



SHEEP

Project Guide

Level 1

The 4-H Motto

"Learn to Do by Doing"

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge

My **head** to clearer thinking,
My **heart** to greater loyalty,
My **hands** to larger service,
My **health** to better living,
For my club, my community,
my country, and my world

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Sheep Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects, The OHIO State University Extension

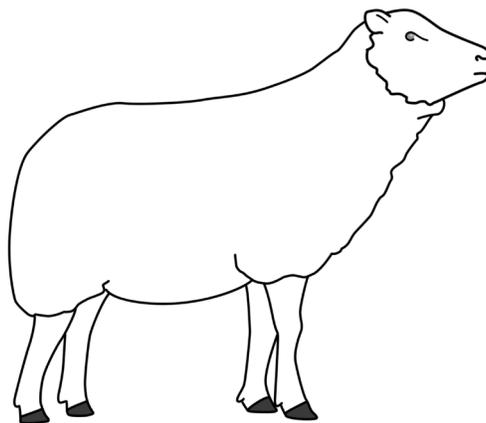
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1	Housing.....	9
When and Where to Purchase a Lamb.....	2	Feed.....	10
Project Types.....	2	Pros and Cons of Diet Types.....	11
Breeders.....	2	Recommendation for Feeding 4-H Lambs.....	12
Size and Weight.....	3	Feed Tips.....	12
Health.....	3	Beyond Achievement Day.....	13
Temperature.....	4	Ten Commandments for Keeping Your Lamb.....	14
Vaccinations.....	4	Activities.....	14
De-worming	4	Do You Know the Parts of the Sheep Activity.....	14
Tail Docking.....	4	Flock Health Activity.....	15
Biosecurity.....	5	Nutrient Match Up Activity.....	16
Animal Identification & Traceability.....	5	Name that Vitamin Activity.....	17
Premises Identification.....	5	Feed Frenzy Activity.....	18
Parts of the Sheep.....	6	Flock Health Find a Word.....	19
Tips for Working with Your Lamb.....	7	Grooming Clinic Activity.....	20
Have the Basic Tack and Feed Ready.....	7	Showmanship Yay's and Nay's Activity.....	20
Get Help with Catching and Haltering the lamb.....	7	Practice Show Activity.....	20
Teach Your Lamb to Follow When you Lead it by its halter.....	8	Garbled Grooming.....	21
Prepare for the Judge.....	8	Pest Puzzle Activity.....	22
Properly Fit and Trim Your Lamb.....	9	Activity Answers Sheet.....	23



4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Introduction

Welcome to the 4-H Sheep Project! As a 4-H member, you already know that 4-H is all about fun, friends, and learning new things. Well, becoming a 4-H sheep member will ensure that you keep having fun and making new friends. While you enjoy being a 4-H member, you'll learn a lot more about sheep, as well as how to do a great job of raising and caring for them.

This resource has been created to help answer many of the common questions posed by new sheep members and their families. Once you have read this resource and completed your first year, 4-H Alberta can then provide you with a larger and more comprehensive sheep resource manual which covers more of the finer details of caring for your sheep.

If there are any questions or concerns you have that are not covered in this resource, your general leader or project leader will help you find the answers.

Have fun learning and finding out about these interesting animals!

When and Where to Purchase a Lamb

The Sheep Project is a lot of fun to be involved in. The project is safe for members, regardless of whether you are 9 or 20 years old. The Sheep Project doesn't require a lot of space for the animals, so that is an attractive feature. When and where you purchase your lamb will depend on which type of project interests you. The two projects are the Market Lamb Project and the Ewe Lamb Project, as described in the section below.

By the way, sheep in general do like companions and will be more content if they have at least one "buddy" lamb in their pen area with them, so that's something else to keep in mind when purchasing your project lamb. For example, you could purchase two lambs, one for each project. You may want to consider that "buddy" lamb as a ewe lamb that you could register as a 4-H project. That would allow you to show in two classes at your Achievement Day. This is simply an option, and it is for you the member and your family to consider and decide upon.

Please make sure that if you are purchasing a male lamb as your Market Lamb Project animal, it should have been properly castrated. Intact males cannot be shown as 4-H market lambs.

Before they leave the farm where they were born, each lamb must be tagged with a yellow CSIP (Canadian Sheep Identification Program) tag. The original owner is responsible for applying the CSIP tag. You can read more about the CSIP program in the Animal Identification section, later in this guide book.

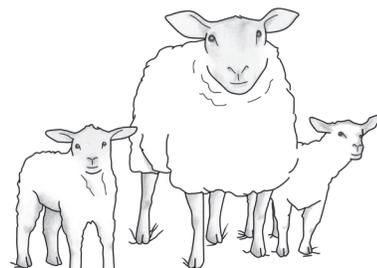
4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Project Types

Type of Project	Type of Lamb	Lamb Characteristics
<p>The Market Lamb Project</p>	<p>If the member is raising a market lamb, this project is fairly short in duration. The Market Lamb Project is likely the best option for new members to consider. The lamb that the member purchases will need to be cared for and fed for a minimum of 60 days preceding the club's Achievement Day. An Achievement Day is the show day for the 4-H Sheep Club, and these are usually held later on in the 4-H year, anywhere from May to August, depending on the club. Your project leader will have that information for you.</p>	<p>Look for a lamb with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good body length, muscling, and overall thickness, especially across the top of the back and throughout the hindquarters. <p>These are important qualities the judge will be looking for.</p>
<p>The Ewe Lamb Project</p>	<p>The time frame and feeding practices for raising this lamb are very similar to those for raising a market lamb, and you would show your ewe lamb on the same Achievement Day. However the intention of raising a ewe lamb is to keep it for at least the two following years as breeding stock for producing your own lambs. Ewe Lamb Projects will be weighed in on the same day as market lambs, with the intention that they will also be shown in their own class at Achievement Day. Your project leader can help you with making the decision on what is the best option for you.</p>	<p>Look for a lamb with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less noticeable, muscular qualities, good length of body, proper leg structure, and even teeth.

Breeders

When choosing a project lamb, you will need to know where you can go to select and purchase the lamb. Your project leader will likely have the names of some breeders in the area who you could contact about the availability of lambs for sale. If you aren't having much luck finding a local breeder, you may get some names of breeders by contacting the Alberta Lamb Producers office in Airdrie. They may have some suggestions for you. The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association can also be a good source of information on where to buy lambs.



4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Size and Weight

The size and weight of the lamb you are purchasing is important. You will likely be feeding your market or ewe lamb for the 60 to 70 days before the Achievement Day (again, check on this with your project leader). The target weight for your market lamb when it will be shown at Achievement Day is anywhere from 45.4 kilograms (110 pounds) to a maximum of 59 kilograms (130 pounds). For the ewe lamb, the target weight will depend on the breed of sheep. Likely, the weights listed for market lambs will be similar to the ewe lambs, but ewe lambs could actually weigh more. Check with you project leader.

