








Maryland 4-H Livestock Tagging Information

Maryland 4-H Tagging Policies and Guidelines

- Maryland 4-H Tags purchased by County Extension Offices from the State 4-H Office are the only accepted tags for 4-H project verification. Tags must be applied by 4-H Faculty/Staff or designated official.
- Animals should be tagged no later than two weeks of the ownership deadlines listed below as established for Maryland 4-H exhibition. Counties may establish tagging dates prior to the dates listed below.
- An animal may be tagged as either Commercial Breeding animal or Market animal, but not both. Commercial Breeding animals must have a copy of their tagging paperwork to present at 4-H show check-in.
- All market animals must be castrated and healed before tagging. (See Castration Guidebook sheet)
- All animals of the same specie within a county should be weighed on the same scale. Certified scales should be used.
- If an animal loses its ear tag, the member must contact their local Extension Office regarding replacement. The Office must retag with an official Maryland 4-H replacement tag and make note on the member's 4-H Livestock Registration Form at the time of retagging.

| Maryland 4-H Livestock Ownership Dates and Tag Designations | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Specie - Animal | Ownership Date | 4-H Tag Size/Color | Image |
| BEEF – Breeding Animals | July 1 | Commercial Only – Large/Green |  |
| BEEF – Steers | January 1 | Large/Orange |  |
| DAIRY – Breeding Animals | July 1 | Not tagged | |
| DAIRY – Market Steers | January 1 | Large/Orange |  |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--|---|
| DAIRY – Feeder Dairy Steers | June 1 | Large/Orange |  |
| GOATS – Commercial Meat and Pygmy | July 1 | Commercial Only – Small/ Purple (old) and Pink (new) |  |
| GOATS – Market Goats | June 1 | Small/Lt. Blue |  |
| POULTRY | June 1 | Not Tagged | |
| SHEEP – Breeding Animals | July 1 | Commercial Only – Small/ Purple (old) and Pink (new) |  |
| SHEEP – Market Lambs | June 1 | Small/Lt. Blue |  |
| SWINE – Breeding Animals | July 1 | Not Tagged | |
| SWINE – Market Hogs | June 1 | Center post/ Yellow |  |
| RABBITS/CAVIES | June 1 | Not Tagged | |