

**FROM:** Dan Jennings, State 4-H Livestock Educator

**DATE:** December, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Livestock Nomination forms and Premiere (carcass) Program

Nominations for non-premiere lambs and goats: Exhibitors will self-nominate their lambs and goats by filling out the attached nomination forms. Please print these off two sided so the example photo appears on the back side of the lamb & goat nomination form. They will include a close-up photo of the ear with the scrapie tag attached and readable (example on nomination form). Then nomination form is signed by Extension and exhibitor mails it to Dan Jennings at the Region 1 Extension Office. They will no longer be tattooed.

**Premiere wether & ewe lambs (carcass)** will be nominated, tattooed (Box A), and weighed locally in each county. This must be witnessed and processed by Extension employee or whoever they designate, such as volunteer or local sheep superintendent. This will take place anytime from March 15 to May 15, 2024. Please print the 2024 premiere lamb nomination form and copy. Do not mix up the two different lamb forms – they are clearly marked at the header. Forms must then be signed by local Extension and mailed to Dan Jennings. No photo of premiere lambs are required. Please make a copy for your files when signing to keep until after state fair is over.

1. We will be using the Box “A” tattoo again this year.

2. **Tattooing of Steers:**

All steers will be **tattooed with the box “A” tattoo for 2024**. Steers will also be tagged with 840 EID tags. In addition, the beginning date for steer processing will be Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, and run through February 29<sup>th</sup>. **All State Fair Junior Show Steers - Premiere and non Premiere steers must be weighed at the time they are tattooed in 2024 and tagged.** If steers already have an 840 EID tag in them then please record that number on the nomination sheet and don't put another one in.

I would like to emphasize the need to maintain control of the Box “A” tattoo. Many counties will be using a volunteer committee for processing the animals. Such cooperation is extremely important, but it does increase the possibility of misplacing or losing the tattoo. Maintaining control and use of the tattoo is critical to the success and integrity of the premiere Program. The processing and tattooing of animals across unit or county lines should not be encouraged. Please make sure that Extension personnel get the Tattoo back when processing is complete.

I have also included a brief overview of all three premiere programs. Please read through each program outline. I have also included copies of the nomination forms for Swine, Steers, and Lambs & Goats. If you have questions, contact me at **815-218-4358 or [djjennin@illinois.edu](mailto:djjennin@illinois.edu)** Thanks for your cooperation and participation in the Premiere Carcass and Livestock Identification Program.

# Illini Beef Premiere Program

## Illini Beef Premiere Requirements

1. All Steers – Premiere and non-Premiere, must be weighed and tattooed and tagged on or between **Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, to be eligible for the Illinois State Fair. There will be no exceptions! Plan weigh dates with this fact in mind. In addition, all beef animals must be castrated prior to tattooing.
2. In order to be eligible for the Illinois State Fair, steers must be tattooed with a Box “A” in addition to an individual tattoo number and tagged with an 840 EID tag. Tattooing must be supervised by an Extension Employee, an Agricultural FFA Advisor, or a designated volunteer. Place animal tattoo numbers to the right of the Box **A** in the same ear. Use a different Animal number for each steer in your county.
3. Junior Premiere steers are eligible for the Open Premiere class if they are properly entered at the time that Illinois State Fair Open entries are made.
4. Each exhibitor may nominate a total of ten (10) steers for the State Fair Open and Junior Premiere Classes.
5. To qualify, carcasses must grade at least low Select, have a yield grade lower than 4.0, and have a **carcass weight of 950 pounds or less.**
6. One nomination form should be used for the Illinois State Fair. A copy is attached. The exhibitor is supposed to retain one copy; a second should be kept at the county Extension Office, and a third copy should be sent to:  
Dan Jennings, State 4-H Livestock Educator  
University of Illinois Extension  
1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170  
Naperville, IL 60563  
**The exhibitor’s copy should accompany the animal(s) to the scale at the 2023 State Fair.**

# 2024 Nomination Form Illini Beef Premiere

Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County of 4-H Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

Date Tattooed \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Premise ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ PH: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitors Email \_\_\_\_\_

#	Tattoo#	Electronic ID# (15 Digit#)	Breed	Color	Weight Today
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Signature of person witnessing the tattooing \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> List the breed or breeds such as Char x Angus

<sup>2</sup>Give the color pattern such as red and white spotted.

