

# 2026 NEW ENGLAND 4-H PROGRAM – THE BIG E

## 4-H SHEEP ACTIVITY SIGNATURE FORM

This entry is made in accordance with the Rules and Regulations governing this program. E-mail [aginfo@thebige.com](mailto:aginfo@thebige.com)

Telephone: Please call (800)639-2908 or (413)205-5011 and request the specific department or person you intend to contact.

PRINT ALL INFORMATION – DETACH THIS APPLICATION. COMPLETE EVERY LINE, AND SUBMIT IT, ALONG WITH YOUR SHEEP ENTRY FORM, TO YOUR COUNTY OR STATE 4-H REPRESENTATIVE.

NAME OF EXHIBITOR \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AGE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

T-SHIRT SIZE (S-XXL) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use: \_\_\_\_\_ shavings \_\_\_\_\_ straw AND \_\_\_\_\_ 1st or \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd hay

I have read the rules and certify that the facts contained in the above are true and that the applicant meets the eligibility qualifications of the rules. The applicant also agrees to participate in all activities and to be present at assemblies of the 4-H Sheep Program. Entrants will be responsible for their animal including any damage occurring to the animal or by the animal while on the grounds. Signatures signify compliance with rules and decisions of the Committee. The signatures below signify that I and my parent/guardian have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules in this document and the IAFE Code of Ethics. These signatures also certify the facts contained in the above to be true and the applicant meets the eligibility qualifications of the rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of 4-H Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of County or State 4-H Representative

All signatures must be completed before entry will be accepted. Additional entry forms are available at [www.thebige.com/agriculture](http://www.thebige.com/agriculture).

**ENTRIES ARE DUE AUGUST 20 AT THE STATE OFFICE. EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION ONLINE ENTRY MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 23 AT MIDNIGHT.**

The Cooperative Extension System 4-H Youth Development program prohibits discrimination in education, employment, and in the provision of services on account of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, disabled veteran status, physical or mental disability, mental retardation, [and] other specifically covered mental disabilities, [and criminal records that are not job related].



## **OBJECTIVES FOR NEW ENGLAND 4-H PROGRAMS AT THE BIG E**

The 4-H program at The Big E is a cooperative effort with the Eastern States Exposition and the Cooperative Extension Systems of the New England States working together toward common objectives. These objectives are:

1. To motivate and recognize the achievements of 4-H members and their volunteer leaders.
2. To give the general public attending The Big E a better understanding of 4-H educational efforts including the organization, program, and accomplishments.
3. To provide educational experiences for 4-H members that are not available in the individual states.
4. To make 4-H programs and activities visible to the general public across the grounds of The Big E.
5. To expand the image of 4-H as a total diverse youth development program.
6. To ensure quality educational activities both for the 4-H participant and the general public.
7. To identify 4-H as an integral part of the Cooperative Extension System and the land grant universities of New England.
8. To involve youth as equal partners in full decision-making roles at all levels of program decision-making.

## **2026 NEW ENGLAND 4-H SHEEP ACTIVITY VOLUNTEERS**

*Chairperson:* Bonnie Kegler, CT

*Superintendent:* Karielyn DiStefano, RI

*Secretary:* Laura Marek, CT

*Skillathon:* Rachel Domin, ME

*Individual Shepherd's Award:* Sara Tomis, CT

*Educational Exhibits:* Rachel Domin, ME

*Lamb Cook-Off Competition:* Laura Marek, CT

*Lead Line Competition:* Sara Tomis, CT & Meghan Riley, MA

*Check-In (at arrival):* Kerielyn DiStefano RI & Laura Marek, CT

*Ring Clerks:* Laura Marek, CT; Meghan Riley, MA; Sara Tomis, CT

*Ring Steward:* Karielyn DiStefano, RI

*Blocking & Trimming Contest:* Laura Marek, CT & Alicia Cranston, RI

*Quiz Bowl Competition:* Meghan Riley, MA; Alicia Cranston, RI; Megan Cook, ME

*4-H Sheep State Shepherd:* Karielyn DiStefano, RI

*Ex-Officio:* Elena Hovagimian, Director of Agriculture

### Honorary

Barbara Thompson, RI

Kerby Thompson, NY

Donna G Woolam, CT

### OTHER COMMITTEES

*Ice Cream Social Coordinators*

Toppings: Rhode Island Delegation

Ice Cream & Supplies (bowls, spoons, scoops, etc.) – New Hampshire State Building

*Take Out Meal Coordinator:* Domenic DiStefano, RI

# RULES FOR THE 2026 NEW ENGLAND 4-H SHEEP SHOW

\* denotes new or changed in 2026

## GENERAL

1. Housing and Meals Eastern States Exposition will provide housing and meals for all 4-H sheep delegates and chaperones. Delegates and chaperones will eat and sleep at the 4-H Headquarters in the Moses 4-H Dormitory. **All 4-H youth are required to sleep overnight in the dorm for the duration of their 4-H Activity\***. The first meal will be served 11:15am Friday and the final meal will be served on Sunday. The Mallary Complex is open 6 am - 10 p.m. daily. All 4-H sheep must be off the grounds by 7 pm, Sunday.
2. Camper Policy Please refer to 4-H and Youth Working Steer Camping Policy page.
3. Passes Additional passes are available for family members at a reduced price. Please call (413)205-5011 to order. Turn in unused tickets and hang tags to Karielyn DiStefano, RI when you come and get your release form (At Mallary Ring 3.) Unused meal tickets do not need to be turned in.
4. Conditions The 4-H Sheep Show Committee and Eastern States Exposition reserve the right to amend or change the rules for the 4-H Sheep Show. Interpretation of the rules and regulations of the 4-H Sheep Show rests in the hands of the Show Committee and their decision shall be final. An Executive Committee for the purpose of handling problems concerning the rules which may arise during the show shall be comprised of the Committee members, with the Chairperson, Superintendent and an Exposition Representative constituting a minimum quorum. It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent and Chairperson to consult with the judges to ascertain that they understand the rules by which the 4-H members are instructed to compete.
5. The New England 4-H Sheep Committee is not responsible for errors in this program.
6. Emergency Protocol and Contact Numbers . **Please see Emergency Instruction page.**

## LIVESTOCK

1. Entries All entries must be certified by a 4-H extension representative, volunteer 4-H Leader and approved (signed) by the State Representative. **Online entry must be completed by August 23 at midnight.** All columns on the entry form must be filled in for each entry, including ear tag numbers of the entry's sire and dam with the exception that Class 23-Lead Line only needs to show the class number and breed of sheep. Paper entry must match online entry.
2. Classes 4-H delegates may show Yearling Rams and Ewes, Fall, Intermediate and Spring Ram and Ewe Lambs and Market Lambs
3. Aged Ewes may only be shown if they are the only animal owned or leased by the exhibitor.
4. Delegates **are limited to one Yearling ram per breed. They may show up to two sheep per class**, but are not restricted on total number of sheep shown. Fitting & Showmanship and Lead

Line animals must be shown in either breed or market classes; a separate animal may not be brought solely for Fitting & Showmanship and/or Lead Line. Members showing both wool and meat breeds will choose one Fitting & Showmanship class.

5. **Live Market Lambs. Ewes and wethers** will be divided into equal divisions by weight. Lambs must be clean and weigh a minimum of 80 lbs. and a maximum of 180 lbs. Lambs under or over the prescribed weight will be disqualified. Lambs shall have no coverings of any kind and must be dry at weighing. To make a quality show, the committee reserves the right to disqualify lambs at weigh-in for lack of conditioning. Any intact males, including cryptorchids, will be disqualified from the contest. **ALL MARKET LAMBS MUST BE COMPLETELY SLICK SHORN WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE SHOW.**
6. Ownership All sheep except Market Lambs or commercial ewes must have registration papers.
7. Read carefully. All sheep must be registered in the youth's name or leased in the name of the 4-H member by June 1. The youth's name must appear on the registration as an owner or the animal must be leased.. Date of sale on registration papers must be on or before July 1 of the year of the show or the sheep is qualified within your state approval guidelines. Delegates owning their sheep must have the actual registration papers, copies are allowed **ONLY** in the case of leased sheep. Name on registration papers and entry forms (ownership and exhibitor) must be the same – *not just farm name*. Examples of ownership are as follows [This assumes the Clover Family is treated as non-specific ownership.]:
  - Clover Farm: not acceptable as proof of ownership, lease required
  - Clover Family: Sally, Bob, & Chris: acceptable as proof of ownership
  - Clover Family: not acceptable as proof of ownership, lease required
  - Chris Clover: acceptable, no lease required
8. Leases Leased animals will also be accepted. The delegate is to have lease agreements on a uniform state lease form issued by Cooperative Extension in that state. Date of lease of State Lease Forms must be on or before July 1 of the year of the show. **Delegates must bring their Lease Agreement form and either the actual registration or a clearly legible copy of the animal registration paper to Eastern States Exposition.**
9. Substitutions A 4-H delegate is allowed to show a substitute sheep approved by their extension representative in writing, provided that the ownership of the animal complies with the rules in "Ownership" paragraph. Sheep purchased between July 1 and July 31 may be substituted, provided they are 1) not the only sheep the delegate is showing and 2) qualified within your state approval guidelines.
10. State Representation If 4-H club membership is held in more than one state, and the same project is taken in both states, the 4-H member must compete and represent the state in which they reside. If the project is only taken in one state, the 4-H member should represent that state.
11. Registration and Substitution Check-in Sheep must be penned, and registration or lease papers and health papers must be checked by the Registration Officials, by 1pm Friday. Substitutions

with proper written approval from state extension representatives must be checked in at this time. ***Registration or lease papers must be available at all times for examination by the superintendent.***

