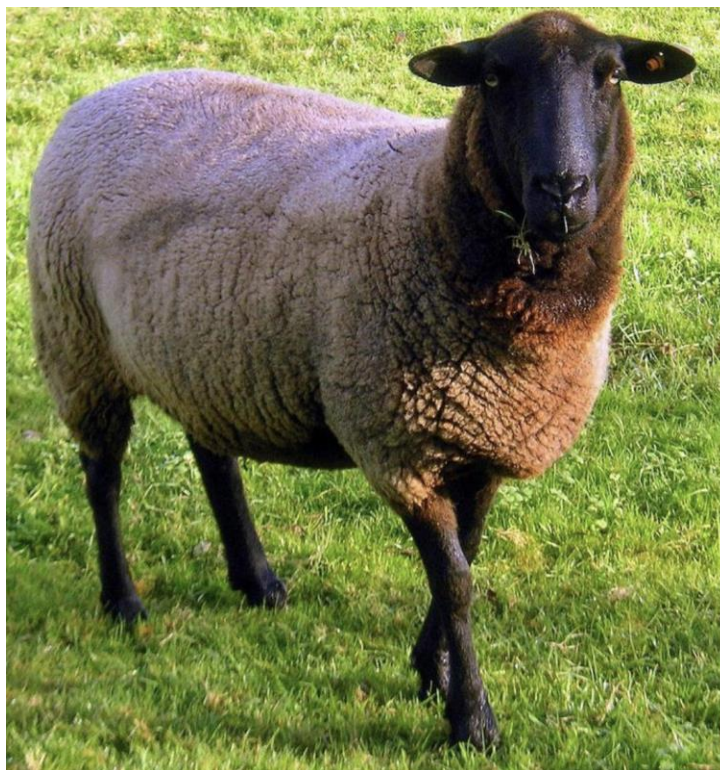


Tips and Tricks to Succeeding with Sheep



By Jasmine Hill

Edited by Lacey Allen, Clackamas County 4-H Sheep Superintendent
and Jan Williams, Clackamas County 4-H Youth Development Faculty

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Purpose of this Packet.

The purpose of this packet is to provide basic information to 4-H members and other interested parties about sheep. Many members, especially those just beginning, are unsure of where to start or what to learn in regards to a sheep 4-H project. This packet discusses different breeds and types, diseases, and specific issues related to the project. While this packet is by no means all-inclusive of what is required to raise sheep, it is a good starting point.

This packet will encompass topics such as disease and treatment, types, and other related information that will work to better the reader's understanding of their project. The primary goal is to help facilitate a more confident and prepared member that will continue to develop skills and greater personal and project growth in their desired project area.

Please Note: Market animals intended for auction must follow the rules and regulations of the Clackamas County Junior Livestock Auction (CCJLA). This is NOT a 4-H administered program but we do partner with them at the county fair to widen youth opportunities. The committee only allows youth in 4-H and FFA (in yearlong educational programs) to participate.

For CCJLA information and schedule, please visit: <https://ccjla.wordpress.com/>

This packet was developed in 2020 for families beginning in the sheep project area.

Common Terminology

1. Bummer: Lamb raised on a bottle; bottle baby
2. Colostrum: First milk consumed by lamb after birth for the first 24 hours of life
3. Creep-feeding: Supplemental feed given to lambs to encourage growth
4. Crimp: The waves present in a fleece
5. Cross-bred: An animal with two or more breeds present in its bloodline
6. Cull: Removing an animal from your herd/flock due to lack of need for that animal in program
7. Dock: Area where tail was removed
8. Docking: The action of removing the tail from a sheep, usually by banding the tail
9. Ewe: A female sheep
10. Jug: A small pen a ewe is kept in with her newborn lamb(s) for bonding
11. Lambing: Birthing process of a sheep
12. Lanolin: Yellow grease found in sheep fleece; Excreted from the sheep's skin
13. Ovis aries: Scientific name of sheep
14. Purebred: An animal that only has one breed present in its bloodline and possibly eligible for breed registration
15. Ram: A male sheep
16. Scrapie: Degenerative disease that is fatal. Characterized by lack of coordination, significant weight loss despite normal eating habits, wool pulling, tremors, and head pressing.
17. Weaning: Separating ewes from lambs so they may no longer nurse
18. Wether: A castrated male sheep
19. Yearling: A sheep that is a year old but under two years old

