

INTRODUCTION

This manual has been developed as a study guide for the Florida State Fair Skillathon which is part of the Champion Youth Program. The topic for this year's Skillathon is **Health care management**.

The Florida State Fair recognizes that agricultural education instructors, 4H agents, parents, and leaders provide the traditional and logical instructional link between youth, their livestock projects and current trends in the animal agriculture industry. **PLEASE NOTE:** This manual is provided as a **study guide** for the skillathon competition and should be used as an additional aid to ongoing educational programs.

Sections are labeled **Junior, Intermediate & Senior, Intermediate & Senior, or Senior** to help exhibitors and educators identify which materials are required for their age level.

** Additional information is noted in the study manual for preparing for the Champion of Champions competition.

Juniors (age 8-10 as of September 1, 2009)

Body Parts
Restraint, Knot Tying

Intermediates (age 11-13 as of September 1, 2009)

all of the above plus...
Health Supplies
Animal Identification
How to give an Injection, Injection Sites

Seniors (age 14 and over as of September 1, 2009)

all of the above plus...
Weight Estimation & Dosages
Medication Label Identification
Withdrawal Times & Medical Calculations

GOOD LUCK

Animal Health

Assuring animal health is a primary responsibility of livestock managers. Failure results in animal suffering, decreased productivity and potential threats to human health. Animal health is so important that the United States Department of Agriculture has a Health Inspection Service to work with the livestock industry in disease prevention. Concerns over bioterrorism and potential threats to human health have brought animal health concerns into the spotlight in recent years.

Disease may be caused by infectious agents (bacterial, viral, fungal, prion, and parasitic) which might be passed around by biting insects, wild animals, fecal contamination, sexual contact, air borne, or contaminated feed and water. Health problems may also occur from noninfectious causes (malnutrition, trauma, cancer, genetic defects, and environmental hazards like toxins, poison or extreme weather conditions). Disease prevention practices include purchasing healthy animals, isolation, quarantine, testing, and immunization (vaccination) programs. In extreme cases animals are sometimes destroyed to prevent further spread of disease. Treatment might involve the use of antibiotics, medications or antiparasitic compounds. Excellent powers of observation, an understanding of normal behavior, good sanitation practices, and diligent vaccination and deworming schedules are key components of animal health maintenance.

How do you know if an animal is healthy or not? One of the keys is to understand what is normal so that you can recognize what is abnormal. This is a skill that develops after working with and caring for livestock over time. The following are some of the characteristics that serve as the basis for assessing animal health. Deviations from normal are early indicators that something may be wrong and may allow early response.

