

DEPARTMENT: SHEEP

Superintendents: Caleb Meade & Carrie Young

Sheep Project Interviews and Skillathon: See rules under Livestock Activities

Market Lamb Exhibitor Meeting and Weigh-In: 9 a.m. the first Saturday of the fair

Sheep Show Order (Starts at 3 pm Sunday): Pee Wee Showmanship, Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Adult Showmanship, Breeding Show (all rams, then all ewes), Individual Market Lambs (lightest to heaviest), Pen of 2 Market Lambs (lightest to heaviest)

Market Lamb Sale: 5 p.m., Wednesday.

Premium	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00

Rules:

- 1. Read the Fair General Rules, Livestock Rules and Junior Fair Sale Rules.**
- The Senior Fair Board shall have the right to examine or test an animal for any illegal substance that changes the appearance, conformation or behavior of the animal. Exhibitors found in violation of this rule may face forfeiture of any and all premiums from the current fair and potential banishment from the current and future fairs, as well as any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Senior Fair Board.
- All exhibitors must adhere to the following dress code for pictures at weigh-in and in show/sale rings:
 - 1) A button/snap collared shirt closed within 1 button from the top, long/short-sleeved but not sleeveless,
 - 2) No logos or ads visible other than 4-H or FFA,
 - 3) Long pants (no shorts),
 - 4) Clothes must appear neat, clean and without rips or tears.
- All exhibitors must be present for weighing, showing, and sale unless provisions have been made according to the General Livestock Rules.
- Only animals entered at the Delaware County Fair will be permitted on the fairgrounds.
- All sheep must have an approved scrapie ID. Market lambs will be using this for their ID photo submission in June. Leased breeding animals must also register their lease including scrapie ID with the county Extension office per general rules.
- Market lambs will be weighed on the first Saturday of the fair. Lambs must weigh at minimum 95 pounds to be eligible to compete for Grand or Reserve Champion and to sell in the Wednesday auction.

However, market lambs that weigh less than 95 pounds are eligible to be sold at market price per the discretion of the exhibitor. **New in 2026:** There is no max weight limit.

8. All market lambs must be slick shorn 1/4" or less of wool at time of weigh-in. The lambs may be checked for wool length at weigh-in and it is recommended to shear them within 7 days of weigh-in. Wool/hair should be slick-shorn above the knees and hocks, and including the lamb's belly.

9. Each exhibitor may show up to 2 individual market lambs that are also eligible to be entered as a pen of 2. Total market lambs entered may not exceed 2 lambs. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion individual market lambs will be ineligible for the pen of 2 classes.

10. Exhibitors may request 1 reweigh per market animal at the scale. Animal will be removed and the scale tared immediately prior to reweigh. The second weight must occur before any other animal is weighed and will become official.

11. Market lambs may be ewes or wethers (castrated males). Ewes shown as market lambs are not eligible for the market show if previously or currently entered in breeding sheep classes at the Delaware County Fair.

12. Market lambs may be purebred, grade, or crossbred. They are to be docked and males are to be castrated. Neither docking nor castration may show any evidence of recent wound healing or testicular tissue.

13. Market lambs (individual and pen of 2) will be divided into classes by ascending weight. If both individual market lambs for one exhibitor are assigned into the same class, the exhibitor will have the option to bump the heavier of 2 lambs into the next heaviest weight class. The exhibitor must notify the department head(s) by 6 pm Saturday before the show. Lambs may only bump up into a heavier class, they may not bump down to a lighter class.

14. Lambs will be assigned pens in the Pig and Lamb Barn and are only to be bedded by wood shavings, straw, or mulch. Exhibitors are responsible for the cleaning of their pens upon move-out. Pens found dirty on Thursday morning will be assessed a pen cleaning fee of \$25/pen to be subtracted from fair premiums.

15. There should be water available for consumption by sheep in their pen(s) at all times. Animals found muzzled are immediately ineligible for show and sale at auction.

16. Drenching of lambs is prohibited unless prescribed for a medical condition in writing by the Delaware County Fair Veterinarian. Drenching of lambs includes any liquid, semi-liquid, gel or paste that is not consumed voluntarily by the lamb in a bucket.

