
SHEEP

Judged Friday, July 31, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Superintendent: Bill Kuhn Assistant Superintendent: David Vandeburg

Appropriate attire is expected in the show ring and sale ring. Safety should be the issue for the attire. Suggested attire: hard shoes, long pants and a collared shirt. (No shorts, open toed shoes, or hats.)

A 4-H member must be the owner of the animals exhibited at the fair. Professional fitters **will not be allowed** to assist in the 4-H Show. 4-H'ers may be assisted with the fitting of the animal by an immediate family member (mother, father, siblings or legal guardian) or by another 4-H member of DeKalb County.

All youth showing a sheep project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.

Decisions made by the superintendents are final.

Illinois Health Requirements for Sheep:

- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) means a legible record, made on an official form from the state of origin, containing an accurate description or identification of the animal including age, sex, breed, health status, and vaccination information. The CVI must be signed, dated, and issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in that state.
- Submitted CVIs must be as originally issued by the veterinarian; no CVIs with alterations, edits, or changes, will be accepted. The CVI must show that the animal meets all health requirements for the State of Illinois, CVI must show the name and address of the animal's owner or exhibitor.
- CVI must include the animal's Animal Identification Number.
- If one CVI is used for multiple animals, each animal identification must be made on a separate line.
- Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to obtain electronic CVIs whenever possible; IDOA is moving toward only accepting electronic CVIs. Exhibitors shall make CVIs available to Department of Agriculture and County Fair staff on request. If an official electronic CVI is utilized, the exhibitor should be able to log on and show County Fair staff or Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare Personnel the completed CVI.
- If animals are from tuberculosis accredited, brucellosis certified, pseudorabies qualified, or brucellosis validated herds, the identifying herd number(s) along with the date of the last herd test(s) shall appear on the CVI.
- CVIs for out-of-state livestock shall be void thirty (30) days after issuance.
- CVIs for Illinois-origin livestock shall be void ninety (90) days after issuance.

Identification

- Individual identification of each animal shall be by an ear tattoo or official metal or plastic tag. A microchip ID is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
- Ear tattoos may be used when a registration certificate, listing the tattoo number, accompanies the animal. If the tattoos are not visible, another form of official identification must be presented.
- When using ear tags, the tag must indicate the premises ID and state of origin. The tag number must be assigned by a state or APHIS representative and recorded in the Scrapie Record Database.

4-H'ers leaving the fairgrounds before the completion of the livestock auction will forfeit auction premiums above floor/market price. All youth and animals are expected and required to remain on the fairgrounds until the completion of the auction.

Market Lambs: All market lambs must be slick shorn (show ring ready) before weigh-in so that show lamb fungus can be identified.

Scrapie: Sheep originating from a flock that has previously been classified as either an infected or source flock can be exhibited in Illinois upon the completion of an approved flock plan.

CVI must include the flock of birth and the flock of origin, if different.

RULES

1. Entries are limited to 8 breeding stock with only two in each breeding age class regardless of breed, and 4 market lambs, for a total of 12 animals. 4-H'ers should however make special note of rule # 2 as this will affect their 4-H premiums.
2. ***4-H members are limited to receive one premium per class/weight class exhibited in premium eligible projects. Example: If a 4-H'er has 2 breeding sheep they exhibit in class 90 Black Face Ewe Lamb, the 4-H'er will only receive one premium for that class. The same would be true for youth that have market lambs that end up in the same weight class. This rule was established by the Agriculture Premium Fund.***
3. All lambs must have been lambled after September 1, past year.
4. Sheep may be purebred or grade.
5. Ownership deadline: Market & Breeding Sheep: owned since May 1, present year.
6. Market lambs weigh-in time will be conducted by the sheep superintendents on Friday, July 31, 2026, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. All records will be completed by the weighing committee and proper entries made according to these initial weight records.
7. All market lambs must be slick shorn 10 days prior to coming to the fair.
8. All sheep must be docked & completely healed prior to coming to show.
9. Ewe lambs shown in breeding class cannot be shown in market classes and vice-versa.
10. All male lambs must be completely castrated and healed prior their entry onto the fairgrounds.
11. When lambs are being judged, they must have all 4 feet on the ground. No excessive lifting of the animals. Slapping will not be tolerated.
12. 4-H Premiums paid will be using an X factor. Premium values will be:
Blue: 7X, Red: 6X, White: 5X
13. 4-H'ers showing only breeding sheep can participate in the auction if they are exhibiting in one of the following classes – 85, 86, 90 or 91. Animals can only be auctioned one time in their 4-H experience.
14. If a 4-H'er has a market lamb in **Class 100** they are only eligible to sell this lamb in the auction.
15. 4-H'ers must retain ownership of their animal. All youth showing a sheep project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.

