



Sheep Project



Monthly Lesson Plan
April 2022



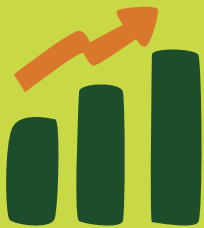
Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ April 18th or 19th – MQA (Meat Quality Assurance) Training (Fairgrounds)
- ✓ April 27th – MQA (Bennett High School)
- ✓ April 29th 2022 – Market Lamb Ownership Deadline: Own by County Tag In
- ✓ April 29th 4pm-7pm – Market Lamb Tag-In
- ✓ April 29th 2022 – Producer class nominations & visits complete (click for details)
- ASAP – Lease An Animal Agreements (if leasing breeding animal) due to 4-H office for access to LAA Record Book



Project Progress

Suggest the following as things your members should work on or accomplish with their project this month. Follow up to see which they achieved:

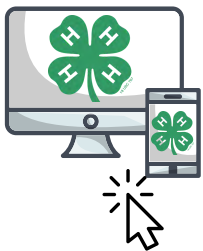


1. **E Record Books:** Update their "Equipment/Supplies Inventory" (p. 3) & "Animal Inventory" and/or "Animal Purchase" pages (p. 4&6)
2. **Hands On:** Members should begin training their sheep to lead on a halter. Patience and practice is key here! (Helpful video link):
3. **Knowledge:** Members should review basic sheep healthcare (Goat Resource Handbook Ch. 5 or our Vet Chat video):
4. **Other:** Brainstorm a topic for their Sheep educational poster and/or demonstration.
5. **Other:** Update your calendar with 2022 Animal Project Dates

Halter Breaking Video



Vet Chat Video



Opportunities

See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events

- April 4th – Market Animal Selection Webinar
- April 12th – Record book workshop
- April 30th – ADCO Speech & Demonstration Contest



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Sheep Project



April 2022

Attached Activities

Use these suggested activities at club project meetings to increase member knowledge and keep members engaged in their project.

Group: Take the Lead

- Leaders will teach members how to make their own rope halter and how to tie different knots.

Individual: Check the Chart

- Members can complete this worksheet activity reviewing sheep healthcare after watching the basic sheep healthcare video.

for more Sheep project activities, order the National 4-H Curriculum "Sheep Helpers Guide" through the 4-H Office



Fun Fact

The smallest breed of sheep is the Quessant breed standing only 19 in. tall at shoulder.



Timely Tips to Share
When changing sheep feed, change it slowly to avoid issues like Enterotoxemia (overeating disease).



Resources



- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Sheep Project Webpage: <http://adams4h.org/4-h-sheep-project/>
 - 2022 Animal Project Save the Dates
 - Sheep Resource Handbook (Ohio State)
 - E Record Books
 - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
 - Project Tipsheet
- Fairgrounds Livestock Scale – can always be used by 4-H members with appointment. Contact Kenzie to schedule a time.



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Take the Lead



Making rope halters and learning to tie useful knots are fun and challenging learn-by-doing activities for group meetings. The group will enjoy the challenge and satisfaction the activity provides. The resulting products can also be used immediately. These type of activities also provide an excellent setting for youth and adults to practice their teaching and leadership skills.

Sheep Project Skill: Making rope halters
Life Skill: Leading self and others
Show of Success: Makes a rope halter and ties knots.
Time Involved: One hour
Suggested Group Size: 2 to 15
Materials Needed: Nylon or manila three-strand 1/4" rope in 8' lengths, hogrings, wire or friction tape to secure the ends, (a spliced crown or ends whipped with string can also be used), pictures of the rope halter and knot tying steps

Getting Started

To really enjoy the meeting yourself you may want to encourage the youth who are giving leadership to this meeting to collect the supplies and practice tying a rope halter and knots. The more people you involve in the preparation the more enthusiasm you will have.

1. Experience (Doing)

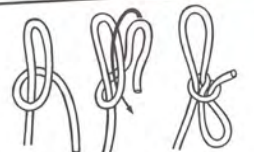
Depending how this activity is presented to the participants, the opportunity for life skill development can be high or low. If the experiential learning process is followed and the youth are encouraged to learn-by-doing-before-being-told-or-shown-how, exciting outcomes are possible. On the other hand if the youth are told how and only follow directions, the chance to develop skills such as risk taking, building team work, self esteem, learning together and helping others learn is often lost.

One way to quickly involved the youth is to divide the group into teams of two or three individuals. Give each team a length of rope and a picture and/or directions for tying the halter or knot (face down). Challenge the teams to work together to make a halter or a particular knot. Then step back and help by answering questions with questions as teams ask. If any teams are stuck encourage them to use the pictures as a guide. You may be surprised at how many halter makers and knot tiers you have in the group! You will also enjoy seeing the "we figured it out all by ourselves" expression of the teams. Follow the session with questions about the experience.

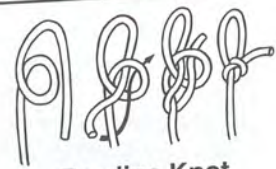
Let's see if we can figure out how to tie a bowline knot before we look at the directions.



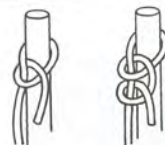
Knots for All Occasions



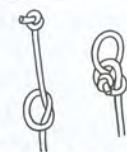
Quick Release Knot



Bowline Knot



Double Half Hitch



Honda Knot

Talk It Over

Help the youth learn more about working as a team using ropes by conducting a group discussion. These questions will get you started.

