

SHEEP

MARKET LAMB

Superintendent: Mr. Chad Hagen
Assistant Superintendents: Mr. Todd Fontenot

Note: As per State-Federal Regulatory policy, all market lambs must have official USDA Scrapie Tags in their ears in order to be eligible for exhibition at the district and state show.

Market Lamb Classification Guidelines and Rules

Exhibitors will designate on the official entry form in which breed type division the market lamb will be entered. Final determination of classification will be made by the official classifier(s) during official LSU AgCenter classification held at the State Show and the classifier(s) may reclassify a market lamb to another division. This determination is based on predominant breed (visual) characteristics of the market lamb and the judgment of the classifier(s). Official classification at the State Show is not subject to protest.

Breed type Divisions will be: 1) Hampshire, 2) Suffolk, 3) Natural Colored, 4) Black Face OPB and Crosses, and 5) White Face OPB and Crosses.

Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion market lambs will be selected from the breed type division champions and reserve champions.

Market Lamb Classification:

- 1) Hampshire - Must have predominant Hampshire breed characteristics such as face relatively free of wool from the eyes down; unbroken wool cap extending from the neck over the forehead; ears moderate in length, thick with dark brown or black hair and little wool; legs below the knees and hocks should be relatively free of wool; hornless and the body wool free of dark fibers.
- 2) Suffolk - Must have predominant Suffolk breed characteristics such as face completely free of wool and covered in black hair; ears that are long and bell shaped and covered with black hair; black hair on the legs (no wool below the knees and hocks); hornless and free of dark fibers in the body wool.
- 3) Natural colored - Any breed of sheep that has a predominant "blue or black tint" to the skin and wool. The body must have this predominant blue or black tint over the majority of the body in order to classify in this division. A few black or blue spots coloring of the wool, bite marks, fungus spots, or scars with black or dark fiber areas will not classify the lamb in this division.
- 4) Black Face OPB and Crosses - Any other purebred black face breed of sheep (i.e. Shropshire, Oxford, etc.) and all crosses of black face breeds of sheep (including Hampshire and Suffolk cross sheep). No crosses of black face breeds with white face breeds of sheep will be classified into this division.
- 5) White Face OPB and Crosses - Any purebred white face breed of sheep (i.e. Southdown, Dorset, Montadale, Cheviot, Katahdin, St. Croix, Texel, Merino, Rambouillet, Corriedale, Finnsheep, etc.) and all crosses of white face breeds of sheep with any other breed of sheep (white or black face) will be classified in this division.

Special Rules

- A. Wether and ewe lambs are eligible to show in the market lamb classes at the state show.
- B. The minimum weight for market lambs at the district shows will be 80 pounds with no maximum weight. District shows have the option of weighing only lightweight animals to enforce minimum weight rules and using a "weigh your own" system for heavier classes. This would be an option only - not a requirement.
- C. The minimum class weight for market lambs at the state show will be 80 pounds with no maximum weight.
- D. Each exhibitor will be allowed to exhibit a maximum of three market lambs at the show.
- E. At the state show market lambs will be classified into five breed-type divisions and shown in these breed-type divisions with weight classes within the breed divisions. An exhibitor may exhibit all lambs in any weight class within these breed divisions. The number of weight classes per breed division will be dependent on the number of lambs classified into the respective breed divisions. The total number of weight classes for the show will not exceed 30. Entries will be taken according to the Schedule of events.
- F. At the state show upon completion of each class showing, the top four animals will be reweighed. Any lamb that has gained or lost more than 5 percent from the official entry weight submitted will be disqualified.
- G. Market Lamb Division Champion Premiums:

Market Lamb Breed Division Champion	\$250
Market Lamb Breed Division Reserve Champion	\$100
- H. At the state show breed division champions and reserve champions will be awarded rosettes. Overall Grand and reserve grand champions will be awarded rosettes and trophies.
- I. Grooming Practices for Sheep

The code of ethics, as listed in General Rule No. 16 of this catalog, lists areas of concern in the grooming of sheep.

 1. Dyeing or coloring an animal to alter its natural coloration or to cause it to be classified in a different breed or show class.
 2. Market lambs must be slick sheared for the show (no wool above the hocks/knees including the head).
Definition: Slick sheared is defined as no more than 1/8 inch of wool on the body of the sheep.
 3. No foreign material (paint, powder, whitewash, white-out, show-glo, etc.) may be used to alter the color and/or conformation of any market lamb.

BREEDING SHEEP AND COMMERCIAL EWES

Superintendent: Mr. Chad Hagen
Assistant Superintendent: Mr. Todd Fontenot

NOTE: As per State-Federal Regulatory policy; all registered breeding sheep must have an official USDA Scrapie Tag in their ear or may be identified with a tattoo. The tattoo must be typed on the original registration paper. Commercial Ewes must have an official USDA scrapie tag.

