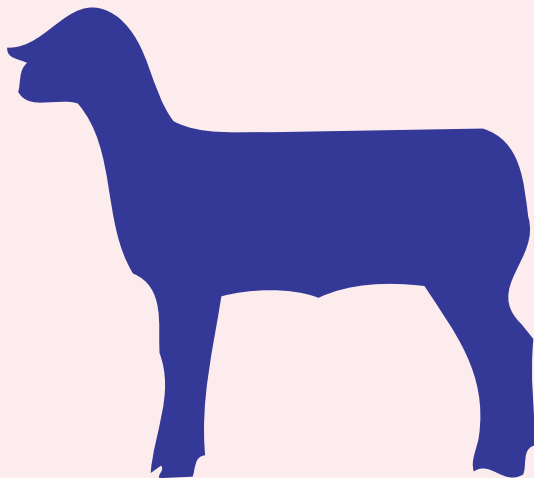


# SHOW·RITE®

*Show Feeds... Done Rite!*



## Putting You in the SpotLite

A Look at Getting Your Club Lamb Project Ready to Show



*Products and Answers that WORK®*

424 North Riverfront Drive • Mankato, MN • [www.hubbardfeeds.com](http://www.hubbardfeeds.com)



# Show-Rite® Show Lamb Weight Calculator

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Today's Date						
2	Weigh-in Date						
3	Days until Show <i>(B<sup>2</sup> - B<sup>1</sup>)</i>						
4	Today's Weight						
5	Desired Show Day Weight						
6	Weight Gain Needed <i>(B<sup>5</sup> - B<sup>4</sup>)</i>						
7	Average Daily Gain Needed <i>(B<sup>6</sup> ÷ B<sup>3</sup>)</i>						
8	Feed Conversion						
9	Pounds of Feed Needed Daily to Achieve Desired Gain <i>(B<sup>8</sup> x B<sup>7</sup>)</i>						

The Show-Rite® Show Feeds ... Putting You in the SpotLite!

## Putting You in the SpotLite



**The show lamb industry** is a very competitive game. The management of your lamb project will determine the difference between being in the “SpotLite” or watching from the sidelines.

**Many hours of hard work and dedication** are needed to get your lamb in show shape. This hard work and dedication to your project starts the day you get your lamb home.

**The payoff for all of this hard work and time** is the gratification of being able to present your lamb in a well-presented manner and know that you have done everything to make your lamb look the “BEST” on show day.

**This guide** is intended to help you learn management techniques to help you put your animal in the “SpotLite” on show day!

## “Getting Ready to Rumble”



*Figure 8: Keep your lamb alert.*

**While getting your lamb ready for show is important,** it is equally important that you are also “show day ready.” This includes being properly attired for the occasion. If you look the part, you will be the part.

- No caps or hats should be worn.
- Be neat in appearance but not overdressed.
- No halters should be used in the show ring.

**Before you show your lamb,** go to the show ring and become familiar with the ring and how the judge handles the lambs. This can give you a decided advantage later on when you are going to show your lamb. Watch how the judge evaluates a class so that you know how he works the lambs in the ring. A good showman will emphasize the strong points of the lamb and minimize the weak points.

Remain calm at all times and display a pleasant facial expression. Stay alert and keep one eye on the judge and one eye on your project. Be courteous to all exhibitors and find a good place to set your lamb up, making the lamb look its very best. Stay out of the corners, out of low places in the show ring and leave plenty of space between you and other exhibitors. Set your lamb properly, keeping the body and neck in a straight and upright position.

Keep the lamb’s head up at all times and ears forward. Keep the lamb alert and “on its toes.”

