

2026 MARKET LAMB, CARCASS LAMB & SHEEP BREEDING GUIDELINES

MARKET LAMB COMMITTEE

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December 11, 2026

Market & Carcass Lamb Weigh-In: During Check – In, Tuesday: Scales in Tent
Carcass Lambs: Ultrasound: Lamb Barn - Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Carcass Lamb: On Hoof Judging – Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
(Will announce Grand & Reserve Carcass Lambs on Thursday during the Market Lamb Show)

JUNIOR FAIR SHEEP & MARKET LAMB SHOW

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

MARKET LAMB SHOWMANSHIP: Senior, Intermediate, Junior

Market Lambs: Lightweight to Heavyweight - Will place Grand & Reserve Champion Market Lamb

Announce Outstanding Exhibitor

SHEEP BREEDING to follow

Purebred or high grade may be exhibited at the Mahoning County Junior Fair. No ram lambs may be exhibited.

Class 1. Ewe Lamb Under 1 Year Old: Member must show an ewe lamb of any breed under the age of 1 year old.

Class 2. Yearling Ewe Over One Year and Under 2 Years: Member must show an ewe of any breed over the age of one and under the age of 2 years.

First and Second place winners will return to compete for Grand and Reserve Champion.

(Ewes older than the classes listed above are highly encouraged to show in the register and show in the Open Class Show.)

MARKET LAMB, CARCASS LAMB, AND SHEEP BREEDING GUIDELINES

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

All members must also follow General Junior Fair Guidelines and Market Livestock Guidelines.

➤ MEETING REQUIREMENTS:

- **Mandatory** - Members taking the Market/Carcass/Breeding Lamb Project must attend **at least two Mahoning County Market Lamb Meetings**. Meeting dates are available on the Junior Fair Website.
- The Market Livestock Skillathon, Ice Cream Social, or Shearing/Showmanship Clinic will count toward meeting requirements. This does not include attendance to Quality Assurance.
- All members must attend the mandatory tagging & weigh-in clinic.

SECURING MARKET & CARCASS LAMBS:

1. Lambs must be born between January 1, 2026 and March 31, 2026.
2. Lambs must be secured and in member's possession by the date of mandatory tagging & weigh-in. The member will be responsible for all care on and after this date. Market livestock animals which are tagged to be exhibited in the Mahoning County Junior Fair Show and are intended to be sold for slaughter in the current project year, MAY NOT be exhibited in any other county junior fair market livestock show intended for sale.
3. Animals must be housed at the place where the member resides. A written letter requesting permission to house animals away from your own residence must be submitted to the sheep committee, prior to registration. Member's name, address, and phone number of house residence must appear on the letter.
4. Members are highly encouraged to request Official Scrapie's Identification from the original breeder or place of purchase. At this time the member should also question method of castration and check for evidence of testicular removal.
5. In the event of accidental tag removal from the animal project, a sheep committee member must be notified immediately.

SHEEP & GOATS

MANDATORY USDA ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

ALL SHEEP AND GOATS TO BE EXHIBITED AT THE CANFIELD FAIR MUST BE identified by official USDA identification (USDA approved tags or USDA recorded tattoo for identification in the Scrapie's program). FOR CANFIELD FAIR, THIS REQUIREMENT WILL INCLUDE ALL EWES/DOES, RAMS/BUCKS AND WETHERS REGARDLESS OF AGE. EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ANIMALS' SCRAPIES IDENTIFICATION. THIS OFFICIAL USDA IDENTIFICATION MUST BE IN ANIMALS' EAR TO BE EXHIBITED & THE TAG/TATTOO NUMBER WILL NEED TO BE DOCUMENTED ON ANIMAL HEALTH PAPER, CANFIELD FAIR ENTRY FORM FOR OPEN CLASS EXHIBITION; AND FOR JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITION ON ANIMAL HEALTH PAPER, DRUG NOTIFICATION FORM, AND JUNIOR FAIR ENTRY SHEET. Exhibitor should have record of farm of origin to correspond with this USDA tag/tattoo. These records should be maintained by exhibitor for 5 years. This record is kept to monitor Scrapie, which is a disease found in sheep and goats. **THIS SCRAPIES IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN MANDATED BY THE USDA. RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**
SHEEP/GOATS WITHOUT OFFICIAL USDA IDENTIFICATION (TAG AND/OR TATTOO) WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO EXHIBIT.

To obtain Official Herd Scrapie's Identification Tags or Tattoo registration, first contact herd of origin.
If not available, contact 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824).

MARKET CARCASS LAMB GUIDELINES

Members enrolled in this project must complete all of the following project requirements and follow the guidelines to be able to sell the animal and receive awards.

1. Members must be enrolled in the Market Carcass Lamb Project to learn about meat quality, meat science, and carcass evaluation.
2. Members must complete and submit a record book with entries consistent with their respective division. NO record book will be accepted that fails to include a completed profit and loss statement.
3. All lambs will be weighed upon arrival to the Junior Fair Show. **There will be no re-weighs.**
4. Each member will be responsible for a \$5.00 fee for the sonoray, unless a flat rate is charged by the judge. If needed, the committee reserves the right to deduct this fee from the member's sale check.
5. Exhibitor must adhere to all of the Market Lamb Guidelines.