17. Application of ice, ice packs, cold packs, or wet rags to a lamb is prohibited unless prescribed for a medical condition in writing by the Delaware County Fair Veterinarian. Lambs cold to the touch or wet when entering the ring will be disqualified by the judge.

18. Fans drawing less than 100 watts will be permitted.

19. Lamb fitting is to occur only within direct sight of the Pig and Lamb Barn. Use of any substance to conceal, transform or enhance a sheep (market or breeding) will result in immediate ineligibility of exhibitor for show and sale at auction. Permitted usage for fitting includes only shears, shampoo, conditioner and fly spray.

20. All Lambs must be in their pens, at the wash rack, or in the designated fitting zone on the South side of the Pig and Lamb Barn by 3 pm on Sunday.

21. Lambs must line up outside the show ring shorn, clean and dry prior to their class. The judge will be instructed to dismiss or place at the bottom of the class any lamb coming into the ring wet. The show will start promptly at the designated time and continue through. Please line up in a timely manner and be prepared to enter the ring after the class prior. The show will continue even if exhibitors are not present.

22. The exhibitor of the Grand Champion Individual Market Lamb is ineligible to compete with their second lamb for the Reserve Grand Champion Individual Market Lamb. The exhibitors of either Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Individual Market Lamb may compete with their second lamb for the overall placings of 3rd through 5th. All other individual market lambs are eligible to compete for overall placings of 3rd through 5th. All lambs exhibited in the individual market lamb show except Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Individuals are eligible to compete in the Pen of 2 contest.

23. If problems arise in project animal carcass quality from the packer, the exhibitor will be held financially responsible.

24. Each exhibitor is limited to 2 entries in each breeding class.

25. Ewe and ram lambs in the sheep breeding show must be born no earlier than October 1st of the previous year. Ewes must not be registered to show in the market lamb show in the previous or current year.

26. Breeding sheep may have two members showing one animal.

27. All sheep ID photos will be reviewed by the committee for the appropriate class designation after fair entries are received, and the committee's verdict is final.

- 1) White faced crossbred lamb is intended to be: one parent is black-faced (example: Hampshire, Shropshire, crossbreed) and one parent is white-faced (example: Dorset, Montadale, Southdown).
- 2) Hair sheep is intended to be: breeds that grow hair or a mix of hair and wool rather than a wool fleece (example: Katahdin, Dorper)
- 3) Natural Colored: natural colored market lambs are grey or black fleeced on body of the lamb showing representation of dark natural colors in the market lambs fleece

Section 250: Market Lamb Classes

Class 25001 - Individual Market Lamb born after January 1 of the current year (max 2 entries).

Sub-Class 1 - White Faced Crossbreeds

Sub-Class 2 - Hair Sheep

Sub-Class 3 - Natural Colored

Sub-Class 4 - Market Lambs

Class 25002 - Pen of 2 Market Lambs born after January 1 of the current year (1 entry is 2 lambs).

Section 251: Breeding Sheep

Class 2511() – Purebred Wool Breeds

Class 2512() – Purebred Meat Breeds

Sub-Class 1 – Birthdate 10/1/2025 through 2/14/2026

Sub-Class 2 – Birthdate 2/15/2026 and later

Class 2513() – Crossbred Breeding Sheep (including wether-type/commercial)

Sub-Class 1 – Birthdate 10/1/2025 through 2/14/2026

Sub-Class 2 – Birthdate 2/15/2026 and later

-Last Digit of the Class Number:

1– Yearling Ram

2– Ram Lamb

3– Yearling Ewe

4– Ewe Lamb

Example: Class 25123 is a Purebred Meat Breed Yearling Ewe

Section 252: Showmanship (Age as of Jan.1 of the current year)

Class 25201- Sr. Showmanship (15-18 years old)

Class 25202 – Int. Showmanship (12-14 years old)

Class 25203 – Jr. Showmanship (10-11 years old)

Class 25204 – Beginner Showmanship (8-9 year old)

Please register for the Sheep Skillathon and the General Livestock Judging Contest under Livestock Activities