



Sheep Project



The 4-H sheep project is part of the animal science education program. The program will teach you how to select, manage, and harvest market sheep and raise breeding ewes. Learn basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of sheep. You will also:

- Demonstrate knowledge for feeding, breeding, and managing sheep.
- Learn valuable scientific research and its influence on animals and the meat industry.
- Practice the 4-H life skills of decision-making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing, and learning to learn.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Know your sheep breeds and select your animal.
- Understand the different types of feed and quantity to feed.
- Recognize a healthy animal.
- Train your lamb to lead, pose.
- Learn to groom and show your animal at county shows.
- Identify parts of the animal and cuts of meat.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing.
- Understand the digestive system of a ruminant, and identify common external parasites and other health issues.
- Understand medication uses, storage, proper administration and how it relates to food safety.
- Develop judging and meat-grading skills.
- Make ethical decisions.

Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Become familiar with the diverse sheep industry.
- Balance a sheep ration and understand feed quality.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Identify and learn to treat and prevent common diseases.
- Evaluate sheep carcasses and market your product.

Inspire Kids to Do

Explore

"I might like to do this."

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

Learn

"I can do this."

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

Practice

"I'm interested in this."

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

Experience

"I will be this."

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

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Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Record the health contributions gained from grooming, walking, and caring for sheep.
- Ask a local veterinarian about proper antibiotics uses and withdrawal time needed for sheep.
- Test different ways to prepare meat: grilling, braising, broiling, roasting, baking, stewing, sautéing.

Science and Agriculture

- Study the body and skeleton structures of the whether (castrated male sheep) or ewe.
- Research the digestive, respiratory, organ, and endocrine systems of sheep.
- Learn meat cuts, grading systems, consumer preferences, and price.

Community Vitality

- Serve as a junior/teen leader for mentoring others in the sheep project.
- Plan and lead a sheep grooming and showmanship clinic for 4-H members.
- Coordinate an educational tour for sheep project youth visiting a farm or meat locker.

Communication and the Arts

- Create a poster showing the different breeds of sheep.
- Demonstrate how to use and care for sheep showing equipment.
- Teach a younger 4-H member important traits in selecting a market or breeding lamb.

Career Development

- Visit a sheep farm to discover employment opportunities.
- Research breed associations.
- Explore the [K-State Animal Science Department](#), and visit the sheep facility and Meats Lab.
- Tour a meat locker.
- Interview a meat scientist.
- Ask a chef about preparing meat.

Local Contact Information

Resources and Events	Curriculum and Resources	4-H Record Keeping	Project Exhibit Ideas
<p>Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities. Take part in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes • Junior Producer Days • K-State Sheep and Meat Goat Center • Breed resources 	<p>Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your local extension office or you can order directly from the 4-H Mall.</p> <p>National Sheep Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lambs, Rams and You (ages 7 to 10) • Shear Delight (ages 11 to 13) • Leading the Flock (ages 14+) <p>Kansas 4-H Sheep Project Page</p>	<p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100) • Kansas 4-H Record Keeping 	<p>Design a poster explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sheep breeds; • body structure, systems; • meat cuts. • show equipment <p>Prepare an emergency medical kit for your barn.</p> <p>Prepare a show kit.</p> <p>Make a scrapbook of your animals.</p> <p>Educate other youth and the public about sheep.</p> <p>Showcase proper handling and fitting techniques for other 4-H members.</p>

