

PORTAGE COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR SHEEP RULES 2026

The following rules established and approved by the Portage County 4-H Junior Fair Sheep Committee and Portage County Randolph Senior Fair Board are binding upon all Portage County Junior Fair Sheep exhibitors. Changes may be made as needed by the Portage County 4-H Junior Fair Sheep Committee in cooperation with the Portage County Randolph Senior Fair Board. Exhibitors will be notified of any changes.

The responsibility of knowing and understanding any and all rules pertaining to the Portage County Randolph Junior Fair shall belong to the Junior Fair exhibitor and their parents/legal guardian.

Anyone attending events either as an exhibitor, advisor, volunteer, parent, spectator, superintendent, judge, committee member or fair official must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct and according to the Rules and Regulations of the Portage County Agricultural Society, dba Randolph Fair. The Code of Conduct and Rules are not limited to the show ring, but are applicable to any location on the fairgrounds and to any event held at the Portage County Randolph Fairgrounds including, but not limited to meetings, workshops, clinics, contests, shows, county fair, etc.

MEMBERSHIP AND EXHIBIT ELIGIBILITY

4-H Sheep project exhibitors will follow Ohio State 4-H membership guidelines. FFA sheep project exhibitors must be under 19 years of age on January 1 of the year in which they will exhibit.

Exhibitors will adhere to the rules outlined by the Portage County 4-H Junior Fair Sheep Committee and the Portage County Randolph Fair as established for Junior Fair sheep projects. Exhibitors must adhere to the rules adopted by the Portage County Randolph Fair in accordance with the Ohio Livestock Show Reform Act and Ohio Livestock Tampering and Exhibition Rules and the Portage County Junior Fair Code of Conduct.

Violations of rules will be handled at the discretion of Sheep Committee and Fair Board.

All animals **MUST** be shown by Portage County Junior Fair sheep project exhibitors.

GENERAL RULES

1. Pens must be cleaned daily by 9:00am. If shavings are saturated and odor is noted, strip pen and replace shavings. Area around and above pen must be kept clean.
2. Clean up wash rack and lamb stand area after washing and shearing lambs.
3. At no point during Fair should lambs be taken past (east of) Suffield Livestock Drive or into the Campgrounds.
4. You may not remove anything from the lamb barn until 8:00pm Sunday night. (Fair Board rule)
5. Exhibitors are expected to be present Sunday evening to clean barn after release of lambs.
6. Exhibitors should be in the sheep barn from start to finish of the show and sale.
7. Animal welfare home visits will be made by Sheep Committee Members. Committee Members will be visited by another Committee Member.

SALE

2-1-1 Rule

Each Jr. Fair exhibitor may sell a maximum of two (2) market animal units of one species, and one (1) market animal unit each of two other species, hereafter referred to as the 2-1-1 Rule.

1. Limitation the species number of market animals each Jr. Fair exhibitor may sell through the Portage County Jr. Fair Market Livestock Sale are stipulated by the individual Jr. Fair specie committees and cannot exceed the 2-1-1 rule
2. If a Jr. Fair exhibitor is found to have violated the 2-1 -1 Rule, a monetary penalty based on the severity of the violation will be determined and enforced by the Sale Committee. Those forfeited proceeds will be placed into the Portage County Randolph Fair Market Livestock Auction Scholarship Fund.
3. Grand and Reserve Champion carcasses will sell exclusive of the 2-1-1 Rule.

SALE ORDER

Grand Champion Market Lamb
Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb
Grand Champion Carcass Lamb
Reserve Grand Champion Carcass Lamb
Sr. Outstanding Market Exhibitor
Jr. Outstanding Market Exhibitor
Third Overall Market Lamb
Fourth Overall Market Lamb
Fifth Overall Market Lamb
Po. Co. Born & Raised Champion
Po. Co. Born & Raised Reserve Champion
All First Place Class Winners-light to heavy
All Second Place-light to heavy
All Third Place-light to heavy
Continue with class placings - light to heavy
Non 30% weight gain lambs

Feeder lambs as determined by the market lamb judge: Market lamb judge shall select which animals if any are not ready for harvest, and will be sold as feeder lambs. Feeders will sell last.

