

Arkansas Validation Program Guidebook

What is validation?

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

Animals will be tagged with an 840 Electronic Identification (EID) tag and DNA (hair sample) will be collected. All market (steers, lambs, goats, and hogs) and commercial females (heifers, gilts, wether dam lambs, wether dam goats) will be required to participate in the AVP to exhibit at the 2022 Arkansas State Fair, Arkansas Youth Expo, and other county or district fairs that choose to participate. Please check each fair's rules for validation requirements. Note that participating in the AVP is a proof of ownership by livestock shows in Arkansas. It does NOT automatically serve as entry into a livestock show.

How do I validate my animal?

Exhibitors will be required to order a Validation Registration Kit and pay online through the Showman App. Participants will then follow the procedures set by their county in order to get properly validated (described below). What is a Validation Registration Kit and where can I find it? Validation Registration kits will be available to order on the Showman App and will be listed as Arkansas Validation Program. Each kit will require the following information:

1. Exhibitor Information – Fill in names and contact information for EACH potential exhibitor.
 - a. Animals may be validated in the name of two or more exhibitors as a family/household validation. Did you say we were removing this?
2. Animal Information –
 - a. What are you showing and how many animals are you validating?
 - b. A brief description of each animal validated (example – Crossbred Steer – Black – ear tag #'s; York - classified barrow, EN 4-2)
3. Appropriate Signatures and confirmation of Validation Kit Contact
 - a. All exhibitors must provide an electronic signature along with a parent or guardian, for each kit ordered.
 - b. Validation Kit contact - This will either be your County Extension Agent (CEA) or your Agriculture Science and Technology Educator (ASTE, Agri Teacher)
4. Payment – Once you have completed the online order, payment is due through the Showman App.
5. Once orders are completed, the Arkansas State Fair will mail those kits to the contact you chose (Either CEAs or ASTEs).
6. County Extension Agents, Agriculture Science and Technology Educator and County Fairs will then work together to get the exhibitors in their area validated. Each county will have a Validation Coordinator.

The validation process for 2022 will be planned and completed by the CEA and ASTE in your area. There will be TWO SIGNATURES required for a valid kit to be completed. The individuals eligible to serve as a signature are listed below. Two ASTE or CEA from the same entity are not allowed to sign off on one

validation. It must be two individuals from varying entities. Such as one ASTE and one CEA or two ASTE from differing schools. The two signatures must be from two separate, non-familial entities.

Eligible to sign off on a Validation –

- Agriculture Science and Technology Educator
- County Extension Agent
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture - Livestock Inspector
- Arkansas State Fair Staff member or Superintendent (ASF only)

Placement of EID 840 tags will be done at the time that DNA is collected. There will be no cutting or removing of federal tags that are in place in any animal. If an animal already has a non-electronic 840 tag in place, an additional 982 EID will be added to the animal.

Will I receive anything in the mail once I complete the Validation Registration? No. Once the Validation Registration is complete, you will receive an email receipt of your transaction from the Showman App. Ear tags and DNA envelopes will be mailed by the ASF to the CEA or ASTE you chose as your contact.

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

What is the fee for a family/household validation? Updated March 2022 \$10/animal/exhibitor is the fee. Example: You want to validate a steer and a hog for two siblings. One animal for two siblings is \$10 x 2 = \$20. Since you are wanting to validate two animals for two siblings it would be \$20 x 2 = \$40.

What are the deadlines and fees for submitting Validation Registration Kits? Validation kits must be ordered through the Showman App. Kits will be mailed until June 30th. Starting July 1st-July 15, exhibitors can still order Validation kits through the Showman App but will be required to pick kits up at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds office. – **Deadline to submit Validation Registration kit is July 15th. All kits must be post marked by July 15 or physically in the ASFG office by end of business.**

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

- April – July 15 Validation Program Kits are available for order on the Showman App. \$10.00 per kit. Kits will be mailed to CEA or ASTE
- July 1 -- July 15 – Validation kits can be ordered on Showman App. Kits will not be mailed, must be picked up at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds office.
- July 15 – All validation kits must be postmarked or physically in the Arkansas State Fair office.

When and where can I get my animal validated? County Validation Coordinators, will set up the Validations for your county. This information will be communicated by your CEA or ASTE.

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

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

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

What information will be collected at the physical validation site in my county?

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

Will there be any paperwork at the physical validation? Yes. A parent/guardian, parent/guardian representative, or the exhibitor will be required to review information collected, that the animal(s) was tagged, and DNA was pulled via a signature.

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

How will I know if my validation is complete and double check tag numbers? A database will be regularly updated with the status of validated animals and kept with the County Coordinator. The database will be sorted by species and 4-H County or FFA Chapter. If you have any questions regarding your validation, please contact your Validation County Coordinator.

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

Will DNA be collected? Yes. Each animal validated will have hair taken for DNA identification. Hair samples will be pulled and put in individual DNA envelopes. What if my animal loses or damages its ear tag? Exhibitors should immediately notify their Validation County Coordinator when an ear tag is lost or damaged. An Ear Tag Replacement Form must be completed with a detailed explanation of how the tag was lost or damaged along with supporting photos. The Validation County Coordinator will arrange for the executive committee of AVP to determine validity of loss. If the committee concurs, a replacement tag will be issued and a fee waiver will be considered. The exhibitor will be notified and a representative from the AVP executive committee or County Coordinator will retag, repull a hair sample, and the Ear Tag Replacement Form must be reviewed and signed. The hair sample will be processed for verification. The fee for a replacement ear tag without a waiver is \$100.

What is a scrapie tag? Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting sheep and goats. All exhibition market lambs, wether dam lambs, market goats, and wether dam goats are required to have a scrapie tag. The original producer of the animal should scrapie tag the animal prior to it leaving the farm. When entering the scrapie tag number, it should include both the premise ID AND the individual animal number. See images below on how to read a scrapie tag. Scrapie Tag Examples Updated March 2021

What are ear notches? Ear notching is the universal method of permanently identifying swine.

Once I have validated my animal, does that mean I am entered in the show? No! A validation does not constitute a show entry. The validation and show entry processes are completely separate. Validation is done through the AVP and ordered on the Showman App. Show entries must be done through the Showman App., as well, but for each individual show.

Is there a committee that oversees this program? Yes. The AVP Executive Committee shall be comprised of representatives from Arkansas State Fair (ASF) personnel, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service (UADA), and Arkansas Agriculture Education (AAE). The Executive Committee serves as a final evaluation of the AVP. Additionally, they will make final determinations or disqualifications regarding appeal requests due to the validation process and replacement ear tag requests.

It is agreed as a condition of validation that the ASF or UADA will in no event and under no circumstances be responsible or liable for any loss, injury, or damage that may occur to livestock exhibitors, livestock parent/guardian, livestock parent/guardian representative, and/or their livestock. He or she shall indemnify and hold harmless the ASF and UADA, employees, and board of regents from and against all loss, claims, judgments, damages, actions, or causes of action or other proceedings of and brought by third parties in regard to and arising from animal transportation to or Custom Scrapie Tag Example Premise ID Individual Animal Number Producer/ Farm Name Right Ear = Litter Number Left Ear = Individual Pig Number Updated March 2022 from validation county locations, or other matters or events related thereto, including damage or injury occurring or manifesting itself at any time to any such person or his or her property, caused directly or indirectly by the exhibitor, parent/guardian, parent/guardian representative, or any of the animals, arising out of or in any way connected with validation or transportation of animals.