



## **Market Lamb Basics**

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

### SPACE NEEDED

- 15 square feet per animal in confinement with good ventilation
- It is recommended to allow access to outside for exercise

### COMFORT ZONE

- 45-70° F for optimal performance

### WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- 1.5-2 gallons per day

### FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat 3.5 - 4 pounds of an approved lamb/sheep feed per day
- Will gain from .6 – 1.0 pound per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 4-6 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)
- When feeding lambs it is important that you feed a combination of Energy (grain) and Roughage (hay) to promote proper digestive health to maximize growth

### MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- An ideal weight would be between 120-135 lbs. when finished (90-145 pound range)
- Lambs will be finished at approximately 6-8 months of age

### BUDGETING

- Minimum purchase cost is \$150 for a 70-90 lb. feeder lamb (show lambs more)
- Projected market price is \$3.25 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$132 and includes:
  - Hay (alfalfa, grass or a combination of both)
  - Grower Feed (complete feed with vitamins & minerals) Read feed tag for weight recommendations
  - Finisher Feed (complete feed with vitamins & minerals) Read feed tag for weight recommendations...normally use after the animal weighs over 90 pounds
  - Supplements (salt & mineral)

Information originally developed in 3/2015 by Bonnie Malone, Extension Educator 4-H, Huron County, Ohio and Vicki Schwartz, Associate State Leader, Ohio 4-H. "Should I Take Market Lamb".

Revised for Maryland 4-H 11/15

"University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression."