

WALWORTH COUNTY SWINE TAGGING & DNA COLLECTION GUIDELINES FOR MEMBER-FAMILIES--2023

To be eligible for the 2023 *Walworth County Fair Swine Show*, animals must have an official Walworth County or Wisconsin State Fair RFID tag and must have collected DNA on file. **All market hogs must be barrows.** (*Animals which already have a farm-based RFID tag in their ear may keep that tag, but must still submit DNA and have the full bar code—starting with 840—recorded.*)



In Walworth County, swine tagging and DNA collection will be completed on a family basis. During fair weigh-in, animals will be assigned to specific family members. Member-families may purchase Walworth County RFID tags and DNA collection envelopes for 2023 use only. Tags and envelopes may not be held over for use in 2024. Leftover 2022 tags and envelopes may not be used. Cost for 2023 is **\$5 per animal**. There is a limit of eight tags/envelopes per youth exhibitor.

ORDER YOUR TAGS & DNA ENVELOPES

1) Complete the ***Walworth County Swine Tagging & DNA Registration Form***. If you are tagging barrows for STATE FAIR, clearly mark this at the top of your form in BIG BOLD LETTERS. A fillable PDF version of the form is available at <https://go.wisc.edu/rnofrm>.

2) Mail or email it to Junior Swine Superintendent Jessica Clapper so she **receives it on or before Thursday, March 2 at 11:59 p.m.** Email is preferred: walworthjuniorswine@gmail.com. If you need to mail the paperwork, use this address: Jess Clapper, W4637 Willow Bend Road, Elkhorn, WI 53121.

PICK-UP YOUR ORDER

Pick-up tags and DNA envelopes at the **Walworth County Fairgrounds Fair Office Conference Room on Thursday, March 16, from 5-7 p.m.**

Be prepared to pay for your DNA envelopes at the time of pick-up with **exact cash** or a **check made payable to Walworth County Meat Animal Sale**.

During pick-up, you will receive a copy of the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form*, bar code stickers to match the bar codes on the tags you purchased, and directions for effectively pulling DNA samples.

TAG YOUR ANIMALS & COLLECT YOUR DNA SAMPLES

- When you are ready to tag and collect DNA samples from your animals, take a moment to fill out as much of the following as possible:
 - 1) *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form*
 - 2) Information requested on the outside of the DNA collection envelopes. (Be aware that both a member and parent signature is needed on each.)

Place a bar code sticker on each envelope. The sticker you apply to the envelope should match the tag number of the animal whose DNA is inside. Please check this carefully.

Put a copy of the bar code sticker on the WHITE sheet of the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form* right next to where the corresponding tag is listed on that form. Please DO NOT put stickers on the PINK and YELLOW copies.

- Follow the *Swine Hair Sample Collection Instructions* to collect DNA from each animal you tag. Insert the DNA samples into the appropriate envelopes and seal them. Fill out missing info on the envelopes/forms as you go.
- When everything is complete, place the sealed envelopes back in the zip-style bag. Remove the back PINK page of the form to keep for your records and return the remaining pages to the zip-style bag. (You will keep the pink page from the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form*.)

SUBMIT YOUR TAG INFO & DNA SAMPLES

- **Pack your zip-style bag to include the following for turn-in:**
 1. White and yellow copies of the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form* (with corresponding bar code stickers on the **WHITE SHEET ONLY**).
 2. Sealed and fully signed DNA envelopes for each animal tagged using a Walworth County tag (with attached bar code stickers, as appropriate).
- Return the zip-style bag and its contents to Jessica Clapper at **the Walworth County Fairgrounds Fair Office Conference Room on Monday, May 8, from 5-7 p.m.** **Absolutely no DNA samples will be accepted after May 8.** Barrows for which no DNA was submitted will be ineligible for the *2023 Walworth County Fair*.

IF ONE OF YOUR ANIMALS LOSES ITS TAG...

- Replacement tags will be available free of charge **until Thursday, August 24th** in the Walworth County Extension Office. Families must pick up replacement tags, as they won't be mailed. Be prepared to share the number of the tag being replaced at the time of pick-up.
- Any pig that presents at the fair weigh-in scale without its officially recorded RFID tag in its ear will be required to participate in a DNA test at the owner's expense (approximately \$100).
- The 2023 Champion & Reserve Champion Market Hog and several market hogs drawn randomly will be tested at no cost to members.

IF YOUR ANIMAL IS GOING TO STATE FAIR...

- State Fair barrow exhibitors may purchase their tags and DNA envelopes through State Fair or Walworth County. If tags are obtained directly through State Fair, exhibitors will simply need to list any "state fair" pigs that they want eligible for the Walworth County Fair on the *Walworth County Market Barrow Identification Form*. That paperwork must be turned in at the fairgrounds on **May 8** as described above.
- State Fair exhibitors do NOT need to put both a state tag AND county tag in a state fair pig's ear. You do NOT need to collect two DNA samples for the same pig.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2	Order tags and DNA envelopes by 11:59 p.m.
March 16	Pick-up and pay for your order at the Fair Office Conference Room from 5-7 p.m.
May 8	Turn in your DNA samples and paperwork at the Fair Office Conference Room from 5-7 p.m.

