



Sheep Member Booklet

Name: _____ **Club:** _____ **Age:** _____

This sheep project is great for both new and experienced sheep enthusiasts. Members will learn about showing, fitting, clipping, judging, and caring for sheep, as well as explore sheep industry related topics.

Project Completion Requirements (PCR)

- Conformation
- Showmanship
- Fitting Clinic
- Judging
- Industry or Animal Husbandry Educational Activity
- Industry and Animal Husbandry Activity Page **6 years of the project only*
- Member Booklet *(see next page for details)*

Please make sure that **ALL PCR's** are completed and present at your Club's Achievement Day.

Resource material is available from the 4-H PEI Office.



Members must show all of their project animals at their Achievement Day in order to show those animals in 4-H Classes at the Island Fairs and Exhibitions.

Exhibition Requirements

Members show their 4-H animal(s) in conformation & showmanship classes.

Members are strongly encouraged to participate in the 4-H Classes at PEI Fairs & Exhibitions.

Please check with your Project Leaders for more exhibition information and review both the [General Livestock Rules](#) and [Beef Rules & Classes](#) on the Fairs & Exhibition pages of the PEI 4-H website: www.pei4h.ca

** Updated rules, entry forms, and class lists are available in May of each year. **

4-H Year Completion

In order to complete the 4-H year members are required to:

- Complete the PCR's (Project Completion Requirements) as outlined above
- Complete a **Communication** Project
- Complete a **Community Service** Activity
- Complete an **Agriculture Awareness** Activity

Completing Your Member Booklet

To complete this project you are required to display this completed member booklet at your club's Achievement Day where it will be reviewed by your region's 4-H Specialist.

If your project is not completed by the date of your club's Achievement Day it becomes the responsibility of the **member** to make alternate arrangements with your 4-H Specialist to have your member booklet reviewed.



You should aim to take your member booklet to all meetings and activities for this project.

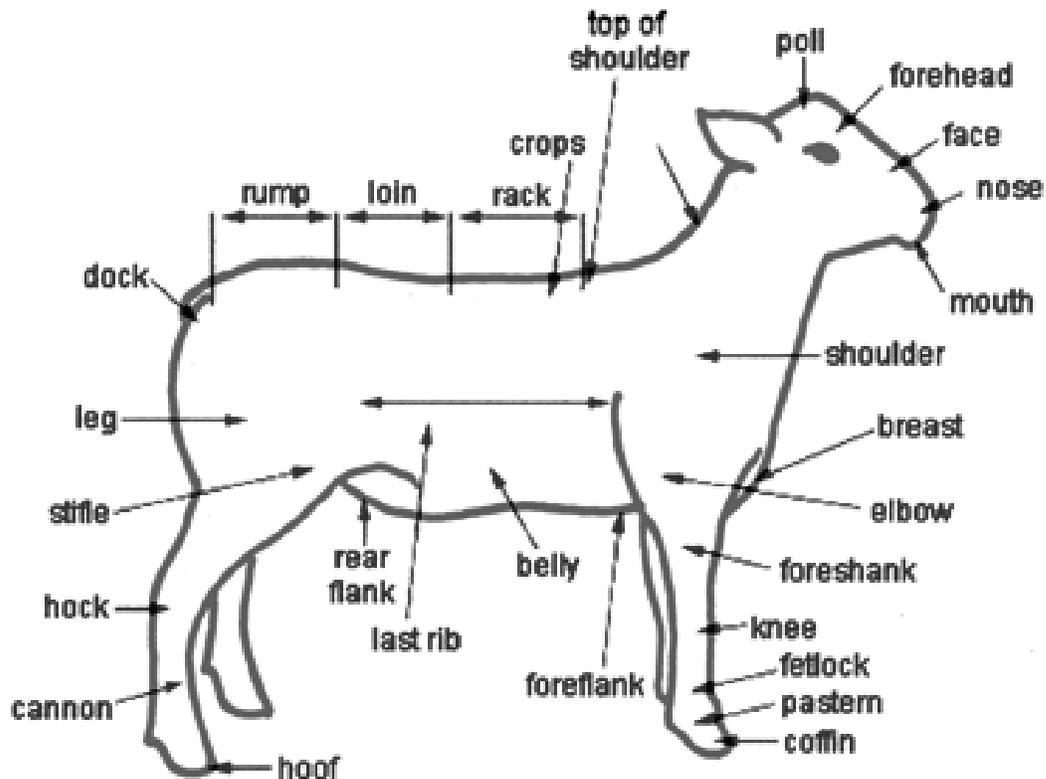
We recommend protecting your member booklet in a small binder and including a few blank sheets of paper for taking notes. Please remember to take a pen or pencil to all your meetings.

