

2025 State Fair of Virginia Junior Sheep Show

Nominations due July 1st by 5:00 pm
Entries due August 22nd by 5:00 pm

Dr. Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech, Youth Livestock Shows Co-Superintendent
Katherine Carter, Virginia Tech, Youth Livestock Shows Co-Superintendent
Hunter Liles, Virginia Tech, Youth Livestock Shows Co-Superintendent

Emmalee Edwards, Augusta Co. Extension, Junior Sheep Department, co-chairperson
Lauren McCroskey, Junior Sheep Department, co-chairperson

Judge: Glen Martin - Mason, Texas

Youth Sheep Show Rules:

The State Fair General Rules, the Livestock Rules and the Show Ring Code of Ethics apply to the Junior Sheep Show. By submitting an entry you agree to read and abide by these rules.

1. See General Rules for information pertaining to health regulations (including Scrapie Identification requirements and issues pertaining to contagious and infectious diseases such as club lamb fungus). The National Show Ring Code of Ethics shall govern the livestock show as found in the General Rules. The State Fair of Virginia reserves the right to test any entry for violative drug residues as described in the National Show Ring Code of Ethics. **All market animals exhibited must be eligible to immediately enter the food chain.**
2. **Participants must enter the FairEntry System through the Youth Livestock Web Site at <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/shows/state-fair.html> under "Exhibitor Entry Information" or use the direct FairEntry link <http://sfva-youth-livestock.fairentry.com/>. The entry system will open on **Monday, July 21st**. Entries must be made online no later than Friday, August 22nd by 5:00 pm. The confirmation sheet must be printed, and mailed with entry fee payment by Monday, August 25th at 5:00 pm. All entries must be postmarked by Monday, August 25th.**
3. The State Fair of Virginia Junior Sheep Show is open to all Virginia 4-H and Virginia FFA youth which are in good standing with their respective organizations and meet the entry requirements of each species division. Exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by September 30, 2025 (exception for 8 & under sheep costume class) and must not have had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2025. Exhibitor eligibility and entries will be verified using the 4HOnline enrollment system for 4-H youth and the State FFA Office Member Roster for FFA youth.
4. All youth exhibiting beef, meat goats, sheep, and swine **must be** YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certified before August 31, 2025. For more information about YQCA or to be YQCA certified please visit the YQCA section of the Virginia Youth Livestock Website <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/yqca.html>. Available trainings can be located at this link under the "Training Schedule" Tab.
5. Sheep which have participated in any sale or premium auction associated with another fair or livestock show after completing the State Fair of Virginia online nomination process are ineligible for exhibition – the date that nominations were entered into the online nomination system via FairEntry will be the date used for verification. This rule applies even if there was not a change in ownership (i.e. sheep are ineligible even if they are "bought back" or "no-saled").
6. Exhibitors must show their own entries unless the exhibitor has more than one animal in the same class (or in group classes), or permission is given by the show superintendent. Substitute show persons must be eligible 4-H or FFA member with 2025 SFVA Youth Livestock entries on-site and checked-in for any species.
7. All youth beef, sheep, goat and swine entries are subject to on-farm inspections to verify entry information. All exhibitors agree to accommodate such inspections by submitting nominations and entries.
8. All sheep must remain in the designated penning area and immediate barn area upon arrival and until released from the Fair. All tack and fitting areas for sheep must remain in the designated area adjacent to the barns as defined by show management.
9. Exhibitors are expected to care for their animals in an acceptable manner and adhere to quality assurance guidelines.

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10. Use of irritants including alcohols, sprays, and other irritants is prohibited.
11. The use of muzzles is prohibited.
12. The use of coloring agents is prohibited.
13. Fitting is permitted. However, the addition of twine, wool, hair or like substances is prohibited.
14. Pen assignments will be made by the show administration.
15. Health or other issues that arise with sheep which require treatment while at the State Fair of Virginia shall be done with the knowledge and supervision of the show veterinarian and superintendent. The show management reserves the right to remove entries from the fairgrounds for this purpose.
16. Show rails (racks) will not be allowed inside the barns. All show rails must be kept outdoors.
17. Sheep must have been recently shorn prior to arrival to accommodate veterinary inspections. Fleece length shall not exceed 1/4 inch at arrival (exemption provided for breeding sheep shown in fleece or with fitted fleece).

