



SNAPSHOT 4H1619

4-H Sheep Project



CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Resource

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/livestock>

- » Sheep Flock Record (4H1343)

National 4-H Curricula

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>

- » Sheep
 - Rams, Lambs & You: Level 1 (06367)
 - Shear Delight: Level 2 (06368)
 - Leading the Flock: Level 3 (06369)
 - Sheep Helper's Guide (06370)

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The 4-H sheep project allows young people to learn about breeds, selection, grooming, production, management, showmanship, marketing and careers.

- » Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more head of livestock.
- » Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- » Identify quality in wholesale and retail cuts of meat to understand the relationship to management principles.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Learn about sheep health and proper care.
- » Learn what you need to show your animals.
- » Produce a healthy and safe meat product.
- » Identify different breeds.
- » Locate and name parts of sheep.
- » Learn proper feeding of sheep.
- » Tell the difference between the ages of sheep.

Learning More:

- » Learn about food safety management practices.
- » Learn the life cycle of sheep parasites.
- » Judge and present your sheep.
- » Understand the use of medications for the health of your sheep.
- » Communicate with the veterinarian for disease prevention.
- » Learn breeding and reproduction best practices.
- » Care for a newborn lamb.
- » Explore sheep shelters for adequate protection.
- » Research sheep meat markets.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Plan and organize production records.
- » Develop cost and expense records.
- » Explore sheep genetics.
- » Interview people in agricultural careers.
- » Explore sheep industry issues.
- » Market sheep products.
- » Select animals for breeding.
- » Identify lamb cuts at the local grocery store.
- » Measure your pasture's productivity.
- » Learn about and debate animal well-being.

Other Resources

- » American Sheep Industry Association: <http://www.sheepusa.org>
- » Michigan Sheep Breeder's Association: <http://www.misheep.org/>





FOCUS ON SHEEP

Science

- » Explore sheep behavior; track normal versus abnormal behavior.
- » Investigate the properties of wool and compare them to other natural or synthetic fibers.
- » Research genetic differences in sheep breeds.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer your lamb for a community petting zoo.
- » Lead a demonstration with your lamb to a local elementary class.
- » Teach others how to safely handle sheep.

Communication

- » Design a poster on parts of the sheep and present this topic to others.
- » Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons.
- » Give a shearing demonstration.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Tour a sheep farm.
- » Attend a sheep show and observe the judges and their techniques.
- » Attend a 4-H sheep project meeting.
- » Design a business plan to market lamb meat directly to retailers, restaurants or private customers.
- » Write an educational article about some aspect of sheep production for your local newspaper.
- » Participate in a sheep skillathon.
- » Organize a sheep showmanship contest.
- » Attend a national conference.
- » Job shadow a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- » Learn about the different uses for sheep.
- » Research sheep by-products.
- » Attend the Michigan State 4-H Sheep Show or the Michigan State 4-H Sheep Expo.
- » Show at your county fair.
- » Complete a sheep project record book to track your income, expenses and experiences in your sheep project.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit MSU's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.

Adapted with permission from "4-H Sheep Project," by Iowa State University Extension, 2011, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

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