



CLAY COUNTY 4-H SHEEP

**Updated for 2026*

4-H Club Leaders: Laura Van Horn – (812)878-4617 (tvanhorn@ccrtc.com)
and Hannah Thompson – (812)691-0224 (hkvanhorn@yahoo.com)

ENROLLMENT:

- a) Premise ID numbers are required
- b) Enrolled animals must be owned by the 4-H exhibitor by said deadline of **May 15, 2026** and must be under the continuous care, responsibility, and ownership through the date of the show, except where change of ownership was to 4-H member's complete ownership. Siblings will be allowed to co-enroll sheep on 4HOnline.
- c) 4-H members must be enrolled in Clay County 4-H and in the Sheep Project on 4HOnline by the annual Spring ID Day (**May 8, 2026**).
- d) All 4-H market lambs and ewes must be enrolled on [4HOnline](#) and identified with a county ID tag by the Annual Spring ID Day (**May 8, 2026**). Registered ewes may use a flock tag for identification, but must be identified at tag-in. All market lambs will be weighed at this time for the Rate of Gain competition also.
- e) All market lambs and commercial ewes exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair must be RFID tagged at Tag Day. All sheep must have a DNA Hair Sample turned into the Extension Office by **May 15, 2026** at 4:00 p.m. to be eligible for State Fair.
- f) County Fair class entries will be due by **July 1, 2026** on [FairEntry.com](#).

HEALTH:

- a) All sheep must be unloaded outside of the barn.
- b) All sheep must be free of blankets when unloaded at the fair.
- c) No animal may enter the barn until inspection of the animal is completed by a veterinarian or the Sheep Superintendent(s).
- d) **Unless being shown fitted (breeding stock), all sheep should be shorn preferably within one week before check-in at the fair.**
- e) No sheep may be exhibited that are showing signs of being infected with ringworm.
- f) No sheep may be exhibited that are showing signs of prolapsing.
- g) Health rules as provided by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health will be followed. In case of a health question, a veterinarian will be contacted.
- h) All female 4-H sheep projects (regardless of age) must be identified with the USDA approved plastic ear tag in order to be exhibited at shows unless it is registered and has a registration tag.
- i) **SCRAPIES CONTROL IN SHEEP.** All sheep from an area not declared scrapies free by the U.S.D.A. must be treated by a method approved by the U.S.D.A. and the board of animal health within fifteen (15) days prior to the opening date of the exhibition.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

PENNING:

- a) The Superintendent will assign stall space prior to bringing sheep to the Fairgrounds.
- b) Sheep exhibitors will furnish bedding materials.
- c) No muzzles are allowed on the sheep at any time.
- d) Pens must be cleaned and inspected by the superintendent or a member of the barn committee on the night of release.
- e) There will be a pen/stall fee of no more than \$5 per pen/stall due at the beginning of fair. Please see your leader for further communication on this closer to fair.

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SHOW:

- All 4-H Livestock may only be shown by a current Clay County 4-H member.
- The Mini 4-H Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and have met the grade/age requirement per species as listed in their handbook. Mini 4-H members must be entered in the sheep project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.
- If two animals are in the same class, a substitute showman (current Clay County 4-H member) may be selected by the 4-Her. Members must notify the leaders of all substitutions before the show begins.
- No ice is to be used on lambs. Cold, wet towels can be used. Ice can be used under the sheep's chin if the sheep is overheated. This is with the approval of the Sheep Superintendent.
- No foreign objects are to be inserted or placed inside the sheep, except by a licensed veterinarian at the fairgrounds and/or approved by the Sheep Superintendent.
- Ten market lambs, ten breeding ewes, one pair of ewe lambs, and one pair of yearling ewes may be exhibited by the 4-H member.
- All breeding animals shown in breeding classes must be ewes.
- Breeding classes for registered breeding stock will be provided for all recognized breeds.
- Clay County 4-H Fair show does not require registration papers; however, the State Fair does and breeds will need to pass classification.
- Market Class Lambs can be wethers or ewes (No Rams!). Market lambs will be divided into classes by breed, and then by weight at the superintendent's discretion.
- If an exhibitor has two animals that fall in the same weight class, they may show one animal in the next heavier class providing they have no other entry in that class.
- Ewe lambs may be shown in breeding class or market class, NOT in both classes
- A pair of lambs must be exhibited by the same 4-H'er. They do not have to be the same breed, but must be uniform in conformation.**
- The Grand Champion Market Lamb will be selected from all the breed champion market lambs. A Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb will be selected from the remaining breed champions and the reserve breed champion to the Grand Champion.
- The Grand Champion Ewe will be selected from all the breed champion ewes. A Reserve Grand Champion Ewe will be selected from the remaining breed champions and the reserve breed champion to the Grand Champion.
- For market lambs, including wethers and ewes only Clay County tags will be allowed during the time of exhibit. Clay County tags are a five-digit tag.