All Breeding Sheep must have a flock or breeder tag, Tattoo, or Microchip that matches the Registration papers presented at the show to be eligible of exhibition.

Special Rules

- A. A purebred class for each of the following breeds and divisions for any other breed (AOB Wool & Hair) are offered for registered sheep.

Dorset	Suffolk	AOB Hair
Hampshire	Southdown	
Katahdin	AOB Wool	

- B. An exhibitor may enter as many purebred sheep & commercial ewes as he/she desires. However, no member will be allowed to show more than one animal per class. The only exception would be a ewe lamb that mouths up to a yearling class. In this case, the exhibitor would be allowed to show more than one ewe in yearling class with only one being allowed to qualify and/or receive a premium placing.
- C. All original papers must be verified by the agent/FFA advisor and copy submitted to agent/FFA advisor within thirty (30) days of Possession/Validation Date. The Papers Pending Form must be submitted in place of registration papers until the registration papers are obtained. **Registration papers are due within 30 days of the respective possession date. A late fee of \$250 per animal will be charged for registration papers received between the 30 days after the possession date and January 1, 2026. No registration papers will be accepted after this date. The \$250 fee is to be collected by the respective District Show Management. Exhibitors must enter animal information into the 4-H Online system on or before the possession/validation deadline. The responsibility of entering animal information (correct and complete, i.e. Registration Papers) into 4-H online, ear tagging animals, and collecting DNA and/or hair samples will be that of the exhibitor and/or parent. Agents/Ag Teachers MAY be present and can assist.**
- D. Ear tags (association number or flock number) must be in the ears of the Registered (Purebred) Breeding Sheep.
- E. Commercial Ewes will be provided official LSU AgCenter ear tags that must be applied to commercial ewes at validation. (State Fair Tags will be allowed if the ewe is officially validated for the LSU AgCenter show.)
- F. The code of ethics as listed in General Rule 16 of this catalog lists areas of concern in the grooming of sheep.
1. Dyeing or coloring an animal to alter its natural coloration or to cause it to be classified in a different breed or show class.
 2. All breeding sheep including commercial ewes must be shown slick sheared (no wool allowed above the hocks/knees including the head). Except in recognized hair and wool breeds, hair and wool will be allowed. Definition: Slick sheared is defined as no more than 1/8 inch of wool on the body of the sheep.
- G. Registered (Purebred) Sheep Breeding Classes
1. January to October Ram Lamb
 2. Champion Ram
 3. April to October Ewe Lamb
 4. March Ewe Lamb
 5. February Ewe Lamb
 6. January Ewe Lamb
 7. Yearling Ewe (Two to Four Tooth)
 8. Aged Ewe (5 Teeth and over)
 9. Parish Group (Four Breeding sheep with two exhibitors represented)
- H. Three classes are offered for commercial ewes. The classifications for the district and state shows in the commercial ewes division are: 1) Lamb (must have no visible evidence of the emergence of part or all of one or both of the first pair of permanent incisors); 2) Yearling ewes (two tooth or four tooth ewes); 3) Aged Ewes (5 teeth and over)
- I. Commercial ewes will only be mouthed at District shows. Registered/recorded Ewes **ARE NOT** eligible for the Commercial Ewe class.
- J. Commercial Ewe Classes
1. Ewe Lambs
 2. Yearling Ewes (Two to Four Tooth)
 3. Aged Ewes (5 Teeth and Over)
 4. Champion Selection:
 - Champion Ewe
 - Reserve Champion Ewe
 - Champion La-bred Ewe
 - Reserve Champion La.-bred Ewe
 5. Parish Groups
- K. **Selection of Supreme Champion**- Breed and commercial champions from each of the above listed breeds will compete for supreme champion at the conclusion of the breeding show. A supreme champion ram and ewe will be selected.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

- A. Co-sponsored by LSPA and LCES.
- B. Open to all 4-H and FFA members with entries in the market lamb, breeding sheep, and/or commercial ewes divisions.
- C. Exhibitors must show their own animals.
- D. Showmanship sign-up time will be from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 16, 2026, and judged at 3:00 p.m.
- E. January 1, 2026, will be the date for determining the exhibitor's age.
- F. Showmanship classes for sheep exhibitors are as follows: (Also show order)
 - 1. Senior Division
 - 17 years old & older
 - 16 years old
 - 15 years old
 - Senior Champion & Reserve
 - 2. Intermediate Division
 - 14 years old
 - 13 years old
 - 12 years old
 - Intermediate Champion & Reserve
 - 3. Junior Division
 - 11 years old
 - 10 years old
 - 9 years old
 - Junior Champion & Reserve
 - 4. **Overall Showmanship Champion**
 - *Each age classification will be split after sign-up to make two classes for each age category if the number of exhibitors deems it necessary to fit the arena space. Classes will be posted prior to the showmanship contest.