

**Sand & Sage Round-Up**  
**SHEEP STUDY GUIDE**  
**Junior and Intermediate Division**  
**(8 - 13 years old as of December 31)**

You should be able to identify the following breeds of sheep by color and markings of the face, ears and legs. You should be able to identify which are wool breeds and which are mutton breeds.

Hampshire - ears, face and legs are dark brown/black (meat)  
Suffolk - face, ears, lower leg are black and free of wool (meat)  
Columbia - face and legs are covered with white hair (wool)  
Corriedale - top of head, legs and ears are covered with wool (wool)  
South Down - face, ears, legs are light grey to light brown (meat)  
Rambouillet - face and legs are white, males may have large horns (wool)  
Dorset - face, ears and legs are white and free of wool (meat)

You should know the meaning of the following terms.

Ewe - female sheep  
Ram - male sheep  
Wether - castrated male sheep  
Lamb - young sheep under 1 year of age  
Shearing - removing the wool  
Crossbred - an animal whose parents were of 2 or more different breeds  
Enterotoxemia - overeating disease  
Castration - removing male testicles  
Yearling - sheep from 1 to 2 years of age  
Docking - removing the tail  
Alfalfa Hay - a roughage and protein source used in sheep rations  
Grain - concentrates used in growing and finishing rations  
Predator - coyote or dogs that kill or severely hurt sheep  
Wool blind - so much wool on the face that a sheep can not see

Keratitis - pinkeye

Coccidial Dysentery - intestinal disorder

Animal Rights - Protection of animals from any type of exploitation or use such as pets or being used in the fair. Extends human rights to animals.

Animal Welfare - Concern for well being of animals for which a person has responsibility.

Animal Liberation - Animals should not be forced to work or produce for our benefit in any way.

Groups believe we should try to eliminate all types of animal use. These groups consider pets a form of enslavement.

You should be familiar with the Colorado ethical care of sheep guidelines.

Did you know there are over 200 breeds of sheep in the world today? About 15 of them are commonly found in the United States.

You should be familiar with the fact that white faced breeds are often known as "ewe breeds" because they are used as ewes for crossbred flocks.

You should know the following things about your lamb before entering the show ring:

1. Breed of your lamb
2. Weight of your lamb
3. Birth date of your lamb
4. Feed costs
5. Beginning weight at tagging
6. Number of pounds gained by lamb
7. Parts of the lamb
8. Tag number of your lamb

You should know how to manage your lamb during the fair:

1. You should respect other people at the fair.
2. You should feed your lamb two times per day at the fair - once before 8:00 a.m. and once between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.
3. You should clean your pen two times per day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon/evening.
4. You should clean the alley in front of your pens every four hours.
5. You should wash your lamb before the show and before the sale as a minimum.
6. You should not leave your feed trough in the pen after feeding.
7. You should not leave your water bucket in the pen after watering.
8. You should keep your pen gate wired at all times.
9. Check your lamb every 2 hours during the day.
10. Make a plan on how to get to the show ring and market sale ring from the pen.

You should know how to dress for the show ring.

1. Shirt with collar, No tank tops
2. Pants with a belt
3. No cap or hat
4. Hair combed

You should know the water requirements for sheep are 1/2 to 1 gallon of water per day.

You should know how to figure:

1. The gain of your lamb.  
Number of pounds gained = ending weight minus beginning weight.  
 $110 \text{ (end wt.)} - 63 \text{ (beg. wt.)} = 47 \text{ (total pounds gained)}$
2. Profit or loss on your project.  
Price per pound x total weight - total expenses  
 $\$.70 \times 110 = \$77.00 - \$66.00 \text{ (total expenses)} = \$11.00 \text{ (total profit)}$

You should know:

Roughages - alfalfa hay, prairie hay, pasture

Concentrates - corn, milo, wheat, barley

Protein supplements - alfalfa hay, soybean meal, cottonseed meal

Minerals - calcium, phosphorous, sodium, potassium copper

Vitamins - A, D, E

Your lamb should be started on high concentrate rations slowly and feed changes should be made slowly.

You should vaccinate your lamb for enterotoxemia (over eating) and tetanus with clostridium perfringens Type D and tetanus antitoxin at least 10 days before putting them on full feed.

You should vaccinate your lamb with a type D over-eating booster given at least two to four weeks after your lamb has been on full feed.

You should know the minimum lamb weight County Fair

You should know the phases of the Supreme Champion are:

1. Live Placing
2. Record Book
3. Written Test
4. Rate of Gain
5. Showmanship

You should know the parts of a sheep:

The parts of the sheep (wether) are shown in Figure 70.

