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4-H



MARKET LAMB

Guide & Record



Extension Division • Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University • Revised April 1977

Name _____ Age _____ Club Year _____

Address _____ County _____

Name of Club _____ Years in 4-H _____

Name of Leader _____ Record Book 82

SUPPORTING LITERATURE FOR THIS PROJECT *

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Circular No. 1029 | -- Keeping Lambs Healthy |
| Leaflet No. 166 | -- Foot Rot in Sheep |
| Leaflet No. 232 | -- Internal Parasites of Sheep |
| Publication No. 206 | -- Feeding Ewes |
| Publication No. 328 | -- Lamb Feeding in Virginia |
| Publication No. 365 | -- Sheep Management Schedule |

*Obtain from your Extension Agent

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INTRODUCTION

This project is for 4-H members who plan to feed and manage market lambs. Lambs may be purebred or grade. You are encouraged to fit and show lambs in a county, area, or state market lamb show, but this is not essential. If you plan to show lambs, you may show one or twin single lambs, a pen of 3, or a pen of 5 depending on the rules of your show. Therefore, a group of about 5 lambs is a desirable number to have.

REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be between the ages of 9 and 19 years.
2. Own or care for one or more lambs (ewes or wethers).
3. Give at least one talk about sheep to your club.
4. Give at least one demonstration about sheep to your club.
5. Complete the project record.

SELECTING MARKET LAMBS

Terms You Should Know

LAMB — a young sheep less than one year of age
RAM OR BUCK — an uncastrated male sheep of any age

EWES — a female sheep of any age

WETHER — a male sheep castrated before reaching maturity

BREED — a group of animals that have similar characteristics that are passed on from generation to generation

PUREBRED — an animal both of whose parents are of the same breed and are recorded in the registry association

GRADE — an animal that has one or both parents that are not recorded in the registry association

CROSSBRED — an animal that has parents of different breeds

If you plan to show lambs, you should choose those that meet the requirements as to age, time to start, and ownership. Conformation is also im-

portant. If you use good judgment in selecting your lamb, you will have a better chance at show time.

SELECTION

Select a lamb:

- * that is of mutton breeding
- * that is well - muscled
- * that has a straight strong back
- * that has a long level rump
- * that has a wide, deep, and plump leg of lamb
- * that has smooth shoulders
- * that has a long body
- * that is thrifty and free from disease

Weight—Lambs should weigh 95 to 120 lbs. at show and/or market time. For a 3-month feeding period, start with lambs weighing about 70 to 75 lbs. Lambs should gain 1/3 to 1/2 lbs. daily (2 to 4 lbs. per week).

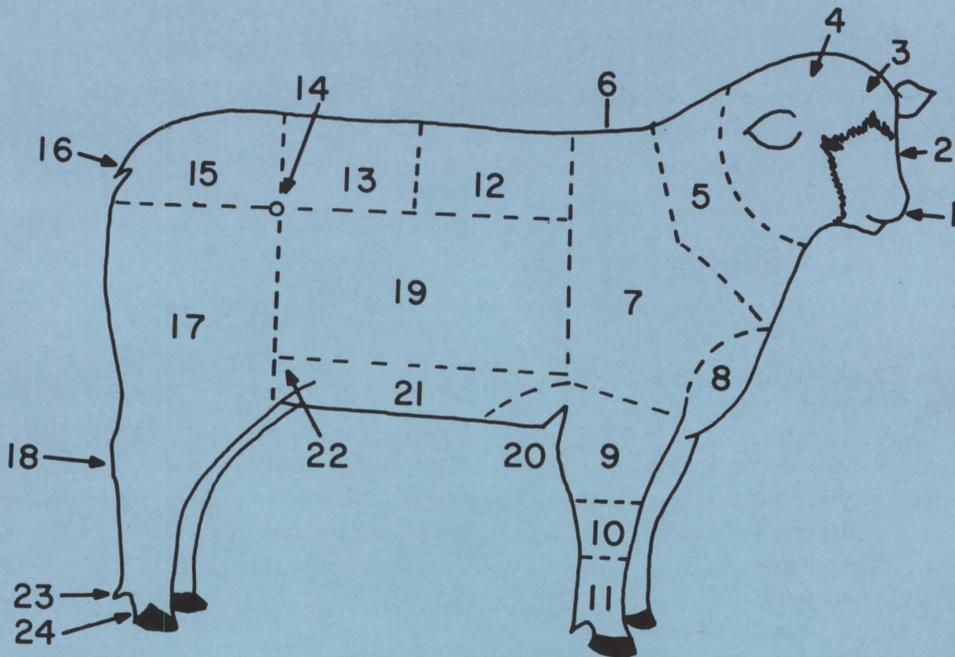
Where To Secure Lambs — You may select lambs from your flock or your father's flock. You may also purchase lambs from a purebred or commercial breeder. Some shows permit members to feed, fit, and show lambs owned by a purebred breeder. This is acceptable if you and the breeder can reach a reasonable financial agreement. If you buy lambs, be careful not to pay too much because this could result in an unprofitable project.

