

	BEEF CATTLE	SWINE	SHEEP
INTACT MALE	BULL	BOAR	RAM
MALE CASTRATED PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS	STEER	BARROW	WETHER
MALE CASTRATED AFTER DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS	STAG	STAG	STAG
FEMALE THAT HAS PRODUCED PROGENY	COW	SOW	EWE
YOUNG FEMALE WITH NO PROGENY	HEIFER	GILT	EWE
VERY YOUNG PROGENY	CALF	PIG	LAMB

LAMB SKILL-A-THON

Introduction

This manual is provided as a *study guide* for the skill-a-thon competition and should be used as an additional aid to ongoing educational programs. Sections are labeled **Junior**, **Intermediate & Senior**, **Intermediate & Senior**, **Intermediate & Senior**, **Intermediate & Senior**, **Intermediate** are required for their age level. The topic for this year's Skill-a-thon is **Digestion**.

Topics for the Knowledge and Skills Stations may include the following:

Juniors (age 8-10 as of September 1, 2023)

Body parts Breeds Structure Digestive Anatomy Digestive Function Common Livestock Terms

Intermediates (age 11-13 as of September 1, 2023)

All of the above plus... Parts of a Feed Label Basic Livestock Terms

Seniors (age 14 and over as of September 1, 2023)

All of the above plus.... Common Nutritional Disorders

Bonus

Knots

The contest will be held on January 24, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the KVLS Arena.

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KVLS Skill-a-thon Rules for 2023-2024

- 1. All market exhibitors <u>must</u> take the Skill-a-thon in their project area for the animal that they are showing in order to participate in the market programs, i.e. steer exhibitors <u>must</u> take the Steer Skill-a-thon. Any exhibitor who does not meet the required grade average on their report card or who does not have a report card <u>must</u> score 70% on the Skill-a-thon to participate in the Market Animal Program.
- 2. All exhibitors must take the Skill-a-thon for the first time on their own, then a reader can be requested the second time, if a passing grade is not achieved.
- 3. Awards will be given on the score of the first Skill-a-thon taken. Top awards are only given for passing scores (70% or above).
- 4. Only those exhibitors who do not make a 3.25 grade point requirement are required to take and make a passing score of 70% or above in order to participate in the market animal program.
- 5. Exhibitors <u>must stay</u> in the testing room once they have signed up to take the Skill-a-thon.
- 6. Exhibitors showing a second animal <u>must stay</u> in the testing room to take the second animal Skill-a-thon.
- 7. No parents or other adults not on the Committee are allowed in the Skill-a-thon room.
- 8. No exhibitors are allowed to have cell phones while in the Skill-a-thon room.
- 9. No time limit will be imposed on the exhibitors.
- 10. Skill-a-thon handbooks will be given at the start of the project.

KVLS Awards

There will be a Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), Senior (14 - graduate from High School) division for the contest. Within each division, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will receive rosette ribbons and a monetary award.

The Ideal Market Lamb



*has a fat thickness of .10-.20 inches *has a dressing percent of 50 percent *yields a 55 to 65 pound carcass *has a rib eye area of 2.5 to 2.7 inches

Ideal Lamb Views





Market Lamb Skill-a-thon Book Page 5

Evaluation of Market Lambs

Consider these points when judging market lambs: A market lamb's function is for meat production. Therefore, muscling and finish are the two main factors used to evaluate market animals.

Conformation

• An ideal market lamb is one that combines weight and frame, straightness of lines and natural muscling and trimness. The ideal market lamb has adequate frame, is long bodied and is clean and trim throughout the front end and the middle. Look for a strong, level topline. The ideal market lamb should be especially long through the loin and rump (hindsaddle). Lambs should be level in the rump and stand on a sound, structurally correct set of feet and legs.

Finish

- Correct finish is important to determine the cutability (retail value) of a lamb. Finish is the amount of external fat on a lamb. To determine the amount of finish, handle the lamb over the backbone and ribs. Excessive prominence of the backbone and ribs shows a lack of finish. Too much finish is present when you cannot feel the backbone or ribs by normal handling methods. Correct finish is .10-.20 inches of back fat. Desirable traits in regard to finish include:
 - Smooth and uniform fat cover over ribs
 - No excessive fullness in breast
 - A uniform fat cover of .10 .20 inches
 - Finish or condition is evaluated in the following:
 - Sternum
 - Lower forerib
 - Upper rear rib
 - Over backbone and loin
 - Flank
 - Twist

Muscling

- The ideal market lamb should exhibit extra muscling through its top, hindsaddle and leg. These are the areas from which the high-priced cuts come. Traits are found in a heavy muscled market lamb include:
 - Muscle expression in the forearm
 - Natural width down the top
 - Width, length and depth of loin
 - Width and length of rump
 - Fullness and meatiness through the leg

Handling Market Lambs

- Each lamb should be handled in the same manner. Start at the same point with your fingers extended and together. Check for the amount of finish using the balls of your fingers along the backbone, ribs and flank. Next determine the amount of muscle:
 - Measure the length of the loin from the last rib to the hip bone.
 - The width of the loin
 - The depth and thickness of the loin
 - The width and length of the rump from the hip bone to the dock
 - The length of the hindsaddle (the hindsaddle includes the loin and rump)
 - Determine the amount of muscling in the rear leg by grasping the middle of the leg firmly and slowly sliding your hands down
 - Check the amount of muscling in the forearm.

Expected Carcass Merit

• More than 60 percent of the lamb's value comes from the leg, rump and loin, which are only about 25 percent of the lamb's live weight. The leg, rump and loin make up the hindsaddle. The hindsaddle, because of its value, should be heavily muscled and have the minimum of fat. The muscle is what makes the carcass more valuable.

Structural Correctness

- While it is not emphasized as greatly as it is with breeding sheep, structural correctness is an important selection criteria when evaluating market animals. Look for lambs that are:
 - Standing squarely on front and rear legs
 - Strong and straight in their pasterns
 - Heavier boned

Sheep Body Parts

It is important for livestock producers to share a common language. Using the correct names for various body parts is one way to be certain your message is understood. Study the pictures with the names of the body parts labeled so that you can communicate with other producers using correct terms.



Breeds



Finnsheep- This small to medium-sized fine-boned breed is open faced and produces medium grade, good staple length wool. Reaching sexual maturity early ewes have strong maternal instincts and are very prolific-producing 2 to 4 lambs each lambing.



Shropshire- Originating in England, this medium-sized, dark-faced, polled breed has wool on its head and face. It is prolific, matures early, milk well, and is heavily muscled. Lambs are hardy, fast-growing and produce lean, well-muscled carcasses.



Suffolk- This polled breed with black head and legs has the most number of purebred registrations in the U.S. It is known for its meatiness and high carcass quality. Lambs grow rapidly and produce high cutability carcasses.



Southdown- The oldest breed from England, this sheep is small to medium in size and known for producing meaty carcasses. It is polled, with a gray to mouse brown face and wool on its legs. Fleece from this breed are of medium-wool.



Cheviot- This breed, highly adaptable to a variety of climates, was developed in Scotland. These smallsized, white-faced sheep with bare heads and legs are moderately, prolific, easy lambers, good milkers, and possess excellent lamb vigor.



Dorset- Originating in Southern England, these sheep can be polled, scurred, or horned and are known for breeding out of season, being heavy milkers and producing more than one lamb crop per year. Hardy lambs yield heavy-muscled carcasses.



Corriedale- White-faced breed developed in New Zealand from Lincoln and Leicester x Merino crosses. These medium-sized sheep are prolific, good mothers that produce good market lambs and yield heavy, medium-wool fleeces with good staple length,



Columbia- Developed in the United States from Lincoln ram x Rambouillet ewe cross and known for its size, wool-producing ability, and productivity under range conditions. This breed is large, white-faced, polled and has wool on the legs.



Rambouillet- Developed in France, this long-lived rugged breed will breed out of season and has wool that is fine in fiber diameter. These sheep are large, white faced, with wool on the head and legs, and can be polled or horned.

STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES FRONT & REAR VIEW ACTIVITY



Rear View



CORRECT

Bowlegged



Cow-Hocked

STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES SIDE VIEWS ACTIVITY

Side View Front Legs









CORRECT

Calf-Kneed

Weak Pasterns

Buck-Kneed

Side View Rear Legs



CORRECT



Sickle-Hocked



Post-Legged

STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES DESCRIPTIONS

Buck-kneed

Calf-kneed

Weak Pastern

When the calf is "over at the knees" or buck-kneed, full extension of the knee cannot occur when observed from the side. This is usually seen in cattle that are also too straight in their shoulder.

This is the other extreme, where the calf stands "back at the knees" when viewed from the side.

> Having an angle greater than 45 degrees in the pastern/hoof alignment, putting too much pressure on the joint.

The hock has too little angle or set. The calf is too straight through the joint, resulting in very stiff, constricting movement because of the lack of flexibility. More cattle become unsound because of being postlegged than sickle hocked.

When viewing the rear legs from the side, the hock has too much angle or set, causing the steer to stand too far underneath itself. Often these calves also will droop excessively from hooks to pins.

When viewed from the front or rear, the knees set too far out.

When viewed from the front, the knees are close together.

The feet toe out away from each other. This problem is often seen in extremely light-muscled, narrow-chested cattle, where the legs are naturally set too close together.

Toes turn in towards each other. Toed-in (pigeon-toed)

When viewing the rear legs from the rear, the hocks are turned in or placed too close together.

Postlegged

Sickle-hocked

Bowlegged

Knock-kneed

Toed-out (splayfooted)

Cow-hocked

Digestive Anatomy

The slogan "You are what you eat" sounds silly but is somewhat true. Farm animals are grouped by what they eat, which is based on the type of digestive system they possess. Herbivores are vegetarians (cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits). Carnivores are flesh eaters (dogs). Omnivores eat both plants and flesh (pigs, chickens, humans). Based on the digestive system, animals are grouped as **monogastric** or simple stomach (pig), polygastric or **ruminant** (cattle, sheep, goats), avian (chickens), or **pseudo-ruminants** with a functional cecum (rabbits). Understanding the digestive system is fundamental to selecting the proper feeds and feeding system for your animal.

After studying this manual, you should be able to identify the parts of the digestive tract of a sheep and tell the function of each part.



Digestive Function

The physical and chemical changes of feed within the gastrointestinal tract that allow nutrients to be released and absorbed into the body are called digestion. There are significant differences in the digestive processes between species. The type of digestive system an animal has determines what the animal can successfully use as feed. Complicated feed (forage) requires a complicated digestive tract (ruminant). The steps in digestion include: prehension (gathering), mastication (chewing), salivation, deglutition (swallowing), microbial, enzymatic and chemical breakdown, absorption of nutrients, defecation, and micturition (urination). For a review of rumen anatomy visit: http://mc050.k12.sd.us/Ruminant%20Digestive%20System.ppt

Digestive Function

Digestion Definition: The process of breaking down food by mechanical and enzymatic action in the stomach and intestines into substances that can be used by the body.

What are the differences between the monogastric and ruminant systems?

There are two main differences between monogastric and ruminant animals:

- 1. **Monogastic** animals only have one compartment to their stomach. Ruminants have four compartments to their stomach.
- 2. **Ruminant** animals chew their food numerous times through a process called regurgitation or rumination. That means that food that travels first from the mouth to the esophagus to the rumen. From the rumen, the food then moves to the reticulum where it can then come back up the esophagus to the mouth to be chewed again and the process is repeated.

Do the monogastric and ruminant digestive systems look different?

The systems look different in terms of their stomach compartments and the size of the organs.



What are the compartments of the ruminant stomach?

Taking a Closer Look at the Ruminant Digestive Systems:

The Ruminant stomach consists of four compartments that in order of food entering them go the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. Each compartment has a different distinct function and appearance.

