



2026 OPEN CLASS SHEEP

Agriculture Office: 716-649-3900 Ext. 6499 or Entries@ecfair.org

Join us in celebrating 2026 4H, FFA, & Youth Livestock Expo Champions at the Breakfast with Champions at 9 a.m., Sunday, August 23 in the Clubhouse - Tickets are \$25 tickets each and can be purchased at www.ecfair.org

SHOW INFORMATION

Superintendent:	Agriculture Office Staff
Early Entry Deadline:	Monday, July 13, 2026 - Entries made on or after August 1 must be placed by calling the Agriculture Office
Entry Fees:	Early Entry \$5 per head/ Late Entry \$15 per head (Including group classes)
Arrival:	Tuesday, August 11, noon-8 p.m. and Wednesday, August 12, 6-9 a.m.
Check-in:	Wednesday, August 12, 8-10 a.m., Barn 11. Exhibitors must be by their animals, with animals registration papers.
Showmanship/Market Show:	Wednesday, August 12, 4 p.m., Livestock Arena
Breeding Show/Shorn Fleece Show	Thursday, August 13, 11:30 a.m., Showplex
Market Lamb & Showmanship Judge:	TBA
Breeding Sheep Judge:	TBA
Release:	Friday, August 14, 7 p.m.
Tack Vendor:	Twist Of Fate (860) 759-9335

EXHIBITORS: PLEASE READ ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS, IAFE NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS, AND ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.

RULES

1. All exhibitors must purchase either a **\$20 Exhibitor wristband** or a **\$100 Erie County Agricultural Society Membership**. If you do not bring your animals to the Fair, you will not receive your Exhibitor wristband.
2. If more passes are needed for your help, \$12.00 one-day "workers" passes can be purchased (quantity may be limited).
3. All New York State Veterinarian decisions are final and supported by Erie County Fair Staff inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated and can result in forfeit of premiums and removal from Fair.
4. Rules of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets **Standards for the Conduct of Agriculture and Markets for Fairs and Summary of Livestock Health Requirements apply.**
5. An official Registration Certificate must be shown on each animal (except Commercial and Market). All animals must be 100% Fullblood, no percentage papers will be accepted. *PENDING APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.* These will be checked for identification, ownership, and birthdate, including All Other Wool Breeds & All Other Meat Breeds.
6. No exhibitor shall receive any more than four (4) premiums in each class or break. No animal shall compete for more than one premium, aside from group classes and market Lambs and commercial ewes. Commercial ewe lambs may cross enter the Market Lamb Show or vice versa, however a second entry fee must be paid.
7. All sheep will be examined by a NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets veterinarian and those animals showing evidence of scab infection will be barred from showing and must be removed from the grounds.
 - a) All sheep exhibited must be free from scab infections, sore mouth, fungus, etc.
 - b) Animals from a flock under quarantine for any reason cannot be exhibited.
 - c) All exhibits must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate.
8. All animals entered and shown in a group class must be entered in individual classes and must be owned by the same exhibitor/farm.
9. Showmanship will be offered at the beginning of the Market Lamb Show. Sign up will take place at check-in with the superintendent.

10. Exhibitors must be at least 4 years of age to exhibit livestock.
11. Youth exhibitors may enter any animal in the Open Class Department. Exhibitors must pay all appropriate fees, including Exhibitor wristband fees, entry fees, and late fees.
12. Entry fees do not guarantee tack space or pens. In divisions where entries do not exceed available space, tack pens will be assigned by the Superintendent.
13. Initial sawdust bedding will be supplied to exhibitors. However, if exhibitors wish to have shavings or straw, they must bring it or buy it from a purveyor on the grounds. The Fair will not be providing straw or shavings, after initial supply.
14. Exhibitors wishing to camp may purchase a spot for desired nights online during Exhibitor sign-up. please note that payment does not guarantee a spot. You will be notified & refunded if camper lot is full.

PROTEST RULE

1. The judge's decision will be final in all cases, except where error, mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, not discovered at the time of the award, is proven. In such cases, the decision of Show Management or an appointed referee will be final.
2. All New York State Veterinarian decisions are final and supported by Erie County Fair Staff.
3. Protests regarding any livestock competitions and events held by the Erie County Agricultural Society during the Erie County Fair (Youth Livestock Expo & Open Class Livestock Shows) must be made in writing using a form found in the Livestock Office. Submit the form and a \$300 cash deposit to the Erie County Agricultural Society CEO. Deposit is refundable **only** if the protest is upheld; otherwise, it will be donated to the Erie County Agricultural Society Scholarship Fund.
4. **Classification and the judge's opinion are not eligible for protest.**
5. Protests against the exhibition of animals must be filed at least three hours before the start of the show in question.
6. The CEO of the Erie County Agricultural Society may hold a meeting regarding the protest, at which time the protesting party may present evidence or argument in support of the protest.
7. A written decision will be issued within five days and will be served via certified mail.
8. Exhibitors must always demonstrate honesty, sportsmanship, and professionalism. This code applies to both Junior and Open Class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition in all livestock events.

RELEASE SCHEDULE

To ensure everyone's safety and reduce congestion, each exhibitor will receive a 30-minute loading time slot, during which their truck and trailer may enter the Fairgrounds. Exhibitors traveling the farthest will receive the earliest time slots. Multiple trips also will be considered. Exhibitors are encouraged to assist one another with loading. Arrangements must be made with the show management prior to show day. Early release form must be given to Superintendent at the Exhibitors meeting.

Youth Livestock Expo, 4H & FFA Layover Information: Sheep that are showing Open Class can stay over in Barn 11 until the YLE, 4-H, and FFA move-in on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19.

