



Meadowlark District 4-H Market Lamb Project

Purpose

1. To help you learn selection, feeding, management, fitting & showing and showmanship of your livestock project.
2. Two or more lambs are recommended, as they keep each other company and will feed better.

Guidelines

- a. Your lamb(s) need to be born after Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year.
- b. You must have full ownership of your lamb by Spring weigh in time.
- c. Lambs should weigh 40 to 70 lbs at a Meadowlark District Spring weigh in.
- d. Lambs will be tagged with official KS 4-H EID tag and must have a scrapie tag.
- e. Market lambs can be either a ewe or a wether lamb. Ewe lambs cannot be shown in a breeding ewe class if shown in a market class.
- f. The skill of feeding your lamb is dependent upon knowing the weight of the lamb, how it is gaining and making adjustments to your feeding program. The rate of gain for a lamb on full feed should be .5 - 1 lbs/day.
- g. It is a good idea to weigh your lamb periodically, if possible, to see how it is gaining.
- h. The market likes lambs to be weighing 120 to 150 lbs at fair time.

Care & Management

- a. Lambs should have a barn or shed where they can retreat from heat, cold, wet conditions and outside exposure if need too.
- b. Feeders should be mounted off the ground to keep feces out of.
- c. Exercise is very beneficial to your success in the show ring. Having objects in their pen for them to jump and play on will help them build muscle and stay in shape. Lambs that have been exercised will handle harder and firmer, which will give you more advantage in the show ring.
- d. Water, protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals & vitamins are the 6 basic nutrients required by all livestock.
- e. Internal parasites are a major setback in market lambs. Set up a deworming schedule by talking to your local veterinarian. Be sure to watch your withdrawal periods as you get closer to fair.
- f. Some diseases to watch for in your market lambs are: soremouth, ringworm/skin infections and pinkeye. Contagious animals can easily spread these from animal to animal. Please seek advice from your local veterinarian on treatment if you suspect your lamb has any of these.

Local Fair Requirements – MED-Holton (Jackson)

- a. Lambs must be weighed, tagged and breed identified at a Spring Meadowlark District weigh in. Ear tags will be paid for at the time of weigh in.
- b. Youth are responsible for their own bedding and care of the animal. *Only woodchips are allowed for bedding during the fair.*
- c. No cleaning of pens during the Livestock Premium sale Thursday night.
- d. Youth must sign & abide by the **MED Code Ring of Ethics** (signed once in a 4-H career) and have it on file with the Extension Office by July 1st.

- e. Youth must sign and abide by the **MED Fair Code of Conduct** due July 1st each year.
- f. All youth must complete the YQCA annual training.
- g. Lambs must weigh at least 100 lbs to show for breed champion and sell in premium livestock auction.
- h. Market Lambs will be split by breed & weights. Classes are posted as soon as possible after weigh-in at the fair.
- i. If a youth has two lambs in one weight class, another 4-Her can show one of the lambs.
- j. Youth are expected to help with fair set-up and clean-up.
- k. Lambs must be pre-entered by July 1st of the current 4-H year.
- l. Lambs need to be castrated before fair time and appear to be castrated.
- m. Lambs should be slick shorn with uniform wool length. Check fairbook for more information. There is no sheering of lambs at the fair.
- n. There will be no icing of any kind on the lambs during the week of the fair.
- o. Drenching will be allowed as long as it is done in their pen.

Local 4-H Livestock Sale Rules & Requirements

- a. The sale is held for 4-H exhibitors and all animals sold must have been exhibited in this year's fair.
- b. Youth must fill out the **MED 4-H/FFA Sale Requirements** form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.
- c. Sale order will be listed in the fairbook. Grand and Reserve Grand Champions will sell last.
- d. The premium sale is a terminal sale, meaning all animals sold must go to slaughter. Animals sold through sale are not eligible to be shown at the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Jr Livestock Show.
- e. Market lambs must weigh at least 100 pounds to sell. Ones not making weight at fair weigh in may be floored if floor buyer is willing to take them. Otherwise they must be taken home.
- f. Only one goat may be sold through the sale. If two goats are shown, the other one may be floored. A \$10.00 selling fee will be collected for sale fees.

Important Dates & Information for Market Lamb Project

MED Spring Weigh In's

Holton – May 7 6-7 pm at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Facility

Oskaloosa – 29 6-8pm at the Valley Falls Fairgrounds

Seneca – April 25 7:30-8:30 am at the Fairgrounds in Seneca

Jackson County Spring Show – May 23

Kansas Jr Sheep Producer Day – March 14

https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/2020%20Flyer_Kansas%20Junior%20Sheep%20Producer%20Day.pdf

Meadowlark District Web Page

<https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/>

Kansas 4-H Market Lamb Project Page

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/sheep.html>