

Jackson County 4-H Sheep Expectations

Contact:

Email: jacksonco4hsheep@gmail.com

Facebook group: **Jackson County Fair MI Sheep** - We will provide everything you need to know on here. If you do not have facebook please email us and let us know so we can email you the information. Our information such as forms and documents will also be sent through the MSU extension, 4-H Online emails.

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- **We will be using the Band App.** After you download the band app you can search: Jackson County Fair Sheep. This app is used the most during fair week.



2026 Jackson County Fair Sheep Guide

Project Expectations

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to read and understand the Jackson County Large Animal Association ByLaws for more details and contact the superintendents with any questions. By-Laws and rules are available at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/associations-committees-councils>

Getting Started & the Basics

Must haves for show preparation & Advice

1.Clippers- Premier 4000c with fine blades or Listers of similar model as premier.

Recommend shearing lambs once a month leading up to the fair. This allows you to get practice for fair and to check for any fungus or other possible hide/ health issues that could occur under the wool.

2. Sheep Stand

3. Blower- Sullivans Air Express or Weaver.

Sources: Pullen Show supplies in Homer, Fair Acres Show supplies or Facebook Market place you can find used at times.

4. Sign up for a lamb camp. Highly suggest Champions Choice Camps for starting out. Registration should open in January. Please go to championschoicecamps.com for more information. This is not a requirement by any means but if you want to better yourself and learn this is where to start. Michigan offers lamb shows throughout May and June to attend. Go to michcla.com for a complete list of shows. Even if you go to watch it will be beneficial.

Buying and signing up for 4-H

1. Recommend that market lambs for Jackson are born anywhere from December till the end of January.
2. When selecting what feed to use it is best to find a feed source that will offer fresh feed on a regular basis.
3. You may enter up to 6 market lambs per exhibitor. Only allowed a maxim of two market lambs per exhibitor at the fair.
4. Immediate families can tag/ enter sheep as a group.
5. Having a relationship with your large animal vet is very important.
6. Current 4-H members have till December 1st to sign up for 4-H. New 4-H members have till May 1st to sign up. You should get a confirmation email confirming that you have signed up. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process please contact MSU Extension at 517-788-4292. If it does not go through you will not be allowed to exhibit at the fair. This also applies to Cloverbuds as well. Cloverbud age is 5-7 years old and 4-H age is 8 to 19 years old as of January 1 of current calendar year
7. **The possession date for sheep is May 1st. All animals must be owned by the exhibitor.**
8. **Always check for your 4-H Online emails, if you do not receive them reach out to MSU Extension at 517-788-4292.**

2026 Sheep Fair Documents & Registration

1. April 27th - Friday, May 1st, Pre Fair Check In form will be due for market lambs and breeding stock. This Pre Fair Check In will be a Google Form and will be released by superintendents and MSU Extension. This is where you will document your scrapie tag numbers and exhibitor information for the superintendents. At the due date photos and DNA of each lamb will also be required. The form will explain as to what is all required at this time. **YQCA Certificate will be due at this time for all sheep exhibitors.**
Certificates can be dropped off with DNA or emailed to jacksonco4hsheep@gmail.com
2. May & June: Fair Entry is where you will submit some of the same information as the pre fair check in. This information is obtained by the fair office, superintendents and MSU Extension. Both pre fair check in and fair entry documents must be submitted in order to show at the fair. Both will provide you with a copy of what you have submitted. If you do not receive a copy via email of your entries please reach out to one of the sheep superintendents before the deadline. Classes to sign up for if you are exhibiting market lambs: Market Lamb individual (enter this twice for two lambs), Homegrown (if you qualify). Breeding stock select your proper age and breed. Fair Entry for livestock typically opens in May and closes in June. Exact dates TBA.
3. Only enter individual lambs in Fair Entry, Pen of Lambs will not be required anymore for fair entry. Sheep superintendents will arrange Pen of Lamb classes for show day based on combined weight. If you do not want to participate please notify a superintendent.
4. If you are a Cloverbud exhibitor you will need to sign up on Fair Entry for you to show a lamb. Cloverbuds will borrow another exhibitor's or siblings lamb to show.
5. For fairentry.com you will use your same login as 4-H Online. These two sites sync together.
6. It is your responsibility to make sure all information, including tag numbers are correct. Make sure to double check everything before submitting.
7. Double check all of your submissions to Fair Entry by logging in. You will see an archive of all your Fair Entry submissions. If there are any changes that need to be made contact MSU Extension before the Fair Entry deadline.
8. If any of your lambs lose or damage a scrapie tag before or during fair week you are responsible for replacing it and notifying the superintendent of the lost tag and replacement tag. We need to submit scrapie tags for the auction.
9. All exhibitors are responsible for submitting their own accurate Pre Fair Check In form, photos, DNA, and Fair Entry data by the given deadlines.

