



MINI 4-H Sheep

Welcome to Mini 4-H!

You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person.

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

Mom, Dad or another adult can help you with your project. Bring your project to the 4-H Fair and lots of people will be able to see what you have done. You also get a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H'ers.

Here are some things to know about 4-H.

- The 4-H Symbol:** A four-leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf
- 4-H Colors:** Green and White
- 4-H Motto:** To make the best, better.
- 4-H Pledge:** I pledge my Head to clearer thinking
My Heart to greater loyalty
My Hands to larger service, and
My Health to better living, for my club, my
community, my country, and my world.

Display at the Fair:

Make a pom pom yarn sheep to bring to the fair. Don't forget to write your name on the sheep!

Some of the items you may need for Sheep, include:

- Pencil
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, or paint
- Colored paper
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Glue
- Other craft supplies (eyes, etc. are optional)

Great Things about Sheep

We are excited that you want to learn more about sheep in Mini 4-H. Sheep are great animals to consider for a future 4-H exhibit project. We will learn some of things you will need to know if you ever decide to get a sheep.

- Do you know what sheep eat?
- Do you know where sheep live?
- Do you know all of ways sheep are used?

Sheep are lots of fun to be around. They enjoy being around you too. They have been around humans for a really long time.

- Sheep are smart. Their intelligence is comparative to a dog. They are able to remember up to 50 other sheep and individuals.
- Sheep communicate with a “baa-baa” or “bleat”.
- Sheep are known to self-medicate when they have some illnesses. They will eat specific plants when ill that can cure them or help them feel better.

Other facts about sheep that you might need to know:

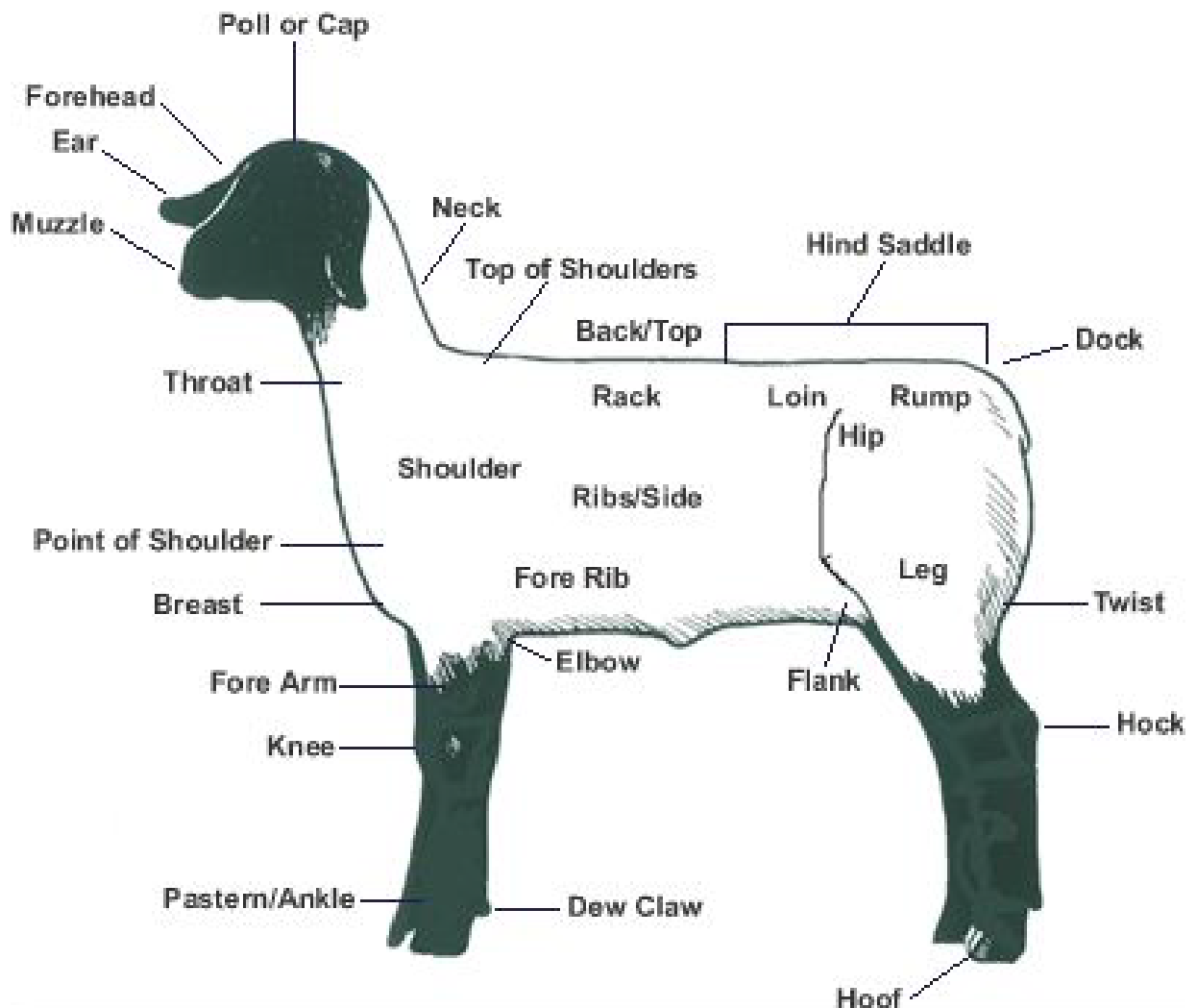
- Sheep are mammals and live in a group called a “flock”.
- A female sheep is called a “ewe”.
- A male sheep is called a “ram”.
- A baby sheep is called a “lamb”. Mother sheep develop a very tight bond with their babies. They are able to identify their young from their lambs own unique call or “bleat”.
- Sheep vary greatly in size. A ewe can be anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds and a ram can weigh up to 300 pounds.
- Sheep are hardy animals. They can live in tough climates - including cold and dry.
- There are 15 to 20 different breeds of sheep. Some are wild and others are domesticated.
- Sheep live on average for 10 years.

