



**2026 Junior Livestock DNA and Nomination  
Procedures**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY! IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Market Beef, Dairy Replacement Heifers & Breeding Heifers

Ownership: June 15, 2026

DNA Deadline: June 15, 2026 - **Market Beef, Dairy Replacement Heifers only**

Entry Deadline: August 1, 2026

Market Swine, Market Goats & Market Lambs

Ownership: June 15, 2026

DNA Deadline: June 15, 2026

Entry Deadline: August 1, 2026

Jr. Wether Doe & Jr. Commercial Ewe

Ownership: June 15, 2026

DNA Deadline: **None – Must have 840 Tag**

Entry Deadline: August 1, 2026

ALL MARKET animals including Dairy Replacement Heifers will be required to submit a DNA sample, excluding Breeding Heifers, Jr. Wether Doe & Jr. Commercial Ewe. NMSF recommends that the County Agent or Teacher pull the sample. If someone other than these officials will be pulling the sample, please be sure to identify that person on the collection envelope. Be sure to tag the animal's ear before taking the sample. Instructions for taking the DNA samples are as follows:

1. Fill out the information on the collection envelope.
2. Using clean pliers pull out 30-40 dry hairs. The follicles must be intact.
3. Place the hair sample in the collection envelope and seal it.
4. ***The packets MUST be signed by the exhibitor, parent and extension agent. They will NOT be accepted if there is a signature missing.***

**The collection envelope is placed in a postal envelope and mailed**

**ONLY to:**

**New Mexico State Fair**

**Attn: Livestock Office**

**PO Box 8546**

**Albuquerque, NM 87198**

Please request DNA envelopes from the NM State 4-H Youth Development Program's office at NMSU via email with your tagging dates if you have not already done so. All DNA collection envelopes must be mailed. NMSF will not accept hand delivered samples. More than 1 collection envelope may be placed in postal envelopes, but only 1 species per mailing. **NMSF recommends that DNA samples be mailed "return receipt requested"**. Upon arrival, the envelopes will be date stamped. Any DNA sample postmarked after the due date will be considered invalid and will be returned to the exhibitor. NMSF will not check for accuracy of the sample or the completion of the form. This is the responsibility of the exhibitor, the parents and the agent or advisor. If at the fair, an animal that is tested and the DNA sample provided is insufficient or incorrect, the entry is considered invalid. This will result in a disqualification and forfeiture of all awards.

All Junior Livestock Animals are required to be entered to show at the NMSF. An animal may be entered in one exhibitor's name only; however, due to family nominations, the exhibitor's name can be changed to a qualified family member at classification time. All DNA envelopes must have the tag numbers listed.

ALL entries and payment will be required to be submitted online by August 1, 2026 by midnight and can be paid either by electronic check or debit and credit cards. NO EXCEPTIONS! If an exhibitor does not have a computer with internet access at home, please visit the school, library or contact the Extension Office or Ag Teacher.

Ear tag process as follows:

JR. BREEDING HEIFERS – **(NO DNA REQUIRED)**

- Junior Breeding Heifer Online Entry
- Cattle size tag goes in the left ear for commercial heifer
- If heifer is registered, no ear tag is needed as the tattoo will be used in place of tag

JR. REPLACEMENT DAIRY HEIFERS

- Junior Market Animal Online Entry
- Cattle size tag goes in the right ear

JR. MARKET BEEF

- Junior Market Animal Online Entry
- Cattle size tag goes in the right ear

JR. MARKET SWINE

- Junior Market Animal Online Entry
- Swine tag goes in the left ear

JR. MARKET LAMBS

- Junior Market Animal Online Entry
- Button size tag goes in the right ear

JR. COMMERCIAL EWE **(NO DNA REQUIRED)**

- Junior Commercial Ewe Animal Online Entry
- **Must have an 840 tag**

#### JR. MARKET GOATS

- Junior Market Animal Online Entry
- Button size tag goes in the right ear

#### JR. WETHER DOE (NO DNA REQUIRED)

- Junior Wether Doe Animal Online Entry
- Must have an 840 tag

### ATTENTION

#### 4-H AGENTS AND FFA ADVISORS

NMSF recommends that you give each exhibitor a copy of these instructions. All entries submitted are done online. NO EXCEPTIONS! **The DNA Process Spreadsheet will be due to the NMSF June 15, 2026 for Beef, Lambs, Goats, Swine and Dairy Heifers. (Please send a copy to the State 4-H Office as well.)** Please be diligent in getting the spreadsheet to the NMSF by deadline, it is needed to process DNA in a timely manner. Also, remember to sign off on these sheets before sending. Please make sure that every exhibitor and their animal(s) are on the DNA Process Spreadsheet and remember that exhibitors can switch animals within a family once the DNA Process is completed. The exhibitor must be declared at classification. Agents or Teachers will sign off on the spreadsheet to verify the information is correct once the animal is tagged and cannot be changed. Please notify the NMSF when blended families have different last names.

Please keep in mind, with the NM State 4-H Youth Development Department at NMSU issuing tags, all records of the replaced tags must be sent to the NMSF as well as NM State 4-H Youth Development Department at NMSU immediately if replaced after the August 1, 2026 entry date. If the NMSF is not notified prior to check in day and unless the animal lost it on the way to the NMSF in September, the exhibitor may not be allowed to show that animal.

#### **YQCA Requirement for 2026 New Mexico State Fair:**

The NMSF livestock office will be supplying coupon codes for the exhibitors to take their YQCA required test this year. Each extension agent will email the number of exhibitors that they will have exhibiting at the NMSF and we will then send you a list of codes you can forward out to your NMSF exhibitors. We ask that you keep track of which coupon code number/s exhibitor/s get. Please only ask for the number you need and if you run out and need more we can then forward you more numbers! **If you have coupon numbers left over from last year they WILL NOT work anymore.** <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Questions about this process you can reach out to me at [nmsf.livestock@expo.nm.gov](mailto:nmsf.livestock@expo.nm.gov).