



# Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

June 2017 Edition

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## State Fair Sheep, Goat & Swine Validation

This year we will validate all State Fair animals at once at the same location.

- Date— June 23rd
- Time— 7:30am-9am
- Location— Pearce Pavilion

Packets will be ready to pick up the week prior to validation. If you have a conflict with this date please contact us here at the office to make arrangements to get your projects validated prior to this date.

## Steer & Heifer Validation

- Date— June 17th
- Time— 7:30-10am for steers and 10-11 for heifers ( we will not start heifer validation until all steers are validated)
- Location - Bryan Auction Barn
- Validation packets will be available the week prior to validation—Please scan and email heifer papers to me ahead of time

Packets will be ready to pick up the week prior to validation. If you have a conflict with this date please contact us here at the office to make arrangements to get your projects validated prior to this date.

## **Special points of interest:**

Sheep & Goat Selection  
Summer Hair Care for Cattle  
Sheep & Goat Tag Orders  
Importance of weighing feed  
Tips for Hauling pigs  
Major Show Judges  
Major Show dates  
Fall Major Show entry night



## Major Show & BCYLS Turkey Orders



It is time once again to order your turkeys for the 2018 major shows and BCYLS.

These turkeys will be eligible for all the major shows as well as BCYLS.

Orders are due by August 15th to the Extension office by 5PM

Order forms can be found at this link:

<http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

If you have any questions, please contact us at 979-823-0129

# **2017 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders**

## **Major Show Steers**

Validation- June 17th at the Auction Barn starting at 7:30am- Tag orders due April 11th

BCYLS Only- TBA

## **State Fair Sheep, Goats, & Swine**

Validation- June 23rd at Louis Pearce Pavilion- Tag orders due April 11th

## **Major & County Sheep & Goats**

Validation- October 16th at Brazos County Expo- Tag orders due August 18th

## **Major & County Swine**

Major Validation- November 20th at Brazos County Expo- Tag orders due September 21st

BCYLS Validation- December 11th at Brazos County Expo- Tag orders due September 21st

## **Major Show Heifers**

Summer Validation- June 17th at the Auction Barn starting at the conclusion of steers – Tag orders due April 11th

Fall Validation- October 30th at the Extension office starting at 5:30- Tag orders due September 11th

## **Poultry**

State Fair Broiler Orders due – May 17th

Major Show Turkey Orders due- August 15th

Major show Broiler Orders due- August 25th

All tag/bird order forms can be found at the following link: <http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

## **Sheep & Goat Tag Orders for BCYLS & Major Shows**

The 2018 major show and BCYLS sheep and goat tag orders are due on August 18th to the Brazos County Extension office. Tags will be \$20a piece for market sheep & goats. Breeding sheep & goat tags will be ordered at this time as well and they have not released that price yet.

Validation for these projects will be on October 16th @ the Brazos County Expo starting at 5:30pm

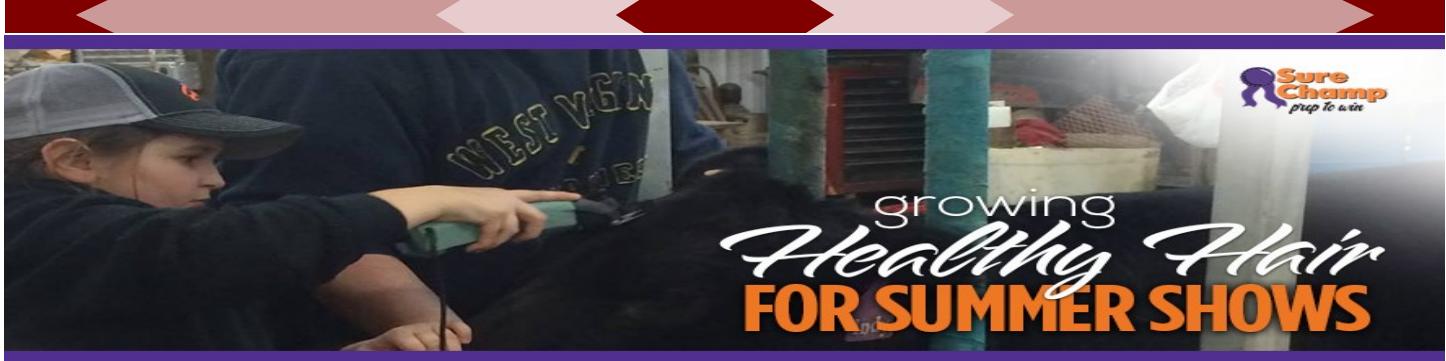
Order forms can be found at this link: <http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

## **Fall Major Show Entry Night**

The Fall stock show season is just around the corner so it's time to enter the State Fair of Texas, Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo, & the West Texas State Fair.

