RICHLAND AREA SHEEP PRODUCERS

**Market Sheep/Goat Mentorship Program**

**2025 Guidelines**

**Objectives:**

* 4-H/FFA members will learn about the sheep/goat industry by raising and selling a market animal.

**Eligibility:** To participate in the Richland Area Sheep Producers Market Sheep/Goat Mentorship

Program, youth will need to meet the following eligibility requirements.

* Age requirement: Youth must be in 3rd grade through one year after high school AND under

20 years of age as of January 1 of the current fair year.

* Member of the Richland Area Sheep Producers (Dues $5/individual or $10/family)
* Member of a Richland County 4-H Club, FFA Chapter or a Breed Organization that is recognized by the Richland County Fair Board

**Timeline:**

* March 1 – Enrollment deadline for the Sheep/Goat Project *(4-H members only)*
* May 1 – Mentorship program application due
* June 15 – Animal identification deadline
* July 15 – Educational Points Report due to Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.
* July 15 – Meat Animal Sale Rules Acknowledgement form due
* August 1 – Fair Entry Deadline ([www.FairEntry.com](http://www.FairEntry.com))
* September 3-7 – Richland County Fair *(See Fair Book for entry times, judging schedule, etc.)*
* September 6 – Meat Animal Sale at the Richland County Fair
* September 10 – Carcass Program at the Richland Locker
* September 17 – Meat Animal Sale Buyer Appreciation Dinner *(Tentative)*
* October 1 – Loan repayment due

**Mentors:**

Sheep Mentors & Jr. Mentors

Steve Banker/Riley Banker – [spbanker@hotmail.com](mailto:spbanker@hotmail.com), phone# 608-475-0875

Gretchen Kanable/Bryn Kanable – [gkanable@gmail.com](mailto:gkanable@gmail.com), phone# 608-475-1398

Goat Mentors & Jr. Mentors

Kally Kohl - [kkoch@riverdale.k12.wi.us](mailto:kkoch@riverdale.k12.wi.us), phone# 608-792-0136

Participants identify two possible mentors they would like to work with. The Richland Area Sheep Producers will match mentors with participants. Additional mentors may be added.

**Program Expectations:**

Mentors, Youth and Parents will decide on the expectations for the program, including:

* Amount of time the youth will be expected to work with the animal
* Required activities
* Expenses (ie. Trucking fees, Feed costs if animal is housed a mentor’s farm, etc.)

**Finances:**

* The animal is purchased by the 4-H/FFA member and parent.
* Participants must contact mentor prior to purchasing an animal
* The Richland Area Sheep Producers will help finance the purchase of an animal

($150/animal with a maximum of $300 for 2 animals). The family pays the first

$100 towards the purchase of each animal.

* 4-H/FFA member receiving an interest free loan from the Sheep Producers must

repay the loan in full by October 1.

**Facilities:**

Participants and Mentors will decide where the animal will be housed.

* At mentor’s farm
* At participant’s farm
* At another agreed upon location

**Requirements:**

To be eligible to exhibit and sell an animal at the Richland County Fair, participants must:

1. Be a member of a Richland County 4-H Club, FFA Chapter or recognized breed association. *(4-H members must be enrolled in Sheep Project by March 1).*
2. Identify the animal(s) and submit required paperwork by the June 15.
3. Submit the Sheep/Goats Educational Points Report and Meat animal sale Rules Acknowledgement form to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on July 15.
4. Complete online Fair entry by August 1. *See Richland County Fair Book for additional information.*

**Questions?** Contact Steve Banker, 608-475-0875

Or Gretchen Kanable, 608-475-1398