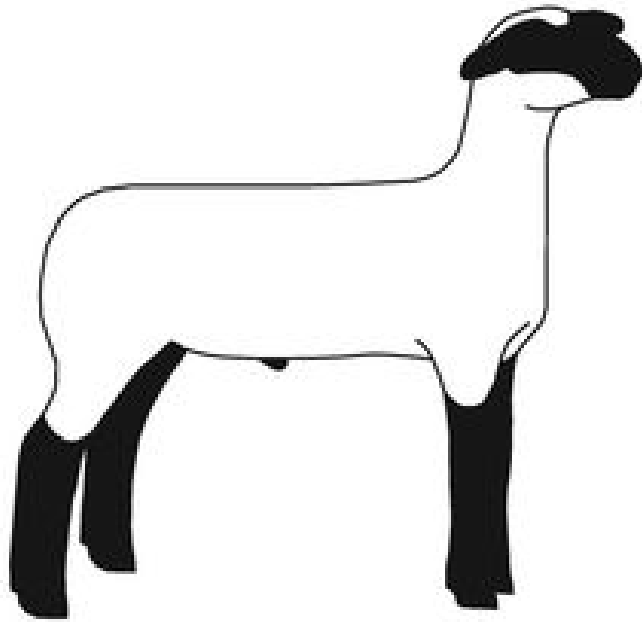


# SHEEP PROJECT 2024-2025



CHAUTAUQUA  
COUNTY

4-H

## **\*\*Sheep Project\*\***

### A. **Purpose**

The 4-H sheep program is designed primarily to teach youth responsibility in addition to learning more about the sheep industry. Correct management means responsibility for the animal's care and health in addition to learning how to keep detailed records of costs for feeding and health care.

### B. **Rules and Procedures**

1. To complete the Sheep Project, all members must *physically* attend four (4) of the project meetings. Three (3) of the four (4) meetings must be prior to the June 2025 barn setup meeting.

**\*\*Members must be present for the entire meeting to get credit for attending. Please be sure to sign in at every meeting as a record of your attendance.**

**\*\*Weigh In will no longer be counted as a meeting credit\*\***

- College Students: If you are attending college you have a choice of either:

1. Attending 1 meeting and doing a presentation on sheep. The presentation can be given at the project meeting or at Fair either in the 4-H Building or Sheep Barn.
2. Or, you must *physically* attend 2 project meetings. You must be present for the entire meeting to get credit for attending.

**\*\*\* If attendance requirements are not met, your market lamb will not sell at the meat animal sale and the project will not be complete. \*\*\***

2. Record envelopes must be submitted to the 4-H Office by **SEPTEMBER 15, 2025** including a photo copy or carbon copy of thank you sent to your buyer and other award sponsors. Members that do not complete the project will not be eligible to enroll in the Market Lamb Project the next year, and they will be notified before the first meeting.
3. Lambs must have been born after January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year (2025) and may be purebred, grade or crossbred lambs.
4. Members may weigh-in & show TWO market lambs, however, can sell only one at the *Sale*. Only wethers or ewes may be sold in the sale. Males must have testicles removed. If you have two lambs in market classes, the lamb with the highest ribbon must sell. (i.e. one of your lambs has a blue ribbon and one has a red – the blue ribbon must sell. If you have two lambs with the same color ribbon, you may pick which will sell).
5. **BETWEEN MAY 1st AND July 1st** lambs **MUST** be checked by a veterinarian and found free of any contagious or infectious diseases and receive a rabies shot. This information **MUST** be made an

official part of the health certificate (CVI), which *must be with the animal when it arrives at the fairgrounds*. Consult the fair premium book for specific date requirements.