Entry night will be held at the Brazos County Extension office on **August 3, 2017 from 4-6PM.** We will be at the office all day to allow for families to come in during the day to register as well to help speed up the process.

All forms will be available that night to be filled out to enter these shows. If you have a conflict with this date please make arrangements with me to get entered in these shows.



## Growing Healthy Hair for Summer Shows

With Spring-like temperatures sweeping across much of the country, it is time to make sure you are already working with your show cattle to get rid of their winter hair coat, and make sure that a new healthy hair coat is growing and will be ready for late spring and summer shows.

Exhibitors should get rid of the old winter coat and be prepared to start the process of promoting new hair growth 100-120 days prior to the show that is the animal's end-point or targeted show, whether that is a state fair, county fair or breed junior nationals. There are two basic alternatives to ridding your calf of the old, dead hair.

First, and perhaps the more common method is to shear your animal. Clip your calf in a downward direction or with the grain of its hair using a plucking blade or beveled comb or blade. Typically this is done starting on their topline and in a downward stroke all the way to their bellyline. At that point begin blending to leave hair from the bottom of their quarter down their hindleg, on their underline and from their forearm down on their front leg. In many geographic regions, this might already be done, and is many times started around the first of March but most will have clipped their calf slick by the end of April, depending on their show season.

The second option is to use a shedding devise like a shedding comb or brush. This is a more time consuming method, but helps ensure that the new, healthy hair that is starting its growth isn't lost. Remember the earlier you can get the old dead winter hair removed the faster you can get new growth started.

Once you are rid of the old growth, you need to promote growing a new, healthy hair coat that will be show ring ready. Rinsing animals at least daily and using a conditioner will encourage hair growth and keep their hair and skin healthy. Washing your animal with soap twice a week is ideal to keep its hide clean. The best way to dry your animal while initially starting the hair growing process is to brush them dry with a rice root brush or clean, plastic wash brush while being tied with their head up in front of fans. Blow drying isn't necessary when their hair is so short. Once they are dry applying a sheen or light oil and working it in with a brush/comb and a blower will help restore oils that are stripped from the hair when being rinsed, and provide for healthy hide and hair.

The next step in growing a healthy hair coat is to make sure you are following a good nutrition program. Make sure your animals are getting a good vitamin or mineral supplement like Sure Champ®, which does help promote the skin and hair quality of your animals. Many livestock exhibitors also offer melatonin in their feed, which also helps the hair grow.

Finally, remember hair growth is all related to the mind and body working together with the animal's mind thinking it is preparing its body for winter. With longer, brighter days in the spring and summer, it is important to keep your animals safely tied into a darker, cooler area so their minds will trigger their body to grow hair. Make sure your cattle get tied into coolers or under fans early in the morning before the sun is bright. Then, the cattle should be turned out after dark when the temperatures are cooling off.

Get rid of that winter hair coat. Rinse. Condition. Brush. Feed Sure Champ. Grow healthy hair.

the importance of  
***weighing***  
your  
feed



## The Importance of Weighing Your Feed

You've probably heard it a time or two, but doing the simple things right is the fastest way to reach your goal. A lot of decisions go into what you are going to feed your show animals. So, when you dump that bucket of feed into the pan or trough morning and night, you want to make sure your animals are getting exactly the right amount.

One of the best investments you can make for your barn or feed room is a simple fishing scale. This allows you to weigh each bucket and measure out the correct amount of feed. The reason why we encourage people to stay away from the coffee can or feed scoop method is:

1. Your coffee can or feed scoop might not be the same size as your friends'. When you are consulting back with the breeder of your animal, and you tell him or her you are feeding a scoop of this or two scoops of that, that isn't giving an accurate picture of what you are feeding.

2. Different grains and supplements weigh different amounts even though the volume might be the same. For example, a scoop of oats vs. a scoop of corn vs. a scoop of cottonseed hulls will be very different weights.

Weighing your feed every day also keeps you consistent. It is easy for you to start to eyeball what you think 15 lbs. looks like, then realize you have only been feeding 13 or 14 lbs. once you weigh your bucket. By taking the extra step to weigh your feed, you'll ensure your show animals are on the right track for success.



# Trailer Hauling Tips for Pigs

As shows continue to become more competitive, those who are willing to take the time to pay attention to detail will ultimately find the most success. It is common to spend an elaborate amount of time focused on feeding, exercising, showing and other various forms of show day preparation. While these are all very important, a key component to a successful show is the haul, and many times this important detail is overlooked or taken for granted. Preparing your trailer is often put off and more glamorous tasks seem to be focused on first. However, starting the journey out with a bad haul can be a hard thing to recover from in a short period of time. Here are a few pointers we have found to make this phase of the trip more successful.

