SHEEP

(See General Livestock Rules on page 123)

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT:		Chad Hartwick, 765-623-2722, chad.hartwick@ebpaving.com
EXHIBIT CHECK-IN:		Wednesday, July 15, 2-8 PM
	Wool Contest	Sunday, July 19, 8-9 AM
JUDGING:	Fitting Contest	Friday, July 17, 10:30 AM, Open Judging
	Wool Contest	Sunday, July 19, 9:30 AM, Open Judging
	Sheep Show	Sunday, July 19, 10 AM , Open Judging
RELEASE TIME:		Tuesday, July 21, 7 AM-12 PM Noon, All Non-Auction livestock released
AUCTION:		Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 PM
STATE FAIR ENTRIES:		All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled. Refer to indianastatefair.com for entry information.

Project Description:
The 4-H Sheep educational program and related activities (such as workshops, tours, etc.) provide youth a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both sheep subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications).

Levels:

Junior	**Grades 3-5**
Intermediate	**Grades 6-8**
Senior	**Grades 9-12**

Project Guidelines:

- To exhibit at the county and state fair 4-H members showing beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine, must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). The purpose of this program: Youth will be more prepared to be ambassadors for animal agriculture in their role as youth livestock exhibitors; Animals from youth livestock programs are treated with the utmost care; 4-H members are contributing to a safe, wholesome food supply. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. More information about this program will be provided from the Extension Office.
- In each project manual level, it is recommended to complete a minimum of four (4) different activities each year. These activities can include the "More Challenges" activities.
- 4-H'er will use and complete one (1) project manual in three (3) years. (You will use the books according to your grade as of January 15 of the current year).
- It is recommended to complete a record sheet.

4-H SHEEP:

Identification deadline - May 15 **ID day – May 9, 8-10 AM and May 13, 6-8 PM**

- All 4-H sheep must attend Sheep ID day to be RFID tagged and have a completed 4-H Sheep ID Enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**.
- Additionally, all market lambs must be ear-tagged with a county tag and RFID tag at 4-H Sheep ID.
- For commercial ewes, the 4-H member may choose to use a farm tag for 4-H Sheep ID. The farm tag must be in the ear and remain so through the Indiana State Fair 4-H show. Absent a farm tag or if the 4-H member chooses, commercial ewes will be ear-tagged with a county tag at 4-H Sheep ID.
- Purebred/registered ewes must have a farm tag/registration ear tag and RFID tagged at 4-H Sheep ID. The farm tag/registration tag must match the registration paperwork presented at entry to the 4-H Fair**,** and the online entry information for both ear tag number and date of birth.

4-H Fair:

- All 4-H sheep will be physically inspected prior to entering the barn and may be rejected or removed due to health issues at any time during the fair. All purebred females must be registered in the 4-H'ers name by the breed registry. A breed registration certificate from the breed registry must be presented at fair check-in. ***(*Acceptable 4-H livestock registration certificate information located on page 123, #20)***

Exhibit Requirements:

Owning or showing an animal is not required. Animal exhibitors have the option of exhibiting a poster in place of, or in addition to, exhibiting an animal. Members can create an educational poster, notebook, or display about any manual activity or on any specie related topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include website links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed.

Posters are to be 22"x28" and displayed horizontally and placed in a clear plastic sleeve or covered with clear plastic to protect contents. The poster must be mounted on a firm backing to add stiffness to the exhibit, for example: a foam core board. Display boards should be designed to sit on a table using no more than 36" of tabletop space. Space should be left in the lower right-hand corner to place an exhibit tag provided by Purdue Extension staff. (See poster rules - page 30, #14)

Judges evaluating exhibits should recognize individual differences and creativity, therefore using information in this document as a guide rather than a requirement. Champion poster will be chosen in each level (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) for each animal species (Example: Dog, cat, goat, sheep, etc.). A Grand Champion animal poster will be selected from all eligible Champion animal posters.

