Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Goat Validation Guidelines

County Extension Agents, Agriculture Science Teachers, and exhibitors should review the major show rules and be aware of requirements regarding state validation programs.

County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee(s) Structure and Responsibilities

A County Level State 4-H/FFA Validation Committee(s) shall be organized in each county where sheep and goats are being fed by members of either 4-H or FFA for exhibit at the major livestock shows that require sheep and goats to be state validated. Each county has the option of organizing a county level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee to support and conduct the sheep and goat validation OR a county may organize separate committees to conduct sheep validation and goat validation. **The committee(s) must be composed of County Extension Agents, Agriculture Science Teachers, and a minimum of two representatives of the local fair boards or other youth livestock leaders from the county. All County Level State 4-H and FFA Validation Committees must have a minimum of four members.** The County Level State 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Committee can request an exemption from requirements regarding committee members that represent local fair boards or serve as youth livestock leaders local. The request for an exemption must be presented to the Executive Committee of the Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program in an email or letter. All FFA Chapters in the county and the county 4-H program must be represented on the County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committee(s). **The committee(s) must select a County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher to serve as the chairperson.**

If a county does not have an active County Level State Validation Committee, the County Extension Agent(s) are responsible for calling the first meeting to organize one. All County Extension Agents-AG/NR and/or 4-H and all Agricultural Science Teachers in the county shall be invited to this meeting. County Extension Agents and Agriculture Science Teachers will identify local Fair Board members or other local leaders to serve on the County Level State Validation Committee(s).

The County Level State 4-H/FFA Validation Committee will meet as a group to conduct the validation of 4-H and FFA market lambs, breeding sheep, market goats, and breeding goats in the county. The committee(s) will determines the dates, times, and locations for conducting the state validation. **There must be a minimum of three committee members present during validation.** County committees are encouraged to plan for unforeseen needs and situations which do not allow some 4-H/FFA members to participate on scheduled validation date(s). The State Validation Program does not require a local committee to offer a minimum number of validation opportunities, but the County Level State 4-H and FFA Validation Committee should conduct the program in a positive manner that encourages participation in the youth livestock program.
1. To be eligible to compete at participating major shows, all breeding boer goats must abide by the rules presented in the Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Goat Validation Guidelines. Currently, these guidelines are for Boer goats only. No other breeds are included. **Bucks and does** must be validated to be eligible to compete at participating major shows.

2. The ownership deadline for breeding boer goats is **October 1st, 2017**. Purchase, delivery, possession and registration must all take place on or before **October 1st, 2017**. Bucks and does must be registered in the Herdbook of their Association in **only** the name of the junior owner. Partnerships, including siblings, are **NOT** eligible for Junior Shows.

3. In the event that the transfer date and ownership date are not consistent on the Original Registration Certificate, the most recent date will be interpreted as the official date of ownership for the exhibitor. The dates on the Original Registration Certificate should be reviewed by the County Level-State Validation Committee during the validation process. **Breeding goats that do not meet these guidelines should not be validated.**

4. American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) requires a flock tattoo be in the right ear and the individual goat tattoo in the left ear. The individual goat tattoo will also include a designated letter for the year the goat was born (Example= E102 or 102E.)
   
   **ABGA TATTOO LETTERS:**
   - 2015 Tattoo Year Letter: E
   - 2014 Tattoo Year Letter: D
   - 2013 Tattoo Year Letter: C

5. Validation will be conducted between **October 1st** and **October 31st, 2017**. Existing breeder tags and tattoos that correspond to the Original Registration Certificate will be used, **along with a RFID State Validation Tag**. Therefore, county tattoo numbers will **NOT** be used on registered breeding boer goats, but are used on unregistered wether does (see rule 15 below).

6. The County Level-State Validation Committee will determine dates, times, and locations for conducting state validation. County committees are encouraged to plan for unforeseen situations which prohibit some 4-H/FFA members from participating on scheduled validation date(s) or times.

7. The **Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Validation Form** will be completed at the time the breeding goats are tagged, tattoos are recorded, and hair samples collected for the DNA Assay. The Validation Forms should indicate the county name **only**. Do **NOT** list FFA or 4-H chapter names. The 15 digit E-ID number does **NOT** need to be recorded on the form. **Remember each tag has a specific back (button).** The last five digits of the fifteen digit EID button must match the five digit number on the tags. All breeding sheep and breeding goats are recorded on the same validation form for an individual exhibitor.
The registration number for each animal will be recorded on the Validation Form, and a copy of the Original Registration Certificate will be attached to the Validation Form. The Original Registration Certificate should be checked at this time to ensure ownership deadlines are being met.

