



SHEEP DEPARTMENT

Rev. 2.25.26

Superintendent: Harry Raughley: 302-632-2030
Assistant Superintendents: Debbie Vanderwende (Show Chairperson)
Jimmy Warren (Ring Master)
Show Secretaries: Rachel Hohman & Heather Silicato

Dates & Times:

Date	Time	Description	Location
 Wednesday, July 22	8:00 AM	Sheep may begin to arrive	ONLY THRU GATE 2
Friday, July 24	12:00 PM	Sheep must be in place	Kent Building
Saturday, July 25	8:30 AM	Mandatory Barn Meeting & Weigh Ins 	Kent Building
Sunday, July 26	5:00 PM	Delaware Sheep & Wool Ambassador Contest	Kent Building
	7:00 PM	Wool Lead Line Contest	Kent Building
Tuesday, July 28	9:00 AM	Fitting & Showmanship, Market Classes (Junior Only)	Kent Building
	7:00 PM	Livestock Extravaganza	Quillen Arena
Wednesday, July 29	9:00 AM	All Breed Classes beginning with Class 25	Kent Building
Thursday, July 30	6:30 PM	Junior Livestock Auction	Kent Building
Sunday, August 2	1:00 AM	Sheep may begin to leave the grounds	ONLY THRU GATE 2
	8:00 AM	All Sheep must be removed from the grounds	

Arrival & Departure:

1. Pen assignments will be posted during the check-in times by Superintendent Harry Raughley between Wednesday, July 22 8:00 AM through Friday, July 24 at 12 Noon.
2. **Animals may arrive on Wednesday, July 22 starting at 8:00 AM and MUST be in place on Friday, July 24 by 12 Noon.**
3. In order to drop off animals on the grounds, please have your vehicle pass in the bottom driver's side front windshield to be permitted onto the grounds.
4. All animals may not leave the grounds before Sunday, August 2, at 1:00 AM.
5. Animals removed before Sunday, August 2, at 1:00 AM will result in forfeited premiums.
6. The Sheep Department will only be allowed access through Gate 2 for arrival and departure.

Entry Information & Fees:

1. Entries can only be made online via the [Fair's website](#) beginning 9:00 AM April 1, 2026 thru 11:59 PM June 1, 2026.
2. A \$10.00 entry fee per class (excluding groups, pairs, showmanship, fitting & contest classes) is required for all show entries.
3. No exhibitor can have more than two (2) entries in any single class. Exhibitors will be limited to one (1) entry in each group or pair class in the Breed Sheep Show. Junior exhibitors may only show a maximum of two (2) market lambs and each lamb cannot be in the same weight class. Only bring two (2) market

lambs to the Fair per exhibitor even if you have tagged more than two (2). For purposes of this rule, Exhibitors to be counted shall include the adult owners of a farm or business entity in whose farm or business name an animal may be registered. For more information refer to Rule 3, General Animal Rules, Section D, Ownership.

4. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to read all [General Animal Exhibitor Rules on the Fair's website](#).
5. Entries are restricted to Delaware residents and active Delaware 4-H members regardless of residency.
6. Exhibitor back tag numbers will be supplied by the Delaware State Fair. The number must be worn whenever the exhibitor is in the show ring.

General Rules & Regulations:

1. All animals are subject to be used in Livestock Judging Contests for 4-H or FFA and the Livestock Extravaganza.
2. Due to new fans installed in the Kent Barn, portable fans will not be permitted.
3. **If the number of sheep entered exceeds the number of pens available, then a waiting list will be established as determined by the time and date of entry.**
4. During shows, no photographers are permitted in the ring except for the official photographer. Please take photos from behind the fencing; remaining outside of the ring.
5. Exhibitors should wear appropriate show attire while in the show ring e.i. neck band or collared shirts, khakis or jeans, and boots or shoes. Not appropriate are plunging necklines, sleeveless shirts, shorts or open toed shoes. Anyone not in proper attire will be asked to leave the show ring.

