



# DISCOVER



## SHEEP PROJECT PREPARATION

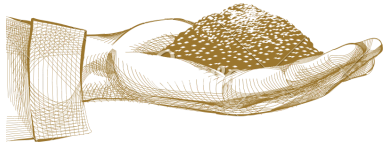
Joshua J Dallin, MS- USU Extension Box Elder County



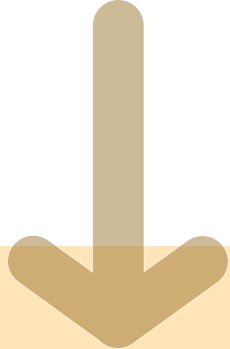
**EXTENSION**  
UtahStateUniversity

# Market Lamb Nutrition

## Balanced Market Lamb Feed Recommendations:



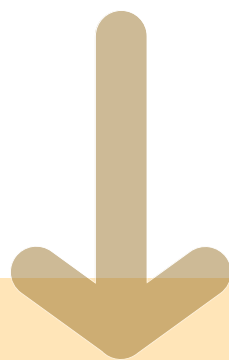
16-18 %  
concentrates  
*grains*



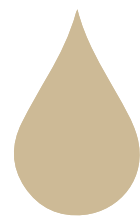
1.5 pounds  
2x a day



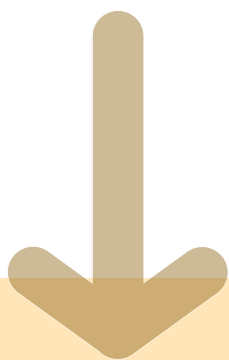
roughages  
grass & hay



soft ball  
sized portion  
2x a day



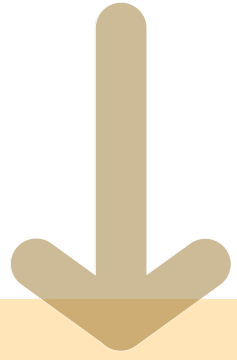
*Fresh*  
water



Free Choice  
Always  
Available



Trace Minerals  
watch out for toxic copper



Free Choice  
Always  
Available

Weigh your feed!

## Target Weight

2018 Average Daily Gain for BEJL Market Lambs - 0.6 pounds per day



**Minimum Weight 110 Pounds**

**Ideal Weight +/- 135 Pounds**

Number of Days until Fair (90 days from 1st tagging) x (average gain (0.6)) + (current weight) = Predicted Weight

Average Daily Gain Formula: (Current Weight) - (Initial Weight)/(number of days) = Average Daily Gain

It is important that your animal is on a regular deworming schedule

# 4-H/FFA Livestock Weight Checks

We appreciate everyone that participated in our Livestock Weight Checks last year. We are excited to offer these opportunities again this year. Based on last year, we have modified locations and times. Please mark your calendars to take advantage of this service. If these times don't work for you, we invite you to take advantage of the 24 hour scale that is available in Horse Stall #61 at the fairgrounds. (Lock Code 1869)

## Monday June 17, 2019

8:30-9:15 AM  
Perry Park  
2450 S 900 W  
Perry, UT 84302

10:00-10:45 AM  
Bear River City Park  
5870 N 4600 W (by rodeo arena)  
Bear River City, UT 84301

11:30 AM-12:15 PM  
Deweyville Park  
10870 UT-38  
Deweyville, UT 84309

## Friday July 19, 2019

12:00-12:15 PM  
Deweyville Park  
10870 UT-38  
Deweyville, UT 84309

1:00-1:45 PM  
Bear River City Park  
5870 N 4600 W (by rodeo arena)  
Bear River City, UT 84301

2:30-3:15 PM  
Perry Park  
2450 S 900 W  
Perry, UT 84302

## Friday August 9, 2019

8:30-9:15 AM  
Perry Park  
2450 S 900 W  
Perry, UT 84302

10:00-10:45 AM  
Bear River City Park  
5870 N 4600 W (by rodeo arena)  
Bear River City, UT 84301

11:30 AM-12:15 PM  
Deweyville Park  
10870 UT-38  
Deweyville, UT 84309

---

# Project *Game Plan*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where do I plan on housing my lamb?

2. Does my location fit the requirements?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is there space to exercise my lamb?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is water available?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does keeping my lamb here comply with county and city ordinances?