\*One exhibitor per nomination form (not family, firm or farm)

\*\*Premise ID is for the location where the animals are housed, not necessarily in the Exhibitor's Name.

Exhibitor retains one copy to accompany animal to scale at final weighing; second copy is filed in the Extension office; third copy to Dan Jennings, State 4-H Livestock Specialist, **University of Illinois, 1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170, Naperville, IL 60563.**

# Illini Lamb Premiere Program

Illini lamb Premiere Requirements - **Starting this year ewe lambs (females) will be eligible for the Premiere show.**

- Lambs for the 2024 Illinois State Fair Junior and Open Premiere (carcass) Shows must be, nominated, weighed, and tattooed, between (including) March 15 and May 15, 2024 at the local county level. Exhibitors and a witness (either Extension employee or whomever local Extension designates i.e. volunteer or local sheep superintendent) will weigh and tattoo the lamb with the box "A" tattoo, and fill out the nomination form. The form must be signed by a local Extension employee. The form should be sent to Dan Jennings at the Region 1 Extension Office. A copy should be given to the exhibitor and a copy kept in the local Extension Office until after the state fair. Please use the new 2023 Premiere Lamb Nomination Form included!**
- Non-Premiere lambs and goats for state fair (those showing in the live show only)**  
All non-premiere lambs and goats for state fair junior show will be Self-Nominated in 2024 as follows:  
Exhibitors fill out and send in nomination form with photo of lamb's ear with scrapie tag installed in ear (close up photo of ear so scrapie tag can be read – see attached sample photo on back of Lamb & Goat Nomination Form).  
Nominations must be signed by local Extension Office.  
A copy is kept in the Extension office, a copy is given to the exhibitor, and a copy is mailed to Dan Jennings  
This must be completed between March 15 and May 15, 2024. Send to Dan Jennings, Region 1 Office, 1100 E., Warrenville Rd., Suite 170, Naperville, IL 60563. Please use the new Lamb & Goat Nomination Form with the Example Printed on the Back!
- For the Illinois State Fair Junior and Open Premiere classes, an exhibitor may nominate a total of ten (10) wethers or ewes.
- Lambs must have been castrated prior to tattooing for the wether classes at the Illinois State Fair.
- The tattooing and weighing of premiere wether's should be supervised or witnessed by an Extension Employee, An Agricultural FFA Advisor, or a designated volunteer. Please use a different animal tattoo number for each lamb per county.
- Nomination forms are attached in this document and can be copied for your use. Again send a copy of all nomination forms to: Also make sure you are using the correct lamb nomination form. There is one for lamb & goats live show, and a different one for 2024 Premiere Lamb Nominations!

Dan Jennings, State 4-H Livestock Educator  
University of Illinois Extension  
1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170  
Naperville, IL 60563

# 2024 State Fair Lamb & Goat Nomination Form (for live show only)

(Please Enter Lambs and Goats on separate nomination forms)

Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County of 4-H membership \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Member \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitors Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate gender – ewe or wether, below for each animal.

#	Lamb Scrapie Tag # Indicate Gender Ewe or Wether	Goat Scrapie Tag #	Breed  (If crossbred, list X – followed by sire breed)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

**NEW – Please attach a close-up photo of each lamb or goat ear so the scrapie tag can clearly be seen, and read in the photo. The scrapie tag must be permanently inserted in the ear in the photo. See back for photo example.**

Signature of local Extension employee \_\_\_\_\_

One exhibitor per nomination form, (not family, firm, or farm).