Depending on your lambs breed type and what you feed it, lambs can gain up to 454 grams (one pound) per day. Some may gain even more than a pound a day in optimal conditions, but with all the activities that will be planned between your club's weigh-in day and Achievement Day (shearing, halter training, mini-show, etc.), the lamb will probably not gain the optimum weight per day. Therefore, with all of these points factored in, it means you should aim to purchase a lamb that is in the range of 27 kilograms to 32 kilograms (60 to 70 pounds). If your lamb happens to be higher or lower than this range, that's okay too, but it is best to look for lambs in the range suggested. If the lamb you purchase is slightly or significantly bigger than 32 kilograms (70 pounds), you may have trouble keeping its weight under 59 kilograms (130 pounds) by Achievement Day. To slow the growth of your lamb, you may be required to lower their grain or pellet intake and increase their roughage (hay). A lamb that is 59+ kilograms (130+ pounds) at Achievement Day will often be judged as overfat or over finished (excess fat), which is not ideal in a market lamb.

Although these size and weight guidelines are also good to follow when feeding your ewe lamb, it is not as critical for them to fit the weight range listed for market lambs. These ewe lambs are likely going to return to the member's farm for breeding purposes later in the fall, so their size and finish are important on Achievement Day, but more importance will tend to be placed on the specific ewe lamb characteristics listed in the Project Types chart, on page 2.

Health

A healthy lamb is alert and active. Its eyes will be clear and bright. It will frisk and run and jump with other lambs. Wool should be thick, clean and fluffy. A long open fleece on a small lamb may indicate the lamb has grown poorly or may have health issues. Wool lacking in bloom or looking grimy can also be an indication of poor health or poor care. Patchy wool or wool-pulling may also indicate that the sheep has external parasites (keds-(ticks) or lice) or has recently been sick with a significant fever.

4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Temperature

When lambs appear unwell or in poor health, the first thing to do is check their temperature. Normal temperature for a lamb is 38.3–39.4 degrees Celsius (100.9–103.0 degrees Fahrenheit). A high temperature, taken with a rectal thermometer, indicates an infection and a low temperature indicates metabolic disorder. If you find your lamb has an improper temperature, you should contact your 4-H project leader for advice. Your lamb's welfare is of critical importance. You may also consider calling a veterinarian, but with the understanding that fees will likely be included with that professional assistance.

Vaccinations

All 4-H market and ewe lambs should receive a 7-way or 8-way vaccination at your clubs Weigh-in Day, if their previous owner hasn't already given them one. Before that, the immunity they have received from the ewe will prevent the vaccine from working.

The 7- or 8- way vaccine should protect against a number of clostridial diseases such as pulpy kidney, and tetanus, which are common in all areas of Canada. Lambs sometimes may seem a little lethargic after receiving the clostridial vaccine. Occasionally, the site where the vaccine has been administered will leave a small bump under the skin. This is nothing to be concerned about, but you should know that this may be visible on the lamb's skin right to Achievement Day. Please follow label directions when administering this or any vaccine.

De-worming

Your Market and Ewe Lamb Project animals should not need deworming. However, any sheep with access to pasture (ewe lambs, Ewe Projects, lambs at foot) should be de-wormed, to control any internal parasites and safeguard your lamb's health. Ask your project leader which dewormer to use. Examples of external parasites are keds (ticks) and lice. Powders and pour-on liquids are effective products in controlling these external parasites. Additionally, if you own a dog, make sure you de-worm it with Praziquantel, marketed as Biltricide, is an anthelmintic used for the treatment of tapeworms and flukes. Always remember to ask your project leader if you have any concerns or questions.

Tail Docking

Most breeders decide to dock the lamb's tail so that health concerns can be addressed. Refer to Code of Practice for Care & Handling of Sheep for more information about this practice.

4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Biosecurity

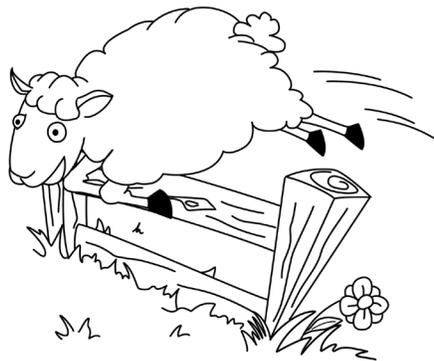
Biosecurity refers to practices designed to prevent, reduce or eliminate the introduction and incidental spread of disease among livestock. There are three main practices which are important in maintaining proper biosecurity regarding your sheep: managing your animal's health, providing good production practices, and managing access to your flock. These key areas help to properly control any potential disease outbreaks to your flock, between species on your farm, and between your farm and other farms. For more information on biosecurity, please check the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website at www.inspection.gc.ca.

Animal Identification & Traceability

When purchasing a 4-H lamb from a producer, that lamb must be tagged with a special CSIP tag before leaving the producer's farm. CSIP is an acronym for Canadian Sheep Identification Program. Any time a sheep leaves the farm where it was born, it requires a CSIP ear tag. Therefore, if you are using any sheep that were born on your property, they too will need a CSIP tag. These tags can be purchased from the Canadian Cooperative Woolgrowers. For questions regarding sheep identification tagging visit the Alberta Lamb Producers website at www.ablamb.ca or call 1-403-948-8533.

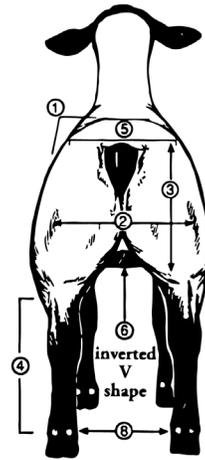
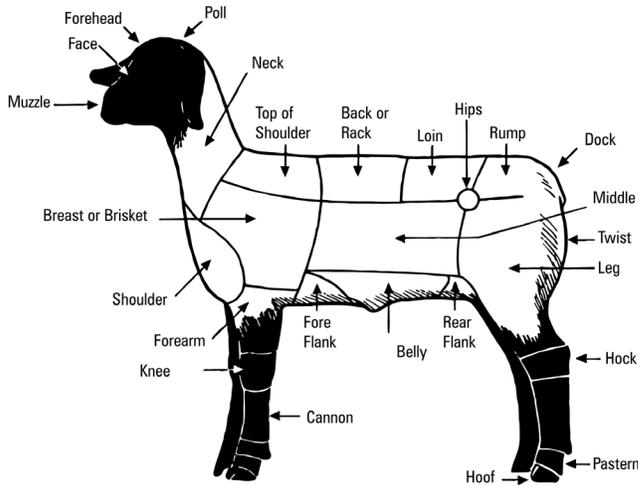
Premises Identification (PID)

As of January 2009, animal owners in Alberta are required to have a PID number. This is needed to complete such things as livestock manifests (required for transporting sheep and other livestock). Therefore, someone in the family of the 4-H member needs to have a PID number and account. Members who are 16 years old can apply for their own account but it is recommended that they continue to use their parents account until they are over 18 years of age and own their own animals. For more information contact [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trace12354](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/trace12354) or call 310-FARM (3276).

