

Date: June 8, 2023

To: 4-H Sheep Project Members and Leaders

From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator – 4-H Youth Development

Re: 2023 4-H Sheep Updates

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2023 fair season within the sheep department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

NEW for 2023:

- All sheep exhibitors are subject to receiving random farm visits conducted by the specie Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent.
- **Possession:** Each 4-H member must remain in possession of their animals after initial tagging/weigh-in. If animal is determined to be in violation by the specie Superintendent, that animal will be disqualified unless special permission is granted by the Superintendent and/or MSU Extension **prior** to moving animal to another location.
- Market lambs weighing less than the 100 lb. required minimum weight are ineligible for exhibition at the fair and will be sent home at check-in.
 - *Exceptions:* If a ewe lamb is underweight, it may cross over to the breeding stock class if the exhibitor is dually registered for both breeding stock and market class prior to fair.
 - **Underweight carcass lambs** will still be processed, but will not be eligible for placing. Carcass exhibitors will still be required to attend hanging evaluation for educational purposes.



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Reminders:

- Initial Tagging Dates: Countywide tagging and weigh-in dates will be **Tuesday, June 6, 2023 or Thursday, June 8, 2023** at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 5:00-7:00p.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. 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 on June 6 or 8. Do not delay in ordering your tags from the MDA; it will take some time to receive them.
- **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.

- All Market lambs (including Carcass Contest) must be 100 lbs. or more at check-in on **Friday, September 15, 2023 or Saturday, September 16, 2023**. All Sheep will be weighed at the time of unloading. There will be no reweighing of animals.
- All animals must be checked in by the exhibitor or an 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.
- All 4-H Livestock MUST have their Pen Stall Label cards above their pen by Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 12:00 noon. Failure to do so may result in a yellow tag.
- Market lambs must be rough shorn before they arrive to the fairgrounds for check-in.
- Check the 2023 St. Joseph County 4-H Fair Book (Department 6) for additional information and rules.

IMPORTANT DATES, DEADLINES & EVENTS

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Initial Weigh-in, Tagging and Registration	June 6, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or June 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (in conjunction with Dairy Feeder Steer and Goat Weigh-in)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the fairgrounds. • Animals must have their USDA scrapies ID tag. • Only the scrapies ID tag and the 4-H ear ID tag are allowed on the animal. • All rams <u>MUST</u> be castrated or banded by weigh-in.
Entry forms due for Carcass Contest	June 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the MSU Extension Office or at weigh-in
Showmanship Clinic	August 5, times TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the fairgrounds.
Carcass Contest Weigh-In	Saturday, September 9, Time TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information to come.
Carcass Contest: Carcass Evaluation	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of the member is required to compete.
Fair Weigh-in	September 15, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. or September 16, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 lbs. minimum weight requirement for market animals
Skill-A-Thon	September 16, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Tent
Interview	September 17, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is required for all livestock exhibitors
4-H Market and Breeding Stock Sheep Show	September 19, 4:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show order: Showmanship, Breeding Stock, Market Ewes, Market Wethers, Home Born & Raised, Champion Drive, Adult Showmanship
4-H Market Livestock Sale (large)	September 21, 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep sell first in the large animal sale
Animal Loading & Barn Clean out	September 24, 5:30 a.m. until done.	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All members <u>must</u> clean and help put away the pens
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