

Sheep

4-H Project Newsletter

This newsletter will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made to the project at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in November.

Welcome to the 4-H Sheep Project! Why not plan to make this your best year in 4-H by setting some goals and planning new ideas for your projects. This newsletter is designed to answer any questions you may have about the project and outline the rules set out by the provincial council. All questions can be asked to your sheep leader or call your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

CSIP Tags: 4-H Sheep members are reminded that all 4-H sheep must be identified in accordance with the Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP). All sheep and lambs must bear an approved CSIP ear tag before they leave their farm of origin and any subsequent premises. For more information research the Canadian Sheep Federations website at the following links. <http://www.cansheep.ca/cms/en/Programs/CSIPProgram/CSIPProgram.aspx> or <http://www.cansheep.ca/User/Docs/MediaReleases/2010/Letter to Members.pdf>

GENERAL 4-H INFORMATION

Ages for Members:

Junior Members: 9 - 13 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

Senior Members: 14 - 21 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

4-H members may register in the club and county of their choice, but must only be registered in one club, in one province. Members may register in one club and access projects in a neighboring club if that club is willing to assist with leadership of a certain project.

Project Completion:

All 4-H members must complete 'project requirements', for each of their projects, at their club Achievement Day. If you are unable to attend your own club Achievement Day, please make prior arrangements with your Regional ALC. Completion of your project qualifies you to move on to any further county, provincial, or national 4-H competitions relating to that project in the current 4-H year. School projects are not permitted to be used as 4-H projects. Each member must complete and display their own project work (i.e., two members cannot share a project for project completion).

What is Achievement Day?

Achievement Day allows members to display their project work to the public and have their projects evaluated, non-competitively. Project completion at Achievement Day is based on the following system:

A Green project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A Silver project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A Gold project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Sheet • Project Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Sheet • Project Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Sheet • Project Work
Plus one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Club Contribution • Judging 	Plus two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Club Contribution • Judging 	Plus all three of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Club Contribution • Judging

RECORD SHEET – Each member must complete a satisfactory record sheet. Record sheets may be hand written or typed. *For more useful information, refer to Record Sheet Guidelines.*

PROJECT WORK – Each 4-H project (e.g., woodworking, dairy, etc.) has specific project work requirements. Each members' project work will be evaluated on the quality of the work, degree of difficulty for experience/age, the way articles are displayed/presented, and whether all requirements are met. A 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon will be given for each project. Please review project requirements for each project carefully. In non-livestock projects, members must complete the required number of items as outlined, unless prior approval is given by the Regional ALC. This request should be made in advance of the member's Achievement Day. Consideration of an item counting as additional items will be given based on members age, degree of difficulty, time required to complete, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS – Members who participate in public speaking and/or demonstrations at club level will receive recognition on their Achievement Day Certificate. Each club has its own standards for communications, so members should confirm with the general club leader.

CLUB CONTRIBUTION – Members are encouraged to be actively involved in their club, county, province, and community. The club contribution aspect is an assessment on such things as a member's attendance at meetings and events, attitude, effort, cooperation, and self-expression. Each club has its own standards for club contribution. Evaluation of this Achievement Day component is done by the Club General Leader and / or project leader(s). The standard for club contribution should be communicated clearly to all members by club leaders at the beginning of the 4-H year.

JUDGING – In each project, members are asked to compare four (4) articles or livestock (e.g., 4 wooden shelves in the woodworking project or 4 heifers in a dairy class), then evaluate them to place the class in order from first (closest to the ideal), to fourth (furthest from the ideal). Oral reasons, using proper terminology, are given to an official judge for the project to support those choices. There are many useful judging resources available through your Regional ALC, as well online at the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website. In each county, a judging box is also available to borrow to help practice judging skills. It includes judging information and cards as well as judging classes, with reasons. Clubs may book these supplies through the Regional ALC.

At 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, 4-H animals participating in the 4-H Nova Scotia Show competitions are used to make up livestock judging classes (e.g., 4 intermediate Holstein calves). Members are responsible for notifying their Regional ALC by September 15 by email if they do not wish to have their animal used. Please keep in mind that judging classes can only be provided if members are willing to offer their animals for a judging class. As such, 4-H members are encouraged to let their animal be used in a judging class if possible.

Project Work Requirements

On Achievement Day, the project work requirement for the Sheep Project is a showmanship class. The Dress code for all sheep showmanship and conformation classes is white or black pants and a white shirt. Hard soled boots are encouraged for members' safety and a tie is optional. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor ring.

