4-H Sheep Project

Are you Into It?
Do you enjoy learning about and showing sheep - if so, this project is for you!

- 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
- Develop your public speaking skills by using your knowledge to give oral reasons
- Learn how to deliver a lamb

Here’s what you can do all year!

Starting Out
Basic
- Learn health and care of your sheep
- 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
- Learn to determine the age of sheep

Learning More
Intermediate
- Learn about food safety management practices
- Learn the life cycle of sheep parasites
- Judge and present your sheep
- Understand medications for health of your sheep
- Communicate with the vet for disease prevention
- Learn about breeding management practices
- Care for a newborn lamb
- Explore sheep shelters for adequate protection
- Research goat meat markets

Expanding Horizons
Advanced
- Plan and organize production records
- Develop cost and expense records
- Explore sheep genetics
- Interview people in agriculture careers
- Explore sheep industry issues
- Market sheep products
- Select breeding animals
- Identify lamb cuts at the local grocery store
- Measure your pasture’s productivity

Step It Up!
Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started

Citizenship/ Leadership
- Volunteer your lamb or sheep for a clinic or other educational event
- Volunteer to help with weigh-in at a livestock show
- Volunteer to teach/ mentor younger 4-H youth

Communication
- Design a poster to discuss the parts of the animal and how wool is used
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Identify the cuts of meat and how to prepare them
- Conduct a showmanship clinic

Healthy Living
- Practice bio-security safety measures for livestock
- Design a poster to discuss the safe handling of goat meat
- Analyze the nutritional value of lamb meat
- Identify zoonotic diseases and prevention measures

Science
- Calculate the nutritional requirements of a ruminant
- Design and build sheep housing
- Design and build fencing and holding facilities
Expand Your Experiences in the Sheep project

- Tour a sheep operation
- Attend a sheep show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging sheep
- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration
- Participate in a judging team
- Design a business plan to market lamb meat directly to retailers, restaurants, or private customers
- Attend a livestock workshop as part of the Florida 4-H University, participate in a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community
- Attend the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
  [http://extension.umd.edu/charles-county/4-h-youth/national-4-h-livestock-judging](http://extension.umd.edu/charles-county/4-h-youth/national-4-h-livestock-judging)
- Western National 4-H Livestock Judging
  [http://www.westernnationalroundup.org/contests-livestock.aspx](http://www.westernnationalroundup.org/contests-livestock.aspx)
- Is it Fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair sheep show or the Florida State Fair.
- Contact your county UF Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida to explore those majors [ufl.edu](http://ufl.edu)

Check out all the resources at UF Animal Science Youth Program website: [animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/](http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/)

**Resources**

**4-H Project Resources**
- Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly.
- Available at National 4-H: [www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org)
  - Level 1: Rams, Lambs & You
  - Level 2: Shear Delight
  - Level 3: Leading the Flock
- Available at EDIS: [edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/agriculture/livestock.html](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/agriculture/livestock.html)
- 4-H Livestock Judging: a 4-H Animal Science Project

**Connections and Events**
- Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be.
- Participate in Animal Science events like livestock judging and shows.
- Attend other statewide events. Check them all out at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org) and [animal.ufl.edu/youth](http://animal.ufl.edu/youth)

**Record Keeping**
- Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H lifeskill.
- The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.
- Available at EDIS [edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)
  - Livestock Breeding Record Book
  - Livestock Market Breeding Book
- Project Report Forms can be found at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)
  - Junior (ages 8-10)
  - Intermediate (ages 11-13)
  - Senior (ages 14-18)
  - Financial Summary
  - Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

**Awards and Recognition**
- Florida’s Recognition Program involves feedback through:
  - Participation
  - Setting Goals
  - Meeting Standards
  - Peer Competition
  - Cooperation
- Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.
- To learn more about current recognition opportunities, visit the Florida 4-H website at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org) or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

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