

Sheep Guidelines

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FAIRBOOK INFORMATION

1st year sheep members will be limited to two entries in each individual class. Those who have shown at least 1 yr can show 4 market lambs. All animals showing in breeding classes must be purebred. All pens must be cleaned by 10:00 am on Sunday after fair. Animals are to be owned by exhibitor by May 15 prior to fair. All market and breed lambs must have a USDA scrapie tag before coming to the fair. Members must have all market lambs that will be going to the Kalamazoo County Fair tagged with Kalamazoo County I.D. by the superintendents. Ram lambs must be castrated by the tagging date. Weigh in and tagging is mandatory and will be held on the first Saturday of June in the arena at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds. Please check the MSU Extension Kalamazoo County 4-H Newsletter for specific times.

Market Lambs:

Market lambs can be brought in on Saturday or Sunday and must be sheared, clean and dry for weigh-in. Blankets need to be removed for unloading and weigh-in. All breeds will compete. They may be grade, purebred or crossbred. All exhibitors are eligible to show 4 lambs if they have participated in the project for at least 1 year. All other exhibitors may show 2 lambs. Unethical treatment of lambs will result in dismissal from the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds. Animals weighing less than 80# or not considered finished and will be placed in a "C" grouping and are not eligible to sell in the Livestock Sale. Sale weight will be established on Sunday. All animals will be released Sunday after fair. Cloverbuds, 5-7-year-olds signed up under dept 90, will show in non-competitive classes and will not be allowed to sell their animals at the auction.

Showmanship:

All 4-H sheep (both breeding and market) are expected to compete in showmanship.

Market Pen:

Bred and owned by member

Wool:

Exhibitors may exhibit one fleece per class and do not need to exhibit an animal to enter. All wool must be identified with sex and breed on it. Both purebred and commercial wool will be judged together. Only the Champion & Reserve Champion fleece will sell in the sale, with proceeds to be split between fleece and rug producers. Judging takes place during still project exhibit judging on the Saturday before the fair.

Sheep Science:

An educational exhibit is mandatory for members of the Sheep project. This exhibit may be a notebook, poster, or a management exhibit.

SHEEP PROJECT NOTEBOOK GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines to use for your exhibit.

CLOVERBUDS: 5 - 8

Importance of clean water

Know and be able to identify the characteristics of their own sheep breed

Age of lamb

Weight of lamb

Start to learn the parts of a lamb

Learn the meat breeds

JUNIOR: 9 - 12

Importance of clean water

Know all sheep body parts

What to look for when choosing a lamb

Start to learn judging vocabulary Show etiquette and equipment

Vaccinations

Current market price

INTERMEDIATE: 13 - 15

Importance of clean water

Explore three health issues: (foot rot, scrapies, coccidiosis, etc.)

Importance of feed rations

Know judging vocabulary

How to shear a lamb

Difference between wool and meat breeds

SENIOR: 16 - 19

Have the knowledge to select and purchase your own lamb

Be able to prepare yourself and your lamb for show

Purchase to market plan (how to make a profit): what weight your lamb should be when you buy it, what must you do to get it to the optimum weight at fair, feed costs, how much do you need to sell your lamb for at the fair to make a profit.