12. Ear tags ALL sheep must be identified at the time of arrival by at least one official USDA identification ear tag or tattoo or they will not be allowed in the barn. In addition, they may have an association registry ear tag, farm tag or tattoo. One of the tags must match the registration papers for each breeding animal entered. No fresh tattoos will be accepted. Exhibitors in the USDA VSFC Program are responsible for supplies needed to remain in compliance. All animals need to be in accordance with Massachusetts animal identification and RFID requirements for federal transport.
13. Breeds This show will be open to registered sheep of all breeds shown in the Open Show Division of The Big E Sheep Show. There will be separate classes for the following breeds: Border Leicester, Cheviot, Corriedale, Cotswold, Dorper, Polled Dorset, Horned Dorset, Hampshire, Jacob, Katahdin, Lincoln, Natural Colored, Oxford, Romney, Shetland, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk and Tunis. Breeds not listed above will be shown in classes determined at the discretion of the committee.
14. Illness or Death of Animal In the event that the delegate owns (or has leased) and has ENTERED only one sheep, and that sheep is stricken with death or illness such that it cannot be shown, but the delegate owns or leases other STATE APPROVED sheep, the delegate may bring one of those animals in place of the originally entered sheep, regardless of age or sex. A signed note from a licensed veterinarian (on the veterinarian's letterhead) must be presented as proof of illness and a signed note of proof of approval from the State Extension office must be presented. This rule does not apply to animals purchased between July 1 and July 31. If the delegate only owns or leases the one sheep entered and that sheep is stricken with death or illness such that it cannot be shown, the delegate may participate on a limited basis (see STATE DELEGATES Rule 4). A signed note from a licensed veterinarian (on the veterinarian's letterhead) indicating why the animal is unable to come and permission from the State Extension office is still required.
15. Animal Health Regulations Please refer to the Massachusetts Animal Health Regulations included in this packet. **For more information, please check the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture website at <https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-agricultural-fairs-program> In addition, please refer to MA Dept. of Animal Health Regulations regarding Scrapie tags.**
16. Overnight Watch Only persons serving in an official capacity, as appointed by state 4-H coordinators, may stay in 4 H barn areas to supervise animals overnight.\*

## STATE DELEGATES

1. Arrival and Departure Delegates and their sheep must arrive on the grounds Friday, October 2 between the hours of 8 am and 12 noon.
2. Vehicles enter the fairgrounds at Gate 1, using a vehicle pass or paying parking fee; proceed to Gate 10 at which point the personal passes are used. Vehicles then proceed to the Mallery Complex where sheep and equipment are unloaded. Vehicles towing trailers must get their hang

tag signed at the gate if they intend to re-enter and then leave the grounds via Gate 10 and be dropped or parked in the Satellite lot or exit at Gate 1. Release time begins at 4 pm, Sunday, October 4, starting with those who live the farthest away. Again, vehicles enter Gate 1, using vehicle pass. The driver should then proceed to Gate 10 and park the vehicle outside the gate. Upon obtaining an official release slip from the sheep superintendent, the 4-H delegate delivers such release slip to the driver who may then bring the vehicle onto the grounds. As soon as loaded, the vehicle must immediately leave the grounds. Turn in unused tickets and hang tags to Karielyn DiStefano, RI when you come and get your release form (At Mallary Ring 3) Unused meal tickets do not need to be turned in.

3. Exhibitor Health Condition Delegates must download the Participant Health Form from [The Big E website](#). This form is to be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. This procedure gives permission to administer medical treatment if and when it is necessary to do so. Delegates with special needs should let the committee know either on their entry form or when checking in. Special needs may be, but are not limited to, food allergies (lactose intolerance, gluten, nuts, etc.), therapeutic gum chewing, learning disabilities, etc.
4. Age Divisions Delegates will be divided into the following age groups (divisions) for all classes where age breakdowns are used:
  - Junior: 12-13 as of January 1 of the current year
  - Intermediate: 14-15 as of January 1 of the current year
  - Senior: 16 and has not turned 19 on or before January of the current year
5. Participation Each delegate with at least one sheep must show in the breed or market classes, take the Skillathon, and show in Fitting and Showing. In the event that a delegate has entered and their animal is unable to come (see LIVESTOCK Rule 10) the delegate may still come and participate in the Skillathon, Lamb Cook-off, Blocking & Trimming Contest, Quiz Bowl, and Shepherds Award. They may assist other delegates with the show. All delegates are eligible for their state shepherd's award. Each State may bring one or two teen leaders (age eligible) to help their state delegation where needed. Teen leaders participate in Skillathon, Lamb Cook-off, Shepherds award and Blocking & Trimming contest and follow same rule as it pertains to a delegate whose animal is unable to come.
6. All delegates agree to participate in all activities and to be present at all assemblies of the 4-H Sheep Program.
7. Illness or Death of Animal See Rule 10 under Livestock.
8. Exhibit Areas Sheep will be penned in an assigned area. Bedding will be furnished by Eastern States Exposition. Feed hay will be provided if requested on entry form. Provided straw is for bedding use only and is not to be used for displays or any other purpose. Display straw is available for sale at the ESE Feed Store. Delegates are expected to care for their animals, tack & trimming areas, aisles and show ring bleacher areas keeping them neat and presentable at all times. Only 4-H delegates will be permitted to work on their animals after they arrive at Eastern States Exposition. Parents, chaperones and others who render assistance to the 4-H member

do so at the risk of having the entry disqualified. Eastern States Exposition assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to equipment, livestock or persons.

9. Uniform Delegates must be clean and neatly attired at all times. Exhibitor numbers must be worn by the delegate when showing. Attire for all delegates in the show ring shall consist of full length, full waist BLACK OR KHAKI PANTS AND A WHITE SHIRT WITH A COLLAR. A solid white turtle neck or long sleeve shirt can be worn underneath. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Belts should be worn as needed. NO T-SHIRTS ALLOWED unless they are special ones given out by the Committee. NO TIGHT OR REVEALING CLOTHING OR HATS. It is recommended, that all delegates bring two sets of show clothes for the weekend, 2 black or khaki pants and 2 white collar shirts. Delegates not adhering to the dress code will be excused from the ring. Pants and shirts must be plain with no advertising or lettering. During inclement weather, approved 4-H delegate jackets (i.e. state or 4-H club clothing) or other outer wear is at the discretion of the committee. It is the responsibility of the state chaperones and delegation to uphold this rule. Shoes must be closed toe and closed back. Delegates may not appear in the barns or grounds barefoot. No gum chewing in the show ring.
10. Decorations Please see Fire Prevention Regulations included in packet. Decorations MUST follow all regulations. No farm advertising is allowed. A state sign, 24" high by 32" wide will be provided. Each state may prepare a sign listing all the exhibitors from that state, but each pen need not be marked with the name of the individual whose animals are in the pen.
11. Grievance Committee If a problem arises during the show, a Grievance Committee shall resolve it. This committee will be comprised of the Chairperson, Superintendent, and one representative (unrelated to subject involved) from each state. States are to indicate to the Superintendent upon arrival who has been designated to serve. Any other issues need to follow the protocol as outlined in the memorandum of Understanding.
12. Drinking of alcoholic beverages, smoking and use of drugs by delegates is prohibited. All 4 H delegates are expected to act in an orderly manner. Delegates are expected to respect the general public and answer questions politely. Delegates will abstain from using profanity. Appropriate actions will be taken for violations.
13. There are to be no cooking appliances in the barn.

## CLASS ENTRY INFORMATION FOR 4-H SHEEP SHOW

All animals must be presented in fit and show quality and to breed regulations. **Halters are optional in Showmanship and breed classes.** All sheep must be correctly identified by USDA, registration or farm tags, or tattoos. Incorrect identification will result in disqualification. Please use the following class numbers when entering. All below numbered classes **including Lead Line** must be entered on Entry Form. Please note: In individual classes, the owner must be at the head of the animal except in cases where the owner has two sheep in the class then another delegate may show the second animal. Foot setters are optional.