SHOWMANSHIP

1. Only exhibitors entered in the Junior Sheep Show with sheep entries checked in and present at the show are eligible to compete in showmanship.
2. Showmanship competition for market lamb, commercial ewe and registered breeding sheep exhibitors will be combined. There will not be separate showmanship divisions for market lamb/commercial ewe exhibitors and registered breeding sheep exhibitors.
3. Showmanship classes will be divided by age as follows:
 - a. Novice Division- for exhibitors showing for the first time at the State Fair, and who are 12 years of age or younger on September 30, 2025
 - b. Junior Division- exhibitors 12 years of age and younger on September 30, 2025
 - c. Intermediate Division- exhibitors 13 to 15 years of age on September 30, 2025
 - d. Senior Division- exhibitors 16 years of age and older on September 30, 2025
4. Classes/heats may be divided into smaller preliminary classes at the discretion of the Show Superintendents.
5. All exhibitors with entries in the Junior Sheep Show(s) will automatically be entered in the appropriate showmanship and Skillathon division based on Date of Birth. There will not be a Showmanship or Skillathon Division in the entry system, as all exhibitors will be automatically entered. While neither participation in showmanship or Skillathon are mandatory, they are required for consideration of the Premier Exhibitor awards. It will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to scratch from these competitions by the designated time.
6. **Exhibitors must show their own animal in showmanship.** The animal must be entered in the junior sheep show. Exhibitor's lambs that are eliminated from the show due to weight requirements may be used in showmanship.
7. **Showmanship animals must be shown clean, dry, and unfitted (no glues or adhesives allowed).**

MARKET LAMBS

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To be eligible for exhibition, all Market Lamb and Commercial Ewe entries must have been nominated using the OFFICIAL STATE FAIR OF VA ONLINE NOMINATION PROCESS, INCLUDING DNA SUBMISSION. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to properly nominate his or her lambs NO LATER THAN JULY 1st, 2025. At the time of nomination all market lambs and commercial ewes must be individually identified with an official Federally issued Scrapie Tag. Only lambs that have been nominated and properly identified will be eligible to show in the Market Lamb or Commercial Ewe competition at the State Fair of Virginia. Exhibitors may nominate up to a total of 12 lambs (wethers and ewes, to be shown as either market lambs or commercial ewes). Each animal may be nominated in the name of ONE exhibitor only.

*****NOMINATION = OWNERSHIP. Once an animal has been nominated it may not be shown in/under the name of any other exhibitor between the date of nomination submission and the conclusion of the State Fair of Virginia Youth Livestock Shows. The ONLY EXCEPTION is that a Cloverbud/Pee Wee youth may use that animal in a SHOWMANSHIP CLASS at another event, if that event's rules allow such. However, any change in the owner/exhibitor name in any other circumstance will constitute a change in ownership and that animal will no longer be eligible to be shown at the State Fair of VA Youth Livestock Shows.**

DNA Envelopes must be ordered using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2025-SFVA-DNA-ENVELOPE-ORDER>

After receiving DNA Envelopes, each exhibitor must complete the online nomination process at this link:

<http://sfva-youth-livestock.fairentry.com/>

Deadline for completion of the Online Nomination Process and Postmark Date for return of DNA Samples is July 1st, 2025

Exhibitors are limited to 6 total entries in the market lamb and commercial ewe lamb divisions. A maximum of 4 market lambs and a maximum of 3 commercial ewe lambs per exhibitor may be shown (total not to exceed 6).

