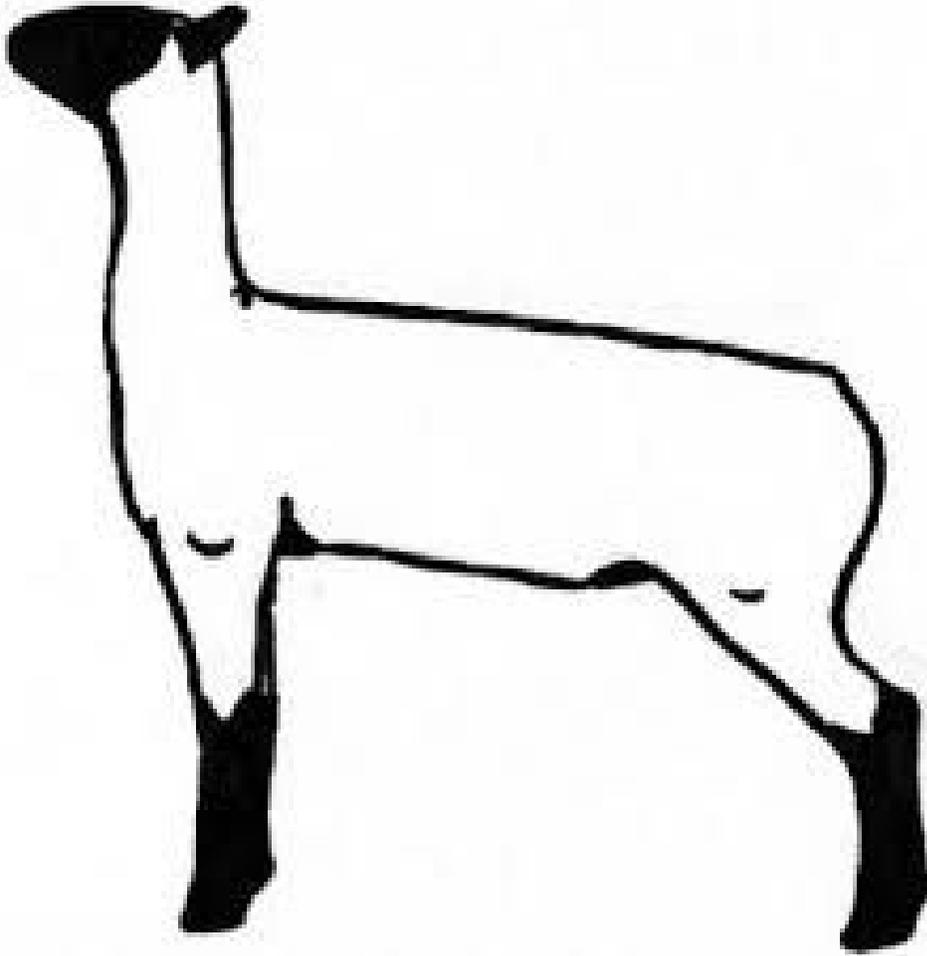


# ***All about your lamb project***



BY: Dianne and Nancy Vander Stel

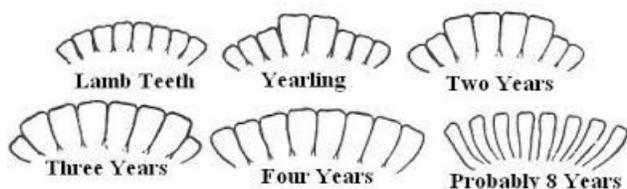
Any Questions

VanderStel Sheep- 231-624-0207

Nancy- 231-590-0383

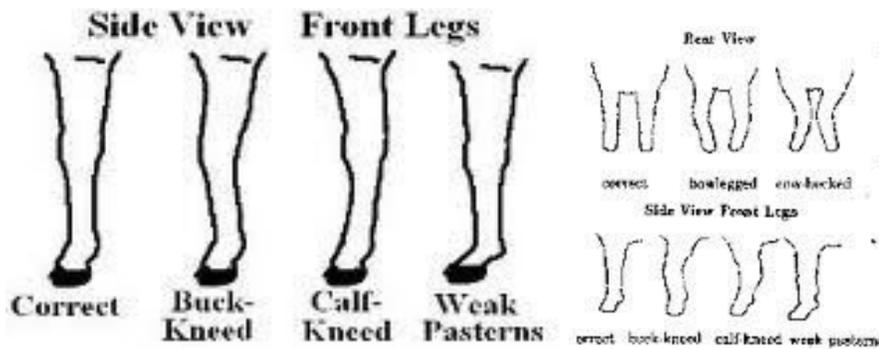
## Fun Facts about your lamb

- Sheep have four stomachs. That means sheep are ruminants.
- The names of the stomachs are abomasum, omasum, reticulum, and rumen.
- If you ever need to know the order in which the stomachs are in a sheep it's alphabetical. Like they are listed above.
- A sheeps gestation period ( how long it is pregnant) is 148-152 days or roughly 5 months.
- The normal temperature of a sheep is 101 degrees to 103 degrees.
- An adult sheep has 32 teeth.
- Copper is toxic to sheep, so is the plant, milkweed.
- Lanolin in sheep's wool is used in lotions and makes your hands soft.
- Suffolks wool is used for carpets while a columbia and other wool breeds are used for clothing and yarn.
- How to tell a lambs age by their teeth.



# Market Lamb Selection

- **Health**- Is the first step in picking your lamb. You want to pick a lamb that is healthy and sound. A lamb that is happy, alert, eating, drinking, and moving around is what you want to look for. If a lamb is slow moving, has it's head down and it's ears are droopy with a runny nose it is probably not feeling well. A lamb that doesn't feel good probably won't grow good. Also, you don't want to pick a lamb that has scabs around it's mouth or that has scabs or missing patches of wool. If a lamb has these things it is most likely sick and will not grow good. You want to pick a happy healthy lamb for your project.
- **Type and conformation**- The next step is what type of lamb do you want and how good is its conformation. The type of lamb is important do you want a meat or a wool breed. For market purposes you would pick a meat breed. Once you pick the type you want to make sure the lambs have good conformation. This means that the lambs feet, mouth, and body all look good.



These pictures show what the legs should look like and what problems the legs can have. The other thing you should be looking at is are the teeth correct. If the top jaw is farther out than the bottom the lamb has parrot mouth. If the bottom jaw is farther out the lamb has bull-dog mouth. You also; want to make sure the body is straight and the back is straight.

