



# Bottle Lamb Project Record Book



Exhibitor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Age \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club Name \_\_\_\_\_



**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach

**PURPOSE:**

1. To teach proper health care, environmental needs and nutritional requirements of young lambs.
2. To teach basic sheep management skills without a large investment.
3. To teach basic record keeping and communication skills.
4. To provide a better understanding of the sheep.

**Guidelines**

1. Project open to 4-H members, grades 4 to 12.
2. Class is open to any newborn or orphan male or female lamb, born after January 1, and before April weigh-in date of the current year.
3. Male lambs must be **castrated** and have **tail docked** by April weigh-in date.
4. 4-H'er may identify and ear-tag up to three (3) bottle lambs at the April weigh-in. Only one (1) bottle lamb may be exhibited at the fair.
5. Bottle Lambs will be ear-tagged at April weigh-in with a different colored ear-tag than the Market Lamb ear-tag.
6. Lambs need to be separated from mother within 48 hours of birth. No nursing permitted after 48 hours.
7. Lambs identified in the Bottle Lamb Project may not be shown in the Market Lamb Class and vice versa.
8. Bottle Lambs shown at the Jefferson County Fair may be sold in the 4-H Livestock auction, provided they are market weight, minimum weight 90 pounds.
9. Members may keep female Bottle Lambs and exhibit in the following year's Fair Return Bottle Ewe Class.
10. Entries will be weighed on Fair entry day and classes determined by the superintendents.
11. Classes will be divided by age of exhibitor and weight of lambs.
12. The fitting and showing of the lambs should be according to sheep guidelines with emphasis on what the member has learned.
13. Lambs must be shorn at least two weeks prior to show.
14. Evaluation of the project will be based on:
  - a. Record Evaluation..... 200 points
  - b. Interview with Committee...200 points
  - c. Show ring Evaluation.....100 pointsTotal Possible Points.....500 points
16. There will not be a special showmanship class for Bottle Lambs because it's already included in the point system.

## Words to Know

**Colostrum**—the first milk produced by a lamb after lambing.

**Disposition**—the temperament or mood of a certain lamb.

**Heredity**—is the passing on of traits from parents to their offspring.

**Breed**—is a specific group of domestic animals having the same appearance, behavior, or other characteristics that distinguish it from other animals.

## Consider Each Lamb

**Age**—A bottle lamb should be in your possession within one week of birth.

**Appearance**—A healthy lamb should have a smooth, shiny coat; a warm, moist nose; and bright, alert eyes.

**Colostrum**—A newborn lamb should have been fed colostrum for the first 3 days. This special milk gives calves a healthy beginning.

**Disposition**—Select a lamb that is quiet and calm. A wild lamb would be a lot more work for you and would be more difficult to manage and show.

**Price**—Find out the current market price range for newborn lamb so you will know how much to spend.

## The Interview might include such questions as:

1. Where and when did you obtain your lamb? Was there a cost involved, and how did you finance?
2. How old was the lamb when you received it? How old is it now?
3. What health problems did you have with the lamb?
4. What did you feed the lamb the first day at home?
5. What is colostrum, and did you feed any to your lamb?
6. What was your milk feeding program? How long did you feed milk?
7. When did you start giving the lamb solid feed? How often did you change the ration?
8. Did you feed any antibiotics?
9. What is in milk replacer?
10. Did you warm your milk and how warm?
11. What kind of housing did you have for your lamb?
12. When did you start training your lamb?
13. Do you plan to make a profit on your lamb?
14. What are your plans for your lamb after the fair?
15. What have you enjoyed most in working with your lamb?

## Identify Your Goals

Clear goals will help you decide what is most important to you. If your goal is to add a lamb to your family's herd, breed and heredity may be the most important factors. If your goal is to learn how to care for a lamb, gentleness or cost may be more important.

Think about what you hope to learn from the Bottle Lamb project. In your goals, include things you want to learn about bottle lamb and things you want to learn about yourself. Discuss your goals with your guardian, then write them in the space below.

