

Date: February 21, 2020

To: 4-H Sheep Project Members and Leaders

From: Eva Beeker, Program Coordinator – 4-H Youth Development



Re: 2020 Sheep Project Rules and Important Information

Reminder

- 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 9 or 11, 2020. Do not delay in ordering your tags from the MDA; it takes awhile to receive them.
- All Market lambs (including Carcass Contest) must be 100 lbs. or more at check-in for the fair shows.
- ****New for 2020: All animas 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.**
- Evaluations: Interviews and evaluation books are optional for 2020. Times to do the interviews are Saturday, September 19, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Sheep Barn
- ****New for 2020: Skill-A-Thon will be required for ALL Sheep Exhibitors on Sunday, September 20, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Livestock Show Arena.**
- 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.
- ****New for 2020: Sheep exhibitors may use Natural/dry mulch or shavings for bedding purposes. Breeding Stock Sheep may also use straw.**
- All 4-H Livestock MUST have their Pen Stall Label cards above their pen by Sunday, September 20, 2020, 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.
- Pre-Fair Sheep Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020 at 6:30p.m. at the MSU Extension office.



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- Check the 2020 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be completed by May 31
Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration	June 9, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. or June 11, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (in conjunction with Dairy Feeder Steer and Goat Weigh-in)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the west end of the Sheep Barn at the Fairgrounds. <u>Do not unload animals until instructed to do so.</u> • 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
Entry forms due for Carcass Contest	June 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the MSU Extension Office or at weigh-in
Shearing of Carcass Contest Lambs	August 15 – August 29, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member is responsible to meet this requirement
Shearing of Market Show Lambs	August 22 – September 13, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member is responsible to meet this requirement
Carcass Contest: Live Evaluation	September 13, 2:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the fairgrounds • Attendance of the member is required to compete.
Carcass Contest: Carcass Evaluation	September 16, 5:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Butcher Bob's in LaGrange • Attendance of the member is required to compete.
Fair registration and weigh-in **Note additional weigh-in time	September 18, 4:00-8:00p.m. September 19, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *note weigh in will be done at the time of unloading. There will be NO reweighing of animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 lbs. minimum weight requirement for market animals
Sheep Interviews/Skill-A-Thon	September 19, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews will be an optional class for 2020. No written evaluations will be required.
Sheep Skill-A-Thon	September 20, 2:00-5:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for 2020
4-H Market and Breeding Show	September 22, 4:00 p.m.	
4-H Market Livestock Sale	September 24, 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep sell second in the large animal sale
Animal Loading & Barn Clean out	September 27, 5:30 a.m. Clean-up starts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members must clean and help put away the pens