



THE HAMPSHIRE STUFF FOR KIDS

MAKING THE BEST OF A YOUTH SHEEP PROJECT

A youth sheep project must first set goals, and then decide what outcome you would like the project to achieve. The following are a few outcomes that you could consider:

1. Do you want to have a successful project and exhibit at a local show or fair?
2. Do you want to gain more knowledge about the sheep industry and learn such things as responsibility?
3. Do you want to exhibit at a state or national show?
4. Do you want to excel in showmanship?
5. Do you want to win a class at your local show?
6. Do you want to have the champion at your local show or even a state or national show?

Your goals or outcomes will determine your selection process, your direction for developing a plan for the care of your project, and the amount of work you put into your project. Parents need to allow the

youth to develop this goal setting with some direction. Parents and older brothers or sisters, or other relatives need to avoid reliving their goals and desires through the youth's project and taking total control of the project. Is that success for the member? We should all try to guide young members through the project experience and let them learn through this experience. We learn from our mistakes as well as our successes. Work as a family, your family will develop a sense of accomplishment and the member will be the backbone of the project. That will spell success!

FACT ABOUT RUMINANT ANIMALS

The nicknames of the four stomachs of the ruminant animal are:
 rumen - "paunch", reticulum - "honeycomb",
 omasum- "manyplies", abomasum- "true stomach"

EDUCATIONAL ZONE!

Sheep are polygastric animals, just like cattle. This means they ruminate or they chew their cud. They are then called ruminants. Other animals such as swine do not ruminate and are called monogastrics. The stomachs of these two different type of animals are different in size, shape, and in function. Ruminants have a large capacity stomach with 4 compartments. Other farm animals that join the sheep as a ruminant animal are cattle and goats. Ruminant animals such as the sheep with its 4 compartment stomach are able to consume large quantities of feed. This allows us to feed them roughages or forages such as hay and pasture. Ruminants can maintain themselves on a diet of this type of feed and even gain weight (when supplemented with minerals and salt). This allows us to economically feed out sheep and maintain a flock of sheep on good pasture. It also makes the ruminant animal such as sheep very valuable when utilizing land that cannot be used for other agricultural purposes. When we compare the sizes of the digestive systems you can see that the digestive system of the sheep is much larger than that of the monogastric. The stomach capacity of the sheep is approximately 30 quarts, where the counterpart, the pig's stomach can only hold about 8 quarts. The ruminant animals four compartments of the stomach are the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. Let's look at what happens in these 4 compartments.

The rumen and reticulum work together. Ruminants gather feed very rapidly and usually swallow it without chewing. It goes directly to the rumen-reticulum. Muscular action takes place and mixes the feed with water and this is where the feed is mechanically broken down. Bacteria, protozoa, and fungi also assist with breaking down the feed in this portion of the stomach. About seventy-five percent of the digestive process take place in this compartment. This compartment also has the largest holding capacity of any other part of the stomach. Roughage and hay must be ruminated. Grains most of the time are not ruminated and pass directly into the abomasum. This is where chewing their cud comes into play. An animal chewing its cud forces the food back up through the esophagus, rechews and adds saliva to the feed before swallowing again. The omasum or second compartment has two functions.

FEATURE: WHAT IS A RUMINANT?

As the feed passes through, the omasum absorbs water and some fatty acids. It then passes into the abomasum, the "true stomach", which is similar to our's and that of the pig. Digestive juices are added, undigested feed protein is partially digested and some fats and carbohydrates are absorbed. From that point on the animals intestinal tract is very similar to ours where absorption takes place.

