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
- 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.

### Learning More
- 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.

### Expanding Horizons
- 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.

### 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.

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.
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
- Research how lamb check-off dollars are used
- 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 (GB1166)
- 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](http://www.ndlwpa.com)
- NDSU Sheep research [www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndsualivestock/sheep](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndsualivestock/sheep)
- ND 4-H Lamb Ultrasound Carcass Evaluation (GB090)
- 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

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