

REARING A LAMB

DATES FOR LAMBS

Early - 1st July to 20th August
Late - 21st August to 20th September
Not entries under 3 weeks old

REQUIREMENTS

- One lamb
- Bottle and teat
- Milk powder or wholemilk
- Collar and clip-on lead
- Enclosure with shelter
- Rag to wipe around mouth
- Brush and /or comb
- Cover – optional
- Practise ring
- Hay
- Fresh water

SHELTER

Prepare a small pen with a shelter in it, in a sunny position free from draughts. This is necessary for young lambs and even older lambs like a shelter where they can get out of wind and rain and the sun on hot days. Have hay in the shelter for the lamb to lie on. It will not be long before the lamb is quite vigorous and will want to get out of the pen. You will then have to tether it or let it run in a small fenced disease free paddock. But remember to make sure that the lamb can get back to its warm dry pen at all times (especially at night or bad weather).

FEEDING

Whenever possible feed your lamb yourself as it will only become really friendly to you if **you** feed it. Talk quietly to your lamb when feeding it. A newly born lamb needs its mother's milk (colostrum) for the first 2 days. After 2 days milk powder/wholemilk will be satisfactory. Feed your lamb "little and often" for a start. Gradually increase the amount of food and decrease the number of meals. Milk should be blood heat. Feed 3 or 4 times daily for 6 weeks on 300ml – 1.2l of milk. (Follow milk powder directions). After 6 weeks increase the milk supply to 1.7l or more daily according to the appetite of the lamb. A good indication of when the lamb has had enough is when the flanks become level with the sides. Never allow it to have a bloated look. Fresh grass to run on is necessary and a little hay with water. Please do not allow the lamb to free range around the section as there are a lot of poisonous plants in the garden eg rhododendrons, rhubarb etc.

DAILY CARE OF YOUR LAMB

- Feed milk regularly and wash the bottle and teat after every feed
- Wipe around its face after each meal

- Use a damp cloth to clean under the front legs, each flank and its ears
- The lambs wool can be brushed but leave the crimp in
- The lamb's wool can be kept clean by using a cover
- Check the shelter for cleanliness – replace soiled hay with fresh dry hay (newspaper also makes good bedding)
- Take the lamb for a walk using the collar and lead
- Check the collar and loosen as the lamb grows
- Play with the lamb and give it lots of hugs.
- **NEVER** wash a lamb especially with soaps, shampoos, detergents etc. as this takes the lanoline out of the wool and this could cause the lamb to die
- If you suspect your lamb has worms, lice, footrot, scold or the scours consult a vet immediately
- If your lamb gets too big for you ask an adult to help hold your lamb while you clean and brush it

PREPARING YOUR LAMB FOR THE SCHOOL'S AGRICULTURAL DAY

It is important to commence training the lamb from an early age.

