2020 Cowley County 4-H Livestock Tagging Procedures

Per protocol from Kansas State University shared on March 17, we will not be able to host any Extension-sponsored event including all 4-H programming by employees and volunteers, face-to-face workshops, shows, activities or any events targeted to you, the people we serve through at least May 16.

To comply with current restrictions, we will NOT host our regular county-wide face-to-face spring livestock tagging events April 25 and 28. It is still important to document and identify livestock and animals our youth have purchased or raised as 4-H projects for the 2019-2020 year. We will host an online Facebook identification/nomination process for Cowley County 4-H projects including sheep, meat goat, swine and bucket calf. Market beef tagging already took place so all market beef animals have already been tagged and documented.

All bucket calf, sheep, swine and meat goat projects intended for exhibit at the 2020 Cowley County fair must be owned by the 4-H member/family by May 1, 2020. Here's how the process will work:

• Private Facebook groups for each species will be created.
• You will need to be invited to the private FB group, so please add Kelsey Nordyke as a FB friend, if you haven’t already. We will add only 4-H families and will try to add all those we know who are enrolled in the respective livestock project. It’s a good time to verify if your 4-Her is properly enrolled (https://ks.4honline.com)
• 4-H families must complete the Livestock Identification form found on our website and submit to knordyke@ksu.edu by 11:59 p.m. May 1.
• A 15 second or less video of each nominated animal must be submitted to the appropriate Facebook page by 11:59 p.m. May 1. Videos must be uploaded in a family album directly to the Facebook page for that specie. It’s important to get a good quality video of each individual animal with identifiable markings, if possible. (Please don’t put individual video posts if you have multiple animals in a 5. Go back to your original post to add additional animals). Be sure to label each picture by a family name. If your animal already has a Cowley County 4-H EID tag still in its ear (i.e. breeding doe, heifer, etc.) from previous tagging, you do not need to get a video of that animal, but do include its EID tag number on your nomination form.
• Nominations must be made by 11:59 p.m. May 1. You may make nominations anytime between March 27 and May 1.
• If you do not have Facebook or a 4-H club member who can post videos for you, you can email your animal nominations to knordyke@ksu.edu. Please only do this option if you cannot use FB.
• We will tag at a later date when it is safe to do so and only those animals nominated will be tagged.

We will be monitoring these FB groups and will interact with you so you know your nomination has been documented. This may also be a fun time for families to see all the great projects our 4-Hers are working on. We will host online judging contests and offer incentives for families to update their albums with livestock pictures as the summer progresses. This is a real opportunity to share with each other the livestock development process and watch how our projects grow. Please stay tuned to fun opportunities to come.

Any Cowley County 4-Her wishing to nominate livestock projects for the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Junior Livestock Show will need to make an individual appointment with Kelsey to have these animals tagged by state nomination deadlines. Please email knordyke@ksu.edu to make us aware of your intentions, and we will stay in contact with you to meet the state
tagging/nomination requirements. You will also need to complete the YQCA online certification found online at http://yqca.org/

We know many families are purchasing animals in the next few weeks, or they already have made purchases. We will open invites to the FB groups by March 27.

If any 4-H community can make this process work and be a positive experience, we know it's Cowley County. We have the very best 4-Hers, parents, volunteers, and community supporters. We can't wait to see all the great 4-H livestock and animal projects out there!