Bred-and-Owned Champions In each breed class, special ribbons will be given to the highest placing bred-and-owned animal. Following the champion classes in each breed, a “Bred-and-Owned” champion will be selected, giving special recognition to project animals bred and owned by the exhibitors. Also, preceding the Supreme Champion classes, a Supreme Champion Bred-and-Owned class will be held. Exhibitor must own dam at time of breeding and must be listed as the Breeder and Owner on the registration papers.

### CLASS 1 YEARLING RAM

Born on or after September 1, 2024 and on or before August 31, 2025. Yearlings cannot have more than four permanent teeth.

### CLASS 2 SENIOR RAM LAMB

Born on or after September 1, 2025 and on or before December 31, 2025.

### CLASS 3 INTERMEDIATE RAM LAMB

Born on or after January 1, 2026 and on or before February 15, 2026.

### CLASS 4 JUNIOR RAM LAMB

Born on or after February 16, 2026.

### CLASS 5 PAIR OF RAM LAMBS

Consists of 2 ram lambs of each age or a combination of 2 ages.

### CLASS 6 AGED EWE

Born before September 1, 2024 – *Can only be shown if it is the only animal that the delegate has to bring to the 4-H Sheep Activity.*

### CLASS 7 YEARLING EWE

Born on or after September 1, 2024 and on or before August 31, 2025. Yearlings cannot have more than four permanent teeth.

### CLASS 8 PAIR OF YEARLING EWES

Consists of two yearling ewes.

### CLASS 9 SENIOR EWE LAMB

Born on or after September 1, 2025 and on or before December 31, 2025.

CLASS 10 INTERMEDIATE EWE LAMB

Born on or after January 1, 2026 and on or before February 15, 2026.

CLASS 11 JUNIOR EWE LAMB

Born on or after February 16, 2026.

CLASS 12 PAIR OF EWE LAMBS

Consists of 2 ewe lambs any age or a combination of 2 ages.

CLASS 13 PAIR OF LAMBS

Consists of one ram and one ewe lamb of the same breed, shown in previous classes. (*Note: Pair of Lambs does not need to be Bred and Owned*)

CLASS 14 EXHIBITOR'S FLOCK

Consists of one ram and two ewes of the same breed, shown in previous classes. (Note: Exhibitor's Flock does not need to be Bred and Owned)

CLASS 15 STATE FLOCK

Entered day of show. Class needs two or more delegates to participate. Consists of one ram and three ewes, any age of the same breed, shown in previous classes. Note: State Flock does not need to be Bred and Owned.

CLASS 16 MARKET LAMB

See Rule 2 under Livestock.

CLASS 17 LEAD LINE

See Lead Line page for Rules and Regulations. **This class must be pre-entered on entry forms.**

## 4-H SHEEP INDIVIDUAL SHEPHERDS AWARD PROGRAM

THE PURPOSE of this award is to honor one individual from each state who shows outstanding teamwork and dedication to their 4-H project.

1. ONLY delegates vote for the recipient of this award. No chaperones, leaders, parents or committee members may vote.
2. All delegates will vote, picking one individual from EACH STATE amongst the delegates who are participating at The New England 4-H Show this year, to be that state's Shepherd.
3. A secret ballot will be taken after the fitting and show classes on Sunday and collected by the Chairperson. The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony that afternoon.
4. A delegate may not win this award two consecutive years in a row. Last year's winners will not be eligible to win the award this year.

## HOLLY BOTTASS 4-H SHEEP BLOCKING AND TRIMMING CONTEST

THE PURPOSE of this contest is to allow contestants the opportunity to show his or her ability and skill at preparing a sheep for show. Judging will be based on teamwork, blocking and trimming ability, **technique (i.e. patience and gentleness) in handling a sheep which has not been handled before**, technique in using various pieces of trimming equipment, and the ability to find and accentuate the good qualities of a sheep.

1. Each state may have up to three teams in the contest. If a state doesn't have enough delegates to make three teams they may team up with delegates from other states. Depending on the number of entries and the number of sheep available, additional delegates may be invited to form teams. Within an age group, all are judged equally. The oldest team member determines the age group in which the team will participate.
2. The committee will provide untrimmed sheep whose bellies may been shorn. The trimming of feet is not part of this contest; participants are to leave the hooves as they are. Washing of sheep is not allowed. The contest sheep may be a wool breed.
3. The contest: Each team is given one hour to prepare and fit the animal for show. Each team must provide their own stand and equipment. **No Electric Shears will be used.** Chaperone and other adult assistance is allowed to help clear the equipment from the ring following the contest or in the event of an emergency (i.e. a sheep falls off a stand and is in danger of hurting itself or others - safety and logic is key!); at no other time is an adult to handle a sheep. Final judging will directly follow the hour trimming time.
4. No opened toed or open backed shoes are allowed during this contest!

ABOUT THE HONOREE Holly Bottass was a 4-H member from Litchfield County, Connecticut. She was passionate about her sheep projects. She raised and showed several different breeds of sheep in her 4-H career. Holly participated at the New England 4-H sheep show as soon as she was old enough. Her favorite contest was Blocking & Trimming. She loved the challenge of wrangling a sheep fresh off pasture into a primped, trimmed show beauty! Holly passed away in a car accident on July 2023. She was nineteen years old.

## 4-H GROUND LAMB COOK-OFF CONTEST

Objective: To promote teamwork among 4-H participants, provide a fun learning experience, be a demonstration for visitors, promote public relations and promote lamb.

1. States will provide 1 or 2 teams of 2 members from their delegation. If the state selects 2 teams the teams will work as 2 separate teams. States can combine as one team if they do not have enough delegates to participate. Mixed age groups are allowed. There will be a theme chosen by the delegates for the next year immediately following the Cook Off contest. The theme for 2026 is **“Italian.”**
2. Cooking equipment can be shared. One adult supervisor per team must be present for safety precautions and cannot assist in preparing of food.
3. Each group must bring their own supplies except their ground lamb and table. Recipes, any spices, garnishes, rolls, fry pan (no grills), extension cords, gloves, aprons, plates, tablecloth, utensils needed to complete their dishes. Need to have hair pulled back and wear a hat, have hand sanitizing station,
4. No alcoholic beverages may be used in the preparation of recipes.
5. No parts of the meal—including the cutting of garnishes--can be made, prepped ahead of time, or precooked. Start times will be in 10 minute intervals and each team will have 30 minutes to prepare and complete the meal.
6. Teams will present a serving of their lamb dish to each judge, explain their dish, and be prepared to answer any questions.

A separate judge will be scoring teamwork and food safety

The panel of judges will score teams by the following breakdown:

Creativity	10 points
Teamwork	15 points
Food Safety	10 points
Taste	25 points
Presentation of dish	20 points
<u>Presentation by group to judges</u>	<u>20 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

All teams are eligible for ribbon awards.

## **4-H SHEEP FITTING & SHOWMANSHIP**

THE PURPOSE of this event is to have delegates judged on their fitting ability of their own animal and showing knowledge in presenting this animal to a judge. There will be three classes per age division: Fitted Breeds, Wool Breeds and Slick Shorn. If the number of entries is high, classes may be divided within each division. Delegates are placed in the proper class by designation of the breed standard. A Supreme Fitting & Showmanship class will be held at the conclusion of each age division, with the first place individuals in each class competing. An overall Supreme Champion will be selected from the Supremes of each age division. The 4-H Sheep Committee voted to include a Teen Leader Showmanship Class starting in 2024. This is not a fitting class for them. Teen Leaders wishing to participate may use a borrowed animal and will be scored based on their showing skills.

Please note: What follows is a GUIDELINE for delegates to use in preparing for Fitting & Showmanship. These guidelines have been given to the judge as a standard form. Delegates should note that individual judges will have their own preferences.

### **Appearance of Sheep - Total of 60 points**

Blocking and Trimming - (20) Animals should be fitted according to the standards of their breed association and exceptions allowed by the Big E Open Sheep Show. They should be free of dirt and stains. Wool breeds need to have sufficient fleece to allow the wool to be judged.

Cleanliness - (20) Ears, ear tags, eyes and muzzle should be clean. Fore and rear flanks and neck should be clean. All parts of the sheep should be thoroughly dry. Fleeces of wool breeds should be firm, bright and showing yolk, all of which indicate bloom. Excessively long, harsh, dry and colorless fleeces will be criticized. Artificial coloring of ears, legs and fleeces will not be allowed.

