

University of Vermont Extension

4-H Sheep Project

Handbook

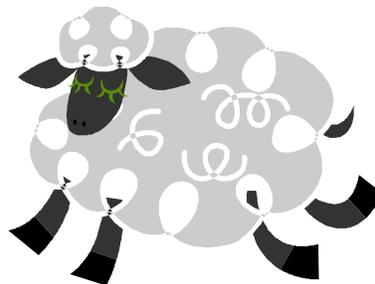


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2020

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The 4-H sheep project is organized, implemented and evaluated by the Vermont State 4-H Sheep Committee in conjunction with University of Vermont Extension. The state committee consists of volunteer 4-H sheep leaders and youth from across the state. It is the efforts of this state committee that make the University of Vermont 4-H Sheep project possible and successful. Any 4-H leader or 4-H member who is interested in being on the committee is welcome.

The following descriptions are the events the state committee implements through a typical year.

Lambing Clinic

This clinic is usually held in February or March because this is the time when many new lambs arrive. Preparing for lambing, care of newborns and what to do about lambing problems and sick lambs are some of the topics covered at the clinic. It may be held at a private farm or a commercial farm. The clinic focuses on information for younger members and those new to the sheep project.

Quiz Bowl

Quiz Bowl is a question-answer activity set up in a game style to challenge members' knowledge of "everything sheep". This contest is usually held the fourth Saturday in March at a different location around the state each year. Participants use an electronic buzzer set that enables each member to buzz in when they think they know the answer to a question. This is a fun time for the youth to test their knowledge and gain new information.

Skill-A-Thon

This is usually held in conjunction with quiz bowl. It is a series of tabletop, hands on learning activities for the youth. Participants move from station to station demonstrating their skills at various sheep related tasks. Some examples of stations: using scales to weigh feed, learning how to give injections, or identifying the parts of a sheep.

Fitting & Show Clinic

This is held in April or May. Members get help on fitting an animal for a show and then taking part in a practice show to get some valuable tips on presenting a sheep to its best advantage. This is a great opportunity to learn and ask questions in preparation for exhibiting their 4-H project animal.

Sheep Camp

This "camp" is a unique clinic and workshop weekend for 4-H Sheep members. Each participant brings a project sheep and camps out for the weekend. This is held toward the end of June and in recent years has been at the Addison County Fair & Field Days grounds. Leaders and parents volunteer to chaperone and assist with activities. Over the two and a half days, the members attend many sheep related workshops and seminars as well as a variety of other educational and fun activities.

Eastern States Exposition

Vermont usually sends a delegation of 4-H Sheep members, ages 12-18 to the 4-H show at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, MA. This exposition is held in September. Delegates participate in a variety of classes, contests and events. In addition, there are many fun and educational activities at Eastern States (see Eastern States Requirements in this handbook).

Fairs & Field Days (General)

There are many fairs & field days held all over Vermont. You may access information about them from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture web site at <http://www.vermontagriculture.com/buylocal/visit/fairs.html> or your local 4-H Educator. Most fairs have a 4-H component, but if they do not, check out the youth and open divisions. 4-H members might be able to enter. With all fairs & field days, remember to check eligibility as rules and restrictions may vary from show to show.

Shearing Clinic

This is a workshop geared for older, more experienced sheep project members due to safety issues with handling sheep and shearing equipment. At this event, participants have an opportunity to learn techniques for safely and effectively handling sheep to shear them and using electric and/or hand shears.

