

WALWORTH COUNTY SWINE TAGGING & DNA COLLECTION

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER-FAMILIES

2017

- To be eligible for the 2017 Walworth County Fair Swine Show, animals must have an official Walworth County or Wisconsin State Fair RFID tag and must have collected DNA on file. **All market hogs must be barrows.**
- In Walworth County, swine tagging and DNA collection will be completed on a family basis. During fair weigh-in, animals will be assigned to specific family members.
- Member-families may purchase Walworth County RFID tags and DNA collection envelopes for 2017 use only. Tags and envelopes may not be held over for use in 2018. Leftover 2016 tags and envelopes may not be used.
- Cost for 2017 is \$6 per animal. There is a limit of eight tags/envelopes per youth exhibitor. RFID tags and DNA envelopes will be available for purchase at the County Government Center on **February 8** and **April 6** from 6:30—8:00 p.m. **MAQA training will be held those nights beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The start times for MAQA training and tag sales are deliberately different. Be aware that MAQA participants cannot skip classes to make their purchases, so an accompanying adult or non-participating youth will need to do this for them or they will have to plan on buying tags and envelopes immediately following MAQA training. February 8 and April 6 are the **ONLY** dates/times that tags and envelopes will be sold.
- Each family must complete and turn in the *2017 Walworth County Swine Tagging/DNA Collection Registration Form* at the time of tag/envelope purchase. This form must be filled out completely. All 4-H & FFA members in the household must be listed on the form.
- Checks for tags/envelopes should be made payable to the *Walworth County Swine Project* or paid for with cash in the exact amount.
- Upon purchase, your family will receive tags and DNA collection envelopes for use at home. You will also receive a copy of the *Walworth County Market Hog Identification Form*, *State Fair & County Fair Animal ID/DNA Sample Documentation Form*, and directions for effectively pulling DNA samples. Plan to keep all of this information together in the zip-style bag provided.



COLLECTING & SUBMITTING YOUR DNA SAMPLES

- When you are ready to tag and collect DNA samples from your animals, take a moment to fill out as much of the following as possible:
 - 1) *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form*
 - 2) *State Fair & County Fair Animal ID/DNA Sample Documentation Form*
 - 3) Information requested on the outside of the DNA collection envelopes. (Be aware that both a member and parent signature is needed on each.)
- Follow the *Swine Hair Sample Collection Instructions* to collect DNA from each animal you tag. Insert the DNA samples into the appropriate envelopes and seal them. Fill out missing information on the envelopes and forms as you go.

- When your forms and envelopes are complete, place the sealed envelopes back in the zip-style bag. Remove the back page of each form to keep for your records and return the remaining pages to the zip-style bag. (You will keep the pink page from the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form* and the yellow copy from the *State Fair & County Fair Animal ID/DNA Sample Documentation Form*.)
- Return the zip-style bag and its contents to the Walworth County Fair Swine Barn on May 5 (3-6 p.m.) or May 6 (8 a.m. – noon). These are the only times that tag info and DNA envelopes can be submitted. All submissions are being processed and mailed on Monday, May 8 at 2 p.m. to achieve state fair’s postmark deadline for barrow identification.

Your zip-style bag should contain the following when you turn it in:

1. White and yellow copies of the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form*
2. White copy of the *State Fair & County Fair Animal ID/DNA Sample Documentation Form*
3. Sealed DNA envelopes for each animal tagged using a Walworth County tag*.

Absolutely no DNA samples will be accepted after May 6. Pigs for which no DNA was submitted will be ineligible for the 2017 Walworth County Fair.

IF ONE OF YOUR ANIMALS LOSES ITS TAG...

- Replacement tags will be available in the UW-Extension office free of charge until Friday, August 25. If replacement tags are needed, member-families must pick up the needed tag(s) in the UW-Extension office, submitting the old tag(s), if available. If the old tag(s) is/are not available, be prepared to tell which tag number(s) you are replacing when you come to get the replacements. If coming to pick up replacement tags, member-families must call the UW-Extension office at least one full business day in advance.
- Be aware that any pig that arrives at fair weigh-in without an official Walworth County ear tag in its ear will be required to participate in a DNA test at the owner’s expense (approximately \$100). The 2017 Champion & Reserve Champion Market Hog and several market hogs drawn randomly will be tested at no cost to members.

***IF YOUR ANIMAL IS GOING TO STATE FAIR...**

- State Fair barrow exhibitors may purchase their tags and DNA envelopes either through State Fair (WLIC) or Walworth County. If tags are obtained directly through State Fair, exhibitors will simply need to list any “state fair” pigs that they want eligible for the Walworth County Fair on the Walworth County paperwork available on February 8 and April 6 at county tag and DNA envelope sales. That paperwork must be turned in at the fairgrounds on either May 5 (3-6 p.m.) or May 6 (8 a.m.-noon).
- Walworth County tag info and DNA submissions will be sent to WLIC on Monday, May 8 and will meet the State Fair postmark deadline for animal identification should any state fair swine exhibitors wish to submit through the county.
- State Fair exhibitors do NOT need to put both a state tag AND county tag in a state fair pig’s ear. You do NOT need to collect two DNA samples for the same pig.

If you have questions, please ask.

