

May 12, 2020

To: Iowa FFA Advisors

From: Iowa State Fair Competitive Events
Department

Re: Livestock Identification Protocols



In light of the current and ongoing situation regarding the COVID-19 virus, further adjustments are being made to this year's Iowa State Fair FFA livestock identification process.

Current protocol requires an FFA advisor and one other adult be present to witness the tagging and DNA collection of all performance beef, pigs, market lambs, commercial ewes and meat goats. We understand that due to school closures some advisors are not able to meet with their students.

Due to the current circumstances it is acceptable for advisors to virtually witness the tagging and DNA collection for Iowa State Fair FFA nominations. The following steps should be followed to ensure the integrity of the animal identification process.

Preferred Process

- The preferred process is still for advisors to witness tagging and DNA collection in person. If you are able to make a farm visit while maintaining social distancing (6ft) please do so.
- Park your vehicle in a location that exhibitors can bring the animal(s) to you. Advisors can verify the DNA collection envelope matches the animal ID as samples are collected.
- If a parent or the exhibitor is not present, they will need to obtain signature waiver forms from their FFA advisor. The completed wavier forms must be sent to the FFA Entry Department with the DNA samples on or before the nomination deadline.
- Any process that is utilized should keep in mind good biosecurity* practices and measures for people and animals.

Virtual Witness Process

- In the event advisors are not able to have contact with students the following virtual witness process is acceptable.
- Distribute tags, tagger (if needed), and DNA envelopes to the exhibitor.
- Coordinate time for a virtual meeting.
 - Virtual meeting must be LIVE video
 - Examples of acceptable platforms: Facetime, Google Hangouts, Google Duo, Zoom, Skype
 - NOT acceptable platforms: SnapChat, TikTok, pre-recorded video or still photos
- *Recommendation:* have the exhibitor send you all necessary nomination fields prior to the virtual meeting. i.e. Scrapie tag#, ear notch, tattoo.
- Before virtual meeting the exhibitor should prepare the following:
 - Gather bent nose, long nose or needle nose pliers to collect the DNA sample.

- Have supplies to disinfect pliers between animals.
- Be prepared to wash/disinfect hands between animals.
- Complete DNA Verifications envelope with the highlighted areas: Date, Chapter, Species, Ear Tag No., Color, Breed, Sex of Animal, Exhibitor Name. (DO NOT SIGN ENVELOPES YET)

IOWA STATE FAIR FFA DNA VALIDATION

Date	Chapter	Species	Ear Tag No.
Color	Breed	Sex of Animal: <input type="checkbox"/> Male or <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Exhibitor Name		Exhibitor Signature	
Parent/Guardian Signature		Collector Signature	

Obtain at least 40 hairs with roots intact (DO NOT CUT), avoid contamination with other hair & keep dry. Sign & seal the envelope with all signatures.
Double check ALL information. Changes cannot be made to this envelope.

- Virtual Meeting
 - Exhibitor shows the advisor the envelope with the completed information.
 - Advisor verbally agrees that the information matches the animal on the screen.
 - Scrapie tag#, ear notch, tattoo should all be verified at this time.
 - Tag can be secured in animal's ear.
 - Using pliers, pull 20-40 hairs from the animal. Hold hairs close to the screen to verify bulbs are intact (if possible).
 - Do not cut the hair with a knife or scissors. Follicles (bulbs) must be attached to the base of the hair.
 - Place hair samples in the Iowa State Fair DNA envelope. Make sure envelope is sealed completely and that all hair is sealed inside the envelope.
 - Witness Exhibitor and Parent/Guardian sign the sealed envelope.
 - Waiver forms will not be accepted if the advisor is not physically present for DNA collection.
 - Wash hands and disinfect all equipment.
 - Repeat the process for all animals.
 - Make arrangements to return completed DNA envelopes, tagger (if borrowed) and unused tags to the advisor.
 - Advisor must sign the DNA collection envelope before mailing to the Iowa State Fair.

Please use the FFA Data Collection Booklet for reference on tag and DNA requirements.

(<https://www.iowastatefair.org/upl/downloads/competition/premium-books/2020-ffa-data-collection-booklet-8.pdf>)

*A reminder of good biosecurity practices can be found here:

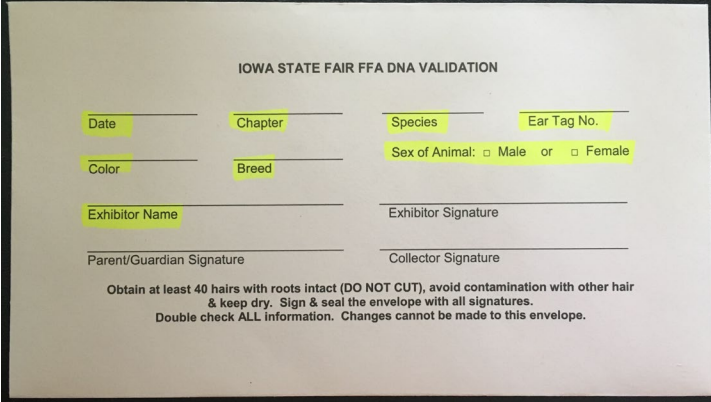
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1326238&ext=pdf
https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/biosecurity_guide_for_livestock_farm_visits

Any questions or further information can be directed to Jen Cannon, Iowa State Fair Competitive Events Director, at jcannon@iowastatefair.org.

