

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Hamilton County Extension
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April 6, 2019

Re: State Fair Swine Information

To: Hamilton County 4-H Swine Project Participants

If you are thinking of exhibiting swine at the Iowa State Fair, please make sure to read and understand the State Fair Swine tagging procedures. You will find those procedures on the back of this letter.

It is very important that if you do plan to get tags and a tagger from our office that you call ahead so I can make sure the tags/tagger are here at the office for you. Stacie, our office manager or I will be the only ones handling the check-out process so it's important to call and make arrangements for pick up. Please understand there are times during the day that we are not in the office, so by calling ahead we can be sure to be available. Please **DO NOT** wait until the last day to do this.

It's important that families plan ahead as we only have a few of the special DNA taggers. Remember, each family will also need to input all data for each pig into 4-HOnline under Swine (not weighed in) by May 15th. State Fair entries are due by July 1st.

If you have questions, please get ahold of me!



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Hamilton County 4-H Coordinator
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STATE FAIR SWINE TAGGING PROCEDURES

- 4-H family needs to come to Hamilton County office **well before May 15th** to get tags/tagger. Please call the office first to make sure a tagger is available. Remember there are a limited number of taggers, so don't wait until the last minute to get this done!
- Know the # of DNA tags needed (one for each pig). You may take more than you think you need. Return unused tags and pay for what you used. Along with the tags you will get a State Fair envelope to submit/record tags used—up to 25 tags may be included in each envelope.
- Both market and breeding swine need to have DNA tags for State Fair
- Tags are \$8 per tag – check made out to Hamilton County Extension Office
- **DEPOSIT:** When picking up a tagger you will need to make a \$20 deposit that will be given back to you if the tagger is returned to our office within 48 hours. **Note**, you may coordinate to hand off your tagger to another 4-H family (without having to return it to the Extension Office first). In this case (to get your deposit back) you **MUST** let our office know when you hand off the tagger (as long as it's within 48 hours you will get your deposit back). Then that family has 48 hours to return the tagger or they will be charged the \$20 fee.
- You must use DNA tagger from Extension office--**CANNOT** use another tagger
- There is a video available to watch on how to correctly tag hogs. Changes for State Fair Swine Show are also posted on: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/swine
- After tagging, put DNA samples in envelope and be sure to write down tag numbers.
- 4-H'er and parent/guardian need to sign the DNA envelope (but **DO NOT SEAL**) and return taggers and DNA envelope to county office **by May 15th**. In the presence of Extension staff, verify contents and seal.
- Before May 15th: 4-H'er inputs all data (animal type, tag #, sex, breed, ear notch, etc) for each pig into 4HOnline under Swine (**not weighed in**).
- We will mail all DNA envelopes for all 4-H'ers to State 4-H Office. Remember, we must have the envelope postmarked by May 15th so please don't wait to turn those in! After hours envelopes can be dropped off in our outside mailbox (to the right of our door).
- 4-H'er will then need to make the actual State Fair entry by July 1st.
- **ONLY** pigs that have DNA tags AND are in 4HOnline by May 15th are eligible for State Fair entry and exhibition.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THIS AS ONLY A FEW STATE FAIR TAGGERS ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR COUNTY.
Before coming to our office, please call to make sure a tagger is available to pick up.