Cuts of Meat

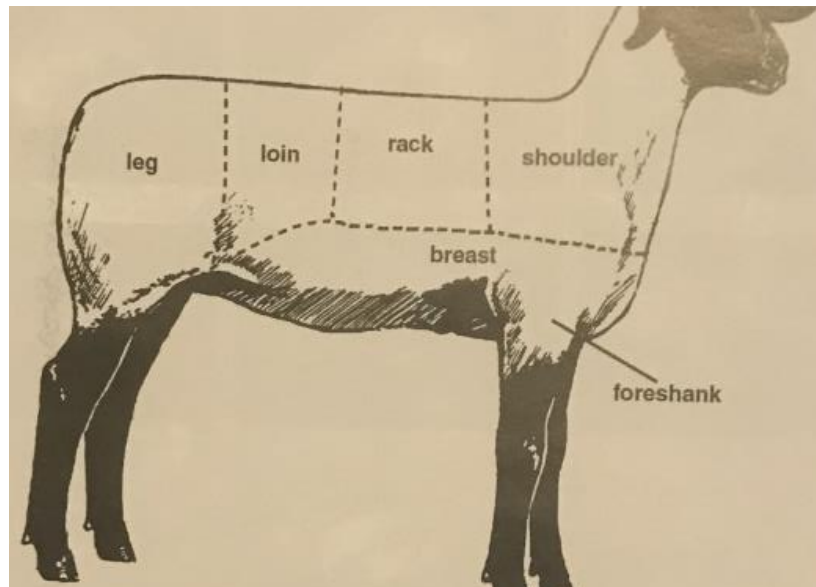
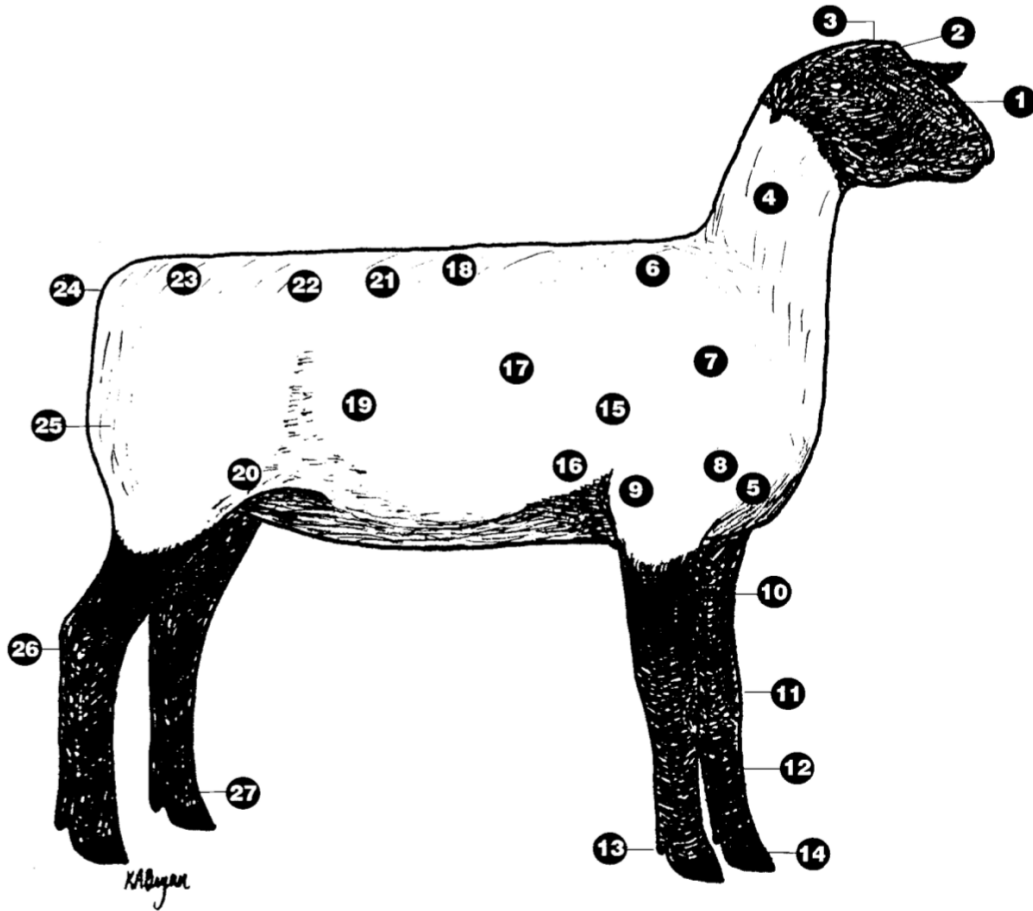


