



2026 Mississippi State Fair and 2027 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Sheep Division

Reminders and Important Dates

Reminders

The rules in the current year's Mississippi State Fair or Dixie National Junior Round-Up Premium book supersede any rules published previously in a Mississippi State Fair or Dixie National Junior Round-Up Premium book or in this publication. [New rules and regulations passed by the Mississippi Livestock Council Show directors will be in brackets throughout this book.]

An official show veterinarian from the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM) will be on site during the junior livestock shows.

General Show and Animal Health Reminders

- Health certificate from a veterinarian is required to get on fairgrounds
- 60-day health record forms are uploaded in the check-in app used for checking in all livestock

Important Dates

Ownership of animal – Tuesday, September 1, 2026

- Ownership for both Mississippi State Fair/Dixie National
 - Market Steers, Market Lambs, Market Goats, Market Hair Sheep
- Ownership for Mississippi State Fair
 - Beef Breeding Animals, Commercial and Dairy Breeding Females, Commercial Beef Heifers, Market Hogs, Commercial Meat Goat Does, Wether Dams, Commercial and Registered Dairy Goats, Breeding Hair Sheep, Registered Breeding Boer Does

Entries must be submitted to county Extension office by Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Exhibitors must submit their entries in the Showman app by the end of Friday, September 4, 2026. There is a \$10 per head nomination fee.

Classification/DNA Hair Collection Week,
September 14–16, 2026

- Monday, September 14: Hattiesburg – 7 a.m.–Noon
- Tuesday, September 15: Raymond – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 16: Greenwood – 8–10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 16: Pontotoc – 2–6 p.m.

Exhibitor entry deadline to submit livestock in the Showman app for the Mississippi State Fair (September 18, 2026). There is a \$5 per head entry fee.

Mississippi State Fair, Jackson – October 8–18, 2026

Ownership of animal – Tuesday, December 1, 2026

- Ownership for Dixie National Junior Round-Up
 - Beef Breeding Animals, Commercial and Dairy Breeding Females, Market Hogs, Mississippi Bred Barrows, Commercial and Registered Dairy Goats, Commercial Beef Heifers, Wether Dams, Commercial Gilts, Commercial Meat Goat Does, Breeding Hair Sheep, Registered Breeding Boer Does

Entries must be submitted to county Extension office by Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Exhibitors must submit their entries in the Showman app by the end of Friday, December 4, 2026. There is a \$10 per head nomination fee for new nominations.

Classification/DNA Hair Collection Week,
December 14–17, 2026

- Monday, December 14: Hattiesburg – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 15: Raymond – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 16: Greenwood – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 17: Oxford – 8 a.m.–Noon

Exhibitor entry deadline to submit livestock in the Showman app for the District Livestock Shows and Dixie National Junior Round-Up (January 5, 2027). There is a \$5 per head

entry fee for the DNJR, and each district has their own per head entry fee.

Dixie National Junior Round-Up, February 1–11, 2027

Market Lamb, Market Hair Sheep, Wether Dams, and Breeding Hair Sheep

Superintendents

Brandon Alberson, MSU Extension – Tippah County

Jennifer Williams, MSU Extension – Lincoln County

Heather Jennings, MSU Extension – Rankin County

Nomination Forms turned into Extension Agent/FFA Teacher

1. Market lambs and market hair sheep: September 1, 2026
2. Wether dams and breeding hair sheep: September 1, 2026, for Fair and December 1, 2026, for District and DNJR

Nomination/Entry Dates for Exhibitors using the Showman app (\$10 per head nomination fee; \$5 per head entry fee for Fair; \$5 per head entry fee for DNJR; district fee per head varies)

1. Market lambs and market hair sheep: nominated in Showman app by September 4, 2026, for Fair, District, and DNJR; entered in Showman app by September 18, 2026, for Fair and by January 5, 2027, for District and DNJR
2. Wether dams and breeding hair sheep: nominated in Showman app by September 4, 2026, for Fair, and by December 4, 2026, for District and DNJR; entered in Showman app by September 18, 2026, for Fair and by January 5, 2027, for District and DNJR