3. What type of fencing will I be using?

4. Where will I get my fencing? How much will it cost?

5. How will I get this fencing? How will I construct my pen?

6. What type of shelter am I providing for my lamb? What will it cost?

7. What type of bedding am I going to provide for my lamb?

8. Where will I get bedding? (feed store, local farmer, etc.) What will it cost?

9. What am I going to use as a feed trough? How will I get a feed trough and what will it cost?

10. Where will I get the alfalfa and grain? What is the cost per bag/bale?

11. Am I committed to feeding and watering my lamb TWICE a day EVERY DAY?

## 1. IDENTIFY ITEMS NEEDED BEFORE PURCHASING A LAMB

During this portion of the activity, stress to members and parents that all items on the list are REQUIRED and are not just recommendations. Without all the items, members are not prepared to purchase and care for a lamb. These items are crucial in sustaining the life of the lamb.

While you are discussing each item on the list below, identify the object at the ranch you are visiting. This will allow members to see examples of what they will need. If possible, have the producer go with you and add any expertise or advice he or she sees fit.

- **Space**

Before purchasing a lamb, make sure you have the space to raise one. The space you provide for your lamb needs to be cool, dry, and draft free. You will also need space to exercise your lamb. Be sure that keeping your lamb in that space complies with all city or county ordinances.

- **Fencing/Panels**

Fences should be at least 48 inches high. When building a pen for your lamb, it is important to be aware that dogs can be a danger. Consider selecting materials that will keep your lamb in and dogs out.

- **Shelter**

The shelter needs to keep the lamb dry and provide it with shade during hot weather. It can be a barn, shed, or any type of structure that will cover the animal.

- **Bedding**

Sawdust, wood shavings, or straw can all serve as bedding for your lamb.

- **Water**

When selecting the area for your pen, remember that your lamb needs 1-2.5 gallons of water per day. You need to select a location that has fresh, clean water readily available. If you are using a bucket, the water will need to be changed daily.

- **Feed Trough**

You will need to make sure the feed trough is easily accessible and is also kept clean. Lambs will not eat dirty feed.

- **Feed**

1. Alfalfa

2. Complete rationed show lamb grain

Complete pelleted growing rations that range from 16-18 percent protein are adequate and easily accessible through many commercial feed companies. Check your local feed store. This type of ration can be fed to your lamb until it is marketed.



# Facilities

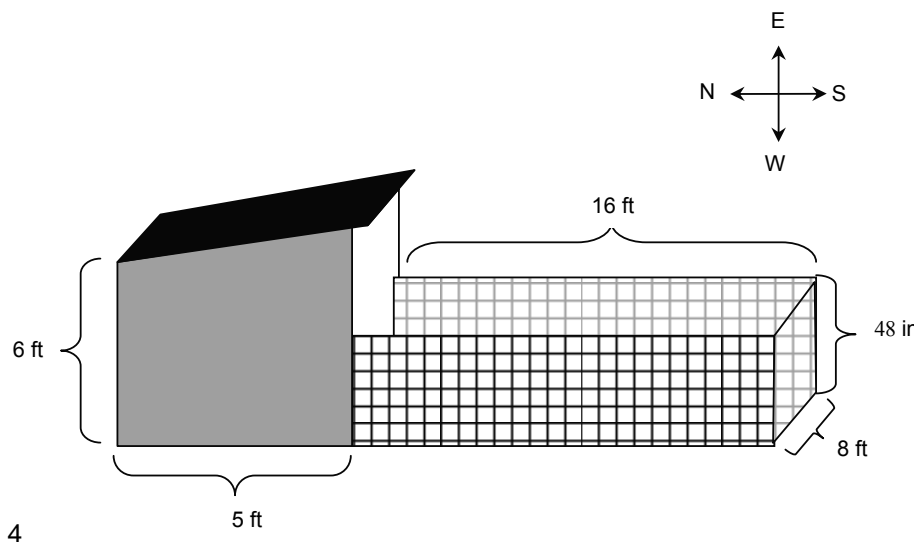
**F**acilities for your new project can be as complex or as simple as you feel you need them to be to achieve your goals. A good housing area for your show lambs should be well-ventilated, dry and clean. The area should be elevated, well-drained and face toward the east or south for protection from wind, rain and other adverse weather conditions. Electricity and water availability is convenient but not completely necessary if these amenities are in relative proximity.

