

4-H SHEEP PROJECT



Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Give a shearing demonstration

Citizenship

- Volunteer your lamb for a community petting zoo
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store
- Volunteer to help at the county sheep weigh-in

Leadership

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm
- Teach others how to safely handle sheep
- Lead a sheep showmanship and grooming clinic

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

Are You Into It?

In the 4-H sheep project you can learn about breeds, selection, grooming, production, management, showmanship, marketing, and careers.

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of livestock
- Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Identify quality in wholesale and retail cuts of meat to understand the relationship to management principles

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Learn health and care of your sheep
- Learn what you need to show your animals
- Produce a healthy and safe meat product
- Identify different breeds
- Locate and name parts of sheep
- Learn proper feeding of sheep
- Tell the difference between the age of sheep

Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- Learn about food safety management practices
- Learn the life cycle of sheep parasites
- Judge and present your sheep
- Understand medications for health of your sheep
- Communicate with the vet for disease prevention
- Practice breeding management practices
- Care for a newborn lamb
- Explore sheep shelters for adequate protection
- Research goat meat markets

Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

- Plan and organize production records
- Develop cost and expense records
- Explore sheet genetics
- Interview people in agriculture careers
- Explore sheep industry issues
- Market sheep products
- Select breeding animals
- Identify lamb cuts at the local grocery store
- Measure your pasture's productivity



Take Sheep further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Sheep:

- Tour a sheep operation
- Attend a sheep show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging sheep
- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Participate in a judging team
- Design a business plan to market lamb meat directly to retailers, restaurants, or private customers
- Write an educational article about some aspect of sheep production for your newspaper
- Research sheep by-products
- Attend Animal Science Round-Up as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and take the sheep track, participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair sheep show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Contact your county ISU Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. www.iastate.edu

Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H sheep show
 - Breeding sheep
 - Market lambs
 - Showmanship
 - Rate of gain
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you have learned in a sheep-related topic
 - Nutritive value of meat goats
 - Meat cuts and proper preparation
 - Feeding rations
 - Preventative vaccinations
 - Photos of different breeds
 - Daily routine in caring for animals
 - Grooming techniques
 - Developing a breeding herd
 - Best care techniques for newborns
 - How to select and judge your lamb
 - Medical show kit
 - Explain the use of FEPD's
 - Understanding carcass grading in lamb carcasses
 - Video on how to train your lamb to lead
 - Proper exercising techniques
 - Making ethically sound decisions
 - Feed additives and their proper uses

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa 4-H Sheep www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/Livestock/sheep.htm • Youth and 4-H Sheep Project (4H 702) • Rams, Lambs & You Level 1 (4H 703A) • Shear Delight Level 2 (4H 703B) • Leading the Flock Level 3 (4H 703C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Sheep Industry Association www.iowasheep.com/ • Iowa State University Sheep Teaching Farm http://breedingsheepage.com/ISUfarm/index.htm • Iowa State Animal Science page www.ans.iastate.edu/ • American Sheep Industry Association www.sheepusa.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Record Worksheet (4H 228JR) -Project Worksheet (4H 228WS) • Breeding Animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Record Worksheet (4H 229JR) -Project Worksheet (4H 229WS) • Iowa 4-H Sheep Verification Form (4H 106D) • 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Breeding Worksheet Level 1 (4H 229 JR) • Lifetime Ewe Record (4H 229D WS)