Condition - (10) Animal should show normal growth and size for age. It should be well covered (well fleshed) over back loin and ribs. It should not be over or under-conditioned. Skin and fleece should show health and bloom rather than being dry and lacking color. Skin lacking in color and lack of red coloring under eyelids may be an indication of internal parasites. Sheep showing evidence of external parasites will be heavily discounted.

Feet - (10) Hooves should be trimmed and shaped so as to enable the animal to stand and walk naturally. Hooves should be clean and may be prepared for showing by oiling or polishing. It is best not to trim feet too close to show day. A tender foot may mean a lame sheep. Hooves must be free from foot rot.

### **Showing - Total of 40 Points**

Holding and moving in the ring - (20) Bring the animal into the ring promptly and properly. Halters are optional and delegates will be judged on their ability to show their animal to their best advantage in the style chosen (i.e. points may be deducted if a halter is used but ignored). Line up as directed by the ring steward. Stand your sheep squarely, using the left hand under the jaw and right hand to move feet, straighten back, etc. Standing and kneeling on one knee may be interchanged. One may stand in front of sheep grasping side of face with both hands when the judge is in back of the sheep. The exhibitor should push down and back to strengthen the top and cause the leg muscle to bulge. Placing a knee against the brisket is allowable as well as placing a hand under the sheep in order to make the animal show to best advantage. The exhibitor may be penalized if the judge decides that the back is humped,

or arched because of excess jaw pressure. When the judge is in front of the sheep, the showman should set up the front end of the sheep so as to show the head and front to best advantage. This is usually best accomplished by grasping the sheep under the jaw with the showman at side of sheep, or by the use of the lead rope, whichever the sheep responds to best. Remember to keep sheep alert with head set and ears forward.

In moving the sheep, walk on the left side of the sheep. If a halter is on the sheep, it must be used to walk the sheep. Move slowly and only as necessary for the judge to view you and your sheep. Exhibitor remains on left side of sheep at all times. Do not step over the back or go behind your sheep.

If a halter is used, the sheep should be trained to lead and stand squarely when properly set up. Keep sheep in good showing position. An animal well handled and trained will not usually move when handled by judge. Sheep should not be set up too wide or too narrow, but to best advantage.

Alertness and attitude - (10) The delegate should be alert at all times and courteous to the judge and fellow delegates. Delegates should watch their animals closely and know where the judge is at all times. Inattention will cost points. Gum chewing and talking in the show ring will not be allowed.

Keep showing even when the ribbons are being awarded. Do not relax until you leave the ring. You can never be sure when the judging is officially over!

Appearance of Exhibitor and Knowledge of Project - (10) The delegate must be neatly presented in **black or Khaki pants and a white collared shirt that is tucked in and may not wear any tight or revealing clothing or a hat. Chewing gum is not allowed while in the show ring. Delegates not adhering to the dress code will be dismissed from the class.**

Delegates must be prepared to answer any questions the judge may ask during the class. The judge reserves the right to ask any variety of questions dealing with knowledge of a 4-H project such as breeds of sheep, care and maintenance of a sheep project, and showing ability, amongst others. In many cases, questions are asked to determine a tie-breaker.

## **4-H SHEEP EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT**

THE PURPOSE of this exhibit is for each state to design (during the year before the 4-H Sheep Show at The Big E) an exhibit to inform and educate the public of the responsibilities and teachings of a 4-H Sheep Project.

1. Each state will be given a table to display their exhibit. Exhibits must not hang over the edge of the tables and must not be wider than 4 feet or taller than 3 ft from tabletop.
2. Displays are to be designed, worked on and erected by delegates. Leaders and adults may not help with the design of the display. Adults are not allowed to help in the setting up of the display at the fair. The number of delegates who work on the display is not limited. The 4-H Clover must be included in the display. No references that inadvertently identify the state may be present.
3. It is at the consensus and discretion of the Event Chairperson, Show Superintendent and the Director of Agriculture & Education as to where the tables will be displayed after they are judged. Since this is the case, delegates should NOT plan on having a wall on one side of the display. The tables will be easily movable, and may be placed along the livestock pens, or elsewhere.

Freestanding backdrops of some kind are encouraged, but by no means necessary and must be attached securely.

4. The state's name and/or delegate's names may not be placed in the display until after the judging has been completed. The display is to be in place by **6pm** Friday evening. There will be no changes made to the display after this point (with the exception of adding the state's name and delegates names, if desired, after the judging is completed).
5. Judging will take place after the 6pm deadline. Displays will be judged and rosettes will be awarded for the six placings.
6. The displays will be judged on the following criteria and Rosettes will be awarded:

Originality	30 points
Quality of Workmanship	20 points
General Appearance	20 points
4-H Clover Present	10 points
State ID Not Included	10 points
<u>Ability to Attract and Hold Attention</u>	<u>10 points</u>
TOTAL	100 points

**Caution: Exhibits are not constantly monitored so please keep this in mind when preparing your display.**

### **4-H SHEEP SKILLATHON**

All delegates **MUST** participate in the skillathon. Indicate on the entry form if you require accommodations to participate. The skillathon will cover various topics from these sources as well as sections on herding & guarding dogs and diseases of sheep. Sheep supply catalogs, breed information, Ohio State Learning Lab & Supplements and the Ohio State University Extension Sheep Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects, Publication #4-H 194R which can be ordered through Ohio State University Extension,

***An award will be given to the top scoring delegate in each age group***

### **4-H SHEEP LEAD LINE COMPETITION**

THE PURPOSE of this competition is as a sheep and wool promotional class. Each delegate is judged on how well they demonstrate and explain wearing of wool, along with interest and support of a 4-H sheep project.

1. Delegates who chose to enter Lead Line **MUST** write it on their entry form (Class 18).

2. Each 4-H delegate must wear a garment, self-made or purchased, with the composition of the fiber being at least 70% wool.
3. The delegate's garment may be knit, crocheted, sewn, woven or felted. Jeans may not be part of the outfit.
4. The delegate must show their owned or leased animal, and the animal must have been shown in the breed or market classes at The New England 4-H show the same year. Rams will be allowed in Lead Line classes.
5. The delegate must clean, block and trim his/her own animal. Halters must be used as the animal is not to be touched while in the ring.
6. Accessorizing of sheep is allowed to compliment your outfit.
7. Exhibitor number must be worn in the competition when provided.
8. Typed commentaries are preferred and handwritten ones must be legible. All should be 2 to 3 minutes long when read. The commentary should include: 4-H exhibitor's name, town, state, school info – name of school and grade of exhibitor, sheep breed and info about that animal, years in project, description of outfit, where it can be worn, fabric content, made by etc., other hobbies, future plans and other points of interest The form needs to be turned in on Friday when checking in registration papers.
9. Delegates are to be ringside and lined up when their class is announced. Participants will remain in line while waiting to enter the ring. Participants are judged the entire time they are in the ring. Classes will be held for Senior, Intermediate and Junior delegates.
10. In the event that a delegate has entered Lead Line, but the sheep is sick and unable to attend the show, the delegate has the option to borrow a sheep from another delegate. Teen Leaders can create an outfit and compete with a borrowed sheep.

***Rosettes will be awarded to all who participate.***

***An award will be given to the Overall winner of the three classes.***

## SHEEP LEAD LINE COMPETITION SCORECARD

**BREED** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXHIBITOR#** \_\_\_\_\_

Items 1-5 scored on a scale of 1 - 15 (15 being best possible score)

### **DELEGATE SCORE SHEET**

1. Garment is stylish and fits well. No jeans allowed. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Outfit is suited to the delegate's age and the outfit is well coordinated. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Delegate maintains good posture, presents themselves appropriately, and appears composed and comfortable in their outfit. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Garment and accessories are clean, pressed. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Composition of garment fiber is at least 70% wool. Percentage of total outfit made of wool. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Bonus for percentage of outfit constructed by delegate (up to 5 points). \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL GARMENT POINTS AWARDED** (Maximum 80) \_\_\_\_\_

If there is a tied score the score sheets will be given back to the judges to decide the winner

Comments:

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**BREED** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBITOR #** \_\_\_\_\_

All items scored on a scale of 1 - 5 (best possible score)

### **SHEEP SCORE SHEET**

1. Sheep leads easily and is well controlled without the delegate touching it. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sheep is alert. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sheep is fitted properly for its breed. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sheep is clean. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sheep shows normal growth for age and breed. \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SHEEP POINTS AWARDED** (Maximum 25) \_\_\_\_\_

## 4-H SHEEP QUIZ BOWL

THE PURPOSE of this contest is to test the knowledge of the delegates in various areas of owning and raising sheep.

Changes to the rules may be made at the discretion of the committee.

