2026
Beef & Sheep Educational Award Trip

Attached are the eligibility requirements and other details on the beef & sheep educational award trip available to 4-H Club & FFA members that participate in the beef or sheep project. In addition to the general eligibility requirements are specific requirements for market steers, breeding heifers, market sheep, commercial ewes, and breeding sheep; including the selection process to be followed. The following trips are available:

Award Trip	**Trip Dates**	**Place of Selection**
Beef	November 11 – 16, 2026	State Fair of Louisiana – Shreveport
Sheep	November 11 – 16, 2026	State Fair of Louisiana – Shreveport

Exhibitor -- General Eligibility Rules for the Beef & Sheep Educational Award Trip

1. FEE: There will be no fee to attend the 2026 Beef and Sheep Educational Trip. Trip fees will be covered through a sponsorship to the Louisiana 4-H/FFA Programs.

2. 4-H and FFA Club members competing for the **2026 Beef & Sheep Educational Award Trip** must be between the ages of **12 and 18 years inclusive on January 1, 2026**.

3. Any boy or girl enrolled in college, regardless of date of enrollment **will not** be eligible to compete for trips with beef, sheep, goat, swine, or horses.

4. Any boy or girl working and/or living away from home **will not** be eligible to compete for any of these trips.

5. Only **one animal** per club member will be eligible to make the trip (Beef and Sheep Trip).

6. Club members can participate in **four** educational trips with **market animal** projects and/or **breeding animal projects** during their club career (i.e., four market trips or four breeding trips; or any combination of the two projects). Beef project members will be eligible to compete for a **fifth** educational trip with a bred and owned animal (dam must have been shown by the exhibitor).

7. A club member can participate in **only one** Livestock Educational Award Trip in any given year.

8. If a club member is **selected to go** on an educational award trip at the designated selection show **and then declines to go on the trip** (backs out after the selection process) then the selection will count toward their total number of educational award trips he or she can participate in during their club career. **The same rule will be in effect for alternates that are offered the trip** due to cancellations. If they decline to go on the trip, then it will count toward their total number of trips they can participate in during their club career. The only exceptions to this rule will be personal injury or a death in the family.

2026 Beef Educational Award Trip
North American International Livestock Exposition
(NAILE)
Louisville, Kentucky

General Rules and Regulations

1. The NAILE Junior Heifer & Junior Market Steer shows will be held **November 14 – 15, 2026.**

2. Beef Selection Contest (Market Steers and Breeding Heifers) will be held at the State Fair of Louisiana **(October 29 – November 7, 2026**) in Shreveport, Louisiana. Only animals entered in State Fair of Louisiana are eligible to try for this award trip.

3. All potential contestants for the Beef Educational Award Trip must submit participation forms prior to the selection contest. These may be obtained from Dr. Tyler Braud during the State Fair.

   a. **For steers** the participation form **must be turned in at the scales** during the steer weigh-in at the State Fair of Louisiana.

   b. **For breeding animals** participation forms must be submitted and **original registration papers** checked before the selection contest which occurs for each breed immediately after the selection of Grand Champion Female.

   c. Club members (4-H and FFA) shall indicate prior to selection that they plan to attend the show in Louisville, if selected. If they decide not to attend the show after their animal is selected, it will still count as one of their trips.

4. **Original Registration Papers** on breeding heifers must be checked prior to the selection contest. Heifers must be considered pure bred in their respective breed association and so stated on registration papers. Registration papers must be transferred to exhibitor **prior to August 1, 2026.**

5. Market steers and breeding heifers selected to participate in the educational trip to the NAILE must be brought to the **LSU AgCenter Doyle Chambers Central Research Station (3037 Ben Hur Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70820)** on a date designated at selection time.

6. Transportation, lodging and educational activities will be provided for all exhibitors selected to attend the NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky.

7. Transportation, grooming equipment, feed and bedding for market steers and breeding heifers that will be exhibited at the NAILE will be provided by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. Transportation is provided for the return of the heifers and market steers to Baton Rouge.