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year, and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional ALC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Conformation Classes

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, classes will be held at County Days, Exhibitions and 4-H Show. **Members can only exhibit one sheep per year.**

The sheep **ages** are: The Nova Scotia 4-H Program changed the age guidelines of the Sheep Project to the open show standard ie: "1st pair of temporary incisors in place"

The sheep **conformation categories** are as follows:

- Ewe Lamb Dorset
- Ewe Lamb North Country Cheviot
- Ewe Lamb Suffolk
- Ewe Lamb Crossbred
- Ram Lamb
- Ewe Lamb Other - Purebred

There is no conformation class for wethers (castrated male) however, please note the following rule.

Wether sheep can be shown in showmanship classes at the club, county, and provincial level, but there is not a conformation class for wethers. (Please note that wethers can be used in the market lamb project, however, keep in mind that market projects cannot be shown in showmanship classes). Therefore, the only reason a wether would be shown in a showmanship class, is if a member only wanted to participate in showmanship, and not conformation.

Other Rules:

- The Horned Dorset and Scottish Blackface breeds of sheep with horns are permitted in any 4-H sheep competition.
- Sheep in the Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship Class at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show are to wear a collar during this class for safety reasons. However, members are reminded that in showmanship classes, a collar is not used. Therefore, in Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship Class it is suggested to use it as discretely as possible.

The following are the requirements for fleece length:

- Long wool breeds (e.g., Leicester) will be shown in full fleece.
- Short wool breeds will be shown with 2.5 cm (1 inch) of fleece.
- Market lambs (all breeds) are to be slick shorn.

CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE & QUARANTINE:

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Livestock Health Checks will be done at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are cautioned that decisions made during Livestock Health Checks at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show are based on visual analysis and the professional opinion of those doing the health checks. Their decision is final. Further, all animals that are put in quarantine cannot be shown; those responsible for Livestock Health Checks reserve the right to re-examine animals.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. It will also be posted on the 4-H Nova Scotia website, as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H shows. This is the brochure that those responsible for Livestock Health Checks at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show will be using as a guideline in their decisions regarding quarantine.

SPORTSMANSHIP – Be a Good Sport!

In 4-H, Sportsmanship plays a key role in living by the motto of 'Learn to Do by Doing'. Please take the opportunity to consider good sportsmanship when at 4-H events. Here are some key factors to good sportsmanship:

GOOD CONDUCT – Demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behaviour and conduct. You are representing your family, your club, your community and the 4-H program.

FAIRNESS – Learn and follow the rules. Be objective and honest. No matter what the results try your best by using your true skills without cheating. Treat others fairly.

HONESTY – Be a reliable person, do not lie or deceive. Be straightforward in everything you say and do. Understand your abilities and skills, accept the fact that you cannot do everything perfectly, but you still can do many things well.

COMPETITION - Competition experiences enhance positive youth development and prepare youth with competitive knowledge, skills and attitudes. Take pride in your accomplishments and in improving your skills – you are all winners, even if the ribbon color doesn't appear to reflect this.

COURTESY – Be well-mannered in your conduct. Be respectful, thoughtful, considerate, cooperative, friendly, and cheerful, no matter whether you do well or not. When you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them. Be pleasant and nice toward other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, your leaders, parents and others. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Treat people and animals kindly. Keep your emotions under control.

GRACEFUL ACCEPTANCE OF RESULTS – Accept judges' results and suggestions with a positive attitude. The judge's decision is final. Regardless of the outcome; thank all that were involved in helping you put forth your best effort. Thank the organizers for their efforts; Sponsors for their generous donations; Agriculture Leadership Coordinators for their wisdom and guidance; Judges for their skilled eye and time given to the 4-H program; and anyone else who has helped you along the way.

The work in any 4-H project should always be done by the members. Hiring, or the use, of professionals and/ or adults to prepare projects for 4-H shows are not acceptable. Using these people as resources provides 4-H members with the information and skills to do the job on their own.

4-H Nova Scotia has a Code of Conduct in effect for all members and leaders. It is to be followed always throughout the year. If you would like a copy of what are acceptable practices in the 4-H program, please visit <http://novascotia4h.ca/codeofconduct/>.

You might also be interested in...

Second Year Project: This is last year's ewe or ram. Therefore, you must be in your second year of sheep to take this project. A second-year project is separate from the lamb class and must have a separate record sheet. **NOTE: There will not be a class for second year projects at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, but a member can still do this project on a club and county basis. Member's in 2nd year projects must also take a lamb (2006) project.**

Market Lamb Project: There is a special 4-H newsletter for the Market Lamb Project. This project is for those members who have completed at least two years in the sheep project. Members who wish to take this project are responsible for raising a lamb to market weight, finding potential buyers for their lamb and selling it at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. This is a great project for experienced sheep members, and a great chance to learn how to raise and market a lamb. The deadline for applications to be into Truro is **June 30, of the current 4-H year**. Market Lamb members are scored the same way as a sheep member at Achievement Day

(record sheet, showmanship, and your club contribution and/or judging and /or communications). Members judge the same animals as those in the sheep project. Market lambs may be either ewe lambs or wethers. (Rams are not acceptable). Market lambs will be in the 80 lbs (36.5 kgs) to 120 lbs (54.5 kgs) range for the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. This range being the standard size to produce cuts of lamb that abattoirs, markets, and consumers are looking for. Lambs not in this range will be examined by the Committee and deemed ok for the show/sale or will be asked to withdraw. Lambs deemed ok exceeding 120 lbs (54.5 kg) will be sold for and the members will be paid for only 120 lbs (54.5 kgs).

