Sheep
4-H Project Newsletter

CANADA
4-H Nova Scotia

This Sheep Project Newsletter contains information specific to the Sheep Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Leadership Forum.

Welcome to the 4-H Sheep Project! Why not plan to make this your best year in 4-H by setting some goals and planning new ideas for your projects. This newsletter is designed to answer any questions you may have about the project and outline the rules set out by the provincial council. All questions can be asked to your sheep leader or call your Regional Program Coordinator (RPC).

CSIP Tags

4-H Sheep members are reminded that all 4-H sheep must be identified in accordance with the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP). All sheep and lambs must bear an approved CSIP ear tag before they leave their farm of origin and any subsequent premises. For more information, research the Canadian Sheep Federation's website at http://www.cansheep.ca.

Sheep Project Work Requirements

Showmanship is the project work requirement for the Sheep Project. On Achievement Day, Sheep members must complete showmanship with their own 4-H registered sheep to complete the project work requirement. The dress code for all sheep showmanship and conformation classes is white or black pants and a white shirt. Hard-soled boots are encouraged for members' safety, and a tie is optional. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor ring.

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by **May 1st** of the current 4-H year and must submit livestock registration information to 4-H Nova Scotia by **May 15th** of the current 4-H year. **Livestock Registration will only be accepted through the online Livestock Registration Form; if you need assistance with this form, please contact your RPC directly.** Information in this form is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional Program Coordinator (RPC) is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions in animals are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Conformation Classes

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, classes will be held at County Days, Exhibitions and 4-H Show. **Members can only exhibit one sheep per year.**

Class 32: Sheep

Section 1	Ewe Lamb Suffolk	**Section 4**	Ewe Lamb Crossbred
Section 2	Ewe Lamb Dorset	**Section 5**	Ewe Lamb Other
Section 3	Ewe Lamb North Country Cheviot	**Section 6**	Ram Lamb

Sheep Age: the 4-H Sheep Project follows the open show standard on age
- "1st pair of temporary incisors in place."

There is **no conformation class for wethers** (castrated male); however, a wether sheep can be shown in showmanship classes at the club, county, and provincial level. Please note that wethers can be used in the market lamb project; however, keep in mind that market projects cannot be shown in showmanship classes. Therefore, the only reason a wether would be shown in a showmanship class, is if a member only wanted to participate in showmanship, and not conformation.

Other Rules:

- The Horned Dorset and Scottish Blackface breeds of sheep are permitted with horns in any 4-H sheep competition. **These are the only breeds permitted to have horns**.
- In Sheep showmanship classes, a collar is not used, except in the Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship Class at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, where the **collar is to be used for safety reasons**. Therefore, it is suggested during the Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship Class to use the collar as discreetly as possible.
- The following are the requirements for **fleece length**:
  - Long wool breeds (e.g., Leicester) will be shown in full fleece.
  - Short wool breeds will be shown with 2.5 cm (1 inch) of fleece.
  - Market lambs (all breeds) are to be slick shorn.

James Allan Memorial Award

Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events. These standards can be found at: http://www.nfacc.ca/

The James Allan Memorial Award is to be given each year at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show to the top 4-H lamb born and raised on the home sheep farm. The 4-H member showing the animal must live on the family's home sheep farm. All animals that qualify for Pro Show through either showmanship or conformation will be eligible for this class if the lamb was born and raised on the home sheep farm. Members who buy or borrow lambs from another farm are not eligible. The purpose of this award is to demonstrate the importance of good breeding stock to produce good lambs, to help develop good selection skills and how to build a quality sheep flock through effective breeding practices.

Sheep Clipping Competition

The Sheep Clipping Competition is open to a team of two 4-H sheep members. This competition is open to both junior and senior members. Teams will be evaluated on the following: Report Card, Clipping and Showmanship. This competition is hosted at County Shows/Exhibitions and members may advance to 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Pre-registration is required; to register please talk to your General or

Project Leader. If you are looking for more information, please contact your General Leader or RPC and they would be happy to provide you with the competition guidelines.

Second Year Sheep Project

This is last year's ewe or ram. Therefore, you must be in your second year of sheep to take this project. A second-year project is separate from the lamb class and must have a separate record sheet.

Note: There will not be a class for second-year projects at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, but a member can still do this project on a club and county basis.

Note: Members in 2nd year projects must also take the Sheep project with a lamb.

Market Lamb Project

There is a special 4-H newsletter for the Market Lamb Project. This project is for those members who have completed at least two (2) years in the sheep project. Members who wish to take this project are responsible for raising a lamb to market weight, finding potential buyers for their lamb and selling it at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. This is a great project for experienced sheep members, and a great chance to learn how to raise and market a lamb. The deadline for applications to be submitted to the 4-H Office is June 30th of the current 4-H year. Market Lamb members are scored the same way as a sheep member at Achievement Day (record sheet, showmanship, and your club contribution and/or judging and/or communications). Members judge the same animals as those in the sheep project. Market lambs may be either ewe lambs, wethers or rams. (Resolution accepted and passed at the 2025 Leaders Forum, rams are now accepted in the Market Lamb Project). Market lambs will be in the 80 lbs (36.5 kgs) to 120 lbs (54.5 kgs) range for the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. This range being the standard size to produce cuts of lamb that abattoirs, markets, and consumers are looking for. Lambs not in this range will be examined by the Committee and deemed ok for the show/sale or will be asked to withdraw. Lambs deemed acceptable that exceed 120 lbs (54.5 kg) will be sold for and the members will be paid for only 120 lbs (54.5 kgs).

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

In 2026, for the first time, 4-H Nova Scotia hopes to send up to seven Sheep Members to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Junior Sheep Show in November. To be eligible, members must:

- be senior members and have completed at least one (1) year of the sheep project and currently registered in the project.
- be in good standing with 4-H NS and participate in fundraising efforts between registration and Provincial Show.
- pre-register with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (see Royal Sheep Package for more information). Information on this registration must match your 4-H livestock registration information. Project animals may not be switched once completed.
    - As per the Royal's Sheep Show Rules: project animals must be an EWE lamb, purebred or commercial, born AFTER January 1st of the same year, have a proper CSIP tag (matching registration and animal shown), and follow CSBA tail length requirements.
- qualify for Provincial Show from county competition.

Selection will be made from the showmanship class, conformation classes, and the James Allan Memorial Award Class. For more details on the 2026 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair NS Sheep Team, see the Royal Sheep Package on the 4-H NS Sheep Project website.

**For this first year, this info packet will be updated as information comes in.

***Sending this team in 2026 depends entirely on being able to fundraise the required amount.

Contagious/Infectious Disease & Quarantine

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H Achievement Days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease, regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Brochures, "Skin Infections of Particular Concern to 4-H Calves: Ringworm, Warts and Lice" and "Fact Sheet: Animal Health and Safety Best Practices" are available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

Animal Movement Reporting

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for regulations regarding the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. For Sheep:

- Animal must be tagged with approved indicator prior to leaving farm of origin.
- There are no movement requirements to responsible administrators for sheep at this time, however there is an option to do so voluntarily on CLTS (Canadian Livestock Tracking System).
- Owner of ovine 18 months and over, that are being removed from a site, shall keep a record of
    - Tag Identification number
    - Date of removal
    - Reason for removal
    - Name and address of person who has possession/care/control of animal
- These records should be kept for 5 years.

How can members help the producer meet these requirements?

- Communicate with your animal owner when the animal is being moved between premises and the PID of those locations.
- If an animal loses a tag, advise the owner immediately so a replacement tag can be ordered. Animals may not be transported without the approved tag.

