

Kansas 4-H Swine, Sheep, and Meat Goat tagging guidelines and tips for EID tags

We have experienced a very good retention rate on the 4-H EID tags. We realize that sometimes “stuff happens”, but we can often trace a tag replacement issue to the application procedure. While it is impossible to have 100% tag retention, it can be increased by following these instructions and tips.

Applicators – for the EID tags, you **MUST** use the **Allflex Universal Total Tagger** with the red blunt pin. The black plastic insert that was removed for application of the beef EID tags should be put back in the tagger for application of the small yellow EID tag used for the small livestock. The **Allflex Ultra Retract-O-Matic** will **NOT WORK** for application of the small livestock EID tags.

Application of the tags – As you can see in the instructions, the tags are to be put in the ear with the EID button facing to the front (inside the ear). It is preferred that they be placed in the left ear (as you look at the animal from the rear). They should be placed close to the head (1/3 to ½ of the ear length out from the base, in the middle of the ear vertically. **DO NOT** put the tags in an existing hole in the ear. Doing so will greatly increase the chance of loss.

Use disinfectant to dip the tags and applicator in. It is recommended that you use a product such as Nolvasan. It can be purchased from the local vet or vet supply. It is an effective, non irritating product. Using this will help the tag site heal and it will provide lubrication for easier tag application. River Valley district reports good success with a spray product, Tek-Trol, disinfectant aerosol. Using a product that irritates the ear will cause the animal to do more rubbing of the ear and increase the chance of losing the tag.

Keep the matched EID tags and 4-H tags together – The tags are packaged with the EID and 4-H numbers matched and in a data base available from Allflex USA. If for some reason the tags should get separated, you can use the sheet of labels to match them back up.

Using the labels – Each bag of tags has 2 sets of labels that have the EID tag, a barcode of that 15 digit number, and the 4-H number on it. You can use one set of labels for county tagging if you wish. You should keep one set of labels in a file to be used later for any state nominations. The tag label must be placed on the nomination form for that animal. This will allow the use of a bar code scanner to place the 15 digit number into the state nomination data. A template of a county weigh-in card can be downloaded from the youth animal science web site.

If the animal already has a non EID 4-H tag – the existing tag will need to be removed and replaced with the 4-H EID tag. Do not put it in the existing hole.

Questions – Can be directed to David Kehler, Butler County Extension at 316-321-9660 or dkehler@ksu.edu