



2025 LAMB PROJECT

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



Species Chair:

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IMPORTANT DATES		IMPORTANT INFO	
Registration	March 3	Minimum Weight @ Fair	100 lbs.
Birth Date	After December 1, 2025		
Possession	May 1	Record Book	Required Due: 9/8/25
Tagging	TBD	Thank You Note	Required Due: 10/6/25
Shearing	TBD		

Participating 4-H youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Policies & Procedures books and the Premium Book of the Northwestern Michigan Fair. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, record book and thank you letter requirements, etc.

Registration Requirements

- ❖ To participate in a 4-H market lamb project, youth must attain the age of eight (8) or older by January 1st of that calendar year and be registered with 4-H Online 2.0
- ❖ All lamb participants (Market, Show only and Cloverbuds) MUST complete the online registration via the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's website NO LATER THAN midnight the first Monday of March.
 - Optional: Each 4-H market lamb participant may register an extra lamb for \$10, to be paid on tagging day. The extra lamb may only be used within the family that purchased the lamb and only one (1) market lamb may be brought to the fair per 4-H member. Bring your best lamb!
- ❖ To participate in the 4-H livestock shows and auction at the fair, youth must follow all registration requirements listed in the Northwestern Michigan Fair's Premium Book.
- ❖ To participate in the 4-H livestock auction at the fair, youth must register and compete in the appropriate showmanship AND market classes

Market lambs cannot be registered or shown in breed classes.

Animal Requirements

- ❖ All lambs must have a Farm Identification Tag (from the breeder) for scrapies testing purposes. All market lambs must also be tagged by the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council.
- ❖ Lambs must be born on or after December 1st of the current year.
- ❖ Lambs must be in possession of the 4-H member (or under his or her care) on or before May 1st.
- ❖ Lambs must be wethers or ewes. Rams will be disqualified.

- ❖ All lambs must receive an overeating shot and be wormed
 - These are often given by the breeder before the lamb is sold
 - Be sure to get the medication information from the breeder for the Lamb Health Record
 - A second dose of dewormer should be given prior to fair if needed
 - Be sure to read the label and note the withdrawal time to ensure that the lamb is clear for market at the fair
 - Proof of vaccination is required when unloading at the fair.
- ❖ Lambs should be sheared as close to fair as possible.
- ❖ Minimum weight for a market lamb is 100 pounds.

Fair Week Requirements

- ❖ General Requirements:
 - Weigh-in takes place the first Saturday of fair.
 - Youth must be present or must have made prior arrangements with the species chair for someone else to weigh their animal.
 - Protective boots or solid shoes are strongly recommended when working with your lamb
 - No feed, feed bags, or supplies are to be left in the barn (everything must be stored at the campsite unless arranged with species chair).
 - Youth are responsible for keeping their pens clean all week.
 - Pens are to be bedded with natural material (sawdust is provided). No carpets.
 - No muzzles on lambs at any time.
- ❖ Animal Care Requirements:
 - **Animals shall be treated humanely at all times. Any reports of unethical, inhumane, and/or abusive treatment or actions that cause distress and/or suffering to an animal will be evaluated by the Species Chair, Fair Superintendent, Fair Veterinarian, and/or other appropriate individuals and may lead to disqualification and removal from all 4-H and Open Livestock Shows held at the Fair.**
 - Youth are responsible for providing enough grain and hay to care for their lamb throughout the **entire** week.
 - No liquid feeding of lambs is allowed.
 - Water shall remain full and fresh at all times.
- ❖ Show Day Policies:
 - For the safety of the exhibitors and the public, the lamb barn will close 2 hours prior to the start of the first show.
 - During barn closure times, only the 4-H'er and ONE (1) support person of their choice may enter the barn and/or wash rack area. Support person is required to follow the protective boots or solid shoes policy.
 - The 4-H'er and support person may be required to wear an identification badge while in these areas.
 - The 4-H'er and their support person may fit and prepare the lamb for show.
- ❖ Fair End Responsibilities:
 - Completely clean and scrape down pens.
 - Bars on the pens need to be scrubbed and wiped down.

After Fair Requirements

- ◆ Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in multiple species, you are required to complete the record book for your market project.
Examples: Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.
- ❖ A Thank you and 5 x 7 Auction photo must be given to your buyer and a copy of the thank you note is due at the October Livestock council meeting.
- ❖ Failure to submit a completed record book at the September meeting and a Thank you at the October Meeting of the 4-H Livestock Council WILL result in suspension from the 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NWMI Fair the following year. Suspended youth who complete their record book and submit it to the 4-H Livestock Council by the November meeting that same year will again be eligible to register for 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NWMI Fair the following year.