Normal Eating Behavior

Normal Fecal Pattern and Consistency

Normal Stance, Movement, Posture and Activity Patterns

Group (Herd or Flock) Behavior

Sounds or Acoustical Communication

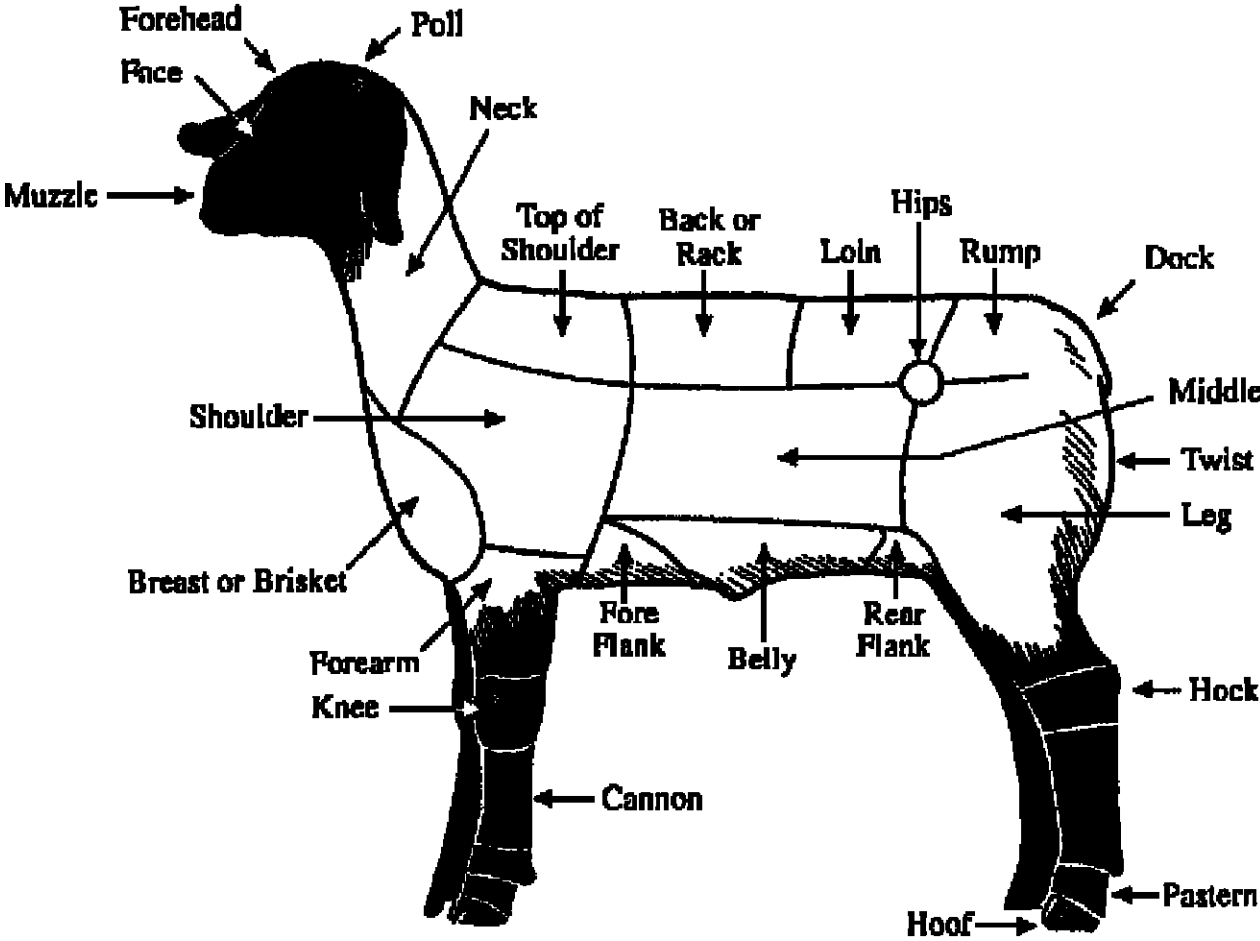
Normal Vital Signs

Assessing Vital Signs**

Body temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate are called vital signs. The body's response to an infectious agent or some other problem often results in a change from normal in one or more of the vital signs. Recognizing these changes along with other symptoms may allow early identification and treatment of a problem before it gets out of hand. Body temperature is measured with a rectal thermometer while the animal is properly restrained and averages 102.3 (100.9 – 103.8) °F. Pulse is the surging of blood through arteries and is usually defined as the heartbeats occurring in a minute (bpm). In sheep it can be felt directly by placing the fingertips between the ribs just behind the elbow or by palpating the femoral artery one third of the way down the inside of the hind leg (average 75 range 60 – 120) bpm. Respiration rate can be measured by simply counting the expansion and relaxation of the rib cage and abdominal wall (averages 19 breaths/minute). It is also helpful to examine the mucous membranes (inner eye lid, inside the nostrils, inner lips and gums) checking for a moist, pink appearance. You can check for dehydration by pinching the skin on the side of the neck and releasing it. If the skin goes back into place quickly (less than 3 seconds), the animal has good skin pliability and is likely not dehydrated.

Sheep Body Parts

It is important for livestock producers to share a common language. Using the correct names for various body parts is one way to be certain your message is understood. Study the pictures with the names of the body parts labeled so that you can communicate with other producers using correct terms.



Restraint

In order to carry out routine animal health care practices, animals must be prevented from moving about freely. Methods of restraint could be put into five categories.

1. Psychological – knowledge and anticipation of natural behaviors to accomplish task
2. Train or desensitize – repeat exposure to stimulus, cotton in ears, blind fold
3. Confinement - chutes, alleys, stalls, or barriers
4. Tools and physical force –ropes, crooks, canes, hands, prods and whips
5. Chemical sedation or immobilization – potentially dangerous, should not be used without veterinary supervision.

Whichever method or methods are employed, it is important to use common sense, plan ahead, be safe and always use SELF CONTROL. Haste is the enemy. Ask the following questions: Will the method minimize the danger to the handler? Will the method minimize danger to the animal? Will the method cause unnecessary pain or fright? Will the method allow the management technique to be completed as necessary? If any of the questions are answered negatively, other restraint methods should be used.

Ropes used in Restraint

Rope is one of the tools used most often by livestock producers. Knowledge of rope, knots, and hitches is indispensable. The most common type of rope used by livestock producers is the three strand braided rope which can come in many diameters and be made of man-made or natural fibers. Cotton ropes are soft, flexible and are least likely to cause rope burn though not as strong as other fibers and will rot and deteriorate over time. Cotton ropes are good for tying up limbs, for neck ropes and for lead ropes (if 5/8 inch or larger). Nylon is the strongest type of rope and will not rot from water or mildew but will stretch and often causes rope burn. It makes the strongest lead rope and is excellent for slinging and total restraint. Regardless of the fiber, ropes should be of fairly wide diameter, soft-surfaced and free of knots. Webbing should be free of rust and dirt and have smooth surfaces. Ropes should be kept clean, dry and untangled.

Knots for Livestock Handling

There are many circumstances in sheep handling that will require you to tie knots. Take the time to learn to tie several types of knots and hitches so that you will have the right knot for the right circumstance. Practice often so that it becomes second nature. In an emergency situation, you do not want to have to think about which knot to choose and how to tie it.

Knots join ropes together, attach ropes to a post or rail, or attach ropes to an animal.

Hitches are used to attach a rope to a post or rail - only thing securing the rope to post is the pressure of one rope coil wrapping upon the others.

