

Fitting & Showing Your Sheep

Setting The Stage

Training your lamb is an important part of the preparation for showing. Lambs are easily trained if they are treated properly during the project.

You must work with your lamb until it is gentle before you can start training it. Start visiting your lamb two to three times a day for a week. Sit and watch it as it moves about. During the second week, pet the lamb while it eats. During the third week, pat the lamb now and then and handle it as you would in a judging class. By the end of a month the lamb should be ready to train.

Sheep Tricks-As Easy as 1,2,3

Step 1 - Moving Your Lamb

To move the lamb, stand on its left side, grasp it under its chin with your left hand and put your right hand on its dock. Guide the lamb with your left hand and move it by pressing on its dock with your right hand. Never work your lamb for long periods of time or it will become restless and stubborn.

Step 2 - Setting Your Lamb Up

In the showing, the lamb should stand quietly with the front and hind legs wide apart. The head should be held up. Always work on the side of the lamb opposite to the judge. In general, you will be working on the left side (from the rear of the lamb) of your lamb. Occasionally you will have to move your lamb on the right side. Set the lamb by moving its feet into proper position with your hands. Practice this often for short periods of time.

Step 3 - Bracing a Lamb

Bracing is a term that means having the lamb hold its back rigid when someone presses on it. Stand in front of your lamb and cup its chin in your hands. Pull downward with your hands and apply enough backward pressure to cause the lamb to arch or bend its back. Do not choke the lamb or grasp so hard that you hurt the animal.

First Impressions Count

You may not be able to judge a book by its cover but in the showing general appearance is the first thing a livestock judge notices. The first impression is important.