General 4-H Sheep Project Information

1. Senior- 17 years and up
Intermediate – 13- 16 years old
Junior- 9-12 years old
Novice- any 4-H member, 8 – 18 who has never shown a sheep before.
2. Cloverbuds – As defined by national: Youth ages 5 to 7. No youth less than eight years of age will participate in any project or event involving large animals or firearms, nor will they operate motorized vehicles.
3. Project animals-owning your own animals is not a requirement for participation. Many youth lease/loan their animals from sheep owners. 4-H project sheep may be either a pure breed or crossbred/grade animal. Exhibiting at Eastern States or Open shows require animals to be registered.
4. Forms approving your project animals must be filed with your local 4-H Educator by July 1 each project year. For more detailed information, refer to the forms section of this handbook.
5. Animal identification to be checked at the county/fair shows includes the approval forms, health forms, and lease/loan, if applicable. These forms are to be matched to the animal by the ear tag and/or tattoo or other permanent tags. These forms should be with the animal for every show.
6. 4-H project animals must meet the health requirements and have the health forms or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) with the animal for every event.
7. Exhibitor attire 4-H members must be clean and neatly attired at all times. Attire for all delegates in the show ring shall consist of black, khaki, tan or white pants, or skirt and a white shirt with a collar. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Belts should be worn as needed. **NO T-SHIRTS ALLOWED, NO TIGHT OR REVEALING CLOTHING, HATS OR GUM CHEWING. 4-H members not adhering to the dress code will be excused from the ring.**
8. Sharing of project animals between 4-H members is not allowed. Make sure that the entries you are exhibiting are properly approved 4-H animals and are prepared for exhibition by your own efforts. You should not allow any adult or other people to prepare any part of your animal for exhibit (*from the N.H. Responsibilities as a 4-H Animal Exhibitor*).
9. Conformation classes are based on the birth date and breed of the animal. In these classes the judge is evaluating how closely the sheep meets the established breed standards.
10. Fitting & Show classes will be based on the age of the youth as of the first of January of the current year. In these classes, the judge is assessing how well the exhibitor presents the project animal.
11. Eastern States Requirements
 - Must be between the ages of 12 – 18 by January 1 of the current 4-H year
 - Complete a Record Book
 - Show on the county level (Sheep Camp counts)
 - Mandatory Orientation (includes interview and record book review)

Must participate in at least one event on the state level. They may choose from: Shearing School, Skill-a-thon/Quiz Bowl, Lambing Clinic and Sheep Camp.

Forms for 4-H Sheep Projects

(Instructions for filling out the forms listed, will be at the end of this handbook)

1. Sheep Approval Form

The approval form lists all the animals you may exhibit this year. If you are not certain about showing a particular animal, add it to the list anyway because you cannot add it after the deadline (with exception of animals you intend to purchase at a particular sale-see number 5 below). Approval forms require your 4-H club leader's signature. They are due in your county 4-H office by July 1st.

2. Vermont Livestock Lease/loan Agreement

If you are borrowing or leasing your project animal, you must complete this form and hand it in with your approval form. This requires signatures of the 4-H member, parent or legal guardian, and the owner of the animal.

3. Sheep Health Form

This 4-H form requires your veterinarian to examine your sheep and verify their health. It must be signed by the veterinarian. You must keep this completed form with the animal at all times, so be sure it travels in the vehicle hauling your sheep. Keep it in a safe place at all your shows and events. If you have a CVI (see below) you do not need the 4-H health form.

4. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)

All animals traveling out of state must be accompanied by a valid health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals are clinically free of infectious or contagious disease and exposure from such disease. Documents of health certification must be written on relevant state or federal health forms only. These certificates must be available upon request to any inspector. You must keep this completed form with the animal at all times, so be sure it travels in the vehicle that hauls your sheep. Keep it in a safe place at all your shows and events

5. Sheep Premises ear tag

There is a federal regulation that requires you have an official USDA premises identification number on sheep if you do any of the following:

- 1.) Move any sheep 18 months old or older across state lines.
- 2.) Move any sheep for breeding purposes across state lines.
- 3.) **Move any sheep within state or across state lines for exhibition purposes, such as fairs or shows.**

To get your official premises ID tags free, call the USDA office in Sutton, Mass., at 508-363-2290 or 1-866-873-2824.