Splices are used to permanently join ropes to one another - individual strands from each rope are interwoven with strands from the other.

<p>Reefer's Knot (<i>Quick-Release Square Knot</i>) A good non-slip knot for tying ends of rope together and can easily be released. An advantage is that it can be tied under tension - an important feature for a knot used to restrain livestock.</p>	<p>Bowline Knot A non-slip knot used to form a loop that will not tighten or draw down when placed around an animal's body or a post.</p>
<p>Quick-Release Knot The standard way to tie an animal to a post. A variation of a slipknot that can be released very quickly, even when under tension. This knot should never be tied around the neck or body of an animal.</p>	<p>Honda Knot Knot used to form small loop in the end of a rope in order to pass the rest of the rope through, forming a much larger loop, or lariat.</p>
<p>Square Knot Excellent for tying two nearly equal size ropes together or for tying the ends of a single rope together to form a loop. Used mainly to secure gates or cage openings. Also used to tie a cloth or gauze bandage around the limb of an injured animal.</p>	<p>Double Half Hitch A quick and easy knot which acts like a slipknot and is a convenient way to tie up the end of a rope.</p>

Methods of Animal Identification

Proper animal identification has always been essential for record keeping and for efficient execution of normal management practices. In recent times, the threat of bioterrorism and the potential for rapid spread of diseases affecting livestock and human populations has led to the development of the **National Animal Identification System (NAIS)**. For sheep producers, the Scrapies Eradication Program has caused them to be leaders in the industry wide effort. The NAIS is a national program intended to identify specific animals in the United States and record their movement over their lifespan. It is being developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State agencies—in cooperation with industry—to enable 48-hour trace back of the movements of any diseased or exposed animal. This will help to ensure rapid disease containment and maximum protection of America's animals. The records maintained will include: Animal Identification Number, AIN , or Group/Lot Identification Number; GIN, Premises Identification Number, PIN of the location where the event takes place; Date of the event; Event type (movement in, movement out, sighting of an animal at a location, termination of the animal, etc.) For more details you may visit the following websites:

National Animal Identification System website: <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>
 American Sheep Industry Association website: <http://www.sheepusa.org/>

Many options exist for sheep, some permanent, some temporary. Whatever method is chosen, it should be visible, easy to apply, unalterable, inexpensive and not cause harm or discomfort to the animal. Possible methods of sheep identification include: ear tattooing, ear notching, ear tagging, paint branding, or implanted transponders.

TATTOOING

Advantages - It is permanent and does not disfigure the animal.

Disadvantages - Animal must be confined in order to read tattoo. Tattoos are hard to read on dark-skinned animals. Must wait until lamb is 6 months old so tattoo is readable.

Equipment Necessary -

Squeeze Chute or Head Gate
 Tattooing Numbers &/or Letters
 Alcohol

Tattooing Instrument
 Tattooing Ink or Paste
 Clean Cloth

Procedures -

1. Assemble the necessary equipment. It is important that the numbers and/or letters be placed into the tattooing instrument in the proper order. As you look at them in the tattooing instrument, they should appear backward. Always check the numbers and/or letters on a piece of paper or card board before you begin to make sure they are correctly placed.
2. Restrain the animal.
3. Locate the widest spot in the ear between the rib of cartilage nearest the bottom and the two ribs at the top
4. Clean the inside of the ear, where the tattoo will be placed, with a cloth soaked in alcohol. Infections or warts can result if a tattoo is placed in a dirty ear.

5. Position the tattoo instrument inside the ear so that the needlepoint dies are above the ribs as described in step three. Squeeze the handles of the tattooing instrument together completely and quickly; then release them fully.
6. Rub tattoo ink or paste into all of the needle marks. Work the ink or paste well into the marks.
7. The same procedure can be used on the inside of the flank where there is no wool growth. It will be necessary to set the sheep on its rump for this process.
8. Clean the tattooing equipment with alcohol after each day of use.

EAR TAGGING (plastic)

Advantages - Economical; can be read from a distance; flexible.

Disadvantages - Plastics tend to become hard and brittle in cold weather; Easily lost; Pre-numbered tags with block-type numbers are difficult to read if they get soiled.

Equipment Necessary -

Squeeze Chute or Head Gate
Marking Fluid

Ear Tag and Applicator
Cloth

Antiseptic

Procedures -

1. Select tag style.
2. Select the tag size.
3. Select contrasting ink and tag colors.
4. Select a numbering system for the ear tags.
5. The next decision will be whether to purchase pre-numbered or blank tags. Pre-numbered tags are more convenient, but not as adaptable to your "system" as the blank tags can be. Make this decision based upon the unique needs of your operation. If you choose the blank tags, number the plastic tags with marking fluid recommended by the tag manufacturer. Plastic tags should be numbered the day before they are inserted into the ear. Number the tags with large numbers along their bottoms so that they can be seen from a distance.
6. Insert the ear tag into the appropriate applicator. Each tag manufacturer has an applicator designed specifically for its type of tag. Two-piece tags require that the male portion of the tag be slid over a pin and the female portion inserted into a clip. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions when inserting the tag into the applicator. When using two part tags make sure that the male portion of the tag lines up with the female portion of the tag.
7. Select the ear to be tagged.
8. Select the tagging site on the ear. For lambs, it is best to locate a spot on the widest part of the ear and above the lowest rib on the ear, but below the top two ribs.
9. Hold the ear of the lamb with one hand while using the other hand to insert the ear tag. Be certain to restrain the head securely while piercing the ear until the pliers are removed so the lamb will not tear the ear by shaking its head.
10. Treat the pierced ear around the tag with an antiseptic or iodine to prevent infection and fly irritation or soak the tags before application.
11. Release the animal and allow it to return immediately to its flock mates.