Sheep Clipping Competition: This is a competition at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. It is open to two (2) sheep members (juniors and/or seniors) from each county. A copy of the rules and score sheet can be obtained from your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator or on the 4-H Nova Scotia Website. **The animals provided (4-H Nova Scotia Council Annual Meeting 2012) are recommended to have at least three months of regrowth of wool prior to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, and be of 5 - 9 months of age. The county organizing the competition will provide one extra lamb in case one of the lambs drawn has to be disqualified due to sickness or injury. The judges' decision will determine this.**

The scoring for this competition is as follows:

- 40% - Clipping
- 20% - Report Form
- 10% - Herdsmanship
- 30% - Showmanship (15% per team member)

4-H POSTER CONTEST – Deadline and evaluation is normally at county rally. [Visit 4-H Nova Scotia's website for more information!](#)

4-H THEME CONTEST – Put on your thinking cap and be the one to come up with next year's 4-H theme! (i.e., *Let the Clover be Seen in 2017*). [Visit 4-H Nova Scotia's website for more information!](#)

WOOL COMPETITION – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from 100% wool and members must exhibit a Wool Competition Report with their entry. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

RECYCLABLE COMPETITION – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from a minimum of 75% recycled materials and members must exhibit a Recyclable Competition Report with their entry. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

GIANT VEGETABLE COMPETITION – Each year a new vegetable is selected for the Giant Vegetable competition held at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Each county can send one junior and one senior giant vegetable entry to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

TRACTOR DRIVING COMPETITION – The tractor competition is open to teams of 3 members (1 driver and 2 assistants); the driver must hold a valid class#5 driver's license or tractor license. The driver will drive a tractor and trailer through an obstacle course. The score is calculated based on

safe operation and judge's evaluation. One team per county will advance to 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website](#).

RECORD KEEPING COMPETITION – An entry will be one record sheet for a project completed in the current year by that member, with a detailed analysis included. Entries in this competition must include a 1 - 4 page analysis of the work and costs in the project for the given year in order to be eligible. Entries should be displayed in a binder/folder. The top two senior and top two junior record sheets per county will be eligible for the Record Keeping Competition at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, but entries must first qualify at county level. All county entries must be forwarded to Truro by September 15th of the current 4-H year for judging prior to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show." For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website](#).

AWARDS, TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS – Each year, 4-H Nova Scotia covers the registration fee to National and International travel opportunities for members awarded such travel experiences. Also, there are several scholarships available to 4-H members in Nova Scotia. For more information, interested members should speak to the Regional ALC and check out the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website](#) and Visit [4-H Nova Scotia's website](#).

JUNIOR LEADER PROJECT – This project is designed to build leadership skills by providing members with the opportunity to lead any aspects of their club which interest them (e.g., projects, recreation, communication, etc.).

GRADE 10 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT – Members must achieve gold completion and document at least 110 hours of 4-H related work to qualify. For more information visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Education & Early Childhood Development Personal Development Credit website](#) and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website.

Sheep/Market Lamb Project RECORD SHEET

Name of club member _____ 4-H age _____
 Name of club _____
 Years in 4-H _____ Years in the project _____
 Project _____ (Sheep, or Market Lamb)

PROJECT ANIMAL(S)

Please list what classes you will be exhibiting in and the date of birth of the animal in each class:

	EWE LAMB	RAM LAMB	2nd YEAR PROJECT	MARKET LAMB
BREED				
DATE OF BIRTH				

FEED & MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

(Please include monthly costs for each section listed for all animals to be exhibited)

Month	Milk Consumed		Hay and Feed Consumed		Misc. Costs	Total Cost Per Month
	lbs./kg	Cost	lbs./kg	Cost		
TOTAL						

RECORD OF GROWTH

CLASS ENTERED	EWE LAMB	RAM LAMB	2 nd YEAR PROJECT	MARKET LAMB
Weight at beginning of 4-H Year				
Weight at end of 4-H year				
Weight gain for year				

HEALTH RECORDS

PROJECT ANIMAL	DATE	PROBLEM	CURE	COST

Animal owned by farmer or Animal owned by 4-H member/family

Personal Comments

(What did you learn /Why did you take this project?)

Meeting Summary

How many general club meetings did you attend this year? _____

How many project meetings did you attend this year? _____

Please list any other club/county activities that you may have participated in during the past year:
