

# 4-H

## Navajo Churro Sheep Proficiency Program

### A Member's Guide

#### OVERVIEW

The 4-H Navajo Churro Sheep Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your 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 project.

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

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/> This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Tehama County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our 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 breeder's 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 Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising sheep.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising sheep.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced Navajo Churro Sheep shepherd.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Navajo Churro Sheep, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

# NAVAJO CHURRO SHEEP

## Level I - Explorer

Date  
Completed

1. Identify the three wool types found on a Navajo-Churro, show where they are found, and discuss their differences and uses.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain/discuss: endangered, minor breeds, genetic diversity.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Identify the following terms:  
\_\_\_\_\_
 

Ram	Whether	Polled	Castrate
Ewe	Purebred	Dock	Tag
Gestation	Parturition	Spinning	Shear
Carding	Cards	Spindle	
4. Name the characteristics of a Navajo-Churro sheep.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Identify sheep parts from a diagram or live sheep.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe how to care for and feed a bummer lamb.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe/explain the different types of equipment used to prepare a Navajo-Churro lamb for show.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Give a brief history of the Navajo-Churro sheep.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Discuss the differences between the Navajo-Churro sheep and other sheep breeds.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Take part in a showmanship or judging contest.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Attend a sheep field day or judging day.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Discuss/understand the importance of these sheep to the Dine (or Navajo).  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Demonstrate how to card wool. Explain why it is necessary to do so.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Discuss internal and external parasites, different ways of parasite control and the need for controlling parasites, and assist in deworming.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What is the normal temperature range for sheep?  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Describe three ways to dock lambs.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NAVAJO CHURRO SHEEP Level II - Producer

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify the following terms:  
Flushing                      Cull                      Heat periods                      Close breeding  
Line breeding                      Grading up                      Open faced                      Clean legs  
Fat tail
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Submit a management record plan or describe your plan for a one year proposed breeding project. Discuss ram and ewe management plans, lamb management, vaccination program, feed and supplies needed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Demonstrate/explain different ways to spin wool.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Keep a personal reference library of Navajo-Churro literature that interests you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain the digestive process of sheep.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Identify desirable Navajo-Churro fleece characteristics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Help a new member select a lamb.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Assemble information on Navajo-Churro sheep for interested people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Visit a Navajo-Churro sheep breeder. Learn how ewes are handled during lambing; management of rams, ewes, and lambs; how wool and lambs are marketed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Attend spinning demonstration; learn how to card and spin wool.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Learn how to skirt and properly tie a fleece.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Discuss health precautions to take for lambs that have been docked and/or castrated.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Explain how sheep health affects wool quality.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Be able to administer an injection and oral medication.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Explain difference between subcutaneous and IM injections.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Discuss these diseases: eterotoxemia, pneumonia, rabies, scours, mastitis, navel ill, and bloat.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAVAJO CHURRO SHEEP**  
**Level III - Consumer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings, fair or other public event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Develop a breeding program for your own flock, or help another members with theirs; analyze and improve genetic results for wool quality, color, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Discuss the importance of keeping accurate pedigree and breeding records.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Expand personal reference library.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain the steps necessary to go from sheep to blanket or rug.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Complete a Jr./Teen Leader program in this project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Continue promoting Navajo-Churro sheep to interested people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Discuss/teach other about existence of other endangered livestock breeds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Donate sheep and/or wool to Dine elder spinners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Select a ram or ewe, or assist another member in selecting a ram or ewe that will upgrade your or another's herd. Be able to give reasons for selecting the particular animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Maintain health, production, breeding and genetic records on your flock and individual sheep.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Explore meat, lamb and wool market in your area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Start learning how to weave.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Discuss lambing complications, explain normal lambing position.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Explain health needs of the mother and her newborn lamb(s).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Give a demonstration at county presentation day.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAVAJO CHURRO SHEEP**  
**Level IV - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | 1. Help another member in a Navajo-Churro sheep project.   |
|  | 2. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.   |
|  | 3. Expand personal reference library.  |
|  | 4. Continue to maintain and expand on health, production and management records for your flock and individual animals. |
|  | 5. Teach a beginning member how to perfect their showmanship and how to flip their lamb.                               |
|  | 6. Complete a Junior or Teen leader project for this project.  |
|  | 7. Explain and teach about diseases and health maintenance you have previously learned about.                          |

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAVAJO CHURRO SHEEP**  
**Level V - Researcher**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Give an oral report at a project meeting or a county group meeting or do a demonstration on a sheep-related subject.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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. Make something different from your Navajo-Churro Sheep project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Diagram and explain the different breeding programs (cross breeding, line breeding, out breeding, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Assist in preparing a ram for the breeding season (marker, vaccinations, shear, worm, trim feet, breeding soundness exam, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Explore and experiment in depth an area of interest in the sheep industry.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Navajo-Churro Sheep Proficiency  
in Tehama County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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