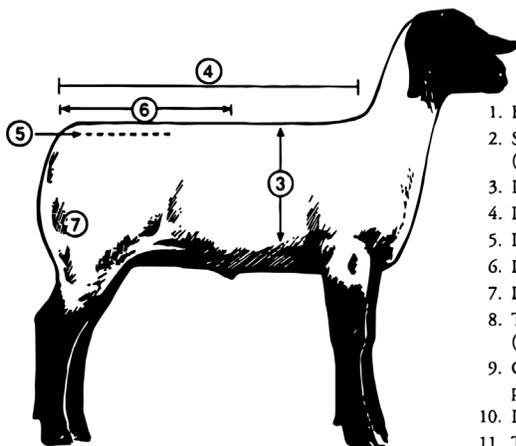


4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Parts of the Sheep Just as with other show animals, the way your lamb's muscles and skeletal structure fit together will define how well the judges will like it. Conformation indicates how well the lamb will be able to grow and become a productive ewe, or will become a muscular market lamb that has a style the judges will appreciate. Good conformation is not just about how your lamb looks; it plays a role in a productive, long-lived and healthy animal. Study the diagrams to get to know all of the aspects of your lamb's conformation.



1. Correct turn of top
2. Thickness through center of leg
3. Length of leg muscle
4. Structurally correct rear legs
5. Squareness of rump
6. Depth of twist-inverted U (fat) or V (trim) shape in crotch area
7. High dock setting
8. Width between hind legs is an indicator of muscling



1. Balance
2. Size and scale (Height, length and width)
3. Depth of body
4. Length of body
5. Levelness of rump
6. Length of hindsaddle
7. Depth and fullness of leg
8. Trimness of middle (market lamb)
9. Correctness of feet, legs and pasterns
10. Length of head and neck
11. Trimness of breast

4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Tips for Working with Your Lamb

While the process of training the lamb is explained in more detail in *Sheep: Fitting and Showing Guide*, you should start with the basics as soon as your lamb is selected. If you are buying a lamb, give it a few days to get used to you, its new home, and the different water and feed at your place.

Let's look at a few basic tips that will help you when working with your lamb. Then we'll explore housing and feeding requirements in more detail.

Have the Basic Tack and Feed Ready

Be prepared. There are a few basic items you should have on hand before you get your lamb and start working with it your lamb. To properly care for your lamb you need a way to groom, water, house, and feed your lamb.

A sheep halter is something you will definitely need for your 4-H lamb. For fitting your lamb, you will need hand shears and a carding comb.

Lambs need clean, fresh water in order to grow well and be healthy. Buckets, troughs, and tanks work fine as long as they are cleaned daily. Lambs do need some shelter to protect them from rain storms, wind, and sun.

Feed buckets, tubs, or troughs work well for grain, pellets, and small quantities of hay. For larger amounts of hay, hay feeders help reduce the amount of hay that lambs can waste.

Get Help with Catching and Haltering Your Lamb

Always get help and have your lamb in a small area when you want to catch it. Quietly and slowly move your lamb into a corner in a small pen. Never chase your lamb around in a large area. Your lamb remembers scary or stressful situations. Chasing it or yelling will make it harder to catch and handle the next time. Always move slowly and gently when handling any livestock. Your lamb is young. Its mother, siblings, and flock have changed. Now it is living in a new place with new people. You have to treat it gently and always reassure it that it will not be hurt and that it doesn't need to be afraid of you.

A very good way to make friends with your lamb is to feed it a small treat or a bit of grain first out of a bucket then out of your hand. Eventually, as it gets comfortable being fed by hand, you can begin to scratch it under its chin, behind its ears or between its front legs. As it learns to enjoy the treats and you, slowly start running your hands down its legs and the feet. The more time you spend with your lamb, the more readily it will come to you and the easier it will be to catch it yourself.

Once you have your lamb on a halter, you will want to try tying the lead shank to a fence post. Stay close, talk to your lamb, pet it and gently move your hands over it. This will get your lamb used to you more quickly, and it will soon learn that pulling back or away from a fence post doesn't work. Do this the first few times you go out to work with your lamb. When the lamb is learning to stand tied, and not pull on the halter, it will make it easier for you when eventually try to lead the lamb around.

4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Please note that you should never leave a lamb alone when it is tied up. It can easily be injured or even hang itself. When it is tied up, talk to it gently, pet it and take the opportunity to train it to lift and set its feet. This helps prepare it for the show ring. Tying the lamb up with its head tight teaches it to respect the halter and your control, which in turn makes showing it easier. Most 4-H clubs usually hold a practice - or mock - show a few weeks before their actual Achievement Day so that all members and their lambs will understand and feel more comfortable with a show ring setting.

Having a lamb haltered makes it so much easier to work with whether you are moving it, giving injections, checking its temperature, or simply working on training for the show ring. Some more experienced members, may choose to show without a halter on the lamb. Always be aware of show rules concerning halters.

Teach Your Lamb to Follow When You Lead it by its Halter

Once you feel your lamb is settling down and getting used to the halter and being tied, then try leading it. Be patient. This is another new experience for both of you. Sometimes a lamb will lie down rather than be led. Loosen up the lead shank and patiently wait for the lamb to stand. Be ready for it to run. If your lamb won't stand up, walk to its side. If that doesn't make it stand up, then you can try to gently lift it by holding under its chin and dock. Simply pulling hard on the lead shank is not as effective as helping the lamb and being gentle with it.

The more you work with leading your lamb around, the easier it will be for you to handle. This will be especially beneficial for you at Achievement Day, because on that day, your lamb will be around other people and other lambs. It will be a new situation for your lamb. The lamb won't be used to the crowd, and being handled somewhat by the judge will be another new experience.

Prepare for the Judge

Regardless of how your animal happens to place in the show ring, (first, second, or third, and so on), please remember the placing is one person's opinion on one day. You should always be proud of your animal, and be proud of displaying it. Pride in your lamb is part of showmanship. When you are proud of your animal, the judge will note the way you handle the lamb with confidence and skill. During the show, the judge will place his or her hands on your lamb to feel the muscling in the leg or loin. A judge may check your lamb's teeth. When training your lamb have someone act as a judge by putting their hands on it. That experience will help the lamb getting used to people other than you touching it. Even with training, your lamb may still jump around in the show ring. Part of good showmanship is being calm and patient with your lamb.



4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Properly Fit and Trim Your Lamb



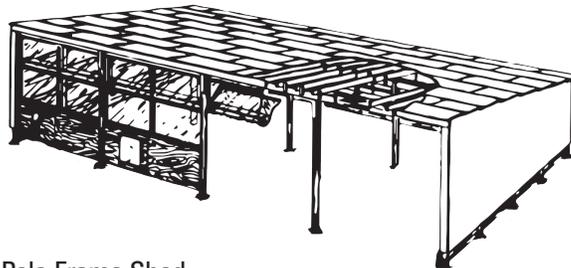
4-H Alberta's Fitting and Showing Guide provides a reference book you can use, but be sure to work with your club and project leaders too. For new sheep members, learning how to wash a lamb, use proper trimming methods for show day, and correctly show a lamb in the show ring, - are best learned by working with your 4-H group. Experienced 4-H leaders will have the hands-on experience to help you with these skills and methods.

