

# Sheep

## Rules

- A. General Rules - [Nebraska State Fair Livestock General Rules and Regulations](#) apply to this department. It is strongly encouraged that all exhibitors read and understand the [Nebraska State Fair Livestock General Rules and Regulations and Livestock Health Requirements](#). These documents can be found at the [Nebraska State Fair website](#).
- B. Health Requirements - See [Health Requirements for Animals Exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair](#) for additional information.
- C. Show Schedule - See [Nebraska State Fair Livestock Schedule](#) for arrival, check-in and show times and dates.
- D. Release of Exhibits - All animals will be released according to the [Nebraska State Fair release schedule](#).
- E. Number of Exhibits per Exhibitor - A 4-H member is limited to exhibiting 4 sheep.
- F. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) - Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through [Youth for the Quality Care of Animals \(YQCA\)](#). Refer to the [Nebraska State Fair General Rules and Regulations](#) for additional information.
- G. Entry Deadline - All applications for an entry must be made online at [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org). All 4-H entries must be made through the State Fair website by 8:00 PM CT on August 10.
- H. Show Entry - For purposes of exhibition, an animal can be nominated for the State Fair in both 4-H and FFA but only shown in one organization or the other, not both.
- I. Dress Code - When showing animals, exhibitors must wear the official State Fair 4-H shirt. No exhibitor number harnesses may be worn. Blue jeans are appropriate. Hats shall not be worn in the show ring.
- J. Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors are automatically registered but not required to show in Showmanship. Exhibitors must show their own animal and the animal must be entered and exhibited in a breeding or market class. See additional guidelines and information in the Showmanship section below. Review the [Nebraska State Fair Schedule](#) for times and dates.
- K. Substitutions - Any animal may be substituted for an animal within the species that has been properly nominated on the exhibitor's online nomination database list.
- L. Grooming - All beef, swine, sheep, and goats (showmanship, market and breeding) will be shown Blow & Go. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint or powder products. Reference the [Nebraska State Fair Livestock General Rules and Regulations](#) for specific guidelines.
- M. Toweling Protocol - All sheep and goats will be subject to visual inspection and/or toweling for the presence of adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products. A toweling inspection will be incorporated for all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place class winners (showmanship, breeding, market). The 3<sup>rd</sup> place class winner may be requested back if the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place class winner do not pass inspection. All animals entering the Final Drive will be subject to a toweling inspection before entering the show ring. Toweling of the animal may

include but is not limited to the topline, legs, chest, belly, and flank. If, after inspection, the animal is found to have adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products applied it will be disqualified from competition. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited, and no refunds will be made.

- N. Showing & Handling Practices - The use of showing and/or handling practices that may be considered objectionable or abusive, such as striking or slapping lambs and exhibiting the lamb with its front feet off the ground, are not acceptable. The use of such practices may result in the lowering of a ribbon placing. (Lifting the lamb in a fluid motion to set the front legs prior to quickly setting the feet back on the ground is acceptable.) Spike collars are not acceptable and will result in the lowering of a ribbon placing.
- O. Club Lamb Fungus Inspection - All sheep exhibits (breeding and market) may be checked by a veterinarian for evidence of club lamb fungus at any time during the fair. Exhibits determined to have "active" club lamb fungus will not be eligible to show and will be sent home or put in quarantine.
- P. Awards - Exhibitors will receive awards for the Division Champions, Reserve Division Champions, Grand Champion Overall, Reserve Grand Champion Overall, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall. Only entries receiving a purple ribbon are eligible to receive champion and reserve awards.

## Eligibility

Refer to the [State Fair Livestock Identification and Nomination Requirements](#) for information on exhibitor eligibility at the State Fair.

## Quota

Number of Exhibits per Exhibitor - A 4-H member is limited to exhibiting 4 sheep.

## Divisions

### Breeding Ewes

#### Class

Ewe Lambs (Born 9/1/2023 and after)

- G032020 - All Wool Breeds
- G032040 - Dorset Ewes
- G032060 - Hampshire Ewes
- G032080 - Southdown Ewes
- G032100 - Suffolk Ewes
- [G032150 - All Hair Breeds](#)
- G032120 - All Other Registered Meat Breeds
- G032140 - Commercial Meat Breeds

## Yearling Ewes (Born 9/1/2022 to 8/31/2023)

- G032021 - All Wool Breeds
- G032041 - Dorset Ewes
- G032061 - Hampshire Ewes
- G032081 - Southdown Ewes
- G032101 - Suffolk Ewes
- [G032151 - All Hair Breeds](#)
- G032121 - All Other Registered Meat Breeds
- G032141 - Commercial Meat Breeds

## Rules

1. Breeding Sheep Identification Requirements - All breeding sheep to be shown at State Fair must be tagged with a USDA official scrapie ID, owned by the exhibitor, completed the online nomination with payment through the official online database, and have the DNA collector envelope with hair sample submitted to their County Extension Office by June 15.
2. Age Classification of Breeding Ewes - Ewes born September 1, 2023, or after are classed as lambs. Ewes born between 9/1/2022 and 8/31/2023 will be classed as yearlings. Ewes born prior to 9/1/2022 are ineligible to show. All ewe lambs must have all temporary teeth present. Yearling ewes can have yearling teeth but cannot have two-year-old teeth. All breeding ewes may be subject to mouthing to verify age. Breeding ewes found to be in violation will be disqualified. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited, and no refunds will be made.
3. Dual Eligibility (Market and Breeding) - Ewes may be eligible as both market and breeding, provided a DNA collector envelope with hair samples have been submitted to the County Extension office, and the completed online nomination with payment includes all required identification information for both a market and breeding animal by June 15. This option does not allow the animal to be shown in both market and breeding at the same show.
4. Classes may be divided at discretion of show management.
5. ORIGINAL REGISTRATION PAPERS MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF CHECK IN. The registration paper must show the exhibitor's name or a co-owner who is an immediate member of the exhibitor's family and is listed with the online nomination in the official online database. Original registration papers or electronic [document](#) presented using a tablet or smart phone will be accepted if pulled up from their respective breed website. NO PRINTED PAPER COPIES OR SCREENSHOTS ACCEPTED.. If registration papers are not presented, entry will be moved into the commercial division.
6. Minimum Entries for Breed Classes - Ewes of a breed with less than three eligible entries (including both yearlings and lambs) will be combined in the All Wool Breeds or All Other Registered Meat Breeds.
7. Show Order for Breeding Ewes - 4-H Breeding ewes will be shown by breeds in a rotating schedule. The breeds will show in the following order for [2024](#):

- [Hampshire Ewes](#)
  - [All Wool Breeds](#)
  - [Dorset Ewes](#)
  - [Southdown Ewes](#)
  - [Suffolk Ewes](#)
  - [All Other Registered Meat Breeds](#)
  - [All Hair Breeds](#)
  - [Commercial Meat Breeds](#)
8. [Wool Length Requirements](#) - All registered and commercial meat breed breeding sheep must be shorn sufficiently short to allow inspection for club lamb fungus by State Fair Veterinarians at any time of the fair Wool may be left on the legs ONLY below the knees and hocks. All registered and commercial wool breed sheep may be shown in the fleece.
  9. [Weigh Cards](#) - Exhibitors will declare weights of all commercial meat breed ewes (an official weigh-in will not be conducted by show officials). Weigh cards must be completed and turned in during the designated check-in time and location. The weight listed on the weigh card will become that animal's official declared weight to be used for assignment to a class and for weigh-back purposes.
  10. [Weigh Backs](#) - A weigh back will be incorporated for all 1st and 2nd place purples in each commercial breeding class. A 5% variance from the declared weight at check-in will be allowed. Animals not meeting the 5% variance above the declared weight at check-in will be lowered one ribbon group and will not be eligible for any champion awards.
  11. [Champion Selection](#) - A Champion and Reserve Purebred Ewe will be selected from the respective breed champions and reserves (All Wool Breeds, Dorset, Hampshire, Southdown, Suffolk, All Other Registered Meat Breeds). A Champion and Reserve Commercial Meat Breed Ewe will be selected from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> purples in the respective classes within that division. Additionally, the Champion and Reserve Purebred Ewe, as well as the Champion and Reserve Commercial Meat Breed Ewe will compete for a Supreme, Reserve Supreme and [3rd Overall Breeding Ewe](#).

