Pig Tagging & Weighing

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV), now in Michigan, has changed how pig tagging and weighing will be handled for this year’s Ionia Free Fair. Tagging will take place Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, the 20th on consignor premises by 1) swine leaders, 2) unless they were previously tagged with pre-numbered tags from Simmons’ and Riker’s sales, 3) or by the consignor family if they have tagging experience and possession of pig taggers. Pre-numbered tags will be available from Superintendent Carl Simmons as will three sets of taggers that must be returned immediately upon use and must be disinfected. Carl will also have the conduct sheets from the Ionia County Youth Meat Animal Sale which must be read and signed by consignors and parents and returned to the leader who will return to Simmons. They will include the consignor and parent’s names, addresses & phone numbers along with your 4-H club, the pigs tag number(s), sex and weight for identification, record keeping and rate of gain contest. Weighing must be on the 19th for pigs entering the carcass class. Weighing will take place through on site consignor scales or by the less accurate taping method. Weights for record books may use the same methods or use the sale weight if it was given when you purchased your pigs. Frontal head shots of each pig, showing ear notches and tag number, will be required by the State of Michigan for identification. A digital jpeg or tif image may be emailed to 4-H Coordinator, Rebecca McCafferty at mccaff29@anr.msu.edu or, a 4 x 6” photo print may be dropped to the MSU Extension office on Hwy. 66 South for her records. Please identify the consignor and parents name, address and phone number along with the tag number(s) of your animal, their sex and your 4-H club on a separate sheet, not written on the back of the photo. For any additional questions, please contact your leader or Carl Simmons at (616) 527-1809 or by e-mail at porkerpark@yahoo.com. Thank you for all your help in making this situation bearable and the best it can be given the circumstances. Carl Simmons