

# Sheep

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*For more information, contact:*

*Aaron Fisher, Youth Livestock and Equine Specialist, Department of Animal Science*

*Jessy Shanks, Senior Lecturer, Department of Animal Science*

## Fundamental Knowledge and Skills

Listed below are specific learning outcomes that are relevant for achieving success as a beginner in the 4-H Sheep Project. These skills will provide the foundation for success in the 4-H Sheep Project at the intermediate and advanced levels in the future. It is important to note that many of these learning outcomes are applicable for learning about other species as well.

## General Industry and Terminology

- Define the following terms: ewe, buck, ram, wether, lamb, flock, crossbred, purebred, club lamb, lambing.
- Label the following parts and regions of the body: muzzle, poll or cap, forearm, knee, pastern/ankle, shoulder, rib, rack, loin, rump, hind saddle, dock, leg, flank, twist, hock, hoof.

## Health and Welfare

- Define the following terms: vaccine, booster, antibiotic, bacteria, virus, colostrum, parasite, withdrawal time, dewormer resistance.
- Distinguish between different types of injections: subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous.
- Locate the proper injection sites on the animal.
- Describe normal vs. sick behaviors in sheep.
- Describe the following diseases in sheep: scrapie, ringworm, soremouth, footrot, internal and external parasites.
- Identify the major parts of a medicine label.

## Nutrition and Feeding

- Define the following terms: ruminant, forage, feedstuff, concentrate, protein, energy.
- Label the four parts of a ruminant stomach: reticulum, rumen, abomasum, omasum.
- Identify the following forages from samples: tall fescue, orchardgrass, clover, alfalfa.
- Identify the following feedstuffs from samples: corn, corn gluten feed, whole soybeans, soybean meal, soybean hulls, whole cottonseed, cottonseed meal, cottonseed hulls, white salt, trace-mineralized salt.



## Reproduction

- Define the following terms: estrus, estrous cycle, gestation, parturition, lambing percentage, seasonal breeding behavior.
- Distinguish between male and female reproductive tracts.

## Genetics and Selection

- Identify and explain the purpose for the following breeds: Dorset, Hampshire, Montadale, Oxford, Rambouillet, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk.
- Define the following terms: sire, dam, genetic selection, pedigree.
- Understand and be able to use the following performance measures: birth type, rearing type, adjusted 60-day weight, adjusted 120-day weight, average daily gain.
- Understand scrapie genetic testing designations (QQ, QR, RR).

## Carcass and Lamb Products

- Understand the difference between lamb and mutton.
- Differentiate between muscle, bone and fat on a lamb carcass.
- Identify and distinguish between the wholesale cuts of a lamb carcass: breast, leg, loin, rib, shoulder.

## Equipment and Recordkeeping

- Identify the following equipment used in sheep production: balling gun, disposable syringe, ear taggers, emasculator, ewe spoon, hoof trimmers, multiuse syringe, ram marking harness, sheep shears, wool card.
- Understand the importance of proper recordkeeping and how it relates to all areas of production.

## Extra Learning Opportunities

Listed below are contests and other activities where youth have the opportunity to showcase what they have learned in the 4-H Sheep Project.

- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Certification.
- Livestock Skillathon Contest.
- Livestock Judging Contest.
- Sheep Show and Showmanship.

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