SHOW CLASSES:

Ewe Lambs	Pair of Breeding Ewe Lambs	Yearling Ewes
Pair Breeding of Yearling Ewes	Market Lambs	Pair of Market Lambs

AWARDS

Breed Champion Ewes	Breed Champion Market Lambs	Top 5 Ewes	Top 5 Market Lambs
Wayne Stearley Legacy Award	Grand Champion Born & Raised Market Lamb	Grand Champion Born & Raised Supreme Ewe	Champion Rate of Gain Market Lamb
Good Shepherd Award	Champion & Res. Champion Junior, Intermediate and Senior Showmanship	Champion & Res. Champion, Champion of Champions Showmanship	

BORN & RAISED:

- The Born and Raised sheep must be raised by the Clay County 4-H member. **Exhibitors must notify the sheep Superintendent at time of tagging weigh-in/tagging if their animal is homegrown.**
- The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Born and Raised selection will be held immediately following the selection of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion.
- Classes for the Born and Raised will be determined by weight.
- The number of classes will be determined by the sheep superintendents.
- If a 4-H member has two animals that fall in the same weight class, he or she may show one animal in the next heavier class providing that he or she has no entry in that class. If both fall in the heavier class, both may be shown in that class.

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- f) Exhibitors must enter **both** the Bred & Owned breed class **and** the regular breed class in FairEntry to qualify for the homegrown award. *Superintendents are not responsible for entry errors.*

Example: A Columbia Ewe you've raised since birth must be entered in both the **Bred & Owned Columbia Ewe** and **Columbia Ewe** classes.

RATE OF GAIN:

The Rate of Gain award will be presented to the market animal that has gained the most weight from tag-in day to the weigh-in at the fair.

SHOWMANSHIP:

4-H members may only show their own animals that they will also exhibit in a regular 4-H class.

- Junior Showmanship:** 3rd–5th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Junior Showman, they may only compete in Intermediate Showmanship the following year.
- Intermediate Showmanship:** 6th–8th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Junior winners. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Intermediate Showman, they may only compete in Senior Showmanship the following year.
- Senior Showmanship:** 9th–12th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Intermediate winners. Winners may compete in the Champion of Champions class that year and in future years.
- Champion of Champions Showmanship:** Open to all past Senior Division Champions, including the 2026 winner.

STATE FAIR INFORMATION:

- Entries required by June 1st or by the date set by the Indiana State Fair on the Exhibitor Corners website (<https://bit.ly/3SMqDra>).
- All market lambs and crossbred ewes must have an RFID tag, 5-digit county ear tag and a DNA sample.
- 4-H/FFA Wool Show and Trimming Contest entries are made in July and on the State Fair online site.
- All registered ewes must have an RFID tag, can be identified by the ear tag that corresponds to the tag number listed on the Ewes registration paper and a DNA sample.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 18, 2026**
- **April 27, 2026**
- **May 21, 2026**
- **June 30, 2026**

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

CLAY COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION:

Only animals in market classes may sell. **Exhibitors wishing to exhibit market sheep weighing below 65 pounds must sign a release form acknowledging that their animal is not eligible for sale at the auction. Animals MUST have an RFID tag in place before going through the auction. See leader if one needs to be obtained at check-in.**

The livestock auction will be held at the conclusion of the fair. In order to participate, you must show an animal at the fair and designate an animal to go through the auction at fair check-in. A small auction fee percentage will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

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WOOL SHOW

- Each exhibitor is limited to two (2) fleeces in the show. Fleeces will be placed in proper class by the wool judge.



- b) Fleeces will be displayed at the Exhibit Hall except when being judged at the sheep show.
- c) Fleeces must be from the member's sheep flock animal. All fleeces for exhibit must be tied with paper twine (Standard wool twine).
- d) Exhibitor must sign fleece(s) in with the superintendent on the same day of Livestock check in.

REFERENCES:

[Purdue Extension Sheep Project](#)
[Indiana State Fair Book](#)

IMPORTANT SHEEP DATES:

May 8, 2026 (4:30 – 7:30 PM)	Sheep ID Day at the Fairgrounds
May 15, 2026	Deadline to enroll sheep online—The enrollment will not be complete if your sheep are not enrolled online. Exhibitors who fail to register their animals online before the May 15th deadline will not be eligible to exhibit sheep at the county or state fair.
May 15, 2026	DNA Samples must be returned to the office if going to the State Fair.
May 18, 2026	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the sheep show.
July 1, 2026	Fair Entry due
TBD	Deadline to register Sheep online for the State Fair.
July 18 - 24, 2026	Clay County Fair
July 17, 2026	Sheep check-in at Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Sheep check-in at Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Mini 4-H Sheep Show
July 21, 2026	Sheep show at Clay County Fair
July 23, 2026 (9:00 PM)	Sheep released
July 24, 2026	Clay County livestock auction
August 7 - 23, 2026	Indiana State Fair



Clay County Terms & Conditions