

## 2026 LAMB PROJECT

### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Species.Contact

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Important Dates		Important Info	
Registration	June 25, 2026	Minimum Weight @ Fair	100 lbs.
Birth Date	On or After January 1, 2026		
Possession	April 1	Record Book Required for Market Youth ONLY	Saturday of Fair
Tagging	Weigh-In Day of Fair	Thank You Note Required for Market Youth ONLY	Saturday of Fair

*Participating 4-H youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Manistee County 4-H Livestock Council's Policies & Procedures books. This includes, but is not limited to, the Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, record book and thank you letter requirements, etc.*

#### **Registration Requirements**

- ❖ To participate in a 4-H Market Lamb project, youth must be 4-H age eight (8) or older by January 1 of the calendar year AND completed the one year of Showmanship Only to be eligible for market.. **Cloverbud years DO count towards this requirement.**
- ❖ All 4-H Lamb Participants (Market, Show Only and Cloverbuds) MUST complete project registration with the Manistee 4-H Livestock Council by June 25 each year.
- ❖ Only one (1) Lamb per member per year may be sold. Must be wether (castrated male) or ewe (female).
- ❖ To participate in the 4-H Livestock shows and auction at the fair, youth must follow all registration requirements set forth by the Manistee 4-H Livestock Council.
- ❖ To participate in the 4-H Livestock Auction at the fair, youth must register and compete in the appropriate showmanship AND market classes.

#### **Cloverbuds**

- ❖ 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year)
- ❖ Cloverbuds have their own showmanship class. It will be held on the same day as the other lamb showmanship classes, and they will go last.
- ❖ Cloverbuds may bring their own lamb to the fair OR they may choose to showsomeone else's lamb
- ❖ Cloverbuds are not allowed to market their lambs or enter breed classes.
- ❖ A parent, leader, or other adult must always be present when the Cloverbud is working with their lamb, including in the show ring.

Cloverbuds are encouraged to complete and turn in the Cloverbud 4-H Record Book for their project for knowledge and experience.

## Animal Requirements

- ❖ All lambs MUST have a USDA Scrapies tag in their ear before they leave the farm on which they were born.
- ❖ Lambs must be born after January 1st so that they are about seven (7) months of age by fair time.
- ❖ Lambs should be in possession or under the care of the 4-H member on or before April 1st.
- ❖ Lambs can be a wether (castrated male) or ewe (female).
- ❖ All lambs must receive an overeating shot and be dewormed:
  - These are often given by the breeder before the lamb is sold.
  - Be sure to get the medication information from the breeder for the Lamb Health Record.
  - A second dose of dewormer should be given prior to fair if needed.
  - Be sure to read the label and note the withdrawal time to ensure that the lamb is clear for market at the fair.
  - Proof of vaccination is required when unloading at the fair.
- ❖ Lambs should be sheared as close to fair as possible.
- ❖ The minimum weight for a market lamb is 100 pounds.

## Fair Week Requirements:

### 1. General Requirements:

- Weigh-in takes place on Monday of Fair Week
- Youth must be present or must have made prior arrangements with the species chair for someone else to weigh their animal.
- Protective boots or leather shoes are highly recommended when working with your lamb.
- Youth are responsible for keeping their pens clean all week.
- A Lamb Health Record must be filled out, signed, and presented to the 4-H Livestock Council to unload at the fair.
- If space allows, feed, feed bags, or supplies may be left in the barn in a Club supply stall. If space DOES NOT allow, everything must be stored at the campsite.

### 2. Animal Care Requirements:

- Youth are responsible for providing enough grain and hay to care for their lamb throughout the entire week.
- Youth are responsible for feeding, watering, cleaning, and caring for their animal the entire week.
- Water shall always remain full and fresh.
- **Animals shall be treated humanely at all times. Any reports of unethical, inhumane, and/or abusive treatment or actions that cause distress and/or suffering to an animal will be evaluated immediately by a group consisting of at least one (1) 4-H Staff person and at least three (3) Livestock Council Members, with the possible inclusion of a Fair Board member, depending on the circumstances, and may lead to disqualification and removal from all 4-H and Open Livestock Shows held at the Fair.**

### 3. Show Day Policies:

- All members intending to sell an animal must also show that animal.
- To participate in any 4-H Market Class, a member must have first completed a year of 4-H “Showmanship Only” – that is, showing any species without selling it. Once that initial requirement is fulfilled, the member may market in any other year in their 4-H career. Any year of participation in official Cloverbud Showmanship events also counts towards this requirement.
- All show apparel must be clean, properly fitted and free of design and advertisements. Clothing with Club names or personal names cannot be worn while showing.
- **Show Attire:** Members participating in lambs **must** wear a button-down, long-sleeved shirt with black or dark denim pants. A tie completes the outfit. Boots or good solid shoes may be worn.