How Much To Pay

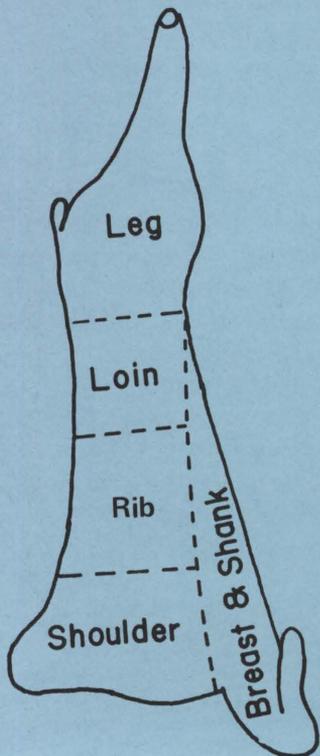
When commercial lamb feeders are buying lambs they try to estimate the price finished lambs will be selling for when theirs are ready for market. They like to buy feeder lambs for 5 to 10 cents a pound less than the estimated finished price. This gives them a safe margin to pay all costs and make a profit.

You should realize that the experience and enjoyment you will get from feeding and caring for lambs will be quite valuable, but you would also like to make a profit or break even on the project. Cost of the lambs and feed will be the main items of expense. It will take about 7 to 8 pounds of feed to put a pound of gain on your lambs. If you expect your lambs to gain an average of 30 pounds each, this will take about 225 pounds of feed per lamb. You will have a few other expenses such as salt, minerals, bedding and worm medicine.

NAMES OF THE PARTS OF THE LIVE LAMB AND THE LAMB CARCASS



- | | | |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. Muzzle | 9. Forearm | 17. Leg |
| 2. Face | 10. Knee | 18. Hock |
| 3. Forehead | 11. Cannon | 19. Middle |
| 4. Poll | 12. Back | 20. Foreflank |
| 5. Neck | 13. Loin | 21. Belly |
| 6. Top of shoulder | 14. Hip | 22. Rear Flank |
| 7. Shoulder | 15. Rump | 23. Dew Claw |
| 8. Breast or brisket | 16. Dock | 24. Pastern |



	% of Carcass Weight	% of Total Carcass value
Leg*	33	40
Loin*	17	28
Rib*	11	11
Shoulder	25	18
Breast and Shank	14	3

*Leg, loin, and rib together account for about 60% of carcass weight and about 80% of carcass value.

HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT

Sheep need protection from wet weather and high temperatures. Provide shelter that is well ventilated and stays cool as possible during the summer months. An outdoor exercise lot should also be provided. Each lamb should have at least 20 sq. ft. of floor space. Provide a feed trough and hay rack allowing about 1' of feeder space per lamb. You will also need a salt box and a mineral box.

HOW TO BEGIN

If you raise your own lambs, they should get a little grain and hay as early as 2 weeks after birth. This can be provided by use of a creep feeder.

If you purchase lambs, they will need special care when they arrive on your farm. Provide fresh water and hay. They should not be turned directly on lush legume pasture. As soon as they have had a rest, treat them for internal parasites according to current recommendations. Vaccinate for enterotoxemia ("over-eating") disease. Shear lambs that are to be fed during hot weather. If you plan to show lambs, be sure to determine what regulations your show has on length of wool, trimming, etc.