1. Market lambs should be born on or after January 1 of the current year and must exhibit lamb's teeth.
2. Market lambs must be owned and cared for by the exhibitor on or before the date of online nomination submission and continuously thereafter. Nomination constitutes ownership. The date that animals are submitted for nomination via the FairEntry Nomination Site is the date that will be used for verification.
3. Market lambs may be wethers or ewes. Wethers must show no evidence of testicular tissue and be completely healed from castration.
4. Lambs exhibited in the market lamb division may not be shown in the registered breeding sheep division, or in the commercial ewe lamb division.
5. Market lambs must be exhibited shorn slick to the skin above the knee and hock joints, and **this includes belly and flank wool.**
6. Final designation of entries will be made at check-in.
7. Market lambs will be shown by breed type. Breed type will be determined by an official classification committee. Show Management will identify a classification committee to classify market lambs and commercial ewes. The classification committee will apply the breed standards to evaluate and place lambs in the proper class. The decision of the committee is final, and classifications from previous shows or events are irrelevant. **All non-black face sheep will be classified at a designated time - and their weight cards submitted at the time of classification. Heads on White-Face, White-Face Cross, and Southdown lambs must be closely sheared for classification..** Market lambs will be divided into breed-type divisions as follows:

- a. **White-Face:** Includes lambs exhibiting characteristics of straightbred or purebred white-face breeds and crosses of those white-face breeds (Dorset, Cheviot, Montadale, Rambouillet, Texel, etc.). Lambs should exhibit characteristics of these breeds as found in the respective breed association breed standards. For

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example, Dorset lambs should be all white, with pink nose, mouth lining and lips. Wool and hair should be free of dark fiber and brown spots (exception: a black spot on the nose, septum, mouth or an ear equal to or smaller than the size of an eraser head is acceptable). Excessive dark colored spots in the wool or hair anywhere on the animal; dark/black nose, septum, or mouth; and black hooves or hooves with excessive black striping are not acceptable.

- b. **White-Face Cross:** Includes lambs exhibiting characteristics of a percentage white-face and percentage any other non-whiteface breeding. Evidence of significant white speckling/spotting must be present for at least two of the following areas: face, ears, and/or legs. This class may also contain any lambs which are predominantly white which do not meet the criteria for White-Face classification (i.e. excessive dark coloration for white-face breeds). Also includes piebald-colored lambs.
 - c. **Southdown:** Lambs must exhibit purebred characteristics of Southdown breed. Hair color should be mouse colored, grey to brown. Nostrils may be black to purple-grey, and ears should be moderate length, covered with short hair or wool.
 - d. **Hair Sheep:** Lambs must exhibit purebred characteristics of hair sheep breeds (Katahdin, Dorper, etc.). Lambs must be of straight hair sheep breeding; crossbred hair x wool breeding is not acceptable.
 - e. **Black-Face or Crossbred:** Generally, includes lambs of Suffolk and Hampshire breeding and their crosses along with other black-faced breeds. Also includes all lambs that do not fit classification requirements for any other breed type classes.
8. Within breed type, classes will be divided according to weight.
9. A declared weight system will be used for Market Lambs. Exhibitors will pick up their weight/entry card from the designated check-in location. The exhibitor will fill out and turn in the card **by the designated deadline** with a declared weight which will be the official show weight for that animal. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have the card complete and turned in by the designated deadline. Scales will be available for exhibitors to use when determining their declared weights.
- a. The top 2 – 3 placing animals in each class (or more as determined by show management or judge) will be weighed back during the show.
 - b. Lambs must not be more than **five (5) pounds** heavier than their declared weight at weigh-back
 - c. Any lamb heavier than the **5-pound tolerance** will be disqualified, and will not eligible for any other live classes.
 - d. No re-weighs will be allowed during the weigh-back process.
 - e. Any lamb under the minimum weight of 90 pounds during the weigh-back process will be disqualified.
 - f. If any lambs are disqualified during the weigh-back process, animals placing lower than those disqualified will move up in placings as appropriate.
10. **Lambs must weigh a minimum of 90 pounds (no maximum weight limit).** Class weight breaks and Division assignments will be made at the discretion of show officials. An attempt will be made to limit classes to a maximum of 25 lambs, and Divisions assigned with a goal of having approximately the same number of lambs in each Division. Accordingly, class winners from more than one breed type may be placed in the same Division based on the total number of lambs exhibited (historically Speckle-Face, White-Face and Southdown lambs comprise Division I, and Blackface lambs Divisions II-VI).
11. **All market lambs with a declared weight under 90 pounds will be allowed to show in a feeder lamb class held at the beginning of the Market Lamb Show.** These lambs will not be eligible for premiums or awards. Lambs weighing less than 90 pounds are not eligible to sell.
12. Class Winners, Division Champions and Reserves, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion are eligible for the State Fair Scholarship Program. Please see scholarship description at end of this Competition Guide for details.
13. All first and second place class winners must be shown to compete for their respective Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion honors. Additionally, all Division Champions and Reserve Division Champions must be shown to compete for Overall Grand Champion, Overall Reserve Champion and 3rd, 4th, and 5th Overall honors. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of the National Show Ring Code of Ethics and appropriate action will be taken.