2026 State Fair Show Dates

- Lamb Shows (Showmanship; Wether Dam; Market Lamb): Saturday, October 10, 1 p.m.
- Hair Sheep Shows (Showmanship; Breeding Hair Sheep; Market Hair Sheep): Saturday, October 10, following Lamb Shows

2026 State Fair Deadlines for Entry at Show Using Check-in App

At the time of check-in at the Fair, all jointly owned animals must be changed to a single entry in the app so that the FFA or 4-H youth in that joint ownership will be declared as the individual who will show each animal in that show. The following list summarizes when weights are to be declared for all Market Lambs, Wether Dams, Market Hair Sheep, and

Breeding Sheep, along with uploading the 60-day 4-H Animal Health Record Form:

- Fair: declaration of show weight by 3 p.m. on Friday, October 9 for all lambs
- Lamb and Hair Sheep Showmanship: declaration of intent to participate in Lamb and Hair Sheep Showmanship by 3 p.m. on Friday, October 9

2027 Dixie National Jr. Round-Up Show Dates

- Lamb Shows (Showmanship; Wether Dam; Market Lamb): February 3, 8 a.m.
- Hair Sheep Shows (Showmanship; Breeding Hair Sheep; Market Hair Sheep): February 3, following Lamb Shows

2027 DNJR Deadlines for Entry at Show Using Check-in App

At the time of check-in at DNJR, all jointly owned animals must be changed to a single entry in the app so that the FFA or 4-H youth in that joint ownership will be declared as the individual who will show each animal in that show. The following list summarizes when weights are to be declared for all Market Lambs, Wether Dams, Market Hair Sheep, and Breeding Sheep, along with uploading the 60-day 4-H Animal Health Record Form:

- DNJR: declaration of show weight by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, for all lambs
- Lamb and hair sheep showmanship: declaration of intent to participate in Lamb and Hair Sheep Showmanship by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2

Lamb and Hair Sheep Showmanship

- All showmanship rules listed in MSU Extension Publication 3814-1 [2026 Mississippi State Fair and 2027 DNJR: General Rules](#) apply for Lamb Showmanship and Hair Sheep Showmanship in addition to the ones listed below.
- Exhibitors will enter Lamb and Hair Sheep Showmanship using the Showman app.
- Exhibitors in showmanship classes must show their own animal.
 - For Lamb Showmanship at the Fair and DNJR, the exhibitor must have a Market Lamb or Wether Dam checked in to their respective show.
 - For Hair Sheep Showmanship at the Fair and DNJR, the exhibitor must have a Market Hair Sheep or breeding hair sheep checked in to their respective show.
- The primary purpose of showmanship is to present your lamb to the judge a position that will make the lamb look and handle its very best. This should be done in an easy

manner without exciting your lamb or disturbing the lambs and the exhibitors next to you.

- Showmanship Classes:
 - Lamb Showmanship at the Fair and DNJR: Ages 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17–18
 - Hair Sheep Showmanship at the Fair and DNJR: Ages 8–9, 10–11, 12–13, 14–15, 16–18

Rules Applying to Market Lambs, Market Hair Sheep, Wether Dams, and Breeding Hair Sheep

General Rules

Review the General Rules and Regulations for all exhibitors and animals listed in MSU Extension Publication 3814-1 2026 *Mississippi State Fair and 2027 DNJR: General Rules*. These rules and regulations will apply in the Market Lamb, Market Hair Sheep, Wether Dam, and Breeding Hair Sheep shows.

All breeder/farm names and logos on any scrapie tag or official ear tag in small ruminants must be covered with black tape on show day.

Mississippi Bred Lamb Program

- The rules and regulations governing the State Fair and DNJR as published in the show catalog for the show will apply.
- The Mississippi Sheep Producers Association (MSPA) and the Mississippi Bred Lamb Show committee reserves the right to interpret, amend and carry out the rules and regulations governing the Mississippi Bred Lamb Show sponsored by the MSPA. The Mississippi Hair Sheep Producers Association (MHSPA) and the Mississippi Bred Hair Sheep Show committee reserves the right to interpret, amend, and carry out the rules and regulations governing the Mississippi Bred Hair Sheep Show sponsored by the MHSPA.
- The Mississippi Bred Lamb/Hair Sheep Show committee will serve as the show protest committee to handle any protest formally filed with the Livestock Show Manager at the State Fair and DNJR concerning the Mississippi Bred Lamb/Hair Sheep Shows. At least three members of the committee must be present to rule on a protest.
- The dam of a Mississippi Bred lamb/hair sheep must be owned by a member of the MSPA or MHSPA at the time of breeding. A Mississippi Bred lamb/hair sheep must be lambled and raised in Mississippi.

