

**Date:** April 26, 2022

**To:** 4-H Sheep Project Members and Leaders

**From:** Autumn Converse, Program Coordinator – 4-H Youth Development

**Re:** 2022 4-H Sheep Updates

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2022 fair season within the sheep department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSUE office at 269-467-5521. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

### Reminder

- Initial Tagging Dates: Countywide tagging and weigh-in dates will be Tuesday, June 7 or Thursday, June 9 at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Market lambs must attend one of these.
- Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is requiring all lambs that are moved off the farm for sale or exhibition to be ear tagged with a USDA Scrapies ID tag. This is a USDA required program that is designed to identify any animal back to its source if necessary. There is no testing requirement for Scrapies at this time. Anyone purchasing lambs should make sure the seller has tagged them prior to sale. If you raise lambs from your own herd you should contact the MDA at 1-800-292-3939 to get a premises identification number. Once you have the premises number call the USDA at 517/324-5290 to order your free tags and applicator so that you can tag your lambs prior to the initial weigh-in and registration on June 7 or 9. Do not delay in ordering your tags from the MDA; it may take some time to receive them.
- All Market lambs (including Carcass Contest) must be 100 lbs. or more at check-in for the fair shows. All Sheep will be weighed at the time of unloading. No reweighing of animals. Lambs weighing less than the 100lb required minimum weight may show in member age appropriate showmanship class only.
- If a lamb is underweight, the lamb will sell at support price (or may be taken home at the end of fair). If the lamb is a ewe, it may cross over to the breeding stock class if member is dually registered for both breeding stock and market class prior to fair.
- All animals must be checked in by exhibitor or immediate family member unless prior arrangements are made in writing and filed at the MSU Extension office 24 hours in advance of check in times at the fair.
- **NEW Evaluations System for 2022:** All livestock exhibitors will be required to complete an evaluation (interview and record book) and Skill-A-Thon for each species they exhibit. These will take place on Sunday, September 18, 2022.
- All 4-H Livestock MUST have their Pen Stall Label cards above their pen by Sunday, September 18 at 12:00 noon. Failure to do so may result in a yellow tag. Please refer to the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairbook for yellow/red tag guidelines.
- Market lambs must be rough shorn before they arrive to the fairgrounds for check-in.



**MSU EXTENSION**  
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- Check the 2022 St. Joseph County 4-H Fair Book (Department 6) for additional information and rules.

## IMPORTANT DATES, DEADLINES & EVENTS

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Wethering (castrating) deadline	May 31	
Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration	June 7, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. or June 9, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (in conjunction with Dairy Feeder Steer and Goat Weigh-in)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the Fairgrounds.</li> <li>• Animals must have their USDA scrapies ID tag.</li> <li>• Only the scrapies ID tag and the 4-H ear ID tag are allowed on the animal</li> </ul>
Entry forms due for Carcass Contest	June 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the MSU Extension Office or at weigh-in</li> </ul>
Carcass Contest Weigh-In	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information to come.</li> </ul>
Carcass Contest: Carcass Evaluation	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At <b>Bontrager Custom Meat Processing</b></li> <li>• Attendance of the member is required to compete.</li> </ul>
Fair registration and weigh-in	September 16, 4:00-7:00p.m. or September 17, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 lbs. minimum weight requirement for market animals</li> </ul>
Sheep Evaluations/Skill-A-Thon	September 18, time TBD	
4-H Market and Breeding Show	September 20, 4:00 p.m.	
4-H Market Livestock Sale	September 22, 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheep sell third in the large animal sale</li> </ul>
Animal Loading & Barn Clean out	September 25, 5:30 a.m. Clean-up starts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members must clean and help put away the pens</li> </ul>