

SHEEP

08 - Open Sheep Show

Superintendent of Market Lambs: Ed Whitcomb (217-415-2924)

Superintendents of Breeding Sheep: Landon Kirby (#217-638-2949) and Rhonda Baer (#309-275-8451)

Open Class Premiums Offered: \$19,451.00

Land of Lincoln Class Premiums Offered: \$21,715.00

**Premiums will be pro-rated according to participation and pay up to six (6) places.*

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$15.00/head (entry fee), \$5.00/head (manure), and \$9.50/exhibitor (supply chain surcharge). Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Late entries will be accepted through July 31, 2026, with an additional \$50.00/exhibitor charge assessed.

Deadlines and Check-in

Mandatory Market Lamb Exhibitor Meeting	Friday, August 14, 8:00 a.m. – North Sheep Showring
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Breed:	Cannot Arrive Before:	Must be Penned by:
Market Lambs	Wednesday, August 12, 8:00 a.m.	Thursday, August 13, 8:00 p.m.
Southdown, Suffolk, & AOB Meat Slick	Sunday, August 16, 8:00 p.m.	Monday, August 17, 8:00 a.m.
Dorset, Hampshire, & Oxford	Monday, August 17, 8:00 p.m.	Tuesday, August 18, 8:00 a.m.
Montadale & AOB Meat Fitted	Tuesday, August 18, 8:00 p.m.	Wednesday, August 19, 8:00 a.m.
AOB Wool, Border Leicester, Cotswold, & Lincoln	Wednesday, August 19, 8:00 p.m.	Thursday, August 20, 8:00 a.m.
Tunis & Dorper	Thursday, August 20, 8:00 p.m.	Friday, August 21, 8:00 a.m.

Ring Cards Issued:

Market Lambs (Tagged)	Friday, August 14, 9:00 a.m. (Outside North Sheep Showring)
Ring Cards Issued	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. day before the breed show (Sheep Department Office)

Animals Released:

Breeding Sheep	Immediately following final breed championship classes on show days
Market Lambs	Sunday, August 16, immediately following Market Lamb Show. <i>Market Lamb pens must be vacated by 5:00 p.m.</i>

Show Schedule

Shows will be held in North Show Ring of the Sheep Barn. Start times may vary slightly from the published schedule. Exhibitors should watch and listen to announcements.

Sunday, August 16

- 8:00 a.m. – Open Market Lambs
- 3:00 p.m. – Pee Wee Show
 - Costume Show to follow
 - Leadline Show to follow
- 5:00 p.m. – Junior Show Breeding Sheep Showmanship

Monday, August 17

- 8:00 a.m. – Junior Breeding Sheep

Tuesday, August 18

- 9:00 a.m. – Southdown
 - Suffolk, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Southdown
 - AOB Meat Slicked, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Suffolk

Wednesday, August 19

- 9:00 a.m. – Dorset
 - Hampshire, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Dorset
 - Oxford, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Hampshire

Thursday, August 20

- 9:00 a.m. – Montadale
 - AOB Meat Fitted, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Montadale

Friday, August 21

- 9:00 a.m. – AOB Wool
 - Border Leicester, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of AOB Wool
 - Cotswold, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Border Leicester
 - Lincoln, to start 15 minutes after conclusion of Cotswold

Saturday, August 22

- 9:00 a.m. – Tunis
- 1:00 p.m. – Great Lakes Region Dorper and White Dorper Association Sponsored Club Show

Department Rules

1. Each exhibitor must comply with the Illinois Exhibition Health Requirements; Animal Care, Drug, Testing and Welfare Policies; and General Rules of the Open Livestock Division as previously stated.
2. To be eligible to show in the Open Sheep Show of the Illinois State Fair:
 - a. All breeding animals must be properly identified by a Flock Tag & Scrapie Tag.
 - b. All market lambs must be properly identified with a Scrapie Tag.
 - c. All ear tags must be in place before arriving on the fairgrounds.
 - d. All identifying ear tags, tattoos or horn markings must be clearly visible for Superintendents and ring personnel.
3. All group classes must be pre-entered through the online system by the published entry deadline.
4. Proof of ownership must be evidenced by ownership prior to show and be presented for inspection by State Fair personnel or Sheep Superintendent. All entries must be entered under the name of the owner on the registration paper.
5. The date shown on the registration papers will be taken as the effective date of ownership. However, in determining original origin or ownership, state or federal identification will take precedence over registration papers.

