

# Department 18D – Sheep

Approved 11/13/2025

Superintendent – Cade Wittenbach  
616-902-0668 cadewittenbach89@gmail.com

**Youth must be enrolled in 4-H by May 1<sup>st</sup> to exhibit at fair.**

**Youth must be registered for the Fair by June 25th.**

**Entry must be made on FairEntry online.**

**This document is for informational purposes only.**

## FAIR WEEK SCHEDULE

**Saturday 8am: Must be in place**

**Saturday am: Sheep weigh-in directly following beef**

**Saturday 6pm: Record Books due**

**Monday 4pm: Sheep Show**

**Wednesday 11am: Mandatory Sale Exhibitor Meeting**

**Thursday 4pm: IFF Youth Livestock Auction**

1. Animals must be in the owner's possession by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
2. All sheep exhibited must have a legible scrapie tag.
3. Animals with testicles or portions of testicles will be disqualified.
4. All market lambs must be declared by the specified date and method, as published by the county extension office.
5. **Sheep must be in place by 8am on the first Saturday of fair**, unless different arrangements were made with the superintendent prior to the start of fair.
6. **Weigh-in for market lambs will be directly after the conclusion of beef weigh-in**, on the first Saturday of the fair.
7. Market lambs must weigh a minimum of 90 pounds at weigh-in. Animals not meeting the minimum weight will not be allowed to sell. Underweight animals may be shown in Showmanship and the underweight class.
8. Class sizes and splits will be determined after weigh in and prior to show.
9. In 4-H a member cannot exhibit more than two breeding sheep that have been purchased. All other sheep must be the member's own breeding, with exception of market lambs.
10. Market lambs must be slick shorn at the time of show.
11. To qualify for Homegrown Market Lamb the exhibitor must own the ewe before lambing which the lamb came from and must have raised the lamb from birth. Lambs shown in the Homegrown class must be properly identified as a market lamb. This class is in addition to the regular market classes.
12. **The required educational component as declared by the Ionia County 4-H Livestock Committee must be met in order to show.** The requirements and details are available in section 18Y.
13. **Ewes may only show in one section – either as a market animal OR a breeding animal.**
14. **The Sheep Show will be on Monday at 4pm, starting with showmanship.**
15. Animals owned by an FFA Chapter may be exhibited by the chapter or exhibitor caring for them. An FFA Chapter may sell only two market lambs.
16. A youth may show three market animals, but can only sell two animals consisting of any combination of ewes or wethers.
17. **Please make sure you read the Ionia Free Fair Youth Livestock Auction section for further information and details.**
18. Sheep will be released at 12am (midnight) on the last Saturday of the fair, or at the discretion of the superintendent.
19. All pens must be cleaned prior to the exhibitor leaving the fairgrounds.
20. The superintendent reserves the right to remove any animal from the fair based on safety and health concerns.
21. The Ionia Free Fair Veterinarian reserves the right to remove any animal from the fair based on the health condition or appearance of the animal.

**Ionia Free Fair is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged articles prior to, during or after the Fair.**

## Showmanship

*Champion Overall and Division award, ribbons 1-8 place*

- First Year Exhibitor - any age
- Senior Showmanship, age 15-19
- Intermediate Showmanship, age 12-14
- Junior Showmanship, age 8-11

*Participation ribbon, special award*

- Cloverbud Showmanship, age 5-7

## Sheep Breeding Ewe

*Overall award, ribbons for 1-8 place*

- Ewe lamb (under 1 year old)
- Ewe, 1 and under 2 years
- Ewe, 2 years and older
- Supreme Champion Breeding Ewe

## Market Lamb

*Champion Overall and Division award, ribbons for 1-8 place*

- Champion/Reserve Light Weight Wether
- Champion/Reserve Middle Weight Wether
- Champion/Reserve Heavy Weight Wether
- Champion/Reserve Market Wether
- Champion/Reserve Light Weight Ewe
- Champion/Reserve Middle Weight Ewe
- Champion/Reserve Heavy Weight Ewe
- Champion/Reserve Market Ewe
- Grand/Reserve Champion Overall Lamb
- Champion/Reserve Homegrown Lamb