

Boone County Mini 4-H



LIVESTOCK

The material for this manual were originally created by Purdue Extension- Johnson County for their Mini 4-H program.

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child to the Mini 4-H program. Mini 4-H is designed for boys and girls, who are in either Kindergarten, First or Second grade during this calendar year.

Your job as a Mini 4-H parent is to guide your child in any way that you can, we suggest assisting your child in completing the projects, but not completing the projects for them. It is your child's project and will be an important teaching and learning experience for him. So guide your child, but let him do as much of it by himself as he can.

Your child will need to exhibit something in each of the project areas which he has signed up for. Please see that your child gets the exhibit to the fair during the scheduled time. Your child will receive a ribbon for completing the project. You need to pick up the project at Project Check-out during the fair or make arrangements for someone else to get the project if you can not.

If you have any questions, you may call the Extension Office at 765-482-0750. We hope you and your child will enjoy the Mini 4-H program and we will be looking forward to seeing you at the Boone County 4-H Fair.

Sincerely,

Pandora Woodward
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

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Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce both first and second graders to the Johnson County 4-H program.

RULES

1. Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is enrolled in Kindergarten, First or Second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. Any Mini 4-H participant may enroll in 2 projects. There are 5 non-animal projects and 3 animal projects to choose from.
3. Mini 4-H participants must enroll in the Boone County Mini 4-H Club by January 15 and their projects are done at home.
4. The record sheet at the back of this book needs to be completed and will be turned in when they check-in to show an animal at the fair.

Mini 4-H Livestock

In this project you will learn about livestock animals. You do not need to have an animal to be in this project. You will be introduced to three different types of animals and will be given a little information about each. To find out more information about specific animals, you may want to get a book from the library or visit a farm which raises that type of animal.

WHAT TO EXHIBIT: (All levels)

1. Read the Mini 4-H livestock book.
 2. Complete the record sheet in the back of this book. Turn this in at check-in of livestock show.
 3. Sign up through FairEntry for the animals you want to show at the fair.
 4. Arrive at the fair on time to show your 4-H animal. Mini 4-H members will use an animal that is already on the fairgrounds and enrolled by a 4-H member in Boone County.
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Mini 4-H'ers Page

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things, which you can share with your family and friends.

Here are some things to know about 4-H:

The 4-H Symbol: The symbol is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. Clover is a plant that grows in fields, yards, and along roadsides. Most clovers only have three leaves. Sometimes, if you look closely you may get lucky and find a clover with four leaves. A four leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.



The 4-H Colors: The 4-H colors are green and white. The four leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

A group motto is a saying that tells people what is important to the group.

The 4-H Motto: "To make the best better." When something is better than all of the others it is the best. Think about a time when you did your best. Maybe you threw a ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. Now think about some ways you could do better. You may be able to throw farther by practicing for a while or by watching someone who can throw farther than you, to see how they throw so far. Even if you throw the ball farther than you have ever thrown it before there are still ways that you can do better the next time. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best you have ever done.

The 4-H Pledge

A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you. The 4-H pledge is in bold print below. Under each line of the pledge there are words telling what the pledge means.

I pledge my head  to clearer thinking.

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my heart  to greater loyalty.

to use my heart to be a good friend.

my hands  to larger service, and

to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

my health  to better living.

to take care of my body and to show others how to live in a healthy way.

for my club, my community,  my country, and my world.

to help my group, my community, my country, and my world be happy and safe for everyone.

RABBITS

There is one kind of pet that is almost as popular in the United States as a cat or dog. That pet is a rabbit! Rabbits are clean, gentle, easy to care for, lovable, and great fun to watch.

You can see many wild rabbits outside. **WILD RABBITS SHOULD BE LEFT WILD!** For a pet, you should buy a rabbit at the pet store or from a breeder.

It is best to buy your pet rabbit when it is 8-10 weeks old. Your rabbit is healthy if its eyes are bright and clear and its nose is moist but not runny. (No sniffles or sneezes). It should have a plump belly, clean silky fur, and should hold its head and ears erect.