2. Share (What happened?)

- Q. How did you learn to make a rope halter or tie the knots?
- Q. How did it feel to do it on your own without step-by-step directions?
- Q. What was most difficult?

3. Process (What's important?)

- Q. Why is knowing how to make a rope halter and tie knots important?
- Q. What are important uses of knots?

4. Generalize (So what?)

- Q. Why is working together as a team often better than working alone?
- Q. What did you contribute to the team?

5. Apply (Now what?)

- Q. How do you think you could improve your leadership skills based upon this activity?



Sheep are easy to lead with rope halters.

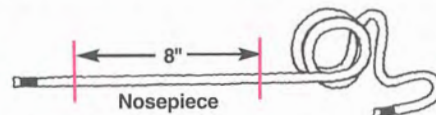
More Challenges

1. Involve several youth in leading activities involving knots such as knot relays; situation relays where a situation is presented that requires a knot and the youth needs to tie one that works; or catching, haltering and leading a sheep to a particular place.



Rope Halter Hints

1. Select a 10 foot piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ poly rope (ski rope) to make a sheep rope halter.
2. Secure the ends with friction tape, strong string or by splicing.
3. Make a mark eight inches from the end of the rope to indicate the length of the nose piece.



4. At the point marked raise two strands and pass the long end through until the center on the loop is twice as large as the rope.



5. Raise two strands in the long end of the rope just outside the loop and pass the short end under these strands. Draw snug to form the eyeloop.



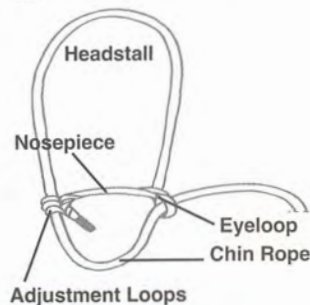
6. Untwist the strands 2–3 inches from the end and push together until the strands form three separate loops.



7. Pass the long end of the rope through the adjustment loops to form the adjustable head stall.



8. Pass the long end of the rope through the eye loop and your halter is complete.



Check the Chart



Sheep Project Skill: Determining the health of a sheep
Life Skill: Making decisions
Show of Success: Completes a sheep examination chart.

It is important to keep your project animal(s) healthy. Every sheep needs nutritious food, fresh water and a clean, dry and draft-free living space. A sheep that does not have these things may get sick.

When a sheep gets sick, it will not eat well and will not grow as fast as it should. Being able to notice early signs of sickness is important in deciding what to do.

Your Challenge

Get together with a friend or your helper and carefully examine a healthy sheep. Record what you



observe on the examination chart and then tell what you think a sick sheep might show for each part of the exam.

Sheep Examination Chart

Sheep Identification _____ Date Born _____ Breed _____
 Age _____ Weight _____ Weight/Days Old _____ Single _____ Twin _____ Triplet _____
 General State of Health Excellent _____ Good _____ Poor _____

General Condition	Healthy Sheep	Sick Sheep
Teeth		
Jaw		
Eyes		
Feet		
Body condition		
Udder		
Breathing		
Respiration rate		
Heart rate		
Body temperature		
Skin color		
Fleece		
Feces		
External parasites		

Management Practices (check if done)

_____ Tail docked
 _____ Dewormed

_____ Castrated if male
 _____ Vaccinated for enterotoxemia

Talk It Over

Share with your helper

- What did you find when you examined the sheep?
- What did you learn about sheep that you didn't know before?

Tell what's important

What happens if you ignore signs of illness in your sheep flock?

Explore what you learned

How does making a checklist help you make decisions?

Imagine what's next

How will noticing when something is not normal help you make better decisions in the future?

Farm Animal Vital Signs

Animal	Average Temperature		Normal Pulse Rate (rate/minute)	Normal Breathing Rate (rate/minute)
	°F	°C		
Sheep	102.3	39.1	70-80	12-20
Cattle	101.5	38.6	40-60	10-30
Goats	102.3	39.1	70-90	12-20
Horses	100.5	38.0	30-50	8-16
Swine	102.6	39.2	60-80	12-20



Lamb Diseases

Navel Ill (Joint ill)

Cause: Bacteria enter via the umbilical cord after birth.

Symptoms: Abscesses in the liver and leg joint. Lameness in the affected joint that will be hot, swollen and painful.

Prevention:

(1) Immediately after birth, dip the navel stump in 7 percent tincture of iodine to dry the navel cord and kill any bacteria present.

(2) Disinfect lambing pens between births.

Pneumonia

Cause: A virus, combined with stress, causes the initial damage. Bacteria invade secondarily.

Symptoms: Animal becomes lethargic, has a high fever and may have labored breathing and a nasal discharge.

Prevention: Provide adequate ventilation, prevent drafts and reduce stress.

Scours

Cause: Bacteria (salmonella, escherichia) or virus. The lining of the intestines becomes irritated and fluid is lost in the feces instead of being absorbed from the intestines into the body.

Symptoms: Diarrhea (loose stool) leading to dehydration.

Treatment:

Immediately separate from other animals and administer fluids. Clean and disinfect between births.

Prevention:

Be sure lambs receive at least 4 ounces of colostrum immediately after birth.



"Prevention is usually the best practice."



More Challenges

1. Give a presentation to your family or youth group on something about sheep health. Ideas include a sheep disease, giving medication, storing medication or examining a sheep.
2. Talk with a veterinarian or someone with experience raising lambs. What are special things they watch for to tell if a lamb is getting sick? What do they do when they notice early signs of illness?