

2020 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

- **September 1-20, 2020** www.texaslivestockvalidation.com is open for Validation UIN Orders (no upfront cost)
- **September 15, 2020** <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com> is open to ASTs/CEAs ONLY for registration paper upload. Instructional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDb3h8MaDBM>
- **Oct. 1-Nov. 1, 2020** Physical Validation Timeline
- **November 1, 2020** Deadline: original registration papers must be in exhibitor's name
- **November 8, 2020** Registration paper upload and submittal deadline to <http://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com>
- **November 8, 2020** Physical validation paperwork, including DNA hair envelopes, must be postmarked and sent to Texas 4-H Headquarters (note address change: 2473 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2473)
- **November 17, 2020** <http://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com> generates **one** invoice to Validation Chair for entire county. Please do not send payment without invoice.
- **December 21, 2020** Projected deadline for all validation information to be reviewed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.
- **January 8, 2020** Projected deadline for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to notify all exhibitors with ineligible heifers and major livestock show officials for spring shows.

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 heifer registration papers at any time during the feeding period, contact dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu.

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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 Validation Unique Identification Number (UIN) barcode and DNA 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 should 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 Validation Unique Identification Numbers (UIN) for their county. Each county will provide the State Heifer Validation Coordinator with the approximate number of heifers to be validated in a given cycle.
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 October 1 and November 1.. 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 October 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 **November 1, 2020**. 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 Steer 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

****New for 2020!** 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/2020/04/Rule-3-Approval-Form-4.14.20.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 12) 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 13). 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 "2020-2021 Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" Form (See Page 14) 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/2020/04/Rule-3-Approval-Form-4.14.20.pdf](https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Rule-3-Approval-Form-4.14.20.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."

2020 Breeding Heifer Validation Program

Texas 4-H/FFA Fall Validation Guidelines

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. Unique Identification Number (UIN) – 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

NOTE: Use firm pressure when filling out form to ensure information transfers to the back (cardstock) page and that it is legible.

2020-2021 TEXAS 4-H AND FFA BREEDING HEIFER VALIDATION FORM

NAME: _____ County Name: _____ County # _____ Date: _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

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

UIN	Breed	Identification			
		Brand (Not Horning/Brand)		Tattoo (Record All Breed Tattoos Not Bands)	
		Left	Right	Left Ear	Right Ear
 25555000					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Hand write UIN under barcode</div>					

Only One Exhibitor-No Partnerships

Place white UIN on the White Copy of the Quadruplicate form

Exhibitor and parent/guardian, recognize(s) his/her responsibilities for the feeding and care of the animal(s) named above throughout the feeding period and hereby authorizes the State Validation Coordinator, supervising Agricultural Science Teacher /County Extension Agent and the "Species Specific County Level State Validation Committee" the right to inspect your livestock project(s) at any time during the feeding period with or without prior notice. Any exhibitor in violation of the feeding/care rule is subject to disqualification.

Exhibitor Signature: _____ Club/Chapter: _____
 Validation Chairman Signature: _____ CEA/AST Signature: _____
 Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

ATTENTION: Exhibitor, parent/guardian, supervising teacher/agent and committee members are equally responsible 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.

2020 Breeding Heifer Validation Program

Texas 4-H/FFA Fall Validation Guidelines


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 16).

Place **orange** UIN barcode on the DNA envelope

**TEXAS 4-H & FFA VALIDATION
HAIR SAMPLE**

DATE COUNTY NAME OR NO. SPECIES



PLACE HEIFER UIN LABEL HERE

EXHIBITOR PRINTED NAME(S)* _____

EXHIBITOR SIGNATURE(S)* _____

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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Only One Exhibitor-Breeding Animals

Physical Validation

Suggested Physical Validation Supplies

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pulling pliers | <input type="checkbox"/> Green (preferred) tattoo ink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Squeeze and/or clipping chute | <input type="checkbox"/> All paperwork and envelopes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubbing alcohol | <input type="checkbox"/> Portable color scanner (not required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rags to clean ears | <input type="checkbox"/> Tag remover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerful flashlight to read tattoos | <u>No Ear tags-No Tagger Needed</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tattoo kit (not required but a best practice) | <u>No Nose Prints-No Ink Pad or Nose Print Cards</u> |

Summary of Validation Procedure

- 1) Assign Unique Identification Number (UIN) to each heifer
- 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

- 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.
 - b) Breed ID Tattoo (**This a Breed ID Tattoo not 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.
 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).
 - v) If heifer has incorrect tattoo:

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

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

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.
 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 www.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 **November 8, 2020**. ***Important: If there are any changes made on heifer registration papers at any time during the feeding period, contact dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu**
- 4) Collect DNA-See Page 16 for instructions
- 5) Assign UIN
- a) Place **orange** UIN duplicate on the DNA Envelope (See Page 7) and the **white** UIN duplicate on the top sheet (white) of Validation Form (See Page 6)
 - b) ***Be sure to write UIN under validation barcode to ensure it is transferred through carbon forms***
- 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”
- 7) Validation Chairperson Takes Possession of All Original Validation Paperwork
- a) Copy of Validation Form (Pink) 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; verify cardstock copies (back copy) are clear and legible. Place in alphabetical order by exhibitor last name, *detach all pages*.
 - Cardstock (back) copy, secure in separate stack for shipping
 - White (front) copy, secure in separate stack for shipping
 - **Pink** copy goes to supervising Agriculture Science Teacher or County Extension Agent
 - **Yellow** goes to County Level State Steer Validation Committee Chairperson
 - Best practice is to make a copy for exhibitor/family records
- _____ 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 to dottie.goebel@ag.tamu.edu.
- _____ Upload registration papers and enter heifer validation information online at www.texaslivestockvalidation.com.
- _____ Extra Official Texas Heifer Validation Barcodes can be discarded after August 1.

