4-H on Parade Sheep Committee and Show Rules - 2026

4-H on Parade Sheep Committee:

1. The 4-H on Parade Sheep Committee will consist of one representative from each participating sheep club. Each club will only have one vote. Decisions regarding these rules or special situations arising at the show or sale will be at the discretion of the Sheep Show Committee, whose decision will be final.

2. The chairperson, co-chair, and secretary position will be rotated among the participating clubs each year at the first 4-H on Parade meeting of the year. The co-chair position will be filled by each club the year previous to them taking the chairperson position. Secretary will be the 3rd club. All participating sheep clubs must take a rotation of these positions. The Chair and Co-Chair position will become effective at the first 4-H on Parade meeting in the fall of the current year.

3. One member of the committee will be selected each year to sit on the 4-H on Parade Multi-Judging Committee, this appointment to take place in January.

4. Signing authority for treasurer will be the Chair and a committee member from the club who will be the next Chair. The 4-H on Parade Sheep Committee bank account is housed at the Alberta Treasury Bank.

5. All animals to be shown at 4-H on Parade must be registered by April 1st and registration forms must be at Regional Office by midnight April 1st. Late registration will result in disqualification. The Club must be in good standing.

6. Refer to the 4-H Alberta Sheep Project Standards
https://4hab.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/4-H-Alberta-Sheep-Standards.pdf

7. All animals will be tagged with a CSIP ear tag. All 4-H projects are to be tagged by April 1st. In the case of a lost tag, the Committee Chairperson must be notified immediately and replacement tag numbers submitted to the Chairperson.

8. Animals (lambs) may only be registered once and under a single project. The only exception is a lamb at foot, which may be used as a market animal for sale and must be declared at the time of 4-H on parade registration. The ewe lamb (mom) **is** registered in the female project and, as a registered female, is not eligible to be sold.

9. 4-H Members may not sell more than one market project at a 4-H public auction per 4-H club year. Regardless of the number of sheep projects entered , a member may sell only one market project at a 4-H public auction per 4-H club year. The project intended for sale (Market lamb or Pen of 3) must be declared at the time of 4-H on Paraderegistration. An exception will be granted to the Grand Champion Market Lamb winner , who may elect to change the project being sold.

10. Market lambs, as well as pens of three lambs, must each weigh a minimum of 85 pounds and display a good body condition score in order to be eligible for sale at 4-H on Parade. Any concerns regarding body condition will be evaluated by the onsite 4-H on Parade veterinarian.

11. For health and safety reasons, the stalling setup must not be altered by any member, leader, parent, or volunteer. If adjustments are required, please bring them forward to the Stampede Committee Liaison or the Sheep Chairperson for review and approval.

12. Participation in 4-H on Parade sales is a club-wide decision. Each club, as a whole, determines whether or not they will sell at the event.

4-H on Parade Sheep Committee Rules:

1. All lambs must be born after December 15th.
2. All classes will have total designation of animals by April 1st. The following classes are available:

   Market Class

   Market Lamb (ewe or wether)

   Pen-of-three (ewes or wethers)

   Breeding Class

   Ewe Lamb – current year, must be registered as a breeding project (which can go on to be shown in breeding and flock classes for three consecutive years).

   Yearling Ewe – open or with lambs-at-foot (must be a registered ewe project for the current year), cannot be used in showmanship classes.

   Mature Ewe – with or without lambs-at-foot (must be a registered ewe project for the current year), cannot be used in showmanship classes.

   Flock class - will consist of the members mature ewe, yearling ewe, and the current year's ewe lamb, and lambs-at-foot.

3. Castration – All ram lambs must be castrated prior to April 1st. Inspection will occur at weigh-in to ensure there are no testicles. Any lamb having belly nuts found will be disqualified and not eligible to use their alternative.
   Lambs-at-foot or trimming lambs may come in as intact rams, as long as they are not cross-entered in the Market Class.

4. Tail Docking- All tails must be docked to an appropriate length to fully cover the vulva in ewes and the equivalent length in rams. In accordance with the National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep - Husbandry Practices 5.7. The exception for tail docking is for the hair sheep breeds (Katahdin, Dorper, etc.) and short tailed breeds (East Friesian, Finn, Icelandic, Karakul, Romanov, Shetland).

5. Weigh-in at 4-H on Parade – All market lambs and pens-of-three must be available for weigh-in at the designated time. All market class lambs have to be weighed dry and be shorn prior to weigh-in.

Ear tags and fibre length will be confirmed and tail lengths inspected. Male animals will be checked for testicles.

- All breeding stock must be presented during the same time period to have their fibre length checked. Breeding stock and lambs at foot will have their ear tags and tail length inspected.
- Animal health will also be inspected at this time and the committee reserves the right to remove any animals from the show that exhibit any health concerns. Any concerns regarding animal health will be evaluated by the onsite 4-H on Parade veterinarian.
- Weigh-in is the final time for inspection or objections.