Sheep Department Rules & Regulations:

1. We welcome new exhibitors to the Delaware State Fair. The Delaware State Fair is not a member of any sheep organization. Therefore, our shows are run somewhat differently and independently from other shows. Our purpose is to promote Delaware sheep and have animals on exhibit during the Fair for the patrons.
2. Superintendents will make all final decisions regarding interpretation of rules, including disputes and/or protests.
3. All of the rules and regulations that affect our sheep show and the junior livestock auction are on-line. Please read the rules and regulations and become familiar with them.
4. Exhibitors not complying with the regulations will have premium monies withheld or future entries refused.
5. If you have any additional questions or concerns about what to do, the following people should be contacted:
 - a. For items involving pens, the sheep exhibit area, and overall information contact Mr. Harry Raughley, Sheep Department Superintendent, at (302) 398-8757 (H) or (302) 632-2030 (C)
 - b. For items involving the sheep show, registration or entries, contact Debbie Vanderwende, Show Chairperson, at (302) 349-4240 (H) or (302) 542-2088 (C)
6. All sheep must be shown in classes and be judged in order to receive premium money. Sheep should be fitted appropriately and must be capable of maneuvering the ring under its own power so its gait and structure may be observed. Wet sheep or carried sheep are unacceptable.
7. All sheep in group classes must have been shown as individuals in respective classes.
8. Ear tags for market lambs must be installed and breed sheep must have ear tags or permanent markings with registration papers in order.
9. If sheep are not shown in a class, then they must be removed from the fairgrounds.
10. Striking or slapping of sheep is prohibited. Exhibitors will receive one warning and if repeated, will be asked to leave the Fairgrounds, and all sheep entries will be disqualified.



11. All females and intact males, regardless of age, shall have official scrapie identifications. This identification may be by ear tag, tattoo, or microchip. Any animals not having proper scrapie identification will NOT be allowed to show.
12. If additional information is needed, contact Bob Moore, Livestock Committee Chairperson at 302-698-4566.

Registration Papers:

1. The exhibitor name for the entries must be the name listed as the current owner on the registration papers. The exhibitors' name MUST appear as the owner on the registration papers.
2. Registration papers will be checked on Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26, between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM in the Livestock Office of the Kent Building. The exhibitor or a designated individual must be present with registration papers at the posted time. Sheep whose registration papers have not been checked by this time will not be shown and will be asked to leave.
3. ALL registration papers must be the original issue, accurate including the correct date of sale. No copies will be permitted.
4. All Breed sheep must have registration papers, including lambs. PENDING PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

DE Bred & Owned Rules:

1. The same individual must be listed as both the owner and breeder. There will be no farm names, multiple names or partnerships eligible.
2. The exhibitor's first and last name must be listed on the registration papers. The exhibitor must be a **Delaware** resident regardless of 4-H/FFA membership.
3. The eligible sheep must have been bred and born in Delaware and reside in Delaware. The exhibitor must have owned the dam at the time of breeding.
4. Exhibitors MUST declare the sheep eligible for Bred and Owned awards at registration check-in. If you do not designate the animal at check-in, then you will not be allowed to show in this competition.
5. Delaware Bred and Owned Sheep Champions will be selected during the individual breed champion drives. If the champion or reserve selected are not eligible, all ineligible animals would be asked to leave the ring so that the judge may select the Bred and Owned Champion from those remaining. Those selected will receive a Rosette. If no animals remain, that breed will not be represented during the Supreme Drive.
6. We will offer four (4) Bred and Owned Supreme Banners during the Overall Sheep Awards: Meat Ram, Meat Ewe, Wool Ram, Wool Ewe.

Pens & Barn Cleanliness:

1. **Please be sure to note clearly on your entry who you wish to be penned with or near and their contact number.**
2. Pen assignments will be posted during the check-in times by Superintendent Harry Raughley between Wednesday, July 22, at 8:00 AM through Friday, July 24, at 12 NOON.
3. **FFA ADVISORS** – Fax (302-398-5030) or email (premiums@thestatefair.net) a list of members and entries to the Fair office by June 1st so chapters may be penned together.
4. Pens must be kept in good condition, i.e. NO ODOR! Sloppy, dirty or stinking pens as well as empty or dirty water buckets will not be tolerated. There will be one warning and the second time the exhibitor will be asked to leave, thus forfeiting premiums.