Housing

Lambs certainly are capable of living outside, but in Alberta's climate, they do require a shelter from weather and sun. Keeping your lamb in a shed or barn, a corral, or small lit yard at night can help prevent predator attacks.

A fenced paddock or pasture will encourage exercise. Pastures with good grazing can provide a cost-effective feed source. To keep your lamb inside a corral or a pasture you need good fences. Fencing materials can be page wire mesh fencing, farm fence, electric fencing strands, or electric net fencing. Electric fence is easy to move as the grass is eaten. Small wooden-fenced corrals can be very effective yards for your lamb.

Make sure that the indoor pens and resting areas are well-bedded. You can use straw or shavings to keep the lambs clean and dry. Make sure that the bedding is refreshed and replace it regularly, to ensure the lambs continue to have a healthy environment. Make sure to clean waterers and replace the lamb's drinking water daily. Keeping water clean encourages them to drink which in turn increases their feed intake and growth. If lambs are kept inside a barn or in a shed in a pen, it needs to be big enough to allow them adequate exercise and provide excellent ventilation. Ventilation that provides fresh air reduces the risk of pneumonia in lambs that are confined to buildings.



Pole Frame Shed

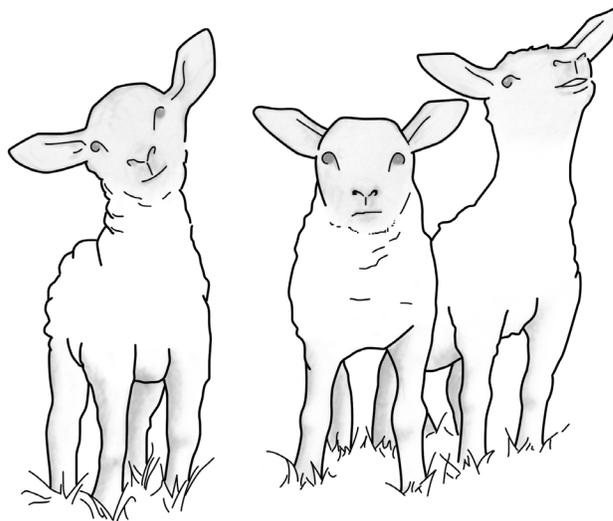
4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Feed

Make sure you know what your newly purchased lamb was being fed and how much it was being fed. Any changes in a lamb's diet, particularly grains or pellets, should be made very slowly over a period of two weeks. When increasing the amount of grain or pellets start with little amounts and increase the amount slowly.

When you first get your 4-H project lamb, it is a wise idea to provide it with a small amount of good quality hay to start with. Only feed enough hay that the lamb cleans it up between feedings. If the feed is gone in ten minutes, feed some more. If there is a lot left at the next feeding, cut the quantity back. Good quality hay for a lamb can be grass or grass/alfalfa mix. Hay that is mature when harvested will be stemmy. Lambs will not eat the stems and will waste more. As you slowly increase the grain or pellets in your lamb's diet over the first few weeks, you can slowly give less hay. A show lamb finishing ration – the ration fed for the last month before show day – contains almost no hay. Often a small amount of hay is only fed to make sure the lamb is eating well. Ewe lambs that are going to be kept for breeding should always be fed some hay.

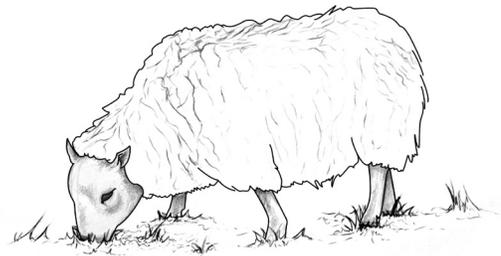
Growing lambs can be fed three types of diets. Each one has good points and challenges as well as contributes to different potential results. In general, diets are based on 1) pasture, with or without some grain; 2) whole grain and a protein supplement, with or without hay; or 3) a commercial pelleted lamb grower-finisher ration, which can be fed with or without hay according to the directions for feeding.



4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Pros and Cons of Diet Types

Diet Type	Pros	Cons
Pasture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • least expensive rate of gain • generally healthy growing environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lambs have a very slow rate of gain • There is greater potential for internal parasite and predator problems
Whole Grain Ration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • usually gives highest rate of gain • fairly simple, straight-forward diet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid over indulgence, which can cause potentially serious health concerns, lambs on a full feed, whole grain diet must not be allowed to be without feed for any length of time. • Fast growing lambs can be prone to “over-eating disease.” Correctly vaccinating with a clostridial vaccine reduces the risk • On high grain diets, lambs run a higher risk of acidosis if they aren’t monitored very closely. Acidosis occurs with high levels of grain or rapid changes in the amount of grain fed. • Lambs also run a higher risk of urinary calculi, or water belly on a high grain ration, if they don’t have enough supplementary calcium available. Correct mineral balances can help and are provided in sheep mineral mixes. • Adding any protein supplements requires proper mixing with the grain. Lambs are very capable of sorting out or leaving feeds they don’t like.
Commercial Pelleted Lamb Grower-Finisher Ration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this ration should contain all the essential ingredients required to make a lamb grow to market weight • once lambs are adapted to it, this diet should be very safe, simple, and easy to feed your lamb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pelleted complete/finisher rations are most expensive of all the diets although for only one or two lambs it is relatively inexpensive. • Cats, dogs and mice like lamb pellets. Be sure to store the feed in rodent/pet proof containers. An added benefit to good storage containers is that if your lamb happens to get out it can’t get into the feed and over-eat.



4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Recommendation for Feeding 4-H Project Lambs

Based on the information in this feed section, the best and safest choice for most 4-H sheep club members would be to shop around, ask questions, and find a good commercial pelleted lamb grower– finisher ration. The choice of rations is of course up to each member and his or her family.

Once your lamb's ration has been increased to the point that the lamb leaves some feed, you can then consider it on "full feed." Once lambs are on "full feed" the best thing to do is to continue to let them eat the pellets free choice every day. You do have to monitor your lamb's weight and body condition. As your Achievement Day gets closer, watch your lamb's weight. As your lamb gets close to its target weight, you may have to reduce its pellet intake and introduce a little bit of hay. Feeding a bit of hay helps keep your lambs contented and will slow their rate of gain. You don't want your lamb to lose weight, so be careful to make any ration changes very slowly. If you feel your lamb requires diet changes because it is going to exceed its target weight, it is a good idea to consult with your project leader before you proceed. Remember that a healthy lamb on full feed at 45.4+ kilograms (100+ pounds) will probably gain around .45 kilograms (one pound) per day!

Feed Tips

Keep in mind when your Market Lamb Project animal arrives, it isn't market ready. Doing these steps will aid in the process of market readiness. For Ewe Lamb Projects, you may follow the same guidelines, but also check with your project leader for the target weight. The breed of sheep will determine the target weight gain for your ewe lamb.

