

Defiance County Junior Fair Department 600 Sheep Department Guidelines - 2025

Show Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 @ 9:00 am

New Rule Changes

- Halters may be used in show arena if deemed necessary by the barn supervisor for safety reasons.

Central Tagging:

- Central Tagging will be June 14th from 7:00 am – 10:00 am.
- NEW: Families with market animals not present at Central Tagging will be charged a \$50 farm visit and \$10/tag which is payable up front. The \$10/tag will be charged in 2025.
- Essay Lambs and Pig Catch will be tagged when they are picked up from the Fairview Young Farmers.

Sheep Possession Dates

1. Market Sheep:
 - Must be in possession by June 1
 - Recommended birth date is January 1 through March 1 of current year.
 - Market sheep must come to Livestock Central Tagging in June.

Defiance County Junior Fair Information

A. Scrapie Tags

1. Junior Fair exhibitors are required to have scrapie identification on ALL sheep projects exhibited at the Fair.
2. <https://ohio4h.org/animalsciences/small-ruminant-sheepgoat#Scrapie>
3. 1-866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824)

B. Project Completion Requirements

1. All livestock exhibitors must complete at Skillathon and livestock Quality Assurance Training for project completion. A 4-H/FFA member is not required to show in a Junior Fair Livestock Show.

C. Livestock Move-In

1. Livestock check-in is the Friday before start of Fair.
2. Move-In Times: 9:00 am – 11:00 am **OR** 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Check in with Barn Supervisor. Sheep will be weighed at time of check-in.
3. All animals must have a valid DUNF form completed via the Online DUNF link **PRIOR** to move-in. The On-Line link will open the Wednesday before livestock check-in. It is recommended to wait as close to move-in day as possible to ensure the information is correct.
4. Animals must be free of all drug residues on **move-in date**.

- Health papers are not required for animals purchased and residing in Ohio. Animals imported/brought into Ohio for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the exhibition opening date. See Ohio's Livestock Health Exhibition Rules for further clarification and a complete listing of health requirements.

D. Market Weights

- Animals weighing outside of the minimum weight guidelines with the 5 pound plus or minus variance, may stay pending vet approval and may show in showmanship and open class. These animals do not have the option of selling direct or participating in the livestock sale. Animals must go home at the end of fair
- Exhibitor may request one "re-weigh" – which must be done immediately. The animal will exit the scale and re-enter.

Species	Minimum Weight	Maximum Weight
Sheep	90 pounds	None

E. Livestock Release

- All animals are released on Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.
- Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Premiums forfeited for pens not cleaned by noon on Saturday.

F. Pen Assignments

- Any changes in pen assignments without prior approval of the Barn Superintendent will result in forfeiture of premium and the exhibitor not being permitted to show in the current year with that project.

G. Junior Fair Eligibility

- All Defiance County Junior Fair exhibitors must successfully meet all requirements of their youth organization before being eligible to exhibit for competition. See Exhibitor and General Guidelines.
- 4-H and FFA Dual Membership Policy: Ohio 4-H members are often also FFA members, sometimes within the same county and sometimes in an adjacent county. These members need to keep in mind the 4-H policy about 4-H projects being separate from school projects. To keep work in both organizations clearly separate, **4-H members are advised to take different species in the two organizations** or, at the very least, to take market animals in one and breeding animals in the other. FFA members must exhibit FFA projects in the county of their school chapter.

Livestock Sale

A. Market Sheep

- Market Livestock exhibitors shall be limited to **one entry** in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. An entry shall consist of an individual animal or a pen. **Animals eligible to sell** in the livestock sale will be: Market Sheep.
- Individual sale order number: The sale order of exhibitors is randomly assigned by the Livestock Sale software. Exhibitors missing their sale spot will be placed at the end of that species.
- Grand and Reserve Champion animals will sell first in their species.
- Exhibitors must show animal in a market class to be eligible for livestock sale.

5. Champion Animals: Effective 2023: Transportation will not be provided. The exhibitor of Grand and Reserve animals (Cattle, Swine, Goat, and Sheep) will meet the appointed chairperson of livestock committee at the processor for verification.
6. **Attendance at Livestock Sale Required:** For the privilege of selling a market animal in the Livestock Sale, the exhibitor must present his/her own project for sale. Exceptions must be presented to the Sale committee at least two (2) days prior to sale. Sporting events/practice will not be considered as warranting an exception. Exception: Seniors who are already at college do not have to be present at the livestock sale and may receive add-ons only.