Movement Document – Individuals transporting animals are required to keep a transport manifest. This manifest must include:

- Name of Driver
- License plate of vehicle
- Date/Time the animal was picked up/dropped off
- The premise ID of departure site and destination
- When the animal(s) last received feed, water and rest.
- Identification numbers for each animal

Professional drivers may have their own transportation manifest available. 4-H Nova Scotia has a developed 4-H Livestock Traceability & Transfer of Care Information Sheet LIVESTOCK-TRACEABILITY-FORM-2024-PDF-fillable.pdf (4hnovascotia.ca) for use by 4-H participants.

Livestock Insurance

4-H Insurance does not cover project animals. Insurance coverage for animal liability, injury or death is the animal owner's responsibility.

Activity Involving Animals	
Involving Animals refers to activities in which members are working directly with animals or in a location with animals. (Examples: Livestock members training, fitting and showing, clubs hosting livestock shows or petting farms, groups visiting fairs, farm tours.)	**High-risk Activity** The nature of the activity or the presence of hazards pose a foreseeable risk of harm, illness, or injury to participants.
Risk Management Strategies Safety information and recommendations contained in this safety checklist are believed to reflect best practice to reduce risk. The suggested risk management strategies are considered minimum standards for livestock handling.	
Training and Preparation ☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of potential risks involved in the activity, as well as the safety rules and procedures. ☐ Instruction on safety precautions is received from a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of demonstrating the skills and safety precautions. ☐ Animal behavior and handling techniques are reviewed by a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of explaining animal behavior and handling techniques. ☐ All sessions are conducted in a safe environment. ☐ Safety rules and procedures are learned prior to participation. ☐ Skills/movements are learned in proper progression. ☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of the equipment/clothing required for the activity. ☐ Emergency contact and medical information for all participants will be on hand throughout the event, as well as dedicated phones for emergencies. ☐ A first aid kit will be available.	
Supervision ☐ Adheres to Youth Safety Supervision Policy, Rule of Two and Supervision Ratios. ☐ Safety rules and procedures are enforced throughout the activity. ☐ Emergency action plan is in place to deal with accidents/injuries.	
Facility ☐ Respect biosecurity protocols of the facility. ☐ Ensure activity area is free of hazards/debris. ☐ Proper lighting and ventilation, when applicable. ☐ Safety rules/regulations are posted/reviewed prior to the activity. ☐ Indoor facility has a clearly marked emergency exit. ☐ Animals should be worked with in an enclosed space, with proper safety exits, such as an arena or pen to prevent animals from getting loose. ☐ When in a public venue, use gates and signage to separate the public traffic flow from animal movement. ☐ When in a public venue have signage regarding handwashing and touching animals. ☐ Animals should be safely and securely tied or caged when not being handled according to animal welfare standards to keep animals and people safe. ☐ Animals should have access to food and water according to animal welfare standards. ☐ Handwashing stations to be available for members and the public after handling animals.	
Animals ❑ Ensure animals are healthy and suitable for use in the activity.	

- ❑ Where applicable, follow all animal transportation regulations.
- ❑ Where applicable, ensure animals are tagged properly.
- ❑ Where applicable follow quarantine recommendations after an event.
- ❑ Ensure animal owners are aware of their responsibility to have insurance coverage for their animals, 4-H Canada holds no insurance coverage for animals.

Equipment

- ☐ Equipment to be used is suitable and in good condition.
- ☐ Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized following best practices.
- ☐ Equipment is checked by a qualified person before every session.
- ☐ Halters and collars to be properly fitted to ensure good control and animal comfort.
- ☐ Instructions are given regarding the proper use and maintenance of equipment.
- ☐ Leaders check to ensure that each youth has the required materials prior to participation.
- ☐ Leaders ensure that there is a First aid kit and a designated emergency phone are available

Clothing/Footwear

- ☐ Appropriate and properly fitted footwear is worn. For example, steel toed boots are recommended for large livestock.
- ☐ Appropriate clothing is worn. For example: Helmets are recommended for horseback riding.

Inclusion

- ☐ The activity is suitable to all participating youth member's age, ability, mental condition, and physical condition.