Before Fair

- Pen Set up/ Barn Clean Up- Sunday, July 26th at 10:00 AM

Fair Check In

- Lambs must be sheared no more than 5 days prior to check in.
- Saturday before the fair will be the sheep check at 8-10AM. New for 2026, 9:30 AM goat check in will start to accommodate sheep exhibitors that also show goats. Please arrive before 9:30 AM if you only have sheep.
- Do not unload until you are told to do so.
- Lambs must arrive clean, sheared and ready to show.
- Blankets/ tubes need to be removed for inspection and to weigh.
- After completion of the health check by our veterinarian, you will make your way over to the scales for your market lambs to be weighed and check tag numbers. Market lambs must weigh a **minimum of 90 pounds. All lambs will go across the scale one time.** Then the lambs can go back to their pens.
- Lambs that do not make weight have the option of staying and allowing the exhibitor to participate in showmanship. The lamb is not eligible for Market Classes or Auction.
- Breeding stock sheep do not need to be weighed. We will check tag numbers as they come off the trailer and then they can go to their pens.
- No unloading of tack during check in.
- To make check-in faster we suggest that you bed your pens down with shavings before lambs arrive on Saturday.
- If you do not want to participate in the Pen of Lambs class please inform a superintendent before the start of the sheep show. This class is optional.

Fair week

- **Power is limited in the barn due to electrical not being updated. It becomes a bigger problem on show day. This is one reason why we suggest lambs come in ready to show. The earlier you can get your lambs ready the better. Generators are not allowed.**
- If you have anything that you would like to give your lambs other than feed & water, please see superintendents for approval.
- Hay needs to be stored in some kind of bag/ container. We want to keep the barn as clean as possible. Hay will be discarded if it becomes a mess.
- Feed needs to be stored in a sealed container to prevent anything getting into your feed or being spilled.
- You are responsible for all your own supplies for fair week. Supplies might include garden hose & nozzle, feed pans, water buckets, any show supplies, extension cords, fans, these are just a few items. Please label with your name on all your equipment and supplies.
- Keep lambs on the same feeding schedule and amounts as you would at home.
- Please do not water someone else's lamb without their approval. Some bring in water from home as sheep may get diarrhea from the city water.

- The barn closes at 10:00 PM and opens at 5:30 AM during the fair week.

Show Day

- Show day will be on the first day of the fair, Sunday.
- Band app will be used to call for classes, This app is helpful if you are not near the arena.
- Exhibitor must show their own lambs
- Show day apparel:
 1. Jeans (Boot Cut, Flare, Trouser styles).
 2. Button down shirt and tucked in. Able to stay tucked in while bending over.
 3. Leather Belt to keep shirt tucked in.
 4. Leather shoe/boot (Twisted x) or athletic shoe.

Keep in mind showing sheep is very physical, you will be bending over and moving a lot.
- **New:** Showmanship is NOT mandatory. A list of all sheep exhibitors will be posted according to their showmanship division. This list will be posted Saturday during check in on the whiteboard in the sheep barn. If you do not want to participate you can cross your name off the list or tell a sheep superintendent.
- Champion and Reserve showmen will be invited to show in sweepstakes, this is where you show a horse, beef, dairy, swine, sheep and take a quiz. If you wish to not participate please notify a superintendent by the end of the day on Sunday.
- **Show order:** Breeding Stock, Homegrown, Market Lambs, Pen of Lambs, Showmanship-Junior (8-11), Intermediate (12-15), Senior (16-19), Best of three Head
- **Cloverbuds** will take place on **Tuesday** of fair week. Time TBA, will be later in the day. This will allow all cloverbud species to participate in one day.
- **Homegrown** is an animal born and raised on your farm, or immediate family or the JACC FFA Livestock Co-op farm. Selection of a Grand and Reserve Champion Homegrown Market lamb will be at the conclusion of homegrown classes.
- **Individual lambs**, You must show your own market lambs in their respective classes. If both lambs end up in the same class you can choose to bump one lamb up to the next class or have another JCF 4-H/FFA exhibitor show that lamb.
- After Market Lamb classes we will select our top 5 Market lambs.
- **Pen of Lambs** is optional, you will need to find another JCF 4-H/FFA exhibitor to help you show the other lamb. You show both of your lambs together to make a pen. Pen classes will be divided by total weight of the pair combined. Selection of Grand and Reserve Champion Pen of lambs will be at the conclusion of the pen classes.
- **Best of three Head** is where you choose three market or breeding stock sheep from your club to compete. Any combination will work.