GENERAL RULES

- A 4-H exhibitor may enroll and identify a maximum of ten (10) market lambs, ten (10) yearling ewes and ten (10) ewe lambs.
- **Sheep I.D. Day**- All animals must be presented and identified on a date and at a place established for sheep identification:
  - All market lambs (including ewes to be shown as market lambs) that the exhibitor may wish to show will be identified with a county tag number and RFID tag.
  - Commercial (non-registered) breeding ewes that the exhibitor may wish to show will be identified with a county tag number or a farm tag and RFID tag.
  - All registered breeding ewes that the exhibitor may wish to show will be identified by flock registration tag and RFID tag.
- Sheep must be property of the exhibitor as of **May 15** or sheep identification day, whichever is earlier. Sheep may be enrolled in the name of more than one(1) 4-H family member.
- All lambs must be born on or after **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.**
- **No tack or bedding will be allowed in the Sheep Barn before 8:00 AM on check-in day. Approval is required from the barn superintendent for any deviation to the tack or bedding schedule. "Lights out" in the barn is 12:00 AM. No one is permitted in the barn before 5:00 AM.**
- Check-in Day- Sheep will be checked in 2 - 8 PM on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026** thru the south door only. Registration papers must be approved by the barn superintendents prior to unloading any animals. **All purebred females must be registered in the 4-H'ers name* by the breed registry. A breed registration certificate from the breed registry must be presented at fair check-in. (*Acceptable 4-H livestock registration certificate information located on page 123, #20).** All 4-H sheep will be physically inspected prior to entering the barn and may be rejected or removed due to health issues at any time during the fair.
- No sheep will be admitted into the barn before 2 PM or after 8 PM.
- All Commercial ewes and Market lambs will be weighed at weigh-in. Weigh-in will take place Thursday morning of the fair from 9 - 11 AM.
- An exhibitor may show four (4) market lambs. Market lambs need not be of the same breed. Market lambs will be weighed Thursday morning. All market lambs must be shown slick shorn.
- A 4-H exhibitor may show a maximum of six (6) ewes. From these six (6) ewes, a 4-H exhibitor may show a maximum of two (2) ewes per age division per breed (i.e. spring ewe lambs, fall ewe lambs, and yearling ewes.) A separate class in each breed will be established for ewe lambs born from September 1 - December 31 of the prior year.
- All sheep shown in the purebred breeding ewe classes must be registered in the breed's registry in accordance with the 4-H Ownership Rules. Note Rule above.
- All exhibitors must show their own animals unless they have permission from the Barn Superintendent to have another Hamilton County 4-H'er to show the animal due to the exhibitor having more than one (1) animal in the class or a physical handicap.
- Any 4-H Sheep may be shown in the ring by two (2) Hamilton County 4-H members, one (1) being the 4-H Sheep exhibitor. The 4-H exhibitor who owns the sheep being shown MUST hold the sheep's head.
- Exhibitor must furnish his/her own feed and water and be responsible for the care of the sheep.
- The direct application of ice, ice water, alcohol, Freon, or any other refrigerant to the hide of a lamb is strictly prohibited. This deceptive, fraudulent practice will cause the exhibitor and their animal(s) to be disqualified immediately.
- Each breed of registered breeding sheep will be shown separately. A breeding class champion will be selected if there are entries in more than one (1) class. However, the first place lamb or yearling in a breed in which no champion is selected may compete for grand champion ewe.
- At the time of check-in, the exhibitor must declare the breed class for each sheep. That decision cannot be changed unless the barn superintendents determine that the sheep does not have appropriate breed characteristics and place the sheep into a different class.
- Any medications given during the fair, including drenching, needs to be logged with the barn superintendent.
- All 4-H Sheep members shall be assigned a showmanship number that will be worn throughout the Sheep Show.
- All exhibitors must comply with the check-out procedures and are responsible for removing their animals and cleaning out their pens by designated time.
- No pairs will be shown.
- The sheep barn superintendent will choose a "Good Shepherd Award." It will be awarded to a 4-H Sheep Project member who is observed keeping their area clean, working well with his/her sheep project and/or is observed helping others in the barn.
- Pens are assigned for use to pen/house sheep as comfortable as possible first; a limited number of pens may be available for tack and feed. Please share where possible and be considerate of others.

- The north/south and east/west center aisles must be clean and clear for passage. Understanding that fitting animals is part of the project and may be done in the aisles, please be considerate to other exhibitors and the general public to allow room for passage and to clean up the area when finished fitting. Pens are not to be broken down, reconfigured, or removed for any other purpose without the express consent of the Barn Superintendent.
- There will be an opportunity to sell your lamb either through the auction or direct. If an exhibitor wishes to sell his/her lamb in the auction, all auction rules and deadlines must be met in accordance to the rules stated in the fairbook. It is a privilege to sell in the auction. To sell in the auction, a lamb must weigh at least 80 pounds. There is no minimum weight for a lamb to sell direct, however the price per pound may be documented lower for low weight animals. Yearlings may not be sold through the auction.

SHOWMANSHIP RULES

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS: Grade in school on January 1 of the current year.

- Junior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 3rd, 4th, or 5th grades are eligible. Once an exhibitor is the over all junior showmanship winner, the 4-H'er is only eligible to compete in the intermediate showmanship classes in future years.
- Intermediate Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades are eligible (exception only for previous year's junior showmanship winners). Once a 4-H member is the champion intermediate showman, they must compete in senior showmanship in subsequent years.
- Senior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 9th grade or above are eligible (exception only for previous year's intermediate showmanship winners).

HALTER CLASS RULES

- The objective is to present a sheep for exhibition with the use of a halter only (no hand or body contact). Activities will include straight lead, circle lead and stand for inspection.
- This class is open to any 4-H Sheep project member.
- The exhibitor may use any sheep enrolled by the exhibitor in the sheep project but the sheep used in the halter class does not have to be shown in any other sheep class. The sheep must be checked in as other sheep are checked in at the fair.
- The animal must be well groomed and may be decorated if desired. The exhibitor may use special clothing consistent with the decoration of the animal; otherwise, clothing should be appropriate for showing livestock.

SHEEP FITTING CONTEST RULES

- No advanced entry is necessary. Contestants may enter the day of the contest.
- There are two (2) classes: Sheep trimming and slick shearing. Each class is divided into Junior Division, Intermediate Division, and Senior Division.
- Each participant will fit the lamb without assistance or advice during the contest.
- Participants will be judged for handling, trimming, or slick shearing, proper use of fitting equipment and appearance of the animal.
- Bellies on sheep in the contest may be shorn prior to the start of the contest.
- The contestant may use any sheep enrolled by the contestant in the sheep project but the sheep used in the trimming contest does not have to be shown in any other sheep class. The sheep must be checked in as other sheep are checked in at the fair.

WOOL SHOW RULES

- Exhibitor must be a 4-H member enrolled in the Sheep Project.
- Entries must be made by 9:00 AM on Sunday, July 19, 2026 with the Sheep barn superintendent or delegate.
- Each exhibitor may show a maximum of three (3) fleeces.
- Fleeces will be placed in the following classes: (a) meat breeds; (b) wool breeds; and (c) natural colored.
- The Grand Champion fleece will be selected from the first place fleece in each class. The Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the remaining first placings and the second place from class of the Grand Champion fleece.

Wool will be on display on show day only in the show arena. It will be released after the Sheep Show.