



## CLAY COUNTY 4-H SHEEP

*\*Updated for 2025*

4-H Club Leaders: Laura Van Horn – (812)878-4617 ([tvanhorn@ccrtc.com](mailto:tvanhorn@ccrtc.com))  
and Hannah Thompson – (812)691-0224 ([hkvanhorn@yahoo.com](mailto: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, 2025** 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 2, 2025**).
- 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 2, 2025**). 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, 2025** at 4:00 p.m. to be eligible for State Fair.
- f) County Fair class entries will be due by **July 1, 2025** 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) All sheep must have no more than 1/4" wool growth at county fair check-in with the exception of breeding stock intended to be shown as fitted.
- 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:

*\*NEW FOR 2025\**

4-H Exhibitors that use groomers for show day assistance at the Clay County 4-H Fair, your groomers WILL NOT be required to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. However, if you plan to have groomers assistance at the State Fair, those individuals *may be required* to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please reach out to the Extension Office in the Spring for enrollment assistance or refer to the State Fair rule books.

### 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.



## **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 9, 2025** 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
- 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 Ewe Lambs	Yearling Ewes
Pair of Yearling Ewes	Market Lambs	

## **AWARDS**

Breed Champion Ewes	Breed Champion Market Lambs	Top 5 Ewes	Top 5 Market Lambs
Wayne Stearley Legacy Award	Grand Champion Clay County Born & Raised Market Lamb	Grand Champion Clay County 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.



## **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 who participate in 4-H sheep showmanship classes may only show their own animals that will be exhibited by them in a regular 4-H class.

- Junior Showmanship – 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders** as of **January 1, 2025** are eligible. Once an exhibitor is the overall Junior showman, the 4-Her is only eligible to compete in the Intermediate showmanship class the following year.
- Intermediate Showmanship – 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders** as of **January 1, 2025** and anyone who was won Junior Showmanship. Once an exhibitor is the overall Intermediate showman, the 4-Her is only eligible to compete in the Senior showmanship class the following year.
- Senior Showmanship – 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders** as of **January 1, 2025** and anyone who has previously won Intermediate Showmanship. The winning 4-Her is eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions classes in the same year and future years once he or she has won senior.
- Champion of Champions Showmanship** – All previous Senior Division Champions, including the **2025** Senior Division Champion.

## **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 19, 2025**
- **April 29, 2025**
- **May 22, 2025**
- **June 30, 2025**

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.

The Livestock Auction/Benefit for the Barns Event will be held upon the conclusion of the fair. In order to be eligible, you must show an animal at the fair and have a designated animal for auction. A small percentage auction fee will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

## **WOOL SHOW**

- Each exhibitor is limited to two (2) fleeces in the show. Fleeces will be placed in proper class by the wool judge.
- Fleeces will be displayed at the Exhibit Hall except when being judged at the sheep show.
- Fleeces must be from the member's sheep flock animal. All fleeces for exhibit must be tied with paper twine (Standard wool twine).
- 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:

<b>May 2, 2025 (4:30 – 7:30 PM)</b>	Sheep ID Day at the Fairgrounds
<b>May 19, 2025</b>	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the sheep show.
<b>May 15, 2025</b>	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.
<b>May 15, 2025</b>	DNA Samples must be returned to the office if going to the State Fair.
<b>July 1, 2025</b>	Fair Entry due
<b>TBD</b>	Deadline to register Sheep online for the State Fair.
<b>July 12 - 18, 2025</b>	Clay County Fair
<b>July 11, 2025 (6:00 PM - 10:00 PM)</b>	Sheep check-in at Clay County Fair
<b>July 12, 2025 (7:00 AM - 9:00 AM)</b>	Sheep check-in at Clay County Fair
<b>July 12, 2025</b>	Mini 4-H Sheep Show
<b>July 15, 2025</b>	Sheep show at Clay County Fair
<b>July 17, 2025 (9:00 PM)</b>	Sheep released
<b>July 18, 2025</b>	Clay County livestock auction
<b>August 1 - 17, 2025</b>	Indiana State Fair
<b>August 1 - 2, 2025</b>	State Fair Lamb Shows
<b>August 7 - 9, 2025</b>	State Fair Breeding Ewe Shows



*Clay County Terms & Conditions*