EAR TAGGING (metal)

Advantages – Durable.

Disadvantages – Difficult to read at a distance.

Equipment Necessary

Self-piercing tag or non- piercing tag and hole punch

Pliers

Procedures –

Self-piercing metal tags

1. Insert self-piercing ear tag into the pliers.
2. Find the area on the inside of the ear that has the widest space between the ribs of cartilage.
3. Place the ear tag in the ear with the number facing forward. Clamp it tightly so that the tag is sealed to prevent its loss from the ear.

Non-piercing metal tags

1. Locate a spot in the widest part of the ear between the rib nearest the bottom and the two ribs at the top.
2. Punch a clean hole through the ear, removing any loose cartilage that remains.
3. Place the ear tag in the ear with the number facing forward.
4. Clamp the ear tag together with a pair of pliers or bend the small tab at the end of the tag to secure it in the ear.

PAINT BRANDING (Stenciling)

Advantages - Easy to read; Can be used on young lambs shortly after birth;

Disadvantages - Temporary.

Equipment Necessary -

Paint brands (2½ " for lambs, 4" for sheep)

Wool-branding paint

Procedure -

1. Pour a small amount of wool-branding paint into a container to saturate a piece of cloth or burlap.
2. Place the stencil in the container until the figure is covered with branding paint.
4. Place the stencil on the back of the lamb or ewe so that it can be read from front to rear while standing on the left side or left to right while standing at the sheep's rear.
5. Allow the paint to dry before moving or handling the animal.
6. Clean the equipment after use.

EAR NOTCHES

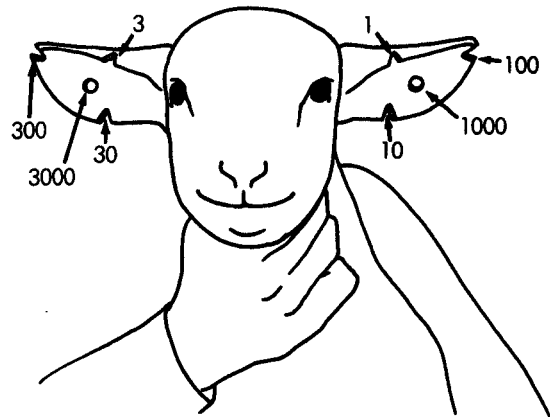
Advantages - Permanent; most economical method

Disadvantages – Detracts from appearance for show animals; difficult to read on breeds with wool on the ears

Equipment Necessary - Ear notcher, antiseptic

Procedure –

1. Choose a simple system like the one used in pigs. This system can be used to number 999 animals. If more numbers are needed, a hole can be punched in the middle of the left ear for 1000 and the middle of the right ear for 3000.
2. Check the number of the lamb and determine where to put the notches.
3. Hold the sheep by the head and use notches to remove a V-shaped amount of tissue from the edge of the ear in each of the locations needed to mark the correct number.
4. Treat the notches with iodine or some other antiseptic.



Sheep Health Supplies

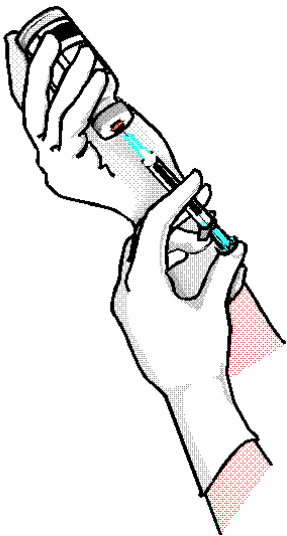
Research the following items and practices to gain knowledge of their purpose in livestock production. Be prepared to identify these items and explain their use. Livestock equipment supply catalogs are a good study resource. Some have photographs on their web sites.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Antiseptic/disinfectant | • Ear tag, |
| • Balling gun | • Hoof trimmers |
| • Blood stopper | • Mineral oil |
| • Epsom salts | • Needles |
| • Dewormer | • Paint brands/stick |
| • Emasculator/Elastrator | • Penicillin |
| • Ear tags | • Probiotic |
| • Disbudding iron/dehorner | • Stomach tube |
| • Dose syringe | • Syringes |
| • Drench bottle | • Tattoo |
| • Fly tag | • Thermometer |
| • Ear notcher | • Tincture of Iodine |
| • Ear punch | • Vaccine |

Administering Medications and Vaccinations

As a routine part of herd health management, livestock producers must administer medicine. It may be given topically (on the skin), orally (by mouth), or by injection. Each of these techniques may bring about undesirable behavioral responses so you must properly restrain the animal and protect yourself. Topical treatments may be dangerous to humans so you should wear gloves and follow all safety precautions of the manufacturer. Medications given by mouth may be fed, loaded into a balling gun, or mixed into a drench or a dose syringe. Care should be taken that the animal does not choke and fluids are not forced into the lungs. Injections put medications directly into the animal's system. There are many routes but we will focus on subcutaneous and intramuscular. In subsequent sections of the manual, detailed descriptions are given.

