



Sheep

Description:

The 4-H Sheep program provides youth with educational information and experiences about different sheep species.

Decatur County Expectations

Animal Livestock Record Sheets are to be completed and returned at check-in. Youth will have cared for and fed one (1) or more animals by May 15th (or earlier for weigh-in).

State Fair Entries

An animal does not need to be shown locally in order to be shown at the state fair. If you do not show at the county level, the animal must still be registered by May 15th in 4-H Online.

Exhibit Guidelines

Tag and Tattoo Requirements: The five (5) digit county tags and the 850-RFID tags are obtained at the Decatur County Extension Office. The tagging information must be accurately listed in the 4-H Online System. All sheep must be 840-RFID tagged and DNA Hair Sample if participating at the Indiana State Fair. Any animal not officially enrolled by May 15th is not eligible to show at the county or state fair.

Registered animals must have tags that correspond to their papers. Papers must be brought to the 4-H Fair to show as a registered animal. All sheep must be individually identified at the start of the project with animals being tagged in the ears with numbers supplied by the County Extension Office.

General Sheep Rules: All lambs must meet all health rules. For complete health rules see Official Health Requirements. Any sheep exhibitor using excessive abuse, which is considered cruel and inhumane treatment on their show animals, will be penalized. Weigh-in and check-in will be done upon arrival. If showing in a purebred class, registration papers must be shown at this time.

Youth are responsible for keeping their pens and aisle area clean at all times. Fans must have proper safety approved shrouds. All lambs must be owned and shown by the youth 4-H member. **Only current exhibiting Decatur County 4-H Sheep members and their family may assist other Decatur County 4-H Sheep Exhibitors.**

For information on YQCA or Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care, grounds fee, or grooming rules, please refer to the general livestock information on the website. Additional questions and situations will be handled by the species livestock Project Leaders, 4-H & Youth Development Extension Educator, and the 4-H Council President.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

Breeding Class Rules

Only Ewes will be eligible to show in breeding classes. In each breed, a member may make two (2) entries in each single class and one in pair's class. Each breed will be shown separately in breeding classes.

4-H Market Lamb Rules

Ewe lambs may be shown in market class or breeding class only. Market lambs may be a breed, cross-bred, or grade. A member may show no more than two (2) market lambs in each weight class. Classes will be broken by weights.

All wether lambs must be smooth to show or sell either by castration or banding. A veterinarian will sift any lambs in doubt. Any lamb showing testicle tissue will be ineligible to show.

All market lambs must be sheared after July 1st to be eligible to show. Muzzles may not be used. The direct application of ice, ice water, alcohol, Freon or any other refrigerant to the hide of a lamb is strictly prohibited. The deceptive fraudulent practice will cause the exhibitor and their animal(s) to be disqualified immediately. NO drenching or painting of sheep allowed.

All breed and market classes will be shown in the following order:

Class 1 – Market Class

Class 2 – Market Class

Class 3 – Market Class

Class 4 – Market Class

Class 5 – Champion Market Lamb

Class 6 – Reserve Champion Market Lamb

Class 7 – Single Ewe Lamb

Class 8 – Pen of Two (2) Ewe Lambs

Class 9 – Single Yearling Ewe

Class 10 – Pen of Two (2) Yearling Ewes

Class 11 – Champion Ewe

Class 12 – Reserve Champion Ewe

Breeding classes will be divided into the following sections:

Section A – Columbia

Section B – Corriedale

Section C – Commercial

Section D – Dorset

Section E – Hampshire

Section F – Montadales

Section G – North Country Cheviots

Section H – Southdown

Section I – Suffolk

Section J – Texel

Section K – Any Other Breed

Sheep Showmanship

Expert Showmanship may be won any number of times. Winners of each class are eligible to advance to the next level in the same year. After winning, Junior, Intermediate, or Senior Showmanship, the contestant must move to the next level the following year. Categories are for grade completed.

Junior Showmanship: 2nd – 5th Grade

Intermediate Showmanship: 6th – 8th Grade

Senior Showmanship: 9th – 12th Grade

Expert Showmanship: Anyone who has won Senior Showmanship

Decatur County Sheep Breeders Youth Halter Class Rules

Exhibitors must train lambs to lead and halter. Lambs will be exhibited in the ring and judged on how well lambs lead. The same lamb may be exhibited in other classes as well. Halter lambs can be entered at the same time as all other lambs. Winners of each class are eligible to move to the next level the same year. Sheep in halter class may be any sheep eligible for the 4-H Show. All halter lambs must be owned and led by the exhibitor, except for the Mini 4-H class. Exhibitors will show in the following classes, grades determined as of January 1:

Junior Halter: 3rd – 5th Grade

Intermediate Halter: 6th – 8th Grade

Senior Halter: 9th – 12th Grade

Expert Halter: Anyone who have won the senior halter class.

Halter Class Score Card

If the exhibitor touches the animal once, they are penalized. If they touch the animal again, they may be disqualified. As long as an exhibitor is in the arena, they are subject to judging. Awards will be given to each halter class.

Straight Lead – 75 Points

Circle Lead – 75 Points

Stand for Inspection – 50 Points

Points to Consider: Does the animal stay with person leading? Smoothness of walk. Poise and style while leading. Feet set Squarely? Animal stands quietly.

Mini 4-H Rules

To be eligible to show in any Mini 4-H animal show, the Mini 4-H'er (K-2nd Grade) must be enrolled in the Mini 4-H Project on the 4-H Online System or at the Extension Office by May 15th. All sheep shown in the Mini 4-H Show must be a preregistered sheep.