



When youth have a passion for animals, the 4-H Sheep Project provides a great opportunity to explore their interest. From judging contests and visual presentations to animal production and competitive showing, 4-H'ers can participate in aspects of the project with or without animal ownership.

The project teaches animal husbandry including selecting, feeding, managing, and marketing of sheep. Developing teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making alongside both animals and people is unique to the livestock program experience. Hobbies or careers in animal agriculture enable utilization of these lifelong skills and project mastery.

4-H Thrive

Positive Youth Development

Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

**Mississippi State University is
an equal opportunity
institution.**

Starting Out Beginner

Starting a livestock project is exciting and challenging!

There is so much to learn!

Join a 4-H livestock club to meet knowledgeable, experienced mentors and friends.

Volunteer at your county show.

Develop visual presentations to learn about topics like animal health and handling, then share them with your club and in competitions.

Learning More Intermediate

Put your knowledge into practice by competing in contests and purchasing an animal.

Join your livestock or meats judging teams.

Buy a sheep project animal and present it at your county, district, and state shows.

Explore complex topics for visual presentations such as genetics, reproduction, and nutrition.

Document project activities and goals in your record book.

Exploring Depth Advanced

Advance your showmanship to the next level competing in regional and national shows.

Expand your learning to multiple species with the livestock bowl.

Showcase your skills in the Sheep Premier Exhibitor competition.

Share your project experience with beginners.

Use your project record book to review average daily gains, costs, and other project milestones.

Expand your experiences!



Resources

1. *4-H Animal Lines*. MSU Extension Newsletter
2. *Animal Identification Process for Mississippi Junior Livestock Shows*. MSU Extension Publication P3385
3. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy*. MSU Extension Publication P2806
4. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy: Proper Drug Use*. MSU Extension Publication P3689
5. *Lamb Showmanship*. MSU Extension Publication P2211
6. *Leadership Opportunities in the 4-H Livestock Program*. MSU Extension Publication P2837
7. *Market Lamb Project Guide: Healthcare Management*. MSU Extension Publication P2477
8. *Market Lamb Project Guide: Nutrition*. MSU Extension Publication P2478
9. *Market Lamb Project Guide: Show Lamb Selection and Development*. MSU Extension Publication P2479
10. *Mississippi Livestock Quality Assurance Program for Youth Producers*. MSU Publication P2526
11. *Top 10 Values and Skills Gained Through Participation on a Judging Team*. MSU Extension Publication P3003
12. *4-H Livestock Judging Manual*. MSU Extension Publication P2289
13. *4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl: How to Get Involved!* MSU Extension Publication P3467

Connections & Events

For Juniors
 Project Achievement
 Day Contests

For Seniors
 Club Congress Contests
 Premier Exhibitor
 Contest
 National Livestock &
 Meats Judging

For Juniors & Seniors
 State & District
 Livestock Judging Lamb
 Princess Contests

Contact your local Extension office to learn more.

Curriculum

Level 1 Book: Rams, Lambs & You. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 2 Book: Shear Delight. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 3 Book: Leading the Flock. National 4-H Curriculum.

Sheep Helper's Guide. National 4-H Curriculum.

4-H Record Book

4-H members practice skills in data collection, organization, and analysis as they document their project activities and goals in their record books. The books provide practical information as well as highlight progress made toward goals.

Juniors and Seniors can enter the state record book competition. Seniors are eligible to win a trip to National 4-H Congress for Lamb Project record books.

Activity Suggestions

Service and Leadership projects related to the Sheep Project:

- Volunteer at your county and district shows
- Lead a sheep showmanship clinic for your club
- Conduct a presentation to promote lamb products

Competitive Activities (Indicate Jr or Sr or Both):

Judging:

- National Livestock Judging, Sr.
- State and National Meats Judging, Sr.
- State and District Livestock Judging, Jr. & Sr.

Visual Presentation:

- Sheep Visual Presentation at Club Congress, Sr.
- Sheep Visual Presentation at Project Achievement Day, Jr.

Miscellaneous:

- Hair Sheep and Lamb Shows: Showmanship, Market Lamb, Wether Dams, Market Hair Sheep, and Breeding Hair Sheep, Jr. & Sr.
- Livestock Bowl, Sr.
- Sheep Premier Exhibitor Contest, Sr.
- State Record Book Contest, Jr. & Sr.