Important Information & Tips for a Successful Lamb Project

- ❖ Cost:
 - Most lambs will cost between \$225 and \$450
 - Average cost of feed:
 - Grain: 350-450lbs @ \$20/50lbs
 - Alfalfa Pellets: 100lbs @ \$10/50lbs OR Hay: 4-5 bales @ \$10.00ea
 - Wormer: \$5.00
 - Shearing: \$15.00
 - Other Necessary Items: Lead Rope, Feed Dish, Water Bucket, Lamb Blanket, Tools (wheelbarrow, shovel, rake, cleaning supplies, etc)
 - Fair Week Expenses: Registration Fees, Camping Fees, 4% Commission.
- ❖ NEVER give a lamb feed that contains copper as copper is deadly to lambs.
 - NOTE: Goat feed contains copper
- ❖ Do NOT use any kind of bleach on your lamb when washing or any other time as bleach will burn the lamb's skin.
- ❖ To prevent foot rot, keep your lamb in a dry area. If you suspect foot rot, contact your Species Chair immediately as foot rot is highly contagious.

Tips

- ❖ ASK QUESTIONS!!! If you have questions or need help, contact the lamb species chair for answers or resources.
- ❖ Lamb Selection:
 - Structure – Look for sturdy legs, sound hooves, a straight back, a wide and long loin, and the back leg should look full and meaty.
 - Health – No loose stools, no runny eyes or nose. Free of cough and walk without any noticeable stiffness. Ears should not be droopy.
 - Weight – To achieve the ideal weight at fair time, the lamb should weigh 45-50 pounds at time of purchase.
- ❖ Bringing the Lamb Home:
 - Prepare – Have a clean pen with shelter and shade, clean water and feed dishes

- Feed – Know what the lamb has been fed by the breeder. A sudden change in feed can make the lamb sick.
- Bonding – The lamb will likely cry quite a bit for the first few days. Sit in the pen and make friends with the lamb. The lamb will begin relying on you for all of its needs including attention.
- ❖ Training/Working with the Lamb:
 - Remain calm and keep your voice down.
 - Be patient while halter training the lamb. Never pull hard on the halter; a gentle touch near its tail will usually get it to walk.
 - After mastering the halter, begin working on showmanship including setting up the lamb and guiding it without a halter.
- ❖ Feeding Your Lamb:
 - Grain- Grain should be given twice a day. Give them a pound in the morning and a pound at night or whatever they can eat in 15 minutes. Whichever is greater. If they are gaining too slowly, give them more grain. If they are gaining too much, cut them back.
 - Hay – Lamb should get about 1 handful of hay at morning and night or whatever the breeder recommended for a feed program.
- ❖ Exercise/Muscle Building:
 - While feeding, elevate the lamb's grain dish so that the lamb has to stand and stretch to eat.
 - Build Muscles By: Walking up hills, running in sand, and installing jumps in lamb pen area.
- ❖ Hot Weather:
 - Lambs tend to lose their appetite when hot, try to keep them cool ▪ If the temperature is above 90 degrees, cool the lamb down with a bath, start at the feet and work your way up the body. Be sure to dry them off well.
 - Flies tend to get worse as the heat goes up – Use Avon's Skin So Soft on the fleshy non-wool parts of the lamb.
 - Exercise early in the morning or late in the evening when the temperatures are lowest.
- ❖ Get Ready For Fair:
 - Be sure to give your lamb a good bath before arriving at the fair
 - Wash well including the knees, belly, and armpits
 - Trim the hooves
 - Clean the ears (including the ear tags) – Baby oil and cotton swabs are the best way to get the ears clean
 - Gather the necessary tools and supplies:
 - Feed dish and water bucket
 - Tack Box to keep items in
 - Wheelbarrow and shovel
 - Bathing supplies
 - Lamb Blanket – To keep lamb clean between bath and showtime
- ❖ Show Day:
 - Attire: Clean pants/jeans (free of holes and stains); Button-down shirt
- ❖ Record Keeping:
 - Use a calendar to track:
 - Purchases (feed, tack, medication, etc)
 - Amount of grain fed
 - Weight gain
 - Worming

Cloverbuds

- ❖ 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1st of the current year)
- ❖ Cloverbuds have their own showmanship class on Friday of fair
- ❖ Cloverbuds may bring their own lamb to the fair OR they may choose to show someone else's lamb
- ❖ Cloverbuds are not allowed to market their lamb
- ❖ A parent/guardian, leader, or other Gold Volunteer must be present at all times when the Cloverbud is working with their lamb, including in the show ring