

Market Lamb

4-H Project Newsletter

This newsletter will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made to the project at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in November.

Welcome to the 4-H Market Lamb Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Market Lamb Project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project, and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Market Lamb project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

The Market Lamb Project was developed to educate the 4-H member about raising, fitting, showing and the sale of their animal, and to promote 4-H through a 4-H Lamb Sale at the 4-H NS Provincial Show.

The Market Lamb Project is where you, the member, present a high quality finished product for sale. It is your responsibility to search for buyers, to promote your product and to explain to potential buyers why it would be beneficial to purchase your animal! Do not limit your search to local grocers or abattoirs, but approach local businesses and individuals, as well. The major difference in sale price from one animal to another is the promotion and personal contact that the 4-H member did prior to the sale. 4-H members who put forth the effort often reap the benefits of dollars in the end!

At a later date, you will be provided with an invitation flyer to give to prospective buyers and encourage them to attend. If you need additional flyers or if you decide NOT to take your lamb to the 4-H NS Provincial Show, or if there has been a change to the registered tag number you must report it to the 4-H Nova Scotia office at 902-843-3980 or email: carolyn@4hnovascotia.ca

WHO CAN REGISTER?

Any member who has successfully completed two years or more in the Sheep Project may register in the Market Lamb Project.

Members in the Market Lamb Project must also complete the 4-H Sheep Project for the current 4-H year to compete at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. Also, members must show their own registered 4-H animals at Achievement Day to qualify for county exhibitions and 4-H NS Provincial Show in the current 4-H year.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Members need to register in the Market Lamb Project with their club and complete the attached application and send it to 4-H Nova Scotia by June 30th of the current year to the address as noted on the application form. Remember, the 4-H Nova Scotia Market Steer, Lamb, Turkey and Goat Committee is very strict on this deadline and it is your responsibility to follow up to make sure your application has been received by the deadline.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY REQUIREMENTS

The project work requirement for the Market Lamb Project is a showmanship class. The Market Lamb Project is a separate project from the Sheep Project. 4-H members must show their own market lamb at Achievement Day to complete the project. You then have the option of going on to the 4-H Nova Scotia Show 'N' Sale, if your animal is of show and sale quality (and you have filled all the requirements for project completion). Please remember that market animals may not be used in regular showmanship classes.

The dress code for Market Lamb is a white shirt and black or white pants. Hard-soled boots are encouraged. A tie is optional. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor area.

Your record sheet should be started when the lamb was born or purchased in the spring.

Please note, members in the Market Lamb Project judge the same four animals as the Sheep Project.

CONFORMATION

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, Market Steer / Lamb / Turkey / Goat classes at 4-H NS Provincial Show will be judged on conformation.

SPECIFIC MARKET LAMB RULES

4-H Sheep and Market Lamb members are reminded that all 4-H sheep and lambs 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, Contact the Canadian Sheep Federation 1-888-684-7739 or check their website at <http://www.cansheep.ca>

- Members must have completed two years in the Sheep Project to be eligible for the Market Lamb Project
- All male lambs participating must be properly castrated with no cords or testicles evident.
- Horned Dorset and Scottish Blackface breeds of sheep with horns are permitted in any 4-H sheep competition (including market lamb).
- Lambs need not be purebred.
- All Market Lambs are to be slick shorn.
- Market lambs will be in the 80 lbs. (36.5 Kgs) to 120 lbs. (54.5 Kgs) range for the 4-H NS

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 Market Committee and will be deemed acceptable for the show/sale or will be asked to withdraw. Lambs exceeding 120 lbs. (54.5 Kgs), which have been approved by the Market Committee for the auction and sale, will be sold for the maximum weight of 120 lbs. with 4-H members only being paid for the same 120 lbs. (54.5 Kgs).

- There is no weight restriction at the county level for lambs.

