



March 5, 2020

Dear Junior Fair Market Swine Exhibitors, Parents, 4-H Organizational Advisors & FFA Advisors:

This information is about identifying your market swine animals for the 2020 Mercer County Junior Fair. If you are a new family to this program, please know that identification of these animals is a mandatory requirement.

**IMPORTANT - in an effort to practice sound biosecurity, your veterinarian will tag all junior fair swine at your facility.**

- Tags are available at the Extension Office. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **The deadline to return completed paperwork and/or unused tags to the Extension Office is June 1 at 4:30 p.m.**

Any exhibitor may tag a maximum of 10 market hogs. These animals may be barrows, gilts or a combination of gilts and barrows. At the time of fair, each junior exhibitor can show three hogs in the junior fair swine show. If you elect to show three hogs – one of those animals must be a purebred hog.

**Legal siblings** (brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters, half-brothers and half-sisters) may share the same animal or animals for tagging purposes. This means that a family may have 10 hogs and all their children may list these same 10 animals on each child's identification form. (Cousins, friends, members of the same club, etc. may not share animals) An exhibitor may show ONLY the animals listed on their identification form.

***Animals are to be tagged by a Mercer County DVM at the expense of the exhibitor (see list below for veterinarians who have been sent information concerning this procedure).***

Coldwater Animal Clinic	110 Harvest Drive	Coldwater	678-4071
Ft. Recovery Veterinary Center	119 State Route 119	Ft. Recovery	375-2684
County Animal Clinic	800 N 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	Coldwater	678-3610
Celina Animal Hospital	7100 Havemann Road	Celina	586-3109
Maria Stein Animal Clinic	8155 State Route 119	Maria Stein	925-4212
Chickasaw Vet Center	PO 144	Chickasaw	925-4910
Minton Veterinary Service	108 West Franklin	Chickasaw	925-9300

If you use a veterinarian's services, who is not listed in this chart, please contact the Extension office with this practice's contact information.

**Please note that the June 1 is a firm deadline.** In fairness to all exhibitors involved, ownership dates must be the same for everyone. Having stated that, do not wait until the last minute to make an appointment with your veterinarian.

## **Having the veterinarian tag your animals at your home:**

- Secure tags & required identification papers from the Extension Office.
- Tags will only be issued by the Extension Office Staff. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The office may be closed from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., so if you plan to come at that time, please call ahead first.
- When picking up ear tags please know the exact numbers of hogs that will be tagged.
- All tags must be accounted for on the identification form. Therefore, issued tags must be indicated as placed in the pig's ear on the veterinarian signed identification form OR if not used for some reason – cut across the tag number, list on the form as not used and return the unused tags to the Extension Office. (In either case, the veterinarian is to sign the form and indicate why any tags were not used)
- Make arrangements with a veterinarian for coming to your home and tagging these animals.
- Return the completed original ID forms (signed by the veterinarian who did the tagging) to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m., June 1 (no faxes, emails, etc. can be accepted)

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to monitor their animal's ear tags. In case of a lost tag, the exhibitor has 5 days to notify the Extension Office, (419) 586-2179 and have the animal re-tagged. In order to have your hog retagged it must be approved by the Junior Fair Board and the adult Swine Superintendent.

The market swine weigh in will be first come, first serve. Members must ensure they are present sometime between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to bring their market swine project to the scales. Pens will not be released as in the previous years.

### **Ractopamine-Free (Paylean)**

As stated in the email released on February 3, the 2020 Mercer County Fair will be ractopamine-free (Paylean) in accordance with the Ohio State Fair and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Mercer County Senior Fair Board is working with our local packer and other resources for additional information, but we have nothing to release currently. Families should take preventative measures when preparing their barns and trailers for 2020 and should talk with their breeders about the purchase of their 2020 animal. Fact sheets and resources are listed on our website and on our Facebook page. More information about release of animals and tack will be released this spring.

If you have any questions about Market Swine identification, please feel free to contact me at my email address below or call the Extension Office at 419-586-2179.

Sincerely,



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