TO: 4-H SHEEP EXHIBITORS

FROM: Washington State 4-H Fair

SUBJECT: State 4-H Fair Participation Information - 2024

CONGRATULATIONS! WE ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO EXHIBIT YOUR 4-H LIVESTOCK PROJECT AT THE STATE 4-H FAIR IN SEPTEMBER. You will be representing all the 4-H’ers in Washington State. In the following pages you will find information that will help you prepare for your State 4-H Fair visit.

You might find that your county fair’s herdsmanship standards are very different from those that you will follow during your stay with us. That’s because approximately 1.2 million people will visit the Puyallup Fair this year. A few will watch events in the arenas, often for a very short time, but many more will walk through the 4-H barns. Some of these will be people with limited mobility, physical challenges, or small children. Almost all of them will know little about livestock and how they are cared for, or the handling rules you learn in 4-H that help you work with and enjoy your animals safely. Cooperating with herdsmanship guidelines is not optional, but a condition of your participation in the State 4-H Fair. Rules that address current concerns for biological safety for you and your exhibit animals may be implemented at any time to safeguard the health of American livestock, the economy of animal agriculture, and the health of humans visiting and working in our barns. Please be prepared to comply with any requests.

Fair is an excellent opportunity to educate the public about farm animals and safety, and to show our barn visitors that we take the best possible care of our animals. The public is becoming more concerned about and critical of the care given to domesticated animals; for many people this is their only opportunity to see farm animals “up close and personal”.

4-H SHEEP WILL ARRIVE 6AM TO 9AM ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 IN BARN M.

- 6-7 A.M. – ARRIVAL FOR ALL EXHIBITORS AND ANIMALS FROM KING, KITSAP, PIERCE, AND THURSTON COUNTIES.
- 6-8 A.M. – ARRIVAL FOR ALL EXHIBITORS AND ANIMALS FROM COWLITZ, GRAYS HARBOR/MASON, JEFFERSON, LEWIS, PACIFIC, SKAGIT, AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES.
- 6-9 A.M. – ARRIVAL FOR ALL EXHIBITORS AND ANIMALS FROM ALL OTHER COUNTIES.
- IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER YOUR DESIGNATED TIME, YOU WILL BE PUT IN THE BACK OF THE LINE AND BE THE LAST TO UNLOAD YOUR ANIMALS.

4-H SHEEP WILL BE RELEASED BEGINNING AT 6 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

4-H Sheep Show Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fleece Check In</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>10 am to 1 pm</td>
<td>Barn M – Llama Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibitor Meeting</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Town &amp; Country 2 Arena</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-H Lads and Lassies Lead</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td></td>
<td>Town &amp; Country 2 Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleece Judging</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>5 pm</td>
<td>Barn M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Sheep Fit/Show and Type Classes</td>
<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Town &amp; Country 2 Arena</td>
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1. Please read this memo carefully. Questions may be directed to your County Extension 4-H office or the State 4-H Fair office. Check current maps for the new or unfamiliar locations. Important information about security, parking, dorms, passes, and camper space rentals is available in WS4HF/1.10m and is not repeated in this letter. Be sure to ask for that information.

There are new gate opening and ticket sales times that you should be aware of, for anyone entering the fairgrounds before 10 a.m. For more information see WS4HF/1.10m or go online to www.thefair.com.

The State 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide is online at http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/fairs/state-4-h-fair/
Please read all information relating to your participation prior to coming to State 4-H Fair.

2. If you are unable to participate, please call the State 4-H Fair Office at (253) 770-5410.

3. Exhibitor Information Form WS4HF/1.01m must be completed and mailed to the State 4-H Fair office in time to be received prior to Sept. 10. The form is available at your County Extension Office.

The dormitories will not be available for the 2022 fair.

4. As a State 4-H Fair participant, you are on exhibit to other 4-H’ers and the public. Behavior and appearance that shows pride and respect for yourself and the 4-H organization is expected of all 4-H exhibitors. Courteous, appropriate language and clean, appropriate clothing is part of your State 4-H Fair exhibiting responsibility.

5. Washington State Fair, our host, requests that we not prepare, serve or eat/drink within the animal barns, and that we encourage our barn visitors to refrain from eating/drinking while in the barns. WWF will provide an appropriate location, out of sight of the public, for you to use for snacks and meals as necessary. Remember to wash your hands frequently, but especially before handling food. This reflects the serious nature of food contamination from animal contact - for barn visitors as well as exhibitors. Please cooperate in setting a good example for the more vulnerable urban public.

6. If you have qualified for and want to make a public presentation at the State 4-H Fair, please let the Livestock Superintendent know early on Friday morning, even though you may wish to do your presentation on a different day. You must have received a blue placing on your day. You must have this signed stall card before your animal is stalled or penned. If the veterinarian refuses entry of an animal, the animal must be taken home immediately. There are no facilities to hold animals that can’t be exhibited in the barns.

