

**OPEN SHEEP DOG TRIAL**

<b>SUPERINTENDENT</b>	Pamela Mueller
<b>JUDGE</b>	TBA
<b>ARRIVAL</b>	Monday, September 23, 2024 8 am to 10 Noon
<b>SHOW</b>	Monday, September 23, 2024 10:45am Exhibitor's Meeting 11:00am Start of Trial 1 3:45pm Exhibitor's Meeting 4:00pm Start of Trial 2
<b>TRIAL TYPE</b>	Points Trial-based on obstacles completed and time.
<b>RELEASE</b>	Monday, September 23, 2024 All dogs off the grounds by 10pm

**SHEEP DOG TRIAL SHOW PREMIUMS (per class)**

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
250	225	200	175	150	125	100	75	75	75*

\*\$50 to 15th place.

**ENTRY INFORMATION**

1. Entries must arrive at The Big E Agriculture office by August 31. No postmarks are accepted.
2. Entry fee is \$25 per dog.
3. We reserve the right to limit the number of dogs per handler.
4. Entries will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Upon receipt of entries, exhibitors will be forwarded entrance credentials and permits to bring dogs on the grounds.
5. Sheep Dog Trial dogs must enter through Agriculture Gate 10
6. Sheep Dog Trial dogs will be restricted to camping area, Agriculture buildings, and the Coliseum.
7. All dogs must comply with Massachusetts Animal Health Regulations.

**SHEEP DOG TRIAL SPECIAL RULES**

1. **READ GENERAL RULES.** All entries and awards within this show will be subject to the General Rules and Regulations published in this Premium Book and the following Special Rules.
2. Ties for first place will be broken by a run-off at the conclusion of the trial.
3. Each competitor must be ready when called by the Course Director, and anyone failing to answer the call may be disqualified. Competitors are required to note that while the order of the program will be followed strictly (unless any change is authorized by the Trial Superintendent), the timing cannot be guaranteed.
4. Any competitor wishing to have the course explained or have any point clarified must question the Trial Superintendent before they start their run.

They cannot have questions answered once their run begins.

**5.** By commencing their run, competitors are presumed to know the course and follow it in all its details.

**6.** Once a competitor starts their run they are entirely in the hands of the judges. By deviating from the course, they are liable to disqualification or such penalty the judges consider suitable having regard to all the circumstances.

**7.** Any competitor who receives assistance in any form will be disqualified. If not previously stopped on the instructions of the judges, a handler will be called off on the expiry of the time limit, but in the latter case, the points to the stage at which they were called off will count.

**8.** After being dismissed, a handler will cease working his dog on the course and will collect the sheep and remove them from the trial field immediately.

**9.** Any competitor who retires or who leaves the field without the judges' permission will forfeit all points.

**10.** Any competitor who intentionally harasses the stock after his run will be disqualified.

**11.** Competitors shall always keep their dogs under proper control and any dog or owner interfering with another dog or competitor while working shall be disqualified.

**12.** All dogs will be restricted to the Coliseum or Agricultural buildings. Special arrangements will be made for a dog relief area. Please watch for this information upon check-in.

**13.** Competitors and/or others shall not take their dogs onto the course before the competition starts, nor shall any of them run their dogs on the trial sheep before the trials. Handlers without their dogs may inspect the course before the trial begins.

**14.** No contestant or other person shall engage in any form of misconduct or harassment toward trial management, judges or officials. Trial management has the right to disqualify or refuse entry to any contestant for violation of this rule.

**15.** A contestant may drop out of any contest due to injury to himself or his dog or due to sickness or death in his/her family. A contestant shall not at any time withdraw from any trial he is participating in due to dissatisfaction or grievance with the judges, trial management or other contestants without forfeiting all money he may have won in previous runs. Entry fees or any part thereof, will not be refunded after a contest starts.

**16.** A contestant shall not enter the trial field at any time with any kind of training device. The trial management, representative or judge must disqualify a contestant if he enters the trial field with any such equipment and all entry fees and/or premiums pertaining to said contestant will be forfeited. Such devices include, but are not limited to, electronic collars, dummy or weighted collars, a leash or rope that is not detached before the dog is sent or any device used to distract or cause pain to a dog while it is working. The judge has the right to inspect the dog for any violation to this rule.

**17.** Any competitor running two dogs will run his/her second dog after all other competitors with two dogs have run their first dog. A handler MAY NOT designate which dog is to run first.

**18.** To implement this, all handlers with one dog will be drawn randomly, one at a time, and divided alternately into two lots. Entries of handlers with two dogs will be added to the first lot. Entries of the first lot will then be drawn for running order. First dog drawn runs first, second dog drawn runs second etc. When a handler with two dogs is drawn a second time, that entry will

be placed in the second lot for re-draw. If a handler is running three dogs, one will be drawn randomly, placed with the group of single dogs, and drawn accordingly. Upon completion of drawing the first lot, the trial Secretary will randomly draw the second lot to continue the running order.

### **DISQUALIFICATION**

- 1.** A dog which grips or bites shall be disqualified if the gripping or biting is of such character and the circumstances are such as to justify disqualification. When gripping or biting occurs, the judge shall decide at once whether to disqualify the competitor. If the judge disqualifies the dog, he shall instruct the Trial Superintendent to stop the competitor.
- 2.** A competitor so disqualified shall not be entitled to a prize of any kind notwithstanding that, before the disqualification he has earned points entitling him to a prize. If the dog is not disqualified it shall be penalized by the loss of points as each judge in his discretion thinks fit, but not exceeding the number of points allowed for the phase of work in which the gripping or biting occurs.
- 3.** A competitor whose dog damages sheep shall be liable to pay the damage. The judge may stop a competitor at any point of the trial or withhold any prizes on the grounds of insufficient merit.

### **SHEEP DOG TRIAL PARKING**

All exhibitors will receive entrance credentials, which will consist of one personal pass and one 1-day auto window hanger. Exhibitors needing additional personal credentials may purchase them at the Agricultural Office at a discounted rate. These credentials will allow exhibitors to park at Gate 10. Exhibitors will enter Gate 1 from Route 147 and continue around the back of the fairgrounds until they come to Gate 10. Parking at Gate 10 is some distance from the Coliseum, so please be prepared. Camping for Sheep Dog Trial participants will be a separate camping area on grass, in the Ag Lot. There is no electricity, water or sewer available, but the campers will be within sight of Security personnel 24 hours per day. Please note on camping reservations, "Sheep Dog Camping Area, or you will be restricted to asphalt paved area.