



National Agricultural Youth Show

Mutton Sheep Manual



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1. INTRODUCTION

In assessing the Sheep Showman during Youth shows the child (exhibitor) and not the sheep is judged. The sheep are shown without a halter and can be of any age. Since the preparation and evaluation of wool sheep differs to that of mutton sheep, the wool sheep and dual-purpose sheep are judged together and the mutton sheep separately. With the selection of the Sheep Showman only one winner is chosen from both divisions.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

History of the Dorper

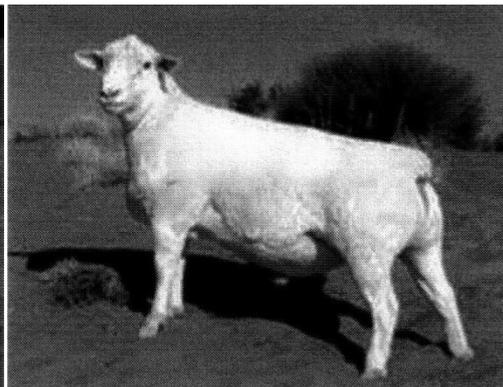
Although it was originally bred for the drier parts they are successfully farmed across our country and also across the borders. Circumstances can vary from extreme cold to tropical and desert conditions. Therefore, persistent research and crossings have been carried out to breed the best mutton breed, which could conform to the best body conformation and adaptability under challenging circumstances.

Mr. R.Y Edmeads in collaboration with Grootfontein Agricultural College, 30 breeders and various officials founded the Dorper Breeders Association in 1950. Mr. Hennie de Smidt took the initiative with the naming of the mutton breed. The Dorper breed is a cross from a Dorsethorn Ram with a dark-haired Persian Ewe and was named in the late 1950's.

Yet there were people who wanted to breed a white mutton breed and Mr. Graham Rous here played a leading role. They proceeded to trial the Dorset Horn x Blackhead Persian and Dorsethorn x Van Rooy crossings, until a white sheep with the same type attributes were bred except for the colour.



Dorper



White Dorper

The Dorper breed is still going from strength to strength and improving under the supervision of the Society, the Inspectors and Producers who believe in a good standard being maintained.

Camps and grazing

Always farm with the optimum number of sheep throughout the year, but remember:

The number of mouths dramatically increases during the lambing season when lambs start grazing at 2 weeks and eat about half of that of an adult sheep at the age of 3 to 4 months. Therefore, it is important to apply **rotational grazing** so there's always grazing resting to allow root growth to be stimulated. The number of small stock per hectare varies from farm to farm - stay within the rules and give additional food if drought had an influence on herbs and grasses available. Guard against overgrazing. Also important is to monitor the **water purity** and the condition of the containers in the field.

Dirty, leaking containers and wet areas around the water source is breeding ground of parasites, bacteria and unwanted parasite eggs.

Feeding

If we think about food, we need to think about water, energy, protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals. Nutritional deficiencies may be a shortage of one or two of the above and not necessarily all of them. Nutritional deficiencies must be supplemented if necessary and the environmental conditions require it.

Important feed times:

Ewes:

- a. Ewes that have just given birth: **Three weeks** before the mating season
Young ewes: **Two months** before mating season.
- b. **Mid gestation** for growth and development of lamb.
- c. **Six weeks** before lambing because this is when udder development and milk production is determined.
- d. **First two months** after lambing – maintain the ewe's condition and give the lamb a good start.

Rams:

Sperm development takes two months and therefore de-worm your our rams 8 weeks before mating. Also give them **trace elements, vitamins A and good nutrition**.

Breeding

The challenge of production is good management and requires careful planning.

When you start pairing it is important to know that there are certain times of the year where the **ewes** are more susceptible than at other times. It can also vary according to environmental conditions such as **heat, cold, grazing condition and condition of the animals**. Although the Dorper is adapted for changes in temperature, etc. research has shown that the first **12 weeks of nutrition** in the lamb's life is very important. There is evidence that **proper nutrition and the condition** of the ewe (for good milk production) and the lamb for optimal growth results at this time allowing the lamb in her later life to significantly better ovulate.