Daily Pen Care / Animal Husbandry

Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals on the Saturday before the fair so should plan accordingly.

Your project is a Fair Exhibit. The public will form its opinion of livestock and therefore **visual perception of the health of your animals and cleanliness of your pen is important.** The Jackson County Fair provides your daily gate pass, parking pass and other benefits in return for your exhibit during fair week. Therefore, the following rules and regulations must be strictly adhered to:

- All pens must be completely cleaned and stripped before 9 am everyday.
- Use lime in the pens at least every other day to help with moisture and ammonia smell.
- Half a bag of shaving per pen is the required amount per day.
- All animals must have water at all times.
- Exhibitors must fill their own water buckets. Some exhibitors bring water in from home to decrease the chances of diarrhea from the city water.
- All animals are to be kept clean during the week.

Auction

- The auction is on Thursday of fair week.
- Animals must be presented at auction by the exhibitor.
- Animals must be clean and well presented for the auction.
- Grand and Reserve Overall Individuals and Pen of Lambs must sell.
- Sale order for sheep is Grand & Reserve Overall, followed by Homegrown Grand and Reserve, followed by Grand and Reserve Pen Of Lambs, then individuals highest placing lamb. If exhibiting more than one lamb both lambs will sell at the same time but only one lamb will need to go in the auction.
- If you wish to pull a lamb from the sale we need to know after the completion of our sheep show on Sunday. Grand and Reserve Overall Market Lamb and Grand and Reserve Pen of Lambs must be sold in the auction.
- Buyers and award Thank You's are mandatory in order to receive your check. Cards will be collected on the last day of the fair. Time and location will be announced.

Load Out

- Saturday, the last day of the fair is when all large animals will load out.
- 10:00 PM decorations can come down, unless approved to tear down prior.
- 11:00 PM Breeding stock can be dismissed from the barn. Superintendents will dismiss you so we can make sure each sheep in the barn is going to its proper designation. We ask that trailers with breeding stock do not block the front of the sheep barn at least until our trucks hauling the market lambs are gone.
- The more helping hands tearing down the better.

Club/ Parent Responsibility

- Each club and or exhibitor is responsible for supplying your sheep exhibitors with proper cleaning equipment such as wheelbarrow, shovels, brooms.
- Each club and or exhibitor is responsible for your own shavings.

- Each club and or exhibitor is responsible for their own decorations and exhibitor signs.
- It is the responsibility of the exhibitor's guardian to make sure pens and aisle ways are properly kept up to clean standards (if guardian isn't available- club admin leader, club project leader, or other club families should take on this responsibility).
- Pens must be cleaned by 9AM every day and a half bag of shavings is the ideal amount. Please use lime in your pens as well.
- Leaders and or parents are responsible for making sure exhibitors get to the show ring. I would suggest leaders and parents team up. We use the band app to call classes so that way you do not need to be at the show ring to hear classes. To get a lamb and exhibitor around for show day we would suggest one adult per exhibitor and or family.

Large Animal Meetings

Large animal meetings are where we make decisions, vote and discuss various large animal topics. If you want to make a difference and or stay up to date we highly suggest you attend these meetings. The more helping hands the better we are all off.

- **Third Wednesday of odd months at 6:30 PM**(January, March, May, July, September, November).
- **MSU Extension Conference Room: 1715 Lansing Ave. #257 Jackson, MI 49202**

For any other sheep questions please feel free to reach out Tina, Kelsey or Courtney anytime.

Updated 1/6/2026

