MEMORANDUM

TO: County Extension Agents-Agriculture and 4-H Agricultural Science Teachers

SUBJECT: Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program

As you are aware, the Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program is required to be conducted from a central location. Dr. Darrell A. Dromgoole, Associate Director - County Programs, is serving as the State-Wide Coordinator and Ms. Marilyn Frenzel, Assistant to the Associate Director, is serving as Co-Coordinator.

Electronic Identification (EID), once again, will be included in the 2013-2014 Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program through a single tag process. It is most important for all County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers to thoroughly review the enclosed guidelines and accompanying attachments.

DNA Assays will still be conducted. Individual hair samples will be collected for each animal and then put directly in the hair sample envelopes. Although the procedure for collecting individual hair samples is straight forward, please follow the specific instructions that are enclosed in order to comply with this year's validation program. Be sure to obtain at least 30 hair follicles from the tail switch that include the root bulb. This will require more than one pull. A cattle hair sample collection instruction video CD is available upon request from my office. At the time of validation, a steer validation form, nose print, tattoo, “Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy” form, and hair sample envelope for the DNA Assay identification program will be completed. The signature of the exhibitor(s), exhibitor’s parent or exhibitor’s legal guardian, County Steer Validation Chairman, and supervising Agricultural Science Teacher or County Extension Agent will be required on the validation forms, Ethics Policy forms, and the hair sample envelopes.

Note: Again this year we will be allowing counties to keep any unused tags for use in replacing lost or damaged tags. Please refer to the Guidelines Page 4 for replacement tag procedure.

Please also note that any additional tags ordered after April 23rd will cost $20.00 per tag. Late tags will be available up to Monday, June 24th, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. After this date, no tags will be distributed for new validations for any reason.
A copy of the following materials are enclosed for your information and use:

➢ 2013-2014 Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program Guidelines
➢ “2013-2014 Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy” Form
➢ Procedure for the DNA Assay Hair Collection (Attachment A\textsuperscript{1} and A\textsuperscript{2})
   Hair Envelope Example (Attachment A\textsuperscript{3})
   Procedure for Changing Ownership of a Texas Validated Steer
   (Attachment B\textsuperscript{1})
➢ Change of Ownership Form (Attachment B\textsuperscript{2})
➢ County Tattoo Numbers (Attachment C\textsuperscript{1})
➢ Procedure for a Better Tattoo (Attachment C\textsuperscript{2})
➢ Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program Parental Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement (Attachment D)
   Example of a Properly Completed Steer Validation Form (Attachment E)
➢ Steps for Completing the 2013-2014 Steer Validation Excel Report (Attachment F\textsuperscript{1})
   Sample of Steer Validation Excel Report (Attachment F\textsuperscript{2})
➢ Checklist to be Completed before Returning Validation Material (Attachment G)
➢ Common Mistakes to Avoid When Validating Steers (Attachment H)
➢ Ear Tag Replacement Form (Attachment I)

The County Steer Validation Chairman will be responsible for returning all unused forms and hair sample envelopes on or before July 1, 2013, to Ms. Marilyn Frenzel, Co-Coordinator for the Texas Steer Validation Program.

If you have any questions relating to this matter please feel free to call my office number at (979)845-7896.

Sincerely,

![Signature]

Darrell A. Dromgoole
Associate Director-County Programs

DAD:art
Enclosures
cc: Mr. Kyle Smith
District Extension Administrators
Regional Program Directors – Agriculture and Natural Resources
County Extension Directors
Dr. Chris Boleman
Dr. Pete Gibbs
Mr. Barney McClure
Extension 4-H Faculty