



Animal Science 4-H Sheep

North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

In the 4-H sheep project, you can select from a breeding animal or a market animal. Breeding animals allow you to start your own herd and produce wool, while market animals produce meat products for people.



- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning and caring for one or more head of livestock.
- Keep production and financial records on one or more head of livestock.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- Learn the value of scientific research and its influence on animals and the meat industry.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know your sheep breeds. • Select your animal. • Identify parts of the animal and cuts of meat. • Train your lamb to lead. • Feed your animal. • Learn to show your animal. • Groom your animal. • Learn about all the different sheep byproducts. • Determine yield and grades of lambs. • Recognize a healthy animal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramp up your judging skills. • Make ethical decisions. • Understand the digestive system. • Identify common external parasites and other health issues. • Understand medication uses and storage, how to administer the medication and how it relates to food safety. • Learn the appropriate handling techniques and housing for sheep. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about EPDs and select a sire for your animals. • Balance a sheep ration and understand feed quality. • Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques. • Identify and learn to treat common diseases. • Evaluate lamb carcasses. • Market your product.

Pass it on!

Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Teach someone the important traits in selecting a breeding sheep.
- Create a poster showing the lamb cuts and how to prepare them.
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.

Citizenship

- Volunteer to do sheep promotions.
- Provide lamb taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair weigh-in.

Leadership

- Arrange a tour of your farm.
- Start a livestock judging team with help from an adult volunteer.
- Lead a sheep-grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members.

Entrepreneurship

- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm or imaginary farm.

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
NDSU is an equal opportunity institution

Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h/ or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



Animal Science 4-H Sheep

North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

Here are other opportunities to explore sheep:

- Start a perpetual flock with help from the North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association.
- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration.
- Visit a local meat locker or grocery meat case to observe preparation and packaging.
- Learn how to evaluate meat cuts and yield grade and how these affect taste and cost.
- Compare feed tags from different companies.
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- Attend a livestock show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging different species.
- Exhibit at or attend local, regional, state or national sheep shows and conferences.
- Attend livestock camp as part of the North Dakota 4-H Camp and bring a sheep, or participate in a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your county fair sheep show or the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University to explore those majors (www.ndsu.edu).



Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H sheep show:
 - ⇒ Breeding
 - ⇒ Market lambs
 - ⇒ Showmanship
 - ⇒ Carcass
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a sheep-related topic:
 - ⇒ Nutritional value of lamb
 - ⇒ Sheep meat cuts and proper preparation
 - ⇒ Feeding rations
 - ⇒ Preventive vaccinations
 - ⇒ Photos of different sheep breeds
 - ⇒ Daily routine in caring for animals
 - ⇒ Making a rope halter
 - ⇒ Grooming techniques
 - ⇒ Developing a foundation flock
 - ⇒ Best care techniques for newborns
 - ⇒ Sheep byproducts
 - ⇒ Ethnic demand for lamb
 - ⇒ Display of feeds or ration contents or analysis
 - ⇒ Understanding EIDs
 - ⇒ Research how lamb check-off dollars are used
 - ⇒ Video on fitting a lamb
 - ⇒ Ethical treatment of sheep

4-H Resources

- [National 4-H Curriculum](#)
- [Youth Market Lamb Project Guide](#) (GBJ166)
- [ND 4-H Livestock Showmanship Manual](#) (GB092)
- Live Animal Evaluation Manual (GB091) (*available from your local Extension office*)
- [Sheep Learning Laboratory Kit](#)
- Livestock Camp at [ND 4-H Camp](#)

Other Resources

- North Dakota Lamb and Wool Producers Association www.ndlwpa.com
- NDSU Sheep research www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndsua/g/livestock/sheep
- [ND 4-H Lamb Ultrasound Carcass Evaluation](#) (GBJ09)
- [4-H Sheep Showmanship Video](#)

Recordkeeping

- [4-H Sheep Breeding Record](#)
- [4-H Sheep Lifetime Record](#)
- [Market Animal Project Record](#)

Contests

- [State 4-H Livestock Contest](#)

Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h/ or contact your county NDSU Extension office.