

2027 Sumter County Fair Market Lamb Show & Sale Rules

GENERAL RULES

Your completion of the online application indicates that you have read and understand the rules and consequences. You are stating that there is not a rule listed that you feel you cannot abide by. These rules will be **STRICTLY ENFORCED!**

INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The Sumter Fair Association, Inc.'s Board of Directors reserves the right to amend, change, or add to, and interpret the following rules and dates at any time and to arbitrarily settle and determine all questions and differences connected with or incident to the Fair. Provided notice of such amendments, changes, or additions shall be furnished to all registered exhibitors, FFA Advisors and 4-H Agents. Final interpretation, consideration, enforcement, and intent of the rules and important dates shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

The rules (including those listed on the important dates) that are broken, that have no monetary consequences, will result in the exhibitor being ineligible to show and/or sell the animal. Animal must leave premises immediately. Youth will no longer be considered an exhibitor. *Rules with monetary consequences: 1st offense \$250.00 fine, 2nd offense \$500.00 fine, 3rd offense immediate disqualification.

LIMITED ENTRIES

To maintain the quality of the show and sale, the Fair reserves the right to limit the number of market lamb entries to **40 lambs**. Lamb exhibitors must be at least 8 years of age by September 1, 2026. Each FFA chapter within Sumter County and the Sumter 4-H County Council will receive one (1) automatic spot in the fair in the species of their choice. <SSHS Senior, SSHS Jr, SSMS, WWH, WWM, TVHS, Middleton, Buffalo Ridge>

ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

1. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee will be required with each application. This will include two non-voting passes (value of \$60.00), that may be upgraded to voting membership passes for an additional \$10.00 per pass.
2. Applicant must not have completed the 12th grade at the time of the show. Applicant must be enrolled in a Sumter County school or applicant must live or reside in Sumter County. Animals must be owned and shown by a bona-fide Sumter County FFA or 4-H member. See your FFA advisor or 4-H agent for qualifications. (Chapters/clubs, please note that a member of the named chapter/club must exhibit the designated Lamb.)
3. Completed application and fee are due on or before **Friday, April 24, 2026**, by 11:59pm. Application must be approved by FFA Advisor or 4-H Agent (fair office will send applicants' names to designated organization for eligibility).
4. If more than 40 lamb applications are received, a drawing will be held to determine who will be in the show and sale. If an exhibitor applies for the drawing and is selected to show and does not present an lamb at the initial weigh in, they forfeit the opportunity to apply the following year.
5. Exhibitors of the Sumter County Fair are forbidden to show a Market Animal in any other fair except for the State Fair.
6. A non-Sumter County resident that currently qualifies under rule #2 is prohibited from showing another Market Animal in any other county fair, if they do, they are ineligible to apply to the Sumter County Fair.

7. If an exhibitor has shown in another Florida County fair prior to the Sumter County Fair or if exhibitor shows in another Florida County after the Sumter County Fair in the same calendar year, they are permanently disqualified from the Sumter County Market Show and Sale.
8. Alternates, at will, may purchase a lamb, and present it at initial weigh-in and will move up if any exhibitor drops out or does not meet set requirements. Should an exhibitor not make the show/sale, no solicitation is allowed in any manner on the fairground's property.
9. High school seniors (12th grade) that have successfully completed three consecutive individual market animal projects in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades will have TWO balls entered for the drawing. There is no guarantee of a place in the show/sale and all expenses associated with that animal are at the exhibitor's expense and risk.
10. Lambs should be less than 12 months of age at the time of show.
11. Recipients of the "Herdsman Award" from the 2026 Sumter Fair will receive an extra ball in the drawing for the 2027 fair.
12. Sumter County Born animals are those who are born in SUMTER County, these animals will compete on Tuesday during the fair before showmanship. Sumter County Born Certificates are required to be turned in at the INITIAL Weigh In.
13. Bred By Exhibitor animals are those animals born to Dams owned by the exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family members, immediate family members include mother, father, siblings and grand parents. Breeders Certificates are required to be turned in at the INITIAL Weigh In.

