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College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service
Extension 4-H Youth Development

New Mexico Junior Livestock Ear Tag Identification Program For New Mexico Fairs

Before entering any New Mexico County, or state fair, all in-state junior livestock (cattle (beef & dairy), sheep, goats, and swine) to be shown must have application of a current and approved NM youth exhibitor fair tag by the Extension Agent, Agriculture Education Teacher, or designated fair personnel. A State 4-H issued electronic 840 tag will be applied to all animals in the show program except for registered cattle where a permanent registration tattoo is required in the family's name and exceptions for breeding goats (see NM 4-H & FFA Guide for Livestock Exhibitors). All ear tags should be applied to the animal and should never be given to individuals. Each County Agent has the authority to manage the dispersal of tags to fit the county's needs.

*** The County Extension Agent is responsible for maintaining required records of youth exhibitor fair applications and sending a copy to the State 4-H Office by the Ownership Deadlines listed below.

Important Dates

- **May 1 of the current year -** Ownership Deadline for Steers & Breeding Heifers (Eastern NM State Fair, Southern NM State Fair) A list of all ear tags applied due in the State 4-H Office.

- **June 15 of the current year -** Ownership Deadline for Market Barrows, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Market Steers (NM State Fair), and Replacement Dairy Heifer (NM State Fair). A list of all ear tags applied due in the State 4-H Office. DNA Samples Due for the New Mexico State Fair.

- **June 30 of the current year -** Ownership Deadline for Market Barrows, Market Goats, Market Lambs, and Replacement Dairy Heifer (Eastern NM State Fair, Southern NM State Fair). A list of all ear tags applied due in the State 4-H Office.

    - *If any of the above listed dates fall on a holiday or weekend, then the deadline(s) will fall to the next business day.*

*****Disputes over ownership will be verified by the county list turned into the State 4-H Office.**

Tagging Animals- Place tag between the ribs of the ear, about ¾ of the length of the ear from the tip. Make sure both sides on the tags match with the same number.

Revised 3/12/24.

- **Jr. Market Steers- Right Ear** with the 840 EID facing front and the button on the back.
- **Jr. Market Pigs- Left Ear** with the 840 EID facing the back and the button on the inside of the ear.
- **Jr. Market Lambs- Right Ear** with the 840 EID button on the inside of the ear.
- **Jr. Market Goats- Right Ear** with the 840 EID button on the inside of the ear.
- **Jr. Breeding Heifers- Left Ear** with the 840 EID facing front and the button on the back for commercial heifers, if heifer is registered, no ear tag is needed as the tattoo will be used for the permanent identification.
- **Jr. Replacement Dairy Heifers- Right Ear** with the EID facing front and the button on the back.

Replacement Ear Tags

Exhibitors should be instructed to immediately notify their Extension Agent or Agriculture Education Teacher when an ear tag is lost or damaged. The Agent and Teacher will determine the validity of the loss, and if valid, can assign a replacement tag. The Agent must report any changes in tags immediately to update the county list. Exhibitors need to contact the Livestock Inspector to update the Form 1 with the new ear tag number.

New Mexico 4-H & FFA Guide for Livestock Exhibitors

All rules must be followed as set out in the current NM 4-H & FFA Guide for Livestock Exhibitors. These rules are made in cooperation with New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico FFA Association, New Mexico State Veterinarian, and the New Mexico Livestock Board.