5. Your first bedding of straw/shavings will be provided by the Fair. Complete clean out by midweek or before. Please fill the manure bins from the back, forward. Tub washing sheep is no longer permitted on the Fairgrounds.
6. **No pens can be used for tack and fitting purposes unless approved by Department Management.** The department managers will be coordinating aisle closures in the Kent Building for all fitting activities (closing public access to the aisles at certain times) in order to allow all exhibitors the opportunity to perform fitting chores free of fair patron intrusion and allowing you to fit your animals in a safe and secure environment.
7. Livestock Exhibitor Households will receive credentials as stated in the Livestock Department Gate Pass & Vehicle Pass Distribution Policy. These credentials are to be used for arrival, departure, and care for animals on the grounds. Be sure to have the pass clearly displayed on the driver's side of the vehicle. Staff will be monitoring this process closely so please do not abuse this process.

Adding & Eliminating Breeds:

1. A new breed class will be created if there are 10 or more animals as represented by 3 owners for 2 consecutive years.
2. If a specific breed class is not represented by 10 or more animals and 3 breeders for 2 consecutive years, then that class will be eliminated and the animals entered accordingly.

WOOL LEAD LINE CONTEST

Contest Contact - Debbie Fuller (302) 836-3107

Rules:

1. Please turn in your script to Mrs. Fuller at the Barn Meeting on Saturday, July 25, at 8:00 AM.
2. If necessary, classes may be adjusted due to class size.

Premiums			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th
\$22.00	\$16.50	\$11.00	\$5.50

Class #	Class Description
1	Beginner (ages 5-9)
2	Junior (ages 10-13)
3	Senior (ages 14-21)
4	Adults (ages 22 & older)

PEN DISPLAY AWARD

Rules:

1. Please have your display in place by Sunday, July 26, for Judging.
2. Attach 1 Exhibitor Number to display for premium. If you need a card, please see Debbie Vanderwende.

Premiums				
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
\$55.00	\$49.00	\$38.50	\$27.50	\$22.00

Judging Rubric:

General Attractiveness	20 pts
Educational Value	40 pts
Personal Attention	20 pts
Interest Drawing Value	20 pts
Total	100 pts

Class #	Class Description
5	Educational and Promotional Display Award

SHEPHERDS AWARD

Rules:

1. This contest will be judged throughout all days of the fair.

Premiums			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th
\$55.00	\$49.50	\$38.50	\$27.50

Judging Rubric:

Cleanliness of animals in exhibit	20 pts
Cleanliness of the pens and bedding	20 pts
Cleanliness of aisles	20 pts
Neatness of feed and supplies	20 pts
Courtesy to fair patrons	20 pts
Total	100 pts

Class #	Class Description
6	Shepherds Award

FLEECE CONTEST

Contest Contact - Debbie Vanderwende (302) 349-4240

Rules:

1. Entries can only be made online via the Delaware State Fair's website beginning 9:00 AM April 1, 2026 thru 11:59 PM June 1, 2026.
2. There will only be one entry per exhibitor for each class.
3. Fleece must be entered in a clear plastic bag, with a 3x5 card neatly written with exhibitors, class, name and breed of sheep, and be in place by Monday, July 27, by 9:00 PM.
4. Judging will take place in the show ring on Tuesday, July 28, following the Market Show
5. If fleeces are awarded a prize, they must remain on exhibit for the duration of the Fair otherwise premiums will be forfeited.
6. You must produce your own fleece and must exhibit a sheep in a regular class.
7. ONLY FRESH CLEAN FLEECE OF CURRENT YEAR

Premiums				
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
\$22.00	\$18.75	\$14.50	\$9.00	\$5.50

Class #	Class Description
7	Colored Fleece Display
8	White Fleece Display

JUNIOR FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP

Premium Schedule for Junior Fitting & Showmanship classes

# of Exhibitors	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	\$23.25									
2	\$24.25	\$21.00								
3	\$25.50	\$22.00	\$18.75							
4	\$26.50	\$23.25	\$20.00	\$16.50						
5	\$27.50	\$24.25	\$21.00	\$17.75	\$15.50					
6	\$28.75	\$25.50	\$22.00	\$18.75	\$16.50	\$13.25				
7	\$29.75	\$26.50	\$23.25	\$20.00	\$17.75	\$14.50	\$11.00			
8	\$31.00	\$27.50	\$24.25	\$21.00	\$18.75	\$15.50	\$12.25	\$9.00		
9	\$32.00	\$28.75	\$25.50	\$22.00	\$20.00	\$16.50	\$13.25	\$10.00	\$10.00	
10	\$33.00	\$29.75	\$26.50	\$23.25	\$21.00	\$17.75	\$14.50	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00

