



# 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

Learn more at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)

or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office



## 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://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/)

### Project Sharing Ideas

- Participate in a 4-H sheep show
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you have learned in a sheep-related topic
- Write an educational article about some aspect of sheep production for your newspaper

## 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

Extension.org Resource – Sheep  
<http://www.extension.org/sheep>

### 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)

American Sheep Industry Association  
<http://www.sheepusa.org/Home>

### 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.

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or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER