

4-H SHEEP DEPARTMENT

4-H Sheep Team

Superintendents - Rose Davies, Murray; Tim Naig, Cylinder; Randy DeHeer, Oskaloosa

SCHEDULE:

Sunday, August 16

- 7:00 a.m. Sheep may arrive
- 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Market Lamb check weights/check-in cards  
Purebred and Commercial Ewes check-in/weights
- Noon Sheep must be in  
Showmanship sign-up deadline
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Sheep Skillathon Contest
- 1:00 p.m. All substitute showmanship forms must be submitted to the Superintendent
- 3:00 p.m. Exhibitor Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Sheep Showmanship Contest (Senior, Junior, Intermediate)

Monday, August 17

- 8:30 a.m. Market Lamb Show; Carcass Placing Results

Tuesday, August 18

- 8:30 a.m. Breeding Sheep Show; Selection of Supreme Female
- After Show Sheep released
- 4:00 p.m. Sheep must be out

Saturday, August 22

- 2:00 p.m. Sale of Champions - Cattle Barn Penningroth Sale Ring

ENTRY DEADLINE - JULY 1 through FairEntry (4hOnline)

GENERAL SHEEP RULES

1. General Livestock Rules and Regulations, 4-H General Rules and Regulations and 4-H Livestock Rules and Regulations apply in this department.
2. The entry fee is \$10 per head and must be paid at time of entry. No refunds.
3. A 4-H'er may enter and show a maximum of **four market lambs** and a maximum of **12 breeding sheep** (purebred and commercial).
4. Exhibitors are expected to care for their lambs in an acceptable manner. No muzzles are allowed. No icing of lambs allowed. Only tap water may be sprayed or applied to lambs. No ice allowed in spray buckets or blankets. Any abusive care including slapping or excessive modification of lambs will be grounds for disqualification at the discretion of Show Officials. Drenching will not be allowed. Some of the products being used are not labeled for animal use. There are quality assurance issues involved with this practice. If there are health concerns involved regarding dehydration, the State Fair Veterinarian should be contacted.
5. All market lambs must have been weighed and tagged at an official verification site, as well as had retinal images collected from nominated animals. All purebred and commercial breeding ewes must have been tagged with an official 4-H tag as well as had retinal images collected at an official verification site by May 15. All lambs must have complete identification information entered in 4hOnline by May 15.
6. All lambs must have four feet on the floor in the show ring at all times. Lifting feet off the ground or placing on any support or altered ring surface is not acceptable. Exhibitors will receive one warning if they are found lifting or slapping lambs. Second offenses will result in automatic exhibitor disqualification from the 4-H Sheep Show.
7. All sheep must be penned in the assigned pens.
8. **Exhibitors must check in by entering Lot M at the corner of Dean Avenue and E. 34th Street and then proceed through the health check.** All market lambs, commercial ewes and wether dams **must have entire body slick shorn** upon arriving on the Fairgrounds. Suggested fleece length for purebred breeding sheep is 1/4 inch with a 3/4 inch maximum, with the exception being for wool breeds which have no maximum length. Veterinarians will be present in the check-in line and reserve the right to request additional shearing if they feel the lamb has been sheared inappropriately for inspection. Lambs found to have evidence of club lamb fungus or ringworm will be unable to be shown and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. **A non-washable marker may be used to identify lambs excused from exhibition.**
9. Market and commercial lambs must have entire body slick shorn prior to entering the check-in line. No electric or battery operated clippers can be used on any market lamb, commercial ewe, non-fitted purebred ewe, or wether dam on the Fairgrounds..
10. Fiber carpets will **not** be allowed in sheep pens. Rubber mats are acceptable.
11. **No cable halters allowed in any sheep shows at the Iowa State Fair.**
12. **DECLARED WEIGHTS** - A declared weight system will be used for official weights for market lambs, commercial ewes and wether dams. A weight card obtained from show officials must be filled out by exhibitors and turned in by the designated time. The weight turned in will become the official weight. If weight cards are not turned in by the deadline those animals will not be eligible to show in their respective shows. Once the weight card is submitted by the deadline, no changes can be made.  
  
Scales will be provided in the barn for exhibitors to test weights upon arrival before turning in their card. One of the scales used for declared weights will be designated for all show weigh-backs.  
  