There are more than 75 breeds of rabbits. Some of the most common breeds and the breeds you can probably see at the 4-H fair are Dutch, Californians, New Zealand's, Flemish Giants, and Champagne D'Argents.

CALIFORNIANS: These do not weigh quite as much as some of the other breeds. They are white with dark brown or black ears, feet, and noses.

NEW ZEALANDS: Body color may be white, red, or black.

FLEMISH GIANT: This is the largest breed of rabbit. Mature animals weigh 13 to 16 pounds. Varieties differ in color. Steel grey, light grey, sandy, blue, white and fawn are the most common colors.

CHAMPANGNE D'ARGENT: This is a medium breed. Mature rabbits weigh 9 to 12 pounds. Their under fur is dark, slate blue, and their surface fur appears silvery.

DUTCH: These are small rabbits usually raised for exhibit. They are white with colored ears and cheeks and a colored band around the body at the shoulders.

It is best not to handle your new rabbit too much at first. Let it adapt to its new home. Soon it will want attention. Rabbits love to be pet and played with. Handle your pet carefully. Young rabbits should be picked up with one hand under the chest and the other supporting the rump. Older animals may be picked up by the skin on the back of the neck. Use your other hand to support the hind legs. NEVER pick your rabbit up by the ears. This will break the ears and cause them to be floppy and ugly.

If you feed your rabbit on a regular schedule, it will soon learn when it is meal time and be waiting for you! Do not feed your pet too much, once in the morning and once a night is enough. In the morning, feed your rabbit grains like bran or oats and stale bread. Because rabbits are active at night your pet will need more food in the evening. This meal should include vegetables and greens like romaine lettuce, dandelion leaves, spinach, cabbage leaves and of course, fresh young carrots. Greens should always be fresh and well washed and dried. Rabbit pellets (sold at many pet stores) are an easy way to give your rabbit a balanced diet. Whether you feed your pet pellets or other grains and greens, always keep some fresh clover or alfalfa hay in its cage for the rabbit to munch on.

Your rabbit will need to have fresh water in its cage at all times. A piece of salt block is also necessary. This may be set on the floor of the cage or hung on the side. If you use deep, heavy bowls to hold food and water, your rabbit will not spill them.

The rabbit cage, called a "hutch", should be large enough for your rabbit to hop and play. A hutch which is four and a half feet wide by two and a half feet high by two feet deep is a good size for one rabbit. The hutch should be made of wood and wire-mesh screen. About one third of the hutch should be closed off with wood or canvas (use a piece of burlap for a door). This will give your pet a private "bedroom". A hutch with a hinged roof will be easier to clean.

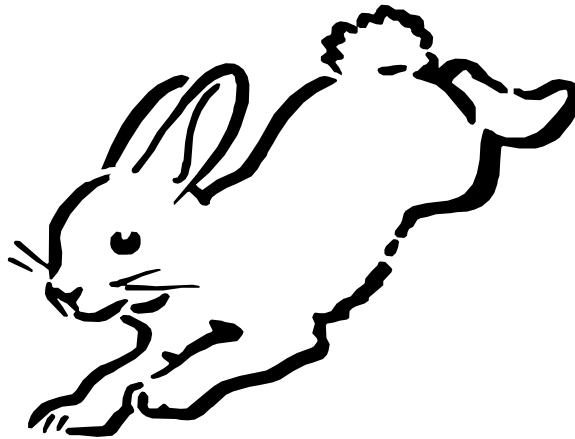
To keep the hutch clean, cover the bottom with a good layer of hay. Replace this hay two or three times each week. Your rabbit will use one corner of its hutch as a bathroom. Clean this corner everyday. Once a week wipe the whole hutch with a mild disinfectant.

Your rabbit will need plenty of exercise outside of its hutch. You may let your pet run in a fenced-in yard, but keep your eye on the rabbit or it may dig its way out, or you may take your rabbit for walks on a cat harness type leash. Do not take your rabbit out in cold or wet weather. You may let your rabbit run loose in the house (if your parents approve), put a pan of kitty litter in one corner and your rabbit can easily be house broken.

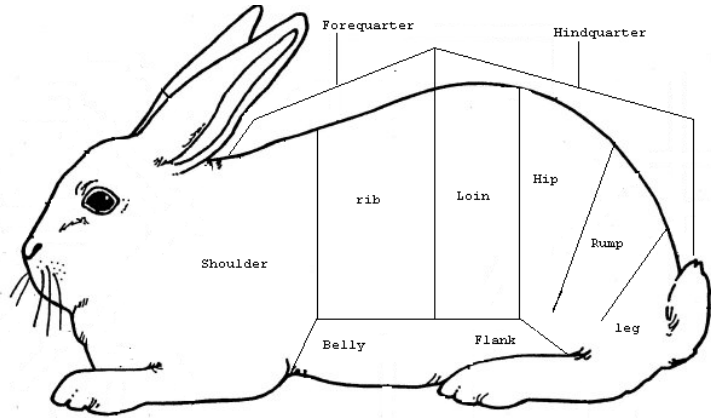
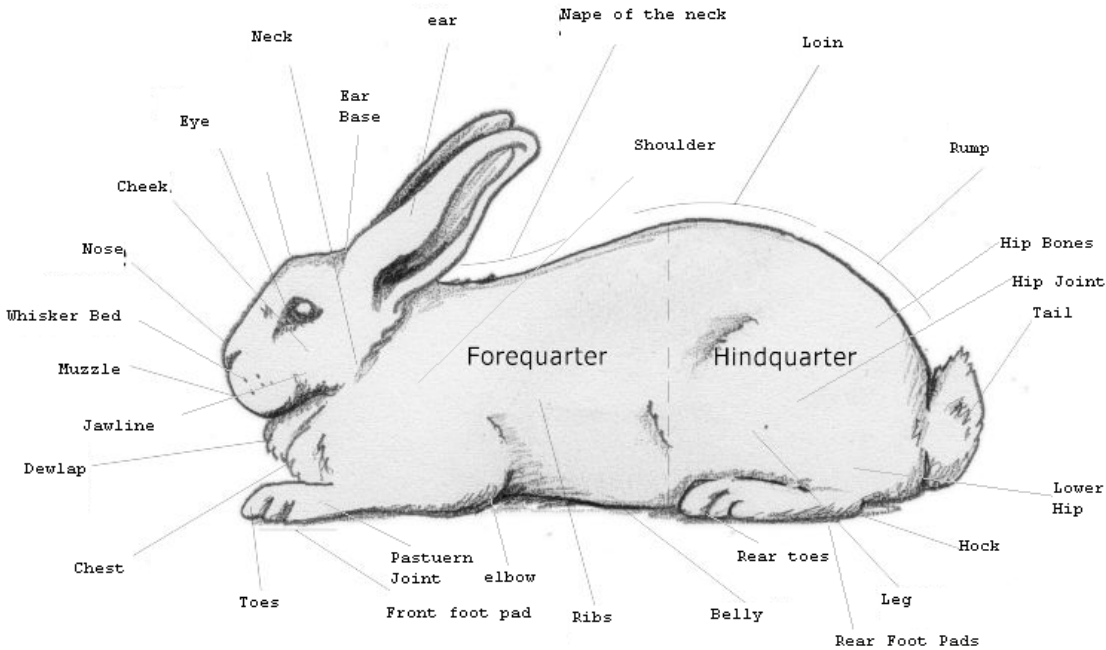
Watch for signs of colds, ear canker, or fleas in your rabbit. For ear canker and fleas DO NOT use dog prescriptions as a treatment. Rabbits lick their fur and these prescriptions may make them sick. Cat prescriptions can be used more safely.

Most important of all, give your rabbit lots of love. Your rabbit will return it. Rabbits truly are great pets.

To find out more information about rabbits, you may want to get a book about rabbits from the library.