4-H BREEDING SHEEP CLASSES

- 85 WHITE FACE EWE LAMB** (lambled after Jan. 1, 2026)
- 86 WHITE FACE SENIOR EWE LAMB** (lambled between Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025)
- 87 WHITE FACE YEARLING EWE** (1 year & under 2 years)
- 88 WHITE FACE AGED EWE** (2 years & over)
- 89 WHITE FACE PAIR OF BREEDING LAMBS** (under 1 year)

- 90 BLACK FACE EWE LAMB** (lambled after Jan. 1, 2026)
- 91 BLACK FACE SENIOR EWE LAMB** (lambled between Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025)
- 92 BLACK FACE YEARLING EWE** (1 year & under 2 years)
- 93 BLACK FACE AGED EWE** (2 years and over)
- 94 BLACK FACE PAIR OF BREEDING LAMBS** (under 1 year)

MARKET LAMB CLASS

1. Market lambs may be wethers or ewe lambs. They will be identified & weighed by the superintendent and assistant superintendent from **12:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2026**. All records will be completed by the weigh-in committee & entries properly made. It is highly recommended that market lambs weigh between 110 and 140 pounds.
2. Ewe lambs shown in breeding classes cannot be shown in market classes and vice-versa.
3. **All market lambs should be slick shorn prior to their arrival at the fair to avoid any risk of the highly contagious lamb fungal infection of sheep skin.**
4. All single market lambs enter as class 100. After weigh-ins, lambs will be divided into weight classes as evenly as possible. See Rule #6 as this will affect premiums awarded.
5. All pairs of market lambs enter as class 101. After weigh-ins, lamb pairs will be divided into weight classes as evenly as possible. See Rule #6 as this will affect premiums awarded.
6. 4-H members are limited to receive one premium per weight class exhibited in premium eligible projects. Example: If a 4-H'er has four market lambs and two of them end up in the same weight class, the 4-H'er will only receive one premium for that weight class. This rule was established by the Agriculture Premium Fund.
7. All male market lambs must be completely castrated and healed prior to their entry on the fairgrounds.
8. Exhibitor may enter a maximum of 4 single market lambs, and a maximum of 2 pairs of market lambs.
9. 4-H Premiums paid will be using an X factor. Premium values will be:
Blue: 7X Red: 6X White: 5X
10. All youth showing a sheep project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.

4-H SHEEP MARKET CLASSES

100 SINGLE MARKET LAMB (All Breeds) Market Lamb classes will be further divided into multiple classes by weight.

101 ONE PAIR MARKET LAMBS (All Breeds) Pair of Market Lamb classes will be further divided into multiple classes by weight.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

1. Showmanship Judging will be based on: Appearance of Animal 40%; Appearance of Exhibitor 10%; and Showing Animal in Ring 50%. The showmanship class will take place at the end of the sheep show.
2. There will be three divisions: Junior Division (members 11 years & under as of Sept. 1, 2025); Intermediate Division (members 12-14 years old as of Sept. 1, 2025); Senior Division (members 15 years & older as of Sept. 1, 2025).
3. Participants will always compete in their age-appropriate division, and there is no limit to the number of times they may win their age division.
4. The winner in the senior division is eligible to compete in the Showmanship Sweepstakes, which will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the swine arena.
5. Classes are open to all who are interested.
6. An exhibitor entering showmanship competition is required to show his/her own animal fitted by herself/himself.
7. The judge will select a award winner from each age group.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

Senior Showmanship: 15 years & over

Reserve Senior Showmanship

Intermediate Showmanship: 12-14 years

Reserve Intermediate Showmanship

4-H

Award

Rosette

Award

Rosette

Junior Showmanship: 11 years & under
Reserve Junior Showmanship

Award
Rosette

SHEEP CHAMPIONS

Champion White Face Ewe
Reserve Champion White Face Ewe
Champion Black Face Ewe
Reserve Champion Black Face Ewe
Grand Champion Ewe
Reserve Grand Champion Ewe
Grand Champion Market Lamb
Reserve Grand Market Lamb
Grand Champion Pair Market Lambs
Reserve Grand Champion Pair
Champion Jr. Showmanship
Champion Intermediate Showmanship
Champion Sr. Showmanship

4-H

Rosette
Rosette
Rosette
Rosette
Award
Rosette
Award
Rosette
Award
Rosette
Award
Award
Award