Retinal Scanning Reminders

- Make sure your compact flash card is formatted correctly. Get out your machine, boot it up in your office and test it out BEFORE your weigh-in day!!!! (see Bypassing the GPS for office practicing)
- If your compact flash card worked for your beef weigh-in, it should be fine for sheep/goats. No re-formatting necessary; just test it out in your machine, in your office BEFORE your weigh-in day. Mike can help fix problems, but probably not the day-off with several angry parents standing in line 5 miles from your office.
- We would prefer you get a GPS lock at your site before you begin scanning. If a GPS lock is taking too long and you wish to bypass it, instructions can be found here. To get a GPS lock, when booting up the machine, do NOT hit the red X cancel button to bypass the GPS. You may hit Enter when prompted to view the GPS lock information. Remember: Each time the machine is powered off or the battery dies, and is re-booted, you MUST obtain the GPS lock again. If using a GPS antenna booster, click here for instructions on how to set it up.
- Remember your county code before the ear tag number. NO SPACES or DASHES between the county code and ear tag; it’s all one number. For example, Story County (county #85) tag #245, would be entered on the scanner as 85245. Benton County (county #6) would be entered as 06245.
- Be sure your images are of good quality. If they are blurred or dark, etc., they will need to be re-done.
- Make sure you back up your original retinal images in multiple places (i.e. hard drive, shared drive, CD) before emailing them to the State 4-H Office.

For examples of good/bad images, formatting your card, or to refresh yourself or your volunteers on scanning or using the software, please visit, https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/projects/livestock/livestockid

Important 4hOnline Reminders

- **May 15** – The Magical Date
  - Data entered into 4hOnline
  - Retinal images emailed to State 4-H Office; mikeande@iastate.edu
  - 4-H’er/Family has verified info. in 4hOnline to be complete & correct
  - Again for 2014: Just like beef, each county will be invoiced based on the # of sheep/meat goats in 4hOnline marked for State Fair ($5.00/head; this will appear on your county’s ISU U-Bill. (i.e. Story County will pay for all Story County animals including those that may attend an outside county

Things to Keep in Mind

- **ALL State Fair Sheep (market, commercial breeding ewes and purebred breeding ewes need a tag AND retinal images taken**
- **Meat Goat Wethers: need a 4-H tag and retinal images**
- **Meat Goat Breeding Does: need a 4-H tag and birthdate recorded in 4hOnline (no retinal images needed)**
- Communicate with FFA advisors for any FFA animals you may have at your weigh-in. FFA should be responsible for their own nose print and DNA materials and those along with payment go directly to the State Fair office.
- County offices should retain a copy of the paper verification (106) form for their county records and to use for inputting data into 4hOnline.
- **Again for 2014**: No County Summary will be required this year. Counties will be billed at $5.00/animal and the amount will appear on the county’s U-Bill based on the # of animals in 4hOnline marked for State Fair. If you have FFA animals and receive payment from an FFA family, send the payment, ID form, and DNA/nose prints directly to the State Fair Office, Attn: FFA Livestock ID, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317.
- Counties must also have a working scale available for weighing the individual animals. The scale must be a beam or electronic scale, not a dial scale, and it must be checked and balanced regularly (every 15 to 20 head) if it is not a certified scale. This can be done with a basic weight (like a known weight bag, bucket, barbell weight, etc).
- If your county is not serving as a State Fair verification site (i.e., you send animals to a surrounding county for retinal images) arrangements need to be made with that county. No 4-H’er is allowed to just “show up” at a weigh-in without prior approval at a neighboring county.