

MARKET LAMB PROJECT CALENDAR

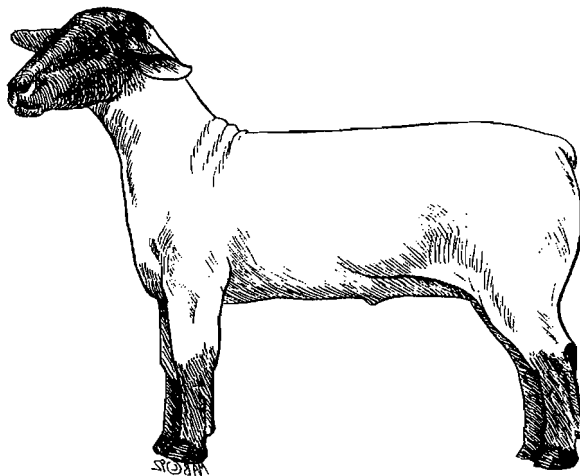
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Management Practices: What to do?

- Make sure you are a 4-H member
- Set goals for your lambs and project
- Tame lambs by hand-feeding and spending time in pen
- Select quality, healthy project lambs
- Start 50 pound lambs to new rations gradually
- Isolate newly purchased lambs for 30 days
- Consult veterinarian for specific health plan
- Vaccinate with clostridium perfringens type C & D bacterin-toxoid (30 and 60 days of age) for overeating disease
- Normal sheep temperature is 103.5 degrees F
- Check for foot rot, trim diseased tissue, stand sheep in 20% zinc sulfate solution
- Provide small amount of high quality long hay
- Deworm all lambs at weaning, pastured lambs again in early June and every 3-4 weeks thereafter
- Provide at least one gallon of clean water for every 4 pounds of feed
- Clean pens, feed troughs, salt boxes, and waterers daily to prevent coccidiosis
- Allow at least one foot of feeder space per lamb
- Provide loose trace-mineralized salt (sheep formulation)
- Keep lambs dry and shaded
- Shear lambs 1 to 2 weeks before fair
- Monitor weight and condition of lambs
- Wash lambs 3 to 5 days before show

- Blanket lambs after washing
- Lambs will consume about 2 to 3 pounds per day of grain mix
- Lean lambs should have 1/10 to 2/10 inch of backfat
- Provide daily exercise for lambs
- Practice walking and setting up your lamb
- Practice holding lambs for handling by judge
- Obtain carcass information whenever possible
- Complete financial summary of project
- Attend project, club meetings, judging and educational events
- Evaluate this year's project accomplishments
- Provide proper and responsible care for your lamb



SAMPLE LAMB RATIONS

Creep (2 weeks to weaning)

Corn (cracked)	80.0 lb.
Soybean meal	13.0 lb.
Molasses	5.0 lb.
Feed-grade limestone	1.5 lb.
Ammonium chloride	.5 lb.

Growing ration (weaning to market)

Shelled corn	62.0 lb.
Alfalfa hay	15.0 lb.
Soybean meal	13.0 lb.
Fish Meal	3.0 lb.
Molasses	5.0 lb.
Feed-grade limestone	1.5 lb.
Ammonium chloride	.5 lb.

Add chlortetracycline at 1 gram/100 lb. of ration, *or* if coccidiosis is a problem, add lasalocid (Bovatec) at 1 gram/ 100 lb. of ration. Feed a trace-mineralized salt or mineral free choice; both formulated for sheep (added selenium, no added copper).

GETTING YOUR LAMB TO THE FAIR AT THE PROPER WEIGHT AND CONDITION

Use this table to find the expected daily gain for your breed.

Breed	Expected gain (lb./day)	Facts About Lamb Growth:
Columbia	.7 to .8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Desired market weight is between 100 and 140 pounds. – Small breeds will gain about 95-105 pounds from birth to show. – Large breeds will gain 110-120 pounds from birth to show. – Calculate the age at which a lamb will reach desired fair weight with this formula: Age = Total gain / average daily gain
Corriedale	.6 to .7	
Dorset	.7 to .8	
Hampshire	.8 to .9	
Montadale	.6 to .7	
Oxford	.7 to .8	
Polypay	.6 to .7	
Rambouillet	.6 to .7	
Shropshire	.7 to .8	
Southdown	.6 to .7	
Suffolk	.8 to .9	
Targhee	.6 to .7	
Texel	.7 to .8	

Use this table to see when your lamb should be born and conceived in order to gain 110 pounds by fair time.

CONCEPTION DATES AND BIRTH DATES NEEDED FOR LAMBS WITH DIFFERENT AVERAGE DAILY GAINS TO GAIN 110 POUNDS BY VARIOUS SHOW DATES

Date of the Show										
Lamb average daily gain, (lb./day)	July 15		Aug 1		Aug 15		Sept 1		Sept 15	
	Breeding date	Birth date	Breeding date	Birth date	Breeding date	Birth date	Breeding date	Birth date	Breeding date	Birth date
.60	Aug 18	Jan 12	Sep 4	Jan 29	Sep 18	Feb 12	Oct 5	Mar 1	Oct 19	Mar 15
.65	Sep 2	Jan 27	Sep 19	Feb 13	Oct 3	Feb 28	Oct 20	Mar 16	Nov 3	Mar 31
.70	Sep 14	Feb 8	Oct 1	Feb 25	Oct 15	Mar 11	Nov 1	Mar 27	Nov 15	Apr 11
.75	Sep 25	Feb 19	Oct 12	Mar 8	Oct 29	Mar 22	Nov 12	Apr 8	Nov 26	Apr 22
.80	Oct 4	Feb 28	Oct 21	Mar 17	Nov 4	Mar 31	Nov 21	Apr 17	Dec 5	May 1
.85	Oct 11	Mar 7	Oct 28	Mar 24	Nov 11	Apr 7	Nov 28	April 24	Dec 12	May 8
.90	Oct 19	Mar 15	Nov 5	Apr 1	Nov 19	Apr 15	Dec 6	May 2	Dec 20	May 16

In order to achieve average birth date of all lambs within a flock, you should turn in the ram 2 weeks earlier than the breeding date shown in this table.
Example: You are raising a Dorset wether with expected daily gain of .75 lb. for a September 1 show. If you want the lamb to gain 110 lbs., the table says he should be born on April 8. The lamb should have actually been conceived on November 12, with the ram turned in on October 28 (2 weeks prior)

Reviewed by: Matt Glewen, UW Extension Dairy/Livestock Agent and Bill Sullivan, WI 4-H/FFA sheep project member.
 Your county Extension office has additional publications, booklets, slide sets, videos, and skillathons available regarding sheep production.
 Slightly revised 11/00. University of Wisconsin-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating.
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