Iowa State Fair FFA Tagging & DNA Collection

Swine Hair Sample Collection Instructions

1. Record date, chapter, species, ear tag number, color, breed, sex of animal, and exhibitor name on the hair sample envelope.



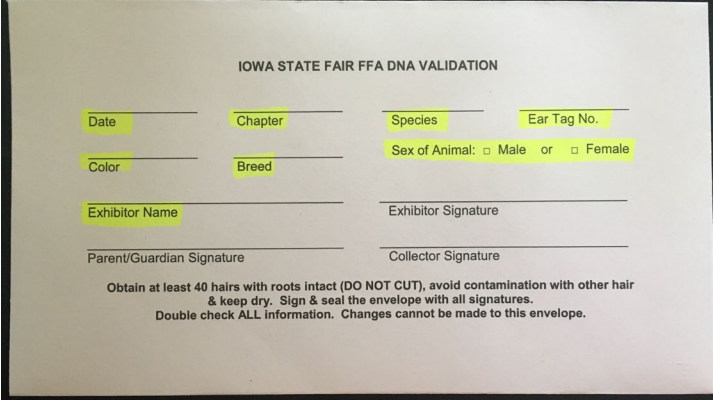
The image shows a form titled "IOWA STATE FAIR FFA DNA VALIDATION". The form has several fields for information entry, each with a horizontal line for writing. The fields are: Date, Chapter, Species, Ear Tag No., Color, Breed, Sex of Animal (with checkboxes for Male and Female), Exhibitor Name, Exhibitor Signature, Parent/Guardian Signature, and Collector Signature. Below the signature lines, there is a block of text: "Obtain at least 40 hairs with roots intact (DO NOT CUT), avoid contamination with other hair & keep dry. Sign & seal the envelope with all signatures. Double check ALL information. Changes cannot be made to this envelope."

2. Use bent nose, long nose or needle nose pliers to collect the sample. REMEMBER: Cleanse hands and pliers between animal samples to ensure that hairs from different animals are not mixed.
3. We recommend coarse hair from the loin or rump. If the animal has been shaved, hair can usually be found between the toes, on the jawl/face, inside the ear, or around the tail head. Clean the sample area to remove dirt or other contaminants. Clean the sample area with a paper towel to remove excess dirt if necessary.
4. Pull a tuft of hair from the animal. Pull the hair directly away from the skin, NOT at an angle. This will allow the hair root to come out with the hair.
5. Inspect the hair sample to ensure at least 40 hair follicles.
6. 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.
7. Place hairs in the sample envelope and seal the envelope. Do not put hairs in a plastic bag.
8. Exhibitor and Parent/Guardian sign the sealed envelope.
9. Swine Hair Sample Checklist
 - Fill out DNA envelope
 - Collect hair from the loin or rump area
 - Obtain at least 40 hairs with follicles
 - Take at least 5 pulls
 - Inspect for follicles—do NOT touch follicles
 - Obtain all required signatures & seal envelope
 - Clean pliers and hands between animals
 - Return completed envelope to advisor

Iowa State Fair FFA Tagging & DNA Collection

Sheep/Goat Hair Sample Collection Instructions

1. Record date, chapter, species, ear tag number, color, breed, sex of animal, and exhibitor name on the hair sample envelope.



IOWA STATE FAIR FFA DNA VALIDATION

Date _____	Chapter _____	Species _____	Ear Tag No. _____
Color _____	Breed _____	Sex of Animal: <input type="checkbox"/> Male or <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Exhibitor Name _____	Exhibitor Signature _____		
Parent/Guardian Signature _____	Collector Signature _____		

Obtain at least 40 hairs with roots intact (DO NOT CUT), avoid contamination with other hair & keep dry. Sign & seal the envelope with all signatures.
Double check ALL information. Changes cannot be made to this envelope.

2. Use bent nose, long nose or needle nose pliers to collect the sample. REMEMBER: Cleanse hands and pliers between animal samples to ensure that hairs from different animals are not mixed.
3. Pull a tuft of hair from the leg, just above the toes. Pull the hair directly away from the skin, NOT at an angle. This will allow the root to come out with the hair.
4. Take at least three pulls. Clean the sample area with a paper towel to remove excess dirt if necessary.
5. Inspect the hair sample to ensure at least 40 hair follicles.
6. 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.
7. Place hairs in the sample envelope and seal the envelope. Do not put hairs in a plastic bag.
8. Exhibitor and Parent/Guardian sign the sealed envelope.
9. Sheep/Goat Hair Sample Checklist
 - Fill out DNA envelope
 - Collect hair from the leg, just above the toe
 - Obtain at least 40 hairs with follicles
 - Take at least 5 pulls
 - Inspect for follicles—do NOT touch follicles
 - Obtain all required signatures & seal envelope
 - Clean pliers and hands between animals
 - Return completed envelope to advisor