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14. The market lamb show will be terminal for the Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, ALL Division Champions, and ALL Reserve Division Champion lambs. All of these lambs must participate in the carcass contest. Exhibitors of these lambs qualify for the Scholarship Program (see Scholarship documents for specific policies, regulations, and details). Class winners participating in the Scholarship Program must also participate in the carcass contest (terminal). Participation in the scholarship program for class winners is optional.
15. A division champion and reserve champion will be chosen from each division in the Market Lamb Show. An Overall Grand Champion, Overall Reserve Champion, and a 3rd, 4th, and 5th Overall will be chosen from the division champions and reserve champions.
16. Virginia Bred Market Lambs- within each market lamb Division, a champion and reserve Virginia Bred market lamb will be named. Eligibility as a Virginia Bred market lamb will be determined based on official scrapie tags (denoting flock of origin in VA). Following each Division championship during the show, an additional division drive will take place as necessary to determine Virginia Bred division winners from among the top placing Virginia Bred lambs from each respective class in that division. At the conclusion of the show after the naming of the Top 5 Overall Market Lambs, a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Virginia Bred Market Lamb will be named from the respective Virginia Bred Division Champions and Reserves.

CARCASS CONTEST

1. Market lambs exhibited in the live show are eligible to be entered in the carcass contest. Lambs designated for sale at time of weighing will automatically be entered in the carcass show. Lambs exhibited as commercial ewe lambs will not be eligible for carcass contest premiums. No pre-entry is required, and there is no entry fee.
2. All market lambs qualifying for the Scholarship Program must participate in the carcass contest.
3. Lambs entered in the carcass contest will be sold to a processor for a competitive market price. Lambs will be priced on an individual carcass basis. Discounts and/or premiums may apply for weight, yield grade, and quality grade. Exhibitors will stand the loss of condemned carcasses.
4. Carcasses will be together in one class. Equal premiums will be awarded for carcasses with similar characteristics. Less desirable carcass categories will be awarded lower premiums. Carcasses will be evaluated and placed into categories using a system that rewards live gain and carcass cutability (percent boneless closely trimmed retail cuts, %BCTRC). Premium categories will be determined after carcasses have been evaluated.
5. Lambs exhibiting evidence of testicular tissue will be disqualified from the carcass contest. Carcasses must be of lamb maturity.
6. Commercial ewe lambs or market lambs not exhibited live may be sold, provided they were part of the exhibitor's group officially nominated. Lambs weighing less than 90 pounds will not be allowed to sell. Lambs will be priced on an individual carcass basis. These lambs will not be eligible for carcass premiums, but carcass data will be collected and furnished to the exhibitor. Additional pen space will not be provided for these extra lambs.