BREEDING SHEEP SHOW—Thursday, August 13, 11:30 a.m.

Sheep will show in order listed below. Must have **six or more head to warrant a breed**. If there are six head of a specific breed not listed below, a Division will be added at that time.

MEAT BREEDS

Cheviot

Dorset

Hampshire

Montadale

Shropshire

Southdown

Suffolk

Tunis

Commercial

Any Other Meat Breeds

WOOL BREEDS

Border Leicester

Columbia

Corriedale

Lincoln
Merino
Natural Color
Romney
Any Other Wool Breeds

BREEDING SHEEP CLASSES

CLASSES # 1–20

PREMIUMS: \$25, \$22.50, \$20, \$17.50, \$15

1. Mature Ram
2. Yearling Ram: over 1 year and under 2 years
3. Senior Ram Lamb: born before January 1, 2026
4. Pair Senior Ram Lambs
5. Junior Ram Lamb: born after January 1, 2026
6. Pair Junior Ram Lambs

Champion Ram, Reserve Champion Ram

9. Mature Ewe
10. Yearling Ewe: over 1 year and under 2 years
11. Pair of Yearling Ewes
12. Senior Ewe Lamb: born before January 1, 2026
13. Pair Senior Ewe Lambs
14. Junior Ewe Lamb: born after January 1, 2026
15. Pair Junior Ewe Lambs

Champion Ewe, Reserve Champion Ewe

18. Mixed Pair: either Ram Lamb and ewe Lamb or yearling Ram and yearling ewe
19. Young Flock: 1 Ram Lamb, 2 ewe Lambs
20. Flock: consists of 1 Ram - from any class; 2 Ewes - one year & under 2 years.; 2 Ewes - under 1 year

SUPREME CHAMPIONS

Supreme Champion Ram: \$50 & Banner
Reserve Supreme Champion Ram: Banner
Supreme Champion Ewe: \$50 & Banner
Reserve Supreme Champion Ewe: Banner
Supreme Champion Flock: \$50 & Banner
Reserve Supreme Champion Flock: Banner

SHORN FLEECE SHOW

Entries will be judged after the breed Classes. Entries will be left on display.

Rules:

1. Any grower of wool is eligible to enter fleeces; however, fleeces must be entered in grower's name.
2. If entrant is not entering any sheep in the show, they will need to purchase a **\$20 Exhibitor wristband** or a **\$100 Erie County Agricultural Society Membership**.
3. No fleece may be shown in more than one Class.
4. Eligible fleeces must:
 - be shorn between 2025–2026.
 - represent not more than a 12-month growth except in the case of yearlings, in which a 16-month growth will be allowed.
5. Qualifying fleeces will be penalized if showing:
 - any paint or tar brands (soluble branding fluids permitted).
 - excessive dung locks or tags.
 - discoloration by excessive moisture.
 - excessive burrs or other vegetable matter.
6. Fleeces will be weighed, and weight will be noted on entry tag. All fleeces will be weighed in a clear plastic bag.

7. Prepared fleeces should be rolled flesh side out to allow them to be handled without falling apart. Exhibitors should pack fleeces loosely in clear plastic bags to not impair their character or attractiveness.
8. Exhibitors may exhibit a maximum of 2 (two) entries in each Class.
9. Each fleece entered must be tagged with:
 - name and address of exhibitor
 - breed
 - number of month's growth
 - class number
10. The judge will have the final decision on the Class that each fleece is judged in. If he/she feels a class change is warranted, fleece may be judged in a class different than the class entered.

CLASSES #1-5

PREMIUMS: \$15, \$11, \$8, \$6, \$5

1. Long Wool, generally from Lincoln, Leicester, Cotswold and Romney
 2. Medium Wool, generally from Columbia and Corriedale
 3. Fine Wool, generally from Merino and Rambouillet
 4. Natural Color Wool, any natural color fleece other than white
 5. Down Wool, generally from Suffolk, Southdown, Cheviot, Shropshire, Tunis, Hampshire, Dorset, and Montadale
- Supreme Champion Fleece: \$25 & Banner**

MARKET LAMB SHOW

CLASS #1

PREMIUMS: \$21.25, \$17.50, \$15, \$12.50, \$10, \$7.50

Market Lambs will be divided by weight (based on the number of entries). Each weight break will be awarded premiums.

1. Market Lamb

Grand Champion Market Lamb: \$150 & Banner

Reserve Champion Market Lamb: \$75 & Banner

SHOWMANSHIP SHOW

A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be chosen and awarded during the Fair's Showmanship Show at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, prior to the Market Lamb Show. There is no entry fee and no premiums. Exhibitors can sign up at the Fair.

Classes (shown in order):

- **Novice Showman:** 1st time Showman; ages 4-21
- **Pee Wee Showman:** ages 4-8
- **Junior Showman:** ages 9-12
- **Intermediate Showman:** ages 13-16
- **Senior Showman:** ages 17-21
- **Adult Showman:** ages 22 and older

HERDSMANSHIP AWARDS

Three Herdsmanship awards will be presented to Sheep Exhibitors. Exhibitors will be judged daily by Show Management and awards will be announced at the end of the Sheep Exhibitors stay.

1st place: \$62.50 & Banner

2nd place: \$37.50

3rd place: \$18.75

Judging criteria:

1. Stall decorations tied to the 2026 theme: **"Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights."**
2. Cleanliness and neatness of aisles, pens, bedding, and animals.
3. Promptness in getting animals into the show ring and competence in show ring.
4. Courtesy to fellow breeders, spectators, and others.
5. Personal appearance, cleanliness, and neatness in and out of the ring.
6. Organized and tidy feed, bedding, tack, and equipment.