8. Club members will be under the supervision of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service chaperones and will be expected to conduct their actions fitting to 4-H and FFA principles.

9. Club members selected to participate will be given detailed information about the trip at time of selection.

10. Provided quality is adequate and the number of cattle being shown is sufficient, up to 24 exhibitors with market steers and breeding heifers will be selected to represent Louisiana at the NAILE. A combination of steers and heifers will be selected for a total of 24 exhibitors to represent Louisiana.

11. Exhibitors may compete in the market and breeding division of the selection contest but can qualify to exhibit only **one** animal on the educational trip to NAILE. **The first animal selected will qualify an exhibitor for the trip.**

12. Exhibitors must be present to show their entries at the selection show (State Fair) and NAILE.

13. Entry forms required for the NAILE must be completed by the club member and their County Agent, FFA instructor or family member immediately following selection, and all forms turned in to Dr. Tyler Braud before leaving the State Fair of Louisiana.

Market Steers

General Rules and Regulations

All Beef Cattle will be required to have a USDA 840 EID Tag. All Cattle will be required to have a BVD negative test. All cattle shall be reported negative on an ELISA or PCR BVD-PI test that has been collected by an accredited veterinarian. The results and date of the test shall be recorded on the CVI issued for entry onto the KEC for the NAILE.

1. **Ownership**. Market steers must be owned by and in possession of the exhibitor prior to **July 10, 2026** (No joint ownerships).

2. Steers must weigh a **minimum weight of 1000 pounds** in order to be eligible to compete for the educational trip.

3. A club member may enter more than one steer in the selection contest to compete for the educational trip, but only **one** of the exhibitor's steers can be selected for exhibit at the NAILE.

5. The selection contest for steers will be held on **Sunday, November 1, 2026,** immediately

following the judging of Junior Market Steers at the State Fair of Louisiana.

6. Steers selected to be exhibited at the NAILE **will** be allowed to sell in the ALTAC Junior Livestock Sale.

7. The Market Steer Show at the NAILE is no longer a terminal show; therefore, any market steer exhibited at the NAILE **will** be eligible to show in subsequent shows in Louisiana (unless sold in the ALTAC Junior Livestock Sale).

8. Market Steers will be shown at the NAILE on **Sunday, November 15, 2026.**

9. Market steers that did not sell in the ALTAC sale will return to Baton Rouge with heifers on Monday afternoon **November 16, 2026.** Steers sold in the ALTAC sale will be left in a resale pen in Louisville, KY.

Breeding Heifers

General Rules and Regulations

All Beef Cattle will be required to have a USDA 840 EID Tag. All Cattle will be required to have a BVD negative test. All cattle shall be reported negative on an ELISA or PCR BVD-PI test that has been collected by an accredited veterinarian. The results and date of the test shall be recorded on the CVI issued for entry onto the KEC for the NAILE.

1. **Ownership:** Must have possession by **August 1, 2026.** All animals must be registered with their respective breed registry in the exhibitor's name **prior to September 1, 2026 (No joint ownerships).**

2. Entries for the Breeding Cattle Selection Show will be limited to **heifers only**. Bulls are not eligible to show.

3. The selection contest for beef breeding animals will take place for each breed immediately after the selection of Grand Champion Female.

4. Breeding heifers may be selected from the following **Breed Classes:**

a) Angus
b) Beefmaster
c) Braford
d) Braford Base
e) Gray Brahman
f) Red Brahman
g) Brangus
h) Charolais
i) Hereford-Polled Hereford
j) Maine-Anjou
k) Santa Gertrudis
l) Simbrah
m) Simmental
n) Simmental Percentage
o) AOB - Brahman
p) AOB – Non-Brahman

5. Definition of **ages and classes** are as follows: All heifers must have been born on or after September 1, 2024.

6. **Original Registration papers** must be checked prior to selection show and if selected, original papers must be brought to Baton Rouge along with health papers at time designated.