RULES FOR EXHIBITION

14. Exhibitors must provide all necessary transportation for their lamb.
15. Project lambs will be required to comply with state minimum health regulations and USDA regulations including drugs. Exhibitors shall assume all responsibility for said regulations. It is required that the exhibitor and parent/guardian sign the drug certification form on the front page of record book prior to acceptance to show or sale. This will be checked and verified. The fair board does not assume any financial responsibility for any contaminated carcass. All animals are subject to a random drug test. All market animals are required to be tagged with a valid official USDA/State ID at initial and final weigh in. Health certificates are required at final weigh-in and lambs will be required to pass state inspection. Please reference Florida Statute 5C-4 for more information regarding the admission of animals for exhibition.
https://flrules.org/Gateway/View_Notice.asp?ID=28815031
16. All lambs must be free of debris at initial and final weigh in. Exhibitors will only weigh one lamb, one time at the initial and final weigh ins.
17. Initial Weigh-in: Date and time will be listed on the "Important Dates" page. All lambs must be weighed/tagged and checked in. Breeder's Certificate (Sumter County animals only) must be turned in at the initial weigh-in. NO RAMS will be accepted. The exhibitor and the lamb are required to be present. Once the market Lamb is tagged, the exhibitor must abide by our rules.
18. If the lamb should die **within 120 hours (5 days) after initial weigh-in, the** exhibitor must notify the chairman within the 120 hours. After the exhibitor notifies the chairman, the exhibitor has 10 days to replace and officially weigh replacement Lamb. The exhibitor and the Lamb are required to be present. Once the market Lamb is tagged, the exhibitor must abide by our rules.
19. Final Weigh-in: Date and time will be listed on the "Important Dates" page, alternates will have a designated time slot to check in Lambs. The exhibitor entering the Lamb must be present to handle their Lamb, including but not limited to weighing, showing, and selling.
20. On the day of the final weigh-in, the barn will be locked. No one will be allowed inside the barn area until all lambs are weighed in and secured in their pen. Exhibitors will be allowed to bring buckets to feed and water their lamb before exiting the barn.
21. The Livestock Committee reserves the right to judge and sift any unruly lamb or exhibitor at any time during the fair. The manageability test will be conducted on Monday @ 10:00 a.m. in The Cow Palace.

Any lamb exhibiting any physical impairment will be subject to sifting. If any lamb is being considered for sifting, every effort will be made to contact the exhibitor, the parent or guardian and exhibitor's 4-H Agent or advisor so they can be present during the sifting process. Any replaced lambs will be notified by 12pm Monday March 8, 2027.

22. Lambs will be divided into weight classes by the Livestock Committee for the show.
23. On Show Nights, It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be in the barn and with their lamb at the time of their class or drive. See Rule 47
24. Each exhibitor assumes all responsibilities for his/her lamb in case of death, injury, or loss until the sale of the lamb. The Fair Board does not assume any financial responsibility for the sale of the lamb other than reasonable effort to collect the money from the buyer and add-on people. If a buyer does not pay for the lamb, the fair board, at its option, may pay the exhibitor resale value of the lamb. There is no guarantee of a place in the show/sale and all expenses associated with lamb are at the exhibitor's expense and risk.
25. Exhibitors who purchase an animal at the market sale will be responsible for making payment before exhibitor checks are released. If the invoice has not been paid, the outstanding balance will be deducted from the exhibitor's check.
26. The livestock shows and sale are listed in the "Important Dates". All animals will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for slaughter. Five percent (5%) of the selling price for lambs will be retained. (Does not apply to add-ons)

FINEABLE OFFENSES

Failure to comply with the following rules will result in the exhibitor being fined per offense.

1st offense \$250.00, 2nd offense \$500.00, 3rd offense will result in disqualification.

27. Exhibitors must submit (3) three new prospective buyers with address and phone number, copy of letter is not required. A New buyer is one that is not found on the current buyers list available at sumterfair.net. These new buyers should be submitted via upload to the website no later than January 22, 2027 at 5pm.
28. Exhibitors will be required to maintain and care for their lamb and attractive quarters daily throughout the fair. Exhibitors are required to sign in between 6:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. AND between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day their lamb is on the grounds.
29. Name boards must be displayed by 5:00pm the day following the final weigh in.
30. No drenching is permitted without approval and supervision by a designated Livestock Committee Member. The Livestock Committee will be announced at the Mandatory Exhibitors meeting.
31. Grooming: All Lambs must be washed within 24 hours of arrival, on show, and sale day. No decorating of lambs will be allowed. No Professional groomers in the barns. Any non-exhibitor assistance must be approved by the chairman.
32. Only exhibitors will be allowed in the barn one hour prior to the show and sale. The barn will remain closed during the show and sale.
33. For safety, exhibitors must wear closed toe shoes and appropriate school attire while exhibiting at the Sumter County Fair. This is always required while in barn, cleaning, feeding, grooming, walking, working with lambs, and other exhibitor functions.
34. No animal is to be ridden at any time or on the Midway. All animals must stay within the livestock area.
35. Barn gates with red top rails are required to be closed at all times.
36. Exhibitors, including the sifted exhibitors, are required to sign in and work ring gates in official dress on the night of the sale. Gate shifts will be assigned.
37. Each exhibitor shall turn in handwritten "thank you" letters with a stamped, addressed, unsealed envelope to the Fair Office for buyer(s), buckle, banner and award sponsors by the date and time listed. The exhibitor's checks will be withheld until letters are turned in.

