



# 4-H SHEEP PROJECT



In 4-H market and breeding sheep projects members can learn about selection, management, production, marketing, showing, and judging of sheep.

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records for one or more head of livestock.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sound breeding, nutrition, management and record keeping practices.
- Learn value of scientific research in its influence on animals and the meat industry.
- Members learn consumer and producer awareness

## 4-H Thrive!

Help Youth:

### Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

### Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

### Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

### Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

#### Starting Out *Beginner*

- Identify breeds of sheep and their uses
- Identify parts of the sheep
- Study the nutritional needs of sheep
- Learn about equipment used for raising and showing sheep

#### Learning More *Intermediate*

- Study sheep showmanship techniques
- Learn how to properly prepare a sheep for the show ring
- Research how and when to properly vaccinate your sheep.
- Identify major health concerns of market sheep and how to address them

#### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Assist younger members with their showmanship skills
- Design a breeding program for your sheep
- Learn how to dock tails and castrate lambs
- Give a presentation on a topic pertaining to sheep

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*



# Expand Your Experiences!

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Explore various lamb feeds and compare the differences in both the growth and development of the animal as well as the harvested meat
- Research the different ways that sheep are used for to medical research to benefit humans.
- Become a member of a livestock judging team or a livestock quiz bowl team.

## Healthy Living

- Compare the nutritional needs of sheep to those of humans and other mammals
- Create a collection of healthy recipes using lamb
- Visit a local meat locker to observe meat handling, carcass quality and processing.

## Citizenship

- As your experience expands put on a showmanship clinic and help younger members with their skills
- Prepare educational displays for the fair

## Leadership

- Become a role model for other members by becoming a junior/teen leader
- Teach others the importance of properly caring for animals
- Recruit younger members for the sheep project
- Plan a visit to a local sheep producer

## Resources

- Market Lamb Guide to Success  
[http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/766\\_Market\\_Lamb\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/766_Market_Lamb_Guide.pdf)
- 4-H/FFA Market Lamb Sheep Project  
<http://www.tvsp.org/picklamb.html>
- Sheep and Goat.com  
<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/BMP-lambs.html>

### Connections & Events

**Presentation Day** - Share what you have learned with others through your sheep project.

**Foods Fiesta** – enter a dish you have made using lamb

**Local Fairs** – enter and show your project animal in showmanship and market or breeding classes.

**Visit a local breeder** – see how large producers handle their animals, shearing, lambing, vaccinations.

### Curriculum

**Rams, Lambs, and You:**

<http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=06367>

**Shear Delight:** <http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=06368>

**Leading the Flock:** <http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/ProductDetails.aspx?ProductId=06369>

**California 4-H:**  
<http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/>

### 4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <http://ucanr.edu/orb/>

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