- The ideal target weight for a market lamb in Alberta is in the range of 49.8 to 58.9 kilograms (110 to 130 pounds), depending on the breed.
- It is critically important that you know if the lamb grower-finisher feed you choose is medicated. You must stop feeding a medicated feed according to the withdrawal time given on the feed bag. If you aren't sure, call the feed company. This is important as you get close to Achievement Day. Market lambs go to market shortly after Achievement Day while ewe lambs will return to the member's farm for breeding purposes. For market lambs, all medications **MUST** be out of the lamb's system by slaughter date.
- To calculate feed conversion, you should know that a healthy lamb will eat roughly four percent of its body weight per day when you full feed, and will gain at least .22 to .45 kilograms (one-half to one pound) per day.
- Your lamb requires five essential nutrients for health and growth: water, energy, protein, vitamins, and mineral.
 - It is **VERY** important to provide your lamb access to fresh, clean water at all times.
 - The other four essential nutrients are all included in the correct amounts in commercial pelleted lamb grower-finisher rations.

4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

- When you provide salt for lambs or ewes, it should always be loose blue salt, not a blue salt block. The loose salt properly ensures that your sheep will be able to eat enough salt to reach its daily requirements. Keep salt clean and dry. Some sheep mineral mixes already have salt in them. Again if you aren't sure, ask the feed company.
- For members of the Ewe Lamb Project, once Achievement Day is done, the best option for feeding the ewe is good pasture. Pasture is variable depending on the plant species, how many animals are grazing on it, the amount of rainfall, and on the season. Being out on pasture allows the ewe lamb to "grow out" more slowly. She will grow her body frame size without getting over-conditioned, or over-fat. Depending on the quality of the pasture, you can supplement the ewe lamb's diet with some grain. About .45 kilograms (one pound) of grain per day keeps your ewe lamb growing. Mature ewes that are nursing lambs also benefit from a bit of grain as pasture quality starts to go down. Mature ewes with no lambs can get too fat on pasture alone so don't be tempted to give her a treat when she complains to you. As breeding time approaches feeding grain helps your lamb put on body condition. However, overfat ewes or lambs won't benefit – only the leaner ones do.
- Monitor body condition scores to assess the fat cover that the sheep has. This is determined by using your fingers to feel for fat cover over the backbone. All that wool makes visually–assessing body condition very difficult. Condition scoring is also a valuable tool in determining a sheep's true body condition. Ask your project leader about this method, which is described in 4-H Alberta's Sheep Project Guide Level 2.
- When you provide minerals for lambs or ewes, make sure the product is sheep mineral (intended for sheep). Do not feed minerals intended for cattle or other animals. Sheep that eat the wrong minerals are very susceptible to copper toxicity.

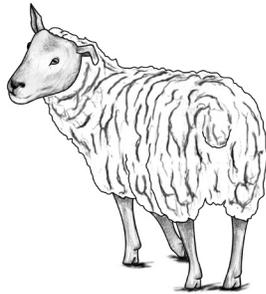
Beyond Achievement Day

There are other opportunities for 4-H sheep members to be involved in besides their club activities and Achievement Day. Most regions will provide sheep-learning workshops, and some regions have regional shows as well. There may also be opportunities for 4-H members to attend local fairs with their sheep.

There is a 4-H Alberta Sheep Show held every July in Olds, Alberta. Information on this show can be found at www.4h.ab.ca.

4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

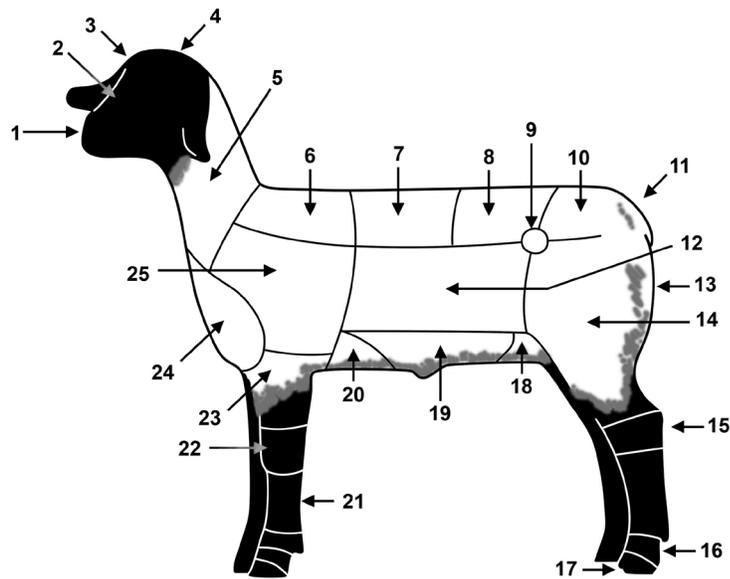
Ten Commandments for Keeping Your Lamb



1. Know how to spot a healthy sheep, – and a not-so-healthy sheep.
2. When buying sheep, buy only from healthy flocks.
3. Take time every day to watch your lamb. Know what -'normal'- behaviour looks like so you can quickly spot anything different.
4. Check your sheep's feet. Watch to see that they are walking easily and not limping. Trim hooves when needed to prevent lameness.
5. Always try to reduce the amount of stress on your sheep.
6. Have a good supply of fresh, clean water available at all times.
7. Feed a well-balanced ration that meets all of the nutrient requirements of your sheep or lambs.
8. Keep your facilities clean and dry.
9. Keep records on your sheep, including feed changes and health treatments like vaccinations or de-worming. The information will help you find problems.
10. Never be afraid to ask for help!

Activities

Do You Know the Parts of the Sheep Activity



- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Belly | _____ Hock | _____ Poll |
| _____ Breast | _____ Hoof | _____ Rear Flank |
| _____ Cannon | _____ Knee | _____ Rib |
| _____ Dock | _____ Leg | _____ Rump |
| _____ Face | _____ Loin | _____ Shoulder |
| _____ Forearm | _____ Middle | _____ Twist |
| _____ Fore Flank | _____ Muzzle | _____ Top of Shoulder |
| _____ Forehead | _____ Neck | |
| _____ Hip | _____ Pastern | |

4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Flock Health

Roll Call

Name one thing you do on your farm that helps prevent disease.

What are some other things you can do?

The Healthy Sheep

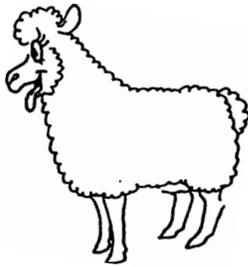
Complete these sentences to answer this question.

How do you know if your sheep is healthy?

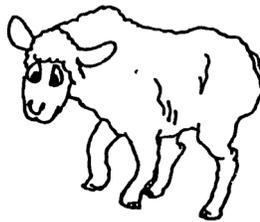
The eyes are: _____

“How Are Charlie and Suzy?”

Charlie and Suzy are two of my favourite lambs. Tell me if they are healthy!



Charlie



Suzy

Which sheep is the healthy one – Charlie or Suzy?

What might be wrong with Suzy?

What would you do about this?

Now you know what a healthy sheep and a not-so-healthy sheep look like. One of the hardest parts of management is being able to identify that not-so-healthy sheep. Once you know you have a health problem, you can get some help from a neighbour or your local veterinarian.

