

BUTTE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Sheep Project Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **4-H Sheep Project Proficiency Program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H Project. Your 4-H Project Leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your 4-H Project, you will learn animal care basics, good management practices and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your 4-H Project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The [4-H Publications Catalog](#) lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The **4-H Educational Resources Lending Library** at the Butte County 4-H Office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeders' organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the 4-H Rabbit Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

Level 1 – Explorer You begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.

Level 2 – Producer You practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.

Level 3 – Consumer You become an experienced animal raiser.

Level 4 – Leader Allows you to show your own leadership potential.

Level 5 – Researcher You carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of your project.

As you work through the 4-H Project Proficiency Program, your 4-H Project Leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your 4-H Project Leader will notify the Community Club Leader. A 4-H Project Proficiency Program Pin and First Year Leg will be awarded for Level 1. Previous Year Leg will be returned when the next Level is awarded for Levels 2-5.

SHEEP PROFICIENCY

Level 1 – Explorer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Describe the basic activities that must be done each day to properly care for your lamb/sheep.
- _____ 2. What are some of the tools/materials/equipment that are important to have for your Sheep Project? Describe the basic housing that a beginner needs for the health, care, and safety of their animal.
- _____ 3. Be able to define the terms: ram, ewe, wether, lamb, finish.
- _____ 4. Describe the conformation of an ideal market lamb you are selecting for the fair.
- _____ 5. Explain how following directions is important for the success of your Sheep Project, i.e., following feeding directions, exercise activities, learning to show your lamb and/or training, etc.
- _____ 6. Identify what breed your market lamb is and the characteristics it has that are breed specific.
- _____ 7. Discuss whether you think you will be involved in the Sheep Project again next year, why/why not? What are the pros and cons to raising a lamb?
- _____ 8. Describe at least one safety issue associated with your Sheep Project.
- _____ 9. Make a presentation about your 4-H Sheep Project (does not have to be in front of an entire 4-H group).
- _____ 10. Explain how to tell when your animal is ill and when to call for assistance.
- _____ 11. Identify the normal body temperature of a lamb/sheep.
- _____ 12. Identify what the current weight range is for market lambs at a local fair.
- _____ 13. Identify two primary cuts of meat and from where they come.
- _____ 14. Demonstrate basic showmanship skills.
- _____ 15. Demonstrate how to show sheep's teeth and discuss the need to be able to do this. Explain and demonstrate how to tell the age of a sheep.
- _____ 16. Identify three wool breeds and three meat breeds and explain the difference between wool breeds and meat breeds.

_____17. Attend a County, Sectional, or State 4-H event.

_____18. Demonstrate ability to trim feet.

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH PROJECT RECORD

SHEEP PROFICIENCY

Level 2 – Producer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Be able to give an injection and oral medication. Know the difference between subcutaneous, intravenous, and intramuscular (IM) injections.
- _____ 2. Describe one method of tail docking and castration. Explain reasons for docking tails.
- _____ 3. Show how to take the temperature of a sheep. State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for a sheep.
- _____ 4. Explain why exercise is important to a market lamb.
- _____ 5. Be familiar with these diseases: urinary calculi, white muscle, blue tongue, mastitis and scours.
- _____ 6. Describe when you can begin breeding a ewe; a ram. Also, describe when you would begin to breed each and why.
- _____ 7. Discuss a problem you had/or have had in the past with your project and how you solved that problem.
- _____ 8. Be able to explain in detail: foot rot, sore mouth, and bloat.
- _____ 9. Identify the parts of a sheep on a diagram, including parts unique to a sheep.
- _____ 10. Attend a 4-H function/event beyond your local club, e.g., County, Sectional, or State activity.
- _____ 11. Describe both rectal and vaginal prolapse and at least one treatment.
- _____ 12. Explain the digestive process of a sheep and the parts of a sheep stomach.
- _____ 13. Describe three safety issues related to your sheep project.
- _____ 14. Describe a secondary aspect or by-product of the sheep industry.