## When you get your lamb home:

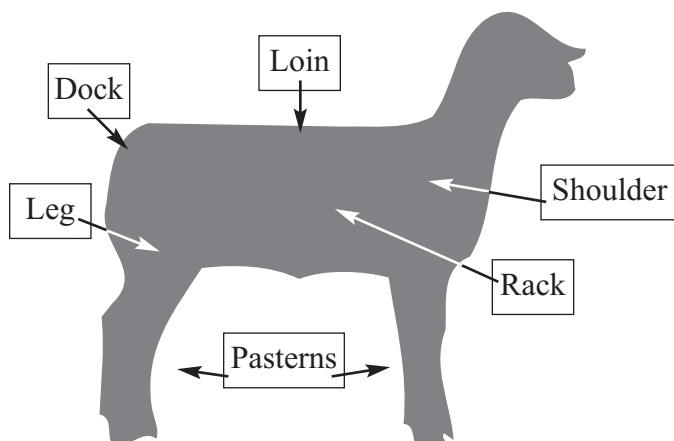


Figure 1

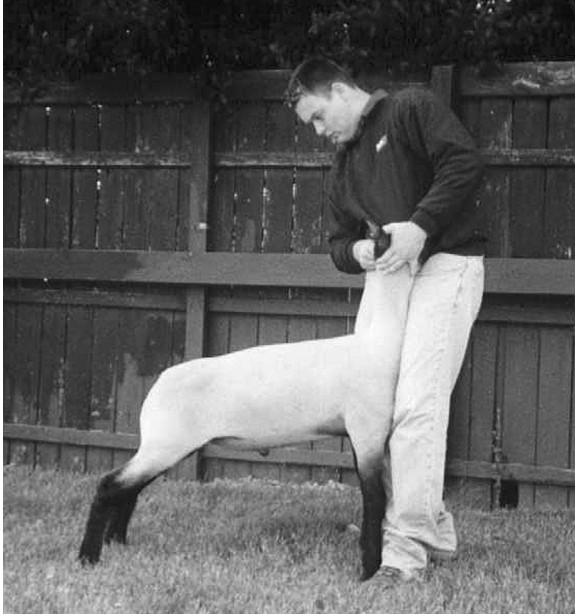
Treat for internal parasites, over-eating disease, tetanus and prevention of coccidiosis with the assistance of your local veterinarian. Once your lamb becomes acclimated to its new environment, slick shear your lamb. Shearing your lamb will keep the animal cooler, thereby increasing appetite and, at the same time, increasing overall growth traits. These steps are all very important to getting your lamb off to a good, healthy start.

**Proper weight manipulation and desired amount of finish** will be achieved by weighing your lambs everyday and monitoring their body condition by handling your lambs and feeling for finish and muscle tone. An easy way to evaluate your lamb's condition is to gently feel for finish over mid rib of the lamb using the tips of your fingers in a circular motion.

A good way to describe how condition feels on a market lamb is to take your hand and make a fist. If the condition over the lamb's ribs feels like the back side of your hand, your lamb is over-conditioned. If the lamb's ribs feel like the knuckles on your hand, your lamb is under-conditioned. However, if your lamb's ribs feel similar to the covering on the lower part of the back side of your fingers, you are on the right track.

**When evaluating muscle tone and volume of your lamb**, you are simply feeling for the amount of muscle that your lamb has, how firm the muscle is and if the animal is market ready. This can be achieved by evaluating three areas.

## Showmanship - continued:



*Figure 5: Teaching your lamb to brace*

**Teaching your lamb to brace:** After the lamb is trained to lead and the feet are properly set, the lamb is ready to be taught to brace. Bracing is where the lamb pushes or braces himself against the exhibitor when the judge handles the lamb. Bracing is a constant steady pressure that enables the lamb to express muscle definition and firmness for the judge. By getting a good brace on your lamb, you will enable the judge to evaluate your lamb easier. Always keep the lamb's front legs on the ground when bracing.

Many different techniques are used when teaching the lamb to brace. Use the technique that your lamb will respond to. Remember, never overpower your lamb when teaching it to brace.

Also remember, when a lamb starts bad habits, it will be difficult to break the lamb from those bad habits. The best way to avoid the development of bad habits is to be careful not to over-practice when teaching the lamb how to push.

# Exercising Your Lamb – The Key to Toning and Conditioning

Continually monitoring fat deposition and muscle development will be essential in developing the ideal show lamb. Knowing how your lamb responds to a combination of feed and exercise will determine the outcome of this feeding and exercise regimen.

If lambs continue to be over-conditioned and soft-handling, one may consider decreasing the feed intake and increasing the amount of exercise. If lambs are losing too much condition, one needs to consider decreasing the exercise and increasing the amount of feed.

If the condition of the lamb is not continually monitored, lambs will either “wash out” or become over-conditioned. Not all lambs respond to exercise and feeding programs in the same manner so each lamb needs to be monitored individually on a daily basis. The ultimate goal of a feeding and exercise program is to have your animal handling the best that it can on show day. A term used to describe this is “being at twelve o’clock.”

## Common mistakes in exercising lambs:

- The biggest mistake in exercising lambs is to exercise them before they have enough condition on them.
- Exercising lambs for too long a period will actually tear down muscle, rather than build muscle. A 350- to 450-yard sprint is plenty. The goal of an exercising program is to produce adrenaline and get the adrenaline running through the lamb’s body. Adrenaline production encourages the development of muscle.
- Failing to keep the lamb replenished with fluid to allow for proper muscle development is a costly mistake. A lamb’s muscle is made up of 70 to 80 percent water.

# Showmanship – Making your animal look its BEST on show day:

## Showmanship contests are won at home – not at the show.

The amount of time and hard work that you put into your project at home will be in direct correlation with the amount of success that you will experience at the fair.

## Showmanship is divided into two parts:

- 1) Pre-show preparation
- 2) Show ring presentation

## Pre-show preparation – Keep in mind the following factors:

- Some lambs are gentle and easy to train, while others are difficult and harder to train.
- Most lambs can be trained, provided enough time and effort are spent.

**Halter breaking:** First of all, lambs need to be halter broken. The easiest way to halter break a lamb is to catch the lamb, halter it and tie it to a fence. Tie the lamb allowing 12 inches of slack. This amount of space should be enough to create respect for the halter, but should not allow the lamb to hurt itself. Remember, never leave tied lambs unattended. While lambs are tied, place your lamb's feet properly in order to get your lamb accustomed to being "set up."  
(See Figure 4 on following page.)

**Show them the "Rite" Way – The Show-Rite® Way!**