9. Animal exhibitors or their representatives will be able to pick up passes in their assigned barn from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Friday, September 13. Passes will not be available in the Pass Office during those hours. After 10 a.m., passes will be available in the 4-H Pass Office only. The Pass Office will handle dormitory requests only, from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. that day.

10. Animal educational displays may either be sent to the fair with other still life exhibits (Aug 26-27) or brought when animals are brought in. If delivered at the earlier date, the educational displays will have already been processed, and you may pick them up at the 4-H Exhibit Building to put into your display immediately. Otherwise, they are collected on animal entry day, processed, and returned for display when completed. Educational posters will not be judged. Instead, all posters will be given a special ribbon and assigned a flat rate of premium points for all posters. All educational displays are released when animals are released. Clean-up crews will discard any educational displays remaining after the barn is emptied of 4-H exhibit animals.

11. Exhibiting an animal at the State 4-H Fair implies your acceptance of the Animal Project Exhibitor Commitment to Quality Animal Care agreement. A copy is in this letter. Please read it carefully. Participation indicates your intent to comply with these statements.

12. Herdsmanship ribbons will be available at your barn superintendent’s office in the afternoon of release day; they will not be mailed to your county 4-H office.

Exhibitors should furnish the buckets, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, etc., necessary for the feeding and watering and herdsmanship of their exhibit.

Washington State Fair will furnish hay and shavings for all (straw for sheep), and grain for swine. Feed and bedding materials will be delivered to your barn each morning. Please don’t attempt to get those for yourself.

In case of animal health care emergencies at any time, the 4-H show superintendent should be located. Fair veterinarians will be scheduled only for animal check-in. A fair veterinarian will do morning and evening rounds, but not at a pre-determined time. On rounds, the vet will visit your animal if your request is posted on the vet’s board. You will be charged for service and medications used. If you cannot wait for the next rounds, the superintendent will help you contact a local veterinarian to provide animal care. Local veterinarians will charge for travel, service, and medications used. Exhibitors will be required to pay at the time of service. Vet charges will not be deducted from premium payments.

Clipping chutes should be clearly marked with your county name or number, and your name. Due to limited electrical service and appropriate space, your superintendent may request some chutes be either relocated or removed. Please cooperate.

7. All livestock trucks and other vehicles hauling livestock animals will have a new arrival procedure this year. From 15th Street SW, all livestock vehicles will turn into the rodeo entrance into the parking lot (follow directional signs). Livestock vehicles will then be sorted into three lines, one for each unloading area. Vehicles will be directed onto the fairgrounds, following the newly established route through the fair. Only vehicles with livestock animals aboard will be directed onto the fairgrounds. All other vehicles will be parked and all tack and equipment will be shuttled onto the fairgrounds. After unloading the animals, livestock trucks will be directed to the designated parking areas for livestock vehicles. Pick-ups and trucks used for hauling animals, can be stored in the Livestock Parking Lot. Request a parking card to hang on your rear view mirror, as animals are being unloaded. You must register your license plate to get the parking card. Vehicles are expected to remain parked in this lot the entire time you are at the fair. If you go in and out daily, you will be expected to pay daily parking fees. No other vehicles may be parked in the Livestock Parking Lot.

8. Stall cards are issued at the time of vet check. You must have this signed stall card before your animal is stalled or penned.
13. Due to the change in animal schedules and available arena time, fun day activities may be limited this year.

14. All animals will be released September 16 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Further information about animal release day will be available during your exhibitor meetings on entry day. It is very important that you remove as much tack as possible early in the day. Trams for hauling tack will be available early in the day. Primary stall decorations and animals must remain in place until release is announced. We are responsible to our hosts (Washington State Fair) and the fair-going public to maintain a tidy and complete exhibit until release.

Hauling all the 4-H animals from the Washington State fairgrounds takes much more time than exiting your county fair, and the process is probably much more complicated. Your prompt cooperation is valuable in this stressful situation.

Poor livestock exit experiences often ruin all the memories of the good things that happened during the show. We need your help to remedy this. The livestock superintendents will discuss exit procedures during their section exhibitor meetings. It will be very important that you and your driver be informed, and have appropriate materials to help make your exit as painless and efficient as possible.

Animals cannot be left unattended in the barns after closing, or in the parking lot after exit from the fair grounds.

