

SHEEP

07 - Junior Sheep Show

Superintendent: Ed Whitcomb (#217-415-2924)

Junior Breed Sheep Class Premiums Offered: \$3,828.00

Land of Lincoln Breeding Sheep Class Premiums Offered: \$6,215.00

Junior Market Lamb Class Premiums Offered: \$2,451.00

Land of Lincoln Market Lamb Class Premiums Offered: \$945.00

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

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$10.00/head (entry fee) and \$5.00/head (manure). 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, 2024. Fees will not be refunded.

Deadlines and Check-in

Pens Available	Wednesday, August 6, 8:00 a.m.
Animals must be penned as follows:	
Market Animals	Thursday, August 7, 8:00 p.m.
Mandatory Market Lamb Exhibitor Meeting	Friday, August 8, 8:00 a.m. (North Sheep Showring)
Breeding Sheep	Saturday, August 9, 9:00 p.m.

Ring Cards Issued:

Market Lambs (Tagged)	Friday, August 8, 9:00 a.m. (Outside North Sheep Showring)
Breeding Sheep	Sunday, August 10, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Sheep Department Office)

Animals Released:

Market Lambs	Saturday, August 9, immediately following show
Breeding Sheep	Monday, August 11, immediately following show

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 for announcements.

Friday, August 8

3:00 p.m. – Showmanship for Market Lambs

Saturday, August 9

8:00 a.m. – Junior Show Market Lambs

5:30 p.m. – Junior Show Grand Champion Market Lamb Selection (Coliseum)

Sunday, August 10

Pee-Wee Lamb Show, Costume Show, Leadline Show (See Open Sheep Premium Book for entry information), and Breeding Sheep Showmanship all to follow the Open Market Lamb Show

Monday, August 11

8:00 a.m. – Junior Show Breeding Sheep

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 Junior Livestock Division as previously stated.
2. Each exhibitor must be present to show their own animals unless exempted in advance by Superintendent due to an identified, eligible conflict. A single showing helper will be allowed in the showing for yearling ewe classes only and all helpers must be bona fide Junior Exhibitors.
3. Junior Show exhibitors are reminded they must adhere to the Junior Show entry and ring card distribution requirements in order to exhibit in the Junior Show. Open Show entry does not fulfill Junior Show requirements.
4. Purebred animals must be recorded in their respective National Breed Book as evidenced by official registration papers or certificate of registration which may be electronic copies. However, no copies of registration or stamped duplicate of official registration will be accepted.
5. Registration must show ownership of the animals in the name of the exhibitor or ownership by immediate family members including the exhibitor for the period required in the 4-H or FFA projects.
6. A classifier will be used in the Junior Sheep Show Market Classes for the purpose 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.
7. 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. Entries in sheep classes must have been the property of the exhibitor and a part of his/her project in accordance with the following dates:
 - a. Breeding Animals, June 25, 2025
 - b. Market Lambs, May 15, 2025
8. Exhibitors in the Junior Sheep Show will be allowed two (2) entries per class with a maximum of twelve (12) total entries per breed and six (6) total entries in the Market Lamb Show. Substitutions are allowed during check-in. However, exhibitors cannot show more sheep than the number of animals originally entered.
9. No mature rams, aged nurse ewes/goats are permitted in the Junior Sheep Show.
10. To be eligible to show in the Junior Sheep Show of the Illinois State Fair:
 - a. All Breeding Animals must be properly identified with a Flock Tag and Scrapie Tag.
 - b. All Market Lambs must be properly identified with a Scrapie Tag.
11. 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.
12. No living quarters or tarps allowed in the Sheep Barns.
13. No appliances, misters, swamp blasters, air conditioning units or cooling systems of any kind will be allowed in the barns.
14. Wethers and Market Ewe Lambs will be shown together in market lamb classes.

15. All market lambs must:

- a. Have been lambed on or after January 1, 2025.
- b. Be properly identified by a Scrapie Tag and nominated in the name of the exhibitor, verified by local 4-H personnel or FFA Chapter Advisor, on or between March 15 and May 15, 2025.
- c. Be docked and show ready slick shorn before check-in.
- d. Weigh at least eighty-five (85) pounds.
- e. Still have their milk teeth.
- f. Wethers must show no sign of testicular tissue.
- g. Free of any active fungus and/or sore mouth.
- h. Be physically sound at check-in and show times.

All of these requirements will be examined by the Superintendent and his/her assistants who, along with the General Livestock Superintendent, shall have full authority regarding show eligibility.

16. Market lambs will be tagged at check-in and placed into weight classes based upon declared weights made at check-in. A minimum of ten (10) lambs of a given breed are required for a breed class. Practice scales will be available in the barns for use by exhibitors. At the conclusion of judging for each weight class, the top two (2) placing animals will be re-weighed for weight verification. Animals that vary five (5) percent or more from the declared weight will be disqualified.

17. Market lamb exhibitors must fill out a check-in form which will be provided by the Superintendent at the mandatory Market Lamb Exhibitors' Meeting for each market lamb providing the full name and address, legibly written, of the exhibitor and the Scrapie Tag number of the animal. The check-in form and original nomination form must be complete and submitted at the time of check-in and tagging. Registration papers verifying Land of Lincoln eligibility must also be provided for animals competing in the Land of Lincoln Show. In all cases, electronic forms will be accepted, however, no phone nominations will be permitted.