COMMERCIAL EWE LAMBS

To be eligible for exhibition, all Commercial Ewe entries must have been nominated through FairEntry at <http://sfva-youth-livestock.fairentry.com/>. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to properly nominate his or her sheep NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2025. At the time of nomination all commercial ewes must be individually identified with an official Federally issued Scrapie Tag. Only lambs that have been nominated and properly identified will be eligible to show in the Commercial Ewe competition at the State Fair of Virginia. Exhibitors may nominate up to a total of 12 lambs (wethers and ewes, to be shown as either market lambs or commercial ewes). Each animal may be nominated in the name of ONE exhibitor only.

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owner/exhibitor name in any other circumstance will constitute a change in ownership and that animal will no longer be eligible to be shown at the State Fair of VA Youth Livestock Shows.

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Deadline for completion of the Online Nomination Process and Postmark Date for return of DNA Samples is July 1st, 2025

Exhibitors are limited to 6 total entries in the market lamb and commercial ewe lamb divisions. A maximum of 4 market lambs and a maximum of 3 commercial ewe lambs per exhibitor may be shown (total not to exceed 6).

1. Commercial ewe lambs should be born on or after January 1 of the current year and must exhibit lamb's teeth.
2. Commercial ewe lambs must be owned and cared for by the exhibitor on or before the date of online nomination submission and continuously thereafter.
3. Lambs exhibited in the commercial ewe lamb division may not be shown in the registered breeding sheep division, or in the market lamb division.
4. Commercial ewe lambs must be exhibited shorn slick to the skin above the knee and hock joints, and **this includes belly and flank wool.**
5. Commercial ewe lambs will be shown by breed type. Breed type will be determined by a classification committee. Show Management will identify a classification committee to classify market lambs and commercial ewes. The classification committee will apply the breed standards to evaluate and place lambs in the proper class. The decision of the committee is final, and classifications from previous shows or events are irrelevant. **All non-black face sheep will be classified at a designated time (3:00 on Friday) and their weight cards submitted at the time of classification.. Heads on White-Face, and White-Face Cross, ewe lambs must be closely sheared for classification and weigh-**
 - in. Commercial ewes will be divided into the following 4 breed classes:
 - a. **White-Face:** Includes lambs exhibiting characteristics of straightbred or purebred white-face breeds and crosses of those white-face breeds (Dorset, Cheviot, Montadale, Rambouillet, Texel, etc.). Lambs should exhibit characteristics of these breeds as found in the respective breed association breed standards. For example, Dorset lambs should be all white, with pink nose, mouth lining and lips. Wool and hair should be free of dark fiber and brown spots (exception: a black spot on the nose, septum, mouth or an ear equal to or smaller than the size of an eraser head is acceptable). Excessive dark colored spots in the wool or hair anywhere on the animal; dark/black nose, septum, or mouth; and black hooves or hooves with excessive black striping are not acceptable.
 - b. **White-Face Cross:** Includes lambs exhibiting characteristics of a percentage white-face and percentage any other non-whiteface breeding. Evidence of significant white speckling/spotting must be present for at least two of the following areas: face, ears, and/or legs. This class may also contain any lambs which are predominantly white which do not meet the criteria for White-Face classification (i.e. excessive dark coloration for white-face breeds). Also includes piebald-colored lambs.
 - c. **Hair Sheep:** Lambs must exhibit purebred characteristics of hair sheep breeds (Katahdin, Dorper, etc.). Lambs must be of straight hair sheep breeding; crossbred hair x wool breeding is not acceptable.
 - d. **Black-Face or Crossbred:** Generally, includes lambs of Suffolk and Hampshire breeding and their crosses along with other black-faced breeds. Also includes all lambs that do not fit classification requirements for any other breed type classes.
6. Within breed type, commercial ewe lamb classes will be divided according to weight.
7. A declared weight system will be used for Commercial Ewes. Exhibitors will pick up their weight/entry card from the designated check-in location. The exhibitor will fill out and turn in the card **by the designated time** with a declared weight which will be the official show weight for that animal. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have the card complete

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and turned in by the designated deadline. Scales will be available for exhibitors to use when determining their declared weights.