6. Ring Cards will be issued for all sheep and must be worn by exhibitors in the showing at all times. Failure to do so is cause for ineligibility to show. Open Show exhibitors are reminded they must adhere to the Open Show registration and ring card distribution requirements in order to exhibit in the Open Show. Junior Show registration does not fulfill Open Show requirements.
7. No mature rams, aged nurse ewes/goats are permitted in the Sheep Show.
8. All sheep must be penned in one of the Sheep Barns. All pens and stalls are to be assigned by the Superintendent or his/her assistants. Pens will be assigned on the basis of a minimum of three (3) head per pen, unless an exhibitor has only one (1) entry. Animals must be penned according to these assignments. Exhibitors are responsible for additional fencing if needed to separate or confine animals and all pens must be bedded with natural straw, wood chips or sawdust. Exhibitors will be allowed one (1) pen for tack. Additional pens, for any reason, will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.
9. No living quarters or tarps allowed in the Sheep Barns.
10. No enclosure of pens with tarps or any other material is allowed and no appliances, misters, swamp blasters, air conditioning units or cooling systems of any kind will be allowed in the barns.
11. Artificial coloring of sheep will not be allowed. Lambs will be white towed before entering the show ring.
12. Muzzles may be used for animal health and welfare at the discretion of the exhibitor.
13. When lambs are being judged, they must have all four (4) feet on the ground. No excessive lifting of the animals. Slapping of animals will not be tolerated and is cause for dismissal from the showing.
14. No loading or unloading of trailers between the North and South Sheep Barns one half (1/2) hour before the start time of any show.
15. No washing of sheep in the sheep barns.
16. All pens and aisles are to be cleaned each day before 8:00 am.
17. No roller skates, skateboarding, scooters, inline skates, bicycles, tricycles, etc. allowed in or around the sheep barns at any time during the State Fair.

Market Lamb Show Rules

18. Exhibitors cannot show more sheep than the number of animals originally entered. Market lamb exhibitors are allowed unlimited entries, however only two (2) premiums may be collected per exhibitor in each class.
19. All market lambs must:
 - a. Have been lambed on or after January 1, 2026.
 - b. Be docked and show ready slick shorn before check-in.
 - c. Weigh at least eighty-five (85) pounds.
 - d. Still have their milk teeth.
 - e. Wethers must show no sign of testicular tissue.
 - f. Be free of any active fungus and/or sore mouth.
 - g. Be physically sound at check-in and show times.

All of these requirements will be examined by the Superintendent and his/her assistants. The Superintendent may make decisions concerning interpretation of such rules and regulations along with the General Livestock Superintendent, in consultation with the Competitive Events Office of the Fair. The Competitive Events Office shall have full authority regarding show eligibility.

20. Wethers and market ewe lambs will be shown together in market lamb classes.
21. Market lamb exhibitors must have the following items at check-in and tagging:
 - a. Check-in card for each market lamb, filled out with full name and address of the exhibitor and signed by exhibitor and guardian (if exhibitor is a minor). Information must be legible. Check-in

cards will be provided by the Superintendent at the MANDATORY Market Lamb Exhibitor's Meeting (see schedule).

- b. Nomination forms from the county extension
 - c. Registration papers verifying Land of Lincoln eligibility for animals competing in the Market Lamb Land of Lincoln show. Registration paper must show ownership in the name of the exhibitor. No copies of registration or stamped duplicate of official registration will be accepted.
- 22. A classifier will be used in the Open Sheep Show for purposes of breed verification. In all instances, the decision of the classifier shall be final. Official classification at the State Fair is not subject to protest.
 - 23. Market lambs will be tagged at check-in and placed into weight classes based upon declared weights made at check-in. Practice scales will be available in the barns for use by exhibitors.
 - 24. A minimum of ten (10) market lambs of a given breed are required for a breed class. Otherwise, market lambs will show in an All Other Breeds (AOB) class.

