

2021 State Fair of Virginia Youth Livestock Nominations

Nominations for beef, goats, lambs, and swine for the 2021 State Fair of Virginia will utilize a self-nomination, with DNA collection process.

Exhibitors will self-nominate their animals utilizing an Official Tag, DNA sample, and photos.

All youth who plan to exhibit market lambs, commercial ewe lambs, market goats, commercial does, ALL market hogs (purebred or x-bred), commercial breeding gilts, market steers/heifers, and/or commercial heifers at the 2021 State Fair of Virginia are required to nominate their animals using the following procedures.

The deadline for nominations is July 15th, 2021.

For more information, including instructional videos, sample photos, as well as forms visit the Youth Livestock website (<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html>).

For Questions Contact:

Katherine Carter

Scott Greiner

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2021 Nomination Procedures:

- 1. Order DNA Envelopes and ear tags (as needed) from Youth Livestock Office through the online order portal at link <https://tinyurl.com/2021SFVA-DNA-and-Tag-Order>**
 - Each animal to be nominated must have an Official Tag as follows:
 - Beef: 840 EID tag (if needed, VSF tag may be ordered with DNA Envelopes), a separate visual tag is NOT required.
 - Sheep and Goats: official USDA Scrapie tag
 - Swine: 840 EID tag (if needed, VSF tag may be ordered with DNA Envelopes)

note: beef and swine with existing 840 tag do not need additional VSF tag – 840 EID tags may be of the button variety or a combination tag that is both a visual id and the EID button
- 2. Receive DNA Envelopes and ear tags from Youth Livestock Office**
 - Along with DNA Envelopes and ear tags (if requested), mailing will include directions and species Nomination Forms.
- 3. Apply ear tags to animals (Allflex tag applicator recommended for VSF tags). Confirm all animals have proper Official Tag required for nomination.**
- 4. Complete appropriate species Nomination Form for each animal – these forms can also be found on the VA Youth Livestock Website.**
 - Record Official Tag for each animal (sheep/goats- scrapie flock ID and individual animal ID, beef/swine: 15-digit “840” EID tag number – include the full 15 digit number)
 - Record any other tag numbers and/or tattoos (if applicable): include tag color and number, tattoo number and location
 - Record animal gender
- 5. Collect DNA sample on each animal**
 - Record Official Tag number on DNA Envelope (FULL 15-Digit “840” number for cattle and hogs; Complete Scrapie Tag Sequence for Sheep and Goats – must include Flock or premise ID number and individual animal number)
 - Restrain the animal properly. Confirm tag of animal matches that on DNA Envelope.

- Pull hair sample (view videos on the Youth Livestock website for directions)
 - Be sure hair is clean and dry
 - Use pliers to grab several hairs, and pull hair directly out of skin making sure hair follicle is present (look for small bulb at end of hair root). **DO NOT CUT HAIR.**
 - Place hair in DNA Envelope.
 - Repeat until minimum of 40 hairs are collected.
 - Seal DNA Envelope when complete.
 - Record DNA Envelope Sample Number on Nomination Form (be sure Official Tag numbers match on both DNA Envelope and Nomination Form).
 - Clean pliers between animals to avoid cross-contamination of samples.

6. Take digital photos of each animal. (for example photos see Youth Livestock website)

- Take two or three photos as follows:
 - Photo of head. Picture must include a readable/verifiable view of the Official Tag. Full head and both ears should be visible.
 - For sheep and goats make certain photo shows both scrapie flock ID and individual number.
 - For beef and swine with a small button-type 840 tag, take another close-up photo of the Official Tag with the number sequence easily identifiable.
 - Profile/side view photo of the animal. **Exhibitor must be pictured with the animal (holding or standing next to animal).** Markings and color patterns of animal should be clearly visible.

7. Upload information and photos on all animals into the Nomination Web Portal at

<https://tinyurl.com/2021-SFVA-Youth-Nominations> Nomination portal will close July 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm

NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT DNA, INFORMATION ON NOMINATION FORM, AND PHOTOS CORRESPOND TO THE CORRECT ANIMAL. CONFIRM THIS PRIOR TO UPLOADING YOUR INFORMATION.

8. Mail DNA Envelopes and Nomination forms to Youth Livestock Office. Keep copy of Nomination Forms for your records. Postmark deadline is July 15, 2021.

Mail to: Katherine Carter
380 Litton Reaves
175 Campus Drive
Blacksburg, VA, 24061

Now that your animals are nominated, don't forget to complete the registration process and enter them to show in Fair Entry:

*Please remember that nomination does not constitute entry.

Nominated animals must also be entered using the FairEntry system.

The entry system will open on **July 1st** at this link

<https://faireentry.com/Fair/SignIn/15926> Entry deadline is 5:00 pm on Mon, August 16th.

For additional information and resources visit the Youth Livestock website:

<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html>).

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