6. Rabies Vaccination

All animals over three months of age must have a current rabies vaccination administered according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Such vaccination shall be documented on the 4-H Universal Health form provided or a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). The state veterinarian recognizes sheep must be over three months old to receive the vaccine. Lambs under three months should be exempt until they are over three months unless otherwise stated by fair and field day regulations.

7. Vermont 4-H Sheep Intent to Purchase Form

The deadline for turning in your Approval Form for project animals is July 1st but you might be planning to purchase a sheep after that date. This form is to be completed if there is a possibility that an additional animal may be purchased at a sale within New England. The animal must be purchased between July 1st and July 31st and it may not be the only project animal for the 4-H member. Eastern States Exposition guidelines must also be followed if the member qualifies for that show. By filling out this form, the sheep you purchase between July 1st and July 31st will qualify. This form must be sent to the State 4-H Livestock Educator by July 1st. If you do purchase an animal, a separate approval form will be filled out and signed for you to use.

Biosecurity

The following additional recommendations should be practiced routinely by exhibitors whenever taking animals to exhibitions in order to limit their exposure to disease.

- 1) Abide by all animal health requirements established by the event organizers.
- 2) While at the event, use appropriate means of limiting contact of your animals with people and other animals, e.g. use of signs, ropes and plywood as barriers.
- 3) Do not share feeding, watering, cleaning or grooming equipment used for other animals.
- 4) Supply your own feed and bedding and keep it separate from other animals.
- 5) Have disinfectant available for cleaning and disinfecting equipment when necessary.
- 6) Avoid using or sharing stalls recently occupied by other animals.
- 7) Isolate animals returning to the farm from the event for 2 weeks before reintroducing the animals to your herd.
- 8) Make sure your animals are currently vaccinated according to your veterinarian's recommendation at least 14 days prior to the event.

Information for Parents:
a.k.a. "Help! My child wants sheep!"
by Jake Jacobs
4-H Leader and former Chair of State 4-H Sheep Committee

Cute, cuddly sheep: Sheep certainly can be cute, and lambs are simply adorable! However, the reality is that while some sheep can be cuddled, particularly bottle lambs, most prefer to stay with their own kind and can be a challenge to even catch, much less cuddle. Sheep need to be trained and then handled with care and consistency to be mannerly.

The perfect breed of sheep for 4-H members: There are many breeds of sheep and each is suited for particular conditions and uses. Each shepherd may think his or her breed is perfect, but it isn't for everyone. That's why there are so many breeds! Do some research BEFORE you jump in.

Getting sheep: To start, you may wish to lease an animal. There might be a sheep owner nearby who is willing to let your child borrow one for a 4-H project. If this is a workable relationship, it may be the best way to introduce your family to the world of 4-H sheep. However, though it might be a great arrangement for convenience, don't feel that availability automatically determines your choice. Your 4-H leader should be able to help you with sheep connections.

When you decide it's time to buy, do your "homework" and then shop wisely. You don't have to spend a lot of money purchasing sheep. Keep in mind that spending a lot of money on an animal doesn't automatically mean it will be the top animal in your flock or a show ring champion. You can buy an expensive sheep that doesn't turn out to perform as well as you anticipated. If you don't know a lot about sheep, take someone along who does when you go to select an animal. Try to purchase from someone who is raising sheep in a manner similar to the way you manage. You should also start out small. Don't buy a whole flock of sheep unless that's what you want to do as a family. A 4-H project of one or two sheep is the best bet for a beginner. Sheep are flock animals and will be happier with other sheep around, so if you are planning to house your own project sheep, don't just get one. Talk with other 4-H families and sheep owners and you are sure to find the right sheep for your child's project.

Registered vs. grade (unregistered) sheep: Vermont 4-H allows unregistered animals to be shown and an inexpensive crossbred animal may be the perfect 4-H project animal. If a 4-H member sticks with sheep and wants to show in open shows or participate at Eastern States as a 4-H delegate, he or she will need a registered animal. Though registered animals typically cost more than grade animals, you can often find an older ewe with good bloodlines for less money than a registered lamb of the same quality.