7. Exhibitors are responsible for an official **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** for their breeding heifers and market steers. This health certificate must be delivered to Baton Rouge with the heifer and/or steer. The health certificate, to be valid, must have been obtained within 30 days of showing at the NAILE, and must indicate destination as North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, KY. Therefore, the certificates must be dated after October 16, 2026. The CVI must be signed by an accredited veterinarian.

8. Breeding heifers selected for the educational trip will be shown on **Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15, 2026** at the NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky.

9. Breeding heifers shown at the NAILE will be returned to Baton Rouge on Monday afternoon **November 16, 2026.**

10. Beef cattle entering the state of Kentucky for exhibition purposes:
    - BVD negative test - All cattle shall be reported negative on an ELISA or PCR BVD-PI test that has been collected by an accredited veterinarian. The results and date of the test shall be recorded on the CVI issued for entry onto the KEC for the NAILE.
    - Individual official ID required – USDA 840 EID Tag
    - Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to entry
    - For more information visit http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/animal-movement.html

Contact information for Dr. Tyler Braud: Mobile – (225) 313-1764, Email – tbraud@agcenter.lsu.edu.

2026 Sheep Educational Award Trip
North American International Livestock Exposition
(NAILE)
Louisville, Kentucky

General Rules and Regulations

1. The NAILE Junior Sheep Shows will be held **November 13 – 15, 2026**.

2. Selection Contest (Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, and Breeding Ewes) will be held at the State Fair of Louisiana (**October 29-30, 2026**) in Shreveport, Louisiana. Only Market Lambs, Breeding Ewes, and Commercial Ewes entered and shown at the State Fair of Louisiana will be eligible for the selection contests.

3. All potential contestants for the Sheep Educational Award Trip must submit participation forms at the selection contest. These may be obtained from Dr. Tyler Braud at the State Fair.

    a. For market lambs the participation form must be turned in at the selection contest.

    b. For breeding animals participation forms must be submitted and **original registration papers** checked at the selection contest which occurs for each breed immediately after the selection of Grand Champion Female.

    c. Club members (4-H and FFA) shall indicate prior to selection that they plan to attend the show in Louisville, if selected. If they decide not to attend the show after their animal is selected, it will still count as one of their trips.

4. **All Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, and Breeding Ewes** entered for competition in the selection process must have an **official Federal Scrapie Tag** in their ear at the time of selection.

5. **Original Registration Papers** on breeding ewes must be available at the selection contest.

6. Market lambs, commercial ewes, and breeding ewes selected to participate in the educational trip to the NAILE must be brought to the **LSU AgCenter Doyle Chambers Central Research Station (3037 Ben Hur Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70820)** on a date designated at selection time.

7. Transportation, lodging and educational activities will be provided for all exhibitors selected to attend the NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky.

8. Transportation, grooming equipment, feed and bedding for market lambs and breeding ewes that will be exhibited at the NAILE will be provided by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

9. Club members will be under the supervision of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service chaperones and will be expected to conduct their actions fitting to 4-H and FFA principles.

10. Club members selected to participate will be provided detailed information about the trip at the time of selection.

11. Provided quality is adequate and the number of sheep being shown is sufficient, up to 20 exhibitors will be selected to represent Louisiana at the NAILE.

12. Exhibitors must be present to show their entries at the selection show (State Fair) and NAILE.

13. Entry forms required for the NAILE must be completed by the club member and their County Agent, FFA Instructor or family member immediately following the selection process at the State Fair of Louisiana, and all forms turned in to Dr. Tyler Braud before leaving the State Fair of Louisiana.

Market Lambs

General Rules and Regulations

1. **Ownership**. Lambs must be owned and in possession of the exhibitor prior to **July 10, 2026.** (No joint ownerships).

2. **Wether lambs only** may be exhibited (purebred or cross).

3. Lambs must weigh a **minimum of 90 pounds** (at time of selection). There is **no maximum weight**.

4. A club member may enter more than one market lamb in the selection contest to compete for the educational trip, but only **one** of the exhibitor's lambs can be selected for exhibit at the North American Expo in Louisville (NAILE).

