Address: _____

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian (Printed Name)	Parent/Guardian (Signature)	Date
_____	_____	_____
Supervising CEA/AST (Printed Name)	Supervising CEA/AST (Signature)	Date
_____	_____	_____
Validation Chairman (Printed Name)	Validation Chairman (Signature)	Date
_____	_____	
FFA Chapter and/or County 4-H Name	County Name	

State Validation Deadline Dates (These are state deadlines only, local deadlines take priority over the dates listed below):

State Fair and Heart of Texas:
June 30 for steers, heifers, lambs, goats, breeding sheep and goats, and swine

All Other Major Shows:
June 30 for steers
October 31 for lambs and goats
October 1 breeding sheep and goats
October 31 breeding heifers
November 30 for swine

Replacement Ear Tag

Exhibitors should be instructed to immediately notify their supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher when an ear tag is lost or damaged. They in turn should notify the Validation Chairperson within ten days for consideration of replacement. The Chairperson will arrange for the committee to determine validity of loss. If the committee concurs, they can assign a replacement tag from their county reserve or secure a replacement tag from the State Coordinator. The Ear Tag Replacement form can also be found at https://texasyouthlivestock.com/heifer-validation/

Any unused tags can be used by the County Level State Heifer Validation Committee as replacement tags. However, tags **CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED** from county to county.

Process for securing a replacement tag from county reserves:

1) Retag heifer with tag from county reserves. Two members of the county validation committee must be prestent at the time this occurs.
2)Complete **ALL PARTS** of the Ear Tag Replacement Form (Ear Tag Replacement Form p.22) and submit to the state coordinator. (See deadlines below)

Process for securing a replacement tag from the State Coordinator

1) Complete **the BOXED section** only of the Ear Tag Replacement Form (**Ear Tag Replacement Form p. 26**) and submit to the State Coordinator.
2) Within 7 to 10 working days a replacement tag will be sent to the County Heifer Validation Committee Chairperson.
3) Retag heifer with new tag. **Complete the remainder** of the Ear Tag Replacement Form (**Ear Tag Replacement Form p. 22**) and submit to the State Coordinator. (see deadlines below)*

*Deadlines for submitting ear tag replacement forms

Once the retagging process is complete, the Ear Tag Replacement Form must be **RECEIVED** by the State Coordinator **TWO WEEKS** prior to the intended date of show. Forms may be emailed to dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu

If possible, tags should be replaced prior to arrival at a major show; however, if needed, tags may be replaced for $25 at major shows. Retagging typically occurs on day of check-in. However, please contact show personnel or the state validation office on information on retagging per show.

County Transfers

If an exhibitor transfers counties after validation, **the validation chairperson in the county in which the heifer was originally validated** must complete the **Change of County Request Form** found at https://texasyouthlivestock.com/heifer-validation/

TEXAS LIVESTOCK VALIDATION

EAR TAG REPLACEMENT FORM

This form is to be utilized by the **County-Level State Validation Chairperson** for state validation tag replacements within the county. A separate replacement form must be completed and submitted for each lost tag. **Two members of the county validation committee must be present at the time this occurs.**

A DNA sample MUST be mailed for each animal that is retagged.

Validation tags CANNOT be transferred from county to county.

COUNTY NAME: _____ **COUNTY NUMBER:** _____ **DATE:** _____

EXHIBITOR'S NAME(S): _____

(LAST) **(FIRST)** **(MI)**

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: (_____**)** _____

ORIGINAL VAL TAG #: _____

REPLACEMENT VAL TAG #: _____

HEIFER TATTOO: _____

EXHIBITOR(S) SIGNATURE: _____

AST/CEA SIGNATURE: _____

VALIDATION CHAIR SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Ear Tag Replacement Forms must be completed and emailed to:

Dottie Goebel
dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu

DNA samples must be MAILED to:

Texas Steer and Heifer Validation
Attn: Dottie Goebel
1504 6th Street
2473 TAMU
Bryan, TX 77843

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Form Received: _____ **Date Processed and Entered:** _____

Date DNA Received: _____

TEXAS LIVESTOCK VALIDATION

Texas 4-H/FFA Validation 840 Tag Change Form

- It is true that "840" series tags are typically unlawful to remove. HOWEVER, if an animal is being revalidated in a different exhibitor's name, the previous validation tag MUST be removed.
- Additionally, you MAY, but do not HAVE to remove other previous 840 tags (ie. previous premise IDs). [Swine are an exception in which all 840 tags must be removed except validation tags.]
- ANY type of 840 series tag that is removed from an animal's ear MUST be recorded and emailed to the respective state species validation office in the table below.
- Though typically unlawful to remove, Texas Validation has been approved to remove previous 840 tags once the new validation 840 tag is put in.
- The number of the 840 tag that was removed should be recorded, in addition to the new 840 validation tag number, in the table below.
- **Email completed forms PER COUNTY & SPECIES to the respective offices:** Sheep/Goat: whitney.whitsel@ag.tamu.edu; Steers/Heifers: dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu; Swine: tammy@texasffa.org
- This form does NOT replace the regular retag form. **This form is for any tags removed prior to or during the physical validation process.** Please continue to use the species-specific retag form for typical tag replacements during the feeding period.

COMPLETE ONE FORM PER COUNTY! MUST BE COMPLETED AT THE TIME OF VALIDATION.

