

# Sheep & Goat- Beginning Planning & Record Sheet

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One of your market project goals should be to have a market ready animal. Knowing what your animal weighs now and the estimated end weight will help you be successful in achieving your market ready goal.

## **General Project Information**

Youth Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Weigh-in Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Shoulder/Wither Height (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED FINAL WT:

Vaccinations (circle): wormer, 8-way type, Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_

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Estimate Average Daily Gain (ADG) for your lamb/goat

Est. finished weight	Beginning weight	Total required gain	Days in feeding period	Required daily gain
_____	- _____	= _____	÷ _____	= _____

*Think about this.....*

1. What does market ready mean? Is your estimated final weight an ideal market weight for the sheep/goat industry?
2. The national average for ADG is .5 lbs/day. Is your required ADG achievable?
3. Typical influences in ADG can be feed, water, weather, and illness. How will you manage these?

## **Feeding Your Lamb/Goat-**

Lambs/goats will consume about 3-3.5% of their body weight per day. Make every effort to keep feed waste to a minimum. Grain waste can be 5 to 10% of the amount fed and hay waste 10 to 20%, depending on facilities and care in feeding.

List your concentrates (grain): \_\_\_\_\_

List your roughages: \_\_\_\_\_

List any other: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your feeding method i.e.; free choice, hand fed, no. of times, fed in a bunk or feed pan, on or off the ground, etc.

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*Think about this.....*

1. What happens if your animal does not have the ADG you predicted?
2. If your animal is not market ready by fair time, what happens?

### ***How much do you feed?***

A finishing ration is 2 to 2.5% in grain and 1% in hay. Start your lamb/goat on ¼ to ½ pound of grain per day, slowly increasing to the finishing ration.

*Think about this.....*

1. How much does one scoop weigh? Is one scoop of grain enough pounds to feed per feeding?
2. How many scoops should you feed?

### ***Energy and Protein***

Energy is needed for increased growth rate. Many different grains are high in energy. Protein is important nutrient in a lamb/goat finishing ration. Protein is needed to build bone and muscle. Young, fast growing lambs need rations that contain 16 to 18% protein (13 to 15% for goats) to allow them to grow and develop to their muscle potential.

### ***Minerals***

Salt (sodium and chlorine) and calcium and phosphorus is important for lamb rations. Have loose salt (NOT a block) available free choice. Calcium and phosphorus should be fed in a ratio of 2.5 parts calcium to 1 part phosphorus.

Read your feed label and fill in the information below.

Name of Feed: \_\_\_\_\_ Protein content: \_\_\_\_\_

Calcium content: \_\_\_\_\_ Phosphorus content: \_\_\_\_\_

List of ingredients: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Think about this.....*

1. What is the main protein source (ingredient) in your feed?
2. Is your feed providing the 2.5 to 1 ratio for Ca:P?

### ***Water***

Water is the most important nutrient. Explain how your lamb/goat receives fresh clean water.

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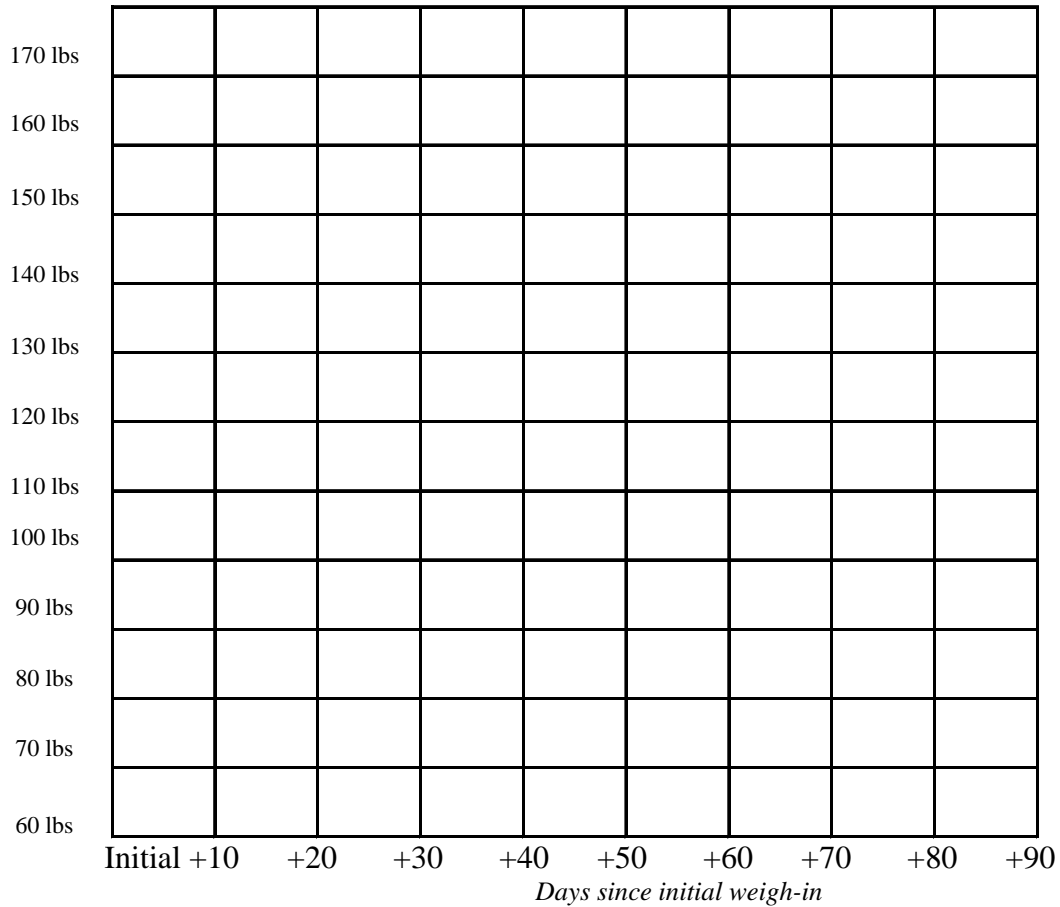
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# Market Lamb Growth Chart

To achieve success with your 4-H Market Lamb project, it is important you know the estimated final weight of your animal and your progress toward that goal throughout the feeding period. The chart below enables you to plot the predicted growth curve (immediately after the initial weigh-in) and then plot the actual weight of your animal at various times during the feeding period to determine if you are “on target.”



Initial weigh-in date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial animal weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days in feeding period: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated final weight: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Mark the initial weight at the appropriate location on the left-hand side of the table.
2. Mark the estimated final weight at the appropriate location for the number of days in the feeding period.
3. Connect these two points with a straight line. This is your predicted rate of growth.
4. Record your animal’s weight in the table below and the chart above each time it is weighed during the feeding period. Connect this point with the previous actual weight. Is the actual growth curve above or below your predicted growth line? Why?

## Progressive Project Weight Record

<b>Weigh date</b>									
<b>Days since last weigh date</b>	XXXXXX								
<b>Current weight</b>									
<b>A.D.G. (since last weigh date)</b>	XXXXXX								
<b>Overall A.D.G.</b>	XXXXXX								

Tracking animal weight can tell you where your animal is compared to your goal. After each weigh day ask yourself; do you need to feed more grain or hay? Typical influences in A.D.G. can be feed, water, weather, and illness. Ask yourself is the A.D.G. normal? What caused any problems?