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/>

4-H NOVA SCOTIA MARKET COMMITTEE

This Committee will be named by 4-H Nova Scotia. The members of the Committee are responsible for the Market Steer, Lamb, Turkey and Goat Show 'N' Sale at the 4-H NS Provincial Show. They will deal with obtaining judges, auctioneers, publicity, ribbons, buyers and enforcing the regulations. The Committee will also determine the number of market animals participating at the 4-H NS Provincial Show each year.

Updated guidelines may be issued by the 4-H Nova Scotia Market Committee, as approved by 4-H Nova Scotia. These guidelines will be mailed directly to the registered Market Steer, Lamb, Turkey and Goat members.

4-H NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL SHOW

- The number of lambs to be entered in the sale will be determined by the 4-H Nova Scotia Market Goat committee.
- Members are responsible for arranging delivery of the lamb from the sale to the designated packing plant or to the location as requested by the buyer. Expenses, such as trucking, could result; however, this should only be in extreme cases.
- Members are responsible for the care of their lamb until 12:00 noon Sunday, of the 4-H NS Provincial Show (this means feeding and cleaning the animal) unless the animals are removed following the sale. Buyers may remove the animal earlier than 12:00 noon on Sunday.
- Following the Show and Sale, a photographer will be on hand to photograph members with the animal and the buyer. You and your buyer will receive a copy of the photo at a later date.
- The Market Committee is determined to keep the show and sale costs to a minimum. An 8 % sales fee will be deducted from the price received by the consignor to cover costs of the show and sale.
- In market projects, members must show their own animal in the conformation class and in the auction at 4-H NS Provincial Show.
- Lambs will be checked at the show by a Culling Committee. A lamb found to be in poor

condition, without the proper ear tag, not completely shorn or properly castrated, or for any other reason by this committee may be asked to withdraw from the show/sale.

- Lambs will be weighed on arrival at the show. This information, with the age of the animal, will be given to the judge prior to the competition.

MARKET LIVESTOCK PROJECT MEETING IDEAS

Your project meetings may be included in the regular livestock project meetings. Several of these ideas may add some variety to your meetings, especially if many project members are experienced.

- Judge a class of carcass or meat cuts. An excellent resource is your local abattoir owner, grader and grocery meat manager.
- Tour a local abattoir, grocery meat department or rendering plant.
- Listen to a presentation from a local representative of the Nova Scotia Beef Producers, Sheep Producer, Goat Producer or Poultry Producer about their marketing of product, problems and concerns.

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 vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. 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 – Regulations around moving animals to and from Fairs, Exhibitions, Achievement Days, Pro Show and other events are changing. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is re-writing the regulations around the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. The new regulations are expected in 2018, and will apply to cattle, sheep, and goats. These animals will require individual animal ID tags. Those tag numbers in turn will be used in reporting the movements of animals. Tag numbers are to be reported by the owner/operator of a premise when the animals enter, and then by the farmer/owner when the animals are brought back to the farm or where they are housed.

MOVEMENT DOCUMENT – A Movement Document is to travel with the animals. This document will record the departure premise and destination premise, as well as the quantity of livestock being transported. These documents will be made available by CFIA once the regulation changes come into effect.

There are three things 4H members can do to prepare for these changes.

1. **Identify your livestock premises** by applying for or confirming a premises identification (PID) number with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid
2. **Confirm or set up a Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) database account** at <http://www.clia.livestockid.ca> with Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) by toll-free telephone at **1-877-909-2333** or email: info@canadaid.ca **CLTS MOBO** - a free app to submit animal movement events **quickly** and **easily** to your CLTS database account using a mobile device
3. **Voluntarily report receipt (move in) event data** to your CLTS database account for livestock arriving at your livestock premises using the individual animal identification, within seven days of receipt.

The NS Department of Agriculture has a Traceability Coordinator that reviews Premises ID (PID) applications and can be reached at 1 (902) 890 9840 or daniel.muir@novascotia.ca to answer any questions surrounding these changes.