

# SHEEP

**PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.**

The educational 4-H sheep program and related activities (such as workshops and tours) provide youth with a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both sheep subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications).

Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Sheep			
Division/Level	Grades	Completion Activities Needed	Maximum State Fair Entries
Level 1	Grades 3-5	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 2	Grades 6-8	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 3	Grades 9-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or [shop4-h.org](http://shop4-h.org))

- Level 1: Rams, Lambs & You
- Level 2: Shear Delight
- Level 3: Leading the Flock

## GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Livestock and Animal Section for General Guidelines related to all livestock projects. See 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.  
**2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. If wanting to exhibit a poster/display/notebook related to this species, 4-H members may do so under the “Animal Education” Project. (see page 24 for details)

## SHEEP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The order of the show will be as follows:
  - a. Showmanship
  - b. Breeding Ewes
  - c. Market Lambs
2. A maximum of 30 market lambs and ewes may be entered on the 4-HOnline system. Additionally, after entering animals on the 4-HOnline system, 4-H members must identify which animals and which classes they will be exhibiting in on the FairEntry Online System. All market lambs and commercial ewes, including commercial yearlings, must be officially enrolled and tagged under the supervision of the Hendricks County 4-H Committee by the designated tag-in date.
3. All lambs must be born after September 1 of the preceding year and show lamb teeth.
4. Any lamb showing evidence of testicular tissue is ineligible.
5. 4-H members may enroll ewe lambs on the 4-H Sheep Enrollment website without designating whether they intend to show them as market lambs or breeding ewes. However, a 4-H member may only show their ewe lamb(s) as a market lamb(s) or as a breeding ewe(s) at the Fair. 4-H members may not show the same ewe lamb as both a market lamb and a breeding ewe in the 4-H sheep show at the Fair in any given year.
6. **For all other breeds, for a breed to have a separate class, there must be two (2) market animals and/or two (2) breeding animals in order to offer breed classes. Breeds that have fewer than two (2) market and/or (2) breeding animals will show in an AOB class. The 4-H member will also have the option of showing the animal in the respective crossbred/commercial class instead of AOB, but breed must be declared at the time of check in.**
7. 4-H'ers may show up to four (4) different breeds in the breeding classes (including commercial classes).
8. A 4-H market lamb or breeding ewe enrolled in a particular breed may be changed to the commercial division at the check-in table at the 4-H Fair. A sheep enrolled as a commercial or cross-bred animal will not be allowed to switch to a purebred classification after May 15.
9. Hendricks county born and raised must be declared on 4HOnline by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
10. All commercial ewes and market lambs, including commercial yearlings, must be ear tagged at the specified date by the 4-H Fair Board at the 4-H Fairgrounds.

11. Ewes exhibited in the commercial classes are not eligible for exhibition in any other classes.
12. Yearling ewes may be shown in the ring by two exhibitors. If two exhibitors are used, the 4-H exhibitor who owns the ewe being shown must hold the ewe's head. Pairs may have three exhibitors.
13. All ewes exhibited in a pair class must be owned by one exhibitor or exhibitor family (brother/sister).
14. All breeding sheep may be exhibited either shorn or with full fleece except for Shropshire, Southdown and Commercial ewes. All Shropshire, Southdown and Commercial ewes must be slick shorn for exhibition. **\*\*Babydoll Southdowns and Shetlands may be shown with fleece or slick sheared.**
15. All market lambs must be slick sheared at a uniform length with no wool above the hock and knee (including belly) for inspection upon arrival at the 4-H Fair. **\*\*Babydoll Southdowns and Shetlands may be shown with fleece or slick sheared.**
16. The use of ice, ice water, alcohol, ice packs, Freon, etc. in the preparation of sheep for the 4-H Show is by definition a deceptive, fraudulent, misrepresentative and unacceptable practice for the 4-H Show. Icing is determined to be an improper practice and if documented would result in strict disciplinary action and/or disqualification.
17. Use of cooling products or sprays that contain alcohol is NOT acceptable, i.e.... "cool brace", "cool breeze", and etc.
18. All fans must fit in your assigned pen space. All fans are subject to Barn Director Approval.

## CLASSES

### Showmanship

- **See Page 134**

### Breeding Ewe

All Breeding Ewes are required to have registration papers (excluding commercial ewes).

Classes may be offered for Border Cheviot, Columbia, Corriedale, Dorper, Dorset, Dorset Advantage, Horned Dorset, Hampshire, Katahdin, Lincoln, Montadale, Natural Colored, North Country Cheviot, Oxford, Polypay, Rambouillet, Shetland, Shropshire, Southdown, Baby Doll Southdown, Suffolk, Texel, Tunis, All Other Breeds, Whiteface Commercial Ewes and Blackface Commercial Ewes as follows:

- Single Ewe Lamb (by class and county born and raised)
- Single Yearling Ewes (by class and county born and raised)
- Champion & Reserve Champion Ewe (by class and county born and raised)

The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ewe will be selected at the conclusion of the breeding show. All Champions and Reserve Champions will be brought into the ring.

The Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Hendricks County Born & Raised Ewe will be selected after the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Pair of Ewes have been selected. All Champions and Reserve Champions will be brought into the ring.

### Market Lamb Classes

Classes may be offered for Border Cheviot, Columbia, Corriedale, Dorper, Dorset, Horned Dorset, Hampshire, Montadale, Natural Colored, North Country Cheviot, Oxford, Polypay, Rambouillet, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk, Texel, Tunis, All Other Breeds, White Faced Crossbred Market Lambs and Black Faced Market Lambs as follows:

- Single Market Lamb (by class and county born and raised)
- Champion and Reserve Champion Market Lamb (by class and county born and raised)

The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lambs will be selected at the conclusion of the market lamb show. All Champions and Reserve Champions will be brought into the ring

The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Hendricks County Born & Raised Market Lamb will be selected after the Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lambs have been selected. All Champions and Reserve Champions will be brought into the ring.

## MARKET LAMB BREED GUIDELINES

### BORDER CHEVIOT

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Solid pink nose,
2. White hooves,
3. Long ears and/or extremely long neck,
4. Excessive brown or black hair (more than 25%),
5. A wool cap,
6. Wool below the knees.

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns or solid scurs,
2. Absence of white hair (frosting) on the face and legs of black lambs,
3. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled.

### COLUMBIA

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Scurs,
2. Pigmented ears,
3. More than 10% black or brown hair,
4. Short thin ears,
5. Absence of wool below the hock or knee.

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns,
2. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled,
3. Black or brown spots in the wool that are larger than the size of a dime,
4. Solid black nose,
5. Open face or absence of a full wool cap. Must have wool between the ears and eyes.

### CORRIEDALE

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Scurs,
2. Brown spots on ears,
3. Brown or black spots (in the hair) on the face or legs (smaller than the size of a U.S. dime),
4. Minor deviation from the ideal conformation, or breed characteristics.

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns,
2. Black and/or brown spots in the wool,
3. Black and/or brown spots on the face or legs that are larger than the size of a U.S. dime,
4. Brown hairs in the leggings below the knees and hocks,
5. Speckled faces or ears,
6. Absence of black spot(s) on the nose and/or hooves,
7. Solid black nose,
8. All white hooves,
9. Solid pink noses,
10. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled.

### DORPER

Absolute Disqualifications:

1. All wool or very little evidence of hair on belly, forearm, or britch.
2. Wool below the knees or hocks.
3. Wool on the ears.
4. Excessive amount of dark fibered spots on body and underline behind heart girth exceeding a cumulative total of the size of a softball.
5. Solid brown, red, rust colored head.
6. Speckling or spots from knee to dewclaw or from hock to dewclaw.
7. Strong breed characteristics of breeds other than Dorper or White Dorper.
8. Surgical alterations other than re-docking.

9. Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.
10. Evidence of color alterations.

## DORSET

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Any dark colored spots in the hair or wool,
2. Large drooping ears,
3. Fine textured, silky hair covering,
4. Absence of hair covering in typical areas,
5. Dark colored septum - dividing the tissue between the nostrils,
6. Dark colored lining of the nose or mouth.

Absolute disqualification

1. All-black, colored or spotted (Holstein type) lambs.

## DORSET ADVANTAGE

1. Only Dorset Advantage ewes that are officially registered with the Continental Dorset Club, Inc. and registered in the 4-H exhibitors name qualify to show in this breed.
2. A Dorset Advantage sheep may be 50% Dorset or higher.
3. To be eligible to show the animal must carry a CDC Dorset Advantage paper showing ½ blood or higher Dorset percentage.
4. Dorset Advantage sheep are shown slick shorn, to carry a uniform length of wool growth that was shorn within 7 days prior to show, with the only exceptions being on the poll, front legs below the knee and rear legs below the hock.

## HORNED DORSET

Characteristics must include the Polled Dorset information listed under "Dorset," plus: Horned Dorsets must exhibit horns (not scurs) with no evidence of Rambouillet or other breed influence. Both parents of Horned Dorsets must be of pure horned ancestry.

## HAMPSHIRE

Description:

1. Head - face of good length, dark, free of wool from eyes down, unbroken wool cap extending from neck over forehead.
2. Ears must be moderate in length, thick, covered with coarse dark brown or black hair, free from wool.
3. Legs - some wool below knee.
4. Nose - broad muzzle, coarse dark brown or black hair, wool feathering desirable, open around eye, "frostiness" on nose.
5. Body wool may be white, black or any combination thereof including blue fiber.
6. Off color - free of white spots on jaws, legs and ears.