How to Give an Injection



Vaccines and many medications must be given by injection. When learning to give an injection, some of you may find it easier to practice on an orange or banana because fruit cannot feel pain. The discomfort that an animal getting a shot feels is similar to the discomfort that you feel when you get shots from your doctor. When giving an injection to an orange or banana, we must remember that it is somewhat different than giving an injection to a live animal. The live animal may move around and the skin may be harder to get the needle through.

There are two main types of injections - *subcutaneous* (Sub-Q) or *intramuscular* (I.M.). The subcutaneous injection is given just under the skin and the intramuscular injection is given within the muscle tissue. On your orange, the peel is comparable to the skin on an animal, the orange sections are comparable to the muscles and the area in between these two is the comparable to the subcutaneous space.

To draw up an injection, wipe the vial top (rubber stopper) with an alcohol moistened cotton ball to disinfect it. Make certain the needle is securely attached to the syringe by inserting the plunger portion of the syringe into the open end of the syringe and twisting the needle onto the syringe tip. Remove the cap - do not touch the needle. Push the needle (with syringe) through the rubber stopper of vaccine, turn the vaccine vial (with needle/syringe still inserted) upside down, and draw out the desired amount of vaccine. Turn vial right-side up, and cap needle until ready to use.

To give a subcutaneous injection:

Place the needle just under the skin by picking up a fold of skin on the neck or shoulder between your fingers and insert the needle just under the fold of skin. Push the plunger to expel the injection into the animal.

To give an intramuscular injection:

The needle must penetrate the muscle. Draw up the material as before. You may wish to rub the animal vigorously with your fingertips where you are going to give the shot to desensitize them to the stick and then quickly put the needle through the skin and into the muscle. After the needle is in the muscle, push the material into the animal with the plunger. When the syringe is empty, remove the needle and syringe from the animal making sure that the needle is still attached and replace the cap to prevent injury. Intramuscular injections should be given in the neck region. Injection site blemishes may include abscesses or scar tissue. Packers and processors have problems with injection sites in the hip area because they have to trim away product from this high value area. If given the option of subcutaneous or intramuscular, always choose subcutaneous.

Always use sterile equipment as dirty equipment could cause infections at the injection site. Remember to dispose of all needles and biological wastes properly. Since animal species differ, the route of injections and the types of vaccines and medications needed are different. It is important that you consult your veterinarian before giving any shots and always READ THE LABEL and FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS. Proper animal identification and record keeping are vital components of your livestock management program. Remember to always WRITE IT DOWN.

Injection Site Management

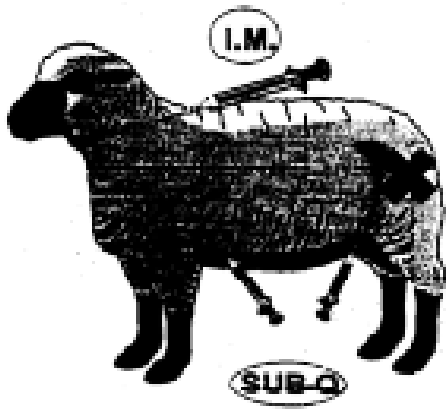
Intermediates and Seniors

Selection of appropriate injection sites is very important for the well being of the animal to avoid abscesses and nerve damage. Since most livestock eventually end up in the retail case, it is also important to choose injection sites wisely so there is no adverse effect on the products for sale. Problems and concerns for food safety fall under 3 areas: injection site management, residue avoidance (antibiotics, chemicals and feed contaminations) and foreign object avoidance (broken needles). In 1992-1993, the American Sheep Industry Association, in conjunction with USDA, sponsored a quality assurance audit. The purpose of that audit was to examine all phases of the production of sheep and of the generation of lamb, mutton, wool, pelts, milk and lanolin. The audit traced each product from its origin on the farm or ranch through processing (in animal-harvesting plants and mills) to the consumer. Farm, ranch and feedlot management practices affecting the quality of sheep products were examined. A ***Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance Implementation*** program was developed for sheep producers. For detailed information visit: http://www.colostate.edu/programs/SSQA/chapter_1.htm