FEEDING

Terms You Should Know

CONCENTRATES — feeds low in fiber and high in food value; for example, grain and protein supplements

FORAGE — a term for high quality roughages; plants harvested before they reach the stage of maturity where seeds have been formed

ROUGHAGE — a term for low quality forages harvested late, which furnish less energy than if they had been harvested earlier

FIBER — that part of a feed not easily digested by the animal; for example, hay stems and corn cobs

NUTRIENT — any food element that aids in the support of life

CARBOHYDRATE — nutrient that provides energy and stimulates growth

FAT — nutrient that provides a concentrated source of energy

PROTEIN — nutrient that builds body tissue and promotes growth

MINERALS — nutrients that build bone and teeth and are necessary for important body regulatory functions

WATER — the largest single part of nearly all living things. It is a carrier of other nutrients and is necessary in most of the body's chemical reactions.

RATION — the feed given an animal over a 24-hour period

DIGESTION — the process of breaking down feeds into nutrients so they can be used by the animal's body for growth and fattening

TDN (TOTAL DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS) — the part of feed that is digestible or usable by the animal

NET ENERGY — TDN minus losses due to heat, gases, and urine

RUMINANT — an animal that chews its cud and has a stomach divided into 4 parts; for example, cattle, sheep, and deer.

Feed A Balanced Ration

A balanced ration is one that contains the correct proportions of nutrients essential for maintenance and growth of the lamb. Essential nutrients include carbohydrate, fat, protein, minerals, vitamins, and water. Feeds high in carbohydrates for energy are the ones that contain the greatest food value for putting finish on the lamb. Grains have a high carbohydrate content. Sheep are roughage-consuming animals and will do better if the ration contains some high quality roughage (forage). Roughage aids in digestion and adds bulk to the ration. The finishing ration should contain at least 15% to 20% hay. The ration should contain 14% to 16% crude protein. To be more accurate, you can have your Extension Agent help you figure a balanced ration. Some sample rations are shown here to give you an idea of what you might use.

Sample Rations

- # 1 60 lbs. corn (cracked or whole)
- 15 lbs. oats
- 10 lbs. wheat bran
- 15 lbs. protein meal
- Legume - grass hay, free choice

2 75 lbs. ground ear corn
15 lbs. protein meal
10 lbs. molasses
Legume - grass hay, free choice

3 50 lbs. corn
25 lbs. legume hay
15 lbs. protein meal
10 lbs. molasses
Legume - grass hay, free choice

4 Commercial Lamb Ration
(ground or pelleted)

Provide a phenathiazine salt mixture free choice. Feed a complete mineral mixture free choice. The mineral mixture should contain calcium and phosphorus in a 4 to 1 ratio plus trace minerals.

Antibiotics in the feed have been shown to increase rate of gain and feed efficiency and give protection against some diseases. They may be mixed in the ration at the rate of about 20 grams per ton.

Provide clean fresh water to lambs at all times.

Starting Lambs on Feed

Extreme care must be used in starting lambs on feed to avoid upsetting their digestive systems. Lambs may be self-fed or hand fed. Feed hay free choice. Feed grain at the rate of 1/4 lb. per day for the first few days. Gradually increase the grain every 2 or 3 days so they will be on full feed in 3 or 4 weeks.

Feed no more than the lambs will eat in approximately 30 minutes. Clean the feed trough before each feeding. If lambs go off feed, reduce grain sharply and slowly bring them back to full feed.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT TIPS

- * If you raise your own lambs, dock and castrate by 2 weeks of age.
- * Treat for internal parasites every 4 to 6 weeks during the feeding period.
- * Dip or spray lambs for external parasites when started on feed.
- * Do not treat for internal or external parasites within 4 weeks of slaughter.
- * Protect lambs from hot sun and rain.
- * Exercise lambs during cool part of the day to help give them a firmer finish.
- * Keep lambs' feet trimmed.
- * Market lambs at 95 to 120 lbs.

HOW TO HANDLE SHEEP

Proper handling of sheep is important and simple to learn with some practice. To catch a sheep, grasp the flank and lift enough to pull a rear leg off the ground. Lambs may be caught by grasping them under the chin. *Never* grab or hold sheep by the wool.