JUNIOR FITTING

Rules:

1. All entries in the fitting classes are expected to fit their own animal. Instructional help from other individuals may be provided.
2. If necessary, classes may be adjusted due to class size. There will be a minimum class size of 3 exhibitors and a maximum of 15 exhibitors.
3. In the fitting classes, Slick Sheared animals will be asked to leave the ring.
4. All animals must be shown in individual classes in order to show in Fitting or premium will be forfeited.

Class #	Class Description	Awards
9	Fitting Contest (ages 16-21)	
10	Fitting Contest (ages 12-15)	
11	Fitting Contest (ages 5-11)	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Fitting	Rosette & Trophy
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Fitting	Ribbon

SHOWMANSHIP

Rules:

1. If necessary, classes may be adjusted due to class size. There will be a minimum class size of 3 exhibitors and a maximum of 15 exhibitors.

Rules:

1. All junior market animal exhibitors **MUST** complete a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training certification class (online or in-person), unless they have an existing Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) certification that is valid through August 1, 2025. The YQCA training certification course can be done either in person or online, **but must be completed to enter a market animal in the 2025 Delaware State Fair. Exhibitors will be asked upon entry to provide their YQCA certification before moving forward with their entries.**
 - a. This mandatory training requirement shall apply to all those exhibiting market animals. The training certification is not limited to only market animal exhibitors and all exhibitors are encouraged to consider completing this course.
 - b. If you are a junior market animal exhibitor and have not attended or completed the online YQCA course nor currently have an existing YPQA valid certification **by the deadline (June 1, 2026)**, you will not be permitted to show your market animal(s).
 - c. For more detailed information about the YQCA requirement and how to fulfill the requirements please [click here](#) to visit the Fair's website.
2. Market animals can upload a photo of their animal until **July 1, 2026**. Animals that make the auction will have the opportunity for add-ons in which the photos will be displayed to buyers. Please contact the Premiums office for more information (302) 398-7013.
3. Market lambs **MUST** be slick sheared completely within 10 days of show.
4. Sheep in breed classes and ram lambs are ineligible. Wethers must be completely castrated.
5. Junior exhibitors may only show a maximum of two market lambs. Of the two market lambs, neither can compete in the same weight class. Junior exhibitors are limited to two market lamb entries in the Junior Livestock Auction. A limited number of lambs will be sold at the auction.
6. If two market animals entered by the same exhibitor are determined to be in the same weight class, the exhibitor shall select one of the two animals to be moved up to the next higher weight class thereby allowing the exhibitor the opportunity to show both animals. If two market animals entered by the same exhibitor are determined to be in the heaviest weight class, the exhibitor shall choose which animal will be struck from the competition.
- IMPORTANT**. Ear tags will be checked as each animal enters the ring.
8. As a convenience to exhibitors who have determined that they consider the Fair as a terminal event for their animal(s), the Fair has solicited one or more private/ independent buyers to contact Exhibitors about purchasing their animal(s). The Fair exercises best efforts to identify reliable and dependable buyers, however the Fair will not under any circumstances be responsible for any issue(s) that may develop between the exhibitors and the buyers. None of these requirements are meant to preclude an exhibitor from entering into a private sale with whomever they decide. None of these Buyers have any affiliation with the Fair.
9. Exhibitors who decide to sell their animals to any Buyer are reminded of the following:
 - a. All terms and conditions of each sale such as price, animal weight, total consideration to be paid, when payment is to be made, the time and date the animal(s) will be transferred to the Buyer, etc. are matters strictly between the Exhibitor and the Buyer. The Fair is not in any way responsible for any aspect of the transaction including payment and transfer of ownership and possession of the animal;
 - b. And the Exhibitor is responsible for caring for the animal until the Buyer takes possession;

