4-H Alberta Sheep Project Standards

All 4-H members registered in the sheep project must follow the requirements as set out by 4-H Alberta in consultation with the Provincial 4-H Sheep Advisory Committee.

Project Animal(s)

- Market Lambs may be purchased or home raised.
- Replacement of animal(s) can only be done with the permission of the club or achievement day sale committee or the regional sheep committee. The replacement animal must meet project criteria and must have been registered with the 4-H Club as a 4-H alternate animal.
- 4-H members are expected to provide the major part of the feeding, care, and management for their animals for a minimum of sixty (60) days. *(Check with your 4-H club for clarification, exception and expectations)*
    - In the event a 4-H member has two residences or is not able to complete a major part of feeding, care and management due to means out of their control, the 4-H club will ensure that the "active role" is in realistic proportion to the time spent at that specific residence.
- Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, appearance, except external applications of substance to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
- Horned Breeds allowed as per breed standards.
- Achievement Day event
    - All market lamb projects (regardless of breed) must be slick shorn or trimmed to a maximum of one-quarter inch (¼")
    - 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).
    - Tail Length as a Ewe or Mature Ewe - The member's project can be shown if it was shown as a Ewe Lamb.
- All wool breeding stock (Ewe Lamb, Yearling Ewe and Mature Ewe) must be shown at the Achievement Day event with a fleece one inch or less.
- All hair breeding projects (Ewe Lamb, Yearling Ewe and Mature Ewe) must be shed or shorn at the show committee's discretion at the achievement day event.

Project Identification

- Animals must be identified as the 4-H member's project by:
  - All registered project animals must be identified with a CSIP tag.
  - A bill of sale to or a lease agreement in the name of the 4-H member, unless born property of the member.
  - One or more of the following, as required by the club, district or regional sheep committee: a 4-H tag, 4-H tattoo or electronic identification.

Projects Available

- All projects must be registered with the club by December 1st of the current club year.

Market Sheep Projects

- The market sheep project animals must be born between December 15th and April 30th of the current 4-H year.
- The market sheep project animals must be registered with the club at least sixty(60) days prior to the club's achievement day.
- Market Sheep - live project must be shown at club achievement day in order to be marketed by a 4-H public auction.

Market Lamb

- The market sheep project animals must be born between December 15th and April 30th of the current 4-H year.
- Each member is to select and care for only one lamb from weigh in (purchase) to market age.
- Market Lamb may be either a wether or a ewe.
- Members may select one alternate lamb, which would be used as an alternate at the show committee's discretion.
- Ideally a market lamb should be 90 lbs to sell at a 4-H public auction. The decision on the sale of animals is at the discretion of the 4-H Show Committee.

Pen of Three

- The market sheep project animals must be born between December 15th and April 30th of the current 4-H year.
- Each member is to select and care for one set of three (3) lambs from weigh in(purchase) to market age.
- Lambs may consist of wethers and ewes.
- Members may select an alternate lamb, which would be used as an alternate at the show committee's discretion.
- Ideally the Pen of 3 lambs should be 90 lbs to sell at a 4-H public auction. The decision on the sale of animals is at the discretion of the 4-H Show Committee.

- **Carcass**
  - The Carcass project must be born between Dec 15th and April 30th of the current 4-H year.
  - Each member is to select and care for a lamb (wether or ewe) to be raised for slaughter and carcass evaluation and sale, usually through private means.

Sheep Breeding Projects

- **Ewe Lamb**
  - The Ewe Lamb project must be born between Dec 15th and April 30th of the current 4-H year.
  - The member selects their project animal after birth or purchase and raises it until the Achievement Day event.
  - This animal cannot be sold at the 4-H public auction and should continue on for two (2) years in the Breeding Ewe Program.

- **Yearling Ewe**
  - The yearling ewe must have been registered to the member and shown as a Ewe Lamb in the previous 4-H achievement day event..
  - Yearling ewe can be shown with or without lambs(natural offspring) at foot at the achievement day event.
  - This ewe and lambs at foot(natural offspring) cannot be sold at a 4-H public auction and should continue on in the Breeding Ewe Program as a mature ewe. The exception would be that the lamb(s) can be used as the member's market project.

- **Mature Ewe**
  - The mature ewe must have been registered to the member as a Yearling Ewe project and shown in the previous 4-H achievement day event..
  - The mature ewe can be shown with or without lambs at foot(natural offspring) at the achievement day event.
  - This ewe and lambs cannot be sold at a 4-H Public Auction. The exception would be that the lamb(s) can be used as the member's market project.

- **Flock**
  - The animals in the Flock project would include the Ewe Lamb, Yearling Ewe and Mature Ewe projects, with or without natural offspring at side.
  - The Flock cannot be sold at a 4-H public auction. The exception would be those lambs that have been registered as the member's market project.