The best way to feed a sheep: Forages (pasture and hay) will be the basis of the sheep's diet, so you will need an adequate supply available. However, the nutritional quality of forages can vary tremendously. You must also consider the particular animals you are feeding, since individual sheep do not all have the same nutritional needs. One sheep will get fat on the same ration that will barely keep another sheep alive. What you need to feed depends on many variables, including the quality of the forage, the breed of sheep and the selection that has gone into its unique genetic background, the age of the animal, and demands such as breeding, pregnancy or lactation. Talk with others about their feeding programs. You can get helpful input from other shepherds, your child's 4-H leader, UVM Extension and the feed supplier where you purchase grain and supplements.

The judge at the sheep show is the final word... or is it? Sheep judges evaluate the animals and exhibitors' showmanship based on their knowledge of standards; then they compare what they see in the show ring to those standards. Some showmen take the final show placings and advice of the judge to be the authority on how to proceed with handling and their own flock breeding programs. However, it is important to remember that a judge's opinions are just that: **opinions**. One

family had a judge once tell their daughter that no crossbred ram should be used as a sire. The family later sold that ram to another 4-H family who used him very successfully on their crossbred flock. Another 4-H member had a big, Natural Colored ewe that did not place well with one judge and the very next day a different judge selected that same animal as Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe! If the judge tells you about some specific structural fault, you should certainly consider that advice with care. However, teach your child to listen to the judge's comments politely, factor them into your decisions, but don't let one judge's perspective and comments determine your whole breeding program or irrationally influence your 4-H'er's self-esteem.

Show clothes: It used to be that sheep showmen were required to wear white and most exhibitors wore their show outfits only in the show ring. Thankfully, the days of all white show clothes are over! Nowadays a 4-H member showing sheep will wear solid color pants (but not blue jeans) and a white shirt with a collar and buttons all or part-way down the front. Advertising or promotion on the clothing is prohibited. These are clothes that can be worn other places. To keep costs down, show clothes can be purchased at second hand stores and consignment shops or you may be able to find suitable hand-me-downs in great condition from an older 4-H'er.

Get ready to fit those sheep! Relax parents... Fitting the sheep is your child's job; your job is to encourage them and help them find the people who will teach them the skills. In fact, at some shows (like Eastern States) adults are not allowed in the fitting area with the 4-H'ers. You'll probably get to the point where you will recognize a good fitting job when you see one, but you don't have to learn to do the job yourself. If you want to learn to fit, by all means do. Just don't think it's a requirement.

Equipment: There are a few pieces of equipment - not too "pricey" - that your child will need. Some items can be borrowed, but be sure you always respect others' property, using things with care and returning each item in good condition. You'll want your own halter (your child might have the opportunity to make a halter at 4-H Sheep Camp), hand shears, a curry comb, foot shears and possibly a hand card. You will also want a fitting stand and perhaps a sheep coat. Your child may be able to borrow a fitting stand or you may find a great buy on a used one. Handy parents and members can make fitting stands and sheep coats.

Spinning and knitting and felting, Oh My! A lot of parents started fiber crafts after getting sheep, some got sheep because they were interested in fiber crafts. Yes, you will see 4-H parents spinning and working on various wool fiber tasks, but if this isn't your interest, no one will ostracize you.

4-H Leaders: Being a 4-H Leader takes some time, but it does not have to be all-consuming (even though it may seem that way during fair week!). Each 4-H Leader takes on responsibilities but this does not mean you have to personally do EVERYTHING yourself. What part do you want to play? If you are a good organizer, you might be the perfect Organizational Leader for your child's club. If you have some area of interest and proficiency, perhaps you could be a Project Leader who would direct or teach a specific activity or project. The Leader(s) determines the program for the club in conjunction with 4-H curriculum available from the state office. For example, one sheep club might focus on market lambs and ways to cook and promote lamb. Another group might focus on wool sheep and do lots of fiber-related activities. A third group might balance things out between the two types of activities. It's your group — you and your club decide what they are most interested in doing. Every leader learns along with their group. Most of us didn't know any more about raising sheep and 4-H when we started than you feel that you do now.

