

# **KERN COUNTY 4-H SHEEP PROJECT GUIDE**

## Lesson Plans

### **4-H SHEEP PROJECT OUTLINE**

#### **MARKET LAMB**

##### Meeting Information to Cover

1. Project Overview
2. Facilities and Equipment
3. Purchasing and Financing
4. Selection
5. Feeding
6. Health
7. Fitting and Showing
8. Record Book “Requirement”
9. Breeding Sheep/Market Lambs

#### **NOTE: A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR SHEEP**

1. Kern County Farm Advisor Office, Bakersfield – *“Sheep Magazine”*
2. Local Book Stores – *“Raising Sheep The Modern Way”*

## **PROJECT MEETING**

### Number 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW

1. Roll Call
2. Review all members' past experience
3. Introduce and welcome new members
4. Discuss possible project cost
5. Discuss meat-breed sheep vs. wool breed sheep, give examples
6. Discuss possible meeting times/places
7. Get junior leaders involved
8. Open for questions
9. Discuss record books; they are a requirement

## **PROJECT MEETING**

Number 2: FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

### **MARKET LAMB**

- Should have a pen space at least 10' x 10'
- Should have a cover from rain, weather, and sun
- Equipment needed:
  - Shears/Clipper
  - Blocking Table
  - Halter
  - Water Bucket
  - Feeder for Hay and Grain

**NOTE: DO NOT EVER FEED HAY ON THE GROUND**

### **PURCHASING AND FINANCING**

Estimated Cost

- Facilities
- Equipment
- Feed
- Health Supplies
- Show Entry Costs
- Lamb or Breeding Sheep

## **PROJECT MEETING**

### Number 3: Selecting a Project Market Lamb

- You can raise your project market lamb to market weight in about four to five months
- A good average weight for a feeder lamb should be about 55 to 75 pounds when purchased in May
- Things to consider when buying your project market feeder lambs:

#### OVERALL APPEARANCE

Good straight back  
All four legs are good  
Eyes are clear  
Nose clean  
Long wide loin  
Good muscling  
Clean brisket area  
Straight neck  
Good head  
Good overall conformation  
Good price

**NOTE: CONFORMATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BREED CHARACTER**

## **PROJECT MEETING**

### Number 4: Feeding

- Types of Feed

Roughages

Concentrates

**NOTE: BOTH TYPES OF FEED CAN CONTAIN FIVE NUTRIENTS; ENERGY, PROTEIN, VITAMINS, MINERALS, AND WATER.**

### Balancing a Ration

- To mix a ration properly, you must know feeds and the nutrients they supply
- All packaged lamb feeds have a tag attached to describe its mixture
- Salt

**NOTE: OUR FEED COMPNAIES TODAY PROVIDE US WITH GREAT FEED PACKAGES, TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN OUR PROJECTS**

### Health

- Worm your project
- Fresh water
- Clean facilities
- Fly protection
- Sickness

## **PROJECT MEETING**

Number 5: Fitting, Showing, Management, Record Book

Fitting and Showing

- Equipment used for fitting
- Trim feet
- Showmanship
- Proper process for presenting in show ring
- Practice, Practice, Practice

Management

- Record keeping of all expenses for project

**NOTE: THIS IS A BIG PART OF YOUR RECORD BOOK ALONG WITH OUR EXPERIENCES WE RECORD**

Record Book

- Review of purpose for 4-H record books

**NOTE: THE RECORD BOOK IS A REQUIREMENT EACH YEAR IN 4-H AND COUNTY FAIR**

To ensure the weight of your market lamb is on track for our county fair, you need a place to weigh. A good average daily gain is one half pound a day with a good feed program. Always check the fair entry catalog for entry weight and top weight each year.

## **PROJECT MEETING**

Number 6: Breeding Sheep

Breeding Sheep

- Discuss costs
- Discuss breeds
- Discuss responsibilities
  - A. Care
  - B. Shearing
  - C. Feeding
  - D. Facilities
  - E. Breeding time
  - F. Lambing time
  - G. Facilities
  - H. Marketing
  - I. Management in general
  - J. Time involved
  - K. Health
  - L. Record Books

**NOTE: CHECK THE “NOTES FROM THE SHEEP BARN” FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO USE IN PROJECT MEETINGS**