

Tab 1



4-H Lamb Lead Show



2026 Minnesota State Fair

Greetings to 4-H Members, Parents, and Supporters,

Whether you are a 4-H participant or a 4-H enthusiast, we welcome you to the 2026 edition of the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Livestock Shows. Over 2,600 4-H youth from nearly every county in Minnesota are participating in a variety of educational activities including breeding and market livestock shows, demonstrations, herdsmanship, livestock interviews, the livestock auction, the dairy showcase, judging contests and so much more.

Each event has been designed to further develop the leadership skills and livestock knowledge of 4-H members in an enjoyable and public setting. These communication, leadership, and livestock educational exhibits have been set-up for the public to increase your knowledge and understanding of the 4-H Animal Science Programs.

Please join us in thanking the Minnesota State Fair, 4-H adult volunteers, U of MN Extension staff, and the many businesses and organizations for their tremendous support which leads to the success of each 4-H animal show.

Have a great day at the 2026 Minnesota State Fair and join us in continuing to support an over 120 year legacy. Enjoy the show!

Your staff and coordination team

State Fair Superintendent:

Amber Greeley

Director of Animal Science Programs:

Kirstin Koch

Herdsmanship Coordinators:

Delvin & Debra Durheim

Livestock Publicity Coordinators:

Josh Ihrke, Julie Tesch and Pam Uhlenkamp

Livestock Coordinator: **Ava Schoenfeld**

Livestock Exhibit Assistants:

Beef: **Brennir Petersen**

Dairy: **Elliana Doll**

Dairy Goat: **Cindy Dolezal**

Meat Goat: **Kianna Dolezal**

Poultry: **Lydia Drees**

Rabbit: **Laura Robinette**

Sheep: **Austin Evans**

Swine: **Jamie Evans**

2026 4H Sheep Committee Members

Co-Chairs Coordinators:

Kathy Herberg & Lexie Schultz

4-H Animal Science Team Advisor:

David Foley

Interview Coordinator:

Kathy Herberg

Awards Coordinator:

George Lemke

Join us online!

Livestream and Show Programs

View the livestream and show program for this and other 4-H livestock show programs:

[z.umn.edu/
4HAnimalShows](https://z.umn.edu/4HAnimalShows)



4-H State Fair results

View the latest 4-H State Fair results, photos of purple ribbon winners and press releases:

[z.umn.edu/
MNStateFairResults](https://z.umn.edu/MNStateFairResults)



Get the 4-H App

Download the "Minnesota 4-H" app to view the 4-H State Fair schedule, access important exhibitor information and receive important updates.

[z.umn.edu/
4HStateFairApp](https://z.umn.edu/4HStateFairApp)



Behind every 4-H'er is someone like you

As you walk through the fair and see the energy, pride, and hard work of 4-H youth, remember that each of those moments is supported by someone who believes in them.

Whether it's a first purple ribbon, a skill learned in a workshop, or a lasting friendship made at the fair, none of it happens without the support of caring volunteers and generous supporters.

Donors like you make it all possible. Your gift supports innovative learning, leadership development, scholarships, camps, and volunteer training across the state.



Ready to invest in Minnesota's future leaders?

Make a one-time or recurring gift today:

Support your favorite local 4-H program

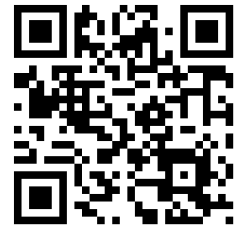
Select a county and make a gift

give.umn.edu/4H



Support your favorite 4-H project areas, statewide initiatives, program or scholarship

z.umn.edu/4Hgive



2026 Lamb Lead Judges

Jennifer Pickett - Preston, MN

Jennifer Pickett is originally from a sheep and swine farm in Southeast Minnesota. She was an 11 year 4-h member and exhibited at the state fair for 8 years, where she participated in sheep, swine and 1 lone static project year. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Luther College. She has worked for Mayo Clinic for 26 years and currently employed as a cancer research auditor. She resides with her family in Fillmore county where she has kept her fair roots active with 4 kids going through 4-H, volunteering with the local fairboard and being the 4-h county ambassador program advisor.