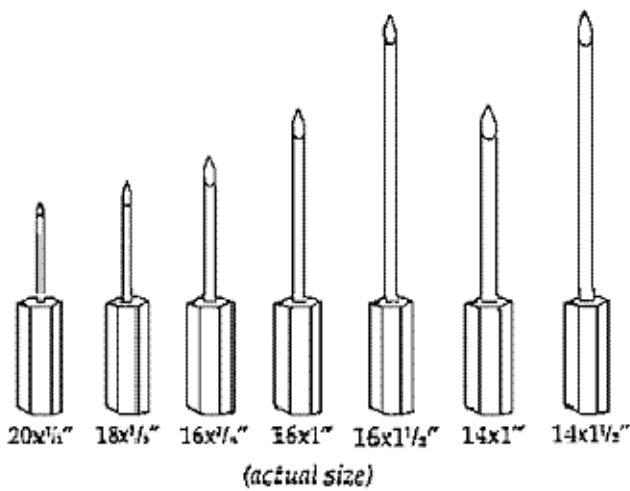
Relative to injections, keep in mind the following:

If intramuscular (IM) medications must be used, administer them in the neck and never exceed 5 cc per IM injection site. If 12 cc is the calculated dose, use three, 4 cc injections instead of two, 6 cc injections. Administer less than 5 cc per IM injection site. The volume of solution injected at one site will directly influence tissue damage, scar tissue and potential abscesses. Always use subcutaneous (SQ; under the skin) or intravenous (IV; in the vein) routes of administration when permitted by the product's label. Check product labels closely and administer the product as specified on the label. Select products that have subcutaneous (SQ) as an approved route of administration. Ask suppliers to find products that have SQ, IV or oral routes of administration rather than intramuscular (IM; in the muscle) route of administration.

Giving Injections



Investigate needle gauges to find the correct size for your project animal. (Gauge number increases as needle diameter decreases.)



Estimating Body Weight

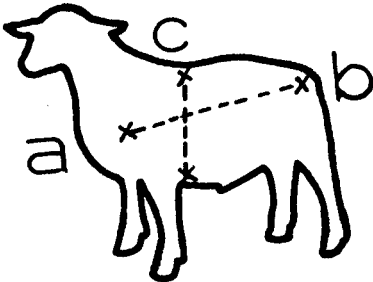
One challenge in administering medications is determining the proper dose. Many medications base the dose on body weight. If you do not have a scale available, you should have a method of estimating weight that is fairly accurate so you do not overdose or underdose your animal. Always follow label directions. Too much of a good thing is often very bad but underdosing of products like dewormers can speed up resistance by the parasites.

Step 1: Measure the circumference (heart girth) from a point slightly behind the shoulder blade, hence down over the foreribs and under the body, behind the elbow (distance C of figure below). In unshorn sheep, be sure to part, or compress the wool, to ensure an accurate heart girth measurement.

Step 2: Measure the length of body, from the point of the shoulder to the point of the rump (pinbone), in inches (distance A-B of figure below).

Step 3: Take the values obtained in steps 1 and 2 and apply the following formula to calculate body weight:

$$\text{Heart girth}^2 \times \text{body length} \div 300 = \text{weight in pounds}$$



Calculating Dosages

Read medication labels carefully when calculating doses.

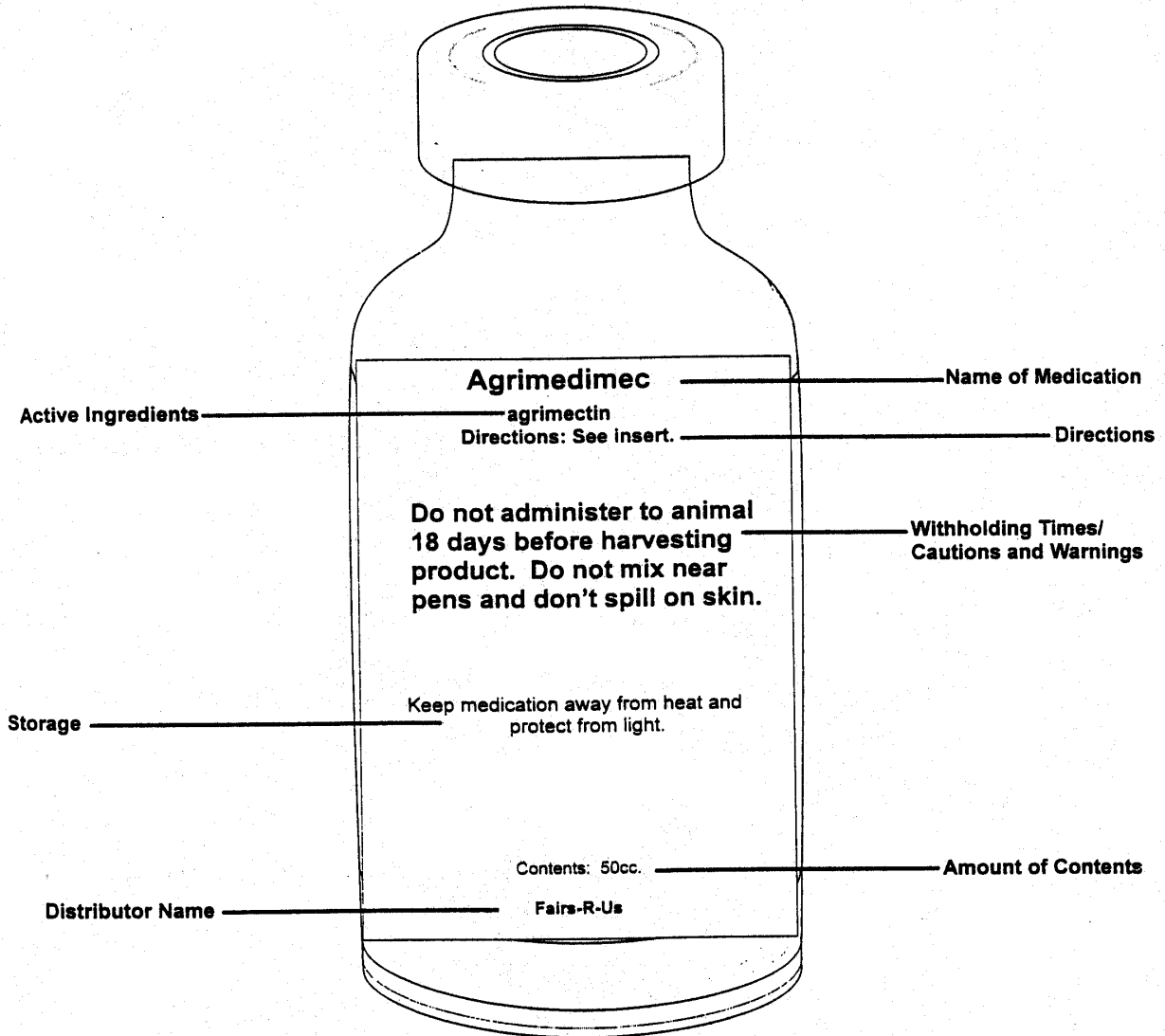
Example: A 50 pound sick animal requires an injection of antibiotic at a dosage rate of 2,500 units/pound. The antibiotic to be used contains 100,000 units/ml. How much antibiotic should the producer give to the animal?

