

Kansas 4-H Swine, Sheep, & Meat Goat Tagging Guidelines and Tips for EID Tags

We have experienced a good retention rate on the 4-H EID tags. We realize that sometimes “stuff happens”, but we can often trace a tag replacement issue to the application procedure. While it is impossible to have 100% tag retention, it can be increased by following these instructions and tips.

Instructional videos for appropriate Allflex EID application may be found here:

<https://www.allflex.global/na/support/>

Applicators – for the EID tags, you **MUST** use the red **Allflex Universal Total Tagger** with the red blunt pin. The black plastic insert needs to be removed for application, just as it was for the beef tags. If you still have small livestock tags that were distributed from 2013-2016, please contact Lexie. The tagger configuration and instructions are slightly different than they are for the tags we’ve used for the last few years.

Application of the tags – As you can see in the instructions, the tags are to be put in the ear with the EID button facing to the front (inside the ear). It is preferred that they be placed in the left ear (as you look at the animal from the rear). They should be placed close to the head (1/3 to 1/2 of the ear length out from the base), in the middle of the ear vertically. **DO NOT** put the tags in an existing hole in the ear. Doing so will greatly increase the chance of loss. Pulling on both sides of the tag to increase air flow around the tag and turning the button will verify correct application and ensure there is appropriate space between the tag and the animal’s ear.

Use disinfectant to dip the tags and applicator in. It is recommended that you use a product such as Nolvasan, Vetericyn, or an iodine solution. They are effective, non-irritating products that can be purchased from the local vet or vet supply store. Using a disinfectant will help the tag site heal and it will provide lubrication for easier tag application. **It will also reduce the opportunity for infection and is imperative to use disinfectant when tagging meat goats!** Using a product that irritates the ear (alcohol, bleach, etc.) will cause the animal to do more rubbing of the ear and increase the chance of losing the tag.

After Application – Grasp both parts of the tag and pull on them. This will insure that the stem is completely in and it will create room for air flow around the tag to promote faster healing.

Keep the matched EID button and 4-H visual tags together – The tags are packaged with the EID and visual 4-H numbers matched and in a database available from Allflex USA. If for some reason the tags should get separated, you can use the sheet of labels to match them back up. Allflex has been working on their website over the past few years. If you are unable to download your tag data and need it, contact Lexie.

Using the labels – Each bag of tags has 2 sets of labels that have the EID tag, a barcode of that 15-digit number, and the visual 4-H number on it. You can use one set of labels for county tagging if you wish. You should keep one set of labels in a file to be used later for any state nominations. Please also make a copy of the labels and put them in a safe place, in the event your labels should get misplaced.

Weigh-In Card - A template of a county weigh-in card can be downloaded from the KSU YLP website.

If the animal already has a EID 4-H tag – It is unlawful to remove an 840 tag from any specie of livestock, as it is their official (ADT) identification. An animal may also only have one EID. The Kansas 4-H EID tags are official 840 EID tags. Please contact Lexie if you need to tag a 4-H/FFA project with an existing EID tag. Any non-840 tags may be removed and replaced with the Kansas 4-H EID tag.

Questions – Can be directed to Lexie Hayes, KSU Youth Livestock Program Coordinator (785)532-1264 or adhayes@ksu.edu.