1. Teams Each State will select four delegates to be their state's Quiz Bowl team. Should a state have fewer delegates than required for a team, those delegates may solicit delegates from other states to fill out a team. Team members must be participating fully in The New England 4-H Sheep Show as stated in the General Rules. Each team must designate a challenger who may be either a delegate or chaperone from their state.
2. Rounds of Play Each state will participate in two rounds of play. Rounds may be modified at the discretion of the committee. Teams will draw for numbers just prior to the start of the game. The Rounds will be broken down as follows:

Round 1	Round 2
Team 1 plays Team 2	Team 1 plays Team 3
Team 3 plays Team 4	Team 2 plays Team 5
Team 5 plays Team 6	Team 4 plays Team 6

There is a ten second time limit for answering questions, time starts when contestant is recognized by the moderator. In Round One, all teams will answer the same questions making it necessary for the teams not competing to wait outside the game area until their match is called. After the match, they may remain in the area until the start of Round Two. The first answer given by a team member will be their official answer. If any part of an answer is incorrect, the whole answer is considered incorrect. A round will be made up of no more than 4 one-on-one questions for each contestant, plus no more than 6 toss-ups. Round One question will be worth 1 point and Round Two questions will be worth 3 points.

3. One-on-One Questions each round will start with the moderator asking one-on-one questions. The first question will be read and only opposing delegates sitting in seat #1 may buzz and answer. The second question will be read and only opposing delegates sitting in seat #2 may buzz and answer, etc. Each correctly answered question will be worth one point; ***incorrect answers will NOT result in any loss of points***. If a question is answered incorrectly, the opposing delegate in the corresponding seat will have the opportunity to answer the question correctly, with the option to gain a point.
4. Toss-Up Questions Toss-up questions are open to all contestants. The delegate having buzzed first must answer the question.
5. Early Buzz-In The Moderator will stop reading the question immediately when a buzzer is rung and the individual or team must answer the question at that time. If the individual or team answering the incomplete question is wrong, the question will be read in its entirety for the opposing individual or team.

6. Final Scoring The team's final score is the cumulative total of the points they earned in Rounds One and Two. In the case of a tie, the teams will answer ONE additional toss-up question. If the teams are still tied at this point, questions will continue to be asked until the tie is broken.
7. Challenges if a team member or a team coach wishes to challenge a question or an answer, they must do so immediately at the time of the question being asked and the answer given. If the moderator has moved on to the next question, no challenge may be made. Only team members playing the round in question and their officially designated person may challenge a question or an answer. The contest judge will be asked to rule on the challenge. The judge will make his/her final ruling based on information given in the sources listed in Item 9 below. The ruling of the judge is final.
8. NO technological devices (cell phones, smart watches, etc.) will be permitted. All devices found will be removed.
9. Sources of question will be the Ohio State Extension Sheep Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects, Publication #4-H 194R which can be ordered through Ohio State University Extension, "Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep" Breeding – Care – Facilities by Paula Simmons & Carol Ekarius and the current year's state educational exhibits.

## **4-H SHEEP STATE SHEPHERD**

This award is given to the highest scoring state delegation that works as a group to best promote the following qualities:

States will be judged individually on:

1. Cleanliness of pens and animals
2. Neatness of exhibit area (including aisles, tack area(s) and lounge area(s))
3. Personal appearance of delegates
4. Interaction with the public
5. Adherence of delegates to schedules and overall cooperation

All states:

Neatness of appearance of fitting area

Cleaning up under, around and on the bleacher area

# 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## NEW ENGLAND 4-H SHEEP ACTIVITY

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

8:00 am - 12:00 noon	Delegates and sheep arrive.	Mallary Complex
	Registration and Health Papers checked	Mallary Complex
	Registration at dorm	Moses Building
11:15 am - 1:15 pm	Lunch served.	Moses Dining Hall
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Orientation, Ice Cream Social & Mixer	Mallary - Ring #3
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Trimming of personal animals	Mallary Complex
	Set up of Educational Exhibits	Mallary Complex
6:00 pm	Educational Exhibits in place	Mallary Complex
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Supper served.	Moses Dining Hall
6:30 pm	Block & Trimming Contest Set Up	Mallary - Ring #2
7:00 pm	Block & Trimming Contest	Mallary – Ring #2
10:00 pm	Mallary Complex closes	
10:30 pm	Deadline to be in dorm	

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:30 am - TBA	Fitting & Showmanship	Mallary – Ring #3
	Market Lamb Class followed by	
	Breed Classes	
12:00 noon	Take-out Meals Delivered	Mallary Complex
12:45 pm – TBA	Continuation of Breed Classes & the selection	Mallary - Ring #3
	Of Supreme Champions	
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Supper served.	Moses Dining Hall
7:00 pm	Lead Line	Mallary - Ring #3
10:00 pm	Mallary Complex closes	
10:30 pm	Deadline to be in dorm	

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:00am	Skill-A-Thon Contest	TBD
	Followed by Quiz Bowl	
11:15 am - 12:30 pm	Pizza Party	TBD
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Lamb Cook Off Contest	TBD
3:00 pm	Awards Ceremony / Exhibitors Meeting	TBD
4:00 pm	Release Time	Mallary Complex
	<b>(Begins with furthest States dismissed first)</b>	
7:00 pm	4-H Sheep Show closed; all sheep must be removed from the grounds	

## 4-H CAMPER POLICY

1. Camper spaces are reserved for those serving in an official capacity with their state 4-H program during The Big E. Three camper spots are allotted per state per animal activity.
2. A 4-H Extension Official from each state will email [aginfo@thebige.com](mailto:aginfo@thebige.com) to confirm the number of campers required **per activity** on or before June 1 of the program year. Information including camper length, dates needed, the names of those who will be utilizing these spaces, and their relationship to the 4-H Activity is not required at this time. **Please note: This information must be disclosed through an email to [aginfo@thebige.com](mailto:aginfo@thebige.com). No other forms of communication will be accepted.**
3. Each state is required to fill out the Mallery Camping Reservation Form for 4-H Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, and Sheep activity campers using the livestock camping reservation request system, which will open on Friday, May 30, 2026, at 8 a.m., and close on Monday, June 30, 2026, at midnight. Use the “Special Requests, Accommodations, or Notes” box to indicate the reason for this individual’s need for a 4-H Camper. ESE reserves the right to use these spaces for other purposes if they are not requested by the deadline.
4. Spaces reserved for the 4-H Horse Committee in the Horse Show Camper Lot will be allocated by the 4-H Horse Committee Chair.
5. Camper spaces in the Mallery Agriculture Complex area and the area designated for the 4-H Horse Committee are assessed a \$25/Day. Once your reservation has been received, you will receive a link to pay online or request an invoice.
6. No cars, trucks or other non-camper vehicles are allowed to be used as overnight accommodations on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition. Any vehicles used in this manner will be towed.
7. No tents are allowed in the Mallery Agriculture Complex parking area.
8. Any persons using canvas-sided/pop-up/tent-type campers will be required accept all responsibility for any theft, safety and/or personal liability
9. More information is available regarding the availability of camper parking spaces for parents and non-official personnel in Lot 9. For specific information regarding public parking camping and pricing, please contact The Big E Admissions at 800-639-2908.
10. **Management reserves the right to refuse access, and is not responsible for accidents or personal loss, injury or damages to any property.**

# **EVACUATION PLAN FOR ANIMALS ON EXHIBITION AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION**

If an event should occur on the Exposition Grounds that would require the evacuation or removal of animals being exhibited or shown under the control of the Agriculture and Education Department of the Eastern States Exposition (ESE), the following guidelines should be implemented to assist in the timely and orderly evacuation of these animals.

1. The ESE Director of Agriculture will notify the Public Safety Department that a situation exists that would require the evacuation of some or all of the animals on the Exposition grounds.
2. Upon notification from the ESE Director of Agriculture, a Seasonal Police supervisor will be dispatched to the Agriculture and Education Department office located in the Mallery Complex, or other location as directed, to act as a liaison between the Seasonal Police and the ESE Director of Agriculture.
3. This supervisor at the direction of the Agriculture and Education Department will establish a central location where the Agriculture and Education Department exhibitors will standby to be transported or escorted off grounds to off grounds parking so vehicles to be used to transport the animals off grounds may be rapidly returned to the Exposition grounds to be loaded out.
4. If the animals need to be removed immediately from the buildings, they are to be housed in the Coliseum. The Public Safety Department will provide officers to secure the route to this location and assist in isolating the Coliseum once the animals are moved. Removal of animals from the building will proceed under the direction of the West Springfield Fire Department.
5. The Public Safety Department shall provide all available vehicles to transport drivers or escort vehicles to retrieve trailers from off ground locations.
6. A Seasonal Police supervisor shall accompany the vehicles to the off grounds location to assist in assembling a convoy of vehicles to be escorted back to the Exposition grounds for loading.
7. Should the disposal of animal remains be necessary the ESE Director of Agriculture will work with R G Webster Enterprises and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) to assure that this is done in a timely manner.
8. All operations shall continue until directed by the ESE Director of Agriculture to suspend the operation.