Breeding Sheep Show Rules

- 25. Exhibitors cannot show more sheep than the number of animals originally entered. Exhibitors in the Open Breeding Sheep Show will be allowed unlimited entries per class including pair and group classes, however only two (2) premiums may be collected per exhibitor in each class. Pair and group entries must be comprised of animals shown in individual classes.
- 26. Unless otherwise defined by specific dates, some breeds will have yearling ewes divided equally into two (2) classes (A&B) determined by random draw after all sheep are entered and checked in. Exhibitors are limited to two (2) premiums.
- 27. All breeding animals must:
 - a. Be docked and properly groomed for showing.
 - b. Shropshire sheep must be slick shorn. Wool may be left below the knees and hocks and on the face and head from the poll forward; the remainder of the body is to be shorn to the skin within ten (10) days of the show date.
 - c. Southdown Sheep must be slick shorn within five (5) days of the show. Wool may be left below the knees and hocks on the legs (blended cups above the hock will be allowed). Wool may be left on the forehead up to the scurs and on the ears. The belly and flank wool shall not be longer than the remainder of the sheared body.
 - d. Cotswold Sheep fleece should be a maximum of three (3) inches in length, and no grooming oils should be used.
 - e. Be free of any active fungus and/or sore mouth.
 - f. Be physically sound at check-in and show times.

All of these requirements will be examined by the Superintendent and his/her assistants. The Superintendent may make decisions concerning interpretation of such rules and regulations along with the General Livestock Superintendent, in consultation with the Competitive Events Office of the Fair. The Competitive Events Office shall have full authority regarding show eligibility.

- 28. All registration papers must be presented for check-in and ring card distribution in the Sheep Department Office 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. the day before a given breed show.
- 29. Purebred animals must be recorded in their respective National Breed Book as evidenced by official registration papers or certificate of registration and bear the American ear tag of the National Association and corresponding flock tag. No copies of registration or stamped duplicate of official registration will be accepted.
- 30. Birth dates, as listed on the registration papers or certificates will be used to determine the class division for all breeding animals. Take the show date and count back to the birth date to determine the age and class for

the animal. September 1 will be used as the base for computing the ages of lambs in all classes. Yearlings shall be subject to veterinarian's examination whose findings shall be final.

Special Definitions

Exhibitor definition in pair and group classes: Animals entered under individual members of a family/farm may not be grouped together for pair or flock classes under one farm name. If farm or family partnerships wish to combine their animals for group classes, their group and individual class entries must be made under the farm or family partnership name.

Flock: Group to consist of one (1) yearling ram or ram lamb, two (2) yearling ewes and two (2) ewe lambs. All animals owned by one (1) exhibitor/farm.

Recognitions and Awards

Premiere Exhibitor Award: Upon decision of the Sheep Superintendent, an award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the Premiere Exhibitor in each sheep breed. The exhibitor with the highest total points of their ten (10) highest placed individuals will be named the Premiere Exhibitor. Points are awarded as follows: 1st place = 10 points, 2nd place = 9 points...down to 10th place = 1 point. In case of a tie, the exhibitor with the highest placing flock will be declared the winner. Calculation of Premiere Exhibitor points will be made by exhibitor name. Points of individually entered family members will not be combined. If farm or family partnerships wish to combine their placing points for Premiere Exhibitor, their class entries must be made under one farm or family partnership name.

Grand Champion Market Lamb: The Champion Market Lamb of each breed will compete for Grand Champion Market Lamb of the Open and Land of Lincoln Shows on Sunday, August 16. An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitor of each of the Open and Land of Lincoln Show Grand Champion Market Lambs.

Champion Pairs: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitor of the Land of Lincoln Show Champion Pair of Ewe Lambs and Champion Pair of Ram Lambs of each Land of Lincoln eligible breed division.

Open Show and Land of Lincoln Championship Premium Awards: The following additional monetary awards will be made to champions in identified breeds:

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Class
All Breeds			
	Champion Ram	\$30	\$50
	Reserve Champion Ram	\$20	\$30
	Champion Ewe	\$30	\$50
	Reserve Champion Ewe	\$20	\$30
	Grand Champion Market Lamb	\$100	\$75
	Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb	\$50	\$50

Special awards presented by Breed Associations are the responsibility of those associations and not the Department Superintendent or Illinois State Fair.

CLASSES

Division 0801 – Breeding Sheep – Border Leicester

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2025, and Feb. 15, 2026	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*
Flock		011	*
Best Fleece		012	N/A

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0802 – Breeding Sheep – Cotswold

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2025, and Jan. 31, 2026	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 1, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*
Flock		011	*
Best Fleece		012	N/A

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0803 – Breeding Sheep – Dorset

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	002	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	003	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	004	*

Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	005	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	006	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		007	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	008	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	009	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		010	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	011	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	012	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	013	*
Slick Shorn Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	014	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambd on after Feb. 16, 2026	015	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambd on after Feb. 16, 2026	016	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		017	*
Flock		018	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0804 – Breeding Sheep – Hampshire

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ram	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	002	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	003	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ram Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	004	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	005	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	006	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		007	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	008	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	009	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		010	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	011	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	012	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	013	*
Slick Shorn Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	014	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambd on after Feb. 16, 2026	015	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambd on after Feb. 16, 2026	016	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		017	*
Flock		018	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0805 – Breeding Sheep – Lincoln

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*
Flock		011	*
Best Fleece		012	N/A

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0806 – Breeding Sheep – Montadale

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	002	*
January Ram Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and 31, 2026	003	*
February & after Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 1, 2026	004	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		005	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
January Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2026	008	*
February Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Feb. 1 and the last day of Feb., 2026	009	*
Late Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Mar. 1, 2026	010	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		011	*
Flock		012	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0807 – Breeding Sheep – Oxford

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	002	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	003	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	004	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2026	005	*

Slick Shorn Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	006	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		007	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	008	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	009	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		010	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	011	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	012	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	013	*
Slick Shorn Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	014	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambd on after Feb. 16, 2026	015	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambd on after Feb. 16, 2026	016	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		017	*
Flock		018	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0808 – Breeding Sheep – Southdown

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	001	*
Intermediate Ram Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Feb. 16, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
January Ewe Lamb	Lambd between Jan. 1 and 31, 2026	008	*
February Ewe Lamb	Lambd Feb. 1 to the last day of Feb. 2026	009	*
Late Ewe Lamb	Lambd on or after March 1, 2026	010	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		011	*
Flock		012	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0809 – Breeding Sheep – Suffolk

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ram	Lambd between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	002	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	003	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ram Lamb	Lambd between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	004	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	005	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ram Lamb	Lambd on or after Jan. 1, 2026	006	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		007	*

Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	008	*
Slick Shorn Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	009	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		010	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	011	*
Slick Shorn Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	012	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	013	*
Slick Shorn Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	014	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on after Feb. 16, 2026	015	*
Slick Shorn Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on after Feb. 16, 2026	016	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		017	*
Flock		018	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0810 – Breeding Sheep – Tunis

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	001	
January Ram Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and 31, 2026	002	*
February and after Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 1, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*
Flock		011	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0811 – Breeding Sheep – AOB Meat - Fitted

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*

Flock	011	*
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The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0812 – Breeding Sheep – AOB Meat – Slick Shorn

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*
Flock		011	*

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0813 – Breeding Sheep – AOB Wool

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ram	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	001	*
Senior Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	002	*
Junior Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2026	003	*
Pair of Ram Lambs		004	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Aug. 31, 2025	005	*
Pair of Yearling Ewes		006	*
Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025	007	*
Intermediate Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2026	008	*
Junior Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2026	009	*
Pair of Ewe Lambs		010	*
Flock		011	*
Best Fleece		012	N/A

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram & Ewe, and Premiere Exhibitor.

Division 0814 – Market Lambs

Breed	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Class
Cheviot		A	*
Dorper		B	*
Dorset		C	*

Hampshire	D	*
Montadale	E	*
Natural Color	F	N/A
Oxford	G	*
Shropshire	H	*
Southdown	I	*
Suffolk	J	*
Tunis	K	*
All Other Meat Breeds	L	*
All Other Wool Breeds	M	*
Black-Faced Crossbred	N	N/A
White-Faced Crossbred	O	N/A

The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Market Lamb.

Division 0815 – Premier Carcass

Open Class		
Lamb Carcass	A	*

Entry into this division includes entry into the on-foot evaluation class as well as the carcass evaluation class.

Exhibitors should not enter carcass animals in Division 0814. Entry fees for Division 0815 will be \$30.00, which includes an additional fee for ultrasound scanning. See Premier Carcass Premium Book Section for complete rules.

