

## Procedure For Trimming Your Lamb

- Use a curry comb or wool rake to drag through the fleece. This straightens the crimp and makes for a smoother look.
- Card the wool after dragging.
- Carding is most important. Always spend the majority of your time carding your animal, and the remainder of time on trimming.
- Starting on the top, trim off the tips of all carded wool using the shears in such a manner that a uniform, even cut is made.
- Place the shears flat on the surface to be trimmed and tilt slightly up.
- Move the shears forward so the bottom blade glides slowly and smoothly. Do not move your thumb when trimming.
- As the bottom blades move forward, clip the fleece by repeatedly pulling the top blade back to the bottom blade and releasing it.

## Fitting Safety Tip

When fitting a lamb, you are using many sharp tools. Hand shears need to be sharp and can be hazardous. Be careful not to injure yourself or any of the exposed areas of the animal. Particularly watch when trimming around the hocks, the belly, flank skin, the face, ears and the area under the dock.

## Extra Grooming Tips

The fitting or grooming should be done in a manner which displays the natural contour of the body when viewed from the rear. The wool is rounded over the rump to the dock and down each side to blend with the leg. Trim outward on the leg to blend with the side and over the rump. Flatness and squareness is associated with overly fat lambs, so avoid this shape.

Sufficient wool should be trimmed off the leg to make it handle easily and look good. The thigh region should be the widest on a structurally correct, well-muscled lamb. Trim the sides smooth and blend the top and sides while following the natural contour of the forelegs.

Use shears or scissors to carefully trim the wool from around the eyes and blend the trimmed fleece with the jaw and neck. Have an adult help you with this step if you are uncertain about what to do. Roll and blend the neck and chest. Use the back of the carder to pat down the fleece all over. This will smooth the surface and pack the wool.

## Using a Trimming Stand (Optional)

Do not leave your lamb unattended in a trimming stand. To place your lamb in the stand the first time, it needs to be taught that it's ok to jump up. The first couple of times get some help from one or two other people so that neither you nor the lamb is injured. If the lamb is frightened the first time you put it on the stand it will be harder to get on the next time. Go slowly.

Lead the lamb to the back of the stand facing forward. One person takes the halter and goes on the left side of the stand. The other person lift the lambs front legs into the stand and moves to the back of the lamb while the first person puts pressure in the halter to move it forward. You may have to lift the back legs onto the stand as well. Secure the halter around the headpiece shank and tie. Place a chain around the back of the lamb's head and secure it. Make sure the headpiece is at a comfortable height for the lamb to stand. The lamb will test the edges of the stand. Stand by to make sure it doesn't fall over, but let the lamb dip a foot off the table as it learns how much space there is for it to move around. It will quickly learn to stand still. When the lamb learns it is ok to hop up on the stand trimming becomes a one-person job. Never leave the lamb unattended. If you are purchasing a trimming stand, look for one with ramps and side rails. These are easier and safer to use.

