

MARKET LAMB DIVISION

CLASSIFIERS - Russell Duncum (Martindale, TX),
Ric Hunter (Jourdanton, TX),
John Lanier (Somerset, TX)

JUDGE – Cody Sloan (Cameron, MO)

SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE – Russell Duncum (-)

ENTRY DEADLINE – January 15, 2024

ENTRY FEE - \$20 per exhibitor

DELIVERY TO SHOWGROUNDS – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2024

WEIGHING/SIFTING/CLASSIFYING – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2024

JUDGING – 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024

SHOWMANSHIP – 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 14, 2024

LOAD OUT – 11:00 a.m., Sunday, March 17, 2024

Champion Showmanship Buckle Sponsor – Hidalgo County Farm Bureau/Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
Reserve Champion Showmanship Buckle Sponsor – 4C Cattle Company

SPECIAL RULES FOR MARKET LAMBS

1. Each exhibitor must be a bona fide member of a Texas 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, enrolled in elementary, secondary, or home school and reside in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy counties.
2. Exhibitors must be in the third grade or 9 years old, but under 20 years of age as of January 1, 2024.
3. Livestock projects must be raised at the physical address of validation record. Prior approval must be granted by the “Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee” in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor, immediate family/guardian, and/or the supervising County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher. Failure to gain approval from the supervising Agriculture Science Teacher/County Extension Agent and the Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee will result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock.
4. All lambs must be state validated and recorded in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy counties by October 31, 2023. All market lambs entering the showring are required to have legible/visible state validation tattoos and ear tags. RGVLS will adhere to all state validation guidelines and decisions.
5. Lambs may be wether or ewe lambs. All lambs must have been validated by the Texas Lamb Validation Program by October 31, 2023.
6. Any exhibitor can enter only one market lamb.
7. All exhibitors participating in showmanship must enter through the online Showworks system by January 15, 2024.
8. Pens will not be taken apart or altered in any way without the approval of the superintendents. Superintendent reserves the right to pen a minimum of three head per pen.
9. Lambs must meet the following requirements or be sifted:
 - a. All lambs must weigh at least 90 lbs. There will be no maximum weight.
 - b. Any lamb that has had its natural musculature or weight altered by use of injections or ingested material not conducive to the continued health of lambs or marketability of lamb carcasses will be sifted.

- c. All lambs must be slick shorn from knee and hock up at time of sifting. Lambs with excessive wool will be sifted.
 - d. Lambs must be creditable from the standpoint of types, quality, finish, and breed characteristics.
 - e. Lambs that have been mutilated in any way will be sifted.
 - f. A lamb, which in the opinion of the sifter or classifiers, does not have predominant breed characteristics of the class in which it is entered, may be sifted from the Show or, with the approval of the Division Superintendent, moved to another breed.
10. Exhibitors must remove lambs that are sifted from the showgrounds immediately after sifting. All others must be consigned by the exhibitor and/or buyer to the processing plant, individual, etc. assigned by the Show Management. Violation of this rule will result in exhibitors being barred from future shows.
 11. Any animal which has been sold in a terminal auction at another show will be ineligible for this Show. Lambs found to have evidence of more than one validation will be ineligible to show, unless the proper Change of Ownership forms are received, reflecting why there is evidence of more than one validation and that the previous validation(s) have been canceled.
 12. Market ewes brought to the showgrounds must have a Premise ID Tag issued by the Texas Animal Health Commission. If any exhibitor has purchased a market ewe from a breeder, the breeder should supply the Premise ID Tag.
 13. Exhibitors must declare the animal's weight and breed at the time they sift/classify. The weight listed on the weight card will become that animal's official declared weight to be used for weigh back and selling purposes. Exhibitors must complete the weight card to include declared weight, state validation tag number and breed designation. The accuracy of information submitted and recorded is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor.
 14. The decision of the sifter and/or classifiers will be final. Protests will not be accepted on sifter's opinion. Lambs will be brought to classifiers by breed for proper classification.
 15. After sifting, lambs will be divided into weight groups by breeds as equal as possible, but all lambs of the same weight will be in the same weight group. The number of classes per breed will be determined by the Superintendent of the Lamb Division.
 16. All market lambs will be sold to the person or company submitting the highest bid. Sifted lambs must be removed from the showgrounds immediately after sifting.
 17. Fitting: Only water is allowed. If an exhibitor is caught at the gate with a foreign substance on a lamb, there will be immediate disqualification. Foreign material including (but not limited to) painting, powdering, oiling, artificial coloring, or adhesives is prohibited. No clippers requiring an electrical cord are allowed to be used once the animal has arrived on the showgrounds. Touch up clipping below the knees and hocks with cordless clippers, scissors, or hand shears will be allowed. Significant clipping/shearing on the body is not considered touch up clipping and the lamb is subject to disqualification.
 18. Shearing: Lambs must be shorn slick to the skin above the knee and hock joints before arrival to the grounds. This will be strictly enforced. Refer to rule 15 Fitting.
 19. Trimming Tables & Trim Chutes: No Market Goat Trimming Tables or show rails are permitted on the grounds. All market goats must be clipped before arrival to the showgrounds. No clipping will be allowed at the showgrounds. Individual free standing head stanchions are allowed, but they must stay within the pen and must not block alleys and/or pedestrian traffic.
 20. No corded blowers will be permitted during the Junior Market Shows.
 21. Only exhibitors and show officials will be allowed in the holding areas, judging arena, or on the arena director's stand during sifting and judging.