Katie Schneider - Chaska, MN

Katie Schneider grew up in Delano, MN on her family's sheep farm where they raised dorsets and cross bred dorset/suffolks - speckled faces were always Katie's favorite. Katie grew up in Wright County 4-H where she enjoyed showing dogs, sheep, & horses. Katie continued her love of animals post high school by obtaining a bachelors of science in Agricultural Business and Equine science from the University of MN - Crookston. In keeping in the forefront of growth and leadership Katie completed the MARL (Minnesota ag & rural leadership) program through U of M extension and SWMSU in 2018. Katie enjoys continuing to volunteer in both the 4-H horse & sheep projects. The Lamb Lead was always Katie's favorite class growing up by being able to bring fashion, conversation and animals together. In her spare time Katie can be found helping on her sisters black angus ranch in South Dakota, spoiling her neice & nephew, and keeping busy with her Dogs Betty White & Willie Nelson. Wishing all the contestants a great state fair!

4H Dairy Tour

Join us for the 4-H dairy tour- a unique opportunity for youth in grades 7+. This three-day, two-night experience runs from October 15-17, and will give young people the opportunity to explore the University of Minnesota - St. Paul campus and the dairy landscape in Wisconsin. Youth will stay overnight in a hotel with adult chaperones and be transported via motorcoach.



During this tour, youth will have the chance to explore different dairy farms, processing facilities and careers within the dairy industry. Potential tour stops include but not limited to U of M - St. Paul Campus, Marieke Gouda, Kinnards Farm, MilkSource and more!

For more information and to register, visit z.umn.edu/4HDairyTour.

Bonus trip winners

The following counties have received a Bonus State Fair trip for their Programming Excellence. Congratulations to all!!

Waseca

The Waseca County Sheep program is a youth-led project supported by dedicated families, volunteers, and mentors who provide meaningful educational opportunities. Members promote agriculture and consumer education by bringing sheep to FarmAmerica, schools, and community events such as Taste of the Farm, where they share information about sheep meat, milk, fiber, and production. Youth participate in shows, clinics, livestock judging, Project Bowl, LQA&E training, and other statewide opportunities while gaining hands-on experience with lambing, flock management, and commercial shearing. Experienced members also mentor and lease to newer youth, sharing knowledge, equipment, travel opportunities, and breeding resources to help build a strong and welcoming sheep program.

Washington

The Washington County 4-H program hosted a General Livestock Feed and Nutrition Clinic and feed mill tour at Herdsman Feeds in Connorsville, Wisconsin, with 40 youth and adults participating from Washington, Dakota, and Chisago counties. Youth from the swine, goat, sheep, and beef projects took part in hands-on activities focused on feed ingredients, ration building, protein needs, feed quality, and feed tag analysis. Participants also toured the feed mill to see the blending, grinding, and bagging of livestock feed. The clinic helped youth build confidence and knowledge in livestock nutrition while connecting them with feed experts and learning about careers in the industry.

Wright

The Wright County Sheep program focused on youth-led growth and leadership by developing a month-by-month roadmap for fair preparation. Following the 2025 county fair, youth members worked together to identify goals and plan a regional workshop, with 17 participants from Wright, Hennepin, and Sherburne counties attending. Participants received a custom planning calendar and took part in hands-on activities focused on preparing for the fair. By involving youth in planning and leading the event, the program strengthened organizational, decision-making, and project management skills while helping members feel more prepared for the State Fair.

Lyon

Local 4-H youth and volunteers gained hands-on experience in modern sheep care through a live-sheep ultrasound demonstration led by Trish B. from Tri County Vet Clinic. Participants learned how ultrasound can be used to evaluate fat thickness, loin eye area, and muscle depth, helping producers make informed breeding and market decisions. Youth also practiced taking measurements, completing conversions, and comparing ultrasound images to carcass results. Members took leadership roles by helping prepare animals and materials, assisting with scans, and leading questions, building both livestock knowledge and confidence.

Chisago

The Chisago County Sheep program provided youth with opportunities to build knowledge, leadership, and confidence through education and competition. Twelve members participated in livestock judging, while State Fair accomplishments included a Best of Breed award, strong interviews, and participation in Speaking Up for Animal Agriculture. Members also participated in showmanship and handling clinics, wool education, and mentorship opportunities, with four new youth joining through leasing and mentoring. The program encouraged youth to share their knowledge through livestock demonstrations and public outreach while developing their passion for sheep and wool through hands-on learning and competition.

Dakota

The Dakota County Sheep program continues to grow through educational opportunities, outreach, and youth involvement. Members hosted farm tours, welcomed senior citizens and new families to learn about sheep, and brought lambs to community events and five elementary schools across three school districts. At the county fair, members engaged fairgoers through a prize wheel and conversations about sheep and agriculture. Youth also participated in a "Project to Plate" workshop, learning about lamb evaluation, meat cuts, and cooking while preparing and sampling lamb recipes. Members also shared fitting and showing tips with one another and continued to find success with General Livestock Judging and Project Bowl teams.