The results of the Carcass Lamb Class will be based on the results of the following:

Sonoray: 50 % On Hoof: 25% Rate of Gain: 25%

MARKET & CARCASS LAMB EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. **MANDATORY!** All market & carcass lamb projects, which are to be shown at the Canfield Fair and are intended for inclusion in the Market Livestock Auction, must be weighed and identified on the SPECIFIED DATE OF MANDATORY TAGGING & WEIGH-IN!
2. Only one animal in each division, Market Lamb and Carcass Lamb, can be exhibited at the Mahoning County Junior Fair. A youth member may register up to four lambs per member to be used in market and/or carcass classes. Each animal MUST be registered to said member. Lambs to be shown must be declared in specific division either market lamb or carcass lamb by August 1, when the Junior Fair Entry Sheet is submitted. Once declared, the specific division designation (market or carcass) is final and no changes from the selected designation may occur. A lamb registered with an immediate family member be substituted with a bonafide reason that is approved by the lamb committee PRIOR the first day of the Fair. Members not following these rules will not be permitted to show their lambs at the fair.
3. **JUNIOR FAIR WEIGH-IN:**
 - Lambs will be weighed upon arrival on Junior Fair Entry Day.
 - Lambs must be a minimum weight of 90 lbs., except Corridales, Montadales, and Southdowns with a minimum weight of 85 lbs. The maximum weight for any lamb is 155 lbs. at the time of weigh-in at the Mahoning County Junior Fair.
 - Lambs under weight and over 155 lbs. will be sold at the end of the sale and WILL NOT be considered for Grand and Reserve Champion.
 - **There will be no re-weighs.**
 - Animals not of market quality as determined by the Lamb Committee will be sent home Tuesday evening prior to the opening day of the Junior Fair Show. Animals should be representative of the size and weight of the breed shown to be Market Quality.
4. All sheep must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI, or Health Paper) issued within **60 days** prior to the opening date of the fair. Youth should record the Official USDA Scrapie's Identification Tag Number and Market Livestock Animal ID Tag Number as the animal identification which is requested on Health Papers, Junior Fair Entry Form, and Drug Notification Form..
5. The committee will check for evidence of testicular tissue removal and docking at mandatory tagging & weigh-in. If there is **any evidence of testicular tissue or retained testicles,** the animal will be barred from the show and sale.
6. All market & carcass lambs must be completely slick sheered and freshly shorn one week before the day of the show.
7. The Market Lamb Committee reserves the right to measure the length of the tail on lambs and all lambs brought to the ring for show must be clean and presentable for the show. Animals not following these rules as determined by the Lamb Committee may be sent home or disqualified.

SELLING & SHOWING:

1. Carcass lambs will be ultrasound Tuesday or Wednesday of the Junior Fair Show and then shown on the rail depending on the availability of the judge.
2. Market Lambs will show at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday and will sell Thursday of the Mahoning County Junior Fair prior to the Market Swine.

COMPLETED RECORD BOOK & THANK YOU ARE MANDATORY:

1. **All members taking a Market Lamb & Carcass** must complete and submit record books by 6:00 p.m. Thursday following the Junior Fair Show to the Market Lamb Committee at the Junior Fair Clean Up.
2. **Members must notify a committee member if they have a conflict with this time.**
3. Members not complying can expect a \$25.00 deduction from their market check. The funds deducted will be donated toward the Jim Baer Scholarship Fund. No check will be given until the requirements are fulfilled. Completed books will be available for pick-up at Check Night.

POST FAIR CLEAN UP:

1. No stripping of pens on Monday evening as animals will need bedding until they are hauled.
2. The Market Lamb committee is requesting members and families to come Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. to clean and put away pens.
3. If unable to attend Thursday evening, members must clean (completely strip) their pen prior to 6:00 p.m. Thursday following the Junior Fair exhibition or make arrangements within your club and/or another exhibitor to make sure your pen is cleaned.
4. See the General Junior Fair Guidelines Post Fair Clean Up Policy regarding fees and requirements.

SHOWMANSHIP & SKILLATHON

Market Lamb Skillathon and Showmanship Divisions (Subject to change if too many in one class):

Junior: 8 and in third grade - 11

Intermediate: 12 – 14

Senior: 15 - 18(as of Jan. 1 of current year)

MARKET LAMB SHOWMANSHIP

1. Open to all sheep project members.
2. Each member will fit and show their animal. The member may be asked by the judge to show some other animal.
3. Fitting will count fifty percent and showmanship fifty percent.
4. Fitting will include condition, quality, finish, cleanliness, and general appearance of animal.
5. Showmanship will include cleanliness and appearance of exhibitor and ability to handle the animal.

MARKET/CARCASS LAMB OUTSTANDING EXHIBITOR

Outstanding Exhibitor will be determined based on placings in Market Lamb Skillathon, Showmanship, and Market or Carcass Class. Exhibitors must choose whether they prefer to have their points used for Market Lamb or Carcass Lamb Class for the Outstanding Exhibitor on their Junior Fair Entry Sheet. To be fair to all exhibitors, only one division (Market or Carcass) will count toward Outstanding Exhibitor points. Winners will be announced Thursday, immediately following Market Swine Showmanship. Scoring will be as follows:

Skillathon: All members participating in Market Lamb Skillathon will receive 50 points.

Participants placing 1 through 10 in their respective age divisions will receive the following additional points.

1st = 50 points, 2nd = 45 points, 3rd = 40 points, 4th = 35 points, 5th = 30 points,

6th = 25 points, 7th = 20 points, 8th = 15 points, 9th = 10 points, 10th = 5 points

Showmanship: All showmanship participants will receive 50 points.

Participants placing 1 through 10 in their respective age divisions will receive the same points as the skillathon.

Market/Carcass Class: Points will be awarded as follows:

1st = 75 points, 2nd = 70 points, 3rd = 65 points, 4th = 60 points, 5th = 55 points

6th = 50 points, 7th = 45 points, 8th = 40 points, 9th = 35 points, 10th = 30 points