

Should I take a MARKET LAMB as a 4-H project?

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This fact sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED

- 15 square feet per animal in confinement with good ventilation
- It is recommended to allow access to outside for exercise

COMFORT ZONE

- 45-70° F for optimal performance

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- 1.5-2 gallons per day

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat 3.5 - 4 pounds of an approved lamb/sheep feed per day
- Will gain from .6 – 1.0 pounds per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 4-6 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)
- When feeding lambs it is important that you feed a combination of Energy (grain) and Roughage (stem hay) to promote proper digestive health to maximize growth

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- An ideal weight would be between 120-135 lbs. when finished (110-140 pound range)
- Lambs will be finished at approximately 6-8 months of age

BUDGETING

- Minimum purchase cost is \$200 for a 70-90 lb. feeder lamb for show (prices vary)
- Projected market price is \$3.25 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$132 and includes:
 - Hay (alfalfa, grass or a combination of both)
 - Grain (either pelleted or texturized)
 - Supplements (salt & mineral)

Prepared by Bonnie Malone, Extension Educator 4-H, Huron County, Ohio and Vicki Schwartz, Associate State Leader, Ohio 4-H.