There are several pages in this booklet that will need to be completed for your Achievement Day:

- Fitting Clinic** (*date, location, and signature of leader*)
- Judging** (*score card*)
- Industry or Animal Husbandry Educational Activity** (*date, location, description, and signature of leader*)
- Industry and Animal Husbandry Activity Page:** *These are available to download and print from the 4-H PEI website. There are six activity pages in total and each member is to complete one a year to include in their member booklet. They are to be done in order from one through six. Once a member has completed all six for this project they are no longer required of that member for completion of this project.*
- Member Reflection**
- 4-H Year Completion Checklist**

Not required but encouraged > Feel free to add additional project related materials to your binder such as educational resources, photos of your animals or project activities, etc.

Parts of the Sheep



The Creed of the 4-H Animal Caretaker

I WILL: Be kind to my animals. I will not take my frustrations out on animals. I will be patient while training my animal. I will never physically abuse my animal and I will only use low-stress handling methods and tools.

I WILL: Provide comfortable and sufficient housing for my animals. I will house my animal with enough space to prevent crowding and fighting. When I tie my animal, I will make sure the rope is not too tight and that there is nothing nearby that can harm the animal. This also means that I will help to prevent my animal from being too hot or too cold, both at home or during transport.

I WILL: Feed my animal on time each day. I will make sure that I can financially afford to feed my animal the right amount and type of feed every day on a regular schedule. This will provide the nutrition my animal needs and ensure the daily comfort of my animal.

I WILL: Provide my animals with clean water. Every day I will check that the water supply for my animal is clean, free of ice, easily accessible and working properly.

I WILL: Keep my animals free from disease and parasites. To ensure the good health of my project animal, I will observe it carefully every day, to see that it is eating and behaving normally. If my animal appears unhealthy, I will see that it receives immediate attention. I will keep accurate and complete records of any health problems that occur. I will never subject my animal to undue suffering.

I WILL: Learn as much as possible about the best methods of feeding and caring for animals. By learning about different methods, my animals will benefit from new ideas that help to ensure that my animals receive the best possible care. I can explore new animal husbandry ideas through reading, asking questions, attending workshops and participating in 4-H activities.

I WILL: Strive to improve the breeding and quality of my animals. The more structurally sound, efficient and productive our animals are, the less stress will be placed on them.

I WILL: Always be a good sport in competition. Events, including Achievement Days, are one way that the public can see how important proper care of our animals is to us. Good manners and a courteous disposition go a long way in presenting a good impression to my fellow members and the public.

I WILL: Talk to my 4-H volunteers or fellow members about others who are not following this creed and are not setting a good example of animal care.

I WILL: Complete my project and take part in all the activities of my 4-H club each year. By taking part in all the activities and completing the project each year, I am allowing myself to learn and experience all that I can about my project. This will help me to improve my understanding of animals and my methods of caring for them.

The Five Freedoms

Farmers, 4-H members, animal owners and caretakers are all responsible for providing their animals with these five freedoms:

Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.

Freedom from discomfort by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

Freedom from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering.

For more information on the standard of care for sheep see the:
National Farm Animal Care Council's

Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep

www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep

Showmanship Classes

Ages for 4-H members as of
January 1st of the 4-H year:

Junior: 9-13 years

Senior: 14-21 years

PLEASE REMEMBER!!!!

Animal Identification & Exhibition Entry Forms,
plus Proof of Off-Site Liability Insurance of \$1,000,000
are due to the 4-H Office by

June 1st!

Conformation Class Categories:

Members 9-21 years of age must exhibit a minimum
of one of the following:

- ⇒ **Market Animal**
- ⇒ **Ewe Lamb**
- ⇒ **Ram Lamb**
- ⇒ **Yearling Ewe**
- ⇒ **Shepherding** (*Display of booklet outlining different aspects member has learned in the Shepherding Project*)

NOTE: Members may select more than
one animal; however, each must be from
a different class/division.

Please Note

No 4-H animals shown at exhibitions shall
have horns exceeding 2" in length, and all
horn tips should be dull.

**Be A
Good Sport!**

In the spirit of "learn to do by doing" all those involved in 4-H are encouraged to
practice good sportsmanship, use common sense at all 4-H activities, and the
work in any 4-H project should be the member's own work.



The recommended dress code for Sheep classes is:

- ⇒ **Shirt** - White polo, collared or button up shirt
- ⇒ **Pants** - Long black pants (no rips or tears)
- ⇒ **Footwear** - Hard soled footwear for member's safety

Fitting Clinic

As part of your project, you are required to participate in a fitting clinic. Your leader will make the arrangements for
a session in which you and other project members will learn how to prepare your own animals for showing.

DATE OF CLINIC: _____ LOCATION: _____

SIGNATURE OF LEADER: _____



Learn To Do By Doing



Industry or Animal Husbandry Educational Activity

As part of your project, you are required to participate in a **sheep** industry or animal husbandry educational activity. This activity is usually arranged by the project leader for the project group, but, with their project leader's permission, the member can choose to participate in this activity independently (i.e. by attending a workshop, lecture, tour, etc.).

DATE OF ACTIVITY: _____ LOCATION: _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

SIGNATURE OF LEADER: _____

4-H Judging

Judging is an important skill that you will use in 4-H and beyond. As a 4-H member, judging will help you develop important assessment skills, and with practice, you will learn to carefully observe, evaluate, make decisions, communicate with confidence. The skills learned from 4-H judging are used in everyday life situations, so it is always a useful skill to build!

The judging activity will be arranged by your project leader.

Members must fill out the score card below showing that the activity has been completed.

Score Card for Judging

I place this class of: _____ in the order of _____
(Description - specify type of animals or items) (1st) (2nd) (3rd) (4th)

I place _____ over _____ because:

Reasons: _____

I place _____ over _____ because:

Reasons: _____

I place _____ over _____ because:

Reasons: _____

I place _____ at the bottom of this class because:

Reasons: _____

For these reasons, I place this class of: _____ in the order of _____
(1st) (2nd) (3rd) (4th)

4-H MEMBER OPPORTUNITY - Provincial 4-H Judging Competition (Annual Event)

This event is open to all members, ages 9-21, and offers a great opportunity to learn more about judging in a competitive atmosphere. Three age categories & cash prizes awarded to top members for their judging abilities. Senior members (17-21) also compete for the chance to join the **Maritime 4-H Judging Team** to compete at **Agribition** (Regina, SK) in November.



- ⇒ **4-H Canada Learns** is a resource tool providing information on 4-H projects from different provinces. Check out www.4-h-learns.org/resources - keyword "judging" - for resource documents that will help with developing and building your judging skills!
- ⇒ **4-H PEI** is able to provide information to members and leaders on both livestock and non-livestock judging practices. Check with your 4-H Specialist for more information **AND** be sure to check out the 4-H PEI Judging Resource page at www.pei4h.ca/4-h-judging-resources

General Tips for all Livestock Showpersons

Preparation:

- ⇒ Be neat and clean with clothes of the recommended dress code for the particular livestock type, and wearing boots or shoes that are suitable. Hard-soled shoes are desirable; rubber boots or boots half laced should not be used. Nothing should be worn that focuses attention on the handler rather than the animal. He/she should not chew gum.
- ⇒ **Make sure** the animal is **clean, well-groomed** and **well-trained**. This includes recent clipping, hoof trimming, etc. Also, the ability to stop, start, and move the animal at the request of the judge is important.
- ⇒ Sun Safety hats are permitted to be worn by 4-H members while showing in 4-H classes in outdoor rings.

Attitude:

- ⇒ Be **alert**, but **polite** and **courteous** to the judge and fellow show persons.
- ⇒ Always remember to **control** emotions and appear keen but relaxed, regardless of placing's, accepting the decision of the judge in a sportsmanlike manner. Keep in mind that the class is not over until the placing are announced, and continue showing until out of the show ring.
- ⇒ Keep the **animal under control** at all times and make **frequent glances** at the judge to watch for directions.
- ⇒ Be prepared to answer questions that may be asked by a judge, such as the animal's date of birth, whether or not the animal is bred, etc.
- ⇒ Be prepared to **lead any animal** the judge designates.
- ⇒ **Be prompt** entering the ring.

Technique:

- ⇒ Explicitly **follow the directions** of the judge.
- ⇒ Lead in a **clockwise** direction. Be **prepared to change the speed and/or direction of the walk** as directed by the judge.
- ⇒ Avoid "grandstanding"
- ⇒ **Follow accepted practices** in leading for each specific livestock type.
- ⇒ **Do not fuss inappropriately** with the animal when it is properly posed.
- ⇒ When asked to stop, **try to anticipate where the animal's front feet should be** and ideally **walk it into that position**.
- ⇒ **Make sure the animal looks its best** from the time it enters the ring until it leaves.

Basic Techniques:

- ⇒ **Moving around the front of the animal:** Move **quietly**, but **quickly** and smoothly. Move to give the judge the best view of the animal. **Never** stand between the judge and the exhibit.
- ⇒ **Stopping and placing the animal to advantage:** Make use of the slope of the ground, when possible, and stand the animal with the front feet level or higher than the back feet. Recognize the conformation faults of the animal and show it in a manner that will minimize these faults.
- ⇒ **Move sharply** to the centre of the ring **when requested to do so**.
- ⇒ **Turn the animal** the correct way. Unless otherwise directed, the handler should always walk clockwise around the animal. The handler always goes around the animal, not the animal around the handler.
- ⇒ **Moving from one position to another, whether up or down:** The handler may move the animal ahead, turn clockwise, and come back through the same position and directly into the new position.
- ⇒ **Regarding a contestant who has been moved ahead of him/her:** Make room in lineup, and be courteous. Being discourteous in this regard could result in discrimination.
- ⇒ **Making a change of handlers:** The conformation of the new animal should be observed quickly and carefully in order to show it to best advantage. Place animal properly first, **then** roll up the halter.

General Showmanship Score Card

Evidence of training and preparation of the animal 30 points

- ⇒ Animal leads well
- ⇒ Starts and stops easily
- ⇒ Poses easily
- ⇒ Appears accustomed to handling
- ⇒ Stand quietly
- ⇒ Cleanliness of animal
- ⇒ Proper management and preparation prior to show
- ⇒ Clipping, trimming, etc.

Showing the animal in the ring 50 points

- ⇒ Ease of handling the animal
- ⇒ Proper leading of the animal
- ⇒ Animal's response to exhibitor's movements
- ⇒ Avoids sharp turns, over-crowding and pushing
- ⇒ Poses the animal properly
- ⇒ Convenient and suitable hold on lead strap or reins
- ⇒ Ease of moving or positioning the animal
- ⇒ Alertness and style of the animal
- ⇒ Indication of good knowledge of animal's faults and habits, and compensation for such faults

Ring manners and appearance of show person 20 points

- ⇒ Clothes neat, clean, and suitable to occasion
- ⇒ Full attention to task
- ⇒ Avoids distractions from outside the ring
- ⇒ Courteous and polite to other exhibitors and the judge
- ⇒ Not over-showing
- ⇒ Poise and alert
- ⇒ Good knowledge of animal's pedigree, care, and management program

Sheep Showmanship

In showmanship, you are judged on your ability to groom, control and present an animal to bring out its best characteristics. The first step is preparation. Starting early, and putting your time and effort into training your lamb to stand and be handled, will put you well on your way to being a successful sheep showman.

Show Ring Procedures:

- ⇒ Be sure to be dressed neatly and be clean when entering the ring.
- ⇒ It is key to be ready to enter the ring when your class is called. This means keeping track of earlier classes and knowing the amount of time needed to have you and your animal ready so that you can arrive early to ringside before your class. It's also a good idea to take your animal for a walk before you enter the ring so that they get used to the surroundings and new noises.
- ⇒ Circle the ring clockwise at a brisk walk, with your animals head held up but in a natural position. Hold your animal with your left hand under the jaw. Ideally you should not have to use your right hand when showing; however it may be placed on the dock in order to urge the lamb on.
- ⇒ Always keep your lamb between yourself and the judge (i.e. when the judge moves around your animal the showman moves as well to achieve this. When switching sides always cross in front of your lambs head. (Fig. 1)
- ⇒ Walk your animal straight towards and away from the judge when he/she is directly behind or in front of your lamb.
- ⇒ Always maintain complete control of your lamb and be smooth, calm and confident in your motions when moving around your lamb.