PARTS OF A RABBIT



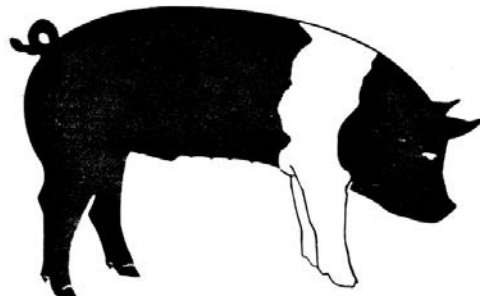
Swine

Many farmers have special buildings for farrowing, or the birth of baby pigs. These are called farrowing houses. The farrowing houses allow the female pigs, or sows, and her litter to stay comfortable. If the female has never had babies she is called a gilt. Male pigs are called boars and castrated males are called barrows. The sow gives birth in a long narrow stall called a farrowing crate. This prevents the sow from accidentally laying on her babies, or piglets, but does allow the sow free movement. The farmers must carefully watch the sow and piglets to prevent illness. The piglets are given shots to help them stay healthy. The sow can give birth to two or three litters of pigs each year, and each litter will average about 8 piglets.

Piglets have very sharp teeth which are often clipped to prevent injury to the other pigs and to the sow's udder. Their tails are clipped off also to keep the pigs from fighting and chewing on each other's tails. When pigs are two months old, they are weaned from their mother. The baby pig rapidly gains weight on a diet of corn and supplement. Plenty of fresh drinking water must be available at all times.

Hog feed is usually cracked corn and supplement. When pigs are about six months old they are ready for market and weigh about 200-220 pounds. However, most packing plants prefer hogs which weigh 230 pounds. There are specially made feeders which the hogs get fed in. Hog feeders have hinged flaps around the bottom which the pigs can lift with their snout or nose when they eat their food. The doors or flaps keep the feed dry and prevent the pigs from walking in their food.

There are many different breeds of hogs. The most common breeds in Indiana are: Hampshire, Yorkshire, Duroc, Spots, Chester Whites, and Poland China.



Swine Breeds

HAMPSHIRE:

The Hampshire is well-known and is easily recognized. It is a black hog with a white belt around the shoulders and the front legs. It is known for producing a long lean carcass, they are good mothers and gain weight rapidly.

DUROC:

The Duroc is noted for its excellent rate of weight gain per pound of feed eaten. Duroc sows mature early, have large litters, and are good mothers. The Duroc is considered a good meat-type hog.

CHESTER WHITE:

The Chester White breed is noted for its mothering ability, large litters, and having a carcass with large hams. Chester Whites need more shade than other hogs because their white skin burns easily.

SPOT (SPOTTED POLAND CHINA)

The Spot breed was developed for, and has achieved an excellent rate of gain and carcasses with heavy hams. Feeder pig producers prefer Spots because of their hardiness.

YORKSHIRE:

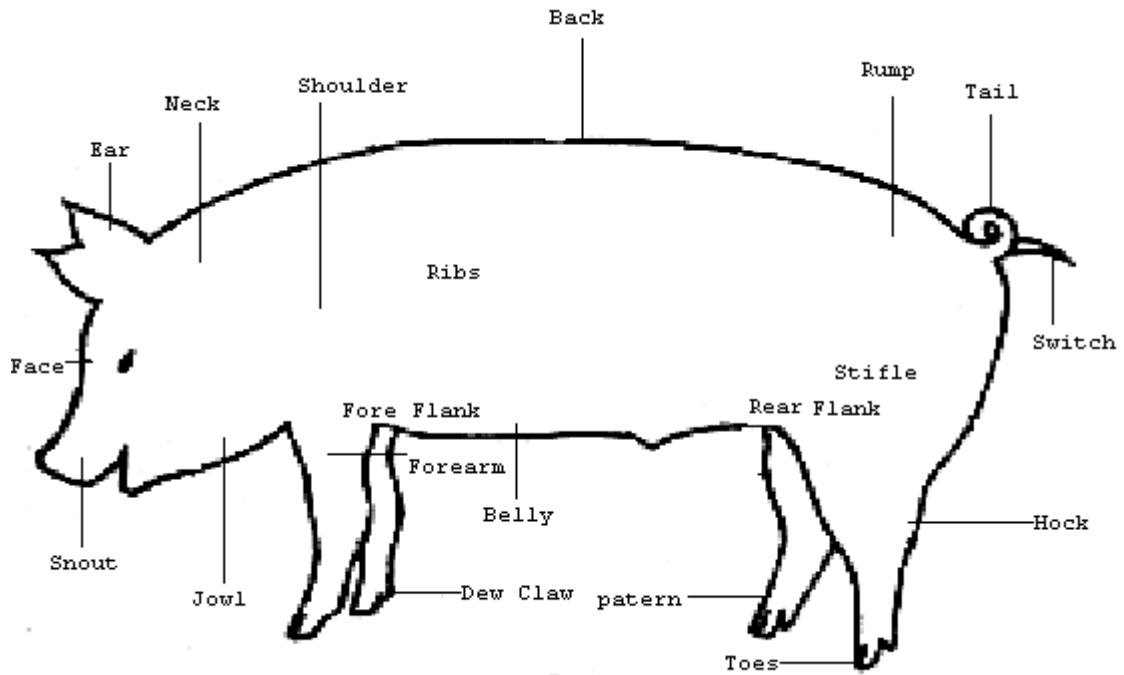
The Yorkshire hog has a good rate of weight gain per pound of feed, and its carcass yields a high percentage of meat. The Yorkshire is sometimes called the mother breed because the sows have large litters and are an especially good mothers.