- **Style**- Style is how good the lamb looks, or it's "eye appeal". You want a lamb that is structurally correct, long, thick/wide, a long and wide loin, with a big butt, and that catches your eye and makes you look at it. You want a lamb that you keep spotting over and over that just stands there and says "hey, look at me i'm the best lamb here".

**It's up to you to pick your lamb, but if you're having trouble or not 100% sure what you're looking for ask the breeder. They will be happy to help you pick the perfect lamb for you.**

- After you pick your lamb it's time to take it home. When you first get them home it is time to bond with your lamb and create a friendship. You don't want to stress it out too much. For the first week after you get your lamb just go out and sit with him/her. Read them a book, sing to them, dance, or take a nap. Let them get used to you and become your friend before you try to work with them.. Once your lamb likes you it will start to follow you around and it will be easier to halter train your lamb. Start by just putting the halter on your lamb while you're sitting with them for the first week. Then start walking them around the pen. Once they follow you around and walk with you in the pen take them out for a walk. Always reward your lamb with a little treat like a cheese- it or maybe a handful of grain or even mini marshmallows. Soon your lamb will be walking all over with you.

## **Feeding and Exercising your Lamb**

### **● Feeding your market lamb**

How much should you be feeding your market lamb each day?

Answer: Your lamb should be fed twice a day. Your lamb should get around a pound of grain each feeding (About a quart size container full ), or what they can eat in 15 minutes, and a section of hay twice a day. You also need to change your lambs water everyday and make sure it stays clean and fresh. On average a full grown lamb will go through 3 bales of hay a month and at least 60 pounds of grain a month. Your lamb will not go through quite this much food at first, but by the end of your project it will. Increase your lambs grain if it looks skinny. Ask your breeder if you have questions. If your lamb is at the perfect weight and it's a few weeks until fair mix its grain with oats. Do about 50/50 with the grain and oats. The weight your lamb should be at fair is about 130-150lbs some may be bigger and depending on the frame of your lamb they could be smaller. On average a good finish weight should be 135lbs. If you have any questions call your breeder and ask them what they think.

### **● Exercising**

Lambs need to be exercised everyday. You need to walk your lamb at least a mile a day. If you do want a break, which I understand it's a lot of work make a chart. Just figure in one week you should walk/ run your lamb at least 5 miles. So take a day off or split it among the days of the week. Do sprints with your lambs up hills. Running a lamb uphill especially up a sand hill will build your lambs muscles and give it a bigger more muscled butt. Try walking with your lamb then jogging then sprinting then walking then sprinting then jogging or make up your own order. Sprinting in short 100 yard bursts will build your lambs muscles the best especially if it is uphill.

## **Veterinary care for your lamb**

Sometimes your lamb gets sick. When this happens it's important to know what to do. Sometimes your lamb will be really sick and you will need to call your breeder and then maybe even a vet. You should call your breeder if your lamb is sick because it can save you a lot of money and time when they can tell you over the phone what is wrong and what to do. (We, Vander Stell Sheep personally will come out and check our lamb if it is sick and help you if you call.) Sometimes it is necessary to call a vet. Although there are a lot of things you can do on your own and here is a list of things to put in your lamb first aid kit.

### **Supplies you may need in your lamb first aid kit**

- An old thermometer that still works and that you will only use on the lambs.
- hoof trimmers
- Syringes usually 6mm are good
- liquid pepto bismol regular flavor (some lambs don't like cherry flavored)
- black pepper
- vet wrap
- paper towel
- breeders phone number and vets phone number if you have a vet

## **How to treat your lamb if it has diarrhea**

If your lamb has diarrhea there are two things you can do.

1. I would first give your lamb pepper water. This is a trick used on the show circuits to stop diarrhea in 15 minutes. All you do is put water in a glass and shake some pepper into the water and mix it up. Then get a syringe and fill the syringe with the pepper water. Make sure you get some pepper in the syringe and give it to the lamb. You can give this to your lamb a few times a day if the diarrhea comes back.
2. If the pepper water doesn't work, then give your lamb 3 syringes of pepto bismol. Do this twice a day until the diarrhea stops.

## **How to check your lamb to see if it's sick**

If your lamb is acting strange and mopey and not eating here are a few things to do to check if it is sick.

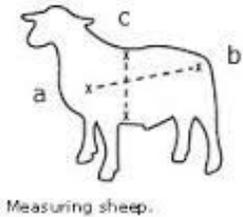
1. Take your lambs temperature. ( put the thermometer in its butt) The normal temperature should be between 101 and 103 degrees.
2. Are its eyes watery? Your lamb could be sick or have something irritating its eyes.
3. Is the lamb coughing? Does it have a runny nose? If yes, your lamb Maybe sick.
4. Is the lamb eating and drinking? If no, your lamb is probably sick or stressed out.
5. Call your breeder and ask questions

## **Worming your lamb**

Your lamb will be wormed when it leaves and goes home with you from the breeder. The question is though when should you worm your lamb after that?The answer to that is really only once before fair if you even need to worm your lamb. The only time you really need to worm your lamb is if you stress it out by moving it or if it starts to lose weight or just isn't gaining any weight. Most of the time you don't even need to worm your lamb during your project unless you move it around a lot.

## Knowing your lambs weight

You can estimate a lambs weight by using a piece of string, a tape measure, and a calculator. First put the string around the lamb right behind the front legs, this is the circumference (C) measure how long the circumference is. Then measure from the front shoulder to the back hip. That will be how long (L) the lamb is. The equation is  $C \times C \times L$  divided by 300. this is usually accurate within 10 pounds.



