

## Grooming Your Lamb

Inspect the feet. Your lamb's feet should have flat soles with no excess hoof on the toe or sides. If hooves need trimming, trim at least two weeks prior to the show. Trim any overgrown areas slowly and carefully. Trim across the toe and then down each side. Be careful not to trim the toe too closely. If you leave hoof trimming until one or two days before the show and you happen to get the hooves too short, the lamb may be lame.



## Trimming Your Lamb

Once the wool (or fleece) has been carded, you will use your hand shears to clip small amounts and short lengths of fleece at a time. The procedure is described below. A shear cut that is too deep is very hard to smooth out or cover.

The purpose of trimming a lamb is to remove fleece over the entire body according to your show rules. Trimming is one way to help make your lamb's body look smooth and uniform. Fitting the lamb's fleece is done several different ways. Most market lambs are shorn very close to show their natural muscling. Know the grooming rules for your show. Some rules state that lambs must be slick shorn or that wool must be a certain length.



**Generally, you may slick shear the lamb at least a week before the show. After slick-shearing the lamb will need shelter from the sun, wind, rain and snow. If the lamb is not slick shorn trimming should be done carefully so the lamb's fleece is smooth. The final trimming or "touch-up" should be the day before or early the morning of the show (Figures 66 and 67). You should only need to card and trim off any rough edges or uneven areas on the day of the show.**

**Slick Shorn:** When a lamb is shorn so that the length of wool over its body is uniform and very close to the body (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch). The purpose is to show off the conformation of the lamb, which you can clearly see when the fleece is completely shorn. Some judges even require the lambs to be shorn the day of the show to be "slick shorn."