



# Sheep

## Activity Page #1—Breeds & Nutrition



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Maternal Breeds:** are known for their ability to raise lambs. They have well developed maternal instincts, higher than average milk production and a record for low lamb mortality. Name two breeds of sheep popular for these characteristics in Canada:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Meat Breeds:** have a fast growth rate, mature to a larger size, and produce meat that is low in fat deposition and has good muscular development. Lamb carcasses have well muscled shoulders, loin, and legs, and have a lean fat cover. Ewes tend to have a lower lambing percentage, but the resulting lambs have a higher birth weight. Name two breeds of sheep popular for these characteristics in Canada:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Prolific Breeds:** are renowned for their ability to produce multiple lambs, sometimes averaging three lambs per lambing. Prolific breeds of sheep are often crossed with maternal breeds to produce a cross bred ewe for commercial sheep production and often are able to naturally breed out of season. Name two breeds of sheep popular for these characteristics in Canada:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Wool Breeds:** Most sheep breeds produce wool. The Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers will buy wool of any sheep breed although the price is generally low. Wool can be sold profitably to fibre artists and hand-spinners in Canada, who tend to prefer the wool from the long wool breeds of sheep that are known for their crimp, diameter, staple, strength and luster. Give TWO examples of wool breeds commonly found in Canada:

\_\_\_\_\_

What breed of purebred sheep was developed by Agriculture Canada at the Animal Research Centre in Ottawa during the late 1960s and into the 80s to produce a dam-line breed for crossbreeding that had high prolificacy, strong milk production, and good body conformation and growth rate? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nutrition** is a process by which a plant or animal obtains food and uses it. The term “nutrient” is applied to any chemical compound that aids in the support of animal life. The primary food nutrients required by all animals are: **Proteins, Carbohydrates (starch), Fats, Minerals, Vitamins, and Water**. Fill in the blanks below using these six nutrients:

\_\_\_\_\_ participates in nearly all body functions and is the most important nutrient, although oftentimes the most neglected aspect of feeding sheep.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can be considered regulators of a sheep’s diet. Within a sheep’s body, they turn things on and off as needed, adjust body temperature, and help process information.

\_\_\_\_\_ are necessary for growth, development of glands, muscles, hide, and hair.

\_\_\_\_\_ are the main source of energy in a ration. They are used to produce heat, energy, and fat in an animal’s body. However \_\_\_\_\_ furnish 2.25 times more heat and energy per kilogram.

Which mineral is especially toxic to sheep if feed at too high of an amount? Circle correct answer:

- A: Sodium    B: Calcium    C: Phosphorous    D: Copper    E: Potassium**

Animals may chew on wood and/or lick dirt if they are lacking what in their diet? \_\_\_\_\_

White muscle disease, or stiff lamb disease, in young lambs has been related to a deficiency in what vitamin? \_\_\_\_\_

Which vitamin is obtained from exposure to sunlight and through feed (such as suncured hay)? \_\_\_\_\_

Feeds can be classified into the following three main groups. Please give a couple examples of each:

- 1. **Concentrate Feeds:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. **Dry Roughage Feeds:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. **Succulent Feed:** \_\_\_\_\_