Rumen

Large, hollow, muscular compartment that almost entirely fills the left side of the abdomen, functions in storage, soaking, mixing and microbial fermentation, and acts to absorb some specific nutrients (volatile fatty acids, ammonia).(5-10 gallons)



Reticulum

Nicknamed honeycomb, functions in moving ingested feed into the rumen or into the omasum and regurgitation of partially chewed food during rumination. Has very thick walls, traps foreign objects. (½ gallon)

Omasum

Nicknamed "many plies" or butcher's Bible, reduces particle size and removes water. It is located on the right side. (1/4 gallon)

Abomasum

This is the glandular portion of the stomach which produces acid and pepsin. It is located on the right, is called the true stomach and is where enzymatic digestion begins. ($\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 gallon)

What are the additional parts of the digestive tract?

Mouth

Upper dental pad, lower incisors, both upper and lower molar teeth, and tongue are used in grasping, chewing and salivation.

Esophagus

Hollow muscular tube that transports food from the mouth to the stomach

Sm. Intestine

Pancreatic and intestinal juices break down proteins and carbohydrates while bile from the liver breaks down fats. The first section (duodenum) is involved in digestion, and the next two sections (jejunum & ileum) are actively involved in nutrient absorption. (2-2¹/₂ gallons and 80 feet)

Lg. Intestine

Mainly absorbs water and end products of microbial digestion. The cecum has little function in ruminants. The colon is the site for water resorption and storage reservoir of undigested material which exits the rectum as feces. ($\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 gal.)







Junior, Intermediate, Senior

COMMON LIVESTOCK TERMS

RAM:	Intact male of Sheep
CARCASS:	The dressed body of a slaughtered meat animal, offal having been removed
FINISH:	Refers to the amount of external fat covering on an animal.
MARBLING:	Refers to flecks of fat distributed within the muscle.
MILKING ABILITY:	Refers to the amount of milk an animal can produce
STAG	Male castrated after developing secondary sexual characteristics.
CUTABILITY:	Yield of closely trimmed retail cuts from major wholesale cuts
PALATABILITY:	Agreeable to taste, tasty
POLLED:	Naturally hornless
PARASITES:	Organisms living on other organisms, doing harm.
EWE:	A female sheep
ANIMAL WELFARE:	Refers to proper care and management of animals
RUMINANT:	An animal which has a four compartment stomach
FABRICATION:	Process of cutting lamb carcasses into wholesale cuts
SUB-Q:	Subcutaneous injections (under the skin)

Intermediates, Seniors

Feed Label Information

A commercial law requires each bag or bulk load to be accompanied by a label showing several key items:

- Net weight
- Product name and brand name
- Drug additives
- Guaranteed analysis of the feed crude protein, crude fat and crude fiber must be guaranteed on all feeds except straight mineral or vitamin supplements, molasses or drug compounds.
- Minimum percentage of crude protein, percentage of equivalent protein from nonprotein nitrogen, if any. The amount of crude or total protein in a feed is guaranteed. Crude protein is determined by multiplying the nitrogen content of a feed by the factor 6.25.
- When non-protein nitrogen (NPN) is applied to feedstuffs, a statement "for ruminants only" must appear underneath the name of the feed. Additionally, it must also have a guarantee for crude protein which has been supplied from non-protein nitrogen.
- Minimum crude fat content Fat has an energy value approximately 2.25 times the value of carbohydrate feedstuffs.
- Maximum crude fiber content Crude fiber is a measure of the indigestible or non-useful portion of a feed. Feeds having low fiber values tend to be higher in digestible energy or total digestible nutrients than those feeds having high fiber values.
- Minerals feeds containing 6.5 percent or more minerals must show a guarantee of: calcium – minimum and maximum; phosphorous- minimum; salt – minimum and maximum
- Vitamins, only if guaranteed
- Common and usual name of each ingredient or the collective term for each grouping of feed ingredients
- Directions for use and cautionary statements
- Name and principle mailing address of the manufacturer

50 lbs net weight

Brand Name Show Feed (for ruminants only)

Medicated

Feed for 28 days as an aid in the maintenance of weight gains in the presence of respiratory diseases, such as shipping fever.

Caution: Use only as directed. Discontinue use 14 days prior to slaughter.