Step 1: Calculate how many units a 50 pound animal needs.
 $2,500 \text{ units/lb} \times 50 \text{ lbs} = 125,000 \text{ units}$

Step 2: Calculate how many mls. of the antibiotic would deliver the needed units.
 $125,000 \text{ units} / 100,000 \text{ units/ml} = 1.25 \text{ mls.}$

Medication Labels

Manufacturers of pharmaceutical products follow strict guidelines in labeling their products. Understanding what is on the label and how to use the information is a critical skill for livestock health care management. Using the picture shown here, study the labels on the products you routinely use on your project animals.



The use of tradenames in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. It is not a guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of the products named and does not signify that they are approved to the exclusion of others.

Medication Calculations

Seniors

Be prepared to read a medication label and calculate when to administer booster shots, withdrawal times, etc.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Gave Animal Antibiotic Shot	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Harvested Animal	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

QUESTIONS:

Looking at the first calendar, if a medication that had a 32 day withdrawal time was administered on the 3rd, is it proper protocol for the animal to be harvested on the 18th? Why?

Using the calendar above, when could your animal be safely harvested if administered the antibiotic on the 3rd?

Sheep Diseases**

Name: Club Fungus Disease
Common Name: Woolrot, Lumpy wool, Ovine ringworm, Ovine dermatopytosis
Cause: Fungus
Major Symptoms: Presence of thick scaly, usually round-appearing, pustules on the skin, typically found on the ears and face, but can be found all over the body.
Prevention: Use rubber surgical gloves when handling infected sheep, avoid nicking or cutting sheep while shearing. Keeping the sheep's area sanitary, as well as the sheep. If an outbreak occurs quarantine the infected sheep to control any further spreading.

Name: Enterotoxemia
Common Name: "Over eating" or pulpy kidney
Cause: Bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* Type C and D
Major Symptoms: Periodic muscular tremors and convulsion foaming at the mouth, grinding of the teeth, and oscillations of the eyes are all signs of Enterotoxemia. Death usually occurs within two hours of signs.
Prevention: Properly timed and well balanced rations along with vaccinations and booster will help with any outbreaks. Likewise gradual transition between roughage feed to a highly concentrated ration, about 2 to 3 weeks

Name: Contagious Ecthyma
Common Name: Sore Mouth, CE, Orf
Cause: Virus
Major Symptoms: With an infection of contagious ecthyma sheep will show signs of formation of vesicles, pustules and thick scabs on the lips, nostrils, face, eyelids, teats, udder, feet and occasionally inside the mouth.
Prevention: Vaccination of the whole flock, the disease must run its whole course, so vaccination should happen before an outbreak.

Name: E. Coli Scours
Common Name: Watery Mouth
Cause: Bacteria, *Escherichia Coli*
Major Symptoms: Sheep infected with E. Coli Scours will show signs of diarrhea, dehydration, depression, going off their feed, a decrease in gut mobility resulting in a painful slightly bloated appearance to the abdomen, they will salivate from the mouth, and the mouth will be cool to the touch.
Prevention: Good sanitation is the most important prevention tool for this disease. Re-hydrating the lamb, giving antibiotics prescribed by a vet, and making sure adequate amounts of colostrum are obtained in the lamb, are measures that should be taken when symptoms are observed.