This means better **utilization and production!** So the breeding ewes must not be too fat nor too thin and be healthy without internal or external parasites.

Also attention must be given to the **rams**. The ideal is to own rams with **good condition** (not too fat) and a **good sperm count**. Healthy sex organs are essential therefore the testicles, epididymis and penis must be checked regularly. To ensure healthy rams it's good to vaccinate young rams between 2 and 4 months with **Brucella Ovis** (REV 1) to prevent the transfer of **epididymitis** and other **venereal diseases** found among sheep.

Different methods of mating can be applied:

1. **Group mating:** A group of ewes are selected and covered by a specific ram (20 -25 ewe for 1 ram in a limited defined small area)
2. **Mass mating:** Here is a group of ewes placed with 3-4% rams in a camp where mating occurs.
3. **Individual Mating**
 - Controlled individual service
 - Artificial insemination
 - Laparoscopy insemination

Herd health

Know your herd, be aware in time if there is any deterioration, or whether there are ticks and dose and dip timeously.

Dosage:

- a. Vitamin A - work on the mucosal surfaces and their maintenance (eyes [blindness], nose, intestines and genital system)
- b. Trace elements - play a role in fertility, lamb survival and growth of young animals
- c. Anthelmics - intestinal parasites (e.g. roundworm, nose worm, bankrupt worm, wireworm and tapeworm)
 - external parasites (e.g. ticks, lice, mites, flies, gnats and flies)

Vaccinations:

Vaccinate against major diseases such as:

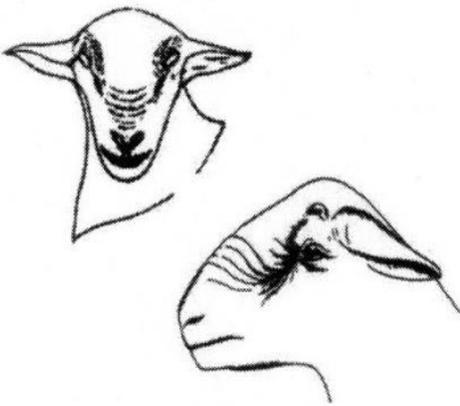
- a. Cheese-like lymph gland abscesses (sores / abscesses all over the animal's body)
- b. Pulpy Kidney (sheep should be vaccinated once a year)
- c. Bluetongue (Illness occurs in March / April and lambs are vaccinated after six months and ewes 10 weeks after pregnancy. In rams it can lead to temporary infertility.
- d. Enzootic abortion
- e. Brucella REV1 (young rams 2-4 months of age to prevent epididymitis)
- f. Pasteurella (resides in the mucous membranes of sheep)
- g. Other specific diseases such as Rift Valley Fever and Anthrax

Outstanding features of the Dorper

The Dorper is primarily a mutton breed and therefore when a selection is made, keep the following in mind:

1. Lamb (meat) production - (meat quality, high production, weight gain, fat distribution)
2. Adaptability - (how animals thrive under different climatic and grazing conditions)
3. Hardiness - (where animals can survive and the resistance it offers against disease).
4. Grazing utilisation - (eats almost anything - non-selective grazer).
5. Good mothering abilities - (Keep lambs and looks after them well).
6. Dorper hides - (no wrinkles with smooth grain).
7. Dorpers with good coverage - (perfect coverage = mixture of hair and wool which will fall if it is not sheared)

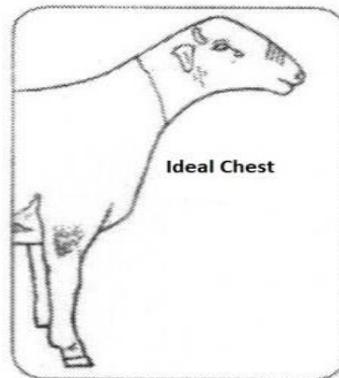
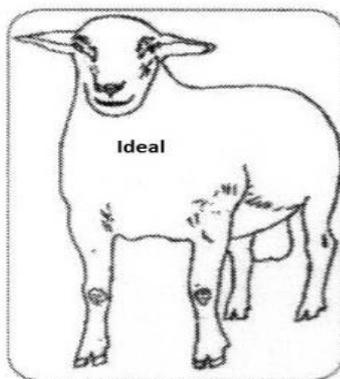
Good head formation:



Ideal Head

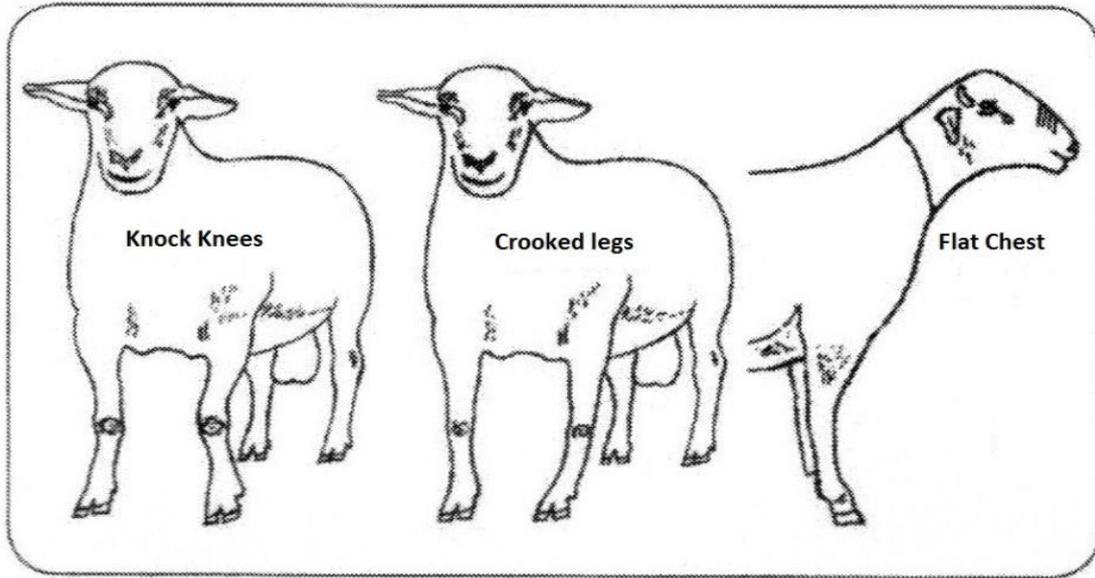
Let us sum up by saying the head is an important part where the different aspects should complement each other to present a strong and noble type ideal.

Fore Quarter and Neck:

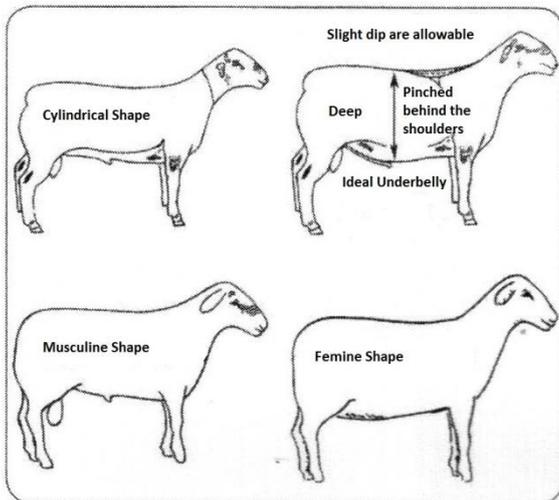


Definition: The neck should have reasonable length, be well fleshed with a good connection to the forequarter. Shoulders should be firm, wide and strong. A reasonable projection from the breastbone in front of the shoulder, reasonable width and good depth is the ideal. The front legs must be strong, straight and well positioned with strong pasterns and the claws must not be split too much. Weak pasterns and knock knees must be discriminated against in grading. Shoulders that present loosely, breast bone that is too flat with no projection in front of the shoulders, crooked legs and lameness are cull factors.

Faults