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**ANIMAL PROJECT EXHIBITOR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY ANIMAL CARE**

This is an agreement, formal or implied, between 4-H participants and the management of the State 4-H Fair. Its purpose is:

- To encourage ethical decisions and activities by 4-H youth
- To ensure the overall well-being of all 4-H animals exhibited
- To ensure the use of commonly accepted practices in preparing and exhibiting animals for show
- To maintain a safe and wholesome food supply
- To maintain the intent and integrity of animal competitions and displays for future generations

1. The purpose of my participation in the Washington 4-H Animal Sciences Program is to strengthen my own knowledge, ability, and skill as a feeder, manager, trainer, caregiver, and exhibitor of animals and to develop my sense of responsibility and good character. If my project includes food production animals, my goal is to produce safe and wholesome food.

2. I will do my own project work to the best of my ability.

3. I will not use or allow abusive, fraudulent, or illegal practices or products to be used in the feeding, care, fitting, training, and showing of my animals.

4. I will not misrepresent my animals or myself in any way.

5. I will read, understand, and follow the rules, without exception, of animal shows in which I am a participant and ask that my parents and my 4-H leader do the same.

6. My animal project is an example of how to accept what life has to offer, both good and bad, and how to live with the outcome. I will treat other people’s animals with the same respect and care I give my own animals.

7. I realize that I am responsible for the proper care and safe, humane treatment of my animals. I realize that I am also responsible for demonstrating strong moral fiber and good character as an example to others.

8. I will voice any objections to events related to my participation by using the protest policy described in the premium book. I will not directly interfere with the judge, show management, or other exhibitors before, during, or after the event.

9. I accept that failure to uphold this commitment could result in forfeiture of my right to participate in the 4-H Animal Sciences Program.

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**IN LIGHT OF RECENT CONCERNS OVER ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES, WE ARE SHARING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE STATE VETERINARIAN’S OFFICE:**

**BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST FOR ALL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS**

**Before and During the Fair:**

- Prohibit visitors to your animals and farm especially if they have traveled outside of the country within the past week.
- Make sure all veterinary health inspections and certificates of veterinary inspection are current for all the animals you will take to the fair.
- Follow the fair vaccination guidelines and give recommended vaccination at least 10 days before the event.
Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, manure baskets, lead ropes, blankets, snares, clippers, brushes, showbox, and so forth before entering the fairgrounds.

Don’t share equipment with other exhibitors unless it has been cleaned and disinfected before and after use.

Avoid entering the pens/stalls and coming in contact with animals from other farms.

Contact the fair veterinarian or superintendent when animals are in need of attention. If you must come in contact with animals other than your own, properly wash your hands and thoroughly clean and disinfect your boots and clothing before returning to your animals.

Eliminate traffic between exhibitors of different species. If it is not possible to eliminate this traffic, change clothing and disinfect hands before handling a different species.

As much as possible, minimize feed and water changes from home to fair.

Keep unused equipment and feed bagged or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.

Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals to and from the fair should be well cleaned and disinfected, inside and out, between uses.

Do not mix species in the same trailer (especially sheep/goats and cattle). Avoid commercial haulers with multiple animals from multiple farms.

Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the fair before taking them home.

Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay, and feed after the fair. Do not bring it home.

Minimize stress by keep animals cool, well bedded, and comfortable.

Carefully consider whether exhibition animals should return home after the fair, and what risk that presents to other animals at home.

If an animal becomes ill at the exhibit, consult the fair veterinarian and isolate the animal.

After the fair:

The safest way to transport your animals is in your own vehicle. Do not haul animals from other farms.

Keep fair animals isolated from other animals and pets for at least 20 days.

Check these isolated animals every day for any signs of illness.

Care for isolated animals separately, then shower, change your clothes, and clean and disinfect your boots before going to other areas of the farm.

The person caring for animals at the fair should not perform animal-related chores at home during the fair. If the same person must do both, chores at home should be done first. Do not wear the same clothes, hats, and shoes to care for the animals at home at the fair animals. Garments should be cleaned and disinfected between each trip to the fairgrounds and barn/pasture. It is also a good idea to shower between trips.

Horse taken to the fair should be isolated from livestock and pets for at least 30 days after returning to the fair. Although horses don’t get many of the livestock diseases, they could carry disease back to the farm.

Contact a veterinarian as soon as you see any unusual symptoms in any animal. Many diseases can look similar to a foreign animal disease, only a veterinarian can tell for sure.

These biosecurity practices are a good idea no matter what disease might be of concern. The goals are to keep every animal healthy and to safeguard the Washington livestock industry.

**TOP FIVE DISEASE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Segregation – prevent contact of your livestock with other animals.
- Restrict use of feed, equipment, and trailers to our animals and disinfect after use.
- What happens at the fair stays at the fair. This includes equipment (unless cleaned and disinfected), feed and bedding.
- Notify a veterinarian immediately if an animal becomes sick.
- Isolate animals returning home for 30 days.