

DEPARTMENT – L-41 – Sheep

SUPERINTENDENT – Gwenn Burns (443-289-5938)

ASSITANTS - Brad Rill, Molly Rill, Keegan Rill, Layla Metts, Kelsey Zepp, Payton Zepp, Ethan Zepp, Kyle Schulze

Entries must be completed online at www.carrollcountyfair.com. Entry fees need to be paid by credit card only. No late entries will be accepted.

Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair Board, Inc., the Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all of an exhibitor's earned premium payment, for the 2026 4-H/FFA Fair.

- A 4-H or FFA member must be enrolled in a sheep or veterinary science project to enter the Sheep Department at the Fair.
- All exhibitors are expected to follow all 4-H and FFA rules, include the Exhibitor Code of Conduct, Animal Ethics and Welfare, General Fair rules, Livestock Sale Committee rules and Department rules for each specific species being exhibited by 4-H and FFA exhibitors.
- The ownership date for market sheep is May 15th. The cost of \$2.00 per tag is payable at the time the animals are identified on the Market Livestock Registration Form in preparation of tagging.
- Each exhibitor will be permitted to tag a maximum of 8 market lambs. If an animal loses its tag, the Sheep Department must be notified immediately.
- Each exhibitor may enter up to five market lambs but may only bring 3 market lambs to the fair. If entries should exceed the available facilities space, the superintendent and committee reserve the right to limit entries. (This decision will be made known within two weeks after the entry deadline.)
- All 4-H and FFA entries must be housed in the assigned pens. For Market Lambs 1 pen per exhibitor except in the case when siblings may be required to share. The Superintendent must approve of any pen changes.
- Feeds and supplements approved for livestock use may be used by exhibitors. If an exhibitor feels their animal needs electrolytes due to health concerns of the animal, they may be administered by recommendation of a veterinarian and by the veterinarian, and in the presence of the Department Superintendent, the Livestock Area Superintendent or one of the Livestock Area Assistant Superintendents.
- When an animal needs veterinary care while on the Fair Grounds the Department Superintendent must be notified. When an animal requires veterinary treatment while at the Fair, you may use the Veterinarian on the grounds at your cost, call your veterinarian at your cost or remove your animal from the Fair.
- Nominations for Livestock Sale – up to ½ hour following market sheep show.
- All nominated lambs must be processor ready at the time of sale. Lambs being sold must be past a medication withdrawal date should that animal have been treated with medications. Lambs will not be sold prior to a medication withdrawal and held for a later processing date.
- No Clover Show

RULES AND REGULATIONS – Sheep Department

1. All exhibitors must read and review all general, sheep, and livestock sale rules.
2. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals at the Fair. Premiums will be withheld from exhibitors who fail to keep their animals and pens clean at ALL times. All sheep pens are to be cleaned daily.
3. Only shavings are permitted for bedding.
4. Lambs must be born after January 1, 2026
5. Only 1st year sheep exhibitors or exhibitors with special needs will be permitted assistance in the ring if needed excluding pairs and flock classes. Any assistant including pair, flock and market classes must be a 4-Her of the same age or younger. If you need help finding a 4Her please see a committee member. A committee member may also be of assistance at the discretion of the Superintendent.

6. Market lambs must be slick sheared when arriving at the fair. There will be no shearing at the fair. You may only touch up legs at the Fair.
7. Lambs will only be permitted in the sheep area of the barn and the wash rack. This includes while showman are fitting their lambs. There will be a designated area for sheep exhibitors during the show if you would like to be outside the sheep isles.
8. The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive assistance only from immediate family members (Guardians, Parents or Siblings), Carroll County 4-H leader or sheep committee member; however, all fitting, care and preparation should be primarily done by the 4-H member. In the case where assistance is by someone other than those listed above, the animal and youth may be disqualified.
9. **No** topical products of any kind may be used such as but not limited too Cool pack covers and cool towels / blankets, adhesives, conditioners, icing, ramping, slapping or use of alcohol products, including baby wipes are PROHIBITED.
10. NO ARTIFICIAL COLORING MAY BE USED ON ANY PART OF THE ANIMAL.
11. All lambs will be shown dry. The wash racks will close 2 hours prior to the shows.
12. Teeth requirement: All lamb class animals must bear a full mouth of lamb teeth. Animals in yearling classes must not be bearing more than two permanent teeth.
13. Muzzles are not permitted to be used on sheep.
14. There will be no drenching of lambs/sheep for any reason unless the Sheep Superintendent or Livestock Superintendent is notified and agrees prior. A sheep committee member or Livestock Superintendent needs to be on hand to witness the procedure. Only water should be used for hydration, no additives should be in the water.
15. The Sheep Committee will have the right to disqualify any sheep that have been improperly cared for or with any health problems. The State Veterinarian will be consulted if a question arises (sore mouth, foot rot, etc.).
 - Mandatory “Any sheep or lamb that exhibits a rectal prolapse at a 4-H activity will be ineligible for that show and be sent home by the Extension Educator, Sheep Superintendent, or other appropriately deemed individuals. The following will be used as a guideline for making this determination: ‘A rectal prolapse is defined as an inversion of the rectum that protrudes 4cm (1.5 in.) or more outside the body and remains exterior to the body while the animal is standing.’ (Journal of Animal Science, 2003, Thomas et al.) If a lamb is observed with a rectal prolapsed (by one of the above people) and in the future is not observed with a rectal prolapse it is still classified as having a rectal prolapse.” Lambs showing any signs of stitches holding the prolapse in will be disqualified.
16. Junior exhibitors will be allowed to use a show halter at their discretion for all sheep shows. Intermediate and Senior exhibitors are not permitted to use halters.
17. Premiums – Market, Breeding and Commercial Breeding Divisions – 1st - \$10, 2nd - \$9; 3rd - \$8; 4th –\$7; 5th - \$6.50; all below - \$6; Fitting and Showing - \$5

Sheep Breeding Animals – Rules and Regulations

1. Exhibitors are permitted to make 2 entries in each breeding sheep class. Include ear tag, flock number, and registration number on each entry blank.
2. Breeding animals must be shown in the proper age category. Lambs may not be moved up.
3. Junior Lamb birth date for all breeds will be January 1 of the current year. Senior lambs cannot be born before September 1, 2025
4. The Sheep Breeding Show will offer Meat Breeds and Wool Breeds. The Meat Breeds are Dorset, Hampshire, Katahdin, Shropshire, Southdown, Tunis, Other Registered Breeds, and Commercial Breeding Sheep.
5. Commercial Breeding Sheep (Must be tagged with a MD 4-H Livestock tag prior to arrival at the fair and have met ownership date guidelines.) Wool Breeds will show as Other Registered Wool Breeds.
6. All breeds that do not meet the minimum criteria of 2 exhibitors and 5 entries may be placed in the “Other Breeds” Classes.
7. Rams will be brought to the Fair on the day of the show and MUST go home upon completion of the Breeding sheep show. Rams will not be used in showmanship.

Divisions – Breeding Sheep Show – Based on Breed order:

- Dorset
- Hampshire
- Katahdin
- Shropshire
- Southdown
- Tunis
- Other Registered Meat breeds
- Commercial Breeding Sheep
- Wool Breeds

Classes Each Breed:

- Yearling Ram-Born between Aug 1, 2024-Aug 31, 2025
- Sr. Ram Lamb, Born between Sept 1 and Dec 31, 2025
- Jr. Ram Lamb, Born on or after Jan 1, 2026
- Champion Ram
- Reserve Champion Ram
- Yearling Ewe-Born between Aug 1, 2024-Aug, 31, 2025
- Sr. Ewe Lamb-Born between Sept 1, - Dec 31, 2025
- Jr. Ewe Lamb-Born on or after Jan 1, 2026
- Champion Ewe
- Reserve Champion Ewe
- Pair of Lambs
- Pair of Yearlings
- Flock-1 Ram under 2 years of age, 1 ewe Lamb, and 1 yearling ewe

190. Supreme Grand Champion Ewe
191. Supreme Grand Champion Ram
192. Champion Bred and Owned

Showmanship – Rules and Regulations

All exhibitors are required to participate in these classes and benefit from the experience and knowledge gained.

1. Entries **MUST** be made online to show in these classes.
2. Due to space limitations, market lambs only, may be shown in Fitting and Showing Classes. Notify the superintendent if you do not have a market lamb – with permission, the exhibitor may substitute a breeding ewe.
3. Rams will not be used in showmanship.

Classes – Showmanship Division:

1. Senior Showman (4-H age 18)
2. Senior Showman (4-H age 17)
3. Senior Showman (4-H age 16)
4. Senior Showman (4-H age 15)
5. Senior Showman (4-H age 14)
6. Champion Senior Showman
7. Reserve Champion Senior Showman
8. Intermediate Showman (4-H age 13)
9. Intermediate Showman (4-H age 12)
10. Intermediate Showman (4-H age 11)
11. Champion Intermediate Showman
12. Reserve Champion Intermediate Showman
13. Junior Showman (4-H age 10)
14. Junior Showman (4-H age 9)
15. Junior Showman (4-H age 8)
16. Champion Junior Showman
17. Reserve Champion Junior Showman
18. Grand Champion Showman - (Winners of Senior, Intermediate, and Junior divisions)
19. Reserve Grand Champion Showman
20. Champion of Champions - (This year's Champion and previous year's Champions)

Market Lambs – Rules and Regulations

1. Each exhibitor will be permitted to tag a maximum of 8 market lambs. If an animal loses its tag, notify the Superintendent immediately.
2. Each exhibitor may enter five and show a total of THREE market lambs. Each animal will be weighed only one time – no re-weighs will be allowed. Minimum Fair weight of market lambs is 115 lbs., and maximum weight is 160 lbs.
3. All market lambs will be weighed and divided into classes upon completion of the official weigh-in. Only ewe and wether lambs may be shown in market classes. Breeding animals, stags and rams are ineligible. Animals showing evidence of stag characteristics, unhealed scrotum or testicle development will be disqualified.
4. Market lamb pairs must make your entry online and on the signup sheet on Sunday at the fair after the weigh in.
5. The committee may visit all market livestock between the date of tagging and the county fair.
6. **MARKET LAMB CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS** These are the recognized classification for the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair Market Lamb Show. Lambs must meet all classification standards as established by the Fair. No pedigrees will be required.
 - **Natural Colored 1.** Must have a predominant “blue or black tint” to the skin and wool **2.** A few black or blue spots coloring of the wool, bite marks, fungus spots or scars with black or dark fiber areas will not classify a lamb in this division.
 - **White Face Crossbred 1.** Must be white faced, brockle faced or show evidence of at least 50% white face or more throughout the face and ears **2.** Reddish rust-colored legs are acceptable.
 - **Black Face Crossbred** This class generally includes the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds, plus all lambs that do not fit into the Natural or White Face Crossbred divisions.
 - **AOB** If a lamb shows breed characteristics of a breed other than those listed above, it will be added to the AOB division. Lamb must show obvious breed characteristics.

Lambs will be checked by classification committee after weigh ins during the fair. If a lamb that is entered in a classification but does not pass it will be moved to the Black Face Crossbred classification.
7. The weight divisions will be as follows Light weight market lambs 115- 129lbs, Medium weight market Lambs 130-144lbs and Heavy weight market lambs 145-160lbs
8. There will be three (3) weight division champions and reserve champions selected for classification groups having more than 20 lambs from which the classification group champion and reserve will be selected from these weight divisions. For classification groups with less than 20 lambs the class winners will compete for classification group champion and reserve during that show. Champion Natural Colored, Champion White Face Crossbred, Champion Black Faced Cross and Champion AOB will compete for the Overall Grand Champion and Overall Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb.
9. Livestock Sale Weight Requirements-115 -160lbs.
 - If you only have one lamb and it does not make the weight you may keep it on the fairgrounds for showmanship

Classes – Market Lamb Division

193. Pair of Market Lambs
194. Champion Pair of Market lambs
195. Reserve Champion Pair of Market Lambs
196. Individual Market Lamb
197. Light Weight Champion Market Lamb (each classification group)
198. Light Weight Reserve Champion Market Lamb (each classification group)
199. Medium Weight Champion Market Lamb (each classification group)
200. Medium Weight Reserve Champion Market Lamb (each classification group)
201. Heavy Weight Champion Market Lamb (each classification group)
202. Heavy Weight Reserve Champion Market Lamb (each classification group)
203. Champion Natural Colored Lamb
204. Reserve Champion Natural Colored Lamb
205. Champion White Face Crossbred Lamb

- 206. Reserve Champion White Face Crossbred Lamb
- 207. Champion AOB Lamb
- 208. Reserve Champion AOB Lamb
- 209. Champion Black Face Crossbred Lamb
- 210. Reserve Champion Black Face Crossbred Lamb
- 211. Grand Champion Market Lamb
- 212. Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb
- 213. 3rd Overall Lamb
- 214. 4th Overall Lamb
- 215. 5th Overall Lamb
- 216. Club Groups – consists of four lambs, same breed owned by four different 4-H'ers and/or FFA members. Each club may enter two groups. If an exhibitor has shown in one group, the exhibitor is ineligible to show in another group.
- 217. Bred and Owned – market lamb bred and owned by exhibitor only (not a purchased animal). Winners of this class are not eligible for champion Classes, although this lamb may show in its respective weight class of the market lamb show.

Rate of Gain – Rules and Regulations:

The sheep committee has decided to not have Rate of Gain for 2026. The age requirement will still be enforced,

Herdsmanship – Rules and Regulations

1. Awards are offered for top Junior and top Senior individual sheep herdsman.
2. Guidelines for judging include: Decorations and attractiveness of exhibit – 20 points; Cleanliness and Care of exhibit – 15 points; Cleanliness of aisle and area adjacent to exhibits – 15 points; Condition, fitting and presentation of exhibits in barns and show ring – 15 points; Personal contribution to the success of the Fair – 15 points; Attitude and spirit of cooperation with other exhibitors and Fair management – 10 points; Promptness in show ring – 10 points; total possible points – 100

Classes –Herdsmanship

- 220. Junior Exhibitors – ages 8-13
- 221. Senior Exhibitors – ages 14-18
- 222. Top Sheep Record Book/Portfolio