- All Mississippi Bred Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lambs/Hair Sheep will be required to weigh back as soon as possible after being selected unless a weight was previously recorded. The animal must weigh within 5 percent of the overage, or it will be disqualified. Animals will be weighed once (no re-weighs). Show management will designate an individual to accompany each animal and exhibitor to the scales for weigh back.
- Show management shall have the authority to inspect all Mississippi Bred Market Lambs/Hair Sheep entered in the Sale of Champions, its hide or carcass, to collect blood, urine, body fluid, tissue, and/or any other laboratory analysis deemed necessary. Refer to the Animal Inspection section in the General Rules for additional information.
- Judging
 - All lambs entered in the Mississippi Bred Lamb/Hair Sheep Show will be judged within their respective classes during the regular class judging.
 - Only those lambs that are certified as MS Bred and recognized by MSPA/MHSPA are eligible to compete and receive MS Bred awards/premiums and compete for the Grand/Reserve Grand Champion MS Bred Market Lambs/Hair Sheep that are eligible for the Sale of Champions. All MS Bred lambs/hair sheep must have the MSPA/MHSPA MS Bred tag in their ear at the time of showing. If the tag has been lost, you must notify the Mississippi Bred Lamb/Hair Sheep committee before the lamb enters the show. Replacement tag cost is determined by MSPA/MHSPA. Any lost tags must be replaced on weigh day.
 - Class premiums will be paid as designated by the MSPA/MHSPA show committee.
 - After each regular show Division Champion and Reserve Champion have been selected, the Mississippi Bred Champion and Reserve Champion will be selected. All Mississippi Bred Champions and Reserve Champions will compete for the Mississippi Bred Grand and Reserve Grand Champion after the regular show champions have been selected.
 - The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Mississippi Bred Lambs and Hair Sheep (two lambs and two hair sheep) will be eligible for the Sale of Champions. No additional state bred animal will be eligible for the sale unless it qualified for the sale in the regular show.

Classification of Market and Breeding Hair Sheep

All market and breeding hair sheep will be classified according to the dates found in the Ownership/Ear Tag/Entry,

Classification and DNA Validation of Livestock section in MSU Extension Publication 3814-1 *2026 Mississippi State Fair and 2027 DNJR: General Rules*.

The following Hair Sheep Standards will be used to determine if the sheep qualifies for the Market Hair or Breeding Hair Sheep Show. If the Market Hair Sheep or breeding hair sheep does not meet the classification standards for the Market Hair Sheep show or breeding hair sheep show, respectively, it will be moved to the Market Lamb show or Wether Dam show, respectively.

- **Acceptable Standards**

- Conformation: long, deep, and wide body with well sprung ribs and excellent muscling. Relationship between body depth and hip height should be in equal proportion. Avoid extremely leggy, shallow-bodied lambs.
- Head should be strong, bold, with a deep jaw.
- Polled or small horns or scurs no more than 1.5 inches above the skin line.
- Must have at least $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of hair primarily on belly, forearm, and britch. Enough length of hair should be left to distinguish between hair and wool on each sheep. If the classifier cannot make a judgement to properly classify the sheep due to it being shorn too closely, the sheep will be moved to the Market Lamb show.
- Moderate size ear with no wool covering.
- No wool below the knees and hocks.
- No wool forward of poll.

- **Unacceptable Standards**

- Excessive wool covering more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of body (belly, forearm, and britch).
- Long, pendulous ears.
- Long, narrow muzzle.
- Wool forward of poll.

- **Absolute Disqualifications**

- All wool or very little evidence of hair on belly, forearm, or britch.
- Wool below the knees or hocks.
- Wool on the ears.