## Project Goals:

(What I want to learn about having a bottle lamb)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Observing a Healthy Lamb**

**Ears**—Look at your lamb’s ears. They should stand up and not appear droopy.

**Eyes**—Look at your lamb’s eyes. Healthy lamb have eyes that are alert and bright.

**Nose**—Touch your lamb’s nose to make sure it is moist and warm.

**Skin/Wool**—Touch and look at your lamb’s skin. It should appear shiny and free of sores.

**Breathing**—Listen to the way your lamb breathes. You should hear your lamb taking breaths in a regular, comfortable rhythm. Your lamb should not be coughing or taking labored breaths.

**Temperature**—Look at your lamb’s temperature on a rectal thermometer. A normal temperature is 100.9°-103.8°, but this varies from lamb to lamb and at different times of the day.

**Bowel movements**—Look at your lamb’s fecal material. They should be solid, with no signs of diarrhea.

**Eating and drinking habits**— Look to see what your lamb eats and drinks each day. Healthy lamb’s have a good appetite and do not drink too much water. (It depends on size of lamb, weather, etc.) Your adult helper can help you decide what is right for your lamb.

## **Observing Healthy Lamb Management**

**Techniques Housing**—A lamb’s house should have clean, fresh bedding, with no accumulated wastes or standing water. Good ventilation also is necessary.

**Feeding**—Fresh food and water should be available every day. The same person should feed a lamb at the same times every day to lessen stress.

**Flies and insects**—Try to limit the number of flies and insects in your lamb’s house. Your adult partner can help you determine the best method of pest control.

**Vaccinations**—Lambs should receive their first clostridial vaccination when they are approximately 6 to 8 weeks of age, followed by a booster 4 weeks later. Determine with your adult partner or veterinarian what vaccines your lamb needs and when

**Hoofs**—A lamb’s hoofs should be trimmed by an adult before the lamb is turned out on pasture. An untrimmed hoof forces the lamb to walk on its heels.

### **Observe Your Lamb**

Observe your lamb at least two times each day. Frequent observation helps in early disease diagnosis, and treatment of any disease is more successful when diagnosed and treated early. Practice using your senses to observe your lamb. Write down any observation you see about your lamb on page 5.



# Lamb Observations

	Day/Time	Issue
Ears	05/24 at 5PM	Droopy
Eyes	05/24 at 5PM	watery
Nose		
Skin		
Breathing		
Bowl Movements	05/24 at 5PM	Runny
Eating/drinking habits	05/24 at 5PM	Not eating

Example

## **Now you try to keep some observations on your lamb**

(If need be you could keep on a separate paper and include with your record book)

# Jefferson County 4-H Bottle Lamb Project Record

Year in project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Age \_\_\_\_\_

Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of Lamb \_\_\_\_\_

Sex of Lamb: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

What color is your lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you get it? \_\_\_\_\_

If purchased, where did you get your lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

How much did your lamb weigh when born or when you bought it? \_\_\_\_\_

How much did it cost (estimate worth if home-raised)? \_\_\_\_\_

How old was the lamb when you stopped feeding milk? \_\_\_\_\_

How much should your lamb weigh when you sell it? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you feed your lamb each day for the first 90 days? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did you feed your lamb each day from 90 days to present time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What equipment did you need to care for your lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What shots/medicines did you give your lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **COST OF RAISING YOUR BOTTLE LAMB**

### **Birth to 3 Months of Age**

Milk or Milk Replacer	\$ _____
Starter	\$ _____
Hay	\$ _____
Medical	\$ _____
Bedding	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

### **Three Months to Present Time**

Concentrate Mixture (Grain, Protein, etc.)	\$ _____
Hay	\$ _____
Medical	\$ _____
Bedding	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

### **SUMMARY**

1. Value of lamb when born or when bought \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Expenses for your lamb (from above)
  - Milk or Milk Replacer \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Starter (Commercial) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Concentrate (Grain, Protein, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Hay \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Medical \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Miscellaneous \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Total Cost of Raising Lamb (Don't Include Original Cost of Lamb) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Value of Lamb at Present Time \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Profit or Loss on Project (subtract 1 + 2 from 3) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## A Look Back

Think about all the experiences you had with your bottle lamb project. Write answers to the following questions.

What were your goals for the bottle lamb project? Did you meet your goals?

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How did you accomplish those goals?

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What was the most important thing you learned about your bottle lamb?

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What is something you learned about yourself during this project?

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What is the biggest problem you had with your bottle lamb?

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What might you have done differently with your project?

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Did you have fun in this project?

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## **Include Photos of your Bottle Lamb**

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