

# Animal Identification and DNA

1. Identification: All Market animals must have 840 Ear Tag and DNA identification on file with the Jefferson County Fair or Wisconsin State Fair by May 23<sup>rd</sup> to be eligible for Champion Awards. Once identified, market animals are subject to random 840 ear tag inspection and DNA verification testing at any time by Fair Management. Exhibitors who intentionally remove official 840 ear tags are subject to disciplinary actions. Market animals not DNA Identified by May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be allowed to show but are not eligible for Champion Awards and will be identified as such after the judge has placed the class and will be lowered one ribbon group placing.
  - 840 Ear tag Identification: Any 15-digit 840 ear tag identification will be accepted, RFID ear tags are preferred but not required. The Fair will have Individual 840 RFID Ear Tags available for purchase in the Fair office (503 North Jackson Avenue, Jefferson) beginning October 21, 2024 but the 840 identification ear tag used does not have to be a Jefferson County Fair issued ear tag. If an 840 ear tag is lost at any point throughout the project please notify the Fair office of the updated 840 ear tag identification number. Animals which arrive at the Fair without 840 ear tag identification which matches initial identification are not eligible for Champion awards and will be lowered one ribbon group placing and identified as such after the judge has placed the class.
  - DNA Identification: Jefferson County Fair works with an outside service provider to offer a non-biased identification DNA verification process which is used to protect show integrity and ensure the animals entered are the same animals brought to the Fair by the exhibitor. These DNA kits will be available in the Fair office (503 North Jackson Avenue, Jefferson) for purchase beginning on October 21, 2024.
  - Beef will receive tags at the December weigh in
    - \*Wisconsin State Fair DNA deadline may vary from Jefferson County – check the Wisconsin State Fair website.
2. **BEEF:** You will purchase tags at the optional weigh on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2024. Those not participating in weigh-in must purchase tags from the fair office and must turn DNA in to the office by December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
3. **GOATS/SHEEP:** You will purchase tags at the optional weigh on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Those not participating in weigh-in must purchase tags from the fair office and must turn DNA in to the office by May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
4. **SWINE:** You may purchase tags from the fair office beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> and ending May 5<sup>th</sup>
5. **Lost 840 Ear tag identification:** If any market animals lose their documented 840 Ear tag identification prior to Tuesday of fair, exhibitors must email the following information to [fair@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:fair@jeffersoncountywi.gov)
  - Exhibitor Name    Species    Lost 840 Ear tag # (All 15 digits)

**If an 840 tag is lost after check-in please contact the Fair office. Jefferson County Fair reserves authority to take a DNA sample of any animal which losses their 840 Ear Tag.**



