



LARIMER COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

March 25, 2020

2020 Sheep Project Information

Attention: 4-H Sheep Members and Leaders
From: Brittani Kirkland, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth
Development

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This letter contains the highlights of the 2020 Market Sheep and Project guidelines. If you plan to participate in the Larimer County Fair, once the Premium Book is posted online, each member and leader is responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by all rules and regulations.

Please read this letter in its entirety, as many project adjustments have been made for 2020.

Impacts of COVID-19 on the 2020 Market Sheep Project

We are aware that the cancellation of 4-H events due to COVID-19 may have, and continue to, significantly impact the 4-H Sheep Project this year. The Larimer County Extension office is working to come up with ways to assist you virtually throughout these cancellations. There are some specific things that we do believe are relevant to this project area that we would like to share at this time.

Project Completion Requirements

Participating at the county fair **IS NOT** a requirement for you to participate in any 4-H project. **Project completion requirements for Larimer 4-H are as follows:**

1. Participate in a demonstration or other speech-arts presentation
2. Participate in a community service activity
3. Exhibit your project (This does not say **where** this must occur. We have pursued other ways to exhibit that project without county fair attendance in the past and members were still able to complete their projects.)
4. Complete a record book for each project the member is enrolled and receive a score of 70% or above

We know that there will be a strain to do all four of these requirements this year and we will be making decisions as an office as to what alterations might look like. Please know that we recognize that numbers 3 and 4 above may be very difficult for animal projects if a family decides to not purchase an animal or if exhibition and sale areas are limited.



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Animal Purchases

Purchasing of any animal for a 4-H project is, as always, up to the family's discretion. There is no guarantee that there will be a place for that animal to be shown or sold. Whether that be at the Larimer County Fair, Larimer County Junior Livestock Sale, or otherwise. This is **always** the case, as it can never be guaranteed these types of events will happen. We recommend that you evaluate current market prices and cost of animal when you are making this decision. A Market Animal Budgeting worksheet has been sent out from the Larimer County Extension office to help you with making your animal purchasing decisions.

Larimer County Fair

At this time, we do not have any updates on how the Larimer County Fair will be affected or if it will be cancelled. This decision is made by numerous individuals and any definitive decisions have not been made yet. As we know more, we will let you all know.

Changes to Animal ID and Weigh Day Protocol

Sheep Weigh Day, scheduled for April 27, 2020, has been **canceled. We will not have a make-up day for this event.** **Please read the following information carefully for adjustments:**

- There will be **no rate of gain contest** for the 2020 Larimer County Fair.
- We plan to give **county fair tags out to members via a check out system** at a later date.
 - This is barring no additional cancellations affecting this. At this time, we do not know when that exactly will be due to the rapidly changing measures taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - Cost of tags will be \$5/tag
- All members will be required to upload the following images into 4-H online by May 5th of their project animals:
 - Scrapie ID tag image – this will be uploaded under the “Market (Photo 1)” in 4Honline
 - Left side body image – this will be uploaded under the “Market (Photo 2)” in 4Honline
 - Right side body image – this will be uploaded under the “Market (Photo 3)” in 4Honline
 - Front of body image – this will be uploaded under the “County Use Form (Photo 4)” in 4Honline
- Animals for the **2020 State Fair** will still need to be retinal scanned. **Please read the State Fair Section of this letter for more specific information and instructions.**



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Animal and Exhibitor Requirements

1. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Affidavit

This affidavit, mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture, will be required for all market goat youth this year. This form will be included in the Jr. Livestock Sale packet that each market animal youth will receive prior to County Fair. Each youth will be required to read, complete and have appropriate youth and parent signatures on these forms, and they must be turned in at the County Fair Check-in.

What is COOL?

The USDA mandated Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) on September 30, 2008. Therefore, all cuts of lamb, goat, and chicken must have documentation as to the origin of the animals to be marketed in the U.S. and international meat industry. So, what this means to us...Every 4-H youth showing market animals (sheep, goat, poultry and rabbit) must complete the "Country of Origin Label Declaration" form. 4-H youth can use one form for all species. The form documents the seller's basic contact information (in this case, the 4-H youth), the animal ID (tag #) for each individual animal in the transaction, and validation of what country(s) the animals were BORN and RAISED in. It also requires a youth and parent signature. According to USDA, this document must be kept on file for one year (in this case, by the Sale Committee). It is also very important that the 4-H youth keep adequate records and similar documentation in your own personal files regarding the purchase of your animals and all buying/selling transactions.

2. Premises ID

Same as 2019: All MARKET Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit and Poultry youth are REQUIRED to have a valid Premises ID prior to the fair entry date, in order to show at the 2020 Larimer County Fair. This does NOT apply to breeding animals. Just like last year, there will be a place on the Larimer County Fair 4-H Entry Form to put your Premises ID number.

Did you show a market animal at the 2019 Larimer County Fair? If so, you obtained a Premises ID and entered your number on the 2019 Fair Entry Form. This means that you already have a Premises ID number and do not need to reapply for one. If you don't remember your number, you can call the number below and they can provide it to you or you can contact Pam at the Extension Office for your number. If you did not show a market animal last year, you will need to obtain a Premises ID. It's easy (and free) to obtain a Premises ID. You can register by calling 303-869-9130 or go to: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises> .



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3. USDA's Scrapie Eradication Program

The USDA's Scrapie Eradication Program will be enforced at the 2020 Larimer County Fair. This regulation requires sheep to have Scrapie ID (flock ID) ear tags that list their flock of origin. Animals required to have Scrapie tags are:
All breeding & market sheep regardless of age.