6. All 4-H animals must be on the fairgrounds by 12:00 PM on the Sunday before the fair starts, unless prior arrangements are made with the barn superintendent. The lamb must weigh at least 90 pounds at fair weigh-in on Sunday to sell at the auction on Friday.
7. The 4-H Sheep show is Wednesday in the show arena starting with the showmanship class. No farm names or logos displayed during the 4-H show. Appropriate dress is required.
8. During market lamb & showmanship classes the only people allowed in sheep barn are committee members and the 4-Hers on deck for the next class. There will be NO halters used for showing in market lamb or showmanship classes. Halters may be used in sheep breeding classes.
9. Showmanship is MANDATORY with the exception of a 4-Her who has previously won Champion Sheep Showman. A 4-Her who has previously won Champion Sheep Showman may opt out of the Showmanship classes.
10. The committee STRONGLY advises that ALL fitting of market lambs and breeding sheep should be done by the 4-H member.
  - All meat breed sheep must be shorn prior to arrival at fairgrounds. Please contact a committee member ***in advance*** if you need assistance shearing your market lamb.
11. Purebred ewes, grade ewes, and purebred rams may be shown in the breeding classes. Entry forms/vouchers for the breeding classes from the premium book must be completed and sent to the 4-H Office by the specified date. The breeding sheep show will be held on Wednesday of fair week, immediately following the market lamb show.
12. Only tagged lambs can be shown in the market lamb show.
13. At the County Fair it is the member's responsibility to feed, water, and check bedding by 10:00 AM Sunday through Sunday. If they cannot fulfill the above duties, they must make prior arrangements and inform the adult superintendents.
14. The open class sheep show is TUESDAY afternoon and evening, and 4-Hers are eligible and encouraged to enter. See official open class fair book for entry forms and details, and entry deadlines.
15. All sheep will have blankets removed for their veterinarian check at the fair.
16. Official sale weights will be done on Thursday before the barn opens.
17. Each 4-H member is encouraged to secure ***at least two bidders*** well before the market sale.
18. There is a commission charged to cover the necessary expenses of putting on the sale. Commission rates are subject to change each year and are set by the Meat Animal Sale Committee.

19. Payment for all animals will come from the 4-H Office within two weeks following the sale. Commissions will be deducted and the net amount of the proceeds will be mailed.
20. Checks will be payable to the 4-H member who is registered as owning the animal. NO other parties will be recognized unless there is previously written agreement.
21. There is no longer a replacement lamb policy. If a lamb replacement is needed it will be at the discretion of the Sheep Committee. Please note that records must still be turned in to participate in the project the next year.
22. Rules are for everyone's benefit. Anyone caught cheating will be disqualified from all sheep projects.
23. During the project, the advisory committee member(s) may be making periodic visits to weigh and observe the progress of the lamb's growth. They will also offer suggestions and answer any questions you might have. If at any time youth have questions or concerns about their animal, they are highly encouraged to contact a committee member or veterinarian for assistance.
24. All market lambs MUST have a scrapie ear tag at weigh-in. Any market lamb that does not have a scrapie tag will not be eligible for the project.
25. All breeding sheep MUST have a scrapie ear tag to be shown at the fair.
26. Check the marker board (in the sheep barn) daily during the week of the fair. Announcement and pertinent information is updated daily.
27. **YOU MUST send a thank you to your buyer and other award sponsors by August 15, 2025. A copy of your letters must also be turned in to the 4-H Office by this date as well!!**

C. **Helpful Hints**

1. Count on your lamb gaining between .5 and .7 pounds a day.
2. Try to purchase your lamb early to mid-April, weighing 40-60 pounds, depending on the breed characteristics. Lambs should be at least 45 days old.
3. Remember water is the most important nutrient of feeding. Make sure there is always fresh, clean water available.
4. Rabies shots and CVI last date so market lambs can sell at Fair is July 1, 2025.

**\*\*Sheep Project\*\***  
**\*\*Committee and Project Meeting Schedule\*\***  
**\*\*2024 - 2025\*\***

**Project Meetings**

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Location &amp; Time:</u></b>	<b><u>Topic:</u></b>
Oct 3, 2024	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Intro & Registration
Nov 14, 2024	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Sheep General Info
Dec 19, 2024	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Lambing
Jan 23, 2025	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Diseases & Vet Care
Feb 27, 2025	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Nutrition
Mar 20, 2025	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Lamb Selection
Apr 10, 2025	Carlberg Farms @ 7:00 PM	Farm Visit
May 7, 2025	Fairgrounds – 5:30 – 6:30 PM	Weigh-In
May 10, 2025	Fairgrounds – 10:30 – 11:30 AM	Weigh-In
June TBD	Fairgrounds – 10:00 AM	Barn Set-Up
Oct 9, 2025	JCC @ 7:00 PM	Intro & Registration

**Committee Meetings**

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Location &amp; Time:</u></b>
Sept 11, 2024	JCC @ 6:30 PM
Oct 3, 2024	JCC @ 6:00 PM
Nov 14, 2024	JCC @ 6:00 PM
Dec 19, 2024	JCC @ 6:00 PM
Jan 23, 2025	JCC @ 6:00 PM
Feb 27, 2025	JCC @ 6:00 PM
Mar 20, 2025	JCC @ 6:00 PM
Apr 10, 2025	TBD @ 6:00 PM
Oct 9, 2025	JCC @ 6:00 PM

## Sheep Advisory Committee: 2024-2025

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