MEMORANDUM

TO: County Extension Agents-Agriculture, Natural Resource and 4-H
   Agriculture Science Teachers

SUBJECT: Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program

It is time to plan for the 2014-2015 Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program. The coordination of the steer validation program will be handled by Dr. Darrell Dromgoole, Associate Director-County Programs, and Ms. Marilyn Frenzel, Assistant to the Associate Director-County Programs. A copy of the official order form is attached for your information and use. Order forms have been sent to county agents only. These order forms should be given to your county steer validation chairman. Only one order per county for all FFA chapters and 4-H clubs will be accepted. The deadline for ordering tags is Tuesday, April 22, 2014. Orders must be made using the attached form, phone orders will not be accepted. The cost for 2014-2015 Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation tags is $10.00 per tag. Checks must accompany the tag order form and should be made payable to Ear Tag Account 218400. Since refunds cannot be given, please order the number of tags as accurately as possible. Any additional tags ordered after this date will be $20.00 per tag.

In addition to returning your tag order, you will need to complete a steer validation committee form for your county by April 22, 2014. Each member of the committee needs to be listed on the form and follow the instructions set forth in the 2014-2015 Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program guidelines. As a reminder, the guidelines for establishing a county steer validation committee are as follows.

A 4-H and FFA County Steer Validation Committee shall be organized in each county where steers are being fed by members of either organization for exhibit at the major livestock shows that require steers to be validated. The committee shall be composed of County Extension Agents-Agriculture and/or 4-H and Agricultural Science Teachers in the county.

If there is not a County Steer Validation Committee, the County Extension Agent is responsible for calling the first meeting to organize one. All County Extension Agents-Agriculture and/or 4-H and all Agricultural Science Teachers in the county shall be invited to this meeting. A chairman shall be selected from this group, and the number and composition of the committee will be determined at this meeting. (It is our recommendation that the chairman be either a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher.) It may be as large as the local agents and teachers deem practical; however, there may not be fewer than three members on this
committee. There may be many counties wherein this committee will be all County Extension Agents and all Agricultural Science Teachers.

In counties where there are fewer than three people eligible to serve on this committee, a third member shall be selected locally. He/she must have an interest in the program and be mutually acceptable to the County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers.

**The guidelines will also be sent to the county extension agent with the validation tags.** The county extension agent is responsible for getting the steer tags to the validation chairman.

All major livestock shows require all 4-H and FFA steers to be validated in the Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program and identified appropriately with an official Texas steer tag, nose print, hair sample, and tattoo. All steers must be validated **between June 1 and June 30, 2014**, for 2014 fall shows and 2015 spring shows. It should be noted that validation is a proof of ownership as required by major livestock shows in Texas. It does **NOT** automatically enter exhibitors in a major livestock show or county show.

If you have any questions relating to this matter please feel free to call my office at (979) 845-7895.

Sincerely,

Darrell A. Dromgoole  
Associate Director-County Programs

DAD:art  
cc: Dr. Pete Gibbs  
Dr. Susan Ballabina  
Dr. Chris Boleman  
Mr. Barney McClure  
Dr. Frank Craddock  
Dr. Ron Gill