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SHEEP PROFICIENCY

Level 3 – Consumer

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Prepare teaching materials to be to be used in the Sheep Project as a Junior or Teen leader.
- _____ 2. Assist less experienced members in the Sheep Project by explaining project related topics and discussing tools and equipment used in the Sheep Project.
- _____ 3. Compose constructive suggestions for improving an area of the project, or initiating something new (meetings, projects, fair, forms).
- _____ 4. Discuss/explore local, state and/or national opportunities related to your Sheep Project area. (Attendance is not mandatory; the idea is to be are aware of various available opportunities).
- _____ 5. Demonstrate record keeping skills.
(This can be done within your Sheep Project or for 4-H in general as it related to record books).
- _____ 6. Discuss one internal and one external parasite in sheep and the appropriate treatment and/or prevention.
- _____ 7. Identify what feed you are currently using. Name at least two other feed alternatives and discuss how/why you selected your feed. Be able to read and explain a feed tag from a sack of feed.
- _____ 8. Be able to read a feed tag.
- _____ 9. Name one hereditary problem in sheep and discuss possible solutions to avoid the problem in a breeding Sheep Project.
- _____ 10. Name at least two worming medications and be able to identify differences between them. In other words why you might use one over the other, or why you might change between the two.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate your ability to shear sheep and adjust electric shears.
- _____ 12. Demonstrate your ability to trim hooves.

- _____13. Judge a pen of three sheep and discuss how and why you placed the “class”.
- _____14. Discuss club lamb fungus: how would you identify it, treatment and prevention. Must also discuss how it is spread.

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SHEEP PROFICIENCY

Level 4 – Leader

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Describe spider syndrome: how would you identify it, how is it “contracted,” and what are the options for lambs with this condition. Identify if/how a breeder should test for this gene and what the possible results may be. Also discuss how a breeder might eliminate this within their flock.
- _____ 2. Describe scrapie disease. Discuss why scrapie tags or premise tags are required by the county and state fairs. Also, discuss how this might be controlled or eliminated from a flock.
- _____ 3. Discuss economics related to a specific issue in the sheep industry in general.
- _____ 4. Complete one year of Junior or Teen Leadership in your Sheep Project.
- _____ 5. Describe the symptoms, treatment and prevention of: tetanus, soremouth, coccidiosis, and urinary calculi.
- _____ 6. Identify at least three things you from which you have benefited as a direct result of participating in 4-H and showing livestock.
- _____ 7. Help a new member select a lamb.
- _____ 8. Explain and teach about diseases and health maintenance you have previously learned about.
- _____ 9. Be able to explain and teach about lambing complications and normal lambing management.
- _____ 10. Help with a showmanship clinic at your project level, county-wide level, or a regional event.

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SHEEP PROFICIENCY

Level 5 – Researcher

Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.

Date Completed 4-H Member's Name: _____
Leader's Initials 4-H Club: _____ Project Leader: _____

- _____ 1. Demonstrate ability to access Internet sheep information easily.
- _____ 2. Develop a breeding program for your own flock, or a flock you are familiar with. Chart procedures and analyze genetic results for key characteristics.
- _____ 3. Assist or observe the slaughtering of a lamb and evaluate the carcass quality.
- _____ 4. Assist in preparing a ram for the breeding season (marker, vaccinations, shear, worm, trim feet, breeding soundness exam (BSE), etc.)

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH PROJECT RECORD

REQUIREMENTS:

For members to qualify for proficiency awards they must complete all the requirements below and give a 4-H presentation during the 4-H year.

- Have up-to-date and complete enrollment packet and enrollment fees on file at the 4-H office.
- Attend 80% of club and project meetings or meet requirements of a county-wide project.
- Members must provide 4-H Records to the club leader for project completion verification.
- Records must include **Personal Development Report** and **Annual Project Report** form for each project a member is applying for a Proficiency Award, and the completed Proficiency Form.

Developed by the Proficiencies Committee – Butte County 4-H. Adapted from Santa Clara County publication, Lassen County and Lake County publication, which was adapted from DNAR North Region Publication No. NR-PP-001

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