Pen size recommendations will vary with the number of lambs, their age and size. The average show lamb requires a minimum of 24 square feet of indoor pen space to achieve acceptable performance. A larger outdoor dry lot adjacent

to the indoor pen space also is necessary. This serves two functions; it allows lambs access to fresh air and promotes exercise throughout the day. However, you also will need to provide additional exercise for your lamb, and this will be discussed later in the guide.

### Estimated Dry Lot Space Requirements

Number of Lambs	Recommended Dry Lot Size
1	100 ft <sup>2</sup>
2	200 ft <sup>2</sup>
3	250 to 300 ft <sup>2</sup>
4-5	350 to 400 ft <sup>2</sup>
6+	500+ ft <sup>2</sup>



**Figure 3. Example of an outdoor shelter for market lambs. Increasing total square footage will allow adequate space for multiple market lambs.**

Fences surrounding the outdoor dry lot should be at least 48 inches high, inhibiting sheep from escaping and preventing the entrance of predators, such as coyotes or stray dogs. The list of materials for fence making is endless; however, woven wire tends to work better than other materials. Woven wire is made from smooth wire that is crosshatched in a horizontal and vertical pattern. Animals can see the crosshatches easily, making a good physical barrier. The smooth wire reduces the incidence of injuries to your sheep. Cost and difficult installation can be some of the disadvantages of woven wire.

Cattle panels also can be used as dry lot fences for show lambs. These flexible and strong crosshatched panels also can be used for gathering sheep or for loading purposes. Cost and installation are disadvantages of cattle panels.

Barbed wire is used extensively for large species, such as horses, cattle, etc. However, it should not be used for market lambs, particularly for a small operation. Strands of barbed wire allow easy access for predators, sheep can escape easily and the barbs can cause serious damage if skin comes in direct contact with it.

Although many types of floor surfaces for your indoor facility are acceptable (dirt, concrete, etc.), the type of bedding you choose is critical to your lambs' comfort and performance. Lambs raised on clean, comfortable and fresh bedding will achieve higher average daily gains. Bedding should be cleaned and replaced on a weekly basis and more frequently if necessary, depending on the degree of moisture and ammonia buildup in the pen. Continuous exposure to wet, stagnant bedding may cause health concerns for your lamb. Acceptable types of bedding include wood shavings, straw or other crop residues, depending on cost and availability.

The most common and recommended type of bedding to use for your show lambs is wood shavings. Wood shavings are available in many styles; however, cedar shavings tend to be the healthiest for lambs due to a larger particle size and low dust level. When purchasing shavings, noticing the particle size and cleanliness of the shavings is important. Small and dirty particles will have higher levels of dust. Dusty bedding can cause irritation in the lambs' upper respiratory tract, resulting in snotty noses, wheezing and coughing. Excessive coughing ultimately can lead to rectal prolapsing and/or other health issues that are detrimental to the performance of your lamb.

Crop residues (straw, corn stalks, soybean stems, hulls, etc.) are commonly used throughout the winter and early spring months to keep lambs warm and pen floors well-insulated. During the heat of the summer, crop residues are rarely used due to their large particle size and high dust levels, and lamb consumption of these products can lead to decreased performance. Lambs often will consume crop residues, giving them a "full" or enlarged belly appearance. Since this takes away from the overall attractiveness of the lamb, bedding consumption should be avoided.

