

Lucas County 4-H Sheep Project Information



Helpful information for your sheep project.

The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Lucas County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

Sheep Project Overview

There are two lamb projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here is a brief summary of each project:

4-H #	Title	Description
198	Market Lamb	Can be a wether or ewe. Can be of any meat breed or color.
199	Sheep Breeding	Can be of any breed, female, or intact male, and must be registered in the name of the exhibitor or in partnership.

Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your sheep project:

- **Sheep Project Handbook** (\$28) - Designed to be used for all years of your lamb projects.
- **Sheep Project and Record Book OR Sheep Breeding Project and Record Book** (\$12) - Obtain and keep for the resource information it contains.
 - One record book per year, even if you are taking multiple types of cattle, such as dairy feeder and beef feeder.
 - You will need to purchase a new record book each year you take a beef project.

**Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Lucas County Livestock Record Insert to keep this information.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: * = Mandatory

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than April 1	https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Monday of Fair	Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent	2
*County Fair Entry	May 15	https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfaireentry	3
*Skill-a-thon	Monday of Fair	Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent	3

Activities that will take place prior to the Lucas County Fair

The following 4-H activities are described below.

4-H Enrollment

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

Project Interview

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Tips to be Successful

- Arrive at the Entertainment tent with your record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends and RELAX!

Dress Code Rule for All Junior Fair Exhibitors

The Junior Fair Dress Code is in effect for Livestock Shows and all Interview Judging Days.

- Livestock Interview: No rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops or sleeveless tops.
- Livestock Shows: exhibitors must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve (no rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops, t-shirts or sleeveless tops). Pants should be black, khakis or jeans, reach exhibitors shoes and have no holes. Shoes are closed toe shoes.
- **Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed.



Skill-a-thon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on sheep and then at 4-H Project Interview, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are 3 levels: juniors (8-12 years old), Intermediate (13-15 years old) and seniors (16-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Sheep Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your sheep project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your Sheep project.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at Sunday awards in the Livestock Arena.

Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!

County Fair Entry

For exhibition information, such as move-in, possession and show information, visit the Lucas County Fair junior fair exhibition rules at: <https://lucascountyfair.com/exhibitors/#junior> then select “Livestock Rules”

- Fair Entry is due **May 15** and is completed online using this link: <https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfaireentry>
- Late or edited entries will be accepted until **May 22 with a \$50 fee payable to the Lucas County Fair.**
- For Entries after the late entry date, May 22, penalties are Grade and Exhibition only, \$50 fee, no premium, awards, or auction. Exhibition request will need approval.

Basics For Your Sheep Project

- Your 4-H Advisor and/or Extension Office can provide a list of possible sources of animals. It is highly advisable to seek out a reputable breeder to obtain your project animal. A good breeder wants you to be successful with your project and with the animal(s) they are offering. It is not advisable to look toward sale barns (stockyards) for project animals as you will not know the breed, health status or anything else about the animal you are getting. Again, do not buy a lamb from ANY source that does not have a Scrapie tag in its ear (it is federal law for the breeder to apply this tag).
- Seek out an animal that has been born in the range of January 1 – February 15 of the current year.
- For market lambs: it is important to choose an animal of the correct size and growth potential so that it can meet the suggested weight range to show at the Lucas County Fair, minimum requirement is 90 pounds and a suggested maximum limit of 145 pounds. You will want to select a meat breed lamb for a market project. For breeding sheep, you will want to choose an animal that fits your project goals. If you want to show your animal, you will want to make sure there is a class offered for the animal you are considering.
- When selecting market animals:



- Look for a lamb that is square on their legs, straight (not sway) backed, wide chested, front legs set squarely down from their shoulder and wide in rear leg set.
- Check birth date but also consider other factors such as genetics, nutrition, exercise, etc. Example: a single kid with a good milking ewe (mother) will grow much faster than a triplet that is getting limited nutrition.
- A rule of thumb is that a lamb will gain about 1/2 of pound per day or 15 pounds per month. However, this is largely influenced by type and quality of feed and other factors. (This is a rough estimate that can be influenced by many factors.)
- Check for lice and mites when getting your lamb and treat if needed to keep the wool/hair quality of your animal favorable.
- A healthy lamb should be alert, curious and move easily. Avoid a lamb that stands in the corner, is hunched up as it stands, drooped, or moves lethargically.

Housing

- Provide some type of shelter to keep lambs out of the elements. Ventilation is key for keeping them healthy in the summer, but you also want to have protection from wind, rain, and sun.
- You will want a pen that provides room for exercise but is not so big that the lambs are difficult to catch. 6' x 6' would be adequate, 10' x 10' would be ideal. Your lambs do not “need” to be on grass or pasture. In fact, it is easier to control feed intake and keep them free of parasites if they are not on grass.
- Bedding: straw or shavings. Shavings work better to manage the size of their belly for show, as the lambs will not eat the shavings as much. Clean pens regularly. Wet, dirty bedding is not ideal.

Feeding

- You will need a water bucket and one feeder per lamb. Water needs to be changed out multiple times per day. Clean the feeders out after every feeding. Lambs will not eat old, dirty feed.
- There are many types of quality show feeds available locally. Talk to your breeder to see what they recommend. Freshness is particularly important. Lambs will eat 3-4% of their body weight per day. A good place to start is one pound of feed, twice a day for each lamb. Market lambs only need a small handful of hay 1-2 times per day.
- Weigh them periodically! Don't wait until a week before the fair to find out you're not meeting weight. Drastic changes in diet to meet weight can cause sickness and lambs to stop eating.

Health Care

- It is your responsibility as an animal owner and/or food animal producer to establish a relationship with a veterinarian, to help with health care decisions for your animal. Your 4-H Advisor and/or Extension Office may be able to provide suggestions about veterinarians in the area that provide services for sheep. You can also seek suggestions from other sheep owners.
- Do NOT seek animal medical advice from farm store clerks, neighbors, other sheep owners, breeders, etc. Experienced sheep owners may be able to guide you in many areas, but if your animal needs veterinary care; it is your responsibility to provide proper care for that animal.