## MONTADALE

Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Solid pink nose,
2. Completely white hooves,
3. Excessive wool cap,
4. Heavy wool covering below the hock and knee,
5. Excessive brown or black hair (more than 25%) on the face or legs.

Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns (scurs that are loose are okay),
2. Excessive dark coloration of the face and legs such that the lamb appears to be a "brockle",
3. Absence of white hair frosting on the face and legs of a black lamb,
4. A steep hip and genetic tendency to be double muscled.

## NATURAL COLORED

Description:

1. At least 50% of the lamb's fleece must be made up of fibers that are a color other than white, excluding the hair on the lamb's face and legs.

## NORTH COUNTRY CHEVIOT

### Description:

1. The preferred color is chalk-white wool, but recessives such as black, reverse badger and badger are tolerated.
2. The head should be covered with short glossy white hair. The wool line should not come beyond the line in front of the ears on top, nor beyond the line of the eye on the cheeks.
3. Nostrils and hooves are preferably black, but pink or mottled noses and striped hooves are tolerated.
4. Animals must show a slightly Roman, to Roman nose.
5. Ear set should be erect at 45-degree angle to the head and of moderate to long length.
6. Animals should be free from wool above the knee and hock. These same animals should be covered with short white hair below the wool line.

## OXFORD

### Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Long droopy black ears,
2. Bare face,
3. Black spots in wool or hair,
4. Inverted eyelids.

### Absolute disqualifications:

1. Speckled face and/or hair,
2. Horns or solid scurs,
3. Lack of top-knot,
4. Long, slick, droopy black ears,
5. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled,
6. White spots on the ear.

## SHROPSHIRE

### Three of the following will result in disqualification:

1. Coarse or long, droopy ears,
2. Coarse or Roman nose,
3. Any white on the face, ears or legs,
4. Legs completely bare of wool below the knees and hocks,
5. Black arm-pits or black spots in the skin or wool.

### Absolute disqualifications:

1. Horns,
2. Lack of a wool cap,
3. A steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double-muscled,
4. Excessive white on the face, ears, or legs.

## SOUTHDOWN

### Description:

1. The hair on the muzzle should be gray to brown in color, not white and not approaching black.

### Absolute disqualifications:

1. Solid black in color,
2. Speckled faces or legs,
3. Total white hooves,
4. A pronounced Roman nose,
5. Horns,
6. Inverted eyelids.

## SUFFOLK

### Description:

1. Black hair should cover the legs and head.
2. Little to no wool should be on the head.
3. No wool should be on the legs.
4. Ears should be long, "bell-shaped" and covered with black hair.
5. Body wool may be white, black or any combination thereof.

## TEXEL

### Description:

1. The Texel breed is a medium sized sheep, standing on medium length of leg.
2. The body is very muscular over the top and carried down into the leg with a solid square rump.
3. The head is broad and covered with fine white hair from the ear forward and to the jaw line. Pure white is preferred, but if there are small spots on the ear, they should be a bright black color, not tan.
4. Texel sheep should not have a wool cap or wool on the jaw.
5. The wool line should stop above the hock and knee, with the legs being covered with the same fine white hair as the face.
6. The nostrils and hooves are preferred to be black in color.

## TUNIS

### Description:

1. Medium-sized meat-breed with a solid tan to red face and legs.
2. Ears are long pendulous, drooping forward at rest, pointed forward when alert.
3. Nose and tongue pink.
4. Slender face, wider at muzzle.
5. Dark brown or brown and beige striped hooves.
6. Legs are generally free of wool.

### Disqualifications:

1. White blaze on face below the eye ridges,
2. White or black face and/or legs,
3. The head of the Tunis should not have black or gray tint or hair,
4. Ewes with any horns/scurs,
5. Mottling or white socks on any leg,
6. Undershot or overshot of jaw,
7. Spinal deformities,
8. Undersized or too fine boned,
9. Oversized or coarse.

## WHITEFACE COMMERCIAL

### Description:

A whiteface commercial market lamb must be the offspring of at least one whiteface parent (either the sire or the dam). The lamb must show 25% or more white hair on its head (including the ears), or show some evidence of a speckling pattern on its ears, face, jaw, flank or legs. Solid brown faced or smut faced lambs with little to no white hair on their head (including ears) and no evidence of a speckling pattern will show in the blackface commercial class.

## BLACKFACE COMMERCIAL

### Description:

Blackface Commercial classes will be designated for blackface/brownface and predominantly blackface grade, crossbred and any such market lambs sifted from a breed class.