MARKET LAMB RULES

SPRING WEIGH-IN

1. TARDINESS at SPRING WEIGH-IN: Lambs MUST be present by the end of the designated time block. If unforeseen circumstances arise, you MUST notify a committee member on the fairgrounds of the problem, before the end of the designated time. If no call and the lamb is late, the lamb will not be tagged or weighed.
2. All Jr. Fair market lambs MUST have the required Scrapie Identification Tag (by the mandatory spring weigh-in/tagging) in order to participate in the Portage County Randolph Jr. Fair. Absolutely no exceptions. DO NOT bring a lamb to spring weigh-in without a Scrapie tag.
3. Lambs will be tagged at weigh-in with tamper-proof ear tags. No substitutions will be permitted. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for each lamb tagged. The \$5.00 fee is due by June 1.
4. Lost ear tags must be promptly reported to an adult 4-H/Jr. Fair Sheep Committee member as soon as possible so a replacement can be inserted.
5. Number of lambs permitted to weigh-in: Each exhibitor is permitted to weigh-in four lambs including the family spare at the mandatory spring weigh-in.
6. Each exhibitor may show:
 - a. One lamb for first year exhibitor
 - b. Two lambs for second year exhibitor or over
 - c. One lamb if chosen as secondary project
7. All lambs MUST be assigned to a Jr. Fair sheep project exhibitor at spring weigh-in. **One lamb may be designated as a family spare. Definition of family spare—~~an extra lamb available to any member of the family, after each member has tagged at least one lamb in their name. (11/2025)~~ All lambs tagged by a family are available to each member of the family as a family spare. Definition of family is found in Ohio Revised Code 901-19-01. (11/2025)**
8. ~~Lambs MUST be under the daily care of the Jr. Fair exhibitor; however, it is not necessary to keep the lamb at the owner's premise. (11/2025)~~
9. Lambs must be kept in the county of the exhibitor's residence. Lambs can be kept at a premise other than the exhibitor's, at the discretion of the Sheep Committee. **Lambs may not be housed by a breeder, unless it is the exhibitor's home. (11/2025)** Out of county exhibitors must keep their lambs at their own residence. A sheep Project Housing Form must be submitted to the Sheep Committee by the April meeting of the current year.
10. Lambs with contagious diseases (ex: sore mouth, foot rot) Must be weighed and tagged last. Owners must notify the committee before the lambs are unloaded.
11. Lambs must be castrated or banded by Spring Weigh-In.

AWARD SPONSORS

1. Mandatory **award** sponsors and money will be due to the treasurer of the Sheep Committee by June 1. Amount will be set annually by the committee. Violations will be handled at the discretion of the committee.
2. ALL Jr. Fair sheep exhibitors MUST present a written thank-you addressed to the Jr. Fair sheep program sponsor who donated the **award** they received during the Jr. Fair sheep show by 2:00pm Sunday ending fair. Thank-you notes MUST be presented to a sheep committee member (preferably the committee secretary or treasurer) in order to be recognized as received. Any Jr. Fair sheep exhibitor who does not present an award sponsor thank-you according to these guidelines will have their sales check withheld until the committee receives an **award** sponsor thank-you. (11/25)

FINAL WEIGH-IN

1. All lambs must be brought to the fair and carcass contest clean. Dirty lambs will be sent home at the discretion of the sheep committee.
2. TARDINESS AT FINAL WEIGH-IN: All lambs must be checked in by 5:00pm on Monday of fair. Lamb Weigh-In will be from 5:30 to 6:30pm. on Monday of fair. If unforeseen circumstances arise, you MUST notify a committee member, at the event, of the problem before the end of the designated time period. If no call and the lamb is not in place by end of the designated time period, the lamb will be sent home.
3. It is the exhibitor's or their designee's responsibility to weigh their lamb once on the fairgrounds. If the lamb is not weighed by the end of the weigh-in period and there was no notification to an adult Sheep Committee member, the consequences are: The lamb must be removed from the Fairgrounds by 10:00pm Monday night.
4. ~~DUNE must be submitted electronically before Weigh-In. (11/2025)~~
5. All Jr. Fair market lambs MUST have the required Scrapie Identification Tag at Final Weigh-In in order to participate in the Portage County Randolph Jr. Fair or Carcass Contest. Absolutely no exceptions. Do NOT bring a lamb to final weigh-in without a Scrapie tag.
6. Lambs arriving at scale without Scrapie **and** Portage County tags are disqualified and will be sent home Monday night.
7. RE-WEIGH PROCEDURE AT FAIR WEIGH-IN: Only the person taking the lamb over the scale can ask for a weigh-back and MUST do so before the lamb returns to its pen. The person taking the lamb across the scale will be given an index card with the weight on it and asked if they agree or disagree with the weight shown on the card. If the weight presented on the card is accepted (a YES answer), the weight stands, and the lamb can return to the pen. If the weight presented on the card is not accepted (a NO answer), the lamb returns to the scale and is re-weighed immediately. The second weight stands as the final weight.
8. There will be a minimum 30% weight gain from spring weigh-in to final weigh-in for all market lambs entering the carcass contest or exhibiting at the fair. If a lamb is within 2 pounds of the 30% goal weight, it will not be disqualified from market or carcass class. The consequences for each lamb not meeting the minimum weight gain are:
 - a. The lamb is disqualified from the Carcass Contest.
 - b. The lamb is disqualified from the Market Show and Project Champion Contest.
 - c. The lamb can be shown in Showmanship.
 - d. The lamb will be pen evaluated by the judge to determine feeder status.
 - e. The lamb will sell at the end of the sale order, but will not be marked differently in the program.
 - f. Exhibitor may choose to go home after weigh-in MONDAY NIGHT. If the exhibitor chooses to take the lamb home, it must be removed from the fairgrounds by 10:00p.m. Monday night
 - g. Sheep Committee has the ability to send an animal home if deemed unsuitable for exhibit.
9. Market lambs may be wethers or ewe lambs. Improperly castrated wethers will be disqualified and handled under ODA guidelines
10. Exhibitor must provide food and water to protect the health and welfare of the animal.

MARKET LAMB SHOW

1. Market Lamb classes will be set as soon as possible, following fair weigh-in, by the representatives of the Sheep Committee. Classes will be based on weight and will be as uniform as possible.
2. Market lambs may not show in breeding classes.
3. Lambs must be slick shorn to the top of the knee and the point of the hock within 10 days of show day. Once on the fairgrounds, slick or finish shearing MUST be done by the member, his/her parent or sibling, another Portage County Jr. Fair Sheep Project exhibitor, advisor or Sheep Committee Member.
4. ~~No electrical devices (example; hot shot or cattle prod) will be used on any Jr. Fair sheep project.~~

~~(Fair Board Policy Development Committee, May 2004) (11/2025)~~

- ~~5. The use of ice, ice packs, cold packs, cold compresses, internally or externally is prohibited. (11/2025)~~
6. All market lambs MUST stay in the immediate designated vicinity of the lamb barn and show arena from 12:00am show day until the end of the show. The area will also be posted in the sheep barn. Penalty for breaking the rule will be disqualification from the market lamb show with the lamb selling last in the sale.
7. Procedure for selecting the Top Five Overall Market Lambs: All of the respective class first place lambs enter the ring. All second place lambs are on stand-by. The judge selects the overall Grand Champion Lamb from the first place lambs. Once the overall Grand Champion Lamb is selected, the second place lamb from that class enters the ring for evaluation for overall Reserve Champion. This process continues until the Top Five Overall Lambs are placed.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

1. Exhibitor MUST show their own animal in showmanship unless otherwise approved by the Sheep Committee, prior to the sheep show.
2. If an exhibitor is not eligible to bring their lamb to the fair for any reason they cannot show in showmanship.
3. Showmanship classes are divided by age, as of January 1 of the current year. Classes will be as even as possible with ideally no more than ten participants in each class. Classes are set by the Sheep Committee.
4. Novice: For first year lamb exhibitors of any age. This class is intended to be a learning experience for the novice exhibitor. Novice exhibitors will also compete in their own age groups for placings.
5. Showmanship class winners will move up by one age division allowing participants to win each age division only once, with the exception of the top age group. If a single participant is in a class, they will stay in their age appropriate class the following year.
6. Champion of Champions: Champion of Champions class will consist of all first place class winners of the current year and the ~~two (11/2025)~~ previous year's Champion of Champions Showman. After winning the Champion of Champions title, the showman will remain in the Champion of Champions class, and not complete in their age group for ~~the next two one year, (11/2025)~~ unless they win the title again. **If the previous year's Champion does not repeat as Champion, the following year they will return to their age group. (11/2025)**

PORTAGE COUNTY BORN AND RAISED CLASS

1. Ewe MUST be family owned (member, parents or grandparents) by December 1 of the preceding year of exhibit at the fair.
2. Grandparents or parents providing ewe MUST live in Portage County.
3. ~~This class will recognize a Champion and Reserve Champion Born and Raised animal. (11/2025)~~
Portage County Born & Raised lambs will show in their weight class in a separate division. A Champion and Reserve and 3rd, 4th, and 5th Overall will be selected and will be eligible to show for Final Drive. (11/25)