General Guidelines

A. Class Entries

1. **Market Entries:** Exhibitors are allowed to show up to four single market lambs and two pen of two for a total not to exceed 8 market sheep. **Breeding Entries:** Exhibitor may show up to two breeding sheep per class.
2. Market animals must be castrated by Central Tagging and healed by County Fair.
3. Essay Lambs: Members will enter the Lamb Essay class at the Defiance County Junior Fair and are eligible for all premiums. Must meet the minimum weight 90 pounds to be eligible to show at the Fair. The grand champion market lamb class will be comprised of the class winners from the market lamb and the essay lamb grand and reserve animals.
4. Market lambs must be uniformly slick shorn at the Fair weigh-in. A maximum of seven (7) days wool is allowed. Head wool is allowed at weigh in. Lambs will be allowed leg wool from the knees and hocks down. Belly and flank wool must be completely shorn and equal to the length of wool on the body at the time of the show.
5. Drenching of lambs at an exhibition is prohibited except as permitted under paragraph (Q) of rule 901-19-12 of the Administrative Code. Rule 901-19-12 (Q) - The following practice is deemed acceptable to protect and promote health, safety, and welfare of livestock: (Q) Drenching of lambs for a medical condition at an exhibition when diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
6. An exhibitor whose animal exhibit dies after its designated possession date may complete the project by completing Skillathon. Exhibitor may also display a poster in club booth for a premium.
7. **Unable to Show Animal:** If an exhibitor is unable to show his/her animal due to health concern, another current Jr. Fair exhibitor may be permitted to show the animal based upon PRIOR approval with the Barn Supervisor.
8. Unruly Animals: It is up to the Barn Supervisor's discretion to:
 - a. Not allow an unruly animal to be unloaded from a livestock trailer
 - b. Not allow an unruly animal to enter a show arena
 - c. Not allow an unruly animal to remain in a show arena.
 - d. The limit on the number of times an exhibitor's animal can get loose in the show arena is two. If it gets loose a third time, the exhibitor will be excused. In this case the animal was exhibited and will be permitted to participate in the livestock sale.
 - e. The Barn Supervisor may send unruly animals home at any time throughout the fair to ensure the safety of exhibitors and the general public.

B. Showmanship

1. Show attire may NOT include a farm name and/or advertisement. It is at the discretion of the Barn Supervisor to ask an exhibitor to change attire for a class.
2. Any exhibitor showing misconduct or poor showmanship in the show area, or barns will have full forfeiture of premiums by decision of the Junior Fair Supervisors.
3. Exhibitor must show own animal for showmanship according to Junior Fair records
4. The following Showmanship Classes apply to all Departments.

Senior Division:	16 - 19 years old as of January 1 of current year
Intermediate Division:	13 - 15 years old as of January 1 of current year
Junior Division:	12 years old and younger as of January 1 of current year
Beginner Division:	Any age but limited to those exhibitors who are taking that Species at the Defiance County Fair for the first time.

C. Grooming and Livestock Care Guidelines

1. Responsibilities of and Assistance to Defiance County Junior Fair Exhibitors

- a. The Defiance County Junior Fair Livestock Committee's goal of opening up of the current grooming guidelines is to encourage others to work with and share knowledge of grooming practices and animal care with our Junior Fair exhibitors.
- b. These new guidelines apply to all livestock departments except Horses and Dogs.

2. Guidelines:

- a. A junior fair livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of livestock entered the junior fair livestock shows. In the event an exhibitor is unable to care for/feed animal(s), he/she must notify the Jr. Fairboard Office of who will be responsible in his/her absence.
- b. An exhibitor may receive assistance (from anyone) in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior fair livestock show.
- c. Violations by the exhibitor, family members or any other parties involved in the unethical fitting and showing of an animal may result in any or all of the following.
 - Withholding of the exhibitor's premium
 - Recall awards received by the exhibitor
 - Declare an exhibitor ineligible for awards
 - Revoke Ohio State Fair showing rights.
 - Revoke exhibitor's right to participate in the livestock sale
 - Ban exhibitor from showing in future Defiance County Fairs

3. TAMPERING "UNETHICAL FITTING" – Means to alter or change the natural appearance, weight, musculature or conformation of an animal in an unnatural or artificial manner, including but not limited to, the removal of animal tissue or body part, to cut or tear the hide, to cover, dye or color the hair or hide, to add artificial tailheads, switches, polls, hair or heels, or to administer, feed, give or inject any substance or drug to an animal exhibited, except when medically necessary or when the drug used has been approved for such use by the Food and Drug Administration or United States Department of Agriculture.