- **Sheep Creative Options**
  - The Sheep Creative Options project must be above and beyond the traditional project, and should focus on exploration or non-traditional sheep research type of project that is agreed upon by the member's club and leader. Record book must be completed for this project.
  - Any project that is registered in Creative Options that involves sheep is ineligible to compete against any registered sheep project(identified above) under the sheep projects.
  - Any project that is registered in Creative Options that involves sheep cannot be sold at a 4-H public auction as a sheep project at an Achievement Event, but can be marketed through private treaty sale.

- **Green Certificate**
  - Sheep Production Technician.

4-H Sales

- 4-H Members may not sell more than one market project at a 4-H public auction per 4-H club year. These projects would typically be:
  - A single (1) market lamb - live animal; or
  - A single (3) pen of three - live animal; or
  - A single (1) market lamb - carcass animal.
- Members may sell additional sheep projects through private means.
- Regardless of the number of sheep projects participated in, a member may sell **one** sheep project at a 4-H public auction per 4-H club year.

4-H Achievement Day Shows:

4-H Achievement Day is a day of learning, engagement and having fun exhibiting the members' projects.

- Any 4-H member can assist another 4-H member on Achievement day.
- Regardless of the level of show, registered 4-H project animal(s) must be shown only by the registered 4-H member in good standing, ages nine (9) to twenty (20) (as of December 31st of the current club year).
  - If a 4-H member is unable to show their sheep project animal, (due to medical, family emergency, or other reason that the show committee deems acceptable) another registered 4-H member will be allowed to show the project animal:
    - The project animal will be eligible for all conformation classes.
    - The project animal will be eligible for rate of gain classes.
    - The project animal and its showman will not be eligible for showmanship, grooming and other skill classes.
  - Priority for proxy showing will be club members first, followed by district members, and then regional members.
- Power generators or other power sources are allowed on Achievement day.
- Sheep fitting products include grooming tools, adhesives, hair care liquids and show day equipment designed to style and enhance an animal's hair and structure for livestock shows are allowed.
- Show Equipment including fans can be used on Achievement Day.

Core Welfare and Handling Standards

- **Humane Treatment:** Causing unnecessary pain, distress, or willful neglect is illegal under animal welfare statutes and the Criminal Code of Canada. [1]
- **National Guidelines:** Exhibitors must follow science-based guidelines such as the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep to ensure proper nutrition, shelter, and handling. [1, 2]
- **Daily Husbandry:** Animals require access to clean, cool water at all times, clean bedding, and protection from extreme heat using proper ventilation or cooling rooms.

Events Beyond Local Achievement Day

- 4-H project animal(s) must be shown at the local level achievement day event to be eligible to be shown at district, regional and provincial events. Clubs that have their local achievement day event after the 4-H Alberta Sheep Show; the member must be able to present an up to date record book, letter of "Good Standing" from the club leader or designate and inform the show committee of the timing of the Achievement Day event.
- In the event a project animal(s) is sick or injured at the local level achievement day event, a veterinarian certificate is required for the animal to be shown at district, regional and provincial events.

Medications and Feed Additive Withdrawal Times

- Drugs and some feed additives have withdrawal periods listed on their labels according to the dosage given. It is the legal responsibility of the owner of the animal, to be sold for slaughter, to insure that the withdrawal period has passed. If the withdrawal period(s) has/have not passed at the time of sale, it is the responsibility of the member to tell the 4-H sale committee and the responsibility of the sale committee to communicate this to the potential buyers. Animals that show drug residues at time of slaughter are condemned. It is the responsibility of the owner to compensate the buyer.

4-H Event Safety

- Safety is and will continue to be a priority at any level of achievement.
- It is strongly recommended that members wear appropriate safety gear. For example, leather boots when working with and showing project animals.
- Event organizers have the authority to remove dangerous or unsafe project animals from 4-H classes or events.
- Members are required to abide by 4-H Alberta Code of Conduct.
- All members attending a 4-H achievement day or other project event must have a designated responsible adult present at the event.

Local or Interclub Project Regulations

- In addition to these basic provincial minimum requirements, there may be additional regulations from the local or interclub project committees. It is your responsibility to know these rules and regulations.

Regulation Violation Consequences:

Anyone violating any of the above requirements will not be able to participate at any 4-H event relating to that project area, during the remainder of the project year.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a member is unable to finish a 4-H project in the traditionally accepted manner, the "club, district, regional committee, and or club leadership along with the 4-H member" need to consider and explore alternate methods that support a successful completion of the member's project. 4-H Alberta provides a safe, fun and inclusive environment for our members that is supported by caring adults who recognize that, in trying times, 4-H can also be flexible and accommodating to best serve our positive youth development focus.