## Market Lamb

### Class

- G031010 - Dorset Market Lambs
- G031020 - Hampshire Market Lambs
- G031030 - Natural Color Market Lambs
- G031040 - Southdown Market Lambs
- G031050 - Suffolk Market Lambs
- G031060 - White Face Influence Market Lambs
- [G131090 - All Hair Breed Market Lambs](#)
- G031080 - AOP (All Other Purebred) Market Lambs
- G031070 - Crossbred Market Lambs

## Rules

1. Market Lamb Identification & DNA Requirements - All market lambs to be shown at State Fair must be tagged with a USDA official scrapie ID, owned by the exhibitor, completed the online nomination with payment through the official online database, and have the DNA collector envelope with hair sample submitted to their County Extension Office by June 15.
2. Minimum Age Requirement - All market lambs are required to be born on or after December 1, 2023.
3. Minimum Weights for Market Lambs - Market lambs weighing less than 100 lbs. at check-in will not be eligible for a purple award or shipping. No re-weighs will be allowed.
4. Dual Eligibility (Market and Breeding) - Ewes may be eligible as both market and breeding, provided a DNA collector envelope with hair samples have been submitted to the County Extension office, and the completed online nomination with payment includes all required identification information for both a market and breeding animal by June 15. This option does not allow the animal to be shown in both market and breeding at the same show.
5. Weigh Cards - Exhibitors will declare weights of all market lambs (an official weigh-in will not be conducted by show officials). Weigh cards must be completed and turned in during the designated check-in time and location. The weight listed on the weigh card will become that animal's official declared weight to be used for assignment to a class and for weigh-back purposes.
6. Weigh Backs - A weigh back will be incorporated for all 1st and 2nd place purples in each market class. A 5% variance from the declared weight at check-in will be allowed. Animals not meeting the 5% variance above the declared weight at check-in will be lowered one ribbon group and will not be eligible for any champion awards. The 3rd place purple may also be requested to weigh back if the 1st or 2nd place purples do not meet the 5% variance requirement.
7. Definition of Market Lambs - Wether and ewe lambs are eligible for market classes. Short scrotum, cryptorchid or ram lambs are not eligible as market lambs.
8. Wool Length Requirements - All market lambs must be completely slick shorn including belly to allow inspection for club lamb fungus by State Fair Veterinarians at any time of the fair. Wool may be left on the legs ONLY below the knees and hocks.
9. Breed Classifying - Market lambs will be classified according to the breed standard set forth by the All-American Junior Sheep Show and/or the respective breed association as they are being weighed and identified. Market lambs wishing to compete in the crossbred division will not be required to go through classification but will still need to come be identified to the USDA official scrapie ID entered. Market lambs entered as crossbred may have the option to go through classification and switch divisions based on the decision of the Classifier. Market lambs in all other divisions will be classified to the standard of the breed they were entered. If an animal is disqualified from the entered breed, the Classifier will determine the final placement. The opinion of the classifier is final, and lambs must show as assigned or be disqualified. Classifier may rule to allow youth every opportunity to show his/her own lambs. Classification cannot be disputed after the close of check-in.

## **Exhibitor/Classifier Guidelines for Breed Classification**

The following are descriptions of the visual appearance necessary for breed classification. Also listed are visual attributes whose presence may result in an animal not qualifying for the breed division and instead being placed in the crossbred or white breed influence division at the classifier's discretion:

- Dorset –An open, completely white face with pink nose pigmentation. The body should be completely white and practically free of dark fibers or pigmentation. A moderate wool cap and wool below the knees & hocks should be present

### **3 of the following will result in disqualification**

- Any dark colored spots in the hair or wool
  - Large drooping ears
  - Fine textured, silky hair covering
  - Absence of hair covering in typical areas
  - All solid black hooves
  - Dark colored septum (dividing tissue between the nostrils)
  - Dark colored lining of the nose or mouth
  - All-black, colored, or spotted lambs
- Hampshire –An open face with ears covered with a dark brown or black hair and free from wool. The face should be dark in color, and practically free of wool from the eyes down. A wool cap should extend from the neck over the forehead

### **3 of the following will result in disqualification**

- Broken wool cap
- Very fine or thin hair on face or legs
- Scurs/horns
- Excessive white hair on the jaw (more than 25%) or excessive white wool on the legs (more than 50%)

### **1 of the following will result in disqualification**

- Excessively dark or blue hide
  - Inadequate wool covering on head and legs
  - Speckled face so that lamb appears to be a “brockle”
- Natural Colored –Any animal that is at least 35% Natural Colored excluding the head and legs is acceptable
  - Southdown –A moderate face and ear that can range in color from brown to grey. Wool should extend onto the face and the back of the ears, as well as below the knees & hocks. Nose should be dark pigmented.