- a. The top 2 – 3 placing animals in each class (or more as determined by show management or judge) will be weighed back during the show.
 - b. Lambs must not be more than **five (5) pounds** heavier than their declared weight at weigh-back
 - c. Any lamb heavier than the **5-pound tolerance** will be disqualified, and will not be eligible for any other live classes.
 - d. No re-weighs will be allowed during the weigh-back process.
 - e. Any lamb under the minimum weight of 90 pounds during the weigh-back process will be disqualified.
 - f. If any lambs are disqualified during the weigh-back process, animals placing lower than those disqualified will move up in placings as appropriate.
8. **Lambs must weigh a minimum of 90 pounds to show (no maximum weight limit).** Class weight breaks will be made at the discretion of show officials. Black-Face ewe lamb classes will be subdivided into Light, Medium, and Heavy Division with approximately the same number of ewes in each Division.
9. A Champion, Reserve, and Third Overall will be chosen from each of the three Black-Face weight divisions, White Face Cross division, and White-Face division. The top three in each of these divisions will compete for Overall Grand Champion Commercial Ewe, Reserve Overall, and 3rd, 4th, and 5th Overall Commercial Ewe Lamb honors. There will be no selection of an overall Black-Face Champion and Reserve.
10. **All commercial ewe lambs with a declared weight under 90 pounds will be allowed to show in a prospect ewe lamb class held at the beginning of the Commercial Ewe Show.** These lambs will not be eligible for premiums or awards. Lambs weighing less than 90 pounds are not eligible to sell.
11. Virginia Bred Commercial Ewe Lambs- within each commercial ewe Division, a champion and reserve Virginia Bred commercial ewe will be named. Eligibility as a Virginia Bred commercial ewe will be determined based on official scrapie tags (denoting flock of origin in VA). Following each Division championship during the show, an additional division drive will take place as necessary to determine Virginia Bred division winners from among the top placing Virginia Bred lambs from each respective class in that division. At the conclusion of the show after the naming of the Top 5 Overall Commercial Ewes, a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Virginia Bred Commercial Ewe will be named from the respective Virginia Bred Division Champions and Reserves.

REGISTERED BREEDING SHEEP

1. Registered Breeding Sheep must be owned, separated, and cared for by the exhibitor before July 1, 2025 and continuously thereafter.
2. Registered sheep of any breed are eligible. Sheep must be recorded with, and have registration papers issued from, a national breed association. All sheep must be registered in the flock books of their respective breed and carry their corresponding flock tag and/or tattoo.
3. Breeds must have a minimum of 10 sheep from at least 3 exhibitors to qualify for a breed show. Breeds not meeting this requirement will be exhibited in the All Other Breeds division. The AOB division may be split into two divisions, wool breeds and meat breeds, as entry numbers warrant.
4. All sheep must be the property of, registered, and certificates issued in the name of the exhibitor prior to August 1, 2025. Registration papers must be available for inspection at the fair. Each registered sheep entry must be owned and entered in the exhibitor's name.
5. Ownership of Registered Breeding Sheep may be joint with an immediate family member (parent, step-parent, or sibling), provided the Exhibitor's Name is present on the certificate. No Farm Names, even the family farm, are allowed. For goats with joint ownership, entries may only be made in the name of one exhibitor and may not be changed once entries are submitted and approved.
6. The date of birth must be verified for all entries by their registration papers.

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7. Sheep exhibited in the youth registered breeding sheep division may not be shown in the market lamb division or commercial ewe lamb division.
8. Sheep are to be exhibited in fleece appropriate for the respective breed. Sheep may be slick sheared, and if fitted it is recommended they not have more than one inch of wool on any part of their body. Wool breeds should be shown with fleece presentation and length appropriate for their respective breed.
9. All exhibitors must check their entries and registration papers with show officials by the designated time.
10. Classes may be split at the discretion of show officials.
11. Bred and Owned Ewe Class- a Bred and Owned Ewe class will be held at the conclusion of each breed show, immediately prior to the selection of the Grand and Reserve Champion Ewe for that breed. Each exhibitor may enter 1 ewe that meets the Bred and Owned qualifications (animal must be bred and owned by exhibitor, as confirmed by registration certificate). These animals must also be shown in their appropriate age classes. The winner of the Bred and Owned class is not eligible for Champion or Reserve Champion Ewe unless the ewe previously qualified in her appropriate age class.
12. All first and second place yearling ewes, senior ewe lambs, intermediate ewe lambs and junior ewe lambs will compete for Champion and Reserve Champion Ewe for that breed.
13. Breed Champions and Reserves will compete for Supreme Champion Registered Ewe and Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Ewe.
14. Exhibitors are limited to a total of two (2) premiums per class in individual classes, and one (1) premium in pair and group classes.
15. Breeding sheep entries: Enter class from following list. Include animal tag/tattoo, birthdate, and registration number on entry form. If breed is not listed, enter All Other Breeds (AOB) Division and indicate breed on entry. Maximum of 2 entries per exhibitor for individual classes, and 1 entry per exhibitor for pair and group classes. Registered Breeding Sheep classes:
 - a. Yearling Ewe- born 9/1/23 to 8/31/24
 - b. Pair of Yearling Ewes- two yearling ewes
 - c. Senior Ewe Lamb- born 9/1/24 to 12/31/24
 - d. Intermediate Ewe Lamb- born 1/1/25 to 2/15/25
 - e. Junior Ewe Lamb- born 2/16/25 and later
 - f. Pair of Ewe Lambs- two ewe lambs
 - g. Best Three Head- best three head
 - h. Bred and Owned Ewe- one entry per exhibitor (any ewe shown in age classes above, and qualified as Bred and Owned)

COUNTY GROUPS

1. County Groups will consist of 5 sheep from a minimum of three exhibitors from the same county.
2. The group may consist of any combination of sheep exhibited in the youth sheep show (market lambs, commercial ewes, registered breeding sheep or a combination thereof).
3. Each county may exhibit a maximum of two groups. An exhibitor may have sheep in only one group.

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4. Awards will be provided for the Champion and Reserve Champion groups.

LEAD LINE & SHEEP/GOAT COSTUME CLASSES

1. The objectives of these classes are to give exhibitors an opportunity to showcase wool outfits and present themselves and their sheep in the most attractive manner.
2. Exhibitors will write a narrative to be read during the competition. Narrative forms will be sent after entries are received.
3. A panel of judges will use the following standards when judging the classes:
 - a. Exhibitor's garment or costume (suitable and practical for exhibitor's age, etc.). Garment or costume may be made by the exhibitor or purchased. The garment must be at least 60% wool (lead line classes only). Score = 40%
 - b. Poise and appearance (accessories, presentation, appropriate for exhibitor's age and style of garment, etc.). Score = 35%
 - c. Control and presentation of sheep or goat. Score = 25%
4. Lead line classes will be broken by age into the following classes:
 - a. Junior Division- exhibitors 13 years of age and younger on September 30, 2025.
 - b. Senior Division- exhibitors 14 years of age and older on September 30, 2025.

Junior and Senior Lead Line Divisions will be further divided into a class for Purchased garments and a class for Made by Exhibitor garments. Participants in the Made by Exhibitor class must indicate in their narrative which garments they made. Purchased or Made by Exhibitor classes will be determined upon completion of the narrative.

5. Sheep and Goat Costume class will be broken by age into the following classes (costume class will be combined for sheep and goats- one entry per exhibitor) :
 - a. 8 & Under Division- for contestants not yet old enough for competition at State Fair of Virginia (less than 9 on September 30, 2025)
 - b. Junior Division- exhibitors 13 years of age and younger on September 30, 2025.
 - c. Senior Division- exhibitors 14 years of age and older on September 30, 2025.