Pee-Wee Lamb Show

Sunday, August 16, 3:00 p.m.
North Sheep Showing

Rules

1. The Pee-Wee Show is for children unable to show in the Junior Show of the Illinois State Fair due to age limitations. Exhibitors should be under eight (8) years of age as of September 1, 2025.
2. Participation is subject to parents' discretion and parents must be Illinois residents.
3. There will be a \$10.00 entry fee per exhibitor to cover the cost of awards.
4. Exhibitors must register participation and pay the entry fee at the Sheep Department Office by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the Pee-Wee Show.
5. All animals exhibited must comply with the General Health Regulations of the Illinois State Fair. Exhibitors will be required to present a certified health paper for the animal exhibited.
6. The Superintendent will divide the exhibitors into appropriate exhibitor age classes. Sheep of all breeds and ages will be shown together in the determined exhibitor age classes.

Costume Show

Sunday, August 16, immediately following the Pee-Wee Lamb Show
North Sheep Showing

Rules

1. The purpose of the Costume Show is to get children involved with sheep and to promote lamb and wool.
2. The Costume Show is open to all exhibitors twelve (12) years of age and under as of August 13, 2026. Exhibitors do not need to be actively engaged in the production or showing of sheep.
3. Each exhibitor is required to pre-enter the Costume Show online by the published Open Department deadline.
4. The exhibit will be judged on originality and presentation of the costume, theme and its promotion of lamb and wool. A live sheep must be a part of the exhibition.
5. Participant biography/costume narrative should be turned into the Sheep Department Office by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. Link to bio/narrative forms are available on the IL State Fair Sheep Barn Facebook page.
6. Questions should be directed to Rhonda Baer at 309-275-8451 or rhondamillerbaer@gmail.com
7. Judging Scorecard: Costume/Garment Originality & Construction – 25 points; Animal Control & Presentation – 25 points; Promotion of Lamb and Wool Message Originality & Effectiveness – 40 points; Overall Impression – 10 points. Total of 100 points available.

Division 0816 – Costume Show

Premiums for will be paid as follows:

Class	Class Description	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
001	Costume Class	\$12	\$11	\$10	\$9

Leadline Show

Sunday, August 16, immediately following the Costume Show
North Sheep Showing

Rules

1. The purpose of the Leadline Show is to present a class of well-groomed sheep, at halter, led by a participant clad in fashionable wool clothing. The underlying objective is to present an attractive and coordinated package entry which will promote the use of wool to both participants and the viewing public.
2. The Leadline Show is open to all exhibitors, male or female, at least nine (9) years of age as of September 1, 2025. Exhibitors do not need to be actively engaged in the production or showing of sheep.
3. Exhibitors are required to pre-enter Leadline Show online by the published Open Department deadline.
4. Exhibitor class ages shall be as follows: Junior – 9 years of age and under 15, Senior – 15 years of age and under 22, Adult – 22 years of age and older.
5. The exhibited animal must be a registered ewe, properly conditioned, groomed and fitted, and shown at halter in accordance with Illinois State Fair Sheep Show rules.
6. The type of outfit worn, whether it be dress, suit, slacks, skirt and sweater, etc., is optional. The garment should be attractive and appropriate for the age and lifestyle of the participant. The main garment/outfit should be at least 70% wool.
7. The use of a blanket on the ewe is optional. If used, it should not cover more than two-thirds (2/3) of the animal. Excessive ornaments or baubles should not be used.
8. The use of gloves, boots, headwear, jewelry and other accessories by the exhibitor is also optional, whatever contributes to the overall neatness and attractiveness of the package is acceptable.
9. Participant biography/costume narrative should be turned into the Sheep Department Office by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. Link to bio/narrative forms are available on the IL State Fair Sheep Barn Facebook page.
10. Judging Scorecard: Garment Construction & Style – 25 points; Animal Control & Presentation – 25 points; Participant Poise & Appearance – 25 points; 70% Wool Requirement – 15 points; Overall Impression – 10 points. Total of 100 points available.
11. Questions should be directed to Rhonda Baer at 309-275-8451 or rhondamillerbaer@gmail.com

Division 0817 – Leadline Show

Premiums for will be paid as follows:

Class	Class Description	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
001	Junior Leadline Class	\$20	\$15	\$12	\$10
002	Senior Leadline Class	\$20	\$15	\$12	\$10
003	Adult Leadline Class	\$20	\$15	\$12	\$10