



Calgary 4-H Region Sheep Learning Day Supplement



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Calgary 4-H Region Sheep Learning Day

March 22, 2015 - Thorlakson's Bullpen

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The Calgary 4-H Region hosted its second Sheep Learning Day on March 22 at Thorlakson's Feedyard east of Airdrie.

Over 110 members from the region participated in this one day learning experience. In total the Irricana Beef & Multi club fed lunch to over 175 members/leaders/parents and presenters.

The committee is already talking about the next one...stay tuned!!!



Thorlakson's Bull Pen was filled to the rafters with keen 4-H members, leaders and parents eager to learn about raising sheep.

Ovine Knowledge Bowl

Based off the show Jeopardy, the members were tested on their knowledge of sheep.

How well would you do?...

1. What is the first milk of the ewe called?
2. How many "stomachs" do sheep have?
3. What is the average length of gestation for a ewe?
4. What mineral do sheep producers have to be particularly careful with?
5. What is the average number of days for the estrous cycle of sheep?
6. What is the normal body temperature of a sheep?
7. Name the stomachs of a sheep.

Thank you to Cindy Crawford for developing the Ovine Knowledge Bowl.

8. According to the Sheep Code of Practice, how soon after birth must lambs be castrated if lambing on pasture?
9. Where, on the body, are injections for sheep given?
10. What is Orf?

You will find the answers on the back page.



Sheep Maintenance 101



The Alberta Lamb Producers have a bag full of tools for learning about sheep management.

you will find the modules that are on the USB sticks that each 4-H club has received.

The modules include:

- An Introduction to Managed Grazing
- Sheep and Goat Management in Alberta—Reproduction, Health and Nutrition
- Sheep Infrastructure
- Marketing your Lambs
- Predator Management
- and more

Thank you to Lorna Gibson for leading the Sheep Maintenance 101 sessions!!!



For those families new to the sheep industry, check out **Shepherding 101—Getting Started**. This module contains the basics to get started in the industry.

The ALP Factsheets can be found at: http://www.ablamb.ca/producer_mgmt/factsheets.html



Canadian Sheep Code of Practice

https://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/sheep_code_of_practice.pdf

The Alberta Lamb Producers have also developed a number of learning modules that are available to 4-H members. If you go to: http://www.ablamb.ca/producer_mgmt/management_modules.html

Showmanship



Anna Welsh was the clinician for the Learning Day and following is a submission by Anna of her key messages that day...

Always keep an eye on the Judge. This shows you are paying attention.

Always handle your animal in a way that maintains safety and control. For example, no matter where the judge is standing it is proper practice to lead your lamb from the left side. When you are not leading your lamb

then you can position yourself so that you are not blocking the Judges view. We must consider that it is not proper practice for other species to be lead from the wrong position (Cattle, horses...) for safety reasons. It seems ok when you are a full grown teenager but consider that we are installing unsafe practices in the cleavers and juniors whom weigh much less than their lambs.

Making sure you have practiced all handling positions at home. This is good for you and your lamb! Make

sure your lamb is use to having his feet touched and moved, that you are capable of bracing your lamb for the judge to poke and prod, and just in case... know how to tip your lamb on its backside. All of these practiced at home will make show day much easier.

In my view Judging showmanship is only 50% at best about what you have trained your lamb to do. For me I am looking to see how you react to situations. Always keep a cool demeanour and

Continued on page 5

Shearing 101

Why we shear sheep:

- 1) For the wool (not always)
- 2) To keep the sheep cool
- 3) For cleanliness during lambing
- 4) For the health of the animal

Steven Sinclair of the Airdrie Beef & Sheep 4-H Club provided a demonstration to senior 4-H members and adults on sheep shearing. Having a flock of his own, he knows what goes into the maintenance of a flock.

Steven has taken a course on sheep shearing and is available for hire.



Lamb Judging

Thanks to Katie Crawford of the Eagle Beef & Multi 4-H Club, the members had an opportunity to hone their lamb judging skills.

For those members interested in learning more about lamb judging, check out the following link for more information: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/\\$FILE/JudgingPG.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/$FILE/JudgingPG.pdf)

If you search for sheep judging resources on line you will find excellent information. The United States take their livestock judging very seriously and they have great resources to learn from. Some aspects of livestock evaluation are different between the US and Canada and it is important to understand the differences.



CHECK THIS OUT...

New information has now been added to the 4-H website...

Head to <http://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/>

Scroll down to the Sheep section...

