

YOU TOO CAN SERVE

Wartime Supplement to 4-H Circular 53

For 4-H Sheep Projects



The 4-H sheep on their way to a 4-H home. Five thousand of these good Montana yearling ewes went into 4-H hands in the fall of 1942.

Twenty-five hundred Missouri boys and girls may show their loyalty to their country in 1943 by doing a really good job with their 4-H ewe and lamb project. Production is very important. It isn't altogether a matter of how much we produce. How we do the job counts too. We mustn't be wasteful and careless if we would have our efforts count for most in the war effort. So it is an "up on our toes" kind of job that these twenty-five hundred are going to do that is going to make a bright page in Missouri's contribution to the war effort.

It takes 200 pounds of grease wool to outfit a soldier for a year. This makes wool a critical war material. Every project group may produce enough wool for one soldier's needs. Wool is largely protein. That makes the feeding of legume hay of special importance this winter.

Meat production is also of major importance. Every sheep project member wants all of his lambs to grade good to choice. Lamb will be substituted at home for meats that may be sent to foreign fields. Make it good so that folks will like it. The 4-H sheep project members of

Missouri should produce 100,000 pounds of wool and 1,000,000 pounds of lamb this next year.

An 80-lb. lamb and an 8-lb. fleece of wool on the average from the ewe flock is a worthy goal. Those that reach this goal will do certain very necessary things that are included in good sheep husbandry. These are listed below as good practices and listed in such a way that each member may check the practices that he applies to his own flock.

Good Practices

- ___ 1. Use a registered mutton-type ram.
- ___ 2. Breed ewes for early (Feb. and March) lambs.
- ___ 3. Dip once a year, preferably in the fall.
- ___ 4. Drench regularly for control of internal parasites.
- ___ 5. Dock and castrate lambs at 10 days of age.
- ___ 6. Provide supplementary pasture for early spring and fall.
- ___ 7. Feed 3 pounds of legume hay per ewe per day during the winter months.
- ___ 8. Grain feed lambs while suckling.
- ___ 9. Supply mineral mixture of equal parts of finely ground limestone, steamed bone meal and salt.
- ___ 10. Market only fat lambs.
- ___ 11. Carry late lambs over until fall, then fatten and sell.
- ___ 12. Tie fleece with paper twine.
- ___ 13. Remove all tags from fleece before tying.
- ___ 14. Keep ewes out of burs and chaff.
- ___ 15. Provide clean water all the year round.

Report

One of the things that junior project chairmen may include in their regular monthly report to the entire 4-H club is the score on these practices. The final perfect score for a project group of five would be 5 x 15 or 75; for a group of six, it would be 90 and so on.

Community Service

In addition to doing a good job themselves, sheep project members may encourage other flock owners to use more of these good practices than they are now using. Every additional pound of wool or lamb counts these days. Those who develop skill at drenching, castrating, dipping or shearing may help other flock owners by demonstrating these things or through direct help.

One or two members in a group may equip for dipping and offer this service to the entire community. Another of a group may learn to shear and package wool properly. Opportunity will be given to attend a shearing

training school where an expert will show the boys how to shear sheep. The services of those skilled in shearing will be in much demand. During the past year, some sixteen and seventeen year old 4-H boys did such a good job of shearing and putting up the wool that they were paid a premium over the going price.

Demonstrating

Individual demonstrations will be in order for the duration. Such demonstrations may be given at club meetings, community meetings, picnics, achievement days and the like. Some of the things that lend themselves to demonstrations are: Drenching, castration and docking, creep feeding, dipping, selecting a fat lamb, and packaging and tying wool properly.

Partnership

Boys may enroll in the ewe and lamb project and take over the care and management of the home flock in partnership with Dad. Parent and member will be required to enter into an agreement that sets forth what each member of the partnership will contribute and how each shall share in the net proceeds of the operation. Ask your county agent about the 4-H Farm or Home Partnership Enterprise.

Project members on the partnership basis will be expected to attend the regular ewe and lamb project meetings. They, too, will be expected to follow the good practices listed above. Their relations with the club will, of course, be the same as that of all other members.

Make 'Em Good

Uncle Sam is feeding his soldier's lamb. It has to be choice. He won't have any other kind. So those who want to produce lamb for soldiers must make them fat. Good pasture for the ewes usually means a good milk flow. Then some grain feeding on top of good pasture and lots of milk for the early well sired lambs make them fit for the army. Incidentally a lot of boys are going to come home with an appetite for lamb and that is going to be good for the sheep industry.

Handle With Care

4-H project members will learn how to catch a sheep, hold a sheep and lift a sheep. The right way doesn't bruise. The wrong way does and thereby lowers the grade of a market lamb.

Overloading in the truck that takes lambs to market brings on losses. Every morning the unloading docks at the markets are strewn with dead lambs. Mixing with cattle and hogs in the load causes a part of this loss.

Truckmen have their problem but overloading and mixed loads is not the way to solve them. Food must not be wasted. So good producers will take every precaution to insure safe delivery of their livestock to market.

The Good Soldier

The good soldier on the Home Front will:

1. Study the project literature.
2. Attend project meetings.
3. Participate in community meetings.
4. Council with parents and leaders regarding the conduct of the project and the club.
5. Carry on even when the going is tough.
6. Get the job done.

Victory

Every sheep project member is entitled to wear a 4-H Victory Pin because he is helping to win the war.

And when the war is over Victory Seals on the club charter will bear evidence of the fact that the entire club was on the alert during the war period doing many things that help. Sheep project members will doubtless play the good part.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
J. W. BURCH, Director, Agricultural Extension Service
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914