

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Recommendations for County Pre-Fair Weigh-Ins/Taggings/Poultry Distribution

CONTRIBUTORS: Andrea Cole (4-H/Youth Development Educator OSU Extension), Josie Brodt Evans (4-H/Youth Development Educator OSU Extension), Lisa McCutcheon (4-H/Youth Development Educator OSU Extension), Bridget Moore (4-H/Youth Development Educator OSU Extension), Andrea Rees (4-H/Youth Development Educator OSU Extension)

OSU Extension recommends that all who are affiliated with youth livestock exhibitions and/or sale committees that offer livestock weigh-ins and taggings at the start of the project to postpone/cancel/or find alternative ways to conduct these activities. This is a recommendation that is a result of Ohio's "Stay Home" order and reducing the effect of people-to-people interaction.

- These events have resulted with large gatherings.
- Possibility of animal-to-animal disease transmission is always of concern at these events, particularly with swine.
- Certified scales used for pre-weighs typically are either on site at fairgrounds and livestock markets/sale yards and under the current recommendations from CDC are most likely closed. Many livestock markets/sale yards that remain open have made alternative modifications for producers in dropping off livestock with no interaction of workers with producers.
- Forgoing at fair contests and competitions that evaluate "rate of gain" for 2020 maybe a necessary evil as we navigate the existing ban.
- Weigh-in's can occur after gathering bans have been lifted. When this occurs data can be recorded, and rate-of-gain can be assessed for a shorter duration if this is still desired. Comparison of the current years data with previous years, because of duration differences is not recommended.

Many fairs and exhibitions, tag animals during the weigh-in for ownership purposes, animal management (for recording) and animal health (Scrapie, etc.).

If counties, fairs, and exhibitions need to get tags to exhibitors, they should do so with minimal to no human-to-human interaction.

- Have exhibitors communicate how many tags are needed for their families and what species they will be used for.
- Tags can either be sent via mail to the exhibitors or have someone package these tags for distribution site pick up. Identify packets with family/exhibitor names. They can be left at an unmanned distribution area or utilize a drive thru system for pick-up. Communicate with families where the tags will be distributed and utilize a staggered schedule for pickup (i.e., Last name - A-F at 10 a.m., G-P at 11 a.m. and so on).
- In either case COVID-19 has been reported to last on plastic surfaces for up to 72 hours and cardboard surfaces for 24 hours.
- Wear gloves when packing and distributing. Suggest that families or those that transport back to families tagging animals, they should wash hands thoroughly after any contact with tags and packing materials.



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An alternative to tagging is to have exhibitors send in photographs of animals and the requested identification (Farm Tags, Scrapie ID, Ear Notches, DNA Tags, Tattoos, etc.) of that animal with or without a county required form:

- Take a snapshot of a front view and side view of the animal.
- As well as a clear view of the form of identification the animal has in its ear. Note the number on the identification should be clearly visible.
- This can be sent and filed electronically (email, 4HOnline, Qualtrics, etc.) and can be used at the scale to verify ownership and identification for each animal registered.
- Clear guidelines must be put in writing if it is determined that the color pattern and or identification do not match.
- A hair or blood sample can also be sent in for identification. When the animal arrives at the fair and is in question the sample can be sent in for confirmation.
- Photos, tagging, hair samples, blood or any combination will reduce the concern for animals being purchased after the ownership date. If there is a question, then having two points of reference to evaluate give you more ground to stand on if action needs to be taken.

Useful References

- IAAPA: The Global Association for the Attractions Industry: COVID-19 Reopening Guidance, 2020
- Talking Points for Extension Professionals to Share with Fairs/Exhibitions Regarding Youth Livestock/Food Animal Projects During Washington's "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" Order, Washington State University Extension and Washington 4-H, March 27, 2020
- [Responsible RestartOhio: County Fairs](#)

If a tagging must occur, due to animal(s) needing vaccinations prior to fair, it should be done with minimal contact.

- Animals stay on the trailer and have the individual(s) administering the vaccination and/or placing the ear tags enter the trailer with clean boots and new gloves.
- Utilize a staggered drive thru system for this event (i.e., Last name - A-F at 10 a.m., G-P at 11 a.m. and so on).

If poultry distribution must occur, due to counties conducting a pool, it should be done with minimal contact.

- Exhibitors should place their order through the appropriate individual(s).
- If money needs to be exchanged, then the exact amount should be sent in with an order form prior to the ordering deadline. No money should be exchanged the day of pick-up due to trying to minimize human touch points.
- Utilize a drive thru system for pick-up. Communicate with families where the poults/chicks will be distributed and utilize a staggered schedule for pickup (i.e., Last name - A-F at 10 a.m., G-P at 11 a.m. and so on).
- Have the families drive-up, state their name and then the family should provide a carrying case to whomever is conducting the distribution. They would take the carrying case with gloves on and collect the number of poults/chicks that were ordered and hand back to the family.
- New gloves would be put on for each individual distribution.