Exhibitor retains one copy to accompany animal to scale at final weighing: second copy is filed in the Extension office;  
**original copy sent to: Dan Jennings, University of Illinois, State 4-H Livestock Specialist, Region 1 office, 1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170, Naperville IL 60563**

Example photo below



# 2024 State Fair Premiere Lamb (carcass) Nomination Form

## Ewes and wethers are now eligible

Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County of 4-H membership \_\_\_\_\_

Date Tattooed & Weighed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Member \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitors Email \_\_\_\_\_

#	Lamb Tattoo # Use Box A tattoo followed by a number starting with 1	Breed (If crossbred, list X – followed by sire breed)	Weight Today
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

**No photo of ear with scrapie tag is needed for Premiere lambs**

Signature of person witnessing the tattooing \_\_\_\_\_

One exhibitor per nomination form, (not family, firm, or farm).

Exhibitor retains one copy to accompany animal to scale at final weighing; second copy is filed in the Extension office;  
**original copy sent to: Dan Jennings, University of Illinois, State 4-H Livestock Specialist, Region 1 office, 1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170, Naperville IL 60563**

# 2024 Illini Pork Premiere Program

## Illinois Pork Premiere Requirements

1. To be eligible, pigs will have to be farrowed **on or after February 10, 2024**. Both purebred and crossbred pigs are eligible.
2. Each exhibitor may nominate a maximum of twenty-five barrows at the time of tattooing. Pigs must be castrated before they are tattooed. Place animal tattoo number next to the Box **A** on the inside of the ear.
3. Barrows must be nominated, ear notched, and tattooed with the Box **A** tattoo (identical to that used for steers and lambs) **before they are 35 days old**. Pigs cannot weigh more than the equivalent of 1.0 pound per day of age when tattooed. **In addition, all pigs must be tattooed by April 15, 2024.**
4. The tattooing will be supervised by an Extension Employee, an Agricultural FFA Advisor, or a designated volunteer. Nomination forms should be copied in triplicate – one for the exhibitor, one for your county Extension Office, and one sent to:

Dan Jennings, State 4-H Livestock Educator  
University of Illinois Extension  
1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170  
Naperville, IL 60563.

**The exhibitor's copy should accompany the animals to the scale at the 2024 Illinois State Fair.**

5. If premiere barrows are properly nominated, ownership can be transferred to purchaser for exhibition as long as ownership deadlines are adhered to.



## 2024 NOMINATION FORM – ILLINI **PORK** PREMIERE

Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor's County of 4-H Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ Date Tattooed \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* Premise ID Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitors Email \_\_\_\_\_

	BIRTHDATE	TATTOO NUMBER	EAR NOTCH	BREED	WEIGHT TODAY
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.					
21.					
22.					
23.					
24.					
25.					

Signature of person witnessing the tattooing \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership transferred to \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

One exhibitor per nomination form.

\*Premise ID is for the location where animal(s) are housed, not necessarily in the Exhibitor's Name.

Exhibitor retains one copy to accompany animal to scale at final weighing; second copy is filed in your county Extension Office; third copy to **Dan Jennings, State 4-H Livestock Specialist, University of Illinois Extension, 1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite 170, Naperville IL 60563**

## TATTOOING PREMIERE ANIMALS

Reading ear tattoos at County and State Fair time still creates some problems. These problems result from the difficulty in reading the tattoos in mainly black eared animals and the spread of warts on the ear where the tattoo was placed. In order to reduce, but possibly not eliminate these problems, I recommend the following:

1. **CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT BEFORE YOU BEGIN the actual job. You'll need these items.**
  - A. A scale to weigh the animal: PIGS, hanging scale with looped sash cord; LAMBS, hanging or platform scale depending on size (platform preferred); STEERS, large platform scale. Also, check balance on scale and make sure scales are weighing accurately as the beginning weights are very important.
  - B. Some method to restrain the steers, preferably a headgate. Also, a rope halter for tying the steer's head in the chute.
  - C. Enough copies of the 2024 SPECIE NOMINATION FORMS for recording the information.  
\*\*ONE EXHIBITOR per premiere form (NOT family or farm) !!!
  - D. Alcohol, or bleach wipes, and paper towels or baby wipes to CLEAN the inside of the ears.
  - E. DISINFECTANT for equipment & small tray for tattoo's:  
-Chlorox & water (1 part Chlorox to 10 parts water or,  
-rubbing alcohol.
  - F. Supply of disposable latex or rubber gloves.
  - G. At least TWO sets of tattoo digits.  
\*\*The current 2024 approved BOX TATTOO is a Box **A**
  - H. Tattoo pliers with which removable digits may be used.
  - I. A tube(s) of fresh GREEN PASTE INK.  
\*\*GREEN PASTE INK can be obtained from your veterinarian, farm supply store or from NASCO, 901 Janesville Ave., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 (1-800-558-9595). Catalog No. C15494N, \$14.50 for a 5-ounce tube; Catalog No. C01885N \$7.50 for a 1-ounce tube of ink paste. The tube might reduce the chance of disease transmission. (Liquid or roll-on tattoo ink should not be used).
  - J. Piece of cardboard.
  - K. (I would recommend purchasing a large plastic toolbox to place the above equipment in so it would be available each year).
2. **DISINFECT THE TATTOO EQUIPMENT** with the chlorox/water mixture or chlorhexidine or alcohol. The use of dirty tattoo equipment can transmit wart viruses and other diseases from one herd to another. For disease prevention, disinfect ALL EQUIPMENT between steers or animals from different farms.
3. **CHECK EACH TATTOO** by testing it on a piece of cardboard before you apply it to an animal's ear. It is easy to put the tattoo digits backwards in the pliers or to make a simple mistake when arranging the digits.

The BOX A tattoo should be placed BEFORE the numbers. Begin all STEER AND LAMB tattooing with "01" and continue numerically in each county. If the number of steers or lambs exceeds 99, then place the double box digit AFTER the numbers. PIGS can be started over the "01" code for EACH FARM.

4. **WEIGH THE ANIMAL TO THE NEAREST LB. WEIGHT ON THE SCALE.** Definitely ONE pound on pigs and lambs and ONE or FIVE on steers. ***Be sure to check balance and accuracy of scale before weighing.*** It is imperative to make the weights as accurate as possible!!! Check the maximum WDA on pigs at weighing!!!

5. **COMPLETE ALL THE BLANKS ON THE SPECIE PREMIERE FORMS.** Be sure to complete all information on the form: **steers**-tattoo, breed, color, and weight and any existing tattoos in ear; **barrows**-breed, ear notch, and weight, DOB; and **lambs**—tattoo, gender, weight, and breed.  
**\*\*Remember\*\* all species must be castrated prior to tattooing!!**
6. **USE THE BEST SANITATION POSSIBLE WHEN WORKING WITH THE ANIMALS.** This is to prevent the spread of warts or diseases. Latex or rubber gloves should be worn.  
  
Take a paper towel, dampen with ALCOHOL and CLEAN the inside of the ear entirely of grease, dirt and wax. If the wax is not removed, it will prevent the tattoo paste from penetrating the skin and making a permanent mark. Wipe the ear dry before tattooing the ear.
7. **TATTOO THE EAR IN THE MIDDLE LOBE FOR STEERS** and in the inner area where the hair won't obscure the tattoo marks. Place the tattoo pliers parallel with the ear ribs and press quickly and **firmly**, release quickly to avoid tearing the ear. Use FORCE and PRESSURE but the needles shouldn't penetrate the entire ear as this will increase bleeding.
8. **RUB THE PASTE IN** with your thumb or finger. This should be continued until all bleeding has stopped and you are positive that the paste has filled the needle holes.
9. **CHANGE THAT TATTOO NUMBER** for the next animal and check the new number with cardboard.
10. **BE SURE TO DISINFECT** digits, tattooer, scale, etc. to prevent disease transmission.
11. **TELL EXHIBITOR TO BE SURE TO CHECK ALL TATTOO NUMBERS** prior to bringing the animal to your County or State Fair, Illegible tattooing along with missing or wrong EID tag will result in the animal not being eligible for exhibition at the fair.



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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