Market Lamb and Market Hair Sheep Rules and Regulations

Nominations

Exhibitors can nominate the number of Market Lambs and Market Hair Sheep they desire. At the Fair, the number of Market Lambs that one can check in and exhibit is six Market Lambs, not to exceed three entries per class. At the Fair, the number of Market Hair Sheep that one can check in and exhibit is six Market Hair Sheep, not to exceed three entries per class. [At the DNJR, the maximum number of market lambs that one can check in and exhibit is four (4), provided that two (2) market lambs are Mississippi Bred. If an exhibitor has three (3) market lambs at the Fair/DNJR, then one (1) market lamb must be Mississippi Bred; if not, only two Market Lambs can be checked in and exhibited.

[At the DNJR, the maximum number of market hair sheep that one can check in and exhibit is four (4), provided that two (2) market hair sheep are Mississippi Bred. If an exhibitor has three (3) market hair sheep at the DNJR, then one (1) market hair sheep must be Mississippi Bred; if not, only two Market Hair Sheep can be checked in and exhibited. Nomination forms are due in the MSU Extension county office by the dates listed below. Nomination forms must be submitted by the Extension agent or agricultural education teacher verifying all Market Lambs are under their supervision.

- Fair, District, and DNJR deadline: September 1, 2026

Exhibitors in the Market Lamb show and Market Hair Sheep show may enter lamb showmanship and hair sheep showmanship, respectively, using the Showman app.

Weight Limits

For the Fair and DNJR, the minimum weight of Market Lambs and Market Hair Sheep is 70 pounds with no maximum weight.

- Market Lamb and Market Hair Sheep weights for the Fair and DNJR will follow the dates/times listed in the Market Lamb, Market Hair Sheep, Wether Dams, & Breeding Hair Sheep Division section above.

Weight Classes

Market lamb classes and market hair sheep classes will be set up in divisions in separate shows on a sliding scale based on the animals that an exhibitor can check in and exhibit per the current year's State Fair Premium Book as follows: 0 to 30 animals = 1 division; 31 to 60 animals = 2 divisions; 61 to 90 animals = 3 divisions; 91 to 120 animals = 4 divisions; 121 animals and over = 5 divisions. Divisions will be named in numerical order from 1 to 5 depending on the number of divisions in the show.

A Champion and Reserve Champion will be selected from each of the divisions and the overall Grand and Reserve Grand will be selected from the division champions. Reserve Weight Division Champions are allowed to compete once that Weight Division Champion has been selected in the Top 5 animals of each show, if held at the show.

Wether Dam and Breeding Hair Sheep Rules and Regulations

Nominations

Exhibitors can nominate the number of Wether Dams and breeding hair sheep they desire. At the Fair and DNJR, the number of Wether Dams and breeding hair sheep that one can check in and exhibit is six Wether Dams and six breeding hair sheep, not to exceed three entries per class. Nomination forms are due in the MSU Extension county office by the dates listed below. Nomination forms must be submitted by the Extension agent or agricultural education teacher verifying all Wether Dams and breeding hair sheep are under their supervision.

- Fair deadline: September 1, 2026
- District and DNJR deadline: December 1, 2026

Wether dams can be shown either in the Market Lamb show or Wether Dam show at the District and DNJR. An ewe is not allowed to be shown in both Market Lamb and Wether Dam shows. An ewe that was shown in the Wether Dam show at the Fair can only show in the Wether Dam show at the District and DNJR. However, an ewe shown in the Market Lamb show at the Fair can be nominated for the Wether Dam show by December 1, 2026, for the District and DNJR.

Breeding hair sheep can be shown either in the Market Hair Sheep show or breeding hair sheep show at the District and

DNJR. A hair sheep is not allowed to be shown in both Market Hair Sheep and breeding hair sheep shows. A sheep that was shown in the breeding hair sheep show at the Fair can only show in the breeding hair sheep show at the District and DNJR. However, a sheep shown in the Market Hair Sheep show at the Fair can be nominated for the breeding hair sheep show by December 1, 2025, for the District and DNJR.