# **QUARANTINE PLAN FOR ANIMALS ON EXHIBITION AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION**

Should the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) determine that a mass quarantine needs to take place at Eastern States Exposition, the ESE Director of Agriculture will follow all directives issued by MDAR, and, acting with the assistance of the Seasonal Security personnel, will secure the quarantine area and proceed to set up care for all quarantined animals.

## **EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION 4-H ACTIVITY EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS (SEE SPECIFIC LOCATIONS)**

### **FAIRGROUNDS**

In the case of a major emergency on the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones are to report to the front lawn of their respective state buildings along the Avenue of States and remain there until released by the Moses 4-H Dormitory Supervisor. In the case of an active shooter seek safety immediately until instructed to do something else by an official security detail. Upon all clear please report to the Moses 4-H Dormitory or Mallary Complex, whichever one you are closest to.

### **MALLARY COMPLEX**

In case of emergency on the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones participating in activities in the Mallary Complex should follow the instruction of Eastern States Exposition personnel or staff given through announcements and if possible stay in a group with their volunteer leaders.

### **NEW ENGLAND CENTER**

In the case of a major emergency on the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones participating in the New England Center are to report to the front lawn of their respective state buildings along the Avenue of States and remain there until released by the Moses 4-H Dormitory Supervisor.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- 413-205-5011 Agriculture Department
- 413-205-5185 Moses Dormitory Office
- 413-205-5555 ESE Police
  - Hours of Operation:8:00 am-10:00 pm
- **Call 911 if an emergency occurs outside of ESE Police hours of operation**

OFFICE OF  
THE  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



44 VAN DEENE AVENUE  
Tel: (413) 263-3220  
Fax: (413) 736-0087

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089

*Updated February 2026*

## **2026 Fire Prevention Regulations for Agricultural Events**

The West Springfield Fire Department Office of Fire Prevention shall conduct on-site inspections prior to the start of Agricultural events. Below is a list of rules and regulations in accordance with CMR 527 1.00, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Code.

1. No Smoking is allowed in or adjacent to any buildings, tents, or temporary structures.
2. When permitted, live vegetation shall be balled and kept watered.
3. Fine bark mulch and corn stalks are not allowed for display material. Large wood chips or coarse bark mulch may be used in barns but shall be kept damp at all times.
4. Flammable liquids and gases (propane cylinders) are not allowed in the buildings. Non-flammable gas cylinders shall be supported by metal stands and/or chains.
5. Devices utilizing open flame(s) are not permitted inside any building or tent.
6. Motorized gas or diesel vehicles are not permitted inside buildings, barns, and tents (including scooters, UTVs, golf carts).
7. Battery electric vehicles, scooters, and bicycles are prohibited inside tents, buildings, and structures. The exception to this is mobility equipment for persons with disabilities, which must be properly maintained and in good condition.
8. Hay and straw indoors should be kept to a minimum, not to exceed the amount needed for a single day. Hay and straw should not impede egress, should not block any aisles or exits, and if deemed unsafe may need to be moved upon inspection.
9. Feed and bedding material is not permitted on the floor of any aisle for display purposes, (including wood shavings, sawdust, peat moss, loose straw).
10. No excessive accumulation of litter or rubbish is allowed.
11. Aisles and stalls should not have any coverings over the top of them, as this would impede sprinkler activation and flow. Decorations are allowed, but should not impede safe egress.
12. All exits shall remain free and clear at all times.
13. All fire lanes and fire department access roads shall remain free and clear at all times.
14. All fire alarm pull stations and other fire protection equipment such as extinguishers / sprinkler systems, shall be free and clear of obstructions and readily visible / accessible.

OFFICE OF  
THE  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



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WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089

15. All aisles shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet in width and shall remain free and clear at all times. Aisle display widths are not to exceed thirty (30) inches from each side of the main aisle and twenty four (24) inches from each side of the side aisles.
16. Any materials used to decorate / customize the space should not increase the fuel load and should not produce toxic fumes/vapors in the event of a fire.
17. No signs, decorations, or other products shall be attached to any part of any sprinkler system.
18. All decorations, fabrics, and/or coverings must be non-flammable as certified by a National Testing Laboratory or, when permitted, rendered non-flammable by a topical flame retardant finish. Burlap is not permitted.
19. Furniture with foam upholstery/padding/cushioning is not permitted in barns or tents (couch, sofa, recliner, etc.). These pieces of furniture contribute greatly to the fuel load of the space, the rapid development of fire, and produce extremely toxic gases when involved in fire.
20. All lights and electrical mechanisms must have a UL label. Electrical devices shall not be permitted to be in direct contact with combustible materials such as wood chips, hay bales and decorations.
21. Extension cords must be UL-listed, in good condition, of appropriately substantial gauge, and not overloaded with electrical devices. Extension cords should be rated for outdoor or all-weather use. Extension cords shall not be covered by any combustible material such as carpet, wall coverings, plywood, wood shavings.
22. Electrical devices shall not be left unattended, i.e., displays utilizing lights and electrical mechanisms shall be unplugged at the end of the show or before retiring for the evening.
23. Any appliances used must be clean and in good condition, UL-listed, should not be plugged into surge protectors, and should be connected directly to an outlet or to substantially-sized rated extension cords with as few devices/cords/connections as possible between the appliance and the electrical outlet.
24. All extension cords, appliances, and electrical components are subject to inspection.

We thank you for your continued cooperation on providing our citizens, visitors, staff, and animals with a safe and enjoyable experience at the Eastern States Exposition.

OFFICE OF  
THE  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



44 VAN DEENE AVENUE  
Tel: (413) 263-3220  
Fax: (413) 736-0087

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Link'.

Robert Link  
Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention  
(413) 263 - 3384 direct  
[fireprevention@townofwestspringfield.org](mailto:fireprevention@townofwestspringfield.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.J. Bartone #820'.

Christopher Bartone  
Chief  
(413) 263 - 3226 direct  
[cbartone@townofwestspringfield.org](mailto:cbartone@townofwestspringfield.org)

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



## Department of Agricultural Resources

100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114

[www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr)



Maura T. Healey  
*Governor*

Kimberley Driscoll  
*Lieutenant Governor*

Rebecca L. Tepper  
*Secretary*

Ashley E. Randle  
*Commissioner*

### Avian Influenza (HPAI) Notices:

**Due to the continuing US outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domesticated and wild birds and in dairy cattle, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are united in advising the following for agricultural fairs, competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events that encourage the gathering or co-mingling of birds and/or cattle:**

#### **Avian species**

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of domestic and wild waterfowl species and may recommend delaying or canceling domestic fowl or poultry shows. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented. Waterfowl exhibitions are currently banned in MA through April 30, 2026, which may be extended.

#### **Bovine species**

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2026 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2026 season.

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Livestock issued on April 24, 2024, remains in effect. It can be found on the USDA website: [www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf)

#### **General Rules for All Animals:**

See M.G.L. c, 128 §2C, 129 §2

Continue to next sections for additional, specific rules for Cattle, Poultry, Goats, Camelids, Swine, Sheep, Equines, Rabbits, and Dogs and Cats.

1. All animals must be:
  - a. In proper physical condition
  - b. Properly identified
  - c. Free of visual evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease at time of arrival
    - a. Animals of any species with open or draining wounds will not be approved for entry.

2. An animal will be rejected from entry if:
  - a. There is evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease or open or draining wounds
  - b. Failure to produce the necessary documents for certification, vaccination, or testing
  - c. **THE INSPECTOR'S DECISION IS FINAL**
3. Any surgical procedure or injection of foreign substance or drug, or the application of any substance which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance is prohibited.
  - a. Irritants, counterirritants, or similar substances that affect the animal's performance, contour, conformation, or appearance is prohibited.
  - b. Exceptions include:
    - a. External applications of substances to the hooves or horns of animals that affect appearance only are permitted.
    - b. Surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the animal are permitted.
4. Official Identification (ID):
  - a. All livestock must have proper official, individual ID as required and approved by the USDA and accepted by the fair or show for the species such as official metal ear tags, tattoos, scrapie tags, or microchips.
  - b. Registration forms must accompany health certificates when used as part of official identification, e.g. with breed registry tattoos or microchips.
5. **Health Certificates: New England Animals Showing in New England States**
  - a. One Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) may be allowed for animals of the same species to be exhibited at fairs or shows in any of the New England States when submitted with an itinerary of the dates and locations of the events at which the listed animals are expected to be shown. Only animals that are healthy at the time of shipment may be moved.
  - b. For the 2026 Show and Fair season, OCVIs being used for the full season must meet all the requirements detailed in the 2026 New England Fairs and Shows memo issued jointly by the state veterinarians of CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT (attached at the end of this document). This memo may be updated at any time during the fair season in response to animal health outbreaks.
6. **Health Certificates: General Rules for All Animals**
  - a. Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one health certificate with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions. Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
  - b. An itinerary of the names and locations of each New England fair or show at which the owner expects to show the listed animals and the dates when each animal is expected to be on each site must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time of the OCVI is written.
    - a. A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the official health certificate (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
    - b. That proposed list should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner/exhibitor and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).

- c. The name and address of the first show or fair where the listed animal will be exhibited is to be used as the “destination” on the OCVI form.
  - a. “See attached list” or similar statement directing Animal Health Official or Fair Inspectors to the attached proposed itinerary must be included.
- d. Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were present on show or fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
- e. Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home. If the animal is refused entry to any exhibition during 2026 for health reasons, it must have a new health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the next interstate movement.
- f. Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

### **Cattle Specific Information**

See M.G.L c. 129 §§2, 39 and 330 CMR 4.04(2).

#### *Bovine species- Special Notice 2026*

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2026 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2026 season.

The states currently affected by HPAI in cattle can be found on the USDA website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock>

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Livestock issued on April 24, 2024, remains in effect. It can be found on the USDA website:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf)

A plan for managing lactating dairy cattle (LDC), including the handling of milk collected at the exhibition facility, should be in place for all fairs and shows where LDC will be on the premises.

1. Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from [TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States](#) (which can be found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/status-eradication-programs>) and from in-state animals. If the exhibitor’s state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795 or 857-348-3922). All animals must be free of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pinkeye, ringworm, warts, cowpox, and open or draining wounds.
2. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all cattle be currently vaccinated against rabies.

3. Note: The Big E is requiring RFID official identification tags for all cattle entering The Big E Fairgrounds premises in 2026. Other fairs may add this requirement. Contact the fair office with questions.

### **Poultry Specific Information**

See M. G. L. c. §§2, 129, and 330 CMR 5.02

**Important:** *Waterfowl may not be exhibited, shown, or otherwise gathered or co-mingled at in-person events in Massachusetts until April 30, 2026, unless extended by the Director of Animal Health, per MDAR Order 1-17-AHO-25.*

1. No poultry will be admitted to a fairground until it has been individually inspected.
2. All poultry must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: infectious bronchitis, coryza, pullorum-typhoid, fowl-pox, external parasites, and laryngotracheitis.
3. Each bird must be accompanied by written proof (ID card or test report) that the breeding flock was blood-tested negative for pullorum-typhoid within one year prior to entry date.
4. Birds from quarantined states will not be permitted entry.
5. All birds over 16 weeks of age as of January 1, 2026, shall be individually leg banded with a state leg band. This includes out-of-state exhibitors.
6. No bird vaccinated for laryngotracheitis within thirty (30) days of the fair will be admitted.

### **Goat Specific Information**

See M. G. L. c. 129 §§2, 9 CFR 79.6 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06.

1. Tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/status-eradication-programs>) and in-state animals being exhibited in MA.
2. All goats and kids presented, regardless of age, must be individually listed and identified on the health certificate.
3. All goats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions:
  - a. Foot rot, mage, pinkeye, ringworm, warts, pox, and open or draining wounds.
  - b. All goats must also be free of soremouth and scrapie exposure.
4. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep of any age or sex brought to a show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA official individual identification tag or registry tattoo accompanied by current registration papers consistent with the requirements of the FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHP-06. Information is available from USDA-APHIS at 508-363-2290.

### **Camelid Specific information**

See M.G.L. c. 129 §2, M.G.I. c. 131, §23, 321 CMR 9.02.

1. Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and from in-state animals. If the exhibitor's state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795 or 857-348-3922).

## **Swine Specific Information**

See M.G.L. c. 129 §14E, 330 CME 11.4(2). 9 CFR 71.19

1. All swine must be identified by an official ear tag or registration.
2. Swine must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: erysipelas, atrophic rhinitis, mange, and open or draining wounds.
3. Exhibited swine may not have been fed raw garbage.
4. No person shall import into Massachusetts from outside the state any swine which have been pseudorabies vaccinated. M.G.L. c. 129 §14E.
5. All swine shall originate from qualified pseudorabies-free herds or herds in qualified pseudorabies-free states only.

## **Sheep Specific Information**

See 9 CFR 79 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06

1. No sheep will be allowed entry from flocks in which Scrapie has been diagnosed or in which animals are under surveillance for Scrapie during the previous 18 months. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA official individual identification tag or registry tattoo accompanied by current registration papers consistent with the requirements of the FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06. Information is available from USDA-APHIS at 508-363-2290.
2. No sheep will be permitted entry from flocks in which soremouth has existed or in which soremouth vaccine had been administered in the previous sixty (60) days.
3. Sheep must be free from visual evidence of foot rot, soremouth, pinkeye, ringworm, and open or draining wounds.
4. While not required, it is strongly recommended that sheep be currently vaccinated against rabies.

## **Equine Specific Information**

See M.G.L. c. 128 §§2C. 44. 330 CMR 16.05

1. All equines entering a Massachusetts (MA) fairground originating from both within or outside Massachusetts must be accompanied by a valid health certificate and have a record of negative EIA (Coggins) test within the last 12 months.
2. All equines must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: mange, ringworm, soring, strangles, and open or draining wounds.
3. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all equines be vaccinated for rabies, tetanus, EEE and NV within one year of the fair.

## **Dog and Cat Specific Information**

See M.G.L. c. 129 §39G

1. All dogs and cats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: kennel cough, distemper, hepatitis, parvo, ringworm, and mange.
2. All dogs and cats must be accompanied by a valid or current vaccination certificate for rabies.

**Contact the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health at 857-348-3922 or 617-626-1795 for further information.**

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Accredited Veterinarians  
Exhibitors and Show Inspectors

FROM: New England State Veterinarians

CT	Dr. Thamus Morgan	NH	Dr. Mark Prescott
MA	Dr. Lorraine O'Connor	RI	Dr. Scott Marshall
ME	Dr. Taryn Pearson	VT	Dr. Kaitlynn Levine

SUBJECT: **2026 New England Fairs and Shows**

DATE: March 27, 2026

### Avian Influenza (HPAI) Notices:

**Due to the continuing US outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domesticated and wild birds and in dairy cattle, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are united in advising the following for agricultural fairs, competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events that encourage the gathering or co-mingling of birds and/or cattle:**

#### **Avian species**

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of domestic and wild waterfowl species and may recommend delaying or canceling domestic fowl or poultry shows. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented. Waterfowl exhibitions are currently banned in MA through April 30, 2026, which may be extended.

#### **Bovine species**

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2026 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2026 season.

The states currently affected by HPAI in cattle can be found on the USDA website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock>

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Livestock issued on April 24, 2024, remains in effect. It can be found on the USDA website:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf)

A plan for managing lactating dairy cattle (LDC), including the handling of milk collected at the exhibition facility, should be in place for all fairs and shows where LDC will be on the premises.

### All species

- **Animals of all species susceptible to HPAI** are potentially subject to quarantine as ordered by the State Veterinarian if HPAI is detected on a premises where the animal is or was exhibited.
- **If HPAI is detected in cattle in any New England State**, the Agreement between the New England State Veterinarians to allow the use of a single, fair and show season OCVI for New England animals being exhibited in New England will be voided. All exhibited animals would need to be accompanied by an OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of being checked in at the show premises and/or other state import requirements.
- Best biosecurity practices for all species should be implemented.

Contact the state where animals will be exhibited for the latest updated information.