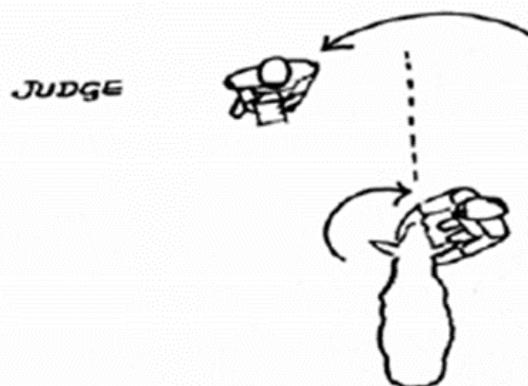


Figure 1:
Movement of member from one side of the animal to the other side when judge circles.

Show Ring Procedures continued...

- ⇒ It's important to keep one eye on the judge and the other on your animal at all times. A good showman knows where the judge is and the position of their animal at all times. Always be looking for hand signals and directions.
- ⇒ When directed to stop in the ring or when you are placed in the lineup, your lamb should have all legs placed square underneath of them. The hind feet are positioned with your right hand and the front feet may be positioned with your right hand or by lifting the animal up slightly at the breast bone and setting it down again. This technique is most efficient and will position the feet in the proper place.
- ⇒ When the judge moves in to handle your lamb along the back and loin, you should stand up in front of your lamb and allow your lamb to brace itself and push up against your knee/leg.
- ⇒ Be prepared to answer questions about your animal. Questions may include, birth date, breed, weight, best physical quality of your lamb, worst physical quality of your lamb and what you are doing as a showman to fix a bad characteristic.
- ⇒ The judge may look at the fleece of your animal. After the judge has moved on to look at the next animal, be sure to smooth the fleece back into place with your hand and make sure your lamb is still set up properly.
- ⇒ The judge may ask you to flip your lamb. Hold the head with your left hand and reach over and under your lamb and grasp the hind left leg. Lift your lambs head and back leg at the same time, flipping the animal into a sitting position.
- ⇒ If the judge asks to see the feet, flip your lamb into the sitting position and then show each individually.
- ⇒ If the judge asks to see the teeth of your animal, you may flip or leave your lamb standing. To show the teeth separate the lips to expose the teeth with your fingers.
- ⇒ Never move or lift your lamb by grasping the wool. The proper place to grasp the wool is on the sides and bottom of your lambs jaw.
- ⇒ If you have the chance to be the first in to the ring, go for it. First impressions go a long way in the judges' mind. It is important for the first showmen in the ring to set the pace, leading the animal at a brisk pace in a large circle.
- ⇒ When leading sheep into the ring or into position, the left hand should be grasping the wool under the jaw, the right hand is placed on the dock in order to urge the lamb on and also to keep it more under control. For mature sheep, rope or leather halters can be used.
- ⇒ Position the lamb so the feet are squarely under each corner of the body.
- ⇒ The hind feet are positioned with the hands. The front feet can be positioned with the right hand or by lifting the animal up slightly and setting it down again; the feet will set down in their proper place.
- ⇒ The show person's position is at the head of the lamb and a little to the left side. The left hand should have a tight hold under the jaw. Do not pull the wool.
- ⇒ It is optional as to whether a show person kneels on the right knee or remains in a squatting position with both feet squarely on the ground or floor. The latter method lends itself to ease in moving the lamb when required by the judge or ringmaster.
- ⇒ When the judge handles your lamb along the back, stand up in front of the lamb and hold the fleece on either side of the jaw.
- ⇒ A slight pressure by your knee against the chest or girth of the lamb, when the judge handles along the back, will help keep the back straighter.
- ⇒ Occasionally, you may have to hold your lamb on the right side only when you are blocking the judge's view from the left side.
- ⇒ The lamb should not be moved or lifted by catching the wool. The proper place for catching the wool when holding or moving a lamb is under the jaw, or on either side of the jaw.



Show Ring Procedures continued...