Photo courtesy of Clackamas County 4-H Extension
Sheep Resource Handbook. **

- The most expensive cut of meat is the rack of lamb, followed by lamb chops.
- Mutton is the meat of a sheep over a year old while lamb meat is the meat of a sheep under a year old.
- The tongue, while rarely eaten in America, is still considered a cut of meat.
 - The tongue is more commonly eaten in South America and the Middle East.
- Sometimes, the top portion of the leg is called the rump.
- Lamb chops come from three areas: Loin, shoulder, and ribs.

Parts of a Sheep

The parts of a sheep and the cuts of meat of a sheep are different. The parts of a sheep are the physiological parts of the animal while the cuts of meat are the parts we consume. However, there is sometimes overlap between the physiological parts and consumable parts.



- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 face | 10 forearm | 19 middle |
| 2 forehead | 11 knee | 20 rear flank |
| 3 poll | 12 cannon | 21 loin |
| 4 neck | 13 dewclaw | 22 hip |
| 5 breast | 14 foot | 23 rump |
| 6 top of shoulder | 15 forerib | 24 dock |
| 7 shoulder | 16 lower forerib | 25 leg |
| 8 point of shoulder | 17 rib | 26 hock |
| 9 elbow | 18 back or top | 27 pastern |

Image courtesy of Mississippi State University Extension

Common Diseases/Ailments and Treatment

In the table below are some listed common diseases and ailments found in sheep as well as a handful of pertinent details in each column. This list is far from all-inclusive and is just a sampling of what can be found, both of diseases/ailments and in the following columns. In columns two through five are common details related to that disease/ailment.

Disease	Symptoms	Treatment	Prevention	Other Details
Sore mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scabby sores on and around the muzzle, nose, mouth, and lips -Blisters that form into scabby sores -Sores sometimes bleed depending on strain infected with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Quarantine infected animal(s) *Infection will generally run its course before clearing up on its own. Monitor for secondary infection, however* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep new animals quarantined until you are sure they are not infected -Disinfect new equipment -Remove thorny plants to keep animals from opening wound for virus entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Can infect humans and other animals but <i>rarely fatal</i>. -Sores can also appear on teats and should be closely monitored as lambs may not be allowed to nurse by their mother if present
Strongyle worms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Anemia -Lethargy -Weight loss -Humping up of the back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Deworm according to bottle instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Feed animals in feeders and not directly on the ground -Rotate sheep between pastures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It's an internal parasite -In some cases it may be beneficial to increase the animal's protein intake upon quarantine
Scours (Severe diarrhea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Animal won't eat -Diarrhoea present on legs -Watery diarrhoea that is white-ish or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Anti-diarrhoeal -Electrolytes and water -Antibiotic if applicable at the discretion of vet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash bottles of bummer lambs regularly -Slowly introduce new feed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Occurs easily in lambs raised on bottles if bottles go unwashed -Can occur in lambs not used to creep feed