### 2026 Fair and Show New England Health Certificates

**For the 2026 Show and Fair Season, domesticated animals from New England states (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) may be exhibited at fairs and shows in New England throughout the fair and show season using a single Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) that meet the requirements outlined in this memo.**

#### General Requirements (all NE states):

- A single OCVI from the animals' home state may be completed for travel to and from the New England states in which the animals will be exhibited.
- Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one OCVI with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions.
- Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
- An itinerary of the **names** and **locations** for each New England fair or show at which owner expects to show the listed animals and the **dates when each animal is expected to be on each site**, must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time the OCVI is written.
  - A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the OCVI (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
    - That proposed list should be **signed by the veterinarian and the owner/ exhibitor** and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).
    - Electronic OCVIs **must include this list of exhibition names, addresses, and dated in the "remarks and comments" section**
- The **first show or fair** where the listed animals will be exhibited will be the **Consignee** on the OCVI, as shown here:
  - New England Fair Season**
  - Street address of first fair or show
  - See Exhibition List

- Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were physically on show/fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
- **Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home.** Any animal that is **refused entry** to any exhibition during 2026 for health reasons must have a new OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian **within 30 days** of the next fair or show where it will be exhibited.
- Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

State-specific requirements:

- **CT**
  - Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
  - An importation permit for exhibition animals is required for cattle, camelids, goats, sheep, and swine
  - Testing and vaccinations are required for some species
  - Contact CT Dept. of Agriculture for permits and requirements at 860-713-2504 or [AGR.SVCS@ct.gov](mailto:AGR.SVCS@ct.gov)
- **MA**
  - Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 through October 31, 2026
  - Contact MDAR at 857-348-3922 or 617-626-1795 with questions
- **ME**
  - Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
  - An importation permit for exhibition animals is required for some species [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal\\_health/livestock\\_importation.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/livestock_importation.shtml)
  - Contact ME State Veterinarian's Office at 207-287-3701 with questions
- **RI**
  - Fair and Show OCVIs may be used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
  - Contact the RI State Veterinarian's Office at 401-537-4281 with questions
- **NH**
  - Fair and show OCVIs may be issued on or after April 1, 2026, and used for participating NH fairs and shows from July 1 through October 31, 2026
  - Contact NH State Veterinarian's Office (603) 271-2404 for permits
- **VT:**
  - Fair and show OCVIs may be issued on or after April 1, 2026, and used for participating VT fairs and shows from May 1 through October 31, 2026
  - Contact the VT Animal Health Office at 802-828-2421 for specific import requirements and permits

***Sick or exposed animals may not be shipped anywhere.***

# 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.

**TO BE INCLUDED ON FAIR ENTRY FORM**

**EXHIBITOR ENTRY STATEMENT**

I have read and understand, and in consideration for being permitted to exhibit at this event, agree and consent to abide by the rules of competition, including the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) National Code of Show Ring Ethics as stated in the premium list of this event.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor (owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer,  
or absolutely responsible person)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian or Parent of the above Signator



## The Big E 4-H Show Award Donations

Thank you for supporting 4-H youth activities at **The Big E**. Your generous contribution will aid us in our mission to promote agriculture, education, industry, and family entertainment while preserving our New England heritage. Here at Eastern States Exposition, we believe Agriculture is Our Culture, and agricultural fairs like **The Big E** provide producers with a national stage from which to showcase their accomplishments while entertaining and educating the public.

Please send your donation no later than **June 1** to allow time for purchasing awards prior to the show. Orders placed after June 1 may not arrive on time for the event.

We hope that you can come to enjoy the New England 4-H Activities taking place at The Big E this year, September 18 through October 4, 2026. This year's 4-H schedule is listed below:

September 18-20, 2026	4-H Dairy	Mallery Complex
<b>September 20-22, 2026</b>	<b>4-H Poultry*</b>	<b>E Barn*</b>
<b>September 20-22, 2026</b>	<b>4-H Rabbit*</b>	<b>E Barn*</b>
September 24-25, 2026	4-H Horse	E Barn
September 25-28, 2026	4-H Beef	Mallery Complex
September 28, 2026	4-H Beef Auction	Mallery North Arena
October 2-3, 2026	4-H Dairy Goat	Mallery Complex
October 2-4, 2026	4-H Sheep	Mallery Complex
October 2-4, 2026	4-H Dog	Mallery North

### \*New 4-H Activities in 2026

If you would like to pay by cash or check, please fill out the attached form. Checks should be made payable to **New England 4-H Council\***. Please include the **4-H Activity** you are supporting in the memo line.

**\*4-H Beef Donations** should be made out to **New England 4-H Beef**

Mail form and payment to: Eastern States Exposition Ag & Ed Department  
1305 Memorial Avenue, W. Springfield, MA 01089

Note: Donations sent without a form or a 4-H Activity designated in the memo line will be treated as a donation to the general 4-H fund.

To pay online, please scan the QR Code or visit: [New England 4-H Activity Award Donations](#)



Please note: this form is for **4-H Activity** donations only. For donations toward open shows at The Big E, email [agininfo@thebigE.com](mailto:agininfo@thebigE.com) to request a copy of the Livestock Donor Form.





## 2026 4-H Show Donation Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Written as you would like it to appear in the Show Catalog. If this field is blank, we will use your first and last name from above.*

I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my Donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Activity You are Supporting (please circle 1 per form):

Beef

Dairy

Dog

Goat

Horse

Poultry

Rabbit

Sheep

I would like to donate toward the following class or event: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation as needed.

I will bring an award to present on the day of the show

My Donation is in Memory of (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Collected by 4-H Member, State (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to **New England 4-H Council\*** and write the **4-H Activity** you are supporting on the Memo Line.

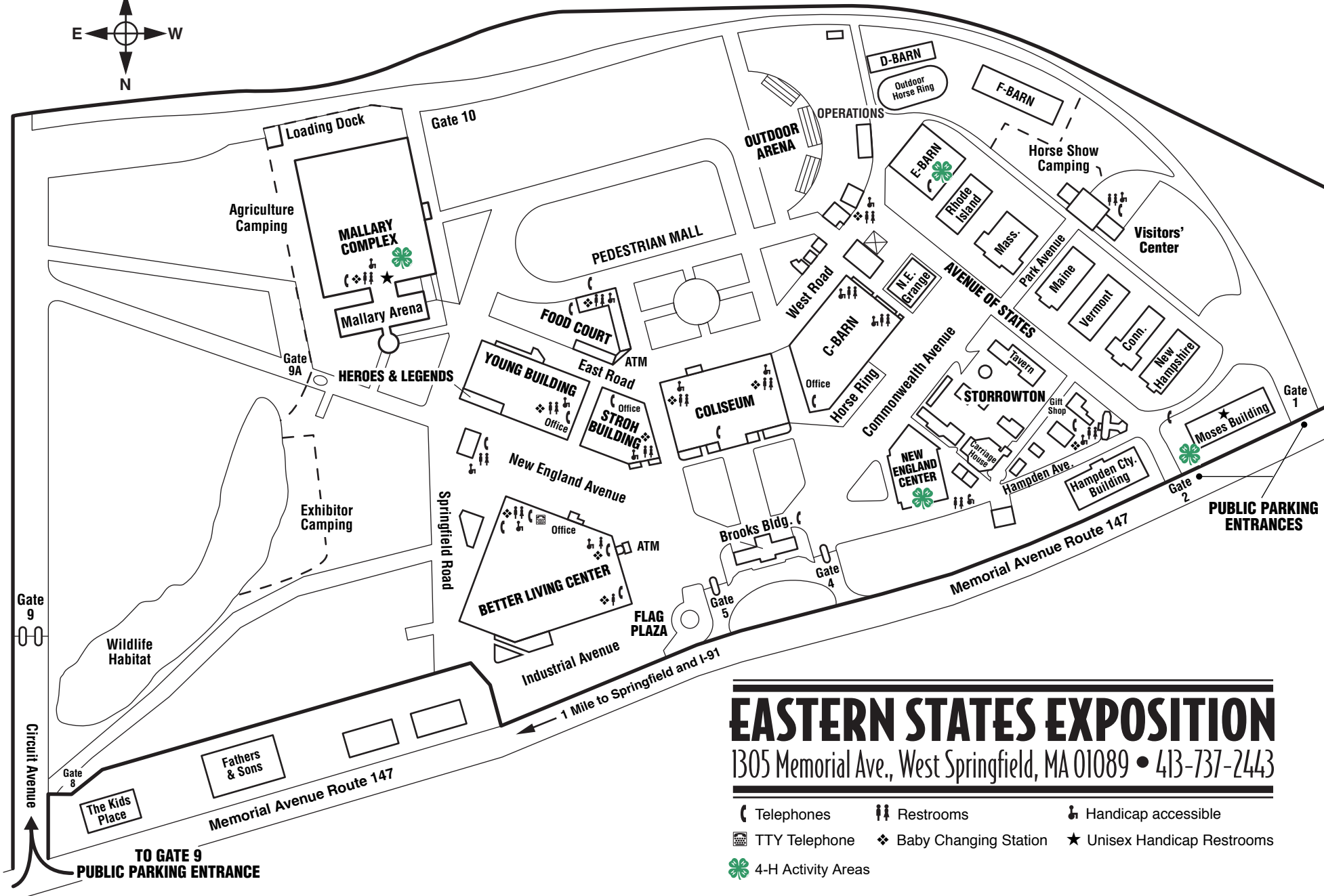
**\*4-H Beef Donations** should be made out to **New England 4-H Beef**

Please mail this form with your payment by June.



AGRICULTURE  
IS OUR CULTURE





# EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089 • 413-737-2443

- ☎ Telephones
- ♿ Restrooms
- ♿ Handicap accessible
- ☎ TTY Telephone
- 👶 Baby Changing Station
- ★ Unisex Handicap Restrooms
- 🌿 4-H Activity Areas