The rings are approx. 10m x 10m

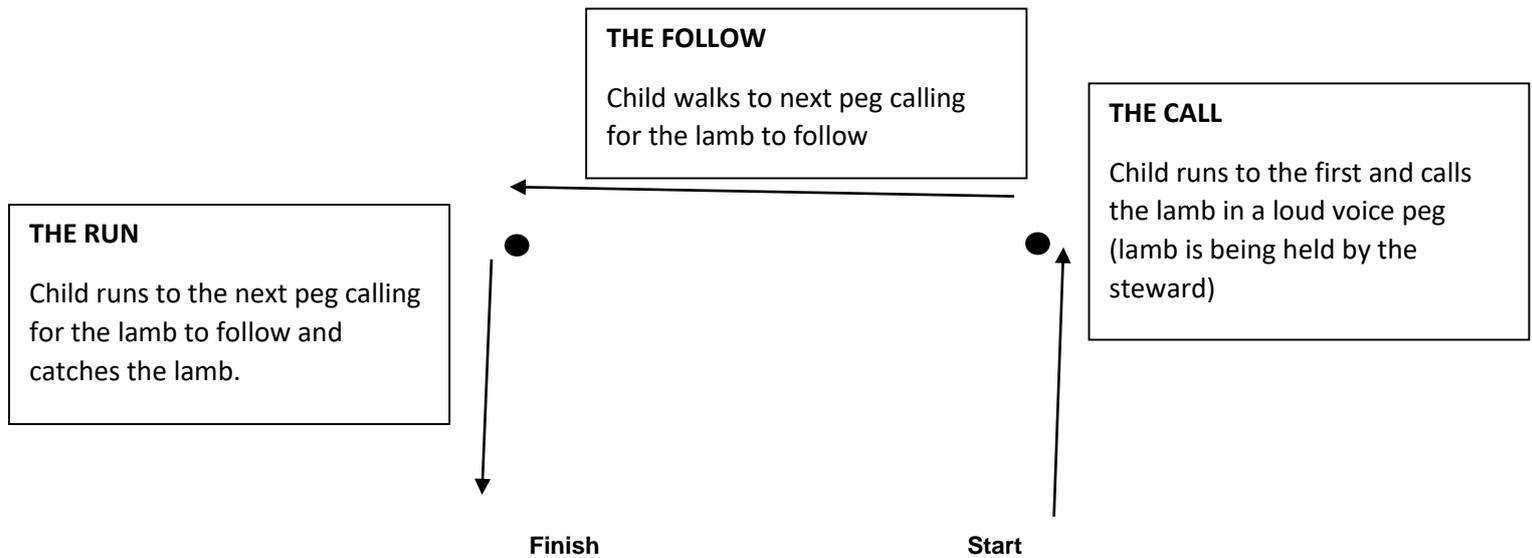
There are three events :-

1. **Most Obvious Pet (commonly known as call, follow and run)**
 - **Call**
Get someone to hold your lamb, stand 10 metres away from it and call it in a clear loud voice. When it comes to you give it a little pat for a good effort.
 - **Follow**
Walk along with your lamb following behind. Be careful not to walk too fast for it.
 - **Run**
Run along with your lamb following behind. After running about 10 metres stop and catch your lamb. Practise catching it quietly.

These 3 stages can be taught to your lamb by means of giving it a drink at each stage while it is young and when it gets older only give it a drink at the finish. Then gradually cut out the drink so the lamb will do the three stages without a drink.

At all times be careful not to tease or frighten your lamb, as it will only be trusting and affectionate if you are kind to it.

Diagram for Most Obvious Pet



2. Leading

The lamb is led anti-clockwise round the ring.

The correct way to hold the lead is with the right hand gripping the lead above the clip with palm upwards. The left hand should grip the lead, knuckles upwards, leaving a loop of slack lead between the hands. There should remain only about 30 – 45cm of tail end of the lead hanging free from the left hand. Do not wrap the lead around the hand. The lead from the lamb's collar should not be too tight or too loose.

All control should be exercised by the right hand on the lead. Do not release your grip with the right hand. If necessary try and use your left hand to encourage the lamb.

Always stand upright and be proud of yourself and the lamb.

Walk at the speed your lamb usually walks.

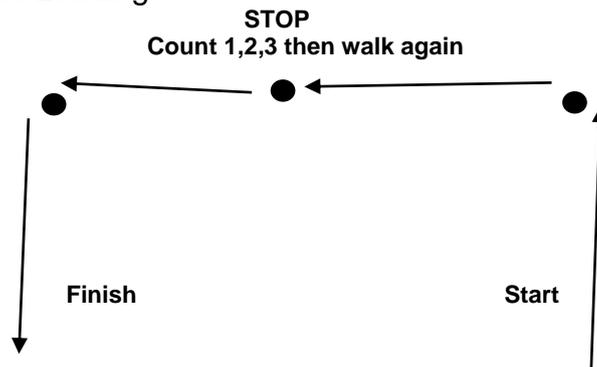
Practise each stage in a straight line.

The lamb's front legs should be in line with your legs.

While practising leading, also practise stopping, counting 1,2,3 and starting up again.

Practise leading daily.

Diagram for Leading



3. **Rearing**

This section is assessed on care, cleanliness and condition of lamb.

- **Care**

The judge will talk to you about your lamb.

Have a name for your lamb.

Know it's birth date or the day you got it.

Be able to talk about your lamb

When asked describe the things you did when raising it

Know it's breed, use (meat or wool) sex, etc. Older children will be expected to have more knowledge eg. Vaccination, other breeds, diseases etc.

- **Cleanliness**

The lamb should be clean and brushed (wool with crimp still in).

Make sure the lamb's face, ears, under the front legs and flanks are wiped clean.

Remove any dags around the tail end.

If your lamb scours, sponge off with water (Try not to use the shears).

- **Condition**

This is how well your lamb is looking.

How well it has grown in your care (eg feeding) and the grazing you have provided for it.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The child is to be in control of the lamb at all times. Act as naturally as you always do when you are at home with your lamb. If you are excited or nervous the lamb will not behave as well as it does normally at home. Try to forget the people around, acting as if you were in your own yard calling the lamb.

Call it in a clear voice so that it can hear and see you.

Make sure you follow the directions of the judge.

It is recommended to wear the clothes, shoes etc. you have often worn at home when feeding and practising with the lamb.