2017 Sheep Information Sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Sheep Show Committee and the Center for Youth Development
This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year’s Minnesota State Fair 4-H Sheep Show. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level.

Premise ID numbers ARE REQUIRED in 2017.
Information or online registration of premises can be found at:
https://www.bah.state.mn.us/register-your-premises  or call (651)201-6816

OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
Ownership Requirements for All Animal Science Projects are uniform for Beef, Cats/Pets, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Lama, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, and Swine. Animals must be owned solely by the 4-Her or the 4-Her’s family. The family includes the 4-Her’s parents/guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animal may be owned by grandparents as long as the 4-Her’s parents are actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow guidelines within the lease agreement. Lease agreements must be submitted by May 15 with 4HOnline data. Market animals (with the exception of prospect calves) cannot be leased.

OWNERSHIP CLARIFICATIONS 2017

- With the new Online ID process, 4-H families are no longer able to identify animals as a family group. They might, for example, have identified a number of animals as being owned by the “John Doe Family.” Under the new Online ID process, families will need to enter each animal in one of 4-H member’s profiles. A good rule of thumb might be to break all animals to be ID’ed up such that each family member gets about the same number of animals ID’ed in their name. For example, if the John Doe Family is ID’ing 12 animals and there are three siblings in the John Doe Family, you might consider putting 4 animals in each sibling’s name. It is also a good practice to put at least one animal under each sibling. The determination of which sibling exhibits which animal at the County Fair can then be delayed until the ID checkpoint at County Fair. It is at the County Fair ID checkpoint for each species that animals must be declared by a specific sibling and cannot be switched to another sibling after that.

- The same animal cannot be identified by more than one 4-H family unit. Let’s say a livestock production operation is a partnership between two brothers – both having children in 4-H. The cousins in this example must identify different animals. They might identify several as the “John Doe Family” and several others as the “Jim Doe Family.” But the same animals CANNOT be identified by both families. Let’s say a similar operation is owned by two unrelated partners. In this case the same philosophy would apply. Each family may identify any number of animals but NO animals can be identified by both families. The exception to this rule is in Horse, Dog and Lama where it is permitted for animals to be ID’ed by two 4-Hers, but with restrictions described elsewhere in the Species Information Sheet.

- Families are eligible to transfer female animals between market/breeding classes up until county fair verification if they meet identification standards (all market animals require a 4-H tag by the market id deadlines for each species). After this point - animals must show in the class that they entered in (if shown as a market animal at county fair - must show as a market animal at state fair). Animals must also meet 3 criteria:
  - Leasing (not available to market animals)
  - County Requirements (central ID or not)
  - ID date (for beef)

- Committees are working on details that could include a required shirt worn by all exhibitors. This is for state fair shows only and could happen as early as 2017.
LEASING PROGRAM

Breeding sheep (ewe lambs and yearling ewes) may be leased. 4-Hers exhibiting leased animals at the State Fair must present a photocopy of the "Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Form" during verification.

Market lambs cannot be leased.

BIRTHDATES

- Ewe lambs must be born on or after January 1 of the current year.
- Market Lambs (wethers & ewes) must be born on or after January 1st of the current year.
- Yearling Ewe over one year of age and under two years of age and must not show evidence of four permanent incisors.

IDENTIFICATION DATES, DETAILS AND FORMS

ALL SHEEP MUST HAVE USDA OFFICIAL SCRAPIE TAGS (WITH UNIQUE FLOCK SERIAL NUMBER AND INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL NUMBER). ALL MARKET SHEEP AND COMMERCIAL/BREEDING EWES/EWE LAMBS MUST HAVE TWO FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION, ONE OF THOSE FORMS MUST BE THE OFFICIAL 4-H EARTAG.

- Refer to your county ID letter and online at: www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID
- Market lambs (wethers & ewes) must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H eartag by May 15.
- Breeding ewes must be identified appropriately (see below) by May 15.
- All breeding ewes and market lambs must have a USDA Official Scrapie tag. Contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (651.296.2942 – ext. 30) to get a tag. USDA Official tag must show the official flock number and the individual animal numbers. Commercial/crossbred breeding ewes must be identified by USDA Official Scrapie tag (with a unique flock number and individual animal number) and 4-H eartag. Legible tattoo is additional and optional.
- Registered ewes must have two permanent forms of identification. Permanent ID must match the registration papers. Official Scrapie tag and option(s) of 4-H tag, tattoo or individual ID tag that matches registration paper.

- All sheep ID data must be entered online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county extension office, by May 15.
- Registered breeding sheep must have a copy of registration paper on file at county office prior to the opening of county fair.
- If a breeding animal is leased, the “Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Agreement” must also be uploaded and/or submitted prior to May 15 as part of the ID process.