- a. Any product which changes, enhances, or alters the natural color of an animal will not be permitted. (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PAINTS, DYE, POWDER, NON-CLEAR ADHESIVE AND FORM OR SHOE POLISH).
- b. Tampering and/or misrepresentation as to breeding, age, ownership, custody and any other irregularity in showing will be considered fraud and deception.
- c. The use of any unapproved drugs is prohibited.
- d. Should violation be discovered after the Defiance County Junior Fair Livestock Sale, all sale money shall be returned to the buyer and the animal, carcass or

carcass value shall be returned to the exhibitor. All placings in show will stand. No animals will be moved up.

- e. Any carcass suspected of being tampered with or suspected of containing drugs will be detained until the investigation is complete.

D. Show Attire

1. Dark pants or jeans and a dress shirt.
2. Hard soled shoes (ex: work boots or cowboy boots) no tennis shoes or sandals.
3. No hats or caps. No clothing items with logos visible. No Shorts
4. Show attire may not include a farm name and or advertisement for a farm, breeder, etc.
5. No identifying tags or marks on animals or exhibitors will be permitted. This means no farm tags, special show harnesses or marked show shirts are allowed. Only BEST tags, county fair tags, EID tags and brands will be permitted.
6. It is at the discretion of the Barn Supervisor to ask an exhibitor to change clothing.

E. Barn Guidelines

1. Sleeping in the barns is not permitted.
2. Couches/Furniture are NOT permitted in any barn. (Picnic tables are allowed.)
3. All livestock barns will be closed to the public at 11:00 pm. Barns are also closed to the general public during livestock shows.
4. All animal washing and grooming must be done in designated areas. Animals must stay in their assigned barn area.
5. Junior Fair members and or family members should not feed other member's animals without permission.
6. All stall decorations, stall cards, signs, etc are to be removed by noon on Saturday in addition to stalls/pens being cleaned or forfeit all premiums.
7. Dogs on the Fairgrounds: Dogs are not allowed on the midway, in or around the livestock barns and/or show arenas. Exception to service dogs.
8. Curfew is 12:30 am every night of the fair.

F. Clean Pen Guidelines

1. All livestock pens must be kept clean and presentable at all times. Livestock pens must be cleaned at a minimum of once daily and may be cleaned by the exhibitor or family member.
2. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Exhibitor must wait until animal has been loaded from stall to start cleaning pens. Exhibitor must check out with a Barn representative. Pens must be cleaned by 12:00 noon on Saturday. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
3. Pens, aisles and animals must be kept clean during fair week. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
4. Pens will be inspected on a daily basis. Pens determined not to be presentable will receive a verbal warning from Barn Superintendent. Pen must be cleaned within two hours of receiving the verbal warning.

G. Code of Conduct

1. Exhibitors are representing their youth organization at Junior Fair events, shows and activities. The 4-H membership agreement extends to all organized Junior Fair activities. The Livestock Committee, in communication with the Extension Educator, will handle behavior and disciplinary action at the Fair as necessitated by a member's inappropriate and/or unlawful behavior.

H. Awards and Premiums

1. Refer to the Premium List for class premiums.
2. Must have a minimum of three entries to have a trophy or plaque.
3. Ribbons: 1st – 5th place ribbons will be awarded for each Junior Fair class.
4. Thank you cards will be required by the end of the week to the Jr. Fair office in order to receive premiums. It is up to the Barn Superintendent as to how to distribute the trophies/thank you cards.

Ohio Health Exhibition Guidelines

Health Papers: Animals imported or brought into Ohio for exhibition must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the exhibition opening date.

Any medications that need to be administered to animals during the fair must be coordinated with the **COUNTY FAIR VET** prior to administering the medication. A DUNF form must be completed. Medication may not be performance enhancing.

901:1-18-09 Sheep

(A) Sheep moved within Ohio for exhibition: The animal presented for exhibition must show no symptoms or evidence of an infectious or contagious disease. **(B)** Sheep imported into Ohio for exhibition: (1) Must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection issued within thirty days preceding the opening date of the exhibition; and (2) The animal presented for exhibition must show no symptoms or evidence of an infectious or contagious disease; and (3) The owner and the veterinarian must attest to the following statement written on the certificate of veterinary inspection "the sheep in this shipment are not known to be under any movement restrictions because of scrapie."

Sheep Show Classes

Intermediate Showmanship (Ages 13-15)
Junior Showmanship (Ages 12 & under)
Beginner Showmanship (any age)

Single Market Lamb
Pen of Two Market Lambs
Essay Lamb

Ewe Lamb (Purebred/Registered (Born on or after 9/1)
Yearling Ewe Purebred/Registered (Over 1 yr, but under 2 yr)
Commercial Ewe Lamb (Crossbred - born on or after 1/1)
Commercial Yearling Ewe (over 1yr under 2 yrs)
Commercial Mature Ewe Lamb (2 yrs old or older)