	gray-ish			
White Muscle Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Difficulty breathing -Fever -Frothy nasal discharge that's sometimes bloody -Elevated heart and respiratory rates -Weakness and difficulty standing in newborns -Stiffness and/or pained when walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Administer supplemental selenium and vitamin E <p>*IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO SPEAK WITH A VETERINARIAN CONCERNING THIS AS TOO MUCH CAN KILL THE ANIMAL*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Shots of selenium and vitamin E at the discretion of a veterinarian -Feed supplements of selenium and vitamin E 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More often seen in young lambs or lambs that are fast growing -Can cause starvation in lambs since they struggle to nurse due to weakness and stiffness -Impacts cardiac and skeletal muscles
Foot Scald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Limping -Bad smell between toes -Gray scum between toes -Inflammation, redness, and moisture present between toes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Trim and clean the foot -Antibiotics at the discretion of a veterinarian -Some have animals stand in zinc sulfate (8lbs to 10 gals. water) for at least 10 mins. a day until healed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keep living and congregation areas clean from feces through regular cleaning -Keep out of mud -Quarantine infected sheep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More common in winter and fall -Placing Hoof-N-Heel or iodine (but not both) on infection can help heal foot scald in conjunction with other methods

***DISCLAIMER:** Authors are not veterinarians and only provide this information as a personal reference. They are not responsible for outcomes. Consult a veterinarian for veterinary advice and treatment.*

Breeds

In the sheep world, there are hundreds of recognized breeds, all with a wide variety of purposes and uses. Their capabilities vary equally as widely. Below are six breeds of sheep selected to show the reader a variety of sheep that have different uses or combination of uses. Listed after are some features to the breed that make it unique, characteristics, or are strong suits of that breed.

Romney



Image courtesy of Anne Nichols
Livestock

- Romney sheep also come in another variety called Natural Colored Romneys
- This breed is considered a long wool breed.
- They are a dual purpose breed, being used for both meat and wool.
- They were first imported into America in Monmouth, OR while the first purebred Natural Colored Romney was registered with the American Romney Breeders Association in Curtain, OR in 1972.

Suffolk



Image courtesy of South Beckman Farms

- Suffolk sheep are a meat breed, but some people also use them for their fleece.
- This breed is considered a framed sheep, meaning it is a taller, “longer-boned” breed with a larger frame than most sheep.
- Rams weigh roughly between 240 lbs and 350 lbs while ewes weigh between 180 lbs and 350 lbs.
- A disqualification for this breed is when testicular size is deemed too small, which is up to the determination of the breeder at home and the judge in the show ring.
 - There are no specific measurement requirements listed for testicular size in the Suffolk breed standard.

Hampshire (Hamp)



Image courtesy of Char Land Farms

- The patch of wool atop the head of the Hampshire sheep is called a wool cap
 - Wool caps are not exclusive to the Hampshire breed but do serve to help distinguish them from Suffolk sheep.
- Hampshires, also called Hamps, are mainly a meat breed but can also be used for wool.
- It is believed the breeds used to form the present day Hampshire breed are Southdowns, Wiltshire Horn sheep, Berkshire Knot sheep, and Old Hampshire sheep.
- An absence of a wool cap and/or wool on the front and/or back legs is considered a disqualification.

Tunis



Image courtesy of Allen Family Farms

- Tunis sheep are considered a tri-purpose breed, producing meat, milk, and wool.
- This breed is considered a fat tailed sheep.
- When Tunis sheep are lambs, their fleece is the same color as their face but lightens to a creamy white as they mature.
 - Sometimes the creamy white extends up into their facial hair or down onto their leg hair. This is considered a disqualification.
- They are born with a double coat, meaning the outer coat is almost similar to hair and more coarse while the undercoat remains soft.

Katahdin



Image courtesy of Sturdy Post Ranch
<https://www.sturdypostranch.com/katahdins-sheenforsale.html>

Image courtesy of Prairie Lane Farm
<https://www.prairielanefarm.net/>

- Katahdin sheep come in a wide variety of colors and patterns that are all recognized and qualify to be registered with the breed association.
- Rather than having wool, this breed has hair that they shed much as a dog does. Some breeders even used shedding combs on them.
- It's not uncommon for this breed to keep their tail as the feces has no wool to collect on, which is one of the chief reasons tails are removed on wool sheep.
- Instead of being sheared, this breed is clipped. However, when being shown only combing and brushing is permitted to ready the animal for show, making this an exceptionally easy animal for youth to show.