DATES OF STATE FAIR 4-H LIVESTOCK ENCAMPMENT & SHOW TIMES

- 4-H Livestock Encampment ~ Wednesday, August 23 – Sunday, August 27
- Sheep Interview Workshop and test ~ Wednesday & Thursday (watch premium book for available times)
- Sheep Interview Callbacks ~ Thursday 5:00 p.m.
- Show Day & Time ~ Friday – 4:30 p.m.
- Showmanship ~ Saturday – 11:00 a.m.
- Lamb Lead ~ Saturday – 8:00 a.m.
- Fleece Show ~ Friday at conclusion of Breeding show
SHOW INFORMATION

- Grade (non-registered) and commercial ewes will be shown within three classes, within their age group.
  - There will be a black face commercial class, a white & speckle face commercial class, and a slick shorn wether dam class.
- In the market lamb class, there will be separate lots for black face, white face and speckle faced animals.
- In the market white face class, animals cannot have any black on head or legs. Additional market lambs can qualify for the white face class if they provide the registration papers from one of the following breed associations: Cheviot, Columbia, Corredale, Dorset, Lincoln, Montedale, Polypay, Rambouillet, Southdown, Targhee, & Texel.
- In the market speckle face class, lambs must show evidence of white & black/brown color on the face. Final classification determined at weigh-in.
- In the breeding ewe show, classes may be combined based on the number of entries.
- In breeding ewes, the wether dams classes will be shown and judged in the market lamb arena. They are ineligible for Supreme Champion ewe and the auction. These classes are NOT terminal.
- Breeding Yearling Ewes Only-a 2nd 4-H member may be allowed to set legs only during the breeding show, not during showmanship. *Please see general grooming & showing rules*

WEIGHT GUIDELINES

- Market lambs will still be weighed at State Fair to determine market weight and weight class.
- The RECOMMENDED State Fair minimum weight is 105 pounds. No ribbon deductions for below.
- The RECOMMENDED State Fair maximum weight is 170 pounds.

REGISTRATION PAPERS

- If you are exhibiting a registered breeding ewe or a registered white face market lamb you must present a copy of the registration papers at verification. Eartag or tattoo must match that on the registration paper, if not ewes will be shown in the commercial class. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the registration papers to your county office at time of verification, as soon as available and prior to county fair.

STATE FAIR HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- All breeding ewes and market lambs must have a USDA Official Scrapie tag with the unique serial number and individual animal number.
- Sheep are not required to have a health certificate.
- The official State Fair veterinarian will visually inspect all sheep at verification. The State Fair veterinarian will also conduct daily walk-thru inspections.
- The official State Fair Veterinarian will order the immediate removal to the quarantine facility or removal from the State Fairgrounds of any sheep with symptoms of infectious or communicable disease. This includes sheep with warts, ringworm, fungus, or sore mouth.
- Any quarantined animal cannot be shown, although 4-Hers may still participate in the Sheep Interviews.

MARKETING OF LAMBS

AGAIN IN 2017

- This is a non-terminal show for all market lambs except auction lambs. All auction lambs are terminal. Exhibitors may opt to remove their lamb from the auction line up but will then forfeit their auction spot. All other exhibitors will still have the option of selling their market lamb.
- The breeding wether dam class is not terminal.

STATE FAIR INTERVIEWS

AGE DIVISIONS: INTERMEDIATE = GRADES 6-8 & SENIOR = GRADE 9+

- To qualify for any awards above and beyond a blue ribbon, exhibitors must participate in the Sheep interviews.
  - All exhibitors participate in the interview process.
  - The score from the computerized test will determine Interview Finalists.
  - All Finalists will receive recognition and Award Winners will be selected from the Finalists.

STATE FAIR SHOWMANSHIP

Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8 & Senior = grades 9-10 & Advanced = grade 11+

- Any sheep exhibitor who wants to participate in showmanship must sign up at breeding ewe and market lamb verification.
STATE FAIR HERDSMANSHIP

- Animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Lambs must be on straw or shavings. If mats are used, they must be placed on straw or shavings for absorbency.
- Please refer to the 2015 Premium Book for further Herdsmanship updates.

STATE FAIR GROOMING RULES

- All grooming of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-Her exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair.
- Market lambs must be closely shorn at weigh in. (No more than ¼ inch.)
- All lambs must be dry upon entering the staging area or the 4-Her will be required to take the lamb out and dry it.
- No alteration of coloring on lambs permitted.

LAMB LEAD

AGE DIVISIONS: INTERMEDIATE = GRADES 6-8 & SENIOR = GRADE 9+

- All sheep exhibitors are eligible for Lamb Lead. The 4-H Lamb Lead provides an opportunity for 4-H members to combine their skills and knowledge of sheep production with fashion and clothing selection.
- The exhibitor must groom and train his/her own animal and must use the same animal in both the lamb lead and the sheep show.
- The exhibitor must wear a garment made from at least 60% wool. Please refer to the Sheep section of the State Fair 4-H Premium Book for more details.

FLEECE SHOW

- Any 4-Her enrolled in the sheep project may enter a fleece. (You do not have a sheep exhibit at State Fair to enter.)
- Fleece will be conference judged on Friday at the conclusion of the Breeding Show. (Entry of fleece will be 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.)
- Please refer to the Sheep section of the State Fair 4-H Premium Book for more details. New in 2009 were the three category divisions.

AUCTION

- Approximately 10% of the market lambs will be selected for the auction.