22. No drenching, watering/feeding, or grooming is allowed while in the “holding area” at any time.

23. After an animal becomes loose from an exhibitor 3 times, the committee chair, RGVLS Management, and/or RGVLS Director will have the animal removed from the ring and disqualified from showing. Regardless of any disqualifications, any market animal will remain under consignment contract and will be sold at the end of the event.

24. Any lambs may be reweighed during judging at any time determined by the Superintendent. Any lamb weighing more than 5 lbs. above or below its declared show weight will become ineligible for any award or placing.

25. The Show may collect hair and/or blood samples from any lamb entered in the Show for the purpose of conducting a DNA analysis. Any lamb not having a positive match from the DNA analysis of the samples compared to the DNA analysis of the hair and/or blood samples taken from it at the time of enrollment in the state validation program will be disqualified.

1. Scholarships will be awarded as follows:

- Scholarships will not be awarded when there are less than 5 head shown in competition in any weight division of the Market Lamb Division.
- If there are 5 to 14 entries shown, 50% of the full scholarship will be awarded to the Division Champion of each weight division.
- 15 head and more will result in full scholarship amounts.

General Rules, Regulations and Procedures on page 23 also apply.

BREEDS

- Haired Sheep
- Fine Wool
- Fine Wool Cross
- Southdown
- Medium Wool

Lamb Breed Classification Guidelines

Haired

ACCEPTABLE BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Bardo, St. Croix, Dorper, White Dorper, Katahdin or a cross among these breeds.
- No wool below knees and hocks
- No wool forward of poll
- No excessive wool coverings

DISCRIMINATORY BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Strong breed characteristics of breeds other than the five listed above.
- Solid black lambs
- No evidence of hair on britch, belly, or forearm.
- Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene.

Fine Wool

ACCEPTABLE BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet or a cross between these three breeds.
- Soft pelt
- Silky, white face that is narrow and clean cut
- Silky, medium size ears
- White hooves and legs

DISCRIMINATORY BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Black or brown spots in the skin or wool on the body of the lamb.
- Freckles or pigmented areas of black or brown skin may be permitted on the face and ears if the other breed characteristics are in order.
- Freckles or brown or black spots above the hooves.
- Coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, down the back of the hind legs and above the hooves.
- Black pigmentation in the hooves
- Black lambs should be classified as medium wool.

Fine Wool Cross

ACCEPTABLE BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50% fine wool breeding
- Soft pelt that is characteristics of 1/2 blood fine wool
- Mottling or some spotting on face and ears
- Mottling and/or spotting of legs below the knees and stifle joint
- Face and ears should be soft and silky

DISCRIMINATORY BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Face, ears and legs should not be extremely dark or solid in color
- Coarse, chalky white hair on face, ears, legs and in the flanks
- Colored fiber (black or brown spots) in the wool.

Medium Wool

All other breeds not mentioned in other sections listed.

Southdown

ACCEPTABLE BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Hair color on muzzle and nose should be gray to dark brown, not approaching black. White is acceptable around muzzle and eyes.
- Wool on the legs should correspond to hair color on the muzzle. A few colored spots on the body are acceptable.
- Ears should be of moderate length and size with a pointed end and may be approaching slick
- Noses should be a colored pigment other than solid pink. A spotted nose is acceptable.
- Muzzle should be broad with a head of medium length
- Hooves should be solid black

DISCRIMINATORY BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- Face, ears and legs should not be extremely dark or solid in color.
- Pink nose
- Coarse, chalky hair around the eyes and in the flank
- Completely slick ears
- Pink or stripped hooves
- Black spots in the fleece
- Open poll on the head

ABSOLUTE DISQUALIFICATION

- Speckled face or legs
- Horns or scars
- Solid black lambs
- Steep hip and a genetic tendency to be double muscled

AWARDS

Grand Champion – Buckle & Banner

Reserve Grand Champion – Buckle & Banner

Breed Champions – \$500 Scholarship, Banner & Rosette

Reserve Breed Champion – Banner & Rosette

Champion winners in each division will compete for Grand Champion Award. Reserve Champion winner in division that produced the Grand Champion will compete with the remaining Champions for the Reserve Grand Champion Award. The Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, Division Champions and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placing projects will be eligible to participate in the Sale of Champions on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. This is a premium auction only; the actual projects will not be sold to the buyers.

SCHEDULE OF PREMIUMS

- 4th place - \$26
- 5th place - \$25
- 6th place - \$24

MARKET LAMB SHOWMANSHIP

All exhibitors of market lambs are eligible to compete. Exhibitors must show their own lamb for showmanship and an exhibitor number is required. Exhibitors will be divided into three groups based on their grade as of the day of the show.

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS

- Junior – Grades 3rd -5th
- Intermediate – Grades 6th – 8th
- Seniors – Grades 9th – 12th

SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS

- Champion - \$100 & Buckle
- Reserve Grand Champion - \$75 & Buckle
- 3rd place - \$50 and Ribbon