

# Sheep

**Manual:** 4-H 194 Sheep Resource Handbook

**Record Sheet:** (Complete and put in your Green Record Book)  
Montgomery County Livestock Record Sheet  
4-H 528 General Record Sheet for Poster Exhibit

**Exhibit Options:** Enter livestock, OR  
Display an educational poster about sheep OR  
Interactive Demonstration

## Sheep & Goats Health Requirements:

1. Blankets must be removed from all sheep at the time of arrival.
2. All sheep must be sheared within 5 days of check-in of the local 4-H fair. This excludes all female fitted wool breeds. Sheep must be presented slick-shorn for inspection at arrival.
3. No sheep or goats may be exhibited that are showing signs of being infected with ringworm.
4. For more information on sheep and goat health requirements, call the Indiana Board of Animal Health (317)544-2400 or visit BOAH's website at: [www.in.gov/boah/2421.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2421.htm).

## Sheep Identification

### **Market Lambs – Must have:**

- Official Scrapie identification tag with US shield
- 5-digit county visual tag
- 840- RFID tag and DNA hair sample (if exhibit at Indiana State Fair)
- Purebred market lambs must be born of purebred parents of the same breed and exhibit characteristics consistent with that breed.

### **Breeding Ewes (Lambs & Yearlings) - Must have:**

- Official Scrapie identification tag with US shield
- 5-digit county visual tag/tattoo/or flock tag (tag number must correspond to tag number listed on the registration papers of purebred ewes).
- 840- RFID tag and DNA hair sample (if exhibiting at Indiana State Fair)
- Except for commercial ewes, all purebred breeding sheep must be registered, the registration number recorded with the breed association, and the papers in possession of the exhibitor. The breeder's tag/tattoo must be worn if required by breed association.

## Exhibitor Requirements:

1. Must have all livestock enrolled on 4-H Online by May 15th.
2. Must be Quality Assurance Trained before county fair livestock check-in or date specified by extension staff, whichever comes first.
3. Substitute and/or additional showmen must be a Montgomery County 4-H Livestock project member and approved by the superintendent.

## **General Rules**

1. The sheep project will be operating by modified Indiana State Fair rules. For any questions or clarifications, please contact the Sheep superintendent or the 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator.
2. All wethers and all ewes must be tagged by the date 4-H Inc. has set.
  - a. If you purchase a lamb after the tag date, you will need to make arrangements with barn superintendent and 4-H Youth Educator to get them tagged/scanned before May 15.
3. Premise ID is required or Proof of Application must be attained by July 1.
4. Any sheep showing signs of sore mouth, ringworm, foot rot, any contagious disease or sickness will NOT be admitted to the fairgrounds. Barn superintendents may request veterinarian assistance if necessary. All sheep must have tails docked (except Jacobs, Dorpers, and St. Croix due to breed characteristics).
5. All exhibitors may show a maximum of eight (8) animals of which no more than four (4) may be market lambs.
6. Sheep designated for the 4-H auction will be ineligible for any further 4-H exhibitions including the Indiana State Fair. All animals must be removed from the grounds upon release, including auction animals.
7. All sheep must be unloaded and presented without blankets for close inspection by designated staff at fair check-in.
8. All sheep must arrive show ready:
  - a. All market lambs (including ewe lambs shown as market lambs) MUST be slick shorn at a uniform length (1/8 inch or less) with no wool between hock/knee and ears upon arrival.
  - b. The following breeding ewes: Whiteface Cross, Blackface Cross, Dorset Advantage, Shropshire, Southdown, and any unregistered ewe or ewe lamb MUST be slick shorn at a uniform length (1/8 inch or less) with no wool between hock/knee and ears upon arrival.
9. Exhibitors shall keep their pens and aisle areas clean at all times.
  - a. Only Household type fans shall be used inside the barn.
  - b. Canopies/Tents may be set up no earlier than 24 hours before the designated livestock check in date (i.e.: Livestock check in at 4pm Friday = Tents can be set at 4pm or later Thursday). Canopies/Tents set up earlier will be removed.
10. Pens shall be completely cleaned prior to departure.
11. All sheep must stay on fairgrounds property during the fair.
12. A market lamb or breeding ewe identified in a particular breed may be changed to the commercial or crossbred division before final entries are made. A sheep identified as a commercial or crossbred animal will not be allowed to switch to a purebred classification after May 15.
13. Painting (market and breeding) is allowed following check-in, paint and/or coloring sheep prior to check-in is prohibited; violations to this rule will result in the disqualification of the animal.
  - a. The check-in committee will visually inspect all animals for signs of disease or illness, and appropriate breed characteristics. The superintendent will resolve any issues discovered by the committee.
14. The following will be the classes at the Montgomery County 4-H Fair:

<b>2026 Montgomery County Fair Classes</b>				
<b>Breed</b>	<b>Market Lambs</b>	<b>Breeding Ewes</b>		
	<i>Must be slick shorn</i>	<b>Spring Ewe Lamb</b>	<b>Fall Ewe Lamb</b>	<b>Yearling Ewe</b>
	<b>Less than 1yr of age</b>	<b>Born on or after Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of current yr</b>	<b>Born Sept - Dec of previous yr</b>	<b>1 yr old, not over 2 yrs old</b>
Border Cheviot	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Columbia	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Corriedale	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Dorper	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Dorset	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Dorset (Fitted)		YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted
Dorset Advantage	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Hampshire	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Hampshire (Fitted)		YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted
Horned Dorset	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Katahdin	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Lincoln	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Montadale	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Natural Color	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
North Country Cheviot	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted

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North Country Cheviot	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Oxford	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Oxford (Fitted)		YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted
Shetland	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Shropshire	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Southdown	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Suffolk	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Suffolk (Fitted)		YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted	YES - Fitted
Texel	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Tunis	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted
Blackface Cross	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
Whiteface Cross	YES	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn	YES - Shorn
AOB (Purebred)	YES	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted	YES - Shorn or Fitted

15. Classes will be posted in the Sheep Barn no later than the morning before the show day until 11 am. Corrections to class postings can be made until that time. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure their sheep are in the correct classes. Changes will not be made after noon on the day before the show. Programs will be printed at noon and no further changes will be made.
16. ONLY yearling ewes may be shown in the ring by exhibitors. If two exhibitors are used, the 4-H exhibitor who owns the ewe being shown must hold the ewe's head.

## **4-H Market Lamb Qualifications:**

1. Exhibitors may show a maximum of four (4) market lambs. (Exhibitors may not show more than a total of 8 animals at the county fair)
2. All market lambs must be under one (1) year-of-age on show day and still have their lamb's teeth intact.
3. 4-H members may not show the same ewe lamb as both a market lamb and a breeding ewe at the fair. A ewe lamb can, however, be shown as a 4-H market lamb one (1) year and then shown as a yearling breeding ewe the following year.
4. Any lambs showing evidence of testicular tissue may be ineligible
5. Market Lambs must arrive show ready. Specifically, slick shorn at a uniform length (1/8 inch or less). Market lambs may not be shown with wool over 1/8 of an inch in between the hock/knee and ears. If this includes belly wool.
6. All sheep will be unloaded and presented without blankets for close inspection by designated department staff.
7. 4-H market lambs are not allowed to be shown with ear tags that display wording of any kind and will be covered up during check-in. Only official, county issued, five-digit ear tags and scrapie tags will be permitted.
8. Painting (Market & Breeding) is allowed following check-in, paint and/or coloring sheep prior to check-in is prohibited; violations to this rule will result in the disqualification of the animal.
9. Classes will be divided using the lamb's weight.
10. Purebred market lambs must be born of purebred parents of the same breed and exhibit characteristics consistent with that breed.
11. All class winners will show for breed champion, and the second place animal to the breed champion may compete for reserve breed champion.
12. All breed champions will show for grand champion Market Lamb. Once a Breed Champion is selected for any position in the overall selection that respective Reserve Breed Champion will be allowed to enter the ring for contention.

