

Grooming Your Lamb

Short Wool Breeds

Shearing	Shearing is done six to eight weeks before show time. This will eliminate most of the work of cutting wool to proper length by trimming.
Washing	Wash your lamb one week before a show. This makes trimming easier.
Trimming	About three hours work is required to trim market lamb if it was shorn early in the project.

Wool Breeds

Shearing	Wool breeds are not shorn, they are shown in full fleece.
Washing	Long wool breed lambs should not be washed because oils in the fleece are a natural form of protection.
Trimming	Full fleeced lamb should be dampened, and chaff picked out and locks separated. Part wool down the center of the back. Trim dock, chest and wool tips.

Trimming the Feet

Trim the feet of your lamb as needed during the feeding period so they will not require excessive trimming before the show. Trimming your lamb's feet just before a show may cause him to walk improperly or go lame because there won't be enough time for the feet to fully heal.

In trimming the feet, set the lamb on its rump with all four feet off the ground. Tilt it back and to the side slightly. Hold it in position by pressing your knees firmly into its side. The hooves can be trimmed by using pruning shears or a hoof trimmer. Each hoof should be carefully trimmed in the following manner:

1. Clean manure and dirt from the bottom of the foot and between the toes.
2. Slowly and carefully remove the outer wall of the hoof until it is level with the sole or the bottom of foot.
3. Do not trim to the point that the hoof bleeds.
4. Trim the dewclaws if necessary.

If you are not sure about what you are doing, ask an adult for assistance or for a demonstration of the proper technique.

NOTE: It is a good idea to trim the hind feet first; as it is less dangerous to get kicked by an untrimmed foot (they are not as sharp).