February 2, 2026

Dear 4-H Sheep and Committee Members,

IMPORTANT PROJECT INFORMATION:

- ***All members must be enrolled in 4HOnline.***
- All market lambs must be born after January 1 and be in the member's care by May 1.
- All sheep must be entered into 4HOnline before May 15th. *It is the responsibility of the 4-H member* and or family to enroll their animals online. Instructions are be found at: https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/_docs/projects/animal-identification/animal-id-instructions.pdf
- 4-H members may have up to 10 market lambs enrolled, but may show only 5 animals at the fair. They must weigh at least 70 lbs. at fair time. Only 3 may be sold in the auction.
- 4-H members may enroll 2 breeding animals per class.
- 4-H Market Lambs, commercial (Non-registered) and registered breeding stock must be tagged on May 3rd
- If any of your sheep losses an ear tag, contact Jake Salisbury or Don Stoner.

May 1st | *Tag in Date for Sheep | 6 - 8 PM at the Fairgrounds Draft Horse Barn*
May 2nd | *Tag in Date for Sheep | 7 - 9 AM at the Fairgrounds Draft Horse Barn*
May 15th | *ALL livestock must be entered and identified in 4HOnline*
May 15th | *DNA hair sample due for State Fair (turn in at the Extension Office)*
May 17th | Showmanship Workshop
June 12th | *All Livestock entered in Fair Entry (these are the specific animals you will be bringing to fair)*
June 12th | *Complete Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or YQCA Online*
June 30th | *Fair Pen Set-Up & Shearing Workshop |6 PM at Sheep Barn*
July 1st | *State Fair Entry Deadline*
July 11th to 18th | *LAPORTE COUNTY FAIR*
July 11th | *Sheep Check-In | 7 – 9 AM | Sheep Barn*
July 11th | *4-H Market Lamb Weigh-In | 9:30 – 11:30 AM | Sheep Barn*
July 12th | *4-H Sheep – Pen of 2 Sign-Up Due | 6 PM | Sheep Barn*
July 13th | *4-H Sheep Show| 8 AM | Livestock Show Arena*
July 17th | *ALL DAY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION*
July 17th | *Release of ALL Auctioned and Non-sale Sheep |7 - 9 PM | Sheep Barn*
July 18th | *Sheep Barn Clean-Up |7 AM*
August 7th to 23rd | *Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays)*

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**
  - I.D. Days are at the Draft Horse Barn. Animals with sore mouth should arrive toward the end of the times listed. Please inform the volunteers tagging your animals that day that your sheep are infected because sore mouth can be contracted by humans.

o The 4-H Sheep Committee will be ear tagging all market lambs. A charge of $6.00 per lamb will pay for tags and supplies.
o Enter the fairgrounds off of Ziegler Road at Grandstand Drive and proceed west to the Draft Horse Barn. Trucks and trailers will enter the west end of the Draft Horse Barn and exit on the east end of the Draft Horse Barn after animals are identified.
- **Sunday, June 30th at 6:00 p.m. | LaPorte County Fairgrounds | Sheep Barn**
  o Fair pen set up pens, tour of the new show arena & fair week expectations.
  o Shearing Workshop

ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS:
- **Market lambs**
  o County Fair: A 5-digit county tag will be used.
  o State Fair: An 840 RFID tag, 5-digit county tag and DNA hair sample.
- **Commercial ewes**
  o State Fair: An 840 RFID tag, and 5-digit county tag or an official scrapies tag and DNA hair sample.
- **Registered ewes**
  o State Fair: An 840 RFID tag and ID that matches registration papers and a DNA hair sample.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION
- **Rule Changes**
  There have been numerous changes in the classes and showmanship. Please refer to the project handbook for the updated rule changes and additions. You can find that at: 2025-26-laporte-handbook2.pdf
- **Sheep Id Worksheet**
  Enclosed is a Sheep ID Worksheet for your record keeping and assisting you while enrolling your animals in 4HOnline. This is _**NOT**_ an animal enrollment form and does not count as enrolling your animal online. You must still ID your animals through 4-H Online. The worksheet is simply to assist you with inputting the information into the computer. You do not need to turn in the worksheet, nor do you need to bring it with you to the fairgrounds on ID Day unless you want to fill it out for your records.

INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK OR YQCA REQUIREMENTS
Each 4-H member who is participating in Beef or Dairy Feeder, Sheep, Goat, Swine, and Poultry projects will need to complete a quality assurance program by June 12th.

1) The Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program. These trainings will all be held in-person for the upcoming year and registration is open in 4HOnline, under Events, look for LaPorte County – Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care.

2) YQCA certification (online only) will be accepted. Please visit yqcaprogram.org to take the online training. Once completed it is your responsibility to send a copy of your certificate to the Extension Office so they have record of completion. Those certificates can be sent directly to mart2843@purdue.edu

FAIR ENTRY
FairEntry is the second step in being able to exhibit animals at the LaPorte County Fair. All 4-H members will need to enter the animals that they intend to bring to the fair exhibition in Fair Entry by June 12, 2026.
You will use the same email and password that is used with 4HOnline when visiting https://fairentry.com

STATE FAIR
You may enroll 30 total sheep. For State Fair all market lambs and breeding ewes (including registered ewes) must be tagged.   State Fair entry information may be found at: https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/state-fair/competitions--contests/4-h-competitions-entry-information

Please remember -

It is your responsibility to bring your animals to the Fairgrounds for tagging on either Friday, May 1st or Saturday, May 2nd. No other days will be scheduled! _The committee will not go to an individual's home to tag after the deadline._ Please inform any new members about this date.

4-H members will need to make arrangements with someone else to have their animals taken to the fairgrounds on these dates if they are unable to attend.

Sincerely,

The Sheep Committee

Enclosures: ID Worksheet/ ID Day/ Animal Identification