

SHEEP

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the sheep project is to have members learn about the care and responsibility of raising sheep. The project also encourages members to work on flock management skills and learn the proper way to handle sheep in and out of the show ring.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT COMPLETION

Must be a member in good standing of a Somerset County 4-H sheep or livestock club.

1. Must have been registered in the Somerset County 4-H Program as of January 1.
2. Must attend 70 percent of regular club meetings.
2. Give a club or county presentation.
3. Complete a record book.
4. Must have participated in a community service project in the past year.
5. Have dues paid up to date (if any).
6. Participation in Wreath Sales is mandatory.
(Monthly attendance requirement is waived for 4-H members who are attending college away from home.)

GENERAL RULES FOR SHEEP EXHIBITION

-MAY 1st DEADLINES-

1. All animals must be owned or leased and cared for by the exhibitor as of May 1st. If leased, a completed NJ 4-H "Lend-A-Lamb" program contract must be in the 4-H Office by May 1st. Leasing members must also submit the lease indemnification form as well as any additional lease agreement made between the member and animal owner by May 1st to the 4-H office. Youth who own their own animals must also submit the ownership forms by May 1.
2. All members must sign the 4-H Behavior Agreement on the event permission form submitted before the Fair.

ENTRY INFORMATION

1. Members may enter/show up to four sheep. Experienced members who have shown at least 2 years may exhibit up to 6 animals if there is adequate room in the tent; that decisions will be made at the July Sheep Division meeting.
2. Cloverbud participants are allowed one entry to show in a special non- competitive class. These animals will not be judged, but may receive comments from the judge and youth will receive participation ribbons.
3. All purebred sheep, except spring lambs, must be registered in the appropriate breed registry to be entered and compete in purebred classes. A copy of the registration form **MUST** be submitted with your entry if you wish to show in purebred classes. If not available, sheep will be shown in appropriate grade class.
4. Natural colored sheep will be shown in the appropriate classes based on their registration status. If they are registered with any registry they can be shown in the purebred classes. To compete for best purebred within a specific breed, you must provide registration with that breed (ex.- Black Babydoll need Babydoll registry to compete for best Babydoll, Black Romney needs Romney registry to compete for best Romney; Natural Colored/Black animals need Natural Colored registry to compete for best Natural Colored)
5. If an animal is being shown cross-bred meat/wool, members should list what breeds they are.
6. Best Owner Bred rewards the best breeding program. Exhibitor must be responsible for the breeding that resulted in the eligible entry; that is, exhibitor or immediate family must have owned the ewe, and exhibitor must have chosen the ram.
7. No aged or grade rams are permitted at the show.
8. To exhibit in regular classes, exhibitor must participate in both showmanship and fitting classes.

9. All entry forms are due **May 1st** to the County 4-H Office. No telephone entries will be accepted.
10. Questions may be directed to the division chair: Dawn Granja: granja4@optonline.net. Completed 4-H Sheep Project Record Books are due to Division Chair, the Tuesday night of the Fair; any member who does not turn in a completed record book that night, will not be eligible to show their animals at the fair.

SET-UP/TAKE-DOWN

1. Exhibitors are required to assist during set-up and take-down. If a member cannot be present they must send someone in their place.
2. Completed 4-H Event Permission Form and Behavior Agreement (one sheet, front and back) due in duplicate at set-up. Hand in to chair. Behavior Agreements cover entire week of fair – set-up to take-down.
3. All sheep are to be removed from the fairgrounds Friday night. This will facilitate a speedy clean up of the sheep and show tents Saturday morning. Every 4-H member and an adult representative shall be required to assist in the clean up procedures. If there is a conflict, see the division chair prior to the fair to discuss alternate duties.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS // CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

1. UNLOADING OF SHEEP AT THE FAIRGROUNDS WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE VETERINARIAN HAS INSPECTED THEM AT THE 4-H CENTER. Veterinarian hours are Tuesday before Fair, 5:00 – 8:00 pm. All animals must be listed on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) or an Animal Health Certificate (AHC) completed by a qualified veterinarian at the farm where they reside.

Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) – CVIs are completed and signed by accredited veterinarians for any animal being transported **interstate**. (e.g. Pennsylvania to New Jersey) CVIs are valid for 30 days from the date of examination.

Animal Health Certificates (AHC) – *AHCs may only be used for animals native to New Jersey attending New Jersey fairs/shows. An AHC is NOT VALID for interstate shipment of animals.* An AHC can be issued by a veterinarian (prior to or at the fair/show) and signed by both the veterinarian and the animal owner. Based on his/her knowledge and judgment, the examining veterinarian must indicate on the form whether the AHC is valid for 30, 60, or 90 days from date of examination. Animals listed on a AHC must be identified by an ear tag, SCRAPIE ID tag, tattoo, or other permanent identification or description (coat color, markings, age, etc...)

2. Sheep must be identified individually by tag or tattoo # on CVI and **MUST** also have SCRAPIE TAGS present.
3. Hooves must be trimmed and clean for the vet inspection.
4. **Scrapie tags are required and must be present in all sheep attending the fair .**
5. Animals not in accordance with Fitting Rule 1 will not be allowed to unload. Any animal deemed diseased by the vet check will not be allowed to unload. Any animal with an open wound will not be allowed to unload.
6. If a sheep is injured before or at the fair or becomes ill, the division chair may quarantine it to its pen and call for a vet examination. The vet will decide if an animal should be sent home or allowed in the show ring – this includes limps of any kind. Animal substitutes may replace an entry in the event of severe injury or death. Post entry due-date appeals must be addressed to division chair and approved for animals, which are sick or have died, up to the day of set-up.
7. Additional health requirements may be necessary, according to the NJ Department of Agriculture Recommendations for Exhibiting Animals at Fairs and Exhibitions.
8. All healthy sheep must remain on the fairgrounds from 9am Wednesday to 10 pm Friday.

9. All breeding sheep and market lambs must be vaccinated for rabies.

FAIR RULES ANIMAL WELFARE IS THE ULTIMATE PRIORITY & RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXHIBITOR DURING THE FAIR.

1. Exhibitors must provide their own hay, feed, buckets, and equipment. Straw will be provided as bedding. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their own animals. It is the exhibitors responsibility to ensure that their animals have fresh water throughout the duration of the fair. Should an exhibitor not be present during any part of the day, it is their responsibility to have someone else resume the care of their animals when they are not present. Members exhibiting at the fair must sign up for one hour of tent duty each of the three days of the fair or may lose the opportunity to participate in the show the following year. A sign in sheet will be used and checked by the tent superintendents daily. Tent duty assigned during fair hours requires that the tent is kept clean & presentable and members will interact with the public (information table, fitting demo)
2. Members are responsible for their own animals and possessions. By bringing animals/possessions to the fair, they acknowledge the risk of disease/damage. If such a risk is unacceptable, animals/possessions should not be brought to the fair. It is advised that expensive or fragile items be left home.
3. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping the space in front of their pen(s) and storage space clean and neat. Exhibitors will clean up after fitting their animals.
4. Overnight Herdsmen staying in the tent are responsible for the care of the animals during the night from 10 pm.-7 am. .
5. Sheep will only be allowed to leave the sheep tent to go to the show tent for sheep events or the wash rack. Walking sheep around the fairgrounds is prohibited.

FITTING

1. All animals must arrive in show-ready condition. This is defined as being clean, free of vegetation, manure and tags, and being shorn within the past 2 weeks or obviously shaped in a current fitting style appropriate to the breed.
2. Any animal shown in a fitting class must have been fit by the exhibitor.
3. The use of electric shears will be only be allowed on demonstration animals only. Electric shears will only be used by an experienced senior member with an experienced leader/animal owner present. Each club will be limited to two shears on the fairgrounds. One will serve as the main pair and one will serve as a backup.

SHOW RULES

1. Exhibitors must be dressed in **plain**, clean, white collared shirts and clean blue jeans. NO farm or breed insignias, midriff showing, see-through shirts, or dark undergarments. Proper footwear must be worn – no clogs or sandals.
2. No animal collars will be allowed in the show ring, if a restraint is necessary, use a sheep halter.
3. Exhibitors are responsible for being in the show ring for their classes. Classes will start promptly. Exhibitors may enter their class after it has begun but should be prepared to suffer in placement due to negligent showmanship. Failure to enter a class will result in disqualification of the animal.
4. Members who were not able to bring their own animals or do not have their own animals may be allowed to borrow an animal from another member for showmanship classes at the discretion of the division chair.
5. No one will be permitted in the show ring except class exhibitors, judges, and persons appointed by the division chair.
6. The judge's decision is final.
7. **Anyone receiving a sponsored award at the fair is responsible for sending a thank you**

note. Failure to do so will result in possible loss of a sponsor, but for the member may lead to loss of future awards or showing privileges for the following year.

AWARDS

1. Expenses for the show may vary from year to year and will be shared by the clubs.
2. The Danish system of judging will be used. Ribbons awarded are: blue = excellent, red = very good, yellow = good, white = fair, green = participation.
3. 4-H provided purple and tri-color rosettes will be given at the judge's discretion.
4. Awards will be based on entries and donations:
5. Additional awards may be given if approved by the division chair. Awards may be withheld at judge's discretion for lack of competition or lack of quality.

CLASSES

Wool & Meat sheep will show in separate classes.

1. The division chair may add, delete, or combine classes based on the animals entered. Exhibitors will be notified by chair of any class changes before the show.
2. The following classes will be recognized:
 - a. Senior Fitting
 - b. Junior Fitting
 - c. Beginner Fitting

PUREBREDS

- d. Spring ewe lamb (born after December 31, 2022)
- e. Fall ewe lamb (born September 1 to December 31, 2022)
- f. Yearling Ewe (over 1 year and under 2 years of age)
- g. Aged Ewe (over 2 years of age)
- h. Spring ram lamb (born after December 31, 2022)
- i. Fall ram lamb (born September 1 to December 31, 2022)
- j. Yearling Ram (over 1 year and under 2 years of age)

GRADES

- k. Spring ewe lamb (born after December 31, 2022)
- l. Fall ewe lamb (born September 1 to December 31, 2022)
- m. Yearling Ewe (over 1 year and under 2 years of age)
- n. Aged Ewe (over 2 years of age)

SHOWMANSHIP

- o. Senior Showmanship (grades 9 – 13)
- p. Junior Showmanship (grades 4 - 8)
- q. Beginner Showmanship (first year members)

SPECIAL CLASSES

- r. Dam and Lamb- A ewe and her natural offspring. Both animals do not need to belong or be leased by the same 4-H member
- s. Best Pair- Any two animals from the same flock or lineage of the same age (ex- two spring lambs, two yearling ewes or two aged ewes) Animals need not be owned or leased by the same 4-H member, but must originate from the same flock.
- t. Alumni Showmanship open to all Somerset County Sheep Project Alumni