

Sheep

4-H Project Newsletter

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 in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.

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 Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

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 Federations website at the following links. <http://www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/CSIPProgram/CSIPProgram.aspx> or <http://www.cansheep.ca/User/Docs/MediaReleases/2010/Letter to Members.pdf>

Sheep Project Work Requirements

On Achievement Day, the project work requirement for the Sheep Project is a showmanship class. 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 the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information 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 ALC 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.**

The sheep **ages** are: The Nova Scotia 4-H Program changed the age guidelines of the Sheep Project to the open show standard ie: "1st pair of temporary incisors in place"

The sheep **conformation categories** are as follows:

- Ewe Lamb Dorset
- Ewe Lamb North Country Cheviot
- Ewe Lamb Suffolk
- Ewe Lamb Crossbred
- Ram Lamb
- Ewe Lamb Other - Purebred

There is no conformation class for wethers (castrated male); however, please note the following rule:

Wether sheep can be shown in showmanship classes at the club, county, and provincial level, but there is not a conformation class for wethers. (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 with horns are permitted in any 4-H sheep competition.
- Sheep in the Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship Class at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show are to wear a collar during this class for safety reasons. However, members are reminded that in showmanship classes, a collar is not used. Therefore, in Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship Class it is suggested to use it as discretely 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.

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/>

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. Members in 2nd year projects must also take a lamb project.**

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 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 into Truro is **June 30, 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 or wethers. (Rams are not acceptable). 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).

Sheep Clipping Competition:

The Sheep Clipping Competition is open to junior & senior sheep members, with each county eligible to send one team of two members to this competition at 4-H Nova Scotia Show. Members will draw for a sheep, and evaluate the sheep in a written report. Members must wash, train and shear their sheep. Each member will show the sheep in a showmanship class. For additional details, scoresheets, rules and guidelines, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator.

- 1. This is a team competition, members may be either both junior members, or both senior members, or a combination of the two.*
- 2. Team members will be selected through county competition. Each county has the right to select its representatives using its own method.*

3. *Once a member has won the provincial competition, they are no longer eligible to compete with the same team member in subsequent years.*
4. *The county teams competing in the Sheep Clipping competition will each provide an animal meeting the requirements/guidelines for the respective competition.*
5. *For the Sheep Clipping competition, teams who fail to supply an animal for the competition will not be permitted to proceed in the competition.*
6. *In the Sheep Clipping competition, the organizing county will provide one additional animal which meets stated guidelines, to be used as a spare in the case where one of the animals must be disqualified due to sickness, injury, or safety concern.*
7. *The judge and/or county organizers of the competition will determine if the spare animal is to be used in the case where one of the animals is sick, injured, or is a safety concern.*
8. *If it is determined by the judge and/or county organizers that an animal does not meet the outlined criteria, then selection may be done in another manner.*
9. *Teams must walk the animal they supplied to the competition for the judge and/or organizing committee prior to the draw to ensure the animals are suitably broke.*
10. *Animal used for the competition must have been previously shown or broken suitable for show.*
11. *Animal used for the competition must be weaned.*
12. *Animal used for the competition have no height restrictions.*
13. *Animal used for the competition must have at least three weeks of hair regrowth prior to the event.*
14. *Animal used for the competition must be between the ages of 5 and 9 months.*
15. *Team members are responsible for supplying and caring for their own grooming/clipping/fitting equipment/materials/supplies during the competition. In the case where the animal provided to the draw requires specific grooming/clipping/fitting equipment/materials/supplies, the team supplying the animal must provide the specific equipment/materials/supplies to the draw.*
16. *For the sheep clipping competition the county organizer is responsible for providing all feed and bedding requirements for the duration of the event for all animals.*
17. *Team members/animal owners understand that team members are responsible for feeding, handling, preparing, and caring for their competition animal for the duration of the event, as this is part of their score. All feeding instructions will be provided to the teams for their competition animals. From then on it is the teams' responsibility to feed and care for the calf that they drew until the conclusion of the competition. **Ensure someone from the committee feeds and cares for the spare animal throughout the weekend.***
18. *There is to be no fitting or clipping done other than in the scheduled time-frame. Team members may train, wash and/or groom their animals on Friday night.*
19. *Ties in the competition are to be decided using the team's score in showmanship – highest over lowest.*

20. *The welfare and wellbeing of all the animals will be foremost in the competition. The county responsible for the competition will ensure animals are well cared for (including spares).*
21. *Clipping teams will draw for their animals on the Friday evening of the show. Refer to the show "Class List and Schedule" for exact time and location.*
22. *Team members must submit their competition report cards by the time indicated in the program.*
23. *In the case where after the event "scratch date" an individual team member cannot continue in the competition the remaining team member may continue in the competition. For aspects of the competition where points are allotted to each team member the remaining team member can only earn points for their own work.*
24. *In the case where a member must temporarily step away from the competition for good reason, the remaining member may continue working, however, clipping, feeding, and stall clean-up/prep is a joint effort for members to share equally.*
25. Teams will be evaluated on the following:
 1. **Report Card (20%)** – Members determine the weaknesses of the animal and explain how these are to be overcome by proper fitting and clipping.
 2. **Herdsmanship (10%)** - Team effort – Members provide proper care and handling, watering, stall and animal cleanliness, feeding (Includes cleaning out stalls after animal leaves).
 3. **Showmanship (30%)** - 15 points will be allotted to each team member based on their showmanship abilities and how they handle the animal in the ring. Team member points will be combined for a combined score.
 4. **Fitting & Clipping (40%)** - 20 points will be allotted to each member based on their fitting and clipping abilities and techniques as well as overall teamwork and sharing of tasks. Team member points will be combined for a combined score.

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.