

2025 Illini Pork Premiere Program

Illinois Pork Premiere Requirements

1. To be eligible, pigs will have to be farrowed **on or after February 10, 2025**. 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, 2025.**

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:

Shelby Carlson
University of Illinois Extension
180 S. Soangetaha Rd. Suite 108
Galesburg, IL 61401

The exhibitor's copy should accompany the animals to the scale at the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

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

2025 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 **Shelby Carlson, University of Illinois, 180 S. Soangetaha Rd, Suite 108, Galesburg, IL 61401.**

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 or bathroom scales: 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 head-gate. Also, a rope halter for tying the steer's head in the chute.
 - C. Enough copies of the 2025 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.

 - 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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