

## Haltering

To put the halter on, place the halter over the ears making sure the nose piece is not so low on the nose that it restricts the airway. The shank then tightens under the chin and you lead the lamb from the left side. If the lamb is shown with a halter, do not use the halter to lead. Instead, lay the shank in your left hand so that it is not dragging on the ground. With the left hand and halter shank placed under the lamb's chin, the right hand is used to move the lamb by the dock. As soon as the lamb moves, place your right hand behind the ears to help control the lamb.

## The Use of Halters in the Show Ring

The use of the halter depends on the age level or experience of the member.

- Juniors are allowed to show with halters;
- Intermediates are allowed to show with halter or can go without;
- Seniors must show without halters.

However, these are possible guidelines only, and are not mandatory in the 4-H Alberta Sheep Project Policies. Please check the rules of the show you are entering regarding halter usage.

## Showing<sup>1</sup>

The key to show ring success is to present your animal as efficiently and effectively as possible. A good show person will always make the animal look the best that it can, emphasizing the good points and de-emphasizing any weak points.

Don't crowd your lamb in the line of exhibitors waiting to enter the show ring. Leave plenty of room between you and the next exhibitor. Bring the lamb into the ring slowly, keeping a nice, constant speed. Move the lamb with one hand under the jaw and the other hand either on the dock or behind the ears. Your lamb will be nervous. Calmly stay in control. Remember that the first impression that a judge has of you and your lamb is a very important one.

Once in the ring move into position and set your lamb up. Always set the legs closest to the judge first. You will have the most control if you reach over the top of the animal to set the legs with your free hand. However, many young people cannot reach over the top of older lambs or sheep. You will need to do what is most comfortable for you. Set all four legs squarely under the lamb. You may want to set the hind legs slightly wider than the front legs. This makes the lamb look wider from behind.

**Whenever you move the lamb, whether into the ring or while showing, always keep the animal between you and the judge. Do not block the judge's view of your lamb. To turn the animal, keep your hand on the jaw, not the throat that might choke the lamb making it cough. Turn the lamb's head toward your belt buckle. Slowly move the lamb toward you. Switch hands until you stand at the opposite shoulder. Keep an eye on the judge and pay attention to anyone directing activity in the ring.**

## Show Technique

The art of exhibiting a lamb rests on how much time the exhibitor has invested in preparing and training the lamb for show day. On show day the exhibitor's ability to keep his/her animal under perfect control will bring out the best in the lamb. Show technique means knowing what type of control to use in different situations.

<sup>1</sup>Ohio State Extension. 2011. Sheep Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Extension. 97. Note that references to "sheep" were changed to "lamb" for this publication.