POLAND CHINA:

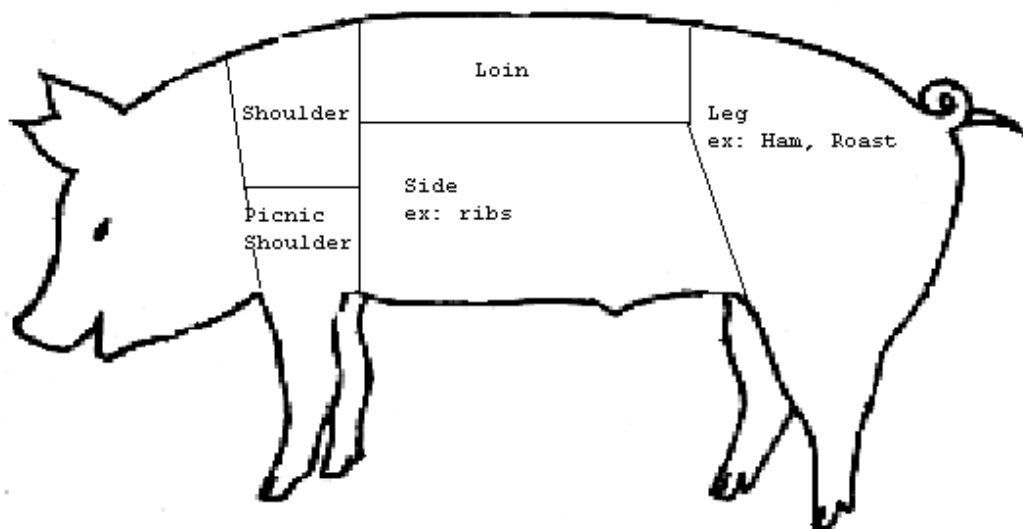
The Poland China hog is black except for its face, feet and tip of its tail, all of which are white. The breed, which was developed in Ohio and has no Polish ancestry, is favored for its heavy ham carcass and for reaching market weight rapidly.

It should be noted that many farmers breed cross bred hogs in order to achieve special qualities. Crossbred hogs may grow faster, have more pigs per litter, and may be more hardy.

Parts of a Live Pig



Cuts of Meat from a Pig



Sheep

Sheep are among the most important animals that man has tamed because they provide both food and clothing. Sheep are raised in all parts of the world, but Australia is the largest producer. In the United States, Texas and Wyoming are the leading states, with about 4 and 1 million sheep raised respectively. In Indiana only about 75,000 head are raised.

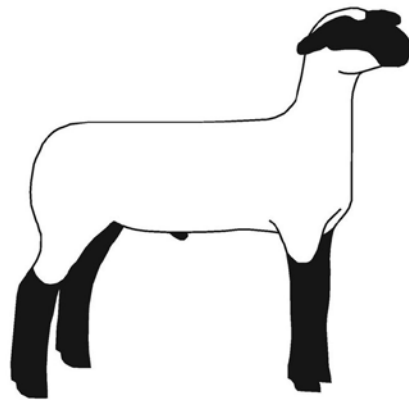
Sheep vary greatly in size with ewes weighing from 100-200 pounds and the ram weighing up to 300 pounds. Sheep have hooves which are divided into two toes. Their ankles are slim with muscular upper legs for moving quickly and easily.

