

## **The Premier Sheep Program**

Superintendent: Lisa Martin

The Premier Sheep Program is designed to recognize 4-H youth sheep producers who can demonstrate comprehensive skills related to the sheep industry, including knowledge of production/management practices, genetics, carcass and end product traits. Along with this, the producer needs to be able to articulate their knowledge of animal health and nutrition, along with showmanship and live animal show ring performance.

This contest is open to all 4-H and FFA members enrolled in the sheep breeding program. Specific forms for the Premier Sheep Program can be picked up at the Mesa County Extension office and must be filled out and returned by June 30, 2009.

What is involved:

A composite score will be computed from the following five elements:

1. Showmanship Class score (Breeding Class) – score is based on your ability to handle and best present your animal and answer any questions the judge might pose.
2. Best show ring ribbon earned – this includes: breeding classes, wool, market and carcass classes. Highest placing will be used in final placing of Premier program.
3. An interview with a producer, Extension staff or industry representative. The purpose of the interview is to rank the youth based on their understanding of the importance of the future of the sheep industry, their ability to communicate their ideas and ability to take a proactive stance on issues related to the sheep industry.
4. Completing a written “sheep quiz”.
5. Record book – record books will be judged at fair for their up-to-date completion and scored accordingly.

**All activities for this program will take place at the Mesa County Fair and awards will be given during the Livestock Parade of Champions. All participants will receive recognition and awards.**