The County Level State Heifer Validation Committee Chairperson will send the **original white copy, cardstock copy, DNA envelopes, and other validation paperwork postmarked on or before November 8, 2020**, via priority/certified mail, **return receipt requested to:**

Dottie Goebel
ATTN: Heifer Validation
Texas 4-H Headquarters
2473 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2473

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 **\$15.00** per heifer submitted 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 on November 14, 2020.**

Dottie Goebel
ATTN: Heifer Validation
Texas 4-H Headquarters
2473 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2473

Example of invoicing process: Adams County 4-H submits 10 heifers and Adamsville FFA submits 15 heifers to the website. On November 14, 2020 the website would automatically generate one invoice of \$375.00 to the chairperson of the Adams County Texas Heifer Validation Committee. Whoever orders the UIN numbers will be the recipient of the invoice.

*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.

2020-2021 Texas 4-H/FFA Heifer Validation Committee for _____ County

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

Validation Chairperson Contact Information:

Date: _____

POSITION	CEA, AST, or Leader/Show Board Rep. <i>Check Appropriate</i>	NAME	Signature
Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> Leader or Show Board Rep.		
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA <input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

2020-2021 Texas 4-H/FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program
Parental Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement

I, _____ being the parent or legal guardian

of _____, a minor and an exhibitor (hereinafter referred to as Exhibitor) in the 2020-2021 Texas 4-H/FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program, am unable to be present during the Heifer Validation Process and at the time of hair sample collection, breed identification/registration information recording for heifer breed identification purposes.

I hereby authorize the County Level State Heifer 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 Exhibitor's 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)

For more information on the breeding heifer validation program, go to www.texasyouthlivestock.com.

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).



2020-2021 TEXAS 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS POLICY

(Updated April 2020)



This ethics policy applies to any 4-H/FFA member planning to exhibit animals at livestock shows in Texas. All classes of livestock offered at the livestock event are included: Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Swine, 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.

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 Texas Education Agency/VATAT. Also, the Texas Major Livestock Shows 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 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.

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) described herein subjects the animal to immediate disqualification from the state validation program. If a violation is found of any of the following rules, this may result in a cancelled validation record.

The following is a listing of rules all 4-H/FFA exhibitors must follow to enter livestock at organized competitive events.

1. Exhibitors must be bona fide members of a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in the state of Texas and 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 home school elementary or secondary schools in Texas.
2. County-Level State Validation serves as proof of ownership for state validated livestock. Market animals (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats) must be owned and under exhibitor's daily care by the following deadline dates: June 30 – All major Steers and State Fair Lambs, Goats, Swine; October 31 – Lambs and Goats; November 30 – Swine; to be eligible to participate at any major livestock show within Texas. 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 livestock (with the exception of breeding swine at the 2020 State Fair of Texas) must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal on the breed association papers. Breeding animals 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 sole ownership designation, the breeding animal may be considered multiple-owned and subject to disqualification. Breeding animal validation deadlines dates: June 30 – Spring Heifer Validation, State Fair and Heart of Texas Breeding Gilts; October 31 – Breeding Sheep and Goats; November 1 – Fall Heifer Validation and November 30 – Registered and Crossbred Gilts for San Antonio Livestock Show, San Angelo Stock Show, and Texas' Elite Showcase.
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/2020/04/Rule-3-Approval-Form-4.14.20.pdf](https://texasyouthlivestock.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Rule-3-Approval-Form-4.14.20.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.
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.**

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, and swine

All Other Major Shows:

June 30 for steers
 October 31 for lambs and goats
 October 31 breeding sheep and goats
 November 1 breeding heifers
 November 30 for swine

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. Additionally, a state validated animal may not be county or state validated under a different exhibitor's name in another county.
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.
8. 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. False ownership is a violation of these guidelines and will lead to disqualification.
9. Treating an animal internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance used to artificially change the conformation or appearance 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 **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 (this does not include medically necessary treatments for injured hooves or 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.
10. The use of unethical fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices compromising animal welfare shall not be tolerated.
11. 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
12. The Administration of the Texas 4-H and/or FFA Programs reserve 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 "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy".

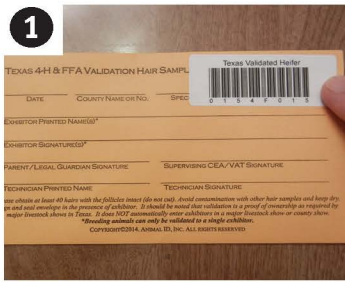
Any violation of the "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" and/or associated validation guidelines, as well as specific rules as designated by individual fairs and livestock shows may result in disqualification and/or probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in organized livestock competition. **Possible civil 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 "Specie Specific County State Validation Committee", the State Validation Coordinators, and/or appropriate livestock show officials.

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 approval.

Physical Address	City	Zip
Important Only one exhibitor per form.		
Exhibitor (Printed Name)	Exhibitor (Signature)	Date
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	

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