8. Validation Forms must be signed by the individual exhibitor, exhibitor’s parent or exhibitor’s legal guardian, the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent, and the County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson. If the Committee Chairperson is the supervisor of the exhibitor of the goat, another committee member will sign for the chairperson. The County Level-State Validation Committee Chairperson will send the original (green copy) and fourth (hard copy) to Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program. The second copy (blue) will be retained by the County Level-State Validation Committee Chairperson and the third copy (pink) will be retained by the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent. No partnerships are allowed on breeding animals.

9. All goats validated will have hair taken for the DNA Assay Identification Program. Hair samples will be taken by a member of the County Level-State Validation Committee at the time of validation and placed in an individual hair sample envelope provided for each breeding goat. Detailed instructions for collecting hair samples are attached.

10. Breeding Boer Goats and Wether Does may be tagged in either ear at the discretion of the validation committee, to avoid placing the state RFID tag in the same ear as the scrapie tag or flock tags. All market lambs, market goats, breeding sheep and breeding goats will be tagged with the same color RFID validation tag. Please use the tags in successive order. EXAMPLE:

11. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson will maintain a complete record of all goats validated in the county.

12. If an exhibitor transfers from one county to another or from one FFA chapter to another, the county/chapter in which the breeding goat was validated must contact the Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program immediately in writing. Copies of this correspondence should also be sent to the new County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher and shared with the County Level State Validation Committee in the county where the exhibitor has
13. It is the responsibility of exhibitor and/or parent(s) or guardian(s) to ensure projects are fed and cared for in compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by major livestock shows. Coordinators of the State Sheep and Goat Validation Program, supervising county Extension agents and Agriculture Science Teachers, and the County-Level State Validation Committee have the right to inspect the listed projects at any time during the feeding period. **Breeding Goat Guidelines now include instructions for County Level State Sheep and Goat Validation Committees regarding sheep and goats outside the care of the exhibitor for breeding purposes:**

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 for more than **48 HOURS**. This includes permission given for ewes or does to be outside the care of the exhibitor for the purpose of breeding. The State Sheep and Goat Validation Program has set the following criteria for animals to be outside the care of the exhibitors for this purpose.

1. Validated breeding sheep and goats are not approved to leave the state of Texas for breeding.
2. Validated breeding sheep and goats cannot be outside the care of the exhibitors after November 15 for breeding purposes to ensure adequate time under the care of the exhibitor prior to competition.
3. Following November 15, validated breeding sheep and goats must not leave the care of the exhibitor for longer than 48 hours, unless approved by the Species Specific County Level State Validation Committee.

14. Registered does are eligible to show as Wether Does, but they must be validated as a Junior Wether Doe only. Registered does may NOT be validated as a registered Breeding Goat AND as an unregistered Wether Doe. Exhibitors must choose prior to validation.

15. Junior Wether Doe Validation will be conducted between **October 1st** and **October 31st, 2017**. Junior Wether Doe Validation will require a state RFID validation tag, county number tattoo, and hair sample for DNA analysis. The only exception being registered does, which will be allowed to use their existing flock tattoo instead of a county tattoo. Information will be recorded on the Texas 4-H and FFA Wether Doe Validation Form by individual exhibitor.

16. All 4-H and FFA exhibitors participating in the Texas 4-H/FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program along with their parents or guardians must read and sign the **2017-2018 TEXAS 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS POLICY FORM**. Signatures confirm that exhibitors, parents, and guardians understand the consequences of and penalties involved for illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unfair practices in livestock competition. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson must also sign the forms. The original signed ethics policy forms must be returned with the Validation Forms.
17. The County Level State Validation Committee Chairperson shall double check all validation forms and materials prior to submission to the State 4-H and FFA Sheep and Goat Validation Program. Chairperson should check the following:

a) All information requested on the Validation Forms, the ethics policy forms, and the hair sample envelopes are complete.
b) All required signatures are on the Validation Forms, the ethics policy forms, and the hair sample envelopes.
c) County validation forms should be submitted in alphabetical order.
d) Hair envelopes should be submitted in numerical order.
e) Original Registration Certificates should be included, and attached to the back of each individual’s hard copy.

Specified copies of Validation Forms, nose print cards, Original Registration Certificates, DNA hair samples, and required ethics policy forms should be mailed to:

State Sheep and Goat Validation Program
7887 US Highway 87 North
San Angelo, TX 76901-9714
Phone: 325/653-4576

Must be postmarked on or before November 8, 2017 and it’s recommended that the materials be sent registered mail, return receipt requested.