Sheep live in barns most of the time in the United States, but they are also given pasture to graze in. So they are inside and outside depending on the weather.

Sheep can bite off grass much closer to the ground than cattle. When they finish grazing an area, very little plant life is left. This is one reason the sheep and cattle farmers in early United States history did not get along. In addition to eating grass, Sheep eat a variety of grains such as oats, barley, corn, soybeans, wheat. These grains come in lots of different forms and have different benefits for helping sheep grow.

Sheep can live about 13 years. They begin breeding at two years of age and have their young in the spring. They usually have two lambs. The gestation period is five months.

There are 15 to 20 different kinds of sheep. Some are better for their quality and quantity of wool than others. The Merino sheep are prized for their wool. However most of the sheep raised in Indiana are Dorset, Cheviot, Southdown, Shropshire, Suffolk, or Hampshire. All of these are dual purpose animals for their meat and medium grade wool.



BREEDS OF SHEEP

DORSET:

This is a medium-sized breed developed in England; the only major breed in which both rams and ewes are horned. It has been introduced into many areas of the United States, although it has failed to gain widespread popularity here.

CHEVIOT:

This is a medium-sized breed with rams weighing about twice as much the females. It is a white face sheep that is still common in the United Kingdom.

SOUTHDOWN:

It is a small sheep, the most thick set of all breeds, and it is valued for the meatiness of the lamb carcasses. The wool is of medium length and fine grade; it varies in color from grey to brown on the face and feet. It was first imported to the United States in 1803 and has found acceptance in farm flock areas.

SHROPSHIRE:

The Shropshire is of medium size, has a dark face, is prolific, fast growing, and produces a good grade of mutton and wool. Because of its adaptability, this breed has spread widely over the world.

SUFFOLK:

This breed is a relatively large breed, developed in England, and well-known for its high quality meat. Considered to be a recent introduction to the United States, the breed has many desirable qualities and is becoming widely accepted here. Suffolks have bare heads with no horns, black faces, and bare black legs.

HAMPSHIRE:

Hampshires are large in size, hornless, have black faces and legs, and are characterized by rapid growth. Recognized as one of the most popular meat breeds, they are raised all over the world on farms and ranches, and are one of the leading breeds in the United States, particularly in Kentucky and California.

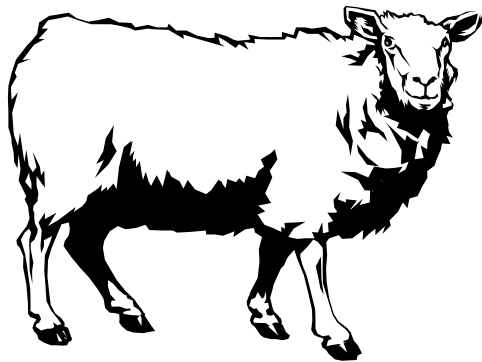
Wool

People wear wool clothing to keep warm in winter and cool in the summer. Wool absorbs moisture without feeling wet to the skin. Most wool we wear comes from domestic sheep. The Merino sheep produces as much as 28 pounds of wool, but most fleeces (the wool sheared at one time) average 10 pounds. This should all come off in one piece. The wool is sheared in the spring.