OUTSTANDING MARKET EXHIBITOR

1. Exhibitors showing two market lambs MUST select the lamb they want to enter in the OME Contest by 12:00 noon on Wednesday of the fair. This lamb will be the lamb utilized for showmanship as well as the lamb utilized to participate within the market class. Failure to designate your lamb for OME Contest according to these guidelines will render the Jr. Fair sheep exhibitor ineligible for the OME Award. Exhibitors with one lamb will all be eligible for OME Contest.
2. There will be two Outstanding Market Exhibitors selected, a Junior (13 and under as of January 1) and a Senior (14 and over as of January 1).
3. Sr. OME and Jr. OME will sell after Reserve Carcass Lamb.
 4. Judge will place 5 places in all classes. Judge will also select 5 places in Show of Showman. Those who receive points in other showmanship classes will not receive any additional points.
5. Tie Breaker: Skillathon will include a set of tie breaker question that will be used to break a tie for Skillathon awards and/or Jr. & Sr. OME. If still tied, OME will be awarded to all tied individuals.

Point System

Skillathon (120) points

Skillathon will be worth 120 points.

Showmanship (80) points

Age Division	1 st place	80 points
	2 nd place	78 points
	3 rd place	75 points
	4 th place	71 points
	5 th place	66 points
	All others	60 points

Market Class (80) points

Weight Classes

1 st place	80 points
2 nd place	78 points
3 rd place	75 points
4 th place	71 points
5 th place	66 points
All others	60 points

LAMB CARCASS CONTEST

1. Carcass class is open to any current Jr. Fair participant showing and selling a market lamb at the Portage County Fair.
2. One entry per participant.
3. The carcass lamb does not have to be designated prior to carcass judging at the fairgrounds.
4. All carcass lambs must be shorn within two (2) weeks of carcass date. Animals are to be brought to the fairgrounds clean and dry.
5. Animal placing will be 100% on carcass evaluation by the designated judge.
6. To be eligible for awards, all carcasses must meet the following minimum standards:
 - a. Have a minimum hot carcass weight of 45 pounds.
 - b. Have at least 0.10 inch of fat cover at the ribeye.
7. Only Grand and Reserve Champion Carcass animals will be sold through the junior fair market livestock auction. The carcass lamb will not sell at the Jr. Fair Auction if the exhibitor has no live market lamb at fair.
8. Carcass champions will be sold after the live champions.
9. Carcass champions will be sold by carcass weight.
10. Buyers will be responsible for processing fees. Participants must provide buyer's name and phone number at carcass final weigh-in.
11. Non-winning carcass lambs are the Jr. Fair exhibitor's responsibility.
12. Jr. Fair exhibitor's participating in the carcass class may be assessed a nominal judging fee at the discretion of the Portage County Jr. Fair Sheep Committee.
13. Once a lamb is loaded on the truck and left the fairgrounds, the harvest cannot be stopped.

BREEDING SHEEP RULES

1. Breeding animals may not show in market classes.
 2. Animals may be purebred or crossbred.
 3. Limit of 2 entries per class.
 4. Classes will be set up Purebred and-Crossbreed at the discretion of the Sheep Committee.
 5. Breeding Classes:
 - Ewe Lamb-under 1 year of age
 - Yearling Ewe- between 1 & 2 years of age
 - Ram Lamb- under 1 year of age
 - Yearling Ram- between 1 & 2 years of age
 6. Champion and Reserve to be selected from top two animals from each class.
 7. A separate Breeding Sheep Showmanship Class will be added if there are three or more exhibitors.
- Breeding sheep are not permitted in Market Lamb Showmanship if there is a Breeding Sheep Showmanship Class.

FAIR BOARD RULES

1. Tag-In and or Weigh-In is mandatory for Market Beef, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Market Swine and Market Small Animals during assigned day, time and location. Exceptions must be approved by Sr. Fair Board Market Livestock Committee.
2. All Jr. Fair Exhibitors in Market projects are expected to exhibit and sell their own animals. Exhibitors must be present to show in their market or showmanship class in order to be eligible to sell. Another Portage County Jr. Fair Exhibitor within the same species may show in the market class or in the sale, but not both. Any Jr. Fair Market Exhibitor that will miss either market show or sale must submit a form to the Sr. Fair Board Market Livestock Committee for review. Sr. Fair Board Market Livestock Committee decision is final. If form is not submitted and the show or sale is missed the exhibitor will be paid market price. The remainder of their market proceed check will be donated to the Jr. Fair Market Livestock Sale Scholarship Fund.