

## What side should my halter be on to lead my sheep correctly?

Left side of my sheep

## How often should you trim your lambs hooves?

Every 4 weeks, specially 4 weeks before fair

## How often should you worm your lamb?

Deworming is very crucial part of taking care of your sheep. Internal parasites are a major cause of death and poor growth. They can be controlled by injection, pills, dry medication mixed in the feed or a liquid drench. When drenching, the lamb's head is held in a normal position. The drench gun is inserted in the side of the mouth over the tongue.

## How frequently should you clean your lambs water?

Twice a day— Clear, clean water, provided twice a day free of urine and manure is important for health. Your lamb needs 1-2.5 gallons of water per day.

## What is the target market weight of your lamb?

At the beginning select a market lamb at 2 ½ to 3 months of age when the lamb weighs between 40-75 pounds. Look for a lamb that will be between 5-7 months at county fair. Project market weights that reach an end weight of 115-140 pounds are the most desirable in the sheep industry

## How much feed should your lamb consume per day?

-Begin by feeding your animal what it has been getting to prevent added stress that could result in illness. Starting slowly (1/4 to ½ pound per day) allows the digestive system to get used to concentrated feeds. Remember, you can switch brands but do so slowly by mixing with the current feed. Make sure you are using high quality, clean feed that is fresh (nutrients in feed break down over time). A self-feeder is one way to feed as it helps keep food clean and dry. However, you may need to feed daily rations to help manage weight gain/loss at some point as well. Hand feeding also helps you calculate your exact feed rations each day. It is recommended to feed lambs with a feeder placed at least shoulder high to aid with lambs not stepping in the feed to get dirty.

-Calculating feed needs You will need to weigh your animal regularly so that you know how much feed they should be getting. It is also very important to weigh your feed to insure you are feeding the correct amount. A lamb should be eating about 3% of its body weight for good growth.

-To calculate the amount of feed you will need: Target weight-initial weight= Total Gain Total gain/days on project= estimated average daily gain needed.

## How much should your lamb gain per day?

To calculate the Average Daily Gain (The amount of weight gained each day)

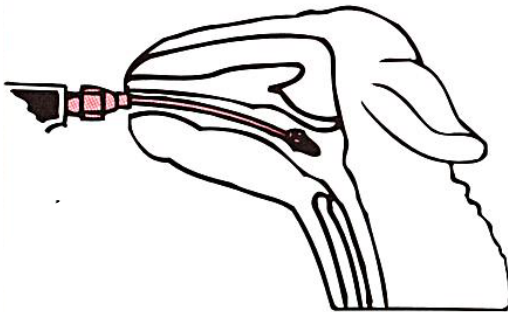
ADG= Present weight—previous weight/ number of days between weights

On average, with good feed a lamb can gain .75-1 pound per day. Lambs convert about 5-6 pounds of feed into 1 pound of weight gain. Find a complete feed with crude protein of 12-15% Crude Protein.

## What feed can my lamb not eat?

Copper— Sheep cannot digest copper along with being toxic. Sheep cannot be fed cattle or goat feed.

**\*After shearing, put a lamb tube or lamb blanket on your lamb so they do not get fly**



## Do sheep need to consume hay?

Yes, sheep are ruminants, so their digestive system needs hay/forage. For market animals, hay should not be their main source of feed. Grain as their main feed source helps with gaining weight. One bird nest size of hay each day to market animals is the perfect amount to keep their digestive system working properly and gain weight.

## Where should my lamb be housed?

- **Space-** Before purchasing a lamb, make sure you have the space to raise one. The space you provide for your lamb needs to be cool, dry, and draft free. You will also need space to exercise your lamb. Be sure that keeping your lamb in that space complies with all city or county ordinances. One lamb needs at least 6 foot by 4 foot pen.
- **Fencing/Panels-** Fences should be at least 48 inches high. When building a pen for your lamb, it is important to be aware that dogs can be a danger. Consider selecting materials that will keep your lamb in and dogs out.
- **Shelter-** The shelter needs to keep the lamb dry and provide it with shade during hot weather. It can be a barn, shed, or any type of structure that will cover the animal.
- **Bedding-** Sawdust, wood shavings, or straw can all serve as bedding for your lamb.

## How do you know if your lamb is sick?

Signs to tell if your lamb is sick:

- Separation from flock
- Apparent blindness
- Nasal discharge
- Poor appetite
- Hunched up
- Abnormal respiration
- Grinding teeth
- Cough
- Ears are drowsy

### Sheep's Vital Signs

Average Temperature— 102.3 Degrees F

Normal Pulse Rate— 70-80 rate/minute

Normal Breathing Rate— 12-20 rate/minute

## Lamb Common Diseases

### Pneumonia

**Cause:** A virus, combined with stress, causes the initial damage. Bacteria invade secondarily.

**Symptoms:** Animal becomes lethargic, has a high fever and may have labored breathing and nasal discharge.

**Prevention:** Provide adequate ventilation, prevent drafts, and reduce stress.

### Scours

**Cause:** Bacteria (salmonella, Escherichia) or virus. The lining of the intestines becomes irritated and fluid is lost in the feces instead of being absorbed from the intestine into the body.

**Symptoms:** Diarrhea (loose stool) leading to dehydration

**Treatment:** Immediately separate from other animals and administer fluids. Clean and disinfect.

### Fungus

**Cause:** Contact with other lambs contaminated equipment, pens, stalls, grooming tools, feeders, and humans.

**Symptoms:** Skin is initially thick and red. Later it appears to be crusty and scaly skin.

**Prevention:** Disinfect all equipment and pens after shows and at home. Don't shear lambs too often. Don't wash lambs very often because the wool is a protective barrier to the skin that is coated with natural oils (lanolin) that is important in fighting off fungus. After shows, wash lambs with fungus soap and spray.

## Keys to prevention of all diseases

- Facilities kept clean
- Proper vaccinations
- Balanced diet
- Fresh clean water
- Adequate housing and space
- Predator and rodent control
- Control of exposure to other species and new animals
- Internal and external parasite control

