



## **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.

### **Resources**

#### **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/animal-science/sheep.html>

#### **Youth Livestock Education Resources**

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/educational-materials.html>

## **Local Fair Requirements – SEE YOUR LOCAL WEBPAGE FOR SPECIFICS!!!**

**Jackson:** <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/holton.html>

**Jefferson:** <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/oskaloosa.html>

**Nemaha:** <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>

- a. Animals must be owned at least 80 days prior to the fair. Lambs must be weighed and tagged at a Spring Meadowlark District weigh in. Ear tags will be paid for at the time of weigh in.
- b. Youth will be allowed to enter and show any animal that was tagged with Family Nomination. 4-H members may switch ownership of animals within the Family Nomination, but final ownership by 4-Her, must be declared at fair pre-entry time. A Family Nomination is defined as: youth legally residing in the same household and sharing the same legal address. Youth must materially participate in the care of the project for the majority of the time.
- c. 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.
- d. Youth must sign and abide by the **MED Fair Code of Conduct** due July 1st each year.
- e. All youth must complete the **YQCA** annual training.
- f. If intending to participate in the Premium Auction, youth must fill out the **MED 4-H/FFA Sale Requirements** form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.
- g. Lambs need to be castrated before fair time and appear to be castrated.

## **Important Dates & Information for Market Lamb Project**

### **MED Spring Weigh In's**

Holton – May 12, 6-7 pm at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Facility

Oskaloosa – April 27, 6-8 pm at the Valley Falls Fairgrounds

Seneca – April 23, 7:30-8:30 am at the Fairgrounds in Seneca

### ***Jackson County Spring Show – May***

### **Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day – March of Even Years**

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html>

### **Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nominations due - June 15**

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>