Dear Junior Swine Project Members:

As in 2014, 4-H and FFA Project Swine must have official Walworth County identification tags and DNA samples on file in order to be eligible for exhibition at the 2015 Walworth County Fair. No spring weigh-in will be held as per the instructions of the State Veterinarian.

Walworth County 4-H and FFA Swine Project families must purchase tags and DNA bags for any and all animals they wish to make eligible for this year’s fair. Cost will be $5 per animal payable to the Walworth County Swine Project. Tags and bags may be purchased in the name of the family. During fair-weigh-in, individual pigs will be linked to specific family members. Families are responsible for tagging and collecting DNA samples for their own animals. An explanation of how to pull the DNA samples will be provided with the bags.

Tags and bags will be available for purchase at the County Government Center during the following times ONLY:

- March 18, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- April 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in conjunction with MAQA training (MAQA participants cannot skip classes to make this purchase, so an accompanying adult or non-participating youth will need to do this for them)

All DNA samples must be turned in to the UW-Extension office during regular business hours between May 18 and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8. Samples can also be turned in...

- Saturday, May 16 from 7-10 a.m. in front of the Sheep Building at the Fairgrounds (in conjunction with Sheep Tagging Day ’15)
- Tuesday evening, May 26 from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in the County Government Center (prior to Junior/Senior Leaders’ Association meetings)
- Saturday, June 6 from 8-10 a.m. at the Swine Barn at the fairgrounds

Absolutely no DNA samples will be accepted after June 8. Pigs for which no DNA was submitted will be made ineligible for the 2015 Walworth County Fair.

Replacement tags will be available in the UW-Extension office free of charge until Friday, August 28. If replacement tags are needed, member-families must pick up the needed tag(s) in the UW-Extension office, submitting the old tag(s), if available. If the old tag(s) is/are not available, be prepared to tell which tag number(s) you are replacing when you come to get the replacements. If coming to pick up replacement tags, member-families must call the UW-Extension office at least 24 hours in advance.

Be aware that any pig that arrives at fair-weigh-in without an official Walworth County ear tag in its ear will be required to participate in a DNA test at the owner’s expense (approximately $100). The 2015 Champion & Reserve Champion Barrows, the 2015 Champion & Reserve Champion Carcass Barrows, and six barrows drawn randomly will be tested at no cost to members.
Project Meeting
A *Swine Project Meeting* will be held on March 18 at 7 p.m. in the County Government Center. The program will consist of a representative of Stateline Veterinary Clinic, a feed representative, and a swine breeder.

State Fair
State Fair barrows will not require Walworth County tags or additional DNA sampling. However, they must still be accounted for in the Walworth County paperwork your family submits. If you are not tagging any pigs beyond those your family is tagging for State Fair, you will just need to complete your Walworth County paperwork on either March 18 or April 14 at the time specified above. Note that the 2015 State Fair DNA/RFID identification postmark deadline for swine is Monday, May 11. Visit [http://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/](http://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/) for details.

MAQA Training
Please refer to the *February/March Newsclip* for details about certification requirements and training dates. If you are not sure if you need to train or test this year, call the UW-Extension office at 262-741-4951 and ask.

WSPA Symposium
Get ready for the upcoming show season by attending the 2015 WSPA Show Pig Symposium on February 21 at Chula Vista Resort & Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells. Watch for more details on the Wisconsin Show Pig Association’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Show-Pig-Association/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wisconsin-Show-Pig-Association/).

Sincerely,

Debbie Burkman
4-H Youth Development Educator

Peg Reedy
Agriculture Educator