

Morgan County Market Lamb Project



Selecting your Market Lamb

Whether you are brand new to the lamb project, or a veteran with many years under you belt, here are some tips on the animal you are looking for.

- Make sure you pick a reputable breeder if you are purchasing your animal.
- Know the genetic makeup of the animal you are going to purchase.
- Consider the following factors: frame size, muscle, structural correctness, balance, eye appeal, and disposition.
- Keep in mind the average daily gain for a lamb is .50 - .65 pounds.
- Lambs typically need to eat 6.5 to 7 lbs. of grain for every 1 lb. of gain. Your lamb will need to eat between 3 and 5 lbs. of grain to ensure a gain of .50 lb. per day.
- Keeping with current industry standards, your lamb should weight 110-160 pounds at county fair.
- The feeding period for a market lamb is 90-120 days.
- Your lamb should be 6-8 months in age at county fair.
- Fresh and clean water should be available at all times
- Feed should contain 16-18% protein
- Use the chart below to determine how big your lamb should be at purchase to ensure he is properly finished by county fair.

How Much Should My Lamb Weight?

*Assuming a .50 ADG

Days to Lamb Show	Desired Beginning Weight	Desired Market Weight at Show
107 days	67- 97 pounds	110-160 pounds
91 days	75-105 pounds	110-160 pounds

Additional Information

- Barn or shed should have 20 square feet per animal
- Fence should be minimum of 42 inches tall
- Lambs should be vaccinated for CD/T before going on full feed
- Halter break ASAP, teach your lamb to brace, set its legs and walk at your request. Practice every day.
- Exercise every day approximately 4 - 6 weeks before show.
- The average cost per lamb is \$600-\$700. This includes the purchase of the animal, feed for 4 months and show supplies.
- Sore-mouth and ringworm are two common health concerns in lambs.
- When treatment or injections are necessary fro animal health read the label, administer properly, adhere to withdrawal times, and keep accurate records.
- Ask For Help: 4-H Agent, Leaders or other members in the 4-H Lamb Project.

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Upcoming Events:

- Market Lamb Primary Care begins 5/5/2025
- Market Lamb ID due to Extension Office by 4:00 pm, 5/5/2025
- Breeding Sheep ID's due Extension Office by 4:00 pm 5/1/2025
- Meat Quality Assurance 5/12/2025 or 5/13/2025 , 4:30-6:30 pm, MCFG
- Fair entries and record books due, 7/9/2025, 4 pm, Extension Office