A purchased animal should have the seller's Scrapie tag. An animal you raised should have your Scrapie tag. Tags can be requested by calling USDA at (866) 873-2824. Larimer County 4-H prefers that you place all Scrapie ID tags in the animal's left ear.

4. Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA)

All 4-H members must have completed the Meat Quality Assurance Program requirements to exhibit at the 2020 County Fair and participate in the Jr. Livestock Sale. MQA requirements are listed on our website. **Larimer County 4-H's second offering of MQA, scheduled for May 15, 2020, has been cancelled. Please be on the lookout for an email regarding alternative ways this will be offered.**

5. Wholesome Meat Animal Assurance Program

All market animals consigned to the Junior Livestock Sale may be screened for illegal use of drugs or chemicals. Anyone found guilty of illegal drug or chemical use will be barred from future Larimer County Fairs. All 4-H members with meat animals are required, along with a parent/guardian, to sign a "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" assuring the animals have not received illegal drugs or chemicals. The statements must be turned in at County Fair weigh in. (purple sheet)

We encourage you to keep your animals as free as possible of any and all drugs. If you use any drugs or feed containing antibiotics, be sure to follow the correct withdrawal times. If your animal becomes sick prior to the Fair and you must use antibiotics, please notify the Sale Committee or the Extension Office. Be sure to put this information on the "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" form. Also, be sure to list all vaccines, antibiotics, insecticides, and feed additives given to your project animal and date administered.

6. Additional Information for the Junior Livestock Sale Requirements

Refer to the "Jr. Livestock Sale" section of the premium book for details regarding who is eligible to sell (premium book will be posted online again this year, later this spring). You must have an official picture taken with your market animal at the designated time at the Fair to be eligible to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale.



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Larimer County Fair and Junior Livestock Sale Information

At this time, we do not have any updates on how the Larimer County Fair or Junior Livestock Sale will be affected or if it will be cancelled. This decision is made by numerous individuals and no definitive decisions have not been made yet. As we know more, we will let you all know.

Market Show and Sale Weights

Sheep:

Medium Wool Black Face Breeds – 105 pound minimum

Other Meat Breeds – 105 pound minimum

Speckled Face – 105 pound minimum

Wool Breeds – 105 pound minimum

Maximum weight: none

*There will be feeder classes for underweight lambs.

Rate of Gain Contest (Market Lamb)

This contest will not be occurring in the 2020 year due to the cancellation of the goat/sheep weigh day in April.

Carcass Ultrasound Contest

We will once again have a carcass contest at the 2020 Larimer County Fair. Plans are to use ultrasound on Market Lambs. This will be an optional contest, which will cost \$6/animal to enter (in addition to traditional fair entry fees). Entry is due at same time as Fair entry deadline (July 13). You are responsible for making your animal available for ultrasound at time of County Fair check-in/weigh-in.

2020 Classes for Market Lambs

Blackface Breeds – Hampshire, Suffolk, Crossbreds & Shropshire

Other Meat Breeds – Dorset, Southdown & Hair Sheep

Speckled Face

Wool Breeds

*Lambs will be weighed and divided into equal weight classes

2020 Classes for Breeding Sheep

Blackface Breeds

Other Meat Breeds

Wool Breeds

Lamb Royalty

The Sheep Superintendents will be selecting a youth royalty to represent their specie at the 2020 Fair. He/she (royalty) will help hand out ribbons and trophies at the respective show. If interested, applications will be available at the Extension Office and on-line. Applications are due July 13 at the Fairgrounds Extension Office. Selection will be made after that date and announced prior to the show.



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Livestock Sale Pictures

All members wanting to sell an animal in the Larimer County Junior Livestock Sale must have an official photograph taken with their animal. Members who do not have pictures taken will not be allowed to sell an animal. Pictures will be taken during and following the market classes. For members who have more than one livestock species, the last picture taken will be the species that is sold. For example, John has a market lamb, pig and steer. If he has a picture taken with each animal, the steer would be sold, because that was the last picture taken. If Susan has a market lamb and pig and has a picture taken of both animals, the pig will be sold. Also, the Champion and Reserve Champion market animals are required to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale.

County Fair Sheep Show Schedule

Friday, July 31

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Check-in/Weigh-in Market Lambs Check-in
Breeding Sheep
Carcass Ultrasound

5:00 p.m. Breeding Sheep Show – (no Ram Classes, Flock Classes or Pair Classes)
followed by Sheep Showmanship

Shearing will be allowed **until 2:00 p.m.** in the sheep barn only, **on Friday July 31.** You **MUST** clean up after yourself.

Saturday, August 1

9:00 a.m.

Peewee Sheep Showmanship (Not a 4-H Sponsored Event); followed by Market Lamb Show; followed by Feeder Class Judging

State Fair Information

At this time, we do not have any updates on how or if the Colorado State Fair will be affected by COVID-19 cancellations. We will let you know as we learn more details.

If you want to show a market lamb at the State Fair, you need to email bkirkland@larimer.org with the name of the exhibitor and the number of lambs that exhibitor plans to show by **May 8th.**

Market Lamb Show

A nomination card must be filled out for all lambs you may want to show at the Colorado State Fair with retinal images attached. Exhibitors planning to show at the Colorado State Fair must **email their name and number of lambs to be shown to bkirkland@larimer.org by May 8.** At that time, the county agent will be in communication with you to sign-up for a time to have your animal retinal imaged, tagged, and for your nomination card to be filled out. **More information will be sent out to individuals planning to show at the State Fair at a later date.** 4-H members must have a Premises ID number on their nomination card when entering the State Fair.



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