Whichever bedding you choose, make sure the lamb is comfortable, clean and dry. In addition, make sure that bedding consumption is not decreasing your show lambs' performance.





# Equipment

---

**E**quipment used for raising show lambs can be very minimal or quite extensive, depending on the goals of your project. Listed below are a few commonly found items in a show lamb barn. Most of these items can be purchased at your local farm store or through a livestock supplies dealer. When considering large pieces of equipment (for example, clippers, blowers, trimming stands, etc.), cost can be prohibitive. If several members in your youth organization are interested in sheep, consider asking your club or chapter to purchase some equipment to share among the members.

## Water Trough

Water is a critical nutrient that is essential for achieving optimal growth and development. Clean, fresh water should be available to the lamb(s) at all times. The water trough should be in a dry, cool area inside the barn and out of the sunlight. Troughs should be rinsed and scrubbed weekly to avoid the buildup of harmful bacteria. Avoid using strong detergents or soaps because the fragrance in some products may reduce water consumption. A lamb will consume 1 to 2.5 gallons of water per day, depending on size. This

will fluctuate further with temperature, intake, feed additives, exercise and overall lamb health. Water never should be fully restricted; however, smaller amounts can be rationed just prior to show day to prevent a “full” or enlarged-belly appearance. This will allow your lamb to have a trimmer appearance.

## Feeders

Proper management of feeders is important for obtaining maximum feed intake and performance. Self feeding units and individual hand feeders both work well in the early stages of growth. However, a hand feeding program is more desirable during the finishing period because it allows intake to be monitored closely, and proper adjustments in intake can be made according to the lamb’s degree of finish. Lambs fed with a self feeder throughout the project will finish out much sooner than lambs fed with a closely monitored hand feeding system.

Self feeders should be approximately 8 inches off the ground to avoid contamination with bedding, feces and urine. Trays should be managed daily to keep the lamb from sorting different feed ingredients and to prevent mold and bacteria buildup. If a lamb is given free access to a complete corn/oat ration, it often will pick out only the corn and leave the remaining mixture behind.

## Other Sheep Equipment

Making sure the lamb receives a balanced portion of all ingredients in the ration while eating is important. Stirring the different grains and other processed feed ingredients within the trays will help solve this problem. Excess dust and fine particles from the ration also can accumulate in the trays. This should be removed on a weekly basis to avoid buildup. If this problem persists or becomes unmanageable, changing rations may be the best option.

When starting a hand feeding program, try to avoid feeding close to the ground. Hang the feeders at lamb shoulder height and increase feeder heights as needed. Feeding at shoulder height or even higher will train the lamb to keep its head up and also will avoid any fecal or urine contamination. These feeders should be managed daily and scrubbed on a weekly basis. Once again, avoid the use of strong detergents that may reduce lamb intake.

If accurate feed monitoring is an issue, consider building individual feeding stalls. A feeding stall will serve as an area for the lamb to consume the feed without the competition of its pen mates. This management tool is used widely as a way to measure the feed intake of each lamb accurately.

**Halter** – A halter is needed to lead and maintain control of the lamb; it also can be used during exercise.

**Hose and hose nozzle** – These are used during washing and may be needed to supply your lamb(s) with clean, fresh water.

**Fan** – Throughout the heat of the summer months, a fan should be used to maintain air movement to keep your lambs cool.

**Lamb blanket** – A lamb blanket is used to help keep lambs clean after shearing and before the show. The blanket in Figure 4 consists of a tightly woven canvas available in small (60 to 90 pounds), medium (90 to 110 pounds), large (110 to 140 pounds) and extra-large (140 to 180 pounds) sizes. A blanket with a mesh rear should be used for ewe lambs to avoid urine stains (Figure 4).