Active Drug Ingredients:

Chlortetracycline 7.6 grams/ton

Guaranteed Analysis

CRUDE PROTEIN, not less than 12% This includes not more than 1.00% equivalent crude protein from non-protein nitrogen.

CRUDE FAT, not less than 2.0% **CRUDE FIBER,** not less than 19%

Ingredients: Grain products, roughage products, plant protein products, processed grain by-products, forage products, molasses products, calcium carbonate, salt, vitamin E supplement, vitamin A supplement, ferrous sulfate, potassium iodide, manganese oxide copper chloride, cobalt glucoheptonate, vitamin D3 supplement, sodium selenite.

RUMINANT MEAT AND BONE MEAL FREE

FEEDING DIRECTIONS: Feed at the rate of 12 pounds per head per day.

MANUFACTURED BY:

The Best Feed Company P. O. Box 00000 Small Town, USA

BASIC LIVESTOCK TERMS

- 1. <u>Condition, Finish or Covering</u> All are used to denote fat. The terms "finish" and "covering" are used to describe fat on market animals, while "condition" is used when describing breeding stock.
- 2. <u>Growthiness</u> The characteristics of having size and weight at a certain age.
- 3. <u>Balance or Symmetry</u> A proper proportion and blending of parts of the animal. Balance or symmetry is evaluated from a side view.
- 4. <u>Ruggedness</u>, <u>Stoutness</u> The quality of being heavy or large boned. This is usually determined by the size of the cannon bone (from the knee to the ankle).
- 5. <u>Quality</u> A general term that combines smoothness and refinement. Refinement of hair coat, freedom of wrinkles in hogs and freedom of roughness, patchiness in cattle indicates quality.
- 6. <u>Scale</u> The size of the animal as determined by skeletal structure, independent of weight. The height, length and width of the animal.
- 7. <u>Style</u> The general eye-appeal or attractiveness of the animal (includes balance, structural correctness and quality).
- 8. <u>Broodiness</u> Female breeding stock term that means she has a favorable combination of characteristics to be a good mother. Depth, capacity, prominence of teats and/or mammary system, stoutness and correctness of vulva.
- 9. <u>Breed Character</u> Characteristics that separate breeding stock of one breed from other breeds, primarily by differences of the head: shape, length, dish of face, width of muzzle, shape of poll and ears, color markings and wool covering in sheep.
- 10. Trimness Freedom from fat or finish.
- 11. <u>Meatiness/Muscling</u> Having a high proportion of muscle in the areas of the high-priced cuts. This is shown primarily by the relative width, length and fullness of the quarter, leg or ham, and by the thickness and fullness through the rib, rack or loin.
- 12. <u>Type</u> A combination of characteristics that make an animal useful for a specific purpose. Determined by the general shape and form of an animal. Desirable types are constantly changing.
- 13. <u>Tight Framed</u> The ability of the animal to hold itself together. Indicated by a strong top (back), tightness of shoulder and squareness of feet and leg placements.
- 14. <u>Structural Soundness</u> The desirability or correctness of the skeletal structure, with major emphasis on straightness of top and proper feet and leg structure.
- 15. <u>Femininity</u> Characteristics that distinguish the female from the male. Indicated by refinement of the head, neck and shoulders.
- 16. <u>Masculinity</u> Characteristics that distinguish the male from the female. Indicated by boldness or massiveness of head and chest, thickness of the neck and development of the forequarters.

Seniors

Common Nutritional Disorders

<u>Disorder</u>

Chief Cause

Copper toxicity	Excess copper in blood is fatal by causing RBC to break down					
Hardware disease	Nire or nails lodged in reticulum					
Ketosis	Sudden need for extra energy					
Milk fever	udden need for Ca (lactation)					
Acidosis	Excess grain consumption					
Nutritional muscular dystrop	ny Se or vitamin E deficiency					
Grass tetany	Mg deficiency					
Night blindness	Vitamin A deficiency					
Goiter	lodine deficiency					
Rickets	Ca, P, or vitamin D deficiency (young animals)					
Anemia	Fe, Cu, vitamin B12, or folic acid deficiency					
Enterotoxemia	Rapid growth of Clostridium perfringens after overeating					
(overeating disease)						
Founder (laminitis)	Too rapid change in the ration.					
Photosensitization	Some feeds or forages or accumulation of metabolites					
Bloat	Legume, succulent forages causing slime producing bacteria to increase and slime causes trapping of gas.					
Urinary calculi	"Water belly" in males; stones block urination. Caused by excess phosphorus and magnesium or imbalance of Ca and P.					