Show Order		
Order#	Ring 1	Ring 2
1	Cheviots	Corriedales
2	Suffolks	Natural Colored Border Leicesters
3	Natural Colored Lincolns	
4	Hampshires	
5	Southdown	White Wool
6	Tunis	White Lincoln
7	Shropshire	Natural Colored Wool
8	Dorper	Leicester Longwools
9	All Other Breeds	White Romney
10	Horned Dorset	White Border Leicesters

Class #	Class Description	Awards
24	Ram: 1 year and under 2 years	
25	Sr. Ram Lamb: born 9/1/25 thru 12/31/25	
26	Early Jr. Ram Lamb: born 1/1/26 thru 2/15/26	
27	Late Jr. Ram Lamb: born 2/16/26 and after	
28	Two Ram Lambs	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Ram	Rosette
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Ram	Ribbon
Do not Enter	DE Bred & Owned Ram	Rosette
29	Ewe: 1 year and under 2 years	
30	2 Yearling Ewes, by same owner	
31	Sr. Ewe Lamb: born 9/1/25 thru 12/31/25	
32	Early Jr. Ewe Lamb: born 1/1/26 thru 2/15/26	
33	Late Jr. Ewe Lamb: born 2/16/26 and after	
34	Two Ewe Lambs, by same owner	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Ewe	Rosette
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Ewe	Ribbon
Do not enter	DE Bred & Owned Ewe	Rosette

All animals in the following group classes must have shown previously in a single class.

Reminder: Only 1 entry per exhibitor per group class.

Class #	Class Description	Awards
35	Pair Yearlings (both sexes represented), by same owner	
36	Pair Lambs (both sexes represented), by same owner	
37	Pen of 4 lambs (both sexes represented), by same owner	
38	Young Flock (1 ram lamb and 2 ewe lambs), by same owner	
39	Get of Sire (four animals, any age, any sex, sired by the same ram), by same owner	
40	Breeder's Flock (1 ram & 2 yearling ewes & 2 ewe lambs), by same owner	

OVERALL SHEEP AWARDS

Class #	Class Description	Awards
Do not enter	Supreme Champion Ram (Meat Breeds)	Banner
Do not enter	DE Bred & Owned Supreme Drive Meat Ram	Banner
Do not enter	Supreme Champion Ewe (Meat Breeds)	Banner
Do not enter	DE Bred & Owned Supreme Drive Meat Ewe	Banner
Do not enter	Supreme Champion Ram (Wool Breeds)	Banner
Do not enter	DE Bred & Owned Supreme Drive Wool Ram	Banner
Do not enter	Supreme Champion Ewe (Wool Breeds)	Banner
Do not enter	DE Bred & Owned Supreme Drive Wool Ewe	Banner
Do not enter	Supreme Fleece - White	Rosette
Do not enter	Supreme Fleece - Black	Rosette

DE SHEEP & WOOL AMBASSADOR CONTEST

Contest Contact - Bethany Orton (302) 858-6141

Rules:

1. All contestants will be asked to complete and submit an entry form to Bethany Orton by noon on Saturday, July 25.
2. Contestants will present a short speech Sunday, July 26, at the Delaware State Fair
 - a. Ages 5-9: 1-2 minute speech on his/her favorite part of the sheep project
 - b. Ages 10-15: 3-5 minute speech on why the sheep project is important to him/her
 - c. Ages 16-21: 5-7 minute speech on how the speech project has impacted his/her life
3. Visuals may be used if desired but are not required for the speech.
4. Winners will represent the sheep and wool industry at the Delaware State Fair and other events until the 2027 Delaware State Fair (e.g. handing ribbons out during both Tuesday and Wednesday shows, attending Governor's Day, representing in the parade as able, etc.)

Class #	Class Description
41	Sheep & Wool Ambassador (ages 16-21)
42	Jr. Sheep & Wool Lass/Lad (ages 10-15)
43	Youth Sheep and Wool Ambassador (Ages 5-9)

DE SHEEP & WOOL AMBASSADOR CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____

County: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Sheep & Wool Involvement:

Community, School & Youth Activities:

How would you promote the Sheep & Wool Industry?

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to: Bethany Orton
16838 Orchards Way
Milton, DE 19968