### 4. Fair End Responsibilities:

- Completely clean and scrape down pens.
- Bars and the pen dividers need to be scrubbed and wiped down.

### After Fair Requirements:

- ❖ All market Lamb participants must turn in a completed 4-H record **book by the Saturday of Fair Week**. Electronic copies of a record book **will not** be accepted.
- ❖ A Thank You and 8x10 Auction photo must be given to your buyer. **Physical or photographic evidence of a Thank You Note having been sent to your buyer must be provided to the Livestock Council by the Saturday of Fair Week.**
- ❖ Notes that are physically submitted must be properly and correctly addressed to the appropriate buyer and bear sufficient postage. ENVELOPES MUST REMAIN UNSEALED and turned into the secure box on the Fairgrounds.
- ❖ Failure to submit a record book and/or thank you note will result in the member’s participation status for the following Fair year to be suspended. If a record book and/or thank you note is not received by the November Livestock Council Meeting, the 4-H member will forfeit their participation in 4-H Livestock Show & Market for the following Fair year.

### Important Information & Tips for a Successful Lamb Project

#### Cost:

- Most lambs will cost between \$225 and \$450
- Average cost of feed:
  - ✓ Grain: 350-450lbs @ \$15/50lbs
  - ✓ Alfalfa Pellets: 100lbs @ \$10/50lbs OR Hay: 4-5 bales @ \$10.00ea
  - ✓ Dewormer: \$5.00
  - ✓ Shearing: \$15.00
  - ✓ Other Necessary Items: Lead Rope, Feed Dish, Water Bucket, Lamb Blanket
- NEVER give a lamb feed that contains copper as copper is deadly to lambs. **Goat feed contains copper.**

- Do NOT use any kind of bleach on your lamb when washing or any other time as bleach will burn the lamb's skin
- To prevent foot rot, keep your lamb in a dry area. If you suspect foot rot, contact your Species Chair immediately as foot rot is highly contagious

## **TIPS**

- ❖ ASK QUESTIONS!!! If you have questions or need help, contact the lamb species chair for answers or resources
- ❖ Lamb Selection:
  - ✓ Structure– Look for sturdy legs, sound hooves, a straight back, a wide and long loin, and the back leg should look full and meaty
  - ✓ Health– No loose stools, no runny eyes or nose. Free of cough and walk without any noticeable stiffness. Ears should not be droopy.
  - ✓ Weight– To achieve the ideal weight at fair time, the lamb should weigh 45-50 pounds at time of purchase
- ❖ Bringing the Lamb Home:
  - ✓ Prepare– Have a clean pen with shelter and shade, clean water and feed dishes.
  - ✓ Feed– Know what the lamb has been fed by the breeder. A sudden change in feed can make the lamb sick.
  - ✓ Bonding– The lamb will likely cry quite a bit for the first few days. Sit in the pen and make friends with the lamb. The lamb will begin relying on you for all its needs including attention.
- ❖ Training/Working with the Lamb:
  - ✓ Remain calm and keep your voice down
  - ✓ Be patient while halter training the lamb. Never pull hard on the halter; a gentle touch near its tail will usually get it to walk
  - ✓ After mastering the halter, begin working on showmanship including setting up the lamb and guiding it without a halter
- ❖ Feeding Your Lamb:
  - ✓ Grain- Grain should be given twice a day. Give them a pound in the morning and a pound at night or whatever they can eat in 15 minutes. Whichever is greater. If they are gaining too slowly, give them more grain. If they are gaining too much, cut them back.
  - ✓ Hay– Lamb should get about 1 pound of hay in the morning and night.
- ❖ Exercise/Muscle Building:
  - ✓ While feeding, elevate the lamb's grain dish so that the lamb must stand and stretch to eat
  - ✓ Build Muscles By: Walking up hills, running in sand, and installing jumps in lamb pen area.
- ❖ Hot Weather:
  - Lambs tend to lose their appetite when hot, try to keep them cool.
  - If the temperature is above 90 degrees, cool the lamb down with a bath. Be sure to dry them off well.
  - Flies tend to get worse as the heat goes up– Use Avon's Skin So Soft on the fleshy non-wool parts of the lamb.

- Exercise early in the morning or late in the evening when the temperatures are lowest.
- ❖ Get Ready for Fair:
  - ✓ Be sure to give your lamb a good bath before arriving at the fair
    - Wash well including the knees, belly, and armpits
    - Trim the hooves
    - Clean the ears (including the ear tags)– Baby oil and cotton swabs are the best way to get the ears clean
  - ✓ Gather the necessary tools and supplies:
    - Feed dish and water bucket
    - Tack Box to keep items in
    - Bathing supplies
    - Lamb Blanket– To keep lamb clean between bath and show time

#### Record Keeping:

Use a calendar to track:

- ✓ Purchases (feed, tack, medication, etc.)
- ✓ Amount of grain fed
- ✓ Weight gain
- ✓ Deworming