Jacob Sheep



Images courtesy of Bide-A-Wee Farms
<http://www.bideaweefarm.com/2019JacobLambs.htm>
Photos are cropped

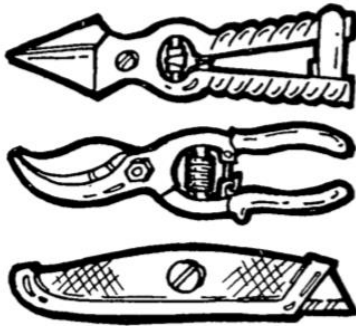
- Jacob sheep are mainly a wool breed but are also used for their skins. The skins of these animals are very high quality.
- This breed can have between two and six horns. Jacob sheep with six horns are less common, however.
- As a smaller breed, rams weigh between 120 lbs. and 180 lbs. while ewes weigh between 80 lbs. and 120 lbs.
- The pattern seen on Jacob sheep is called piebald, which are irregularly shaped patches of two colors.
 - The colors seen above are the only two colors the breed comes in but they come in a wide variety of patterns.

Grooming and Shearing

Hoof Correctness and Trimming

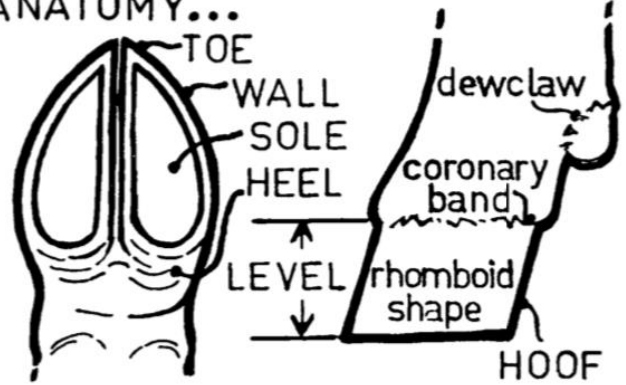
The hooves of your animal are the foundation on which they stand. When the foundation is strong, then so is your animal. When the foundation is weak, so is your animal. Trimming hooves can be tricky for first time sheep owners, however. It is important for them to know though that it is just like cutting your fingernails. As long as you are mindful or not catching their quick, it is completely painless. For this activity, you will need foot trimmers, also called foot shearers, and blood stop. It is normal for the sheep to kick during this or try to pull away when grabbing a back leg, but don't worry, this is just their natural instinct as they are prey animals. Below is a diagram on what they should look like and how to trim your sheep's feet.

TOOLS...

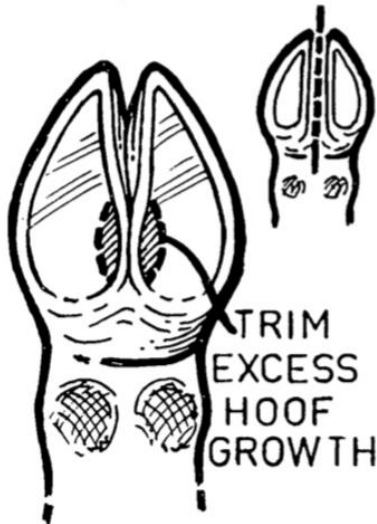
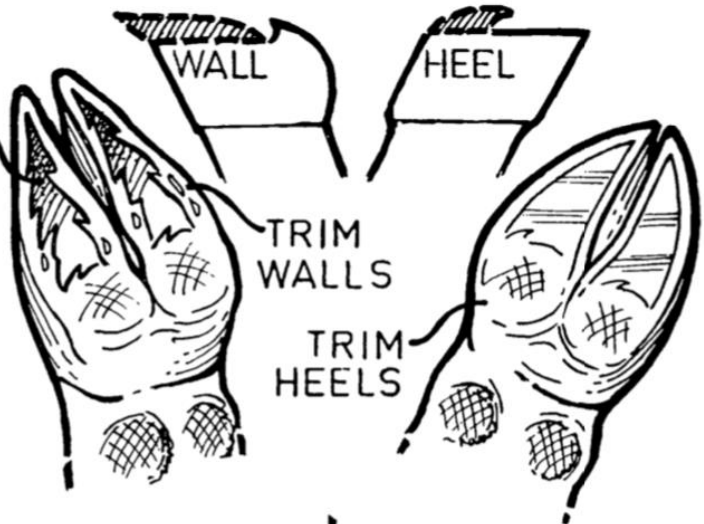


foot rot shears or pruning shears and utility knife

ANATOMY...



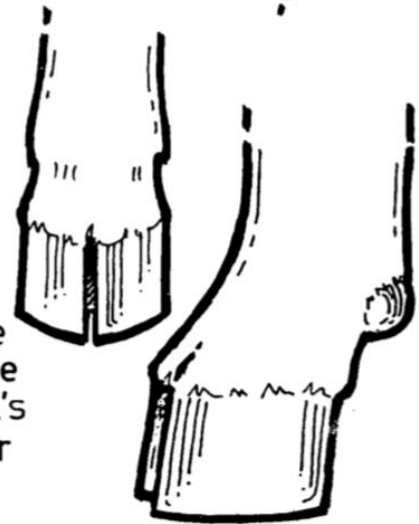
DIG OUT DIRT



TRIM EXCESS HOOF GROWTH

* if the hoofs are trimmed regularly the job is much easier

* if the goat bleeds use some iodine and make sure the animal's tetanus booster is up to date



PROPER TRIM

Image courtesy of Oregon State University Extension Service

Shearing

For show, market lambs, cross-breds, and some purebreds are slick shorn which means they have all their wool taken off. Market lambs and cross-breds will generally have what the below diagram calls a top notch, which should be taken off in their case. Some slick shorn purebreds will have the top notch removed but others will have it remain. Refer to your breed standard for verification. Some breeds are fitted. Unfortunately, there is no diagram for how to fit a sheep. To find out how to do this, contact your superintendent, leader, or a local breeder who may assist you or direct you in learning how to do this. To slick shear your sheep you will need shearers and fine tooth slick shearing blades. It is possible to shear a sheep without a fitting stand but it is much easier to shear one with a stand.

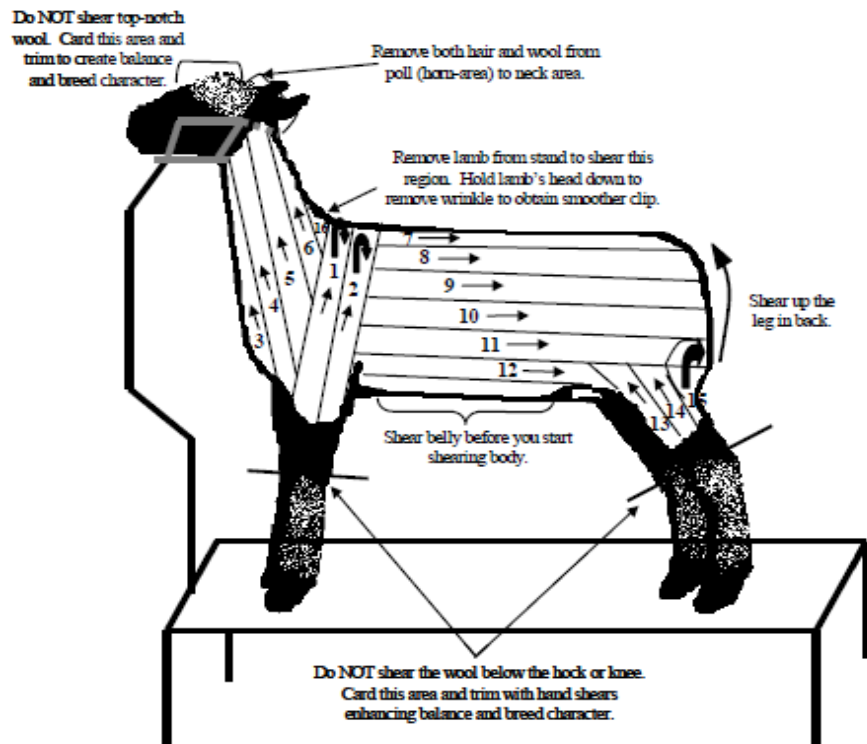


Diagram 1. Direction of slick shearing strokes.

Photo courtesy of Washington State University

Please note; if a sheep has feces or urine stuck to its fleece, especially around the hindquarters, this should be trimmed off to ensure they do not develop urine scald, maggot infestations, or other similar issues. This especially applies when an animal has diarrhea and it may be in the best interest of the animal to shear its hindquarters. If the animal has no wool to shear off and has diarrhea, it can be washed off with water.

Fast Facts

- Sheep come in hair varieties as well as wool. They're called hair breeds.
- Despite popular belief, sheep are used for more than meat and wool. They are also used for milk.
- Finnsheep, sometimes called the littering sheep, are known for their exceptional ability to have large "litters" with records showing as many as eight lambs from one pregnancy.
- Dorper sheep have both hair and wool.
- The groove in the upper lip of a sheep is called the philtrum.
- Sheep's blood was used (unsuccessfully) for the first human blood transfusions.
- Due to their rectangular pupils sheep have nearly a 360° field of vision.
- Jacob Sheep can have up to six horns.
- Sheep that can be used for two purposes, usually meat and wool, are called dual purpose. Those used for three purposes, meat, wool, and milk, are called tri-purpose.

Getting Ready for Clackamas County Fair

The Clackamas County Fair is always held in August. Information pertaining to the show, such as weigh-ins, weight gains, breeds, and market classes can all be found in the Clackamas County Fairbook. All market lambs must gain and weigh a minimum amount of weight. Below, is important information pertaining to fair:

General Information

- Members are expected to set-up, paint, and decorate their pen areas.
- Member **MUST** participate in showmanship.
- Good sportsmanship and herdsmanship are strongly emphasized.
- Members are expected to care for animals themselves, including shearing, feeding, and caring for the animal, both at home and at fair.
 - Club members or members from another club enrolled in 4-H may help with these tasks but the sole responsibility falls on the member.
- **MUST HAVE A SCRAPIES TAG in accordance with the USDA Scrapie Eradication Program.**

Market Lambs

- **MUST** weigh at least 110 lbs at second weigh-ins.
- **REQUIRED** to gain at least 25 lbs between first and second weigh-ins.
 - If a lamb does not meet the two previous requirements they will be placed in the non-auction market lamb class(es). These animals will not sell in the auction.
- At first weigh-ins it is preferable that lambs are sheared but at second weigh-ins they are **REQUIRED** to be sheared and dry.
- Only market animals that earn a blue-ribbon in their market class may sell.
- Lambs will be broken up into classes based on weight.
- Market lambs cannot be shown in the breeding classes.

Breeding Ewes

- Must be slick shorn or fitted depending on the breed. Refer to breed association to determine this
- If there are just two sheep in a breed classification they will be placed in the All Other Breeds Meat or Wool division, dependent upon their breed and at the discretion of the superintendent.
- The showing of horned breeds is at the discretion of the superintendent.

Resources

1. https://free-images.com/display/black_face_sheep_sheep.html
2. <https://www.thespruceeats.com/cuts-of-lamb-leg-loin-shoulder-rack-and-more-995305>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/orf-virus/animals.html>
4. <https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/farm-basics/how-to-livestock/diarrhoea-in-sheep-and-goats-part-1/>
5. <https://www.blackbellysheep.org/about-the-sheep/articles/white-muscle-disease/>
6. <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/410/410-028/410-028.html>
7. <https://www.southbeckmansuffolks.com/>
8. <https://www.sturdyostranch.com/katahdins-sheepforsale.html>
9. <https://www.prairielanefarm.net/>
10. <http://www.bideaweefarm.com/2019JacobLambs.htm>
11. <https://www.roysfarm.com/jacob-sheep/>
12. <https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/downloads/8w32r575j>
13. <https://extension.wsu.edu/animalag/content/successfully-slick-shearing-show-lambs/>
14. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/11866/2019-cc4-h-fairbook.pdf>
15. <https://modernfarmer.com/2017/12/6-facts-sheep-might-not-know/>
16. <https://www.wired.com/2011/06/0615first-human-blood-transfusion/>

**Resource Books Used:

1. Sheep Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects by Ohio State University Extension
2. Goat Resource Handbook by Ohio State University Extension

Note: These books are available to check-out or purchase from the Clackamas County 4-H Extension Office in Oregon City.