38. Sale pictures for the exhibitor and buyer will be available at the awards banquet. The buyer's plaque is to be hand delivered to the buyer within 21 days and the exhibitor is required to return the signed form to the fair office on or before the 21st day. Exhibitors' checks will be withheld until letters are turned in.
39. The exhibitors current ethics number must be uploaded to the fair website before January 22, 2027, at 5:00pm. Please note that your ethics number is only valid for three (3) years and must be valid when turned in.

DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES

Failure to comply with the following rules will result in disqualification from the Sumter County Fair.

40. Exhibitors that exhibit at the Sumter County Fair will be required to have completed the Ethics Training Course to show. Please note that your ethics number is only valid for three (3) years and must be valid when turned in. To register for the Ethics Course, visit this website: <http://www.floridastatefairag.com/ethics>. Exhibitors are required to maintain and provide record of their ethics number each year.
41. Meeting and drawing for show slots will be Saturday May 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.m., before the 2026 Sumter Fair Exhibitor Banquet. The exhibitor meeting is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** for all exhibitors and at least one parent or guardian of the exhibitor.
42. During the fair all exhibitors will be required to weigh in their Sumter Fair Lamb, attend a mandatory meeting in the Cow Palace and turn in signed record books to be considered an exhibitor. Check to be sure you have all necessary signatures. All exhibitors will receive a fair pass and be eligible for add-ons even if the lamb does not make the show. Time and date will be listed on the important dates page.
43. No mechanical device including cable halters will be allowed or used on the fairgrounds at any time.
44. **Lambs** MUST weigh a minimum of 120 pounds and a maximum of 180 pounds with a 15-pound minimum gain at the final weigh in.
45. **Lambs** must be completely sheared prior to the final weigh-in. All market lambs must be shown in their natural conformation and structure without alterations or modification.
46. Exhibitors will be required to wear official fair dress when exhibiting lambs in the show and sale. Official Fair Dress: black pants, white shirt (tucked in), dark shoes or boots accompanied by official tie and jacket/vest of either the FFA or 4-H club. No entry into the show ring without official dress.
47. In Reference to rule 23 if an exhibitor is not in the barn with their lamb when their class or drive is called, they will be disqualified.
48. Exhibitors showing misconduct, possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, misrepresentation, or failure to cooperate with the Livestock Committee in any matter will forfeit any prizes or premiums, will be eliminated from the show and sale, will be banned from showing the following year, or any other punishment deemed necessary by the Fair Board.

IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS) CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

- 1) All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
- 2) Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
- 3) Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
- 4) Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of, consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.

If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory, to which it is sent, is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.

At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

- 5) Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
- 6) The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
- 7) Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
- 8) No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
- 9) The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
- 10) The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expos and any special notices to members.
- 11) The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

Your completion of the online application indicates that you have read and understand the rules and consequences. You are stating that there is not a rule or item in the code of ethics that you feel you cannot abide by.

<p align="center">Sumter Fair Association 7620 SR 471 Bushnell FL, 33513 Phone: 352-569-6851 Email: livestock@sumterfair.net 2027 LAMB MARKET SHOW IMPORTANT DATES</p>		
April 1-24, 2026	11:59 pm	Applications due Link to apply can be found online @ www.sumterfair.net
Saturday May 2, 2026	8:30 am	Drawing
Saturday September 12, 2026	8 am-10 am	Initial weigh-in & tagging. Must check in by 10am. Sumter Born/Bred By Certificates DUE 176 days on feed.
TBA	TBA	Optional Premier Exhibitor Workshop Contact smithadam@ufl.edu
Friday January 22, 2027	5 pm	DUE: Three (3) New Buyers and contact info Uploaded to Sumterfair.net
Friday January 22, 2027	5 pm	DUE: Ethics numbers. Uploaded to Sumterfair.net
Friday January 22, 2027	5 pm	Optional Lamb pictures due for newspaper. Uploaded to Sumterfair.net
TBA	TBA	Optional Pre-Fair Workday (Premier Exhibitor Points)
Sunday March 7, 2027	10-12 am Alternates 11:30am-12pm	Final weigh-in at the fairgrounds.
Monday March 8, 2027	TBA	Premier Exhibitor Test & Skillathon, Posters Due
Monday March 8, 2027	5 pm	Name boards must be displayed.
Monday March 8, 2027	6 pm	Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting. Record Books Due
Tuesday March 9, 2027	3 pm	Lamb Showmanship & Sumter Co Born & Bred By Show
Friday March 12, 2027	6 pm	Lamb Market Show
Saturday March 13, 2027	11 am	Market Sale
Sunday March 14, 2027	10 am-1 pm	Clean stalls
Sunday March 14, 2027	10 am-1 pm	Approved handwritten thank you letter/cards for buyer and award sponsor in stamped addressed envelopes are due.
TBA	TBA	Exhibitor Banquet (awards and buyer plaques)
TBA	5:00 pm	Buyer's sign off form due 21 days after receipt of buyer's plaque.

PLEASE READ ALL IMPORTANT DATES AND RULES CAREFULLY