**Sanitation:** Thoroughly cleaning your trailer is the first step. Remove all old bedding and pressure wash the interior. Disinfecting your trailer once old bedding has been removed is important to reduce health risks the trailer may be contaminated by from previous hauls as well as external parasites that may have inhabited bedding. A clean trailer will not only help maintain the good skin and hair you have worked for, but also prevent illness.

**Bedding:** Bed Heavy! Proper bedding of a trailer will not only provide cushion for a more comfortable trip and decrease the chance of trauma to joints, but will also aid in preventing staining from aluminum. A mixture of both fine and medium flake shavings will provide a compact base from the packing ability of the fine shavings with less separation while the medium shavings help reduce dust and provide more cushion.

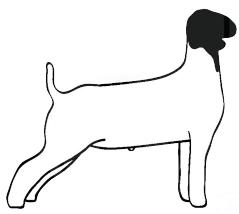
**Temperature:** It's important to look at the weather forecast and be prepared for what's ahead. This becomes more critical during more extreme seasons. Make sure you have the proper tools to keep the pigs warm during cold weather and cool in the heat. Be sure that fans, heaters, heat lamps and other devices are secured safely for the haul. Check them periodically while you travel to ensure they are functioning properly.

**Ventilation:** Adjust both the vents on the roof and on the sides of the trailer for the correct airflow and proper ventilation. Remember on long trips that they may need to be adjusted multiple times throughout the day as the temperature changes.

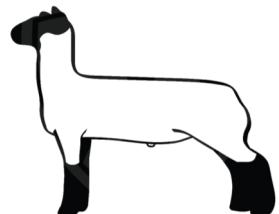
**Space:** Make sure that you have the right amount of pens and correct pen size to allow your pigs to haul comfortably. With many of the new trailers pens are adjustable to accommodate larger pigs versus smaller prospects, so adjust accordingly.

**Preparation of Stock:** Taking a proactive approach to the stress your stock will be exposed to will reduce the negative effects it will have on them. Vita Charge® is a great pre-show preparation tool that will ensure gut health and appetite, but needs to be started a minimum of 48 hours prior to leaving. Administering every 12 hours through the duration of the show will ensure the best opportunity to keep them on feed and help promote a positive immune system while traveling.

**Loading:** Pigs are creatures of habit so if it is an option, load the trailer in the order in which they are used to at home allowing for them to be penned close to pigs they are comfortable by. This will reduce the stress level as they haul. It never hurts to practice loading them on the trailer prior to your first show as well to cut down on the stress. Use a ramp that has a non-slip grip and gradual angle to the ground and be patient!



## **Sheep and Goat Projects:** **Part II**



Now that you have decided on how much you would like to spend, where you would like to purchase your next project, and covered some of the basics to look for when selecting your project. We will cover some of the feeding and facility basics to get you started on the right path with your new project.

These are a few items you need to consider before you head out to purchase the project.

- Make sure you have a bag of feed ready for when you get your animal home
- Have a clean pen, free of weeds and grass, fresh water, and some sort of building to allow them to get out of the weather or find shade from the heat.
- Insure that there are no holes in your fence, and that it is tall enough to keep predators and dogs out

### **Facilities**

Sheep & goats need a combination arrangement, access to a shed and an area where they can get outside in the sunshine. The shed area should be at least 20 square feet of space for each animal. The outside pen needs to be as large as possible for the animals to get plenty of exercise. The shed should be well drained where water does not accumulate under the barn. Sheds or barns should be open to the east or south. Barn temperature is critical, the structure should be well ventilated so the animals will remain cool and continue to grow during the summer months. On the other hand both sheep and goats will be slick shorn for all the shows, so the barns need to be altered during the winter to keep the animals as warm as possible. The fence height should be at least 42 inches tall to keep animals from attempting to jump out and keep predators or dogs out.

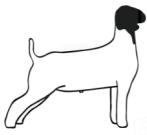
### **Feeding**

Self feeders are used in the early stages of feeding both sheep and goats, they should be blocked up at least 8 inches off the ground. After a few weeks you may want to move to hand feeding your projects. The movable hanging feeders work best for this since you can move the feeder to the correct height as the animals grow. It is best to take these feeders down every 2-3 weeks and clean them out. Also it is important to provide the sheep and goats with hay and minerals. These feeders need to be raised off the ground as well.

Clean water is the most important ingredient in feeding any livestock project. Water troughs should be small enough that they can be drained and cleaned on a weekly basis. Remember that water troughs should be checked on a daily basis and should be located in the shade so the water stays cool.

When you are out looking at projects you want to get some information from the owner as to what vaccinations it has had and when it was wormed last so you know what and when it needs its next set. Do not hesitate to ask questions about the animals bloodlines, and the age of the projects you are looking at. Also it is essential that when you purchase your project that it is treated for internal parasites and overeating disease. Many younger goats and range raised sheep don't know how to eat so it is important that they have access to good, leafy alfalfa hay that is top dressed on their feed to encourage them to eat it.

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## Sheep & Goat Projects Continued



If this is your first year and you are starting from scratch you may need a few of these items listed below to assist with your project.

- Stiff brush to clean water troughs
- Goat blankets/or socks
- Halters, collars, and/or show chains
- Hoof Trimmers
- Drench Gun
- Water bucket
- Portable hanging feeder
- Soft brush to groom your project
- Muzzles
- Box to hold all equipment
- Spray Bottle

If you have any questions or would like us to assist you in locating and purchasing your next project, please contact us as soon as possible so we can have adequate time to help locate projects that meet your requirements.

Also make sure to keep the tag order, validation, and major show entry dates updated so you don't miss any of them.

- Sheep & Goat tag orders are due to the Extension office by August 19th
- Sheep & Goat Validation will be October 17th at the Brazos Expo Complex from 5:30-7:30
- Major Show entry night will be November 3rd at the Brazos County Extension office from 5-7

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects, please contact your county agent or ag teacher for further assistance.

# Major Livestock Show Judges

## 2017 State Fair of Texas

- Market Steers– Randy Daniels
- Prospect Steers– John Declerk
- Market Lambs-- Caleb Bordman
- Market Goats– Cade Wilson
- Market Swine– James Backman
- Broilers– Michael Vader

## 2017 HOT Fair

### Junior Show

- Steers– Todd Herman
- British/Exotic Heifer– Jon DeClerk
- American Heifer– Brant Poe
- Sheep– Glen Martin
- Goat– Slayton Strube
- Swine– Ryan Sites

### Jackpot Show

- Steers– Jon DeClerk
- British/Exotic Heifer– Todd Herman
- American Heifer– Jason Cleere
- Sheep– Slayton Strube
- Goat– Glen Martin
- Swine– John McKinley

## 2017 Brazos Valley Fair

## 2018 Ft. Worth Livestock Show

## 2018 San Angelo Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Mark Hoge
- Market Sheep– Clay Burson
- Market Goats– Dr. Mark Hoge

## 2018 San Antonio Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Scott Greiner & Brady Jensen
- Market Lambs– Brad Angus
- Market Goats– Josh Taylor
- Market Swine–

## 2018 Rodeo Austin

- Market Steers– Blake Nelson
- Market Lambs– Jake Thorne
- Market Goats– Cody Sloan
- Market Swine– Nick Mauck

## 2018 Houston Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Jack Ward
- Market Lambs– Dr. Scott Greiner
- Market Goats– Brandon Callis
- Market Swine– Grant Grebner & Andy Rash

## 2018 BCYLS

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*We're on the Web!*

<http://brazos.agrilife.org/>

**Upcoming Events:**

BCYLS & Major Turkey orders-  
Steer Validation June 17  
Heifer Validation June 17  
State Fair Validation June 23

**State Fair of Texas**

Market Goats- 9/29-10/1  
Market Lambs- 9/29-9/30  
Market Swine- 10/2-10/5  
Market Steer- 10/2-10/5  
Heifers- 10/8-10/15

**HOT Fair & Rodeo**

Steers- 10/5-10/8  
British & Exotic Heifers- 10/5-10/8  
American Heifers- 10/11-10/14  
Sheep & Goats- 10/10-10/12  
Swine- 10/9-10/10

**Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo**

October 20-22, 2017

**Ft Worth Livestock show**

Jan 12-Feb. 3 2018

**San Antonio Livestock Show**

Feb. 8-25, 2018

**San Angelo Livestock Show**

February 2-18, 2018

**Houston Livestock Show**

Market Goats- 3/7-3/9  
Market Sheep- 3/7-3/9  
Market Poultry- 3/7-3/8  
Market Barrow- 3/10-3/15  
Market Steer- 3/12-3/16  
Heifers- 3/8-3/11

**Rodeo Austin**

Market Goats- 3/12-3/13  
Market Sheep- 3/12-3/13  
Market Poultry- 3/14  
Market Barrow- 3/16-3/18  
Market Steer- 3/19-21  
Heifers- 3/22-3/24

**BCYLS**

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**Contacts**