There you will find... fillable record books

Ewe Breeding Record Book (NEW) [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/\\$FILE/Sheep_EwePreeding_RB.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/$FILE/Sheep_EwePreeding_RB.pdf)

Market Lamb Record Book [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/\\$FILE/Sheep_MarketLamb_RB.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/$FILE/Sheep_MarketLamb_RB.pdf)

Pen of 3 insert for Market Lamb Record Book [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/\\$FILE/Sheep_PenOfThree_RBinsert.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/$FILE/Sheep_PenOfThree_RBinsert.pdf)

Be sure to check out the **Sheep Resources—links of interest** http://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/project_manuals/sheep.html

here you will find lots of great information about the sheep industry. For those members wanting to get ready for achievement day, the Sheep Trimming and Showmanship video at the bottom of the page is a great resource done by a fellow 4-H Alberta member.

Thank you to
Dr. Kathy Parker
for the informative
sessions she
presented to the
parents about
Sheep Nutrition
and Breeding for
Conformation.

How to Judge (Senior members)

Karen Legault lead the senior 4-H members through “how to judge at a show”. 4-H is always looking for judges for shows so learning how to manage a show gives the senior 4-H members a head start in this area and will provide great names as judges and other resource people for 4-H in the future.

Following is a write up that Karen wrote up for this supplement...

How to be a Judge

Judges have a valuable role in the industry. A judge observes, compares and evaluates differences. As a judge, there are opportunities to meet new people, travel, see good livestock and possibly be compensated for your time and knowledge.

As senior 4-H'ers you have already begun developing your livestock evaluation and public speaking skills. Even though it may be uncomfortable at first, your knowledge is valuable and the next generation needs to step up to the plate. As a first step, participate in as many livestock activities as possible – association events, exhibiting your own sheep at shows, participating in 4-H or college judging competitions. This is how you will first get noticed.

Once you agree to judge, immediately write down the show date and location in your calendar to avoid any scheduling conflicts. Keep a record of all correspondence with the show officials. Obtain a phone number and e-mail for your primary show contact and write down a physical address of the show so that you are able to easily find the location on the day of the event.

The entire procedure of evaluation, comparison, and placing should take about two minutes per animal, or twenty minutes for a class of ten head. Needless to say, this requires the full concentration on the part of the judge to accomplish. If the judge takes a long time, he or she appears to be indecisive. Both spectators and exhibitors lose

confidence in the judge and lose interest in the show. Judges should make their placings and give their reasons in a decisive manner, no matter how close or difficult the decision was to reach. Be confident in your placings. If the decision was hard for you, it probably will be hard for other competent judges throughout the show season...so place the sheep and move on to the next class.



Along with the responsibility of evaluating the animals, judges are also expected to verbally describe and explain their placing decisions over the microphone after each class and championship. For some judges, especially new judges, placing the sheep is a breeze, but speaking on the microphone is a challenge. For these individuals, practice is the key.

Oral reasons styles vary, but the important thing is for judges to speak clearly, be positive, be encouraging, and adequately explain the reasoning behind their placings.

When judging a show, a judge should offer at least one positive attribute of every animal in the class and address weaknesses with tact. So accentuate the positives, explain the negatives, and remember that every animal – first or last place – has a value to someone. The most important thing judges should remember when giving reasons is simply to tell the truth. Accurately describe the sheep.

Understand the classes you are expected to judge

and different criteria for each – market lamb classes, breeding rams and ewes, flock classes, trimming, wool class and showmanship.

A judge's behavior after the show is just as important as his behavior and performance during the show. When the show is completed, judges should finalize any paperwork or necessary details needed by the show officials.

Judges should stick around the show for a few moments to talk to any exhibitor that wishes to approach them. The judge should then promptly move to the backdrop to be in photographs. After the photographs are taken, judges should then leave the show, rest their feet (and minds), and reflect on the day.

Don't go looking for certain individuals after the show is finished. As soon as the exhibitors are done approaching you and the photos are taken, then your job is done.

Do your best, but remember, it is only your opinion on that day.

Some information provided from: Livestockjudges.org

Showmanship—continued from page 2

handle the situation while remaining calm and collected. I told the kids "We are dealing with sheep, they don't always get the program for the day on how they are suppose to act. That's why you prepare yourself for today." That is why when down to the wire on two strong competitors Judges will ask the members to switch lambs or positions in the line up. Never be afraid to help someone in need. If there is a difficult lamb in front of you that is not leading, DO NOT just walk by! Sometimes just touching their tail will help. Now in saying that if you do not feel that you can help the person in front of you without being able to maintain safety and control of your own animal just wait patiently for the Ringman to come help. Just whatever you do, do not walk on by

that competitor without the instruction of the Ringman.