What do Sheep Eat?

Sheep are herbivores and they eat green, tender plants and grass. They are raised all over the world. Most sheep are raised in Australia. In the United States, Texas and Wyoming raise the most sheep. They will live inside a barn and outside. Most are always given pasture to graze.

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.

Do you Know the Parts of a Sheep?



Why Do People Have Sheep?

People began to domesticate and raise sheep a long time ago. They are used for meat and some countries use them for milk and to make cheese. Roquefort cheese is made from sheep's milk. Lanolin, an oil in the sheep's wool, is used to make candlewax and soap.

Sheep are mostly known for their wool. Every Spring, sheep are shorn. This means that their fleece is shaved off. Spring is chosen because it is no longer cold and therefore the sheep can do without its fleece which it needs to keep warm in winter. The fleece has to be removed in one single piece. This requires a very skilled person to do. The shearer must also be strong enough to hold the sheep in place while he is shearing it. A good shearer might take less than 5 minutes to do this. People use wool to make all kinds of clothing. But it takes work.

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.

Do you Know the Breeds of Sheep?

There are three main types of sheep:

- Fine woolled
- Medium woolled
- Coarse woolled
- Long woolled

Below are some of the most popular sheep breeds:

Fine woolled Sheep:

- Rambouillet
- American Merino

Medium woolled Sheep:

- Hampshire
- Shropshire
- Southdown
- Suffolk
- Chevoit
- Dorset

Coarse woolled Sheep:

- Scottish Blackface
- Blackface Highland
- Karakul

Long woolled Sheep:

- Lincoln
- Leicester
- Coswold
- Romney

Things We Get From Sheep

I	A	N	S	P	U	U	K	T	J	D	X
N	Q	B	O	Z	I	R	P	A	Y	M	C
G	K	C	A	A	Q	X	V	M	T	U	H
F	N	O	P	X	F	S	W	H	P	T	E
B	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	S	A	T	E
D	H	Q	S	C	A	R	V	E	S	O	S
I	B	L	A	N	K	E	T	S	T	N	E
Z	C	C	A	N	D	L	E	W	A	X	D

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden across and down.

BLANKETS

CANDLEWAX

CHEESE

MUTTON

SCARVES

SOAP

SWEATERS

How do you Show Sheep?

To show your sheep:

1. Sometimes sheep are shown with halters. This will help you lead your sheep.
2. Always watch the judge. They will guide what they need you to do and where you should lead your sheep.
3. Hold your sheep's head in a normal or slightly higher position. Try to keep your sheep between you and the judge. This way the judge can see your sheep and not just you. This takes practice.
4. Sometimes the judge might ask you questions about your sheep.

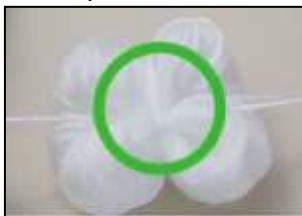
Know about your sheep:

- How much it weighs
- Is it male or female
- What breed it is
- Where body parts are on your sheep
- How old is your sheep
- How you took care of your sheep

Make a Yarn Pom Pom Sheep



Make a yarn pom pom by wrapping yarn loosely around the palm of your hand. You will probably need to wrap 40 to 50 times for a large pom pom. You can make more than one and experiment.



Slide the yarn off your hand and tie another piece of yarn around the center



Now cut the ends of the yarn to make a pom pom

Draw a head on some construction paper and cut it out. Draw or glue on eyes, etc. and glue the head to your pom pom ball sheep body.