

Sheep Kit

Curriculum Overview

Designed for:

- Middle school students
- High school students

Length:

This seven-hour curriculum is comprised of seven lessons. With supplemental materials, this curriculum can be adapted to a longer block of time.

Goal:

To help participants learn the different sheep breeds, how to care for them, their reproductive and body systems, how sheep judging works, and careers related to sheep production.

Synopsis:

This kit and accompanying curriculum provide detailed information about sheep. It includes lessons on breeds as well as feeding and management and more. The lessons and activities include objectives, materials required, and approximate class time.

Curriculum Components:

- Curriculum
- Student materials
- Slide presentations

Learning Objectives:

Lesson 1 – Sheep Breeds

- Define common terms used in sheep production
- List common characteristics for each sheep breed
- List the four uses for sheep

Lesson 2 – Sheep Feeding and Management

- List foods that sheep can eat
- List foods that sheep cannot eat
- List factors that effect the type of feed used
- Explain why woody plants are not favored by sheep
- List different seasonal foods
- List foods that are considered byproducts
- Name the stages of female feeding requirements
- List basic items required for sheep management
- Describe the role of a sheep dog
- Explain the purpose of painting a sheep's coat

Lesson 3 – Sheep Diseases and Parasites

- List common indications that a sheep is sick
- List five diseases commonly found in sheep
- Define the two types of parasites
- Provide an example of each parasite type
- List common practices a farmer can do to reduce disease and parasites in their herd

Lesson 4 – Sheep Reproduction

- List the gestation period for sheep
- Define basic terms used to describe the age and sex of a sheep
- List the age at which sheep go through puberty

- List three conditions that can affect when puberty occurs
- Define “seasonally polyestrous”
- List the length of the estrous cycle
- Explain the ewe’s estrous cycle
- Describe the “ram effect”
- Explain what starts the estrous cycle
- Explain what causes the “tail wagging behavior”
- Explain the ram’s reproductive cycle
- Explain the three conditions by which nutrition can affect puberty
- Explain how the season a lamb is born in can influence when puberty occurs

Lesson 5 – Sheep Body Systems

- List the components that make up the skeletal system
- List the number of bones sheep have
- List the shapes of bones
- Explain the function of each shape of bone
- Explain how bones are held together
- Describe the other functions of the skeletal system
- Explain the difference between voluntary and involuntary muscles
- Define the three types of muscle
- Describe where the three types of muscle are located
- Explain how a ruminant’s stomach works
- List the four glands that make up the endocrine system

Lesson 6 – Sheep Judging

- List the types of sheep judging
- Describe what is judged regarding showmanship of a sheep
- Describe the five characteristics that judges look for during a sheep show
- List when a sheep should be sheared in preparation for a meat-breed show
- List how a wool-breed sheep are prepared for a show regarding their fleece
- Describe characteristics evaluated for dual-purpose sheep breeds
- Describe what is looked for regarding lambs and their ability to reproduce
- Describe traits evaluated for market lambs
- List the judging classes for sheep
- Explain how oral reasoning is conducted in a sheep show

Lesson 7 – Sheep Production Careers

- List five careers in the sheep production industry
- Explain the job tasks for each of the five careers
- Use research skills to find out more about a goat career of interest