

## Exhibitor Information 2019 State Fair of Virginia

### **Tag Requirements and Nomination Policies**

**Sheep and Goats:** Receive a YELLOW official SFVA RFID Tag at nomination and should be weighed. Sheep complete a YELLOW Nomination Form and Goats complete a GREEN Nomination Form.

**Market Beef (Steers and Heifers):** Must have an official SFVA Visual Tag and an RFID tag. If, the animal already has an RFID tag/button and a herd visual tag, then replace the visual tag with a YELLOW SFVA visual tag. If the animal does NOT have an RFID tag/button, then tag with a white RFID/VISUAL SFVA combo tag. **\*\*\*All market beef must be tagged with either a yellow visual SFVA tag or a white SFVA combo tag.** Beef complete a BLUE Nomination Form.

**Commercial Heifers:** Must have a visual tag AND an RFID tag. If the heifer has an RFID Tag and a herd visual tag, then complete the nomination form with the required information – she does not need to be retagged. If the heifer has an RFID button, but no visual tag, then tag with an official SFVA YELLOW visual tag. If the heifer does NOT have a RFID tag or Visual tag, then tag with a WHITE RFID/VISUAL SFVA combo tag. Beef complete a BLUE Nomination Form

**Hogs:** Please follow the official requirements for self-nominating hogs. This information can be found on the Virginia Youth Livestock Website <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/shows/state-fair.html> . When youth request/pick-up hog tags, they will also need a PINK Nomination form.

### **Immediate Care of Ear Tags:**

Ear tag sites are susceptible to infection if proper care and attention is not provided. The area around the tag should be inspected daily until fully healed. Sometimes the tag itself needs to be adjusted to ensure the wound closes and prevent the tag from imbedding into the ear. Application of rubbing alcohol or other disinfectants may help prevent infection and speed healing. In severe cases consult your veterinarian. If the tag must be removed (final solution/last resort) contact the State Livestock Office prior to removal for instructions on the proper procedure to document and replace the tag (see below).

### **Policy for Lost Ear Tags:**

- 1) Exhibitors who have livestock that lose, tear, or damage the official SFVA nomination tag should contact Katherine Carter at (540) 231-2257. **Show officials need to be contacted within 5 days of the tag being lost or damaged. Verification of identification and re-tagging will be conducted by show officials.** Absence of an official tag when required will result in loss of eligibility to show. This includes lost tags that have not been properly reported to show officials.
- 2) All market lambs/commercial ewes, market goats/ commercial does, market hogs/breeding gilts, as well as market beef must have an official State Fair of Virginia tag intact in ear at the State Fair to be eligible for exhibition. Commercial heifers must have the documented visual tag and the documented EID/Rfid tag as it appears on the exhibitor's nomination form.

### **State Fair of Virginia Entry Process:**

Nomination and tagging of animals does not constitute final entry for exhibition at the State Fair of Virginia. ALL Lambs, goats, hogs, and cattle must also be properly entered for State Fair of Virginia. Entries must be made on-line utilizing the FairEntry system. The 2019 SFVA FairEntry system will open for entries on July 1, 2019 and can be accessed at <https://faireentry.com/> State Fair of Virginia information, rules and regulations may be accessed on-line at [www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock](http://www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock).

## **Livestock Identification**

The livestock exhibits for the State Fair of Virginia (SFVA) have been identified with an electronic ear tag. **This does not replace the need for a scrapie tag in sheep and goats.** The tag contains an RFID (radio frequency identification) microchip, which contains a 15-digit identification number. This electronic 15-digit number is different for every animal (similar to your social security number). With the aid of computer technology, the 15-digit number from the tag can be read electronically and used as identification much like the visual ear tags that are currently used. The tags in your livestock are also stamped with a visual number, so that they can be read both visually and electronically. At the State Fair of Virginia, these tags will be read electronically when the livestock are weighed. Please note that the integrity of the electronic tag relies on keeping the microchip intact, and damage may result from tampering.

Electronic tags are now commonly used in several livestock species. Electronic tags utilized in conjunction with computer program technology, greatly enhances on-farm production record keeping systems for animal management. Additionally, electronic tags are recognized as official identification for animal health and traceability programs including USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Program. The goal of this program is to maintain the health of U.S. livestock through enhanced disease control and eradication capabilities. For more information on these topics visit the following web sites or contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office:

Virginia Animal Identification Program web page

<http://www.vanimalid.info/>

United States Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Traceability home page

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>

*Livestock tags provided by Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Animal Identification Program, with support from USDA APHIS Veterinary Services*