The wool is: _____

When the sheep walks it: _____

Her appetite is: _____

Put a (check) if you think he/she is healthy.

Put a (X) if you think he/she is not healthy.

Go ahead – fill in the blank!

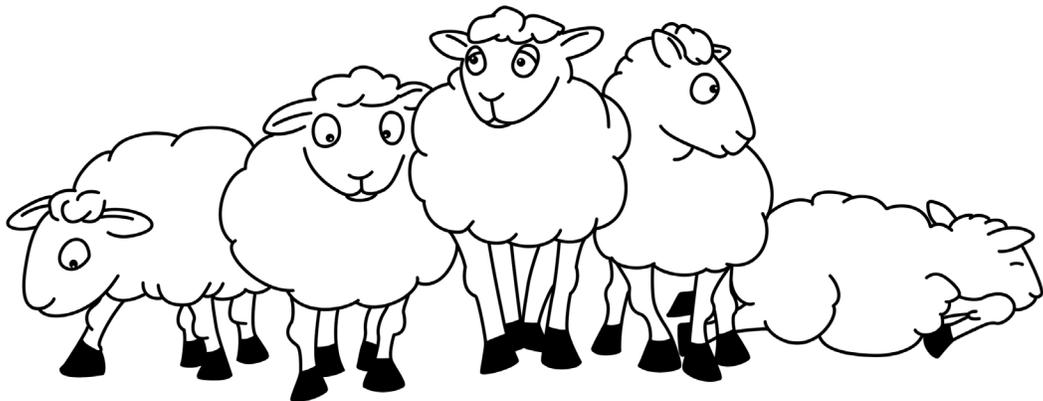
1. Charlie has sparkly eyes. _____
2. Suzy is not standing at the feed bunk with all of the other lambs. _____
3. Suzy is limping. _____
4. Charlie has shiny, soft wool. _____
5. Suzy’s wool is dull and matted. _____
6. Charlie is always romping around the field. _____

4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Nutrient Match Up

Use lines to connect the name of the nutrient to its role in the body

Protein		Reproduction and Lactation
Vitamin E		Heat, Energy, and Fattening
Carbohydrates		General Health
Sodium (Mineral)		Bone and Teeth Formation, Milk Production
Fats		Transport of Nutrients and Control of Body Temperature
Vitamin A		Bone Development
Calcium (Mineral)		Activity of the Thyroid Gland
Water		Heat, Energy, and Fattening
Vitamin D		Growth, Reproduction, Muscle, and Wool Development
Iodine (Mineral)		Stimulates Appetite



4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Name that Vitamin

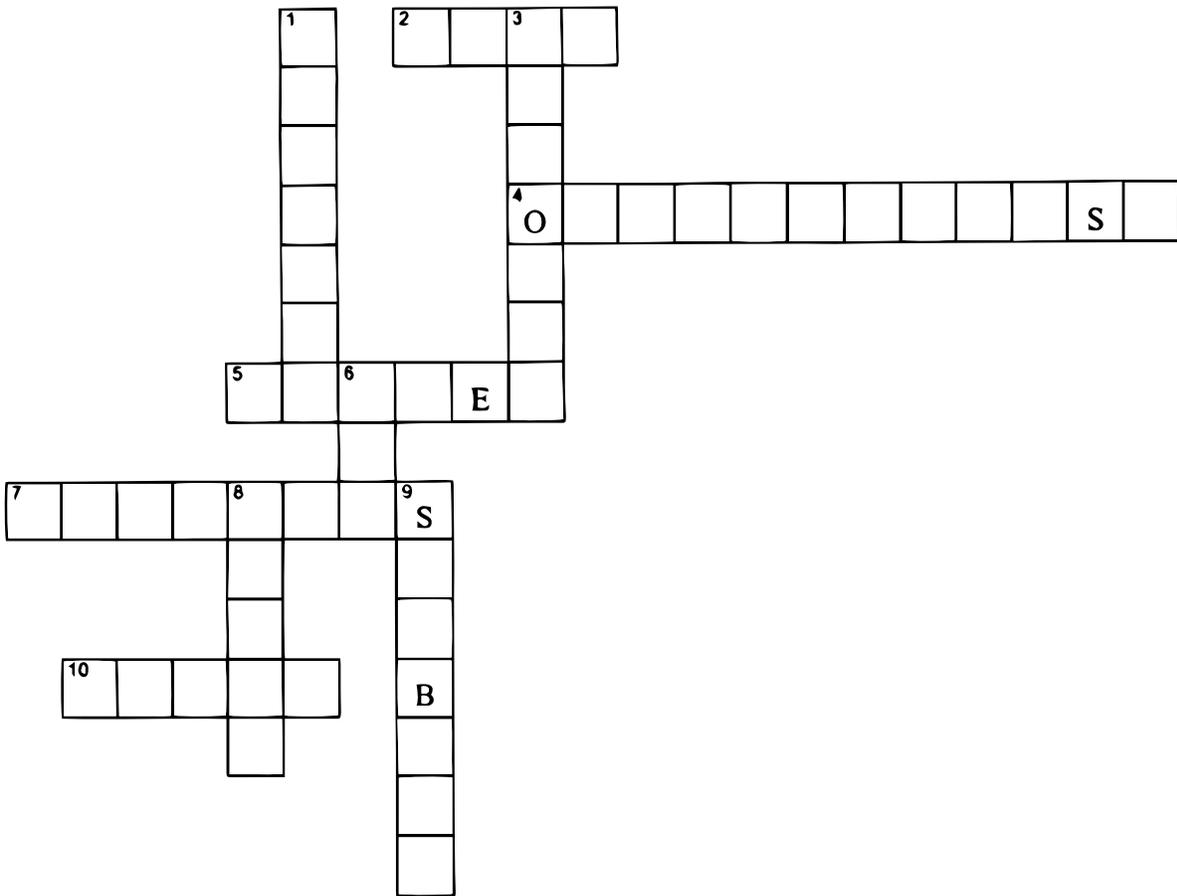
Use the chart on the following page to find answers to the following questions about vitamins.

1. Which vitamin is deficient if your sheep is suffering from White Muscle Disease?
2. Which vitamin is the sunshine vitamin?
3. If a sheep bleeds heavily from a wound, which vitamin would you expect to be deficient?
4. Which vitamins work together with minerals to perform specific functions?
5. If an animal has rickets, a severe bone disease, which vitamin is likely to be deficient?
6. If you feed sheep young, leafy, green plants, which vitamins would you be supplying?
7. Which vitamin can the sheep body produce that the human body cannot?
8. Which vitamin does the body need to use protein properly?