At the Fair and DNJR, exhibitors in the Wether Dam show and Breeding Hair Sheep show may enter lamb showmanship and hair sheep showmanship, respectively, using the Showman app.

Exhibitors in the breeding hair sheep show may enter hair sheep showmanship classes at the time of entry and confirm participation in showmanship using the online check-in app at the show.

Weight Limits

For the Fair and DNJR, the minimum weight of Wether Dams and breeding hair sheep is 75 pounds with no maximum weight.

- Wether dam and breeding hair sheep weights for the Fair and DNJR will follow the dates/times listed in the Market Lamb, Market Hair Sheep, Wether Dams, & Breeding Hair Sheep Division section above.

Weight Classes

Wether dam and breeding hair sheep classes will be set up in divisions in separate shows on a sliding scale based on the animals that an exhibitor can check in and exhibit per the current year's State Fair Premium Book as follows: 0 to 30 animals = 1 division; 31 to 60 animals = 2 divisions; 61 to 90 animals = 3 divisions; 91 to 120 animals = 4 divisions; 121 animals and over = 5 divisions. Divisions will be named in numerical order from 1 to 5 depending on the number of divisions in the show. Each division will be divided into classes as near to equal in number as possible with no more than 10 pounds of weight range in any class.

A Champion and Reserve Champion will be selected from each of the divisions and the overall Grand and Reserve Grand will be selected from the division champions. Reserve Weight Division Champions are allowed to compete once that Weight Division Champion has been selected in the Top 5 Wether Dams and Top 5 Breeding Hair Sheep, if held at the show.

At the DNJR, the Grand Champion Wether Dam and the Grand Champion Breeding Hair Sheep will compete for an Overall Supreme Ewe.

Age

Age of Wether Dams and breeding hair sheep will be determined by milk teeth. Wether dams and breeding hair sheep that have lost the center temporary incisor teeth (baby teeth) but have no visible permanent incisors are eligible to show. Any visible permanent incisor tooth disqualifies the Wether Dam or breeding hair sheep.

- At the Fair, any Wether Dam or breeding hair sheep that is first or second in a class will be mouthed at weigh back before placings are announced and before entering the ring for the championship drive. Any Wether Dam or breeding hair sheep who fails to meet the mouthing criteria will be disqualified from its class.
- For DNJR, mouthing of Wether Dams and breeding hair sheep will be done at the District Shows, and Wether Dams eligible for District will be eligible for DNJR based on age requirements.

Junior Sheep Lead Class

The objectives of the junior sheep lead class are to present a class of sheep in the most attractive manner, to give spectators an opportunity to view a class of beauty, to improve the image of sheep shows, and to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the sheep industry in Mississippi. This class is sponsored by the Mississippi Sheep Producers Association, which will oversee this class.

Rules and Regulations

- The Junior Sheep Lead Class only takes place at the Dixie National Junior Round-Up.
- This class is open to any junior exhibitor (age 8 to 18), boy or girl, who has a lamb entered in the Junior Market Lamb Show at the 2027 Dixie National Junior Round-Up. Contestants must show their own lamb in this class.
- There will be four classes: Juniors (age 8 to 9), Juniors (age 10 to 11), Juniors (age 12 to 13), and Seniors (age 14 to 18). Class placement is based on contestant's age as of January 1, 2027.
- Contestants must lead a lamb that has been conditioned, fitted, and trained to show at halter.
- Decorations may or may not be used on lambs.
- Contestants must wear a garment made of wool or wool blend. Garment does not have to be constructed by contestants.
- Former class winners cannot wear the garment they used to win a previous state Lead Class.
- The three-judge system will be used to arrive at official placing.
- The following scoring standard will be used when judging the class:
 - Contestant's garment: 33.33 percent
 - Poise and appearance: 33.33 percent
 - Control and presentation of animal: 33.33 percent
- Entry forms will be sent via email, and copies will be available at the show office. Forms must be turned in by the time listed on DNJR schedule. Entry must contain brief biography of contestants and garment description. All entries must be legible.
- Contestants must come to the livestock office by the time listed on DNJR schedule to pick up exhibitor numbers.

Notes

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