18. All breeding animals must:

- a. Have been lambed September 1, 2024, or after and still have their milk teeth with no evidence of permanent teeth.
- b. Be docked and properly groomed for showing.
- c. 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 10 days of the show date.
- d. Southdown Sheep must be slick shorn within five (5) days of the show. Wool may be left below the knees and hocks, and also below the eyes around muzzle.
- e. 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 who, along with the General Livestock Superintendent, shall have full authority regarding show eligibility.

19. 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.

20. A commercial ewe may be a crossbred or a straight bred not eligible for registry. Commercial ewes and ewe lambs must be ear tagged or tattooed for identification.

21. Ring Cards will be issued for all sheep and must be worn by exhibitors in the showring at all times. Failure to do so is cause for ineligibility to show.

22. Artificial coloring of sheep will not be allowed. Lambs will be white towed before entering the show ring.

23. Muzzles may be used for animal health and welfare at the discretion of the exhibitor.
24. 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.
25. Showmanship Contests will be held separately for exhibitors showing breeding animals and market lambs. In both instances, Showmanship classes will immediately follow the final breed show of the day and will be divided into Junior and Senior Showmanship competitions.
26. Special awards presented by Breed Associations are the responsibility of those associations and not the Department Superintendent or Illinois State Fair.

Special Awards

Supreme Champion and Supreme Reserve Champion Ewe Lamb: A Supreme Champion and Supreme Reserve Champion Ewe Lamb will be named from the Breeding Sheep Division.

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Junior Market Lamb: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitors of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb and Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Land of Lincoln Market Lamb of the Junior Sheep Show at the 2025 Illinois State Fair. Additionally, the Grand Champion Junior Show Market Lamb and the Grand Champion Land of Lincoln Junior Show Market Lamb will sell at the livestock auction of the 2025 Governor’s Sale of Champions.

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Champion Showman: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the Champion Junior, Intermediate and Senior Showman of the 2025 Illinois State Fair Junior Show.

CLASSES

Division 0701 – Breeding Sheep - Cheviot

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0702 – Breeding Sheep - Columbia

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0703 – Breeding Sheep - Corriedale

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0704 – Breeding Sheep - Dorset

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Fall Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	04	*
Winter Senior Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Dec. 1, 2024, and Jan. 15, 2025	05	*
Spring Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0705 – Breeding Sheep - Hampshire

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1, 2024, and Jan. 31, 2025	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0706 – Breeding Sheep - Montadale

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*

Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*
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The following awards will be given in this Division: Champion & Reserve Ram Lamb and Ewe.

Division 0707 – Breeding Sheep – Natural Color

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0708 – Breeding Sheep – Oxford

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0709 – Breeding Sheep – Shropshire

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0710 – Breeding Sheep – Southdown

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*

Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0711 – Breeding Sheep – Suffolk

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	02	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	03	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	06	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	07	*

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

Division 0712 – Breeding Sheep – Tunis

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0713 – Breeding Sheep – All Other Meat Breeds

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0714 – Breeding Sheep – All Other Breeds Wool

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Ram Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec 31, 2024	01	*
Ram Lamb	Lambled on or after Jan. 1, 2025	02	*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	03	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	04	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	05	*
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	06	*

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

Division 0715 – Breeding Sheep – Commercial Ewes

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Yearling Ewe	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2024	01	N/A
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024	02	N/A
Ewe Lamb	Lambled between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2025	03	N/A
Ewe Lamb	Lambled on or after Feb. 16, 2025	04	N/A

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

Division 0716 – Market Lambs

Breed	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Cheviot		01	*
Dorper		02	*
Dorset		03	*
Hampshire		04	*
Montadale		05	*
Natural Color		06	N/A
Oxford		07	*
Shropshire		08	*
Southdown		09	
Suffolk		10	*
Tunis		11	*
All Other Breeds		12	*
White-Faced Crossbred		13	N/A
Crossbred		14	N/A
Premiere Market Lamb		15	*

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

Sheep Showmanship

Market Lamb Showmanship – Friday, August 8, 3:00 p.m.

Breeding Sheep Showmanship – Sunday, August 10, 30-minutes after the Leadline Show

North Open Sheep Showing

Rules

1. There are no separate breed showmanship classes and champions in the Illinois State Fair Junior Sheep Show.
2. The Showmanship Contests are open to all exhibitors in the Junior Sheep Show of the 2025 Illinois State Fair. Each exhibitor is required to pre-enter Showmanship classes online by the published Junior Department entry deadline.
3. Exhibitors must show an animal he/she has exhibited or will exhibit in the Junior Show.
4. Exhibitor class ages shall be computed as of August 7, 2025.

CLASSES

Division 0717 – Showmanship – Breeding Sheep

Class	Class Description	Open Class
Junior Showmanship	Exhibitors 12 years of age and under	
Intermediate Showmanship	Exhibitors 13 years of age and under 16	
Senior Showmanship	Exhibitors 16 years of age and older	

Division 0718 – Showmanship – Market Lambs

Class	Class Description	Open Class
Junior Showmanship	Exhibitors 12 years of age and under	
Intermediate Showmanship	Exhibitors 13 years of age and under 16	
Senior Showmanship	Exhibitors 16 years of age and older	

Division 0719 – Carcass

	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered *
Carcass Lamb	01	*

** Special Note: See Carcass Premium Book Section for complete rules.*