Vitamin	Source	Stored in the Body	Importance	Other
A	Carotenes found in green plants	Yes	Needed for healthy skin, digestion and reproduction	Most commonly deficient vitamin
B Complex	Manufactured by the bacteria of the rumen in adult sheep	No	Needed for the body to utilize protein and energy	It is important to feed the rumen properly so B vitamins can be made
C	Manufactured by the body tissues	No	Needed for chemical reactions in the body	
D	Sunlight on the skin	Yes	Required for proper bone formation along with calcium and phosphorous	Supplement in winter or if sheep are living indoors
E	Young, green forages and whole grains	Yes	Required with selenium for muscle function	Deficiency can lead to White Muscle Disease
K	Green leaves. Also manufactured by bacteria in the rumen of adult sheep.	Yes	Required for blood clotting	Deficiencies are rare

4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Feed Frenzy



Across	Down
2. A bulky grain with a fibrous hull	1. The king of forage crops
4. This perennial grass is good for grazing	3. This type of hay is not well liked by sheep
5. This heavy feed is high in energy	6. Sheep don't find this feed very appealing
7. Sheep love this sweet treat	8. High in fiber but low in nutrients
10. This grain is highly digestible and protein rich	9. The meal produced from this is high in protein and minerals

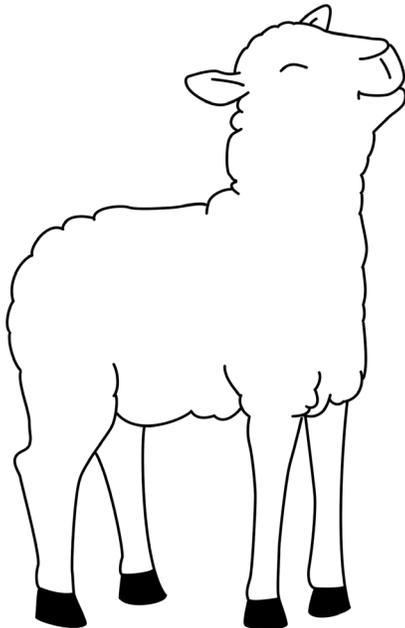
4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Flock Health Find - a - Word

All of the words are in a straight line,
up, down, backwards or forwards!

W T A T W G M U F R P C X
K Y H E A L T H Y S L T N
D C S V G I B C E N H Y T
E D M O U T H Y L F C W L
P L V X F E E T X E O O W
R R Q R E C O R D S A M N
E W A X A G C A D Y F N S
S D U U Y P B O I X M M D
S S L P F P N W A D W M U
E M P U K X F X V R G G L
D A P P E T I T E T S B L
H X E U T X S B G N J E E
R U N C S A G S H I N Y W

- Eyes
- Appetite
- Healthy
- Shiny
- Clean
- Happy
- Records
- Depressed
- Feet
- Dull
- Mouth
- Coarse



4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Grooming Clinic Activity

Grooming sheep can be very challenging and time-consuming even for experienced 4-H members. In line with the 4-H Motto, grooming is a skill best learned by doing. If possible, arrange for an experienced senior member or alumni to teach new club members how to groom at a grooming clinic. Members should be instructed in the whole grooming process and given an opportunity to participate. Perhaps a non-project animal could be used for the clinic so that all club members could try carding and trimming without worrying about making a mistake.

Showmanship Yays and Nays Activity

As a club, brainstorm a list of showmanship Yays and Nays. Include points such as how to respond to the judge as well as show ring etiquette.

Practice Show Activity

A practice show provides an excellent opportunity for members, particularly those that are new, to become comfortable handling their animal in a show ring setting. It also allows the members to see how their animal will react to the other people and animals in the ring. Try to arrange for a practice show prior to the first time the members will exhibit their animals. The club leader may act as the judge or another qualified individual may volunteer. Ask the members to complete the normal maneuvers required in showmanship. Rather than evaluating the members, provide commentary throughout. Give them suggestions for improvement and be sure to praise them when they do things well.

It is important to train your lamb gradually in steps. Organize the following training steps in the correct order by numbering them 1-7.

___ Pat the lamb and handle it as you would in a judging class.

___ Try to gently touch or pet the lamb while it eats.

___ Practice setting the lamb up. Have it stand still and try to move its legs so that they are set squarely under the body. Lift the head. Practice this until the lamb is able to hold the position for a number of minutes

___ Move the lamb as you would when in the show ring. Grasp it under the chin with one hand and pat it on the dock with the other. Practice walking and turning different directions as you would in a show.

___ Visit the lamb. Sit in the pen and watch it eat and move about.

___ Put a halter on the lamb. Gradually encourage the lamb to move forward by pulling the lead rope and patting it on the dock.

___ Brace the lamb by standing in front of it and gently lowering its head and applying pressure to its chest. Have someone handle the lambs back and hindquarters while you practice bracing.

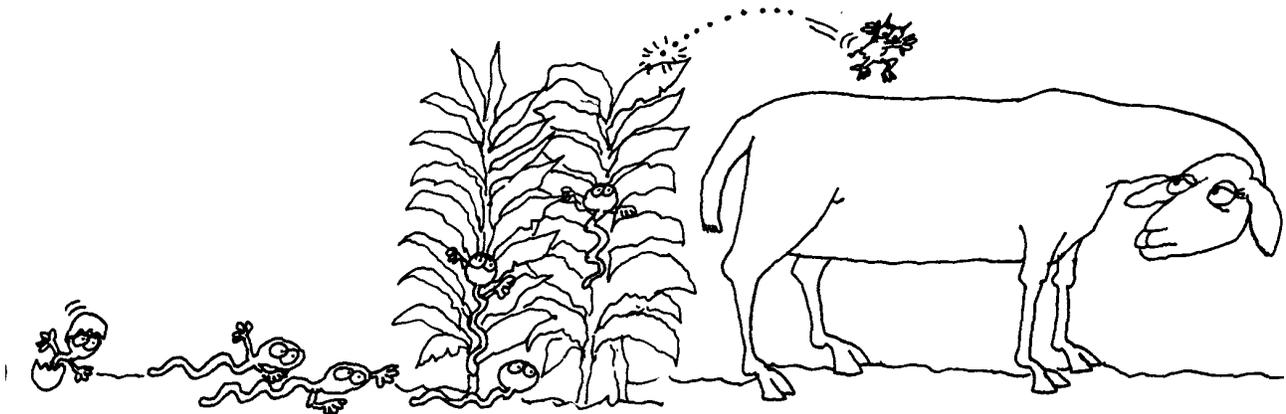
4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Pest Puzzle Activity

Use your knowledge of common sheep pests to unscramble each of the clue words below. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number to reveal a secret message.