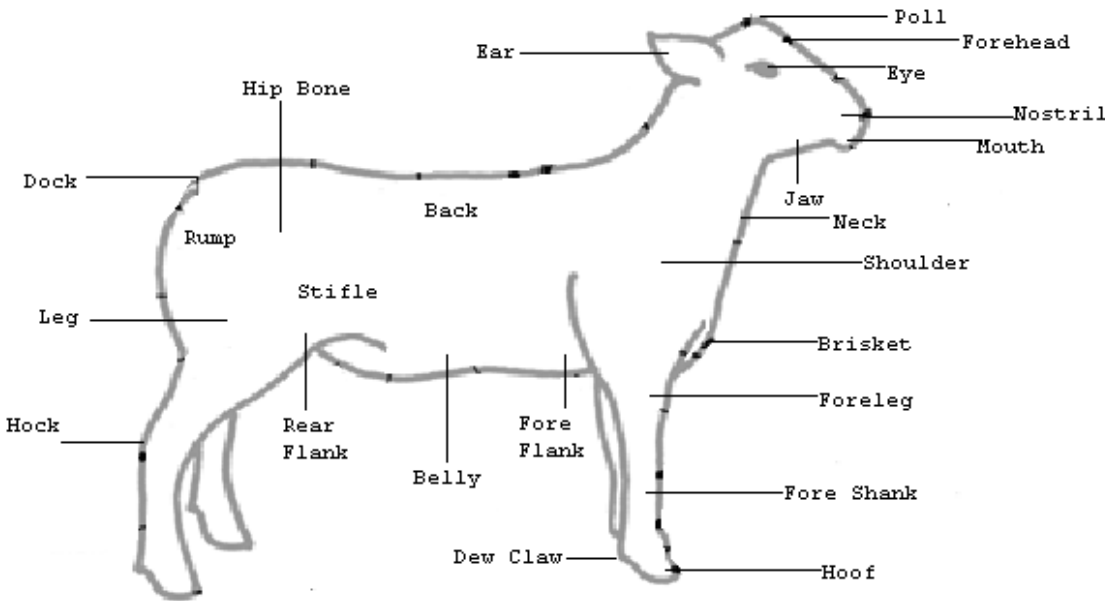
An average man's suit uses three and one half pounds of raw wool (as it comes from the sheep). Lambs wool comes from the first shearing of a young sheep at the age of eight to twelve months. This is a very soft, and desirable wool.

Wool from healthy sheep has a protective film called "yolk". This oily substance contains "lanolin" and "swint" (the dried perspiration of the sheep). Wool is marketed by condition and quality. Condition refers to dirt and grease. Quality refers to the fineness, strength, and length of fibers.

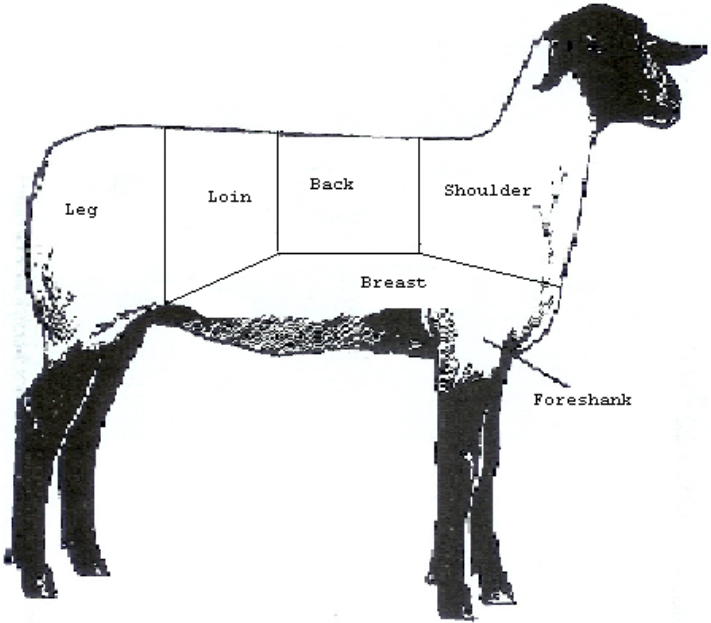
Scouring of wool is necessary to remove dirt and grease. The wool passes through four or five vats of soap and water during this cleansing process. After being cleaned, it is carded by passing through rows of teeth to straighten and blend the fibers into a flat band. The band is then made into yarn and is ready to be made into fabric.



Parts of a Live Lamb



Cuts of Meat from a Lamb



RECORD SHEET

MINI 4-H LIVESTOCK

20_____

Name _____ Grade _____

I chose to exhibit _____

I learned

My favorite part of Mini 4-H this year was

List who helped you with your 4-H project.

PURDUE AGRICULTURE

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