PREMIUMS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sheep Premium Schedule

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>Placing</u>		<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u>
Market Lambs	\$50	\$25	\$22	\$19	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$9	\$8
Commercial Ewes & Breeding Sheep	\$30	\$25	\$22	\$19	\$16	\$14	\$12	\$10	\$9	\$8
Lead Line & Costume	\$15	\$12	\$10	\$9	\$8	\$7	\$6	\$5	\$4	\$4
Showmanship	\$75	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20	\$15	\$14	\$13	\$12	\$11

PREMIUMS AND SPECIAL AWARDS FOR MARKET LAMBS & REGISTERED BREEDING EWES

**Market Lamb entries must participate in the carcass contest (terminal) to receive the cash premiums listed below. **

Grand Champion Market Lamb:	\$350, Banner, Scholarship & Market price for animal
Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb:	\$300, Banner, Scholarship & Market price for animal
3 rd Overall Market Lamb:	\$250, Banner
4 th Overall Market Lamb:	\$200, Banner
5 th Overall Market Lamb:	\$100, Banner

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Division Champions Market Lambs:	\$75, Rosette, Scholarship & Market price for animal
Reserve Division Champion Market Lambs:	\$50, Rosette, Scholarship & Market price for animal
Market Lamb Class Winners: (Scholarship eligible)	Scholarship & Market price for animal

Supreme Champion Registered Breeding Ewe:	\$200, Banner
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Breeding Ewe:	\$150, Banner

Scholarships are cumulative for the same entry.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM- SHEEP

Market Lambs – 29 Scholarships:

All market lamb entries/animals qualifying and designated for the Scholarship Program must be sold and slaughtered. If the animal is condemned for any reason, neither payment nor scholarship will be awarded and the competitor must accept the consequences without recourse against the State Fair of Virginia.

Upon qualifying for and agreeing to participate in the Scholarship Program, the exhibitor will be compensated for his/her entry as set forth in the Scholarship Program.

Overall Grand Champion – Market Lamb	\$ 400.00 Scholarship	(1)
Overall Reserve Grand Champion – Market Lamb	\$ 300.00 Scholarship	(1)
Division Champions – Market Lamb	\$ 400.00 Scholarship each	(4-5)
Reserve Division Champions – Market Lamb	\$ 300.00 Scholarship each	(5-6)
Class Winners – Market Lamb	\$ 200.00 Scholarship each	(Max of 17)

Qualifying entries for the market lamb scholarships must participate in the carcass contest (terminal). Scholarships are cumulative for the same animal. Exhibitors may receive multiple market lamb scholarships, which may include any combination of the Grand, Division and Class Winner awards detailed above.

Premier Exhibitor Scholarships - 9 Scholarships (by age group):

Junior	1 st	\$300.00	2 nd	\$200.00	3 rd	\$100.00
Intermediate	1 st	\$350.00	2 nd	\$250.00	3 rd	\$150.00
Senior	1 st	\$400.00	2 nd	\$300.00	3 rd	\$200.00

Sheep Promotion & Herdsman Award

1st Place: **\$100 and Rosette**
2nd Place: **\$ 80 and Rosette**
3rd Place: **\$ 40 and Rosette**

Additional information, including the rules and rubric for judging, are included in the Herdsmanship/Educational Display Contest Rules and Guidelines.

Special Premiums and Awards

Additional awards and premiums will be offered throughout the junior sheep shows and competitions from donations provided by a large group of program supporters.

Premiums:	Sponsored by Commercial Ewe Show Private Donors
Banners:	Provided by State Fair of Virginia
Grand Champion - Commerical Ewe	\$500, Banner
Reserve Grand Champion - Commerical Ewe	\$400, Banner
3 rd Overall Commerical Ewe	\$300, Banner

2025 State Fair of Virginia Junior Sheep Show

4 th Overall Commerical Ewe	\$200, Banner
5 th Overall Commerical Ewe	\$100, Banner

Additional Premiums for the Following Sponsored by Friends of the SFVA Youth Sheep Shows, Producers, and Private Donors:

Virginia Bred Overall Commercial Ewe

Virginia Bred Reserve Overall Commercial Ewe

Virginia Bred Overall Market Lamb

Virginia Bred Reserve Overall Market Lamb

Top Five Overall Market Lambs

(Amounts TBD Based on Sponsorships)