

## **BREEDING SHEEP**

### **4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

To complete a livestock project in 4-H, member must annually:

- ☑ Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- ☑ Sign up for the project in 4Honline by March 1
- ☑ Be 4-H member in "Good Standing" by completing county and club requirements
- ☑ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training (*not required for breeding sheep*)
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Non-Market/Breeding Livestock project must be in member's possession by June 1.

\*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

#### **1. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS**

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Sheep Breeding Project/Record Book (#199)** and a **Sheep Resource Handbook (#194R)**. Members must retain these books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.
- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to the Animal Project Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

#### **2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (not required for Breeding Sheep; is required for Market Lambs):**

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: June 18, 2024 for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
  - **Ross County** dates/times go to [ross.osu.edu](https://ross.osu.edu)
    - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register by **March 1** at [go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance](https://go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance)
    - **Test-Out (ages 15-18):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will "test out" of QA for next three years.
  - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
  - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

#### **3. SKILLATHON**

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete an Animal Project Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
  - Location: Fairgrounds
  - July 9, 5:00pm-7:00pm
  - July 20, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
  - Junior (8-11 years)
  - Intermediate (12 – 14 years)
  - Senior (15 – 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): An optional contest held during the Animal Project Skillathon. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.

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## JR. FAIR INFORMATION

→ ***This is not a complete list of all Jr. Fair rules. Refer to Ross County Fair Book for all rules.***

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- ☑ Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter
- ☑ Sign up for the project by March 1
  - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
  - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- ☑ Be 4-H/FFA member in "Good Standing" by completing county and club/chapter requirements
- ☑ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training (*not required for breeding sheep*)
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Complete online "Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form" by July 15
  - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries

\*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

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### 2024 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Market Lamb SPRING Tagging Dates:**
  - Saturday, May 4 8:00am - 11:00am Ross County Fairgrounds
  - Monday, May 6 6:00pm - 7:00pm Ross County Fairgrounds
- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **DUNF Form:** Date TBA
- **Fair Move-in:**
  - **Market:** Move-in & Rolling Weigh-in: first Saturday of fair, 4:00pm – 9:00pm
  - **Breeding:** Move-in: first Saturday of fair, 4:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Fair Exhibitors' Meeting:** first Saturday of fair at 10:00pm (*mandatory for all sheep exhibitors*)
- **Market Lamb Show:** Wednesday of fair at 3:00pm
- **Breeding Sheep Show:** Wednesday of fair immediately following Market Lamb Show
- **Sheep Showmanship:** Wednesday of fair immediately following the Breeding Sheep Show
- **Market Lamb Sale:** Friday of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually with Beef, Goats, Lambs)

1. **POSSESSION.** All non-market/breeding livestock projects must be in the member's possession by **June 1**, current year. All Livestock Projects must be in the continual care of the youth and their parent(s) during the duration of the project.
2. **SCRAPIE TAGS.** All sheep (market and breeding) *must* have a **Scrapie identification tag** from the breeder when you take possession of the lamb. In addition, ewes and wethers that will cross state lines must have a Scrapie ID. You must keep record of your animal ID and the name and address of the breeder for five years after you sell the animal.
3. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
  - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
  - B. Animals at the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.
4. **DUNF FORMS due Date TBA** (*NOT required for Breeding Sheep*)
5. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
6. No application of products not approved for animal use. No paint anywhere on animal.
7. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE:** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements at all shows and sales at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).

8. **Breeding Sheep Jr. Fair Classes:** *(There will be no pre-set breed classes)*
- **Ram Lamb:** under one year
  - **Yearling Ram:** one year and under two
  - **Ram:** Over 2 years
  - **Ewe Lamb:** under one year
  - **Yearling Ewe:** one year and under two
  - **Ewe:** Over 2 years
- **Flock** - 1 ram and 2 ewes of SAME BREED *(must meet Jr. Fair age and show requirements AND be showing in the Junior Fair Breeding Sheep Show this year).*
9. **Additional Opportunities**
- A. **→ NEW in 2024 – Market Lamb Rate of Gain Contest.** Refer to Fair Book for rules.
- a. All market lambs will be weighed-in at the Spring Weigh-in/Tagging.
  - b. There will not be a Performance Contest or Performance Class.
- B. **Outstanding Sheep Exhibitors** – rules in Fair Book

## **SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP:**

***Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules (age divisions, fitting/showing rules, show order, etc.)***

### Showmanship Sign-ups

- A. **July 15** –Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form due July 15.
- B. Peewee Showmanship sign-up sheets will be posted in each species' barn. Participants can sign up until the start of the Pee Wee Show.