6. In the case of death, severe injury (i.e. broken leg) or chronic illness of a market or ewe lamb, a member may replace the animal with an alternate lamb tagged and registered from within their club. The 4-H on Parade Sheep Committee Chair must be notified immediately. A veterinary note will be required for all replacements. If the alternate is a member's registered spare, they will be able to advance in any conformation class. If the alternate is registered to another member of their club, they may show but will not be able to advance in a conformation class. Need approval from the 4-H on Parade Sheep Committee.

7. No show products allowed with the exception of washing. All animals only to be: washed, blow dried, carded and sheared/trimmed.
   - First offense, members will receive a written warning and will be required to rewash.
   - Second offense, members will be disqualified from the show.

8. Only 4-H members may prepare all animals for show.

9. Sore mouth – No active sore mouth will be allowed in the barns at 4-H on Parade. This rule also applies to trimming lambs. See rule 6.

10. Fibre length - All market animals must be sheared and have a fibre length less than ¼". All breeding stock must have a fibre length no more than 1" in length. Fibre may be kept long from the knees down and the head may be left unsheared. Fibre will be measured at the scale during check-in and the ruling at that time is binding.

11. All members will be automatically entered and expected to participate in Showmanship Skill Classes. Members must choose and participate in at least one of the following: live lamb judging and/or trimming.

12. Currently registered 4-H sheep project members may enter and participate in Trimming and Live Lamb Judging classes during the 4-H on Parade Sheep Show, without entering or showing a project animal. These members must be registered for the class by the April 1st deadline.

13. Showmanship – Will be judged during the entire show by a separate showmanship judge. A final showmanship class will be held near the end of the show for final placing for the day. Members will compete using either a market or ewe lamb, provided they were registered for 4-H on Parade. If members do not have one of these lamb projects, a lamb may be borrowed from another member.

Juniors and Intermediates may show with halters, Seniors must show without halters. Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors to compete separately.

14. Cleaver Showmanship – Cleavers who are currently registered in a Cleaver sheep project are eligible to participate in the Cleaver showmanship class. Registration will be capped at 40 Cleavers. Participants will borrow either a market lamb or ewe lamb that has been registered to participate at 4-H on Parade from a 4-H Member. Cleavers showmanship class participants must use halters to show their lambs.

15. Trimming – Each club is required to supply for their members who choose to participate, a lamb which has never been washed, trimmed or carded. The lamb must have a minimum weight of at least 65 lbs, to be weighed in. Lambs may be distributed at random and all competitors will be given 45 minutes to trim. Members will compete as teams of 2 or 3. Teams will be chosen by the Sheep Committee.

16. Live Sheep Judging (written/oral): Each member will judge two classes. There will be a 30 minute time limit per class. Juniors, Intermediates and Senior members to be marked separately.

17. Banners/Ribbons – all classes including skill classes will have Grand and Reserve Awards. The top five presented with ribbons, advancement ribbons for 1st and 2nd, placing ribbons for 3rd, 4th, 5th. 1st and 2nd from each class will then advance for Grand and Reserve Champion of that class.

18. **Class sizes:**
Market Lamb: Approximately 10 per class with 1st and 2nd advancing for Grand and Reserve. Junior, Intermediate and Senior members show together. The order of showing is done by weight.
Pen of Three: Approximately 6 per class with the 1st and 2nd advancing for Grand and Reserve. Junior, Intermediate and Senior members show together. The order of showing is done by the weight of the pen.
Breeding Ewe: Ewe lamb class will consist of approximately 10 lambs per class with 1st and 2nd advancing for Grand and Reserve. Classes will be divided by age of ewes.
Yearling class will be shown as one class (open and ewes with lambs-at-foot together) unless there are enough entries for a separate open ewe class. If there are enough entries class size will be approximately 6 per class, unless open is separate then 10 per class.
Mature class will be shown as one class. If there are enough entries class size will be approximately 6 per class.

If required, yearling and mature ewe class will be divided by age of lambs-at-foot with 1st and 2nd advancing for Grand and Reserve Grand and Reserve Breeding Ewe. Junior, Intermediate and Senior members will show together. Lambs-at-foot must not be entered as another member's project.

19. Showmanship: Approximately 10 per class. Juniors (9-11 years), Intermediates (12-14 years) and Seniors (15-20 years) will show separately. The top five presented with ribbons, advancement ribbons for 1st and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th. 1st and 2nd will then advance for Grand and Reserve Order of

show is random draw. All Cleaver Showmanship Class participants will receive a participation ribbon.

20. If a member has a conflict with another species show at 4-H on Parade, that member may have another registered 4-H on Parade member show their sheep project in conformation only. The show number of the member showing the other member's animal must be turned backwards so they will not be judged for showmanship.

21. If a circumstance should arise, other than in rule 20, a plea can be made to the committee.

22. Sheep Sale – The sale will rotate each year by club order. The club that sells first will supply the "Charity lamb" for that year. That club has the choice of the "charity".

23. Female animals may be removed from the barn on Saturday after 8pm , or once the final show has concluded. Prior to removal of females, approval must be provided by the Stampede Committee and/or Sheep Chairperson. Market animals must remain in the barn and may not be removed until after the Sale concludes on Sunday.