Kittson

The Kittson County Sheep program has focused on growing participation and creating accessible opportunities for youth to explore the project. A hands-on sheep clinic taught members about feeding, fitting, showing, and general care, helping increase county fair participation from six exhibits in 2023 to 13 in 2025. Local producers, volunteers, and 4-H alumni support new exhibitors through leasing opportunities and hands-on mentoring in shearing, hoof trimming, fitting, and showmanship. Youth also participate in LQA&E training, local clinics, and community education opportunities, including an Ag Exploration Day Camp where members learned how to spin wool yarn.

Lincoln

The Lincoln County Sheep program provided youth with hands-on learning, leadership, and outreach opportunities throughout the year. In May, 20 youth and eight adults from three counties attended a youth-led sheep project meeting covering showmanship, feeding, exercise, fitting, lamb health, and meat identification. Participants also learned about wool spinning and enjoyed lamb burgers and chislic, with several youth trying lamb for the first time. Members also promoted the sheep project at a club meeting, reaching approximately 15 youth, and toured a local veterinary office to observe sheep artificial insemination and ram breeding soundness exams. Lincoln County youth also participated in regional livestock judging and quiz bowl competitions.



BUILD THE FUTURE OF MINNESOTA 4-H!

Join us in transforming the 4-H Building at the Minnesota State Fair.

Since 1939, the 4-H Building has been where 4-H'ers have enjoyed home-cooked meals, caught up with friends from other counties, and taken a breath between the hard work of showing.

That building is about to be transformed – and it needs your support.

University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota 4-H and the Minnesota State Fair are renovating the 4-H Building from top to bottom, creating updated community spaces, new Learning Zones, and modern dormitories for the youth who call it home during the Fair. Plus, starting in summer 2028, the 4-H Building will also host day camps, special workshops and learning programs beyond the State Fair season!

Help us create a space where 4-H'ers from across Minnesota can connect, do their best work and make memories that last forever. Learn more:

z.umn.edu/FutureOf4H



A gift of \$1,000 or more puts your name — or the name of your choice — on the donor wall inside the 4-H Building! Reach out to mnextdev@umn.edu to learn more.

Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association (MLBA) and the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction Committee are proud to support many different animal science programming opportunities for the next generation of agricultural leaders! Each year, over \$100,000 in scholarships are awarded to youth participating in animal science projects, helping them further their education and passion for agriculture. The MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction generated an impressive \$1.3 million in 2025, directly supporting young exhibitors and their efforts. To further invest in excellence, up to \$25,000 in matching funds are now provided to support top 4-H breeding beef, sheep, swine, market goat, dairy goat, and poultry exhibits. As we look to the future, this continued support underscores our commitment to invest in the future of youth leaders in agriculture through education, recognition, and opportunity.



Thank you to Runnings for sponsoring t-shirts for all MN 4-H exhibitors and chaperones!

2026 Sheep Interview Champions and Finalists

Animal Science Interviews at the State Fair are designed to further enhance educational opportunities for young people exhibiting livestock. The interview process offers a visual philosophy of recognizing 4-Hers who have utilized their livestock project to grow and develop as young people. Livestock Interviews emphasize many life skills such as communication, responsibility, decision making, and problem-solving. The interview process is seen as a step to help insure the stability of youth livestock shows as a positive form of youth development.

Interview Champions receive a chair sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association. Interview Finalists receive coupons redeemable at the Gopher Dairy Bar and Northwest Designs.

Sheep - Senior Finalists

Tayler Nickel - Nobles
Katelyn Barnes - Morrison
Annabel Coudron - Lyon
Kael Herrera - Carver
Sophie Hongerholt - Rice
Libby Larson - Dakota

Heidi Lindula - St Louis North
Lucey Minten - Otter Tail East
Janaya Mitchell - Becker
Caleb Stowell - Sibley
Emma Thunstrom - Isanti
Beth Wedinger - Sibley

Lorelai Aronson - Sibley
Scarlet Bergstrom-McKee - Stevens
Alivia Fruechte - Lincoln
Noah Gravenhof - Nobles
Karley Hamilton - Waseca

Marshall Heldberg - Le Sueur
Mackenzie Hohrman - Rice

Tanner Littler - Beltrami
Wyatt Magnuson - Freeborn

Brenna Wordes - Swift

Sheep - Intermediate

Finalists

Cooper Nelson - Jackson
Daphne Bergstrom-Oelke -
Stevens
Annabelle Bernu - Otter Tail
West
Piper Burdette - Mille Lacs
Henry Cook - Chisagi
Emery Marthaler - Pipestone

