



Arkansas State Fair Livestock Show Validation

2025 Program Guidebook

What is validation?



The purpose of the Arkansas State Fair Validation Program (ASFVP) 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 RFID (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 ASFVP to exhibit at the Arkansas State Fair Livestock Show. Some county or district fairs may choose to piggy-back on this program. Please check each fair’s rules for validation requirements. Note: participating in the AFSVP is a proof of ownership by livestock shows in Arkansas. **It does NOT automatically serve as entry into a livestock show.**

NEW FOR 2025: Exhibitors will need to obtain their own RFID (840) tags for this show season. You will need a premise ID to do so. It is a simple process and the link is below. If your animal already has an 840 tag (as with brucellosis vaccines) you need to use that number for your state fair 840. No animal should have more than one RFID tag. All market animals and commercial females will need DNA pulled and must have an electronic tag. Premise ID’s can be obtained using the following link: <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/livestock-poultry/ar-voluntary-premises-id-system/> or found by searching Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission (ALPC) and go to the AR Voluntary Premise ID System. You can also contact ALPC about obtaining RFID tags or they can be purchased on sites such as ValleyVet, Jeffers, etc.

What is a Validation DNA Envelope, where can I find it and how do I validate my animal?

Validation Envelope:

ARKANSAS VALIDATION			
SPECIES (CIRCLE ONE):		<input type="text"/>	
MARKET:		<small>Print 840 or 887 (FFA) identification number here</small>	
STEER	LAMB	HOG	GOAT
COMMERCIAL WETHER DAM:			
HEIFER	EWE	GILT	DOE
ANIMAL DESCRIPTION / SCRAPIES TAG			
EXHIBITOR PRINTED NAME		COUNTY/SCHOOL	
EXHIBITOR/ PARENT/ GUARDIAN/REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE		DATE	
DNA COLLECTOR PRINTED NAME		DNA COLLECTOR SIGNATURE	

PLEASE OBTAIN AT LEAST 40 HAIRS WITH FOLICLES CONTACT (DO NOT CUT). AVOID CONTAMINATION WITH OTHER HAIR SAMPLES AND KEEP DRY. SIGN AND SEAL ENVELOPE IN THE PRESENCE OF EXHIBITOR. COPYRIGHT © 2025 ANIMAL ID, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY IN ALL AREAS.

1. Exhibitors will be required to order a Validation DNA Envelope and pay online through the Arkansas State Fair website.
2. Payment – Once you have completed the online order, payment is due in the same application.
3. Once orders are completed, the Arkansas State Fair will mail the envelopes to the contact you chose (within 3 business days).
4. When returning your DNA envelope, Exhibitor Information –
 - a. All information is REQUIRED on the envelope for a sample to be valid: Circle the species, print 840 EID number, Animal Description (black angus, etc. and Scrapies tag (if applicable)), Exhibitor Name, 4-H County or FFA Chapter, Exhibitor Parent or Guardian Signature, and the signature of the person responsible for collecting the DNA hair sample.

5. There will be only ONE SIGNATURE required for a valid DNA sample to be completed. The individual eligible to serve as a collector are listed below.

Eligible to sign off on a Validation –

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

Placement of RFID 840 tags should be done at the time that DNA is collected if there is not one already in place. There will be no cutting or removing of federal tags that are in place in any animal. Do not place multiple RFID tags in your animals. Example, if a commercial heifer has her Brucellosis vaccine tag in place, that 840 # will suffice for the Arkansas State Fair Validation program.

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 have their own Validation DNA submission. Siblings must EACH have their own Validation DNA. Example – if two sisters are validating the same hog, they must purchase two validation envelopes and each one must submit DNA for said hog. Family validation fee example \$10/animal/exhibitor is the fee.** If a family wants to validate a steer and a hog for two siblings. One animal for two siblings is $\$10 \times 2 = \20 . Since you are wanting to validate two animals for two siblings it would be $\$20 \times 2 = \40 .

What are the deadlines and fees for submitting Validation DNA? Validation DNA envelope must be ordered through the Arkansas State Fair website (www.arkansasstatefair.com) deadlines are below:

STEERS

Deadline to order if you'd like it mailed – April 21st

For Pick up from the Arkansas State Fairgrounds main office – Monday, May 5, 2025 (also due back this day)

Deadline to submit DNA is Monday, May 5th for STEERS. All DNA must be post marked by May 5th or physically in the ASFG office by that date.

ALL OTHERS (MARKET LAMBS, MARKET GOATS, MARKET HOGS and COMMERCIAL FEMALES)

Deadline to order if you'd like it mailed – July 1st

For Pick up from the Arkansas State Fairgrounds main office – July 15th

Deadline to submit Validation DNA is July 15th. All DNA must be post marked by July 15th or physically in the ASFG office by that date.

NEW FOR 2025: Exhibitors will need to obtain their own RFID (840) tags for this show season. You will need a premise ID to do so. It is a simple process and the link is below. If your animal already has an 840 tag (as with brucellosis vaccines) you need to use that number for your state fair 840. No animal should have more than one RFID tag. All market animals and commercial females will need DNA pulled and must have an electronic tag. Premise ID's can be obtained using the following link: <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/livestock-poultry/ar-voluntary-premises-id-system/>