

## Frequently Asked Questions

In regard to the 2020 changes for 4-H livestock identification deadlines and weigh-ins, below are some clarifications to questions you may have about the process and requirements.

### **Q. Does the June 1 ID deadline apply to all animals?**

A. The June 1 deadline is extending the May 15 deadline. It applies to any species that has coincided with that deadline: Breeding Beef, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Meat Goat, Poultry, Sheep, Swine. The exception would be rabbits which is July 1, and poultry. State Fair poultry are not required to be identified in 4-H Online but some counties require poultry to be identified for county fair exhibition so be sure to check with your county.

### **Q. What if a county has already conducted their weigh-in for meat goat/sheep and/or swine?**

A. Counties that have already conducted their weigh-ins are okay. They could still have a rate of gain type contest if they have had one in the past. The same tagging, retinal imaging (meat goat/sheep), and DNA (swine) requirements for State Fair eligibility still stand.

### **Q. What if a county has a weigh-in currently scheduled for early to mid-May? Can that still occur?**

A. ISU Extension & Outreach has instructed staff to work remotely and that all face to face meetings, trainings, etc. be cancelled through May 9. By adding two weeks to the animal ID deadline, and if the health situation changes to allow face to face gatherings/meetings, these could possibly occur. We cannot make a for sure statement at this time.

### **Q. Can I just pick up sheep and/or meat tags and a tagger from my county extension office?**

A. Check with your county extension office. They may have designated times for each family to pick up tag supplies and return them. Counties may also want to tag and retinal scan at the same time and set up on-farm appointments, or they may allow families to tag now and then staff take retinal images at a later time on the farm before the June 1 deadline. We understand there are variables to consider with counties, families, and their situation.

### **Q. What if counties schedule families to bring animals in or staff travels out to farms to tag or retinal image animals?**

A. No matter if staff or families are traveling to extension offices, fairgrounds, or farms, always practice good biosecurity measures. Things to keep in mind:

- Try and schedule an individual family separately if having families or animals come to a central point
- If animals are brought to a location, be sure to have disinfectant to wipe down any taggers or other equipment
- Try to minimize people using the same writing materials or handling the same equipment or paperwork– use gloves or have hand sanitizer or some sort of disinfectant/anti-bacterial method handy

**Q. How are county and/or State Fair swine being handled?**

A. As in past years, counties had the option of either tagging swine at a county “weigh-in” or having families come to the extension office to check out a tagger and tags, go home and tag the pigs, and bring back the DNA samples to the county office. Either of those options can still occur, but each county office will decide on the best option for their situation, especially with regard to the current health situation. ALL swine still need an official USDA tag (i.e. JJS 1234), and if they choose to identify that same pig for State Fair a DNA punch is also required. Past “yellow” DNA punch tags are still acceptable as are the new punch collectors for State Fair. More information and a new video for applying the new DNA punch collectors for 2020 is located on the 4-H Swine webpage, <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/swine>.

**Q. Do I have to take the State Fair swine DNA samples back to my county extension office to then mail to the State 4-H Office?**

A. Due to the current situation, families can mail their large white envelopes with the DNA samples inside (one envelop per 4-H member) directly to the State 4-H Office if need be. If there’s concern for handling mail pieces at your local extension office, yes, you can mail them directly to:

State 4-H Office  
Attn: Swine ID  
1259 Stange Rd.  
Ames, IA 50011

**Q. I noticed there are now photo options in 4-H Online for meat goat, sheep and swine animal types. Are photos now required?**

A. Photos will be required for meat goats, sheep and swine. We understand there could be internet connection issues so please reach out to your county extension office staff if you have trouble uploading photos.

**Q. How do I upload photos of my animal?**

A. When you log into 4-H Online, and identify your specific animal (ear tag, breed, birthdate or other fields) you will see at the bottom of the ID screen the photo upload options. The acceptable formats should be listed but the most common is a .jpg format.

**Q. What type of photo is needed of the animal?**

A. We want at least one photo of the animal with the ear tag IN THE ANIMAL’S EAR. This shows that the ear tag was physically put in the animal.

**Q. What if the COVID-19 situation worsens or recommendations/requirements for cancelling meetings, face to face contact, and social distancing continue into the late spring and summer months?**

A. We will be evaluating the circumstances as time goes. More adjustments may need to happen in the future.