The top three animals in each class will be weighed immediately following their class to determine if they are eligible to return for division champions. Market lambs, commercial ewes and wether dams not weighing within 7 pounds (+ or -) of its official weight will be disqualified and animals be moved up to respected places. All lambs are subject to be selected to be weighed.
13. No coloring agent or paint is allowed to be used on any sheep. Sheep in violation will not be allowed to show.
14. **PREMIUMS AND RIBBONS** - Each entry will receive a ribbon (purple, blue, red or white) in each class. Monetary premiums will be paid to the top three entries in each class. Premiums paid will be \$20, 10, 5. Champion Purebred Ewe - \$5, Reserve Champion Purebred Ewe - \$3; Champion Commercial Ewe - \$10, Reserve Champion Commercial Ewe - \$5.
15. Clipping stands are encouraged to remain level or close to level. Excessive elevation that causes animal discomfort will result in the stands being removed from the barn.
16. For both the Market and Breeding Divisions, should a first placed sheep be disqualified after winning its class, but before its respective division championship, the second and third place animals will move up to first and second in the class and compete for champion in the division. If a second

place animal is disqualified, the third place animal will move up. Should a division market lamb champion be disqualified after winning its division but before selection of Grand Champion Market Lamb, the reserve division champion will move up to champion and compete for Grand Championship. In this case, no attempt will be made to replace the division reserve champion. If a division reserve champion animal is disqualified, no shifting upward will occur and no attempt to replace the reserve champion will be made.

### MARKET LAMBS

1. General Livestock Rules and Regulations and 4-H General Rules and Regulations apply in this division. Also, see general rules for 4-H Sheep Department.
2. A member may enter and show a maximum of **four** individual market lambs.
3. Entries are open to purebred, grade or crossbred wether or ewe lambs that still have lambs teeth, weighing 100 pounds or more. Lambs lighter than 100 pounds are ineligible for exhibition. All lambs must be weighed and tagged with an official Iowa 4-H tag by May 15 at an official verification site. Market lambs must also have had retinal images collected. The ear tag number, weight and weigh date must be listed in 4hOnline by May 15. Wether lambs will be checked for late or incomplete castrations at weigh-in time. Late or incomplete castrations are not eligible to show.
4. Lambs shown in Market Classes may not be shown in Purebred or Commercial Ewe Classes.
5. Lambs must have entire body slick shorn prior to entering the check-in line.
6. All market lambs will be checked for appropriate county identification. Any evidence of tampering with the official 4-H tag will be scrutinized.
7. 4-H Market Lambs will be divided into divisions by face, ear and leg color: black and all other. Depending upon entry numbers, divisions may also be determined at weigh-in. A three member committee will determine and classify all white-faced and/or speckle-faced lambs during check-in and their decision will be final. Within face color category lambs will be divided into weight divisions. Champion and Reserve Champion of each division will show for Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb.
8. The Grand and Reserve Grand Champions will be selected along with 3rd, 4th and 5th place in the championship drive.

#### CLASS

- White Face (including Southdown)
- White Face Influence (Piebalds)
- Black Faced
- Market Ewes

### COMMERCIAL EWES

The purpose of this division is to encourage 4-H'ers to establish superior crossbred ewe flocks, taking advantage of the hybrid vigor inherent in crossbred ewes.

1. General Livestock Rules and Regulations and 4-H General Rules and Regulations apply in this division. Also, see general rules for 4-H Sheep Department.
2. Each exhibitor may show a maximum of two ewe lambs in each class. Entries will be placed numerically as well as in ribbon groups. Maximum of 12 breeding sheep (purebred and commercial) may be shown.
3. Entries are open to ewe lambs born on or after January 1 of the current year. All lambs must have official 4-H ear tags and retinal images taken at an official verification site. All information must be in 4hOnline by May 15.
4. The superintendent and show officials have the authority to break classes according to color. This will be determined at weigh-in. Please refer to Market Lambs, Rule 7 for color rules.
5. Lambs shown in Commercial Ewe Classes may not be shown in Market Classes or Purebred Classes.
6. Exhibitors must summer shear lambs and should feed for maximum growth (not fattening) to encourage early sexual maturity.
7. Lambs must have entire body slick shorn prior to entering the check-in line.
8. Commercial ewes must be weighed in under the same guidelines as Declared Weights (4-H Sheep, Rule 12) and be divided into classes by weight.
9. Classes with 30 or more entries will be divided into equal classes with no more than 30 entries based on weight.
10. A Grand and Reserve Commercial Ewe will be selected.
11. A Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Female will be selected from the top commercial ewes and Champion Pedigree Wether Dam.

#### CLASS

- White Face (including Southdown)
- White Face Influence (Piebalds)
- Black Faced

### CARCASS LAMBS

1. General Livestock Rules and Regulations and 4-H General Rules and Regulations apply in this division. Also, see general rules for 4-H Sheep Department.
2. Entries are open to market lambs and commercial ewes.
3. **The carcass/ultrasound contest will be optional. Exhibitors are encouraged to make pre-entry in this class by July 1 through the Fair Entry entry program when entering other 4-H classes. Lambs will be scanned using real-time ultrasound during check-in time on Sunday, August 10. Carcass loin eye area and backfat measurements will be taken.**
3. Ultrasound carcass data will be calculated with rate of gain, an average carcass weight, and tabulated for an overall ranking. The following formula will be used:  $50.858 + (\text{yield grade} \times 2) + ((\text{ribeye area} - (1.3 + (\text{show weight} \times 0.57 \times 0.02))) \times 10)$ . Lambs with 0.10 or less of backfat will be disqualified.
4. Overall carcass rankings will be posted on Monday, August 11 outside the 4-H Sheep Office and also posted online at [www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/statefair/livestock.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/statefair/livestock.htm).
5. Premiums will be awarded to the top three lambs based on formula rankings.