## **4-H Breeding Ewe Qualifications:**

1. A 4-H exhibitor may show a maximum of six (6) ewes. From these six ewes a 4-H exhibitor may show, a maximum of two (2) ewes per age division per breed (i.e. spring ewe lambs, fall ewe lambs, and yearling ewes). Divisions (fitted, slick) within a breed count against the total for that breed. e.g. 1 slick yearling ewe and 1 fitted yearling ewe of the same breed equals the maximum for that breed. (Exhibitors may not show more than a total of 8 animals at the county fair).
2. Ewe lambs must have been born after September 1st of the previous year. Fall Ewe lambs are born between September 1st and December 31st of the previous year; Spring Ewe lambs are born on or after January 1st of the current year; Yearlings are over 1 year of age but not more than 2 years of age.
3. Animals exhibited in the ewe lamb classes must still have their lamb's teeth intact. Lambs with broken mouths or showing evidence of yearling teeth, will show in a yearling class. Determination of yearling ewes' teeth will be at the discretion of the judge.

4. All sheep will be unloaded and presented without blankets for close inspection by designated department staff.
5. All breeding sheep may be exhibited either shorn or with full fleece except for Dorset Advantage, Shropshire, Southdown, Blackface Cross and Whiteface cross ewes. All Dorset Advantage, Shropshire, Southdown and Blackface Cross and Whiteface cross ewes must be slick shorn for exhibition.
6. Ewes in any slick sheared class must arrive show ready. Specifically, slick shorn at a uniform length (1/8 inch or less). Slick Shorn Ewes may not be shown with wool over 1/8 of an inch in between the hock/knee and ears. This includes belly wool.
7. A separate class for slick sheared ewe lambs will be offered for the Dorset, Suffolk, Hampshire, and Oxford breeds. The slick shorn class will be shown as the first class of ewe lambs in each breed. The Dorset, Suffolk, Hampshire, and Oxford breeds will also offer a slick shorn class for yearling ewes and this class will show before the fitted yearling ewes.
8. All ewes must be identified with an ear tag or tattoo.
9. Except for Blackface Cross and Whiteface Cross ewes, all breeding sheep must be registered, the registration number recorded with the breed association and the papers (no photocopies, carbon or FAX copies except a FAX directly from the national breed association to the 4-H Extension Educator) in the possession of the exhibitor. The breeder's tag/tattoo must be worn if required by the breed association. If the exhibitor does not have papers the ewe will be shown as a black or white face cross.
10. Painting (Market & Breeding) is allowed following check-in, paint and/or coloring sheep prior to check-in is prohibited; violations to this rule will result in the disqualification of the animal.
11. All Black and White face cross ewe lambs and yearling ewes will be weighed for class designations.
12. Ewe lambs shown as 4-H market lambs will not be eligible to show in 4-H breeding ewe classes.
13. ONLY 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.
14. All class winners will show for breed champion, and the second place animal to the breed champion may compete for reserve breed champion.
15. The champion ewe in each breed will compete for the Grand Champion Ewe. Once a Breed Champion is selected for any position in the overall Ewe selection that respective Reserve Breed Champion will be allowed to enter the ring for contention.

## **Fraud and Deception Rules:**

1. The Sheep Superintendent has the right to resolve any unforeseen matters not covered by general terms and conditions listed in the Montgomery County 4-H Info Book.
2. Tampering, altering, and/or misrepresentation relative to any exhibit is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, breeding, age, ownership, and/or method of preparation for completion. (Ex. In livestock, this includes, but is not limited to, coloring that alters or misrepresents breed characteristics, pumping and filling)
3. Unethical fitting of animal exhibits is defined as the administration of any substance (to included, but not limited to, drugs, blood, oils, steroids, air, chemical substances) or performance of any surgical or nonsurgical procedure altering the animal's configuration or natural conformation of any part of the animal's body, or rendering its tissues unfit for human consumption is prohibited.
4. The direct application of ice, alcohol, Freon or any other chemical refrigerant to the hide of a lamb is strictly prohibited. Any other applications deemed inhumane or cruel will not be tolerated. These deceptive, fraudulent practices will cause the exhibitor and their animal(s) to be disqualified immediately.
5. An exhibitor or person representing an exhibitor may not take exception to the decisions of the Superintendent or Judge in an unprofessional and/or public manner.