

# 4-H Sheep Project Annual Cost

## Requirements/Costs

- The cost for a market lamb will generally range between \$125-\$350, with the average being \$175-\$200. Lambs may be purchased for well in excess of these figures depending on the buyer's preference.
- The club member must purchase their lamb, and be in possession of their lamb at least sixty day prior to Fair.
- The target weight for fair is 100-150lbs. At date of purchase, the lamb should be of sufficient weight to reach the minimum weight of 100 lbs by Fair, based on a daily gain of  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs per day.
- A gated pen that is a minimum of approximately 12' X 24' will be required, and can be constructed of various materials, and as such, the cost can vary greatly. The pen must be at least 48" high, and built to prevent the lamb from becoming entangled. The smaller the pen, the more the animal will need to be manually exercised.
- A bucket for water and a bucket/rack for feed will be required.
- The lamb must have a draft free, well ventilated shelter that will provide refuge from wind and rain, as well as sun.
- If the lamb is purchased sixty days prior to Fair, the approximate cost of feed and supplies per animal will be:
  - Grain – 10 bags @ \$10.00 = \$100.00
  - Hay - 1 bale @ \$15.00
  - Salt - \$10.00
  - Supplement (optional) - \$20.00
  - Shearing - \$10.00
  - Vet Checks – \$12.00
  - Shavings - \$20.00
  - Halter (minimum) - \$4.00

## What to Expect

- If you are unsure in regards to confirmation and health, ask your Project Leader for assistance when purchasing your lamb.
- When you bring your lamb home, feed it only good quality alfalfa hay for the first few days, to allow the lamb to adjust to its new home. The exception would be if you will continue to utilize the same feed your breeder was feeding.
- The lamb must be fed twice daily, and must always have clean water to drink.
- Bedding must be kept clean and dry, and the lamb pen should have good water drainage.
- Do not shear your lamb until you are sure that the cold weather is behind us.
- Ensure that your lamb is transported safely. Avoid tying your lamb in open pickups or trailers. Contact your Project Leader if you require assistance.