Keep a smile on your face!! This is a showmanship class, a nice smile is always welcoming. You have worked very hard all year preparing yourself for this moment, enjoy it!

It is completely acceptable for Juniors to show with a halter. I myself don't mind if they use a plastic halter. I am not there to judge what kind of equipment that you can afford, just make sure whatever you use that it is clean and presentable. One recommendation that I do make for members showing with a halter is to either tape up the tail end or cut it off. Little hands can be overwhelmed if there is a long tail that they are trying to deal with. This can be extremely distracting to the Judge and the

Judge's Checklist

DURING THE SHOW

- ⇒ Arrive at the show 30 minutes prior to the event.
- ⇒ Instruct your ring staff on how you want the classes lined up and worked.
- ⇒ Never check your cell phone while judging.
- ⇒ Be honest, be cordial, and be humble.
- ⇒ Dress at a level of professionalism. Clean shaven, well groomed, and dressed professionally. Never judge in a baseball cap. A cowboy hat is acceptable in the show ring, but baseball caps or visors are not acceptable judges attire.
- ⇒ Never chew gum
- ⇒ Give clear and accurate reasons to describe the livestock. Give at least one positive trait of each animal and address weaknesses with tact. Avoid being overly negative.
- ⇒ Use standard accepted livestock vocabulary and descriptions.

AFTER THE SHOW

- ⇒ Finalize any paperwork necessary with the show officials.
- ⇒ Stay around the ring for a few moments to visit with any exhibitor who wishes to approach you.
- ⇒ Promptly move to the backdrop to be in photographs.

Competitor.

I feel that intermediates can show with a halter but should be working towards not using one. If there are two competitors doing an exemplary job and one is without a halter it is very likely that the competitor without a halter will win, they are showing at a higher skill level.

At the senior level I expect to not see halters in the ring.

Remember when switching positions in the line up to maintain safety and control.

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Realistic Lamb/Kid Pattern

Want to make a model lamb or kid for the 4-H members to practice their technique for banding tails, giving an injection, ear tagging, etc? This is "Learn to Do By Doing" at its finest! Check this link:



<http://4h.missouri.edu/projects/patterns/lambdirections.pdf>

We're on the web...

www.4h.ab.ca

"Learn To Do By Doing"



Developing a keen eye for judging is one of those skills that takes time and a lot of practice. Making decisions and being able to back those decisions up with valid reasons are skills we can all use.

It is important for leaders/parents to help the members develop their abilities by providing feedback to the members. This is done through constructive advice of reasons presented.

Answers to Ovine Knowledge Bowl on page 1.

1. Colostrum
2. Four (4)
3. 148 days
4. Copper
5. 14–20 days (average 17 days)
6. 102-103 F or 38.8 – 39.44C
7. Reticulum, Rumen, Abomasum, Omasum
8. Within 6 weeks of birth
9. The neck
10. Also known as "Sore Mouth" it is a virus that causes sores on the mouth of lambs, and udders of ewes. Highly contagious and can be spread to people.

"Learn to do by Doing" is just as much for leaders/parents as it is for members. It may seem a bit intimidating to mark written reasons on a lamb class but we all have to start somewhere.

Placings of a class are out of 50 points. Those points are determined by how the member ranks the class. A great tool to use for determining placing points is to use a Hormel Slide as shown left. If you need to borrow a slide, Andrea at the 4-H office has some available. As well, there are apps for your smart phone that you can download. Here are a couple that may work for you:

<http://worldaccessnet.com/~normans/hormel.html>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/judging-score-calculator/id516667436?mt=8>

The other 50 points are based on the member's reasons. When marking members' reasons, try not to have to

mark your own family's cards. It just makes life easier for all involved.

The most important idea to keep in mind when evaluating reasons, either written or oral is to **BE CONSISTANT**. Be sure to not mark the first few members' reasons too high so you have no where to go when there is a set of reasons that are excellent. A good score to start with might be 35-40, depending on the quality of the reasons and the age of the member.

Marking guidelines can be found at the start of this linked document.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/\\$FILE/JudgingPG.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h8115/$FILE/JudgingPG.pdf)

Pages 1—26 cover how to develop reasons and present either in written form or orally. It also provides guidelines for marking both written and oral reasons. This is a great resource to explore if you may be marking reasons in the future.

Marking Judging Cards

Trimming

Zane Ashbacher, a former 4-H member, gave a great demonstration on trimming for a show.

One of his main messages...practice the 4-H motto and "Learn To Do By Doing". There is nothing like practice to learn from your mistakes.