#### CLASS

- Carcass Lamb

### PUREBRED EWES

1. General Livestock Rules and Regulations and 4-H General Rules and Regulations apply in this division. Also, see general rules for 4-H Sheep Department.
2. Each exhibitor may show a maximum of two ewe lambs and two yearling ewes of each breed. If a member has more than one breed, he/she may show the above maximum in each breed. Maximum of 12 breeding sheep (purebred and commercial) may be shown.
3. Entries in purebred ewe lamb classes must be born on or after January 1 this year. Yearling ewes must be born between September 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025.
4. All purebred ewes must be tagged with an **official 4-H ID** and had retinal images collected by May 15 at an official verification site. Birth date, ear tag number and breed of each purebred must be entered in 4hOnline by May 15. All yearling ewes must show registration papers and must have retinal images submitted to the State 4-H Office in the **current** exhibition year. There is no division for yearling commercial ewes.
5. Certificate of Registry must correspond with association tag in ear and be presented at check in to be eligible to show. Only the ORIGINAL registration paper will be accepted. **Electronic registration papers will be accepted if accessed directly from the breed registry's website.** Registration papers must be in the 4-Her's name or show a logical family relationship (i.e. John Smith Family is acceptable; Sunnyview Farms is not acceptable).
6. Only purebred ewes are eligible to show in purebred classes. Any percentage or advantage papered ewes will show in their own respectful breed class only if sufficient entries (5 or more) warrant their own class. If minimum is not met, they will be combined with other percentage/advantage breeds. If minimum still not achieved, they will be moved to the commercial ewe class. **Advantage or percentage papered ewes will not be eligible for Supreme Purebred Female.**
7. 4-H'ers may have the assistance of a 4-H'er who meets State Fair age eligibility requirements in the yearling ewe class. In the yearling ewe class the assistant's help will be limited to helping set hind legs.
8. Entries will be placed numerically as well as in ribbon groups.
9. If less than five head of one breed check in at Fair, all of the breed's sheep will be shown in the Other Breeds class.
10. Classes with 30 or more entries will be divided into equal classes with no more than 30 entries, based on actual date of birth.
11. Additional classes may be added if numbers warrant.
12. A Supreme Purebred Female, along with reserve, will be selected from the top purebred ewes.

**CLASS: Fitted Division - Breeds - Hampshire, Suffolk, Dorset, Other Meat Breeds\*, Other Wool Breeds\*\***

- Ewe Lamb
- Yearling Ewe

**CLASS: Slick Shorn Division - Breeds - Hampshire, Suffolk, Dorset, Other Meat Breeds\*, Other Wool Breeds\***

- Ewe Lamb
- Yearling Ewe

\* Breeds classified as Other Meat Breeds: Cheviot, Oxford, Montadale, Shropshire, Southdown

\*\* Other Wool Breeds: Columbia, Corriedale, Rambouillet, Lincoln, Targhee

### SHOWMANSHIP

1. 4-H members will use their own animal for the Showmanship Contest.
2. Showmanship Classes will be divided by grade: Junior - Grades 5-6, Intermediate - Grades 7-8, Senior - Grades 9-12
3. 4-H exhibitors wishing to participate in the Showmanship Contest must sign up at the T-shirt table in the show ring between 7:30 am and 12 pm on Sunday, August 10.
4. All exhibitors designated by the judge as outstanding will receive a purple ribbon. The Iowa State Fair will provide belt buckles for the top individuals designated by the judge. An exhibitor who has previously been awarded a belt buckle is not eligible to receive another one and will receive a ribbon only.
5. Showmanship order will be: Senior, Junior, Intermediate.

### 4-H SHEEP SPECIALS

Additional 4-H Sheep Specials offered by the **Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement** are available online at <https://www.iowastatefair.org/>.

**Beau Geste Farms - Joe Warrick**, Oskaloosa, sponsors a recognition award for the exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Suffolk Individual.

**Iowa Club Lamb Association** will sponsor \$575 to the premium fund for the 4-H Market Lamb Carcass Formula Rankings.

The **Iowa Dorset Association** will present plaques to the 4-H Dorset Champion Ewe and Reserve Champion Ewe.

The **Iowa Dorset Association** will present a \$500 scholarship to a Dorset 4-H Member. The presentation will be given at the Iowa State Fair 4-H Dorset Show by an officer of the Iowa Dorset Association.