Knots for Livestock Handling

There are many circumstances in cattle handling that will require you to tie knots. Take the time to learn to tie several types of knots and hitches so that you will have the right knot for the right circumstance. Practice often so that it becomes second nature. In an emergency situation, you do not want to have to think about which knot to choose and how to tie it.

Knots join ropes together, attach ropes to a post or rail, or attach ropes to an animal.

Hitches are used to attach a rope to a post or rail - only thing securing the rope to post is the pressure of one rope coil wrapping upon the others.

Splices are used to permanently join ropes to one another - individual strands from each rope are interwoven with strands from the other.



Activities

It is recommended that you complete the six activities provided in this Skill-a-thon book to help prepare you for the skill-a-thon. The activities are very similar to what to expect during the skill-a-thon and can be used for practice.

<u>4-H Members Only:</u> After you have completed an activity you should record it in your record book using the table on the 4-H Project Book/ Activities page. You do not need to attach the activity page you have completed in the record book. Before turning into 4-H in May have your leader sign the Activity Page showing they have seen your six (6) completed Activities.

JUNIOR LAMB BODY PARTS

ACTIVITY #1

Write in the name below that corresponds to the correct part of the animal.

Poll	Hock
Muzzle	Neck
Shoulder	Belly
Brisket	Leg
Dock	Knee



JUNIOR SHEEP BREEDS ACTIVITY #2

Use the breed pictures in the skill-a-thon book to color in each animal. List two interesting facts about each breed.





	Breed: Southdown *
	*
a set of the line of the set of the	



STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES SIDE VIEW ACTIVITY #3

Fill in the blank with the correct LEG STRUCTURE



STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES FRONT & REAR VIEW ACTIVITY #3

Fill in the blank with the correct LEG STRUCTURE

CORRECTKNOCK-KNEEDBOWLEGGEDCOW-HOCKEDSPLAY-FOOTEDPIGEON-TOEDCORRECT



Rear View



ACTIVITY #4

Write the correct number in the line for each compartment.

- 1. Omasum
- 2. Abomasum
- 3. Rumen
- 4. Reticulum











JUNIOR LAMB DIGESTIVE TRACT

ACTIVITY #5

DIGESTIVE TRACT ACTIVITY Enter the correct organ by the corresponding number

MOUTH CECUM ESOPHAGUS RUMEN



3. _____

4. _____

JUNIOR MARKET LAMB DIGESTION ACTIVITY #6

- 1. Sheep have one stomach that consists of how many compartments?
 - a. 1
 - b. 4
 - c. 2
 - d. 3

2. What is the largest compartment of a ruminant's stomach?

- a. Reticulum
- b. Rumen
- c. Abomasum
- d. Omasum

3. Sheep have a similar digestive system to what type of mammal?

- a. Cattle
- b. Rabbit
- c. Humans
- d. Hog

Word Search

Grazer	М	D	R	W	S	W	С	Ν	K	Е
Cud	U	0	L	R	Q	Ν	Ν	U	М	S
Esophagus	S	Х	F	Y	Е	Е	В	U	D	0
Mouth	А	J	А	С	Μ	Ζ	L	Y	U	Ρ
Intestine	М	W	М	U	F	U	А	V	I	Н
Abomasum	0	S	R	С	С	Т	F	R	Ρ	A
Omasum	G	Ι	Ρ	Ι	F	J	I	Y	G	G
Reticulum	I	Ν	Т	Е	S	Т	I	Ν	Е	U
Rumen	K	Е	М	0	U	Т	Н	А	т	S
	R	М	U	S	А	М	0	в	А	S