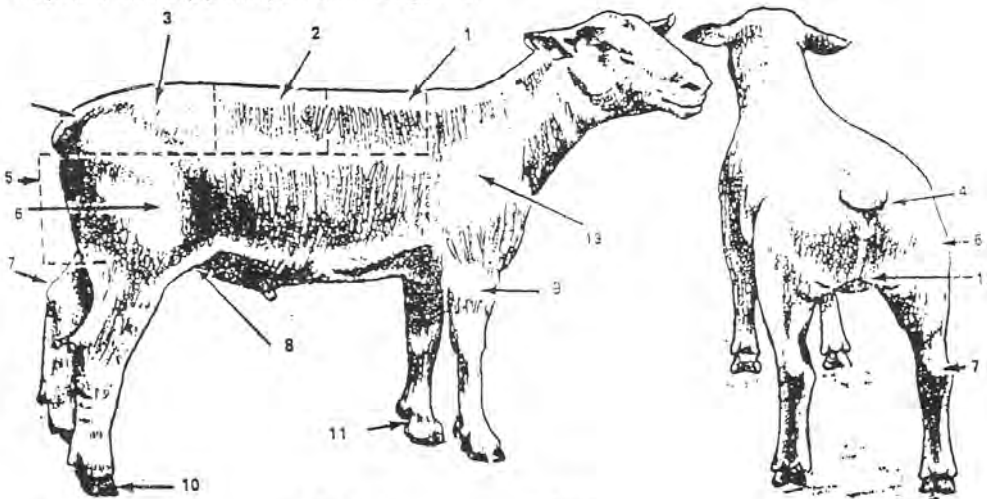


Figure 70. Parts of the sheep (wether).



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF SHEEP

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Before you begin your 4-H sheep project, ask yourself if you are willing to spend time every day caring for your sheep. Sheep need attention, feeding and general care on a daily basis. The successful sheep producer makes a commitment and plans a sheep husbandry schedule for production or care. Be prepared to spend time getting to know your sheep. Make sure your parents support your interest. You will need to work with your adult-volunteer leader, a veterinarian, your local Cooperative Extension livestock agent and a feed supplier.

### Housing

Design pens and housing for sheep to prevent injury to the occupants and provide protection from the environment, i.e., sun, precipitation and wind. Provide a minimum of 20 square feet of space per lamb. Pens should be free of sharp edges, nails and protruding wire.

### Bedding

Keep the pen or housing facility clean and sanitary at all times. Provide clean, dry bedding. Clean pens as often as necessary depending upon the weather conditions.

### Feed and Water

A proper diet for the appropriate production phases of gestation, lactation or growing and finishing, should be available at all times and in proper amounts. Fresh, clean water always should be present in adequate amounts for all animals. Feeders and waterers should be free of manure and other debris. Water and feed should be withheld only during medical treatment and diagnosis or shipping for no more than 24 hours.

### Handling

Handling and training are stressful for sheep. Perform these procedures in such a way to minimize stress. Never use electric shock to train a lamb to "brace." Do not beat or use other forms of physical abuse. Do not use excessive, forced exercise through mechanical means.



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## Veterinary Care

Administer health medications only according to instructions on the label or under the direction of a veterinarian. Use only drugs approved for sheep. Never exceed the recommended dose unless a veterinarian makes a diagnosis and prescribes a drug at a given dosage for a defined period of time in a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship.

Routes of administration, whether intramuscular or subcutaneous, should be used according to the label and only with a sterile needle and syringe. Adhere strictly to all drug withdrawal periods. Use of drugs to enhance muscling beyond genetic capability, such as clenbuterol, anabolic steroids and cortisone products, is forbidden.

Remember, use of contraband drugs could result in a Federal Drug Administration investigation and possible prosecution. Each animal should have a unique identification to which you refer when drugs are administered to avoid errors. Keep records for all drugs administered. Include date, animal identification, drug, amount and route of administration. Include the veterinarian's name in the record when a veterinarian attends an animal. Practice good preventive measures, such as vaccinations and parasite control.

## Transportation

Trucks and trailers should be of sufficient size to accommodate all occupants safely, provide secure footing, be in good repair and provide protection against the elements. A 12-hour fast before shipping is recommended for easier handling of the animals and better sanitation on the truck.

## Showing

Lambs will be rejected from shows if they have the following diseases or for the following reasons:

- skin—any fungal lesions,
- eyes—any symptoms of pink eye,
- mouth—sore mouth (orf) lesions,
- feet—footrot,
- injuries (traumatic lesions), i.e., dog bites, broken bones and so forth,
- withholding feed and water any time when the animal is physically on the show or fair grounds,
- dirty or unkept stalls or pens, and
- any observed use of drugs other than those authorized for use by a veterinarian or show official.



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