Top Showman!? Maybe, maybe not... Through 4-H your child has the opportunity to learn a tremendous amount about sheep, including showing. Urge your child to watch the good showmen show. That's why the seniors show first at a youth show - it gives the novice and junior members a chance to learn from observing them. Some of our best seniors in showmanship didn't hit their stride until they went to Eastern States for the first time. Encourage your child to keep trying. And no matter the outcome in the class, keep the "bigger picture" in mind: Is your child having fun? Is your child learning new things and developing confidence? Also remember that a 4-H sheep project is not necessarily about turning members into top

showmen or professional shepherds. Some 4-H members who go through the 4-H sheep program do, indeed, stay involved with sheep and in some cases these interests continue into adulthood. 4-H is about helping youth (and adults) learn and develop into the most competent people they can be. Whatever your projects, activities and vision may be, 4-H is about people. If your 4-H'er is motivated by exhibiting sheep at fairs and shows, then this may be the best way for that youngster to access learning and growth opportunities. The 4-H Program is experience centered, not just information giving. This **learn-by-doing** approach facilitates young people learning what is useful to them and it enables them to adapt what they learn to everyday life through action and reflection.

4-H is about people: 4-H provides many types of learning opportunities and gives youth opportunities to experience a sense of accomplishment and success, key ingredients to gaining self-esteem. Sheep may be the motivators to involve your child and serve as the "tools" for learning these skills, but remember that 4-H is about your child more than about sheep (or any other project). 4-H is education for life!

March 2011



INSTRUCTION FOR COMPLETING YOUR LIVESTOCK APPROVAL FORMS

This form is to be used for any species except equine. Use one form per species and submit a new form every calendar year.

1. Check your project area. One form per project area (example: do not put goats and sheep on one form).
2. Enter your name and full mailing address. Include a phone number where we can reach you.
3. Enter your age as of January 1 of this year and enter your date of birth.
4. Include your county of 4-H club membership and the name of your club. Enter independent if you are not in a club.
5. Make sure your leader signs and dates the form.
6. Breed: Enter the breed of the animal (Hampshire, Romney, Alpine). For Grade/crossbred, list major breed type.
7. Animal's name: as it appears on the registration papers for purebred animals. For grade animals, enter the name you use for the animal.
8. Animal's birth date: You must include the day/month/year of each animal's birth. This determines the class you show your animal in.
9. Sex: indicate status – ram, ewe, wether, doe, buck etc.
10. Registration number: as it appears on the registration papers. Leave blank if your animal is grade.
11. All animals should have permanent identification. All animals need to be identified by tag, tattoo or freeze brand.
12. Date of purchase or date lease/loan went into effect. Include day/month/year. Various events require ownership/lease/loan by a certain date. This varies by species so check with your County Educator for details.
13. Check if lease/loan applies. A copy of the lease/loan form must be submitted with the approval form.
14. Sharing of animals between 4-H members is not allowed.
15. All goats and sheep must have a scrapies tag or tattoo.
16. Approval forms are necessary for participation in certain events. Questions on who must complete approval forms should be directed to your County Educator. Your forms should be sent to the following UVM Extension office:

Addison County	4-H Educator 802-388-4969	23 Pond Lane , Suite 300 Middlebury, VT 05753
Caledonia	4-H Educator 802-751-8307	374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 1 St Johnsbury, VT 05819-9083
Chittenden County	4-H Educator 802-651-8343	140 Kennedy Drive, suite 201 South Burlington, VT 05403
Franklin & Grand Isle County	4-H Educator 802-524-6501	278 S. Main St., Suite 2 Albans, VT 05478-1866
Lamoille County	4-H Educator 802-888-4972	29 Sunset Drive, Suite 2 Morrisville, VT 05661-8331
Orange & Washington County	4-H Educator 802-476-2003	327 US Route 302, Suite 1 Barre, VT 05641
Orleans & Essex County	4-H Educator 802-334-7325	316 Main Street, Suite 101 Newport, VT 05855-5029
Rutland & Bennington County	4-H Educator 802-773-3349	271 North Main Street, suite 110 Rutland, VT 05701-2424
Windsor & Windham County	4-H Educator 802-885-8386	Howard Dean Ed. Ctr. Springfield, VT 05156

GUIDELINES TO COMPLETING A 4-H LEASE/LOAN AGREEMENT

REQUIREMENTS:

All leased/loaned 4-H project animals must have a written lease/loan agreement form. Complete a separate lease/loan agreement form for each species.

1. Enter the number of the day, the month, and the year. This is the date the lease/loan agreement will take effect. It must be prior to any deadlines for approval forms.
2. Enter the date the lease/loan agreement will end, and the number of months/days' notice either party must give the other before terminating the lease.
3. Indicate the amount of the rental fee, if any.
4. ALL ANIMALS MUST HAVE A PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION MARK – EAR TAG, TATTOO, etc.
5. ALL parties indicated must sign and date the lease/loan agreement form in order for it to be acceptable: renter/borrower, owner, parent/guardian of renter/borrower.
6. Lease/loan agreement forms must be submitted with approval forms to your Extension Educator on time in order for the animal to be shown in 4-H classes.
7. All leased/loaned animals must be legitimate 4-H projects. The member must assume responsibility for care and management of all project animals.

SUGGESTED STIPULATIONS TO ATTACH TO LEASE/LOAN AGREEMENT FOR 4-H LIVESTOCK

1. Animal Health - veterinary fees, drugs, vaccinations, etc.
2. Breeding - sire, associated fees, ownership of offspring, etc.
3. Liability - injury to the animal, injury by the animal
4. Feeding - costs, types of feed, source of feed
5. Returns to 4-H'er - for labor, for management
6. Housing - specifications
7. Exhibiting - transportation, disposition of premiums and awards
8. Arbitration of disagreement

This is a partial list suggesting areas that should be considered and resolved before signing a lease/loan agreement. When including an item in an agreement, clearly state the item and the roles of the renter/borrower and owner, being as specific and concise as possible.

Consult your 4-H Leader, or Extension 4-H Educator for specific requirements for your species or if you have any questions.

Sheep Tack Box Supplies:

This list is a broad guideline only. Adapt this to fit your own needs as you develop your own fitting needs. A sturdy, collapsible fitting table will be a necessity if you have more than one animal to prepare and exhibit at a show.

- Hand Shears - sharpened
- Water Spray Bottle
- Card - Large
- Face Card
- Packing Card
- Small Electric clippers
- Foot trimmers
- Hoof polish
- Clean rags
- Stiff bristle brush - for washing, fitting slick shorn lambs, cleaning wool breeds
- Medium bristle brush - for wool breeds & for cleaning off meat breeds
- Flexible metal currycomb - for wool breeds
- Blow dryer
- Hose spray nozzle
- Hose
- Sheep washing soap
- Halters & leads
- Blankets & hoods
- Bucket for carrying tools
- Clipper oil - can also be used to protect blades of hand shears from rust
- Sheep first aid kit
- 4-H'er first aid kit (band aids, peroxide, antibiotic ointment, gauze)
- Felt tip indelible marker - put your name on your equipment!

Remember to always have your animal's health, approval and lease forms (if not owned) with you when you exhibit your animal.

4-H SHEEP FIT AND SHOW CONTESTS

What follows is a GUIDELINE for 4-H members to use in preparing for Fit and Show. Members should note that individual judges will have their own preferences.

Appearance of Sheep

Blocking and Trimming: Animals should be fitted according to the standards of their breed association. They should be free of dirt and stains. Wool breeds need to have sufficient fleece to allow the wool to be judged.

