



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



4-H SHEEP PROJECT Livestock Projects



Market Sheep

Sheep Project



Breeding Sheep

Why Sheep?

This project teaches you to care for live animals by learning about animal health, nutrition, selection and breeding.

Resources

- Sheep Resource Handbook
- Recommended that one book per family is used
- Livestock e-Record
- Breeding Sheep Supplement
- 4-H Livestock e-Record Judging Guide
- Meat Quality Assurance

Tips

- Barn or shed should have 20 square feet per animal
- Fence should be minimum of 42 inches tall
- Fresh and clean water should be available at all times
- Lambs should be vaccinated for CD/T before going on full feed
- Market lambs should gain .5-.8 pounds per day
- Market lambs should be born between Jan. 1st and March 1st depending on fair dates
- Feed should contain 16-18% protein
- Exercise a minimum of walking 15min. every day
- The average cost per lamb is \$600-\$700. This includes the purchase of the animal, feed for 4 months and show supplies
- Sore mouth and ringworm are two common health concerns in sheep
- Ask for Help: 4-H agent, Leaders or other members in the 4-H Sheep Project.

Starting Out Beginner	Learning More Intermediate	Exploring Depth Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about sheep • How to produce a safe, wholesome product • Identify the parts of a sheep • Different types of feed • Evaluating sheep • Learn about nutritional requirements for sheep • Learn about a sheep's digestive system • Identifying common sheep diseases • Learn how to keep records • Learn how to assume responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate technology's impact on sheep production • Learn how to show and exhibit your animal • Purchase, feed and care for animals • Evaluate project with leader • Learn about goal setting • Gain knowledge of sound management practices • Develop sportsmanship • Develop public speaking skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to deal with current issues relating to raising sheep • Gain leadership skills by helping others learn about sheep • Explore career opportunities in the sheep industry • Build lifelong friendship

