



2009 Sheep Information Sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Sheep Show Committee and the Center for Youth Development

This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year's Minnesota State Fair 4-H Sheep Show. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level.

Ownership Requirements

- All sheep exhibited must be owned solely by the member, member's family or leased by agreement (if leased, complete information on back of affidavit page). The family includes the 4-Hers parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents with the 4-Hers parents actively involved with and working on the farm.

Leasing Program

- Breeding sheep (ewe lambs and yearling ewes) may be leased. 4-Hers exhibiting leased animals at the State Fair must present a photocopy of the "Minnesota 4-H Breeding Ewe Lease Agreement" during verification. Be sure this information is filled out on the Affidavit form and that both sides of the affidavit form are submitted with the State Fair registration materials. Leased animal must be ID'd on both sides of the affidavit form.
- Market lambs cannot be leased.

Birthdates

- Ewe lambs must be born on or after January 1 of the current year.
- Market Lambs (wethers & ewes) must be born on or after January 1st of the current year.
- Yearling Ewe over one year of age and under two years of age and must not show evidence of four permanent incisors.

Identification Details

All sheep must have Scrapie or NAIS tags (with unique flock serial number and individual number.)

All market sheep and commercial/breeding ewes/ewe lambs must have a 4-H eartag,

- Market lambs (wethers & ewes) must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag by May 15.
- Breeding ewes must be identified appropriately (see below) by May 15.
- All breeding ewes and market lambs must have a USDA scrapie tag. Contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (651.296.2942 – ext. 30) to get a tag. Scrapie tag must show the official premise tag *and* the individual animal numbers. The NAIS tag also qualifies as a scrapie tag as long as individual animal numbers are recorded on affidavit. Commercial/crossbred breeding ewes must be identified by scrapie tag (with individual animal number) or NAIS tag and 4-H eartag. Legible tattoo is additional and optional. Registered ewes must have two permanent forms of identification. Scrapies or NAIS and option(s) of 4-H tag, tattoo or individual ID tag that matches registration paper.

Identification Dates

- All market lambs must be identified by May 15. Counties must have either a county weigh-in/identification day or a system where designated county leaders verify identification for market lambs and breeding ewes to qualify for state fair.

Identification Forms & Deadlines

- "Minnesota 4-H Sheep Identification Affidavit" (ShIDA) should be kept by your species ID coordinator on day of verification and for submission to the Extension office by May 15.
 - Registered breeding sheep must have a copy of registration paper on file at county office prior to the opening of county fair.
- If a breeding animal is leased, the appropriate "Minnesota 4-H Lease Agreement" (on back of affidavit form) must be completed prior to verification, *along with* the "Minnesota 4-H Sheep Identification Affidavit" (ShIDA).

Dates of State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment & Show Times

- 4-H Livestock Encampment ~ Wednesday, August 26 – Sunday, August 30
 - Show Day & Time ~ Friday – 4:30 p.m.
 - Showmanship ~ Saturday – 11:00 a.m.
 - Lamb Lead ~ Saturday – 8:00 a.m.
 - Fleece Show ~ Thursday – 2:00 p.m.
 - Sheep Interview ~ Thursday 3:30 p.m.

Show Information

- Grade (non-registered) and commercial ewes will be shown within three classes, within their age group.
 - There will be a black face commercial class, **a white & speckle face commercial class, and a slick shorn wether dam class.**
- In the market lamb class, there will be **separate lots for black face, white face and speckle faced animals.**
- In the market white face class, animals *cannot* have *any* black on head or legs. Additional market lambs can qualify for the white face class if they provide a copy of original registration papers from one of the following breed associations: Cheviot, Columbia, Corredale, Dorset, Lincoln, Montedale, Polypay, Rambouillet, Southdown, Targhee, and Texel.

- In the market speckle face class, lambs must show evidence of white & black face breeding. Final classification determined at weigh-in.
- In the breeding ewe show, classes may be combined based on the number of entries.

Weight Guidelines / Rate of Gain

- Market lambs will still be weighed at State Fair to determine market weight and weight class.
- The RECOMMENDED State Fair minimum weight is 105 pounds. No ribbon deductions for below.
- The REQUIRED State Fair maximum weight (animals cannot exceed this weight) is 170 pounds. Not eligible for Championship
- To receive carcass data market lambs must have at least a 60# carcass. (Based on packer requirements.)

Registration Papers

- If you are exhibiting a registered breeding ewe or a registered white face market lamb you must present a copy of the registration certificate at verification. Ear tag or tattoo must match that on the registration paper, if not ewes will be shown in the commercial class. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the registration papers to your county office at time of verification, as soon as available and prior to county fair.

State Fair Health Requirements

- All breeding ewes and market lambs must have a USDA scrapie tag with the unique serial number and individual animal number.
- Sheep are not required to have a health certificate.
- The official State Fair veterinarian will visually inspect all sheep at verification.
 - The State Fair veterinarian will also conduct daily walk-thru inspections.
- The official State Fair Veterinarian will order the immediate removal to the quarantine facility or removal from the State Fairgrounds of any sheep with symptoms of infectious or communicable disease. This includes sheep with warts, ringworm, fungus, or sore mouth.
- Any quarantined animal cannot be shown, although 4-H'ers may still participate in the Sheep Interviews.

Marketing of Lambs

- This is a terminal show for all market lambs – no exceptions. Lambs must meet all slaughter withdrawal times.
- The breeding market ewe class is not terminal.

State Fair Interviews ~ Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grade 9-10 & Advanced = grade 11+

- To qualify for any awards above and beyond a blue ribbon, exhibitors must participate in the Sheep interviews.
 - All exhibitors participate in the interview process.
- The score from the computerized test will determine Interview Finalists.
- All Finalists will receive recognition and Award Winners will be selected from the Finalists.

State Fair Showmanship ~ Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grades 9-10 & Advanced = grade 11+

- Any sheep exhibitor who wants to participate in showmanship must sign up at breeding ewe and market lamb verification.

State Fair Herdsmanship

- Animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Lambs must be on straw or shavings. If mats are used, they must be placed on straw or shavings for absorbency.

State Fair Grooming Rules

- Market lambs must be closely shorn at weigh in. (No more than ¼ inch.)
- All grooming of livestock – including clipping, trimming and blocking – must be done by the 4Her, members of the 4-Hers immediate family (parents, step-parents, brothers and sisters), and other bonafide 4-H members from Minnesota.
- All lambs must be dry upon entering the staging area or the 4-Her will be required to take the lamb out and dry it.
- No alteration of coloring on lambs permitted.

Lamb Lead

- All sheep exhibitors are eligible for Lamb Lead. The 4-H Lamb Lead provides an opportunity for 4-H members to combine their skills and knowledge of sheep production with fashion and clothing selection.
- The exhibitor must groom and train his/her own animal and must use the same animal in both the lamb lead and the sheep show.
- The exhibitor must wear a garment made from at least 70% wool. Please refer to the Sheep section of the State Fair 4-H Premium Book for more details.

Fleece Show

- Any 4-Her enrolled in the sheep project may enter a fleece. (You do not have to be exhibiting at State Fair to enter.)
- Fleece will be conference judged on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. (Entry of fleece will be 12:00-12:30 p.m. on Thursday.)
- No housing is available for fleece exhibitors unless the 4-Her has a State Fair Livestock Trip.
- Please refer to the Sheep section of the State Fair 4-H Premium Book for more details. New in 2009 is the three category divisions.

Auction

- Approximately 10% of the market lambs will be selected for the auction.