NGLUROWMS	
TMPAORESW	
NESO OBTS	
SEDK	
ICLE	
VILRE LEUKSF	
NINTISATEL SOWRM	
TAOMCSH WOSRM	

Answer _____

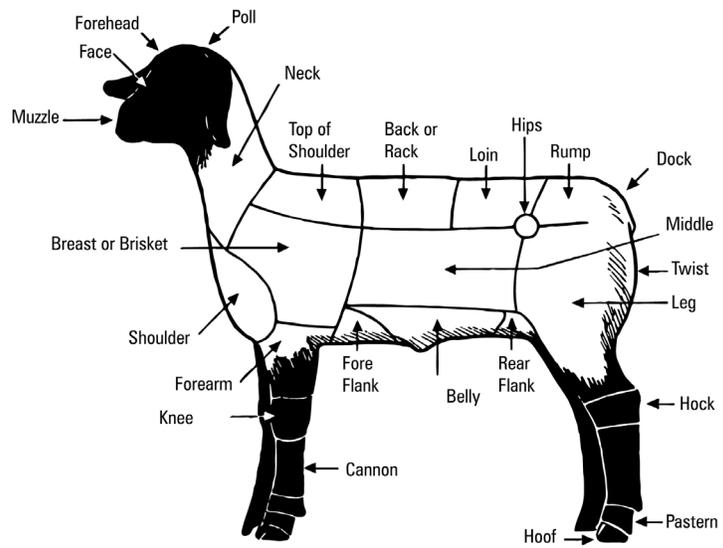


4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Activity Answer Sheets

Parts of the Sheep

<u>19</u>	Belly	<u>15</u>	Hock	<u>4</u>	Poll
<u>24</u>	Breast	<u>17</u>	Hoof	<u>18</u>	Rear Flank
<u>21</u>	Cannon	<u>22</u>	Knee	<u>7</u>	Rib
<u>11</u>	Dock	<u>14</u>	Leg	<u>10</u>	Rump
<u>2</u>	Face	<u>8</u>	Loin	<u>25</u>	Shoulder
<u>23</u>	Forearm	<u>12</u>	Middle	<u>13</u>	Twist
<u>20</u>	Fore Flank	<u>1</u>	Muzzle	<u>6</u>	Top of Shoulder
<u>3</u>	Forehead	<u>5</u>	Neck		
<u>9</u>	Hip	<u>16</u>	Pastern		



4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Nutrient Match Up

Protein		Reproduction and Lactation
Vitamin E		Heat, Energy and Fattening
Carbohydrates		General Health
Sodium (Mineral)		Bone and Teeth Formation, Milk Production
Fats		Transport of Nutrients and Control of Body Temperature
Vitamin A		Bone Development
Calcium (Mineral)		Activity of the Thyroid Gland
Water		Heat, Energy and Fattening
Vitamin D		Growth, Reproduction, Muscle and Wool Development
Iodine (Mineral)		Stimulates Appetite

Name that Vitamin

1. E
2. D
3. K
4. D and E
5. D
6. A, E and K
7. C
8. B

4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

Feeding Frenzy

Across	Down
2. A bulky grain with a fibrous hull OATS	1. The king of forage crops ALFALFA
4. This perennial grass is good for grazing ORCHARD GRASS	3. This type of hay is not well liked by sheep TIMOTHY
5. This heavy feed is high in energy BARLEY	6. Sheep don't find this feed very appealing RYE
7. Sheep love this sweet treat MOLASSES	8. High in fiber but low in nutrients STRAW
10. This grain is highly digestible and protein rich WHEAT	9. The meal produced from this is high in protein and minerals. SOYBEAN

Flock Health Find a Word

R R Q R E C O R D S A M N
E W A X A G C A D Y F N S
S D U U Y P B O I X M M D
S S L P F P N W A D W M U
E M P U K X F X V R G G L
D A P P E T I T E T S B L
H X E U T X S B G N J E E
R U N C S A G S H I N Y W

- EYES
- APPETITE
- HEALTHY
- SHINY
- CLEAN
- HAPPY
- RECORDS
- DEPRESSED
- FEET
- DULL
- MOUTH
- COARSE

4-H Sheep Project Guide - Level 1

Practice Show Activity

1. Visit the lamb. Sit in the pen and watch it eat and move about.
2. Try to gently touch or pet the lamb while it eats.
3. Pat the lamb and handle it as you would in a judging class.
4. Move the lamb as you would when in the show ring. Grasp it under the chin with one hand and pat it on the dock with the other. Practice walking and turning different directions as you would in a show.
5. Put a halter on the lamb. Gradually encourage the lamb to move forward by pulling the lead rope and patting it on the dock.
6. Practice setting the lamb up. Have it stand still and try to move its legs so that they are set squarely under the body. Lift the head. Practice this until the lamb is able to hold the position for a number of minutes.
7. Brace the lamb by standing in front of it and gently lowering its head and applying pressure to its chest. Have someone handle the lambs back and hindquarters while you practice bracing.

Garbled Grooming

1. BORWLE B L O W E R
2. SEHRSA S H E A R S
3. TISGSHNOPREANNE S H A R P E N I N G S T O N E
4. RTSMITNDA I R I M S T A N D
5. WAROODCL W O O L C A R D
6. ETOLW T O W E L
7. MUOYCRCBR C U R R Y C O M B
8. ASOP S O A P
9. OOMHMERRSITF H O O F T R I M M E R S
10. ATENKBL B L A N K F T

WOOLEY AND WHITE

4-H Sheep Project Guide Level 1

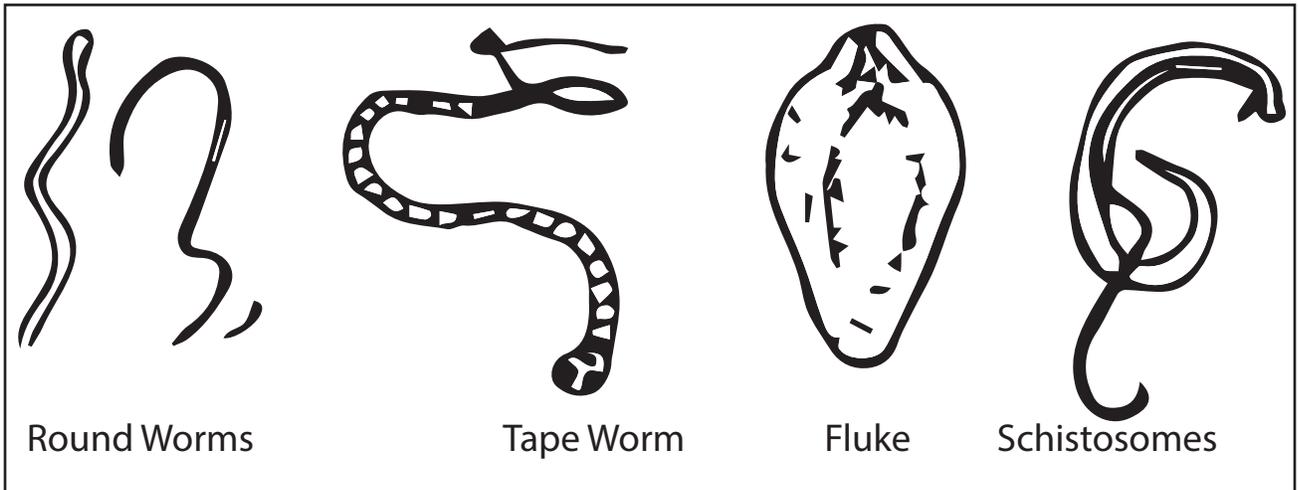
Pest Puzzle

- Lung Worms
- Tapeworms
- Nose Bots
- Coccidiosis
- Keds
- Lice
- Liver Flukes
- Intestinal Worms
- Stomach Worms

Secret Message

Prevention is the Best Medicine

Intestinal Worms



Round Worms

Tape Worm

Fluke

Schistosomes

