

Start to Finish –Market Lambs

Updated 11-2016

Start of Feeding Period: (April – June)

Facilities

- adequate facilities and avoid hazards (dog proof)
 - 3 sided shed, cool in summer, dry and out of wind in winter
 - Fences min – 48 inches, 60 (5 ft) best

Health

- vaccinate with C&D with Tetanus, even if previously vaccinated (2cc, SQ)
 - repeat in 21 days - booster
- control internal parasites (even if previously treated)
 - submit a lamb fecal sample to vet for parasite count
- encourage 4-H families to develop a good relationship with a veterinarian
 - follow label directions on medication throughout the year

Feeding

- begin feeding a 14 to 16 percent protein feed with adequate fiber for young lambs
- begin feeding 2 to 2.5 lbs. per day (at least 3% of body weight)
- textured vs pelleted feeds
- feed in groups
- clean water – 2x's a day
- feed troughs should be attached to the fence or where they remain clean and free of manure

Management

- begin halter breaking lambs
- rough shear every 60 days
- Trim feet monthly

Mid-Season: (July –September)

Facilities

- real important to keep airflow this time of year

Health

- booster lambs with CD&T vaccine anytime there is significant feed changes/August 1st
- Retreat for internal parasites every 30 days (and external parasites as needed)
- B-12 or Thiamine and Bo-Se monthly (1cc each, SQ)

Feeding

- adjust amount of feed as needed to increase condition or fat cover
- change feeds as needed, including increased energy/grains
- the correct amount and type of feed at this time varies according to breeds and types of lambs
- feeding hay will help maintain a healthy rumen and will help with fill
- fresh cool water

Management

- Rough Shear lambs every 60 days, except when lambs hide has a tendency to wrinkle
 - Barn blankets go on
- begin training lambs to show
- if lambs are shown in the summer/fall, protect lambs from ringworms and fungus
- Trim feet monthly

Late Season: (October – January)

Health

- booster lambs with CD&T vaccine anytime there is significant feed changes/October 1
- Retreat for internal parasites every 30 days (Stop no later than thanksgiving)
- B-12 or Thiamine and Bo-Se monthly (stop January 1)

Feeding

- adjust feed as needed to assure adequate fat cover by Thanksgiving or at least early December to begin exercise program
- begin exercising lambs
- avoid excessive fat cover
- hay for fill and warmth
- fresh water

Management

- continue to work with lambs in preparation for shows and be aware of their strengths and weaknesses
- continue to shear on an appropriate schedule (January 1) and blanket lambs after shearing and during extended periods of cold conditions
- trim feet monthly
- take lambs on a road trip/teach lambs to take drench gun

Show Season: (January –March)

Health

- consult with vet and show rules if any medication must be given

Feeding

- make sure lambs have adequate fat cover or maintain proper condition
- lambs will need more volume of feed and adequate energy as they become heavier/exercise
- Hay
- Exercise – last 30 days is most important

Management

- Keep barn blankets on
- Work on Showmanship as much as possible (be able to go an hour)

Shearing and Fitting for Show

Shearing

- use Lister clippers and blades
 - Start and finish with 1 set of blades
- shear as close to show day as possible
- use “Fine” blades on most breeds and can be used on all lambs
- “Surgical” blades may be preferred on some medium wool lambs, especially when sheared more than 3 days prior to show
- Wash thoroughly – get all the soap off
- Moisturize hide and hair after shearing

Feeding

- Back off feed/break feedings up into multiple times a day/Wet feeding
- Hay
- Lots of Water/Some Drench if needed

Management

- Keep cool, but not cold
- Rinse if warm (not FW)
- Weigh often
- Rest/excersize