- ⇒ Sheep members should be aware of accepted sheep dressing, (e.g. card and comb a Suffolk but never card and comb a Scottish Blackface.)
- ⇒ When leading your lamb in the ring, always travel in a clockwise direction, making sure to leave sufficient space between you and your fellow competitors. Make sure you watch the judge closely so you can follow his/her directions accurately.
- ⇒ If the judge asks you to turn your sheep over, there are a number of ways you can do this. You can hold the head with your left hand and reach over and under the animal until you reach her hind left leg. Lift both the head and back leg at the same time flipping the animal into a sitting position.
- ⇒ Once your animal is flipped, the judge may ask you to show the feet. This involves holding each one individually.
- ⇒ The judge may also ask to see the teeth of your animal. This too can best be achieved when the animal is in a sitting position. Merely separate the lips to expose the teeth with your fingers.
- ⇒ Walk the animal straight away from or towards the judge when he/she is directly behind or in front of the sheep.
- ⇒ When asked to move your lamb to another place in the line, you may lead forward, turn and come back through the spot exited, turn again and lead into the position designated by the judge, or lead to the end of the line and into the designated place, depending on how large the class is.
- ⇒ When the judge motions your placement, proceed promptly to the lineup, and pull in so that you are even with the animals already placed.
- ⇒ When instructed to change place in line, lead forward and turn right. Learn the below figures 2 – 5 to know the correct direction to take.

Figure 2:
Switching placings in a sheep showmanship class

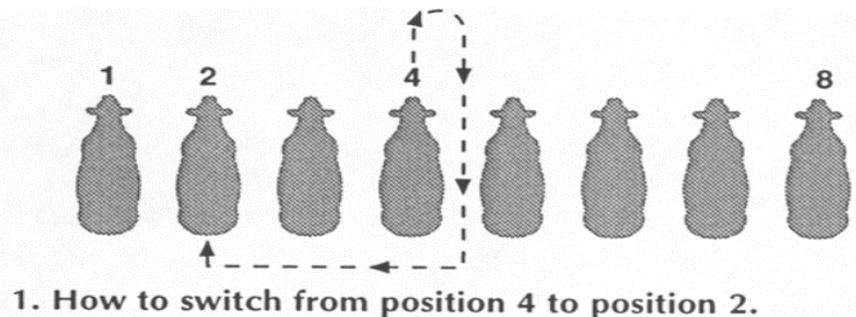


Figure 3:
Repositioning your lamb in a sheep showmanship class

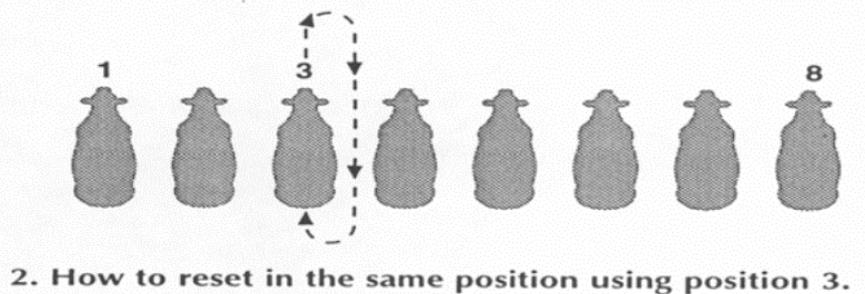


Figure 4:
Switching positions in a sheep showmanship class

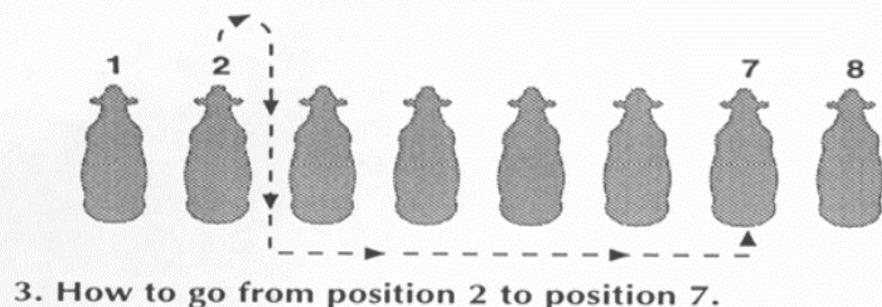
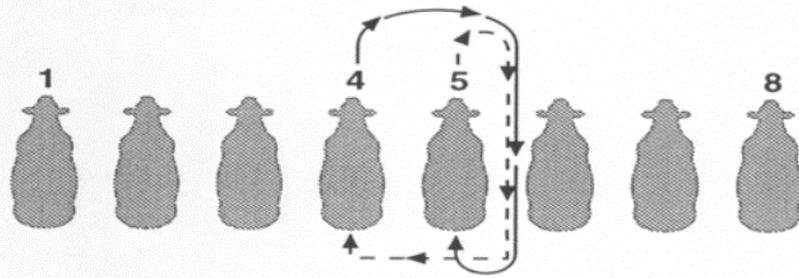