**Lamb tube** – A lamb tube is a tightly fitted stretch blanket that keeps lambs clean and tight hided until show time. Tubes come in spandex or cotton materials of various colors. Tubes are available in several sizes: small (50 to 80 pounds), medium (80 to 110 pounds), large



**Figure 4. Lamb Blanket.** Source: Sullivan Show Supply, IA



**Figure 5. Lamb Tube.** Source: Sullivan Show Supply, IA.

(110 to 140 pounds) and extra-large (140 to 165 pounds). Lamb tubes and canvas blankets also can be worn to protect tightly shorn lambs from adverse weather conditions (Figure 5).

**Shovel** – When cleaning lamb pen(s), a shovel can be used to remove bedding or manure from the area. Shovels also should be taken to shows to clean pens afterward.

**Stiff brush** – When cleaning troughs and feeders, a stiff brush should be used to remove buildup of residual feed adequately.

**Hoof trimmers** – Hoof trimmers are needed to maintain proper hoof care throughout your project. Depending on growth, hooves should be trimmed once a month. Trim hooves a week before show day to allow adequate time for healing if accidentally trimmed too closely.

**Bath towels and rags** – These can be used to dry lambs after washing and wipe clean the ears and nose of your lamb(s).

**Blow dryer** – A hot blow dryer will dry the wool quickly between washing and shearing.

**Soap** – Any livestock or dish soap will suffice for bathing lambs.

**Show box** – A box or tote should be designated the show box. This box should hold all or most of the equipment taken to the show.

**Drench gun** – This is used for drenching medication or rehydrating lambs that will not drink. A drench gun also can be used to obtain an appropriate amount of stomach fill on show day if the appetite of your lamb(s) has declined.

**Livestock scale** – A livestock scale is useful to monitor your lamb's weight gain. Lambs should be weighed on a weekly basis. Since scales can be expensive, cooperative ownership may be more feasible.

**Wool card or slicker brush** – This device is used for the wool left on below the knees and hocks of the lamb after shearing. The wool should be carded or pulled in an outward direction and then trimmed with hand shears.

**Hand shank shears** – These shears are used to trim excess wool on the legs to obtain a smooth, heavy-boned appearance.

**Trimming stand** – The trimming stand is useful to restrain lambs while shearing and preparing for show.

**Fly spray** – Fly spray should be used prior, during and after the show to prevent fly strike.

**Clippers with appropriate blade sizes** – Clippers fitted with a 20-tooth comb and four-point cutter or a 23-tooth comb and nine-point cutter can be used to remove a majority of the wool. Most market lamb exhibitors will follow with a set of fine or surgical hair blades to ensure a smooth, tight cut without the appearance of clipper lines.

**Syringes and needles** – Syringes and needles should be available for injection of medications. If giving an intramuscular (IM.) injection, use a 20- or 18-gauge, 1-inch needle. For subcutaneous (SQ) injections, you can use a 20- or 18-gauge, 1½-inch needle. Always use new, sterile needles to reduce chances of infection or injury at the injection site.

## FEED SUPPLIES

- Bucket for watering (It may be a good idea to bring an older bucket as it may get lost or damaged)
- Trough or bucket to feed grain
- Grain & Hay

## SHOW SUPPLIES

- "Sock" or Lamb Blanket
- Extra "Sock" or Lamb Blanket just in case
- Halters
- Mild Soap/Detergent
- Hose
- Scrub Brush
- Old Towels
- Squirt Bottle
- Extension Cord
- Electric and Hand Shears
- Trimming Stand
- Wire

## SHOW CLOTHES

- Old clothes for working in prior to show
- Clean Show Clothes
- Jeans
- Boots (If you have them)
- White Button-Up Shirt (Tucked in)
- Belt
- 4-H Patch on Left Sleeve

Change into these right before you show in order to keep them clean!

Bring an extra clean pair of clothes that you can change into after the show so that you can go enjoy the fair!

## OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

- Camera (Take lots of pictures to put into your 4-H Portfolio!)
- Lawn Chairs
- Health Papers (Obtained from your local veterinarian, if needed)
- Thank You Cards (It is very important that you thank those that purchase your lamb! Have a thank you card already written out so you can deliver it to the person that bought your lamb right away.)