Cleanliness - Ears, ear tags, eyes and muzzle should be clean. Fore and rear flanks and neck should be clean. All parts of the sheep should be thoroughly dry. Fleeces of wool breeds should be firm, bright and showing yolk, all of which indicated bloom. Excessively long, harsh, dry and colorless fleeces will be criticized. Artificial coloring of ears, legs and fleeces will not be allowed. Sheep showing evidence of external parasites will be heavily discounted.

Condition - Animal should show normal growth and size for age. It should be well covered (well fleshed) over back loin and ribs. It should not be over- or under- conditioned. Skin and fleece should show health and bloom rather than being dry and lacking color. Skin lacking in color and lack of red coloring under eyelids may be an indication of internal parasites.

Feet Hoofs should be trimmed and shaped so as to enable the animal to stand and walk naturally. Hoofs should be clean and may be prepared for showing by oiling or polishing. It is best not to trim feet too close to show day. A tender foot may mean a lame sheep. Hooves must be free from foot rot.

Showing

Holding and moving in the ring - Bring the animal into the ring promptly and properly. Halters are optional, and members will be judged on their ability to show their animal to their best advantage in the style chosen (i.e. points may be deducted if a halter is used but ignored.) Line up as directed by the ring steward. Stand your sheep squarely, using the left hand under the jaw and right hand to move feet, straighten back, etc. Standing and kneeling on one knee may be interchanged. One may stand in front of sheep grasping side of face with both hands when the judge is in back of the sheep. The exhibitor should push down and back to strengthen the top and cause the leg muscle to bulge. Placing a knee against the brisket is allowable as well as placing a hand under the sheep in order to make the animal show to best advantage. The exhibitor may be penalized if the judge decides that the back is humped, or arched because of excess jaw pressure. When the judge is in front of the sheep, the showman should set up the front end of the sheep so as to show the head and front to best advantage. This is usually best accomplished by grasping the sheep under the jaw with the showman at side of sheep, or by the use of the lead rope, whichever the sheep responds to best. Remember to keep sheep alert with head set and ears forward.

In moving the sheep, walk on the left side of the sheep. If a halter is on the sheep, it must be used to walk the sheep. Move slowly and only as necessary for the judge to view you and your sheep. Exhibitor remains on left side of sheep at all times. Do not step over the back or go behind your sheep.

If a halter is used, the sheep should be trained to lead and stand squarely when properly set up. Keep the sheep in good showing position. An animal that is well-handled and trained will not usually move when handled by judge. Sheep should not be set up too wide or too narrow, but to best advantage.

Alertness and attitude

The delegate should be alert at all times and courteous to the judge and fellow delegates.

Delegates should watch their animals closely and know where the judge is at all times. Inattention will cost points. Gum chewing and talking in the show ring will not be allowed. Keep showing even when the ribbons are being awarded. Do not relax until you leave the ring. You can never be sure when the judging is officially over!

Appearance of Exhibitor and Knowledge of Project

The delegate must be neatly presented in solid colored pants (no jeans) and a white collared shirt that is tucked in and may not wear any tight or revealing clothing or hat. Chewing gum is not allowed while in the show ring. Delegates not adhering to the dress code will be dismissed from the class.

Members must be prepared to answer any questions the judge may ask during the class. The judge reserves the right to ask any variety of questions dealing with knowledge of a 4-H project such as breeds of sheep, care and maintenance of a sheep project, and showing ability, amongst others. In many cases, questions are asked to determine a tie-breaker.

Adapted from the Eastern States 4-H Sheep Fit and Showing Contest Guidelines October 2014

Important web links:

www.uvm.edu/extension/ This is University of Vermont Extension's home page.

www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/ This is University of Vermont's 4-H home page.

www.sheep101.info/ General sheep information.

www.geauga4h.org/sheep/index.htm Sheep skill-a-thon page