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

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|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| FLOCK | CULL | DOCK |
| EASY KEEPER | FEEDER LAMBS | PEDIGREE |
| FLEECE | BOLUS | CRUTCHING |
| BLEAT | BUCK | EWE |
| ELASTRATOR | MARKT LAMB | HAMPSHIRE |
| GROWTHY | CASTRATION | CREEP |

YOUTH CONNECTION TO LEARN AND DO

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DETERMINING THE SIZE OF THE MARKET LAMB TO BUY FOR YOUR NEXT SHOW

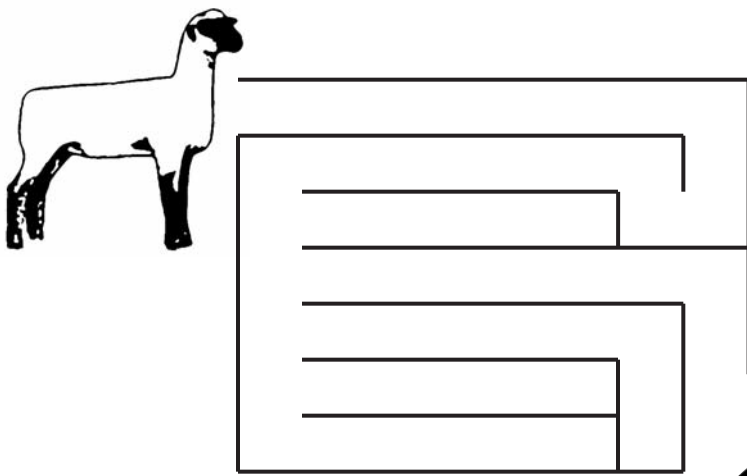
What size lamb do you want to show? What is your show's weight limits if you have any? What size lamb do you do well feeding out at the end of the project? Do you want to play it safe and make sure you fall in the middle of the road of the weight range at your show? Many times as a judge exhibitors ask me what size lamb will I pick at a show. My answer is always the same, "the best lamb". Judges usually have ideal weights in their minds but the majority of judges will pick the best lamb that fit the muscle pattern and condition for the weight of the lamb. You must remember as a lamb approaches 115 to 120 pounds it begins to be a little more together and the amount of muscle tends to be there for that lamb to hang a good carcass with more muscle in the ideal cuts. Therefore that is the weight where we tend to see lambs to begin to be selected at the top end of the shows. As they get larger we must find the ones that can still handle correctly and have the amount of muscle according to their frame. This gets us back to determining the beginning weight of our projects to get the desired show weight. We must remember this does not apply to everyone's feeding program.

Many market lambs are shown at more than one show and it requires a different feeding program and selection of the lamb at the beginning. To determine the weight of the lamb you should buy, here is some help. First determine your target weight at the show, then you must determine the number of days to the show from the date you plan to purchase your lamb. After this is determined you must then determine the amount of gain expected per day which is usually between .5 and .75 pounds per day on most market lambs. Then plug it into the formula below. Good Luck!


Target Weight - (# of Days to Fair x Lbs./Day Gain Expected) = Beginning Weight of the Lamb You Should Select

KIDS ZONE!





HELP ME FIND MY BLUE RIBBON!



HAULING AND SHIPPING SHEEP TO SHOWS, SALES AND MARKET SAFELY

When preparing sheep for traveling, sheep producers should consider the following tips:

1. You must first consider the health requirements and permits needed at the show and during transportation. This is really critical for interstate shipment. Consult a local veterinarian, they usually can obtain this information for you. Check fair or show guidelines and understand what they need. Plan for this ahead of time. Not following guidelines can be costly in delays and even not getting to show at your next exhibition.

2. Select the best and safest method of transportation. Make sure the method you use is safe for the sheep. Is your trailer or truck prepared for the trip. Check tires, latches, and flooring.

3. Sheep should be fed or watered properly prior to loading. Never ship your sheep on full feed. Feed at least 12 hours prior to loading. Usually that means omitting the feeding just prior to loading the sheep. Give them plenty of water up to about 2 hours before hauling and then take the water away. This helps prevent scouring during the trip and excess urination which causes the trailer or truck to become extra wet. When you arrive allow the animal to have good clean water and provide half the normal feeding the first time.

4. Avoid shipping during extreme weather. During hot weather avoid hauling during the heat of the day. Travel at night, late evening, or early morning. Make sure the trailer has proper ventilation. During cold weather, make sure they have plenty of bedding and cold drafts are eliminated.

5. Keep sheep quiet, do not get them excited!

VOCABULARY BUILDER

This issues word:
BLEAT

Definition: The sound a sheep or lamb makes.

Fact:
Lambs recognize their mother by the bleat.

Use in a sentence:
The bleat of the lamb was really loud.

Can you use it in a sentence?
