Sheep Clipping Competition Checklist

Before the Competition:

Note: At the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, the draw for animals takes place on Friday evening. The members can work with their assigned animals but no clipping may take place. The judge does not have to be present for the draw.

1. Form a committee of 4-6 people who can be present for the duration of the competition.
2. By July 31st, send a request to the planning committee for the current 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show (info@4hnovascotia.ca) requesting the following:
    a. A space for storing feed and bedding
    b. Adequate power source and lighting
    c. A list of producers who may supply a spare animal (if you do not plan to bring one)
    d. A table for supplies
3. Arrange for a judge who is knowledgeable with clipping, conformation and showmanship. They should be able to give helpful suggestions in the concluding segment of the event. Provide them with a copy of the rules of the competition, time, date and place of competition. Suggestions for judges - past 4-H members, leaders, farmers, etc. The judge can either be paid by county council or you may give them a gift. Meals for the judge, if necessary, are also up to the county.
4. New for 2026: Source enough animals of uniform animal size, handling experience, wool type, wool length, and/or condition of the sheep's cleanliness for each team in the competition (plus a spare). We recommend having the animals come from a farm local to the grounds, if possible, or from your home county. Your Regional Program Coordinator can provide you with a list of team numbers at least one week prior to the competition, but should be able to provide an estimated number at the beginning of September. The 4-H NS Sheep Committee will help as needed.
5. Ensure you have bedding for the animals. You must provide it; however, the members look after their animals as it's part of their score.
6. The organizing committee will provide a space and pens for the sheep to be housed. It varies from show location, but sometimes there is a designated area for the clipping animals to be tied, not in county displays. Be sure to check with your Regional Program Coordinator to ensure you are aware of what is planned for the current year.
7. Prepare duplicate (1 for each team member) back numbers for competitors. You would assign each team a number and record it on their score sheet in place of their name
8. Bring paper and tags/numbers to enable the draw for the sheep to take place on Friday evening and ensure you have a person present to make the draw happen.
9. At 4-H NS Provincial Show, 4-H Nova Scotia organizes and provides prizes for this competition.

Supplies provided by the organizing county:

- The organizing county must provide a sheep for each team competing, as well as an extra sheep in case one of the sheep drawn has to be disqualified due to sickness or injury.
- Score sheets and report cards for each team
- Provide bedding for the animals. The members are responsible to look after their own.
- Back numbers for competitors
- Pens and pencils
- Materials to make the draw on Friday evening

Day of the Draw:

1. Coordinate the arrival of the sheep.
2. Ensure that one of your committee members is present to make sure the draw takes place.
3. Bring tags or numbers for members to draw an animal.
4. Record each team's animal.

Day of the Competition:

1. Arrive at the competition area at least 30 minutes before the competition begins. Have the sheep in the designated area.
2. Have at least three people on your committee to supervise the competition. They should know the rules and be available to assist the judge.
    - One person to ensure there is supervision of the competition.
    - One person to ensure the draw is done.
    - One person to "go-for" for the running in case of problems, questions, etc.
3. Collect tables and other supplies provided for you
4. Collect the clerking envelope with the result sheet from the show office
5. Be sure the judge is present 15 minutes before the competition to review the rules and expectations of the judge. Remind them that they can ask both participants oral questions if more information or clarification of the written report is needed. They are not required to be present for the draw.
6. Check off county teams and give them their report cards, back numbers, and rules.
7. Organizers of the competition must ensure that no animals have any signs of illness, or contagious diseases, that they meet the requirements of the competition, i.e. required age range, no horns, hair growth, etc., and do not pose a safety concern.
8. Ensure all sheep are fed, watered and cleaned out while at the show. Members are responsible for their own as part of their score. If there are extra, ensure a committee person is responsible for that one.
9. Assist the judge with totaling scores.
10. Record results on clerking sheets and get to the show office as soon as possible. At 4-H NS Pro Show, do NOT announce results as these are officially announced Sunday morning.
11. Clean up the competition area and ensure the members have cleaned out their stall area after the animals are removed from the area.
12. New for 2026: at the end of the competition, care of the animals returns to you, the committee. Animals may also be removed from the grounds after showmanship on Saturday, or wait until Sunday. If leaving Saturday, coordinate with 4-H staff to move trailers safely through the grounds.

After the Competition:

1. Write a letter to the judge thanking them for their services.
2. Write to all who donated supplies, thanking them for their donation.
3. Record recommendations for another year, including any problems encountered and forward this to your Regional Program Coordinator.