Lydia Schlauderaff - Becker
Ellie Armstrong - Otter Tail
West
Madelyn Donnely - Dakota
Benjamin Haffner - Douglas
Greta Haffner - Douglas
Kaylynne Hedberg - Dakota

Jacquelyn Heldberg - Le
Sueur
Caleb Mack - Hubbard
Braxton Petersen - Yellow
Medicine
Maci Schauer - Carver
Matilyn Winter - McLeod
Reed Winter - Otter Tail East

2026 4-H Lamb Lead Awards

Champion Lamb Lead Intermediate Division

Dick Boniface Endowment (auto payment)

Reserve Champion Lamb Lead Intermediate Division

LaVerne Doering Family

Champion Lamb Lead Senior Division

Dick Boniface Endowment (auto payment)

Reserve Champion Lamb Lead Senior Division

LaVerne Doering Family

2026 Minnesota 4-H State Fair Lamb Lead

Placing	Name	Exhibitor	Grade	County
01: Lamb Lead - Intermediate - Grades 6-8 - Class A				
_____	Baumgartner, Brynn	3253	6	Murray
_____	Hogg, Gracyn	1029	6	Wright
_____	Minnehan, Zaria	3427	8	Dakota
_____	Nohner, Mikella	1941	6	Meeker
_____	Suggs, Charlotte	1530	7	Wright
02: Lamb Lead - Intermediate - Grades 6-8 - Class B				
_____	Beckler, Marina	869	6	Otter Tail - West
_____	Klinkner, Elijah	2662	6	Mille Lacs
_____	Korst, Aryn	1302	6	Watsonwan
_____	Minnehan, Silas	3426	6	Dakota
_____	Roers, Rachel	4262	6	Douglas
03: Lamb Lead - Intermediate - Grades 6-8 - Class C				
_____	Caskey, Tenley	2590	8	Pipestone
_____	Eilerman, Wyatt	2160	7	Blue Earth
_____	Heldberg, Jacquelyn	4350	7	Le Sueur
_____	Rasmussen, Adalynn	2144	8	Washington
_____	Rauenhorst, Magdalen	944	7	Rice
_____	Thoeny, Megan	1845	6	Kanabec
04: Lamb Lead - Intermediate - Grades 6-8 - Class D				
_____	Cook, Henry	621	6	Chisago
_____	Lubahn, Leah	3749	6	Goodhue
_____	Roehl, Ella	2683	7	Mille Lacs
_____	Roers, Hailey	4261	7	Douglas
_____	Sachs, Clara	3510	7	Dakota
_____	Zack, Cheyenne	2281	6	Washington
05: Lamb Lead - Intermediate - Grades 6-8 - Class E				
_____	Bartelt, Willow	311	6	Waseca
_____	Peterson, Eli	1271	8	Anoka
_____	Savage, Daylin	530	8	Sherburne
_____	Selin, Gwenneth	718	8	Chisago
_____	Wencl, Cameron	4240	8	Steele
01: Lamb Lead - Senior - Grades 9-13 - Class A				
_____	Luhmann, Clara	3711	10	Goodhue
_____	Mack, Makenzie	893	11	Hubbard
_____	Otto, Kate	1127	10	Wright
_____	Rohs, Madelynn	528	10	Sherburne
_____	Thoeny, Nicole	1847	10	Kanabec

2026 Minnesota 4-H State Fair Lamb Lead

Placing	Name	Exhibitor	Grade	County
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02: Lamb Lead - Senior - Grades 9-13 - Class B

_____	Aronson, Lorelai	2337	9	Sibley
_____	Heldberg, Marshall	4351	11	Le Sueur
_____	Shaleen, Lillie	952	10	Rice
_____	Wendinger, Beth	2489	12	Sibley

03: Lamb Lead - Senior - Grades 9-13 - Class C

_____	Barka, James	1798	10	Meeker
_____	Carlson, William	1802	13	Meeker
_____	Caskey, Adrian	2363	9	Pipestone
_____	Lemke, Henry	1910	13	Meeker
_____	Marquette, Isaac	1080	10	Wright

04: Lamb Lead - Senior - Grades 9-13 - Class D

_____	Hogg, Brennan	1028	9	Wright
_____	Hopper, Avary	334	11	Waseca
_____	Kramer, Sydney	2203	11	Blue Earth
_____	Selin, Savannah	719	13	Chisago

05: Lamb Lead - Senior - Grades 9-13 - Class E

_____	Hongerholt, Sophie	894	13	Rice
_____	Liebl, Sophia	3302	10	Renville
_____	Marquette, Natalee	1081	9	Wright
_____	Mathews, Keaton	4414	10	McLeod
_____	Olson, Lane	2454	12	Sibley