

## Department C – Sheep

### **Sheep Committee Members-**

Bobby Keesecker (Chairperson), Kami Keyser, Mark Sirk, Jonathan Taylor, Garrick Haslacker, Lesley Parisi

### **Junior Committee Members –**

Paisley Hinkle (Grant), Gracie Heisman (Hardy), Kallie Keyser (Pendleton)

### **Board Rep – Melinda Walker**

#### **1. WVDA Health Requirement must be complied with.**

(1) Breeding sheep must be accompanied by official health certificate from a veterinarian or

(2) Have a current Honor Flock Certificate from the USDA.

(3) Market class of lambs to be inspected at the Fair by WVDA Animal Health Officials. All livestock imported into the State of West Virginia for fairs, festivals, and shows shall be accompanied by an official health certificate approved by the livestock health official of the State of origin. A copy of the approved health certificate shall be forwarded to the Director of Animal Health, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Capitol Building, Charleston, WV 25305, and should be in possession (5) day prior to arrival of livestock.

(4) All lambs (wethers and ewes) must have the federal Scrappie Tag.

Note: No animals from any herd or flock under restriction will be permitted to show or sell. WVDA Animal Health Officials reserve the right to examine any animal consigned and exclude animals from the show that exhibit signs of disease.

2. All sheep must arrive between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday. Breeding sheep will be released at conclusion on show on Tuesday. Bedding will be provided.
3. Exhibitors should see that sheep have been handled sufficiently to permit close inspection by the judge without struggle.
4. Exhibitors of sheep one year old or older are required to furnish registration papers. The registration papers of the sire and dam must be furnished for younger purebreds not yet registered and their date of birth must be verified.
5. There must be competition to win first place premiums. No breeder, firm or corporation can make up their own competition.
6. Exhibitor of breeding sheep are limited to two entries in each class, except for group classes which are limited to one entry.
7. Exhibitor age rule to show in breeding sheep show: Exhibitor must be between the ages of 5 years old to 21 years old to show in the breeding sheep show.
8. The West Virginia 4-H Program and the West Virginia Agricultural Educators support the current American Veterinary Medicine Association official policy for tail docking of lambs below:

**Lambs' tails are docked for cleanliness and to minimize fly strike, but cosmetic, excessively short tail docking can lead to an increased incidence of rectal prolapse and is unacceptable for the welfare of the lamb. We recommend that lambs' tails be docked at the level of the distal end of the caudal tail fold.**

Market lambs or breeding sheep entered in 4-H/FFA sponsored youth fair exhibits will be observed by Extension and/or FFA personnel for evidence of rectal prolapse. Any lamb

exhibiting any signs of rectal prolapse will be disqualified from the event, any official tags removed, and the animal removed from the premises.

9. Any lamb showing evidence of Lamb Fungus will be immediately removed from the fairgrounds in order to be checked for the fungus. Lamb must be skin clipped.
10. Each junior exhibitor may exhibit only one market lamb. Lamb must be in 4-H or FFA member's possession by May 27, 2026. No pairs or pens of three are allowed, due to space limitations at the fair. All market lambs must be skin clipped after July 23 and before entering the fairgrounds at check-in.
11. Each exhibitor may tag 3 lambs for State Fair and 3 lambs for Tri-County Fair if they choose.
12. Each lamb tagged must be tagged to an exhibitor. There will no longer be a family spare lamb. Each exhibitor must have their own lamb tagged in their name including spares.
13. Market lambs must be weighed when they are unloaded. Lambs will not be taken to the barn, fed, or watered prior to weighing. Market lambs must weigh a minimum of 100 pounds. Lambs will be weighed by an Extension Agent, Vo-Ag Teacher or a WVDA Specialist.
14. The **first** market lamb that crosses the scale on Sunday, entry day and meets all requirements, is that exhibitor's lamb to show. No other lamb can be weighed! champions and will not Sell in the Junior Market Livestock Sale. All lambs in the No Sale Class must be removed from the fairgrounds by midnight on Wednesday.
15. **Animals that do not meet weight requirements may be asked to leave the fairgrounds, subject to space availability.**
16. **If a lamb that does not meet weight requirements is permitted to remain on the fairgrounds due to available space, the exhibitor may participate in a Showmanship Class. Lambs entered in this class will receive a \$3 premium but will not be eligible for champion selection and will not be eligible for the Junior Livestock Sale. All lambs in this Class must be removed from the fairgrounds by midnight on Wednesday.**
17. Sheep must be dry at the time of the show.
18. **All pens will be assigned by department chairperson.**
19. Each exhibitor is responsible for the care of their sheep and the area around their pen(s) EVERY DAY. Failure to do so will be cause to eliminate any premiums and the lambs from the Junior Market Livestock Sale.
20. Sheep may be shown with halter at exhibitor's discretion.
21. Only 4-H and FFA members will be allowed to help other 4-H and FFA members in the show ring during the junior shows.
22. Unethical grooming or showing practices will not be tolerated and are grounds for immediate expulsion from the show and sale.
23. 4-H and FFA exhibitors are required to show in the **showmanship** for each animal species they are exhibiting and use their own project animal to receive any premiums from the Junior shows. **4-H and FFA members with Market lamb exhibits must use their Market lamb for Showmanship.** Previous winners are not allowed to compete in the division they have won. Division will be determined by age as of Jan 1, 2026. **In the event the exhibited animal does not meet the required weight specifications, and the animal has to leave the fairgrounds due to space availability, the exhibitor must consult with their 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor regarding project completion.**