

198 – MARKET LAMBS

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

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

- Enroll in 4-H Club 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 (*market only. not required for breeding sheep*)
- Complete Livestock Skillathon
- Market Livestock projects must be in member’s possession by May 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 **Market Lamb Project/Record Book (#198)** 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 Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (*mandatory for Market Lambs. Not required for Breeding Sheep*)

- 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 at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
 - **Ross County** dates/times go to ross.osu.edu
 - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance
 - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** 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 on January 1):** <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 the species 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 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 18, 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): Optional contest. 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*.

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 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
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Tag & weigh-in market lamb at Spring Tagging
- ☑ Submit online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form at fair weigh-in (*market only. Not required for breeding sheep*)

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

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Market Lamb SPRING Tagging Dates:**
 - Saturday, May 2 8:00am - 11:00am Ross County Fairgrounds
 - Monday, May 4 6:00pm - 8:00pm Ross County Fairgrounds
- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **DUNF Form:** submit at fair weigh-in (*market only*)
- **Fair Move-in:**
 - **Market:** Move-in & Rolling Weigh-in: first Saturday of fair, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
 - **Breeding:** Move-in: first Saturday of fair, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Fair Exhibitors’ Meeting:** first Saturday of fair at 10:00pm (*mandatory for all sheep exhibitors*)
- **Market Lamb Show:** Monday of fair, 10:00am
- **CBBR Market Lamb Show:** Wednesday of fair, 3:00pm
- **Breeding Sheep Show:** Wednesday of fair, following CBBR Lamb Show
- **Sheep Showmanship:** Wednesday of fair, following the Breeding Sheep Show
- **Market Lamb Sale:** Thursday of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually with Lambs and Hogs)

BEFORE THE FAIR

1. **POSSESSION.** All market lamb projects must be in the member’s possession by **May 1**, current year.
2. **NUMBER OF ANIMALS.**
 - A. Exhibitors may take up to two (2) market species to the Ross County Junior Fair. Exhibitors must follow the guidelines of the number of animals per species and abide by the specific rules for each species.
 - B. Exhibitors may take two (2) market lambs to the Ross County Junior Fair. The two market lambs can be a combination of two wethers, two ewes, or one wether and one ewe.
3. **SCRAPIE TAGS.** All sheep (market and breeding) *must* have a **Scrapie identification tag** from the breeder when you take possession of the lamb.
4. **SPRING TAGGING:** lambs must be tagged and weighed at a Spring Tagging to be exhibited at the fair.
 - A. All market lambs must be weighed at the Spring Tag-in
 - B. See dates & times above.
 - C. Each exhibitor may tag 2 market lambs. Families with 2 or more members taking market lambs may tag-in and designate 1 family lamb. A family with one exhibitor can tag 3 market lambs.
 - D. Wethers must be castrated by the Spring Tagging date.

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5. 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 brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

AT THE FAIR (read all rules in the Fair Book!)

1. **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).
2. **FAIR VETERINARIAN.**
 - A. "The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Determinations related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession". (clarification that the Fair Vet gets final say)
3. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
4. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.
6. **DUNF FORMS due online at fair weigh-in.**
 - A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at the fair weigh-in
 - B. Market Lambs - A separate DUNF must be submitted for each animal.
 - C. DUNF Form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).
 - ★ **Animal Identification = Scrapie ID#**
(you must enter the ENTIRE SCRAPIE TAG NUMBER. Partial Scrapie ID# will not be accepted.
5. **FAIR WEIGH-IN.**
 - A. **Move-in & Rolling Weigh-in:** first Saturday of fair, 5:00pm - 9:00pm
 - B. Market lambs **must weigh a minimum 100 lbs.** at the fair weigh-in to be eligible for the market show and the Jr. Fair Market Lamb Sale.
 - C. Heavily soiled and/or wet lambs will not be allowed across the scales until the problem is corrected.
6. All lambs must be **slick shorn** (no butt wool) by showtime on Wednesday of the Fair or they **will not** show. Slick shorn will be determined case by case by the superintendents.
7. No application of products that is not approved for animal use. No paint anywhere on animal.
8. No packing lambs in ice.
9. **MARKET LAMB SHOW**
 - A. Classes will be determined by weight at the fair weigh-in
 - B. Final Drive:
 - a. Will consist of the 1st and 2nd Place animals from each class
 - b. Grand Champion; Reserve Grand Champion; 3rd, 4th, 5th Placings Over-All
10. **MUST SHOW TO SELL.**

All market animals must be shown in their respective market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale (*3 exceptions- see below). If the animal is lightweight or overweight, they can receive packer price but not premium or add-on funds.

 - A. Exceptions:
 - I. Exception 1 - If the animal dies after weigh-in but before showing in the respective species market show the exhibitor will be eligible to receive add-ons.
 - II. Exception 2 - If the animal dies after the respective species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Jr. Fair Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - III. Exception 3 - If the animal dies after showing in their respective species show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 1. Note: if the exhibitor's animal does not die and they have shown in showmanship, they must still show in the market show to be sale eligible.
 2. Note: This is a temporary exception that will be evaluated after the 2026 fair.

- B. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes from when other exhibitors enter the showing to enter the showing before the Superintendents/Judge moves on with the show. All exhibitors must participate in their market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale.

11. SALE INFORMATION.

- A. The Jr. Fair Market Lamb Show is a terminal show.
 B. Refer to the current Fair Book for Livestock Sale procedure/rules. (*i.e. Exhibitors may sell only one time through the sale unless exhibiting more than one overall species Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion*)

JR FAIR SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

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

Showmanship Sign-ups

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

CBBR MARKET LAMB SHOW (COUNTY BORN, BRED, AND RAISED)

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for rules

MARKET LAMB RATE OF GAIN CONTEST

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for rules

1. All market lambs will be weighed-in at the Spring Weigh-in/Tagging.
2. There will not be a Performance Contest or Performance Class.

OUTSTANDING SHEEP EXHIBITORS

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for rules

Revised Criteria- Points given for:

1. 20 pts. - Skillathon perfect score
2. 10 pts. - Showmanship placing 1st place
3. 10 pts. – Market and/or Breeding Class placing/ranking Grand
4. 5 pts. - Rate of Gain Place in Top 5
5. 5 pts. - Pen maintenance (dry, no food left or dirty water)
6. Bonus points: 1 pt. each - for participation in sheep clinics, barn activities, premier skillathon