

**2017 State Fair of Virginia
SHEEP Exhibitors Letter**

Arrival/Check-In Schedule and Information:

1. All sheep must be in the barns by 10:00 AM on Friday, October 6th.
2. All sheep, including registered sheep, must be checked in by show superintendents during the designated check-in times. Failure to check-in will result in disqualification from the show.
3. Exhibitors only have to attend one check-in/weigh time.
4. Weigh-in/Check-in Times (Attend only 1):
 - a. 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Thursday, October 5th – All market lambs, commercial ewes, registered animals
 - b. 9:00 – 11:00 AM, Friday, October 6th – All market lambs, commercial ewes, registered animals
5. All exhibitors must present their CVIs during one of the mandatory check-in times with the respective animal. All CVIs will be checked by a representative of the state veterinarians' office.
6. All animals will be inspected by a representative of the state veterinarians' office during check-in/weigh-in.

Show Schedule- CHANGES FOR 2017

Sheep Showmanship will take place on Friday afternoon/evening following goat showmanship. The Market lamb show is Saturday morning with Lead Line/Costume immediately following. Registered Breeding Ewes and Commercial Ewes show on Sunday morning. See website for complete details.

Exhibitor Meetings – All sheep exhibitors will be required to attend an exhibitor meeting. The Meat Goat/Sheep Exhibitor meeting will be held just prior to showmanship at 12:45 PM on Friday, October 6th.

Registered Sheep Check-in: All registered sheep will be required to check-in during the designated check-in times. Registration papers will be required to check-in. Please note the following specific items:

1. All tattoos/tags need to match the registration papers. Please make sure tattoos/tags are legible.
2. Ownership of all registered does needs to be in the exhibitor's name or may be joint with an immediate family member.
3. Ownership or Transfer of ownership deadline is July 1st.

Penning and Bedding: Sheep and goat pens will be assigned and grouped by county. Due to differences in pen size we may need to split some counties to accommodate our needs (see pen chart upon arrival). Southern States Cooperative has generously donated shavings for the 2017 Youth Livestock Shows at the State Fair of Virginia. If you are a sheep or meat goat exhibitor, shavings will be available for your stalling area.

Health Requirements: In addition to the general requirements, the following apply to sheep specifically:

1. Sheep must have been recently shorn prior to arrival at the State Fair to accommodate veterinary inspections. Fleece length shall not exceed 1/4" at weigh-in (exception provided for breeding sheep shown in fleece or with fitted fleece).
2. Club Lamb Fungus – Sheep must be free of clinical symptoms of club lamb fungus (ringworm). Any healed club lamb fungus lesions must demonstrate healthy skin. Sheep with active lesions will not be permitted in animal stalling or exhibit areas.
3. An animal that has had a contagious disease and has been successfully treated but still has physical evidence of the disease must be accompanied by a note from an accredited veterinarian on that animal's health certificate regarding successful treatment of the disease.
4. Scrapie – All sheep must be in compliance with the scrapie identification requirements, which specify that sheep should be identified with USDA scrapie tags prior to exhibition. Scrapie identification tags should be listed on the health certificate.
5. Sheep must be free of clinical signs of sore mouth, foot rot, and caseous lymphadenitis. With reference to caseous lymphadenitis, "clinical signs" includes abscesses of the lymph nodes, whether draining or not.

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Premier Exhibitor Program: This program is designed to recognize exhibitors for all-around knowledge and achievement in the youth sheep project. The Premier Exhibitor Program consists of 35% Sheep Skillathon contest, 30% sheep quiz, 20% showmanship, and 15% live sheep placing. Awards presented for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions. To be eligible for awards, you must participate in all areas included in the Premier Exhibitor Program. Therefore, ***exhibitors wishing to take part in the Sheep Premier Exhibitor Program must participate in the Sheep Skillathon Contest which takes place on Friday*** (registration starts at 8:00 AM, and contest open 8:30 am-12:00 noon). *The Premier Exhibitor Quiz will be given as a component of the Sheep Skillathon Contest.* The Sheep Skillathon will be similar to a traditional Stockman's contest and evaluate knowledge on nutrition, products, genetics/reproduction, and management. We encourage you to participate in this activity, as scholarship awards are available this year in addition to awards in recognition for our Premier Exhibitors. The Skillathon contest will be set up for you to complete at your convenience during the allotted time frame, and those of you competing in multiple species will have time to complete others species Skillathons as well.

Awards: Thanks to the efforts of our awards committee, an impressive set of supplemental awards have been donated and acquired to reward youth participating in all aspects of our junior sheep show.

Market Lambs and Commercial Ewes: Only market lambs and commercial ewes which were nominated in June are eligible to show. Minimum show weight is 90 pounds. Exhibitors are limited to showing a combined total of 6 market lambs and commercial ewes (maximum of 4 market lambs and maximum of 3 commercial ewes lamb per exhibitor- with total not to exceed 6). Market lambs and commercial ewes will be weighed and breed classified from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Friday (**note new time**). Official designation of which lambs will be shown as market lamb or commercial ewes will take place when the lambs are weighed.

Sale Lambs/Carcass Contest: Market lambs that participate in the live show will automatically be entered in the carcass contest when sold. Extra market lambs not shown at the State Fair may be sold, provided they were part of the exhibitor's group officially nominated. These lambs are not eligible for carcass contest premiums. Ewe lambs shown in the commercial ewe classes may be sold but are not eligible for carcass contest premiums. Price will be announced at the State Fair.

Lead Line and Costume Classes (combined with goats): Participants in Exhibitor's Lead Line and Costume classes should bring their narratives to turn in at the Main Office upon arrival at the fair. The narratives are due by 12:00 noon on Saturday. Forms are available online at <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/shows/state-fair.html>, under Contest Entry Forms. Lead line and costume class competitions will take place on Saturday following the market lamb show.