Kansas 4-H Livestock Ear Tag Procedure for 2023

All animals that are nominated for the Kansas State Fair and/or the Kansas Junior Livestock show in 2023 will be required to use a Kansas 4-H EID (electronic identification) ear tag. This will apply to market beef, commercial heifers, market lambs, commercial ewes, all meat goats, market swine and commercial gilts.

Ordering the Tags

The Kansas 4-H EID tags will be ordered from the KSU Youth Livestock Program in the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry. Please refer to the dates listed on the order forms. **Beef** tag orders must be submitted by **Thursday, December 15, 2022** without being considered a special order. **Small livestock** tag orders will be due by **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. Payment must accompany the tag order form in order for it to be accepted. We will transition all tags ordered to the new, round meat goat tags piloted in 2021. However, if you still have some of the old style ribbon meat goat tags, they will continue to be accepted for state nominated animals. As of the end of the 2018 project year, we transitioned the tag ordering process from Butler County to the KSU Youth Livestock Program in its entirety, following Dave Kehler's retirement.

The Kansas 4-H EID tags come in bags of 20, and one bag is the minimum order. Counties are welcome to share tags from a bag with another county. The unit that the tags are initially issued to must keep a record of any tags that they send to another unit. *It is also important that units use the oldest tags first*, because we have reached a point that we have started repeating visual 4-H tag numbers.

FAQ's

Q: What tag applicators are needed for the new tags?

A. The Allflex red Total Tagger with the red blunt pin will work with the EID tags. These taggers can be purchased a local supplier, or one of several livestock equipment suppliers.

Q: Does my county have to use the EID 4-H tags for our county fair animals?

A. NO. Counties have always been able to use any method they choose to identify county show animals. This ranges from: no tags, tags from a local supplier, the "traditional" Kansas 4-H ear tags (discontinued; no longer available), to the Kansas 4-H EID ear tags.

Q: What if we tag an animal for county fair only and the 4-H member decides at a later date to nominate that animal for a state show?

A. If your county uses the traditional Kansas 4-H tag (discontinued), or another non-EID tag, for county tagging, you will need to remove that tag and replace it with the Kansas 4-H EID tag and use that 4-H number in your county fair management data. The Kansas 4-H EID tag will need to be in the animal before the nomination deadline for that species. The visual 5-digit 4-H number that is matched to the 15-digit EID tag number, is the how the animal will be identified and referred in the online nomination system, the DNA envelope, and other related documentation. *Additionally, the visual portion of the tag MUST be correctly matched with the appropriate EID button*. They are sent correctly matched from the manufacturer. If you need to confirm both sides have been correctly matched while tagging an animal, you may use the barcode stickers or refer to the Allflex website.

Q: What is the minimum number of tags that I must order?

A. The tags will come in bags of 20 and one bag per species is the minimum order. Counties may share bags of tags if needed, but will be responsible for tracking the bag and tag numbers in each county to each specific family in which animals are tagged.

Q: How do we record/report the 15 digit EID number if we are not using the technology/reader?

A. The tags will come with two (2) sets of peel-and-stick labels for your use. The labels have the 15-digit number, a bar code of that number, and the visual Kansas 4-H number on it. Counties can use one set of labels to record the numbers on their county weigh-in forms/cards and will be required to use one set of the labels for state livestock nominations. This will allow the EID number to be placed into the state database by using a barcode reader. The sticker will need to go in the box indicated on the DNA envelope required for state livestock nominations. Extension staff should also make a copy or take a picture of their stickers to retain on file, in the event their barcode stickers are damaged or misplaced.

Q: What if our county does not currently use the EID tags for county show management but are interested in doing so?

A. Extension Units interested in joining the project should contact Dave Kehler directly at dkehler@ksu.edu or 316-377-9470.