County: _____ **Specie: _____**

Old 840 Tag # (All digits)	**Type of Tag** (Validation, Premise or Other)	**Previous Exhibitor's Name(s)** (if applicable)	**Previous County** (if applicable)	**New Validation 840 Tag #**	**Current Exhibitor's Name(s)**

Procedures for a Better Tattoo

During the validation of heifers, the County Level State Steer Validation Committee is required to place a tattoo in each heifer validated. The following steps should be helpful in having a good legible tattoo.

Step 1. Clean Ear & Select Tattoo Site

Clean the inside of the ear of any dirt, oil, or wax materials before applying tattoo.

Place the tattoo in the lower third of 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 unreadable.

Step 2. Apply Ink

Place a generous amount of tattoo ink inside the ear, on the area that is to be tattooed.

- Although messier, 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 ear ribs and press firmly. Apply enough pressure so that the tattoo needles penetrate the skin.

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.

Ear Tag & Tattoo Video https://youtu.be/XagNvtx4ZbI

TEXAS LIVESTOCK VALIDATION

TATTOO REPLACEMENT FORM

This form is to be utilized by the **County-Level State Validation Chairperson** for tattoos that need to be redone during the feeding period. Market lambs/goats and wether dams/does MUST be tattooed with the county number in which they are validated in at the time of physical validation. A separate replacement form must be completed for each family.

TATTOOS MUST BE REDONE AT LEAST THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE INTENDED DATE OF SHOW.

COUNTY NAME: _____ **COUNTY NUMBER:** _____ **DATE:** _____

EXHIBITOR'S NAME(S): _____ _____

(LAST) **(FIRST)** **(MI)**

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: (_____**)** _____

VALIDATION TAG #: _____ **SPECIES:** _____

VALIDATION TAG #: _____ **SPECIES:** _____

VALIDATION TAG #: _____ **SPECIES:** _____

VALIDATION TAG #: _____ **SPECIES:** _____

VALIDATION TAG #: _____ **SPECIES:** _____

REASON FOR RE-TATTOO: _____

_____

EXHIBITOR(S) SIGNATURE: _____

AST/CEA SIGNATURE: _____

VALIDATION CHAIR SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Tattoo Replacement Forms must be completed and emailed to the respective office:

Whitney Whitsel
Whitney.whitsel@ag.tamu.edu
Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program
Tel. 325.657.7323

Dottie Goebel
Dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu
Texas Steer and Heifer Validation Program
Tel. 979.321.5326

Procedures for DNA Assay Hair Collection

The DNA Assay brings the most powerful technology developed for human forensics to bear on the problem of animal identification. Whether animal or human, an individual's DNA is fixed at the moment of fertilization and can be determined from an analysis of blood or tissue samples. The assay provides individual-specific identification and has been validated in scientific literature and thousands of criminal cases.

1) Sample acquisition:
   a) During validation, the animal's hair is taken and placed in the hair sample envelope. Specific instructions found in **Hair Sample Collection Instructions** (See page 28)
   b) The main concern is collecting at least 30 hair samples with the root bulb attached. This will require more than one pull, and pulls should be from the tail switch.

2) Chain of Custody:
   a) To assure chain of custody, the Technician* should place the validation visual ear tag number on the sample card in front of, and evident to, the exhibitor(s) and his/her parent or legal guardian. The technician, exhibitor(s), exhibitor's parent or exhibitor's legal guardian, and supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher must sign the hair sample envelope after the hair has been placed inside the envelope and the envelope sealed.

**Technician* - any individual designated by the County Level State Heifer Validation Committee to be responsible for collecting hair samples i.e., County Extension Agent, Agricultural Sciences Teacher, etc.

NOTE: In the event of an emergency or special situation that prevents the exhibitor's parent or exhibitor's legal guardian from being present at the time the hair samples are collected and the validation occurs, the Texas 4-H/FFA Validation Program Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement must be completed. A copy of this form should be retained by the County Level State Heifer Validation Chairperson. A Parental Waiver/Hold Harmless Agreement does not substitute a parents' or legal guardians' signature on any of these forms or hair sample envelope(s).

ANIMAL ID
3720 Gattis School Road ï Suite 800, No. 217 ï Round Rock, TX 78664
Phone 512-567-1977 ï www.WeDNAid.com

Heifer Hair Sample Collection Instructions

Apply the barcode label corresponding to the Unique Identification Number (UIN) on the hair sample envelope. We strongly recommend that you collect tail switch hair. If this is not an option, then collect hair from the poll, neck or tail head. Clean the sample area with a paper towel to remove excess dirt if necessary.

Use bent nose, long nose or needle nose pliers to collect the sample.

Grasp the hair close to the skin with pliers and pull directly away from the skin. Take at least two pulls. Make sure that the sample has at least 40 hair roots. If tail switch is not available, then take at least 5 pulls from the poll, neck or tail head.

Inspect the hair sample to ensure at least 40 hair follicles.

Do NOT cut the hair from the animal. The hair MUST CONTAIN ROOTS for DNA testing. Avoid touching the roots and make sure the hair is dry.

Place hairs in the sample envelope and seal the envelope. Do not put hairs in a plastic bag.

Fill out the remaining information lines on the envelope, and have the witnesses sign.

REMEMBER: Cleanse hands and pliers between animal samples to ensure that hairs from different animals are not mixed.

Cattle Hair Sample Checklist

- ✓ **Apply label with UIN on the envelope**
- ✓ **Collect hair from tail switch**
- ✓ **Obtain at least 40 hairs with follicles**
- ✓ **Take at least 2 pulls**
- ✓ **Inspect for follicles–do NOT touch follicles**
- ✓ **Obtain exhibitor signature & seal envelope**
- ✓ **Clean pliers and hands between animals**