



LAMBS



MAKING SHELTER FOR YOUR LAMB

- Prepare a pen with a shelter in it, in a sunny position, free from draughts. Place hay in the shelter and replace when it becomes dirty. Newspaper may be substituted for bedding and it can be burnt as required.

FEEDING THE LAMB

- A newly born lamb must have its mothers milk (colostrum) or a home-made mixture of colostrum for 4 days. Cow's colostrum is the best alternative to ewe's colostrum and you might be able to get a small supply from a dairy farmer, or you can buy colostrum in powder form which is available from most farm supply stores.
- Another alternative is to make up the following home-made
- alternative – 1 litre of warm cow's or powdered milk, 1 egg, 1 teaspoon of cod liver oil

From 4 days ...

- You can now start to feed powdered lamb milk to your pet. It is very important that you follow the mixing instructions on the packet, so get Mum and Dad to help you.
- Keep feeding four—six feeds per day and gradually increase the amount fed at each feed – always checking that you only feed until the lamb's sides (flanks) are flat – not bulging.
- As the lamb grows bigger and gets older provide more milk while reducing the feeds to three at around one month of age.
- Lambs will start picking at grass when they are only a few weeks old, so you need to move them into a warm, outside pen which can be moved so your lamb has access to fresh grass. You also need to make sure that fresh, clean water is always available in a low container the lamb can reach, without falling into.
- Lambs are normally weaned after your calf club event, or around 12 weeks of age. At first, your lamb will miss its feeds and will call for you, but you can soon make it happy – and forget the feed – if you spend time with it.

DAILY CARE

- Feed the lamb regularly. Observe when it has had enough—the flanks become level with the sides. Never allow it to have a bloated look.
- Brush daily and use a damp cloth to clean around its face, under the front legs, on each flank and inside the ears.
- Check the lambs shelter for cleanliness.
- Wash the feeding bottles and teat after every meal.
- Soon the lamb will need a tether with a secure stake which can be shifted from time to time. Initially the tether needs to be short.
- Take the lamb for a walk using a collar and lead with a snap hook on one end.

WEEKLY CARE

- **Don't bath the lamb.** Soap and detergent remove the natural grease and water repellent quality of wool. The lamb could contract pneumonia.
- Lengthen the tether as the lamb gets used to it.
- Loosen the collar gradually as the lamb grows.
- Watch for scouring (diarrhoea). This attracts flies and if the lamb should become fly-blown it could have to be destroyed. Consult a Vet without delay.
- Have the lamb docked by a sheep farmer or Vet. It needs an anti-tetanus injection when tailed, especially if a ring is used.
- If the lamb limps or kneels down to eat it may have foot rot, a bacterial disease. Obtain help to cut it out & contact a Vet for a spray to cure it.
- Worms - Once your lamb begins to eat grass, it will be suspect to getting worms which, if not treated, will get all the goodness out of its food. So it will have to be drenched for worms at regular intervals.



Notes

PREPARING YOUR LAMB FOR AGRICULTURAL DAY

Commence training the lamb from an early age. Make some time each day to play with the lamb and caress it. Talk to it quietly when feeding and playing with it.

Calling

- To train the lamb to call, stand some distance from it with a bottle of milk held behind your back. Call it by name. When it comes give it a gently pat and feed it. By the time of the School Ag day the lamb should come when called, whether or not it is given a bottle of milk.
- Practice over and over again around the same kind of ring as will be used for the school's Ag Day.
 - i. Have someone hold the lamb. Move to the first peg and call it. When it comes give it a pat.
 - ii. Walk to the next corner peg with the lamb following close behind.
 - iii. Run along the next peg with the lamb running behind. Practise catching the lamb quietly near the ring exit.



Note: These three stages can be taught by giving the lamb a drink at each stage while it is young. When it gets older, give it a drink at the finish only and then gradually dispense the drink altogether.

Leading

Daily practice can result in a perfect lead at the school Ag Day.

- Lead the lamb anti-clockwise round the ring stopping at the stop peg to count 1, 2, 3 before moving on. If left handed, lead clockwise round the ring.
- Walk at the same pace as the lamb, walk upright and keep to a straight line. Lamb and child need to move in tandem with right/left legs in line.
- Teer the lamb by moving the hand that is holding the lead to the left or right. Make sure the lead from the rope/collar around its neck is not too tight or too loose.

Rearing

This section of a lamb project is usually assessed at the Ag Day under the following headings...

Care, Cleanliness and Condition

- Have a name for the lamb and know its birthday
- On the day, be prepared to discuss various rearing activities of the project.
- Make sure the lambs ears, face, legs, hooves, flanks and under the stomach are clean for the Ag Day. The lamb must not be clipped and the main fleece is not to be bloom dipped and washed.

And, remember, always wash your hands
Carefully after caring for your lamb,
and before eating!