Figure 5:
Switching placing's in a sheep showmanship class



4. How to switch positions 4 and 5. Position 5 would move out first.

Top Showperson Tips:

- ⇒ Start early, a small lamb is much easier to handle and therefore train to stand. If you wait until your lamb becomes big and strong, it may get away and never learn how to pose to its best advantage.
- ⇒ Know the standards for your breed of lamb when it comes to fitting (i.e. a Suffolk Sheep is card and combed but a Scottish Blackface is never fitted in this way).
- ⇒ Arrive early before the show, have a schedule and plan to follow according to when you show. Make sure your animal is taken care of at all times. Coming prepared will set you on the right pace for the day.
- ⇒ If you are not the first showmanship class in the ring, one should use the opportunity to watch the first class and learn how the judge is moving the animals and what he/she is asking them to do. This will better prepare you, by knowing what to expect when you enter the ring.
- ⇒ Always be calm when showing. This will also help keep your lamb calm if it has been sufficiently trained.
- ⇒ When the judge moves in to handle your lamb along the back and loin, you should apply a slight pressure with your knee against the chest of the lamb; this will help keep its back straighter.
- ⇒ The judges' first line up is generally not their final placing's, and therefore you shouldn't become discouraged or quit showing until you leave the ring.
- ⇒ Listen to the judges' reasons. If there is something that they pinpoint that you can improve on, take that lesson and either practice it or remember it for your next show. Build on the skills you have!
- ⇒ No matter where you place, at the end of your class you should feel confident knowing that you have competed and presented yourself and your animal to the best of your ability and in a professional manner.
- ⇒ A good showman will always be courteous and maintains a sportsmanlike attitude throughout the show. Always maintain a positive attitude and learn by watch more experienced showmen, to help you gain useful skills.



REMEMBER > Members are responsible for care, preparation and exhibition of 4-H project animals. 4-H club leaders and/or parents should be on hand to assist members should they encounter difficulties; however, SHOULD NOT perform duties which members can do themselves.

Showmanship Information for this guide extracted from the 4-H Nova Scotia 4-H Livestock Showmanship Guide.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD SHOWING!

Member Reflection

As a 4-H member, you are encouraged to “Learn to Do by Doing” through hands-on activities. Keeping a record of your 4-H activities with this **Member Reflection** will provide helpful insight for you, your leader and the 4-H Specialist as to skills you have learned and projects you have completed throughout the 4-H year!



Skill Based Project: You are encouraged to work on skill development and completion of project requirements (with guidance from the project leader) throughout the 4-H year. Not every activity will have a tangible item (for display), but you are asked to share the activities and learnings in which you participate below...

Project Activity:

What I did:

What I learned:

What I liked:

Project Activity:

What I did:

What I learned:

What I liked:

Project Activity:

What I did:

What I learned:

What I liked:

Project Activity:

What I did:

What I learned:

What I liked:

Project Activity:

What I did:

What I learned:

What I liked:

(feel free to use more space if necessary!)

LEADER COMMENTS (optional): Leader observations can be helpful to you in future years with this and other 4-H projects. Be sure to ask your project leader if they would like to reflect on your 4-H year.

I am most impressed by...

I believe that you have learned...

In the future I encourage you to...

4-H Year Completion Checklist

In addition to completing a Skill Based 4-H project, members are also required to participate in Communications, at least **ONE** Ag. Awareness Activity and **ONE** Community Service Activity in order to complete the 4-H year.

Use the space provided to reflect on what you have learned through participation in these activities.

If this information has already been completed in another booklet, please indicate where it can be found:

My Communications Activity

- Speech
 Demonstration (Single)
 Demonstration (Team)
 Alternate Communications: _____

What I learned: _____

What I can work on: _____

Agriculture Awareness Activity

What did you do to complete this activity this year? (Either on your own or with your 4-H Club)

What area of Agriculture would you like to explore in the future?

Community Service Activity

What did you do to complete this activity this year? (Either on your own or with your 4-H Club)

What will you do in the future to give back to your community?

4-H PEI - Staff Comments (Optional)

Completion Requirements		Completion Notes
Skill Based Project		
Communications		
Ag. Awareness Activity		
Community Service Activity		