To hold the sheep, place your left hand under the sheep's chin and rest the other hand lightly on top of the neck or keep it free.

To lead the sheep, keep the left hand under the chin and use the other hand to press on the dock to cause the sheep to move. With proper training, the sheep will often walk without pressure on the dock.

SHOWING LAMBS

If you plan to show lambs, you should begin working with them a month or more before the show. If lambs are frequently worked, you should have little trouble at show time. Practice setting the lamb up with his feet set squarely under the 4 corners of his body. Hold his head high so he will appear alert. When moving him, allow him to walk out with his head in front of you.

Market lambs should be exhibited in a short fleece. Determine what regulations your show has on blocking, trimming, etc., before you begin. Many exhibitors, particularly those with larger breeds, are showing sheep with halters. If you use

one, your lamb will need more training. If you do not train it well, you will have to struggle and pull at your lamb in the show ring. Try to avoid this.

THE 4-H STORY

(Briefly tell about things you did and things you learned in the 4-H Market Lamb Project this year.)

PROJECT PICTURES
(Side View)

Picture at beginning of project
Date Picture Taken _____

Picture at end of project
Date Picture Taken _____

TABLE A. Livestock Purchased and Sold

Kind of livestock	Date of Birth	Purchases				Sales			
		Date	Weight	Price/lb.	Total	Date	Weight	Price/lb.	Total
TOTALS				\$	\$			\$	\$

MARKET LAMB ANALYSIS

I. Financial Summary

1. Value of animal sold (table A)	\$ _____	
2. Value of prizes and awards (table B)	\$ _____	
3. TOTAL RECEIPTS (add line 1 and 2)		\$ _____
4. Cost of animal (table A)	\$ _____	
5. Feed costs (table D)	\$ _____	
6. Other costs (table F)	\$ _____	
7. Interest charge (table E)	\$ _____	
8. Project cost for equipment (total table C)	\$ _____	
9. TOTAL EXPENSES (add lines 4,5,6,7 and 8)		\$ _____
10. INCOME OVER EXPENSES (subtract line 9 from line 3)		\$ _____

II. EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION

1. Weight of animal at start of project (table A)	_____ lb.
2. Weight of animal when sold (table A)	_____ lb.
3. TOTAL GAIN (subtract line 1 from line 2)	_____ lb.
4. Days animal was on feed (table A)	_____ days
5. Daily gain on feed (divide line 3 by line 4)	_____ lb./day
6. Total feed cost (line 5, section I.)	\$ _____
7. Feed cost per pound of gain (divide line 6 by line 3, and multiply this quotient by 100)	_____ ¢/lb.
8. Total cost per pound of lamb sold (divide total expenses by weight of animal when sold)	_____ ¢/lb.

4-H Activities Record

I. Club Responsibilities

Number of meetings your club held this year. _____

Number you attended. _____

Offices held in 4-H club work this year.

Committees you served on. _____

Did you serve as a 4-H member leader?
yes _____ no _____

II. Project Activities

Projects you completed this year.

Give location for each activity below (Local, L; County, C; District, D; State, S; Regional, R; National, N).

Talks. Give title. _____

Demonstrations. Give title.

Exhibits. Give name of project.

Judging Contests. Give type.

Showmanship Contests. Give type.

Public Speaking Contests. Give title.

III. Other Activities

Place a check (✓) beside the following activities and events in which you participated.

- Project tour
 - Project workshop
 - Judging school
 - Fitting and Showing school
 - Officer training
 - Leadership training
 - Community service project
 - 4-H Church Sunday
 - National 4-H Club Week
 - County Camp
 - Conservation Camp
 - TV Camp
 - Electric Congress
 - State 4-H Congress
 - National 4-H Congress
 - 4-H Citizenship Short Course
 - 4-H Citizenship Conference
 - Achievement Day
 - Health check-up by doctor
 - Dental check-up by dentist
 - News articles written, No. _____
 - Radio programs, No. _____
 - TV programs, No. _____
 - Others _____
- _____
- _____

IV. 4-H Awards and Honors

List those received this year.

Date project completed. _____