### **3 of the following will result in disqualification**

- Solid white hair color on the muzzle
- Pink nose
- Excessive white on face, ears, or legs
- Completely slick ears
- Pink or striped hooves
- Black spots on the fleece
- Open pool on the head

### **1 of the following will result in disqualification**

- Speckled face or legs
- Horns or solid scurs
- Solid black lambs
- Suffolk –The head should be black, hornless, and well covered with a thick black hair coat. The muzzle should be long and deep, with legs being black. Belly should be covered with wool. Wool should not extend below the knees and hocks.

### **1 of the following will result in disqualification**

- Excessive black fiber in the wool areas
  - White speckling or splotching on the bellies, inner legs, neck, or jaw
  - Wool covering below the hock and knee or on the head or face
  - Scurs/horns
  - White Face Influence –Includes white-faced breeds and/or speckles that range from white-faced with black spots to black-faced with white spots, with a minimum of 30% of hair areas (face, ears, legs below knees and hocks) having white coloring.
  - Dorper - An ideal Dorper and White Dorper sheep should be symmetrical and balanced where the height, width, length and depth of body are proportionate. Dorper and White Dorper sheep should maintain a 60:40 ratio of height to body and legs giving the sheep maximum carcass capacity.
  - Katahdin - A medium-sized sheep with a hair coat and an alert appearance; head erect, and legs squarely placed. Tail length is variable; preferably undocked, except for market lambs. A variety in facial characteristics is expected. Polledness is preferred, but horns and scurs are acceptable. The eyes are wide set, and ear carriage is horizontal. There is no hair coat discrimination made as to color on any part of the body. The coat shall preferably consist of hair rather than woolly fibers, though hair texture will vary.
  - Crossbred -Lambs not meeting breed distinctions, characteristics, or color specifications of other classes.
9. Market Classes - Market lambs will be divided by breed up to 6 divisions. Any breed without at least 3 animals exhibiting in their breed will show in the All Other Purebred (AOP) division. Classes will be broken by weight at the discretion of the superintendents. Division Champions and Reserve Champions will be selected for each breed division and will compete for Grand Champion.
10. No Withdrawals- Animals selected as division champions and reserve division champions cannot be withdrawn from the grand champion drive. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification and exhibitor may be barred from future participation at the Nebraska State Fair.
11. Sale of Market Lambs - The Grand Champion Market Lamb and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb cannot be withdrawn from championship and are automatically consigned for harvest. Other market lambs, weighing at least 100 pounds, may be signed up to be shipped if a buyer is available.
12. Market Lamb Show Order - Market lamb classes will be judged lightest to heaviest weight within each breed division. Market lambs will show in the following order for 2024:

- Suffolk Market Lambs
- White Face Influence Market Lambs
- AOP (All Other Purebred) Market Lambs
- Dorset Market Lambs
- Hampshire Market Lambs
- Natural Color Market Lambs
- Southdown Market Lambs
- [All Hair Breeds Market Lambs](#)
- Crossbred Market Lambs

## Sheep Showmanship

### Class

- [G030009 - Junior Showmanship \(ages 8 to 10 before January 1 of the current year\)](#)
- G030010 - Intermediate Showmanship (ages 11 to 13 before January 1 of the current year)
- G030011 - Senior Showmanship (ages 14 to 18 before January 1 of the current year)

### Rules

1. Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors are automatically registered but not required to show in Showmanship. Exhibitors must show their own animal and the animal must be entered and exhibited in a breeding or market class. Review the Nebraska State Fair Schedule for time and dates.
2. Eligibility- After an exhibitor receives champion in showmanship, they are no longer eligible to compete in that age division of that species. [If a junior exhibitor wins in that species, they will automatically move up to the intermediate division the following year.](#) If an intermediate exhibitor wins in that species, they will automatically move up to the senior division the following year. Once a senior division exhibitor wins champion, they are no longer eligible to compete in showmanship in that species.