5. Market lambs must be ear tagged for identification. Exhibitors must use the State Fair of Louisiana tag as entry number for the selection contest.

6. The selection contest for market lambs will be held on **Friday, October 30, 2026,** immediately following the judging of market lambs at the State Fair of Louisiana. Only Market Lambs entered and shown at the State Fair of Louisiana are eligible for the selection contest.

7. Market lambs selected for the educational trip will be shown on **Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15, 2026,** at the NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky. There will not be a sale for market lambs at the NAILE in Louisville (Champions will sell).

8. Market lambs shown will be returned to Louisiana (Baton Rouge). These lambs will be eligible to be shown at subsequent shows in Louisiana (LSU Junior Livestock Show, etc.) unless sold in the ALTAC Junior Livestock Sale. Lambs sold in the ALTAC sale will be left in a resale pen in Louisville. The market lambs will be returned to Baton Rouge on Monday afternoon **November 16, 2026.**

9. Exhibitors are responsible for official **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** on their market lambs. This health certificate must be delivered to Baton Rouge with the market lamb. The health certificate must be signed by an accredited veterinarian. All market lambs must have a valid **scrapie tag in their ear** to be eligible to compete for the awards trip.

Breeding Ewes

General Rules and Regulations

1. **Ownership**: Must have possession by **August 1, 2026**. All animals must be registered in the Flock Books of their respective breed in the exhibitor's name **prior to August 1, 2026.** (No joint ownerships).

2. Entries for the Breeding Sheep Selection Show will be limited to **Ewes only**. Rams are not eligible to show. Only Breeding Ewes entered and shown at the State Fair of Louisiana will be eligible for the selection contest.

3. Breeding ewes must have the **official association ear tag** (or recognized I.D. ear tag) at time of selection at the State Fair. Entries must have the correct association ear tag for each breeding ewe.

4. The selection contest for breeding sheep will take place at the State Fair of Louisiana. Selection will take place for each breed immediately following the selection of Grand Champion female. The breeding sheep show will be held **Thursday, October 29, 2026,** at the State Fair of Louisiana.

5. Breeding ewes may be selected from the following **breed classifications**:

   a) Suffolk
   b) Hampshire
   c) Dorset
   d) Southdown
   e) Other Pure Breeds (OPB)

6. Definition of **Ages and Classes** is as follows:

   April and after Ewe Lamb — April 1, 2026 & After
   March Ewe Lamb — Mar. 1- Mar. 31, 2026
   February Ewe Lamb — Feb. 1-Feb 28, 2026
   January Ewe Lamb — Jan 1-Jan 31, 2026
   Fall Ewe Lamb – Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025
   Yearling Ewe Lamb – 1 year old but under 2, Sept. 2025 and before

7. **Original Registration papers** must be checked at the selection contest and, if selected, original papers must be brought to Baton Rouge along with health papers at the time designated.

8. Exhibitors are responsible for official **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** on their breeding sheep. This health certificate must be delivered to Baton Rouge with the ewes. The health certificate must be signed by an accredited veterinarian. All Breeding sheep must have a **valid scrapie tag** in their ear to be eligible to compete for the awards trip.

9. Breeding sheep selected for the educational trip will be shown on **Saturday and Sunday, November 14 & 15, 2026**, at the NAILE in Louisville, KY.

10. Breeding ewes shown at the NAILE will be returned to Baton Rouge on Monday afternoon **November 16, 2026.** These ewes will be eligible to compete at subsequent shows in Louisiana.

11. Breeding ewes entering the state of Kentucky for exhibition purposes:
    - Individual ID required (i.e. Scrapie tag)
    - Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to entry
    - For more information visit http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/animal-movement.html

Commercial Ewes

1. Any non-registered animal that is entered in Commercial Ewe Division at State Fair.
2. Commercial ewes will be selected at the State Fair of Louisiana on Thursday, October 29, 2026 following the Commercial Ewe show.
3. Shown by weight only.
4. Minimum wight of ewes is 95 pounds with no maximum weight.
5. Commercial Ewes will show at the NAILE on Friday, November 13, 2026.

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