

4-H

Sheep Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Sheep Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn animal care basics, good management practices and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/> This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Solano County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced animal raiser.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of sheep, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

Projects to be completed through this Proficiency include: Market Sheep and Breeding Sheet.

SHEEP

Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Identify three wool breeds and three mutton breeds and explain the difference between the wool and mutton breeds.
- _____ 2. Discuss which breeds are available in your area and why.
- _____ 3. Identify sheep parts from a diagram or a live sheep.
- _____ 4. Describe and explain different types of equipment used to prepare a lamb for show.
- _____ 5. Explain three ways an owner can mark sheep for identification.
- _____ 6. Discuss housing and feeding equipment necessary for sheep.
- _____ 7. Explain all of the steps required to prepare a lamb for show.
- _____ 8. Be familiar with showmanship techniques, including flipping.
- _____ 9. Submit management records for a minimum of 60 days including feed, costs, and management techniques (to raise a market lamb).
- _____ 10. Demonstrate how to show sheep's teeth and discuss the need.
- _____ 11. Show how to trim hooves and discuss the need.
- _____ 12. Take part in a showmanship or judging contest.
- _____ 13. Attend a sheep field day or judging field day.
- _____ 14. Identify these terms: ram, ewe, wether, dock, castrate, tag or crutch, shear, trim, jail or jug, purebred, gestation, parturition.
- _____ 15. Assist in shearing a sheep.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SHEEP Level II - Producer

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Explain what a bummer lamb is and how to raise one (how to feed, when to feed, how much to feed, etc.).
- _____ 2. Be familiar with grading wool.
- _____ 3. Explain the age of sheep by its teeth.
- _____ 4. Discuss internal and external parasites, the different ways of parasite control and assist in deworming.
- _____ 5. Show how to take the temperature of a sheep and know what the normal temperature is.
- _____ 6. Explain why exercise is important.
- _____ 7. Be familiar with these diseases: urinary calculi, grass tetany, white muscle, blue tongue, mastitis, epididimites, vibrio, navel ill, and scours.
- _____ 8. Give a demonstration at county field day or project meeting.
- _____ 9. Understand and be able to explain the following terms: flushing, cull, heat periods, pure breeding, close breeding, line breeding, out crossing, grading up, cross breeding, open faced.
- _____ 10. Explain the protein requirements of a fair lamb during the 60 day feeding schedule. Explain the different types of feeds and their advantages.
- _____ 11. Explain the digestive process of a sheep and the parts of a sheep stomach.
- _____ 12. Demonstrate how to dock and castrate a lamb. Explain health precautions to take.
- _____ 13. Attend livestock sales and observe marketing methods.
- _____ 14. Learn how to skirt a fleece and how to properly tie a fleece.
- _____ 15. Be able to explain in detail: foot rot, enterotoxaemia C&D, tetanus, pneumonia, sore mouth, and bloat.
- _____ 16. Be able to give an injection and oral medication. Know the difference between subcutaneous and IM injections.
- _____ 17. Set up a flock health management program and include control of both external and internal parasites.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SHEEP
Level III - Consumer

Date
Completed

1. Submit a management record plan for 1 year for a proposed breeding project or your own (i.e. 5 ewes and a ram to be bred to raise lambs. Include an inventory of feed to be purchased, a vaccination program, ram management, ewe management, lamb management, complete budget).

2. Keep a personal reference library of sheep literature that will be helpful in your project.

3. Know and explain the difference between yield grade and quality grade.

4. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your club meetings.

5. Cook and help eat some lamb.

6. Give a demonstration at county field day or project/club meeting.

7. Serve as a speaker on a sheep based subject before an organization other than 4-H.

8. Compose constructive suggestions for improving an area of the project, or initiating something new (meetings, projects, fair, forms).

9. Assist other in sheep promotion.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SHEEP
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

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| | 1. Help a new member select a lamb. |
| | 2. Help another member in a sheep project. |
| | 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings. |
| | 4. Expand personal reference library. |
| | 5. Explain the process from sheep to shirt. |
| | 6. Maintain health, production and management records for your flock and individual animals. |
| | 7. Teach a beginning member how to perfect their showmanship. |
| | 8. Complete a Junior or Teen leader project for the sheep project. |
| | 9. Explain and teach about diseases and health maintenance you have previously learned about. |
| | 10. Be able to explain and teach about lambing complications and normal lambing management. |

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SHEEP
Level V - Researcher

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Give an oral report at a project meeting or a county group meeting or do a demonstration on a sheep-related subject.
- _____ 2. Develop a breeding program for your own flock, or a flock you are familiar with. Chart procedures and analyze genetic results for key characteristics.
- _____ 3. Make something different from a sheep project.
- _____ 4. Diagram and explain the different breeding programs (cross breeding, line breeding, out breeding, etc.).
- _____ 5. Assist, or observe the slaughtering of a lamb and evaluate the carcass quality.
- _____ 6. Assist in preparing a ram for the breeding season (marker, vaccinations, shear, worm, trim feet, breeding soundness exam, etc.).
- _____ 7. Explore and experiment in depth an area of interest in the sheep industry.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Sheep Proficiency

in Solano County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