Watch how your lamb grows and check their weight every month

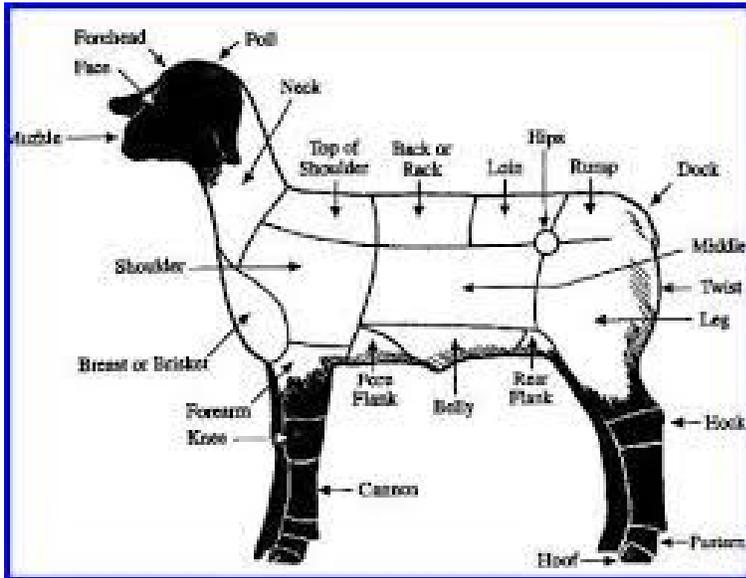
April	May	June	July	August

## keep records of your lamb

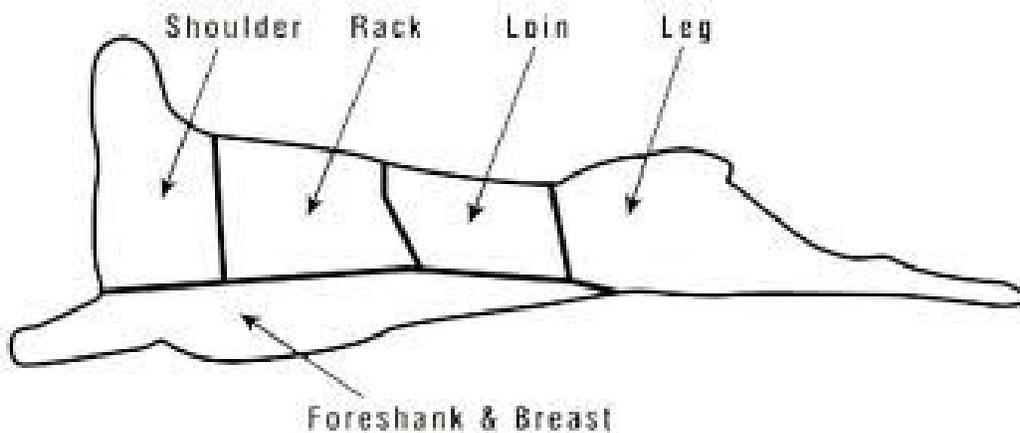
<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of birth</u>	<u>breed</u>	<u>ewe or wether</u>	<u>Tag number/</u> <u>S</u>

## Knowing the parts of your lamb

This is important because a judge can come up to you and ask what a part of your lamb is called or where a part of your lamb is. They can even ask you what the five main cuts of the lamb are.



## Different cuts of meat



## Common Questions a Judge Will Ask You

1. Tell me the strength of your market lamb.
2. Name something you would improve about your lamb.
3. What does your lamb weigh? What is an ideal weight for a lamb?
4. Name wool breeds/Name meat breeds.
5. What was your lambs daily average gain?
6. How old is your lamb? How do you tell age?
7. What is the gestation period of a sheep?
8. Name and point to various meat parts. Leg/Loin/Rack, ect.
9. How much is wool and lamb on the market?
10. What is the ideal amount of back fat (in inches) on a lamb?

Possible answers:

1. Well- muscled leg. Nice long and wide loin. Good overall strength and muscling.
2. Increase muscling. More length overall. Add more bone or height. Larger frame.
3. Ideal finish lamb weight is 125 to 155 pounds.
4. Wool breeds: Columbia, Romney, Shetland, Corridale, Lincoln, Cotswool. Meat breeds: Suffolk, Oxford, Hampshire, Montadale, Polypay.
5. Ending weight (subtract) beginning weight (divide) by number of days on feed (equals) average daily gain. It should be between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 pound a day.
6. You can tell a sheep's age by the number of teeth.
7. 5 months or 148 - 152 days.
8. See carcass cuts.
9. Wool: 0.75 cent and up per pound. Lamb: \$1.65 and up per pound.
10.  $\frac{1}{10}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch.

## **How to show your lamb**

When you're showing a lamb you have to pay attention to where the judge is; you need to have the lamb between you and the judge at all times.

When the judge moves around you need to move slowly and calmly to the correct side of your lamb. you will walk your lamb with one hand under the chin and the other either at our side or on the back of the lambs neck behind the ears. when the judge is in front of you move to the side of your lamb about a step away and hold the head with your fingers, of both hands, under the chin and your thumbs behind the lambs ears.

## **Correct Show technique**



Notice how the exhibitor holds the neck at a 90 degree angle and the back legs are just far enough back to show muscle but, is not over stretched to make the lamb look uncomfortable and have less muscle. Also, the exhibitor is using the inside of their leg to brace the lamb.

## **Incorrect feet placement**



Notice how the exhibitor has the head at the right angle but, the back feet are too far back making the lamb look small in the leg and the feet near the bottom look structurally wrong and incorrect. The lamb looks uncomfortable. A key thing to look for too know if the legs are too far back is if there is wrinkles on the back where the butt/leg meet the end of the loin. The back should be smooth and not have any wrinkles except for at the neck.

## **Incorrect feet**



Notice in this picture how the back feet are placed too far apart. it makes the butt look skinny and not full. Even the front feet are too far apart making the lamb look uncomfortable.

## The Lamb looks good but.....



Notice in this picture how good the lamb looks the only problem is that the exhibitor is not correctly bracing (showing the lambs muscle) the lamb. The exhibitor should be using the inside of their thigh to push into the lamb and hold the lamb in place. When you only use the outside of your leg or your knee, like in the picture, you let the lamb gain control. You could get hurt or hurt your knee if they were to push you over. When you only use your knee to push into the lamb you are giving them the chance to push you over, around, and hurt you unintentionally.

## Front view



The first picture shows the correct technique. The second picture the person is standing a little too far away and has the lambs neck crooked. The third picture the exhibitor is too close to the lamb and has the neck too far forward.

# Test Your Sheep Knowledge

1. What is a female sheep called?
2. What is a male sheep called?
3. What is a wether?
4. Name a mineral that sheep eat.
5. Name a by-product of sheep.
6. What is wool?
7. What is the price of wool?
8. Where is the leg of lamb?
9. What cut is in the loin?
10. Where are shoulder steaks located?
11. What is the shank?
12. What breed is your lamb?
13. What was your lambs beginning weight?
14. How old will your lamb be at the fair?
15. How many pounds of feed do you feed your lamb a day?
16. Tell a strength of your lamb.
17. Tell a weakness of your lamb.
18. Is your lamb a wether or ewe?
19. What is market price?
20. Name a wool breed.
21. Name a mutton breed of sheep.
22. What is the difference between a wool breed and a mutton breed?
23. Why are sheep important to the world?
24. Where did the Suffolk breed originate?
25. What is the most expensive cut of the lamb? (meat)
26. What percentage does a lamb dress?
27. What is a good daily gain for your lamb?
28. What does the term structurally correct mean?
29. What does the term firm handling mean?
30. What do the terms over finished and under finished mean?
31. What does the term expression of muscle mean?
32. What does the term cleanest carcass mean?
33. What does the term higher ratio of lean to fat mean?
34. What does the term more flare to the lower leg mean?
35. How do tell a lambs age?
36. What does the term parrot mouth mean?
37. What does the term monkey mouth mean?
38. What mineral is toxic to a sheep?

## **Answers:**

1. Ewe
2. Ram, wether, or buck
3. Castrated male
4. salt
5. Wool, lanolin, paint, gum, piano keys, crayons, shampoo, insulation
6. Covering on a lambs body
7. 0.75 cents a pound and up. This depends on the breed of sheep and the part of the country.
8. Hind end
9. Lamb chops
10. Shoulder
11. Lower leg
12. You should know this if not ask your breeder
13. You should know
14. You should know
15. Weigh your feed
16. Perhaps a strong leg, or expression (lots) of muscle
17. Weak top or pastern
18. This is up to you to know about your lamb
19. Check the market prices
20. Columbia , Romney
21. Suffolk, Hampshire, Oxford
22. Wool breeds shears heavier clip and lighter muscle. Mutton or meat breeds have more muscle (meat) and shear less pounds of wool.
23. Clothing, shelter, food (more people eat lamb in the world than any other meat)
24. Suffolk country, England
25. Lamb chops
26. 50 %
27. ½ to 1 pound a day
28. Lamb is straight of back and feet and legs and is long and good muscle
29. Muscles are expressed. Lamb is lean
30. Over finished: too fat Under finished: too lean
31. There is so much meat that it is bulging
32. Lean - no waste or fat
33. Desirable % of lean meat is higher than % of desirable fat
34. Flare= muscle bulge
35. Number and condition of teeth
36. Top pad juts over bottom pad
37. Bottom pad juts past top pad
38. Copper