Name: Scrapie
Common Name:
Cause: Prion like facto
Major Symptoms: Sheep infected with Scrapie will show signs of, weight loss without a loss in appetite, itching, biting at the legs, motor abnormalities, bunny hopping in rear legs, increased sensitivity to noise and sudden movements, tremors, wool pulling, lip smacking, high stepping with front legs, blindness, and swaying of back end.
Prevention: Flock certification and testing, and not moving high risk or infected animals are two forms of prevention.

Name: Pneumonia
Common Name: Ovine Progressive Pneumonia, Progressive Pneumonia
Cause: Virus
Major Symptoms: Weight loss, labored breathing, paralysis, swollen joints, and hard unproductive udders are some signs that may appear with an infection.
Prevention: To test for the infection a lamb must be bleed and have their blood examined. All positive cases need to be culled from the flock. Continue testing every 6 and 12 months culling all positive sheep till all test negative. Once a flock has tested negative 3 consecutive times then it is determined to be pneumonia free. Another method would be to remove all lambs from infected ewes before any contact, nursing or licking, has occurred and raise them artificially, to start a new pneumonia free flock.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

ATTIRE:

Required Dress Code: All exhibitors will be required to be clean and neat and dressed in white, green, dark blue or dark black jeans or slacks with a solid white shirt with a white collar. FFA and 4-H accessories are strongly recommended. No caps or hats. Closed-toed shoes or boots are required..

Training Sheep for Showmanship

Leading

1. To lead a sheep, place one hand on the jaw, keep the head up and alert and put the other hand on the dock or behind the ears. Keep fingers together so no finger marks are left on the wool.
2. Pull up on the dock to get the sheep to move or apply pressure behind the ears. The hand used on the dock or behind the ears does not have to touch the sheep but it should be ready to control the sheep if it gets spooked.
3. When touching the sheep, keep your fingers together.

Turning

1. To turn the animal, keep your hand on the jaw, not the throat, and turn its head toward your belt buckle.
2. Slowly move the sheep toward you, switch hands until you stand at the opposite shoulder. This keeps the sheep between you and the judge and allows him or her an uninterrupted view of the animal.

Bracing

1. Bracing is tightening the lamb's muscles so it will feel firm and heavily muscled. This is done when the judge handles the animal. This also gives you more control during the handling process.
2. The feet should be positioned correctly before pressure is applied so the animal will maintain its balance.
3. Once the feet are placed correctly then pressure is applied as firmly as possible, but the sheep should not move and its top should remain straight. Pressure is applied by placing your knee in the animal's chest and by using your hands to elevate the head slightly.
4. Do not pick sheep's front feet off the ground.

In the Show Ring

Proper Showmanship Procedure

1. Enter the showring with a smile on your face. Circle the judge in a clockwise pattern.
2. Be considerate of the animals around you. Walking at a normal pace should leave room in front and behind your animal. This room is necessary to keep other exhibitors from feeling crowded.
3. Don't crowd your own animal into line. Look for an open place and then move into position to set it up. Always set up the side closest to the judge first. For example, if the judge is viewing the side of your animal, set the two side legs closest to the judge first. If the judge is viewing the rear of

the animal, set the two rear legs first.

4. Always keep your eye on the judge. A good showman knows where the judge is in relation to his/her animal at all times. This enables the showman to follow the judge's directions and commands.
5. When given a command, complete it as quickly as possible.
6. Know information about your sheep in case the judge asks questions.

Proper Posing Techniques

1. There are three positions to be aware of when showing:

Rear View - when the judge is behind the sheep, the exhibitor stays in front of the sheep, hands on the jaw, not the throat, of the animal with the feet set the proper distance apart.

Side View- when the judge is facing either the left or right side of the sheep, the showperson sets the legs nearest the judge first. The exhibitor has the most control if he or she reaches over the top of the animal, keeping the sheep between his or her leg at the shoulder and the arm used to set the feet. Some judges prefer reaching under to set the animal's feet.

Front View- when the judge stands in front of the sheep, the showperson stands off to the side, near the shoulder, with the hand on the jaw keeping the animal's head in line with the brisket and backbone. The head should be set at an angle best for the sheep, front legs parallel to each other and set at a distance slightly narrower than shoulder width, and rear legs should be parallel to each other set at distance slightly wider than the front legs.

Changing Sides- to change sides, keep your hand on the jaw and slowly move around the front of the sheep until you stand on the opposite side. This allows you to keep the animal between yourself and the judge for an uninterrupted view.

2. After the animal is set up, move to its shoulder opposite the judge and kneel, making sure to keep the head up and the topline straight. Most judges prefer you not put your knees on the ground, so you do not get sawdust or dirt on the sheep or lose control in the show ring.

3. Remember to concentrate on your animal's position and watch the judge. You should have a calm, confident manner in the showing.

* As a tip, on the day before the show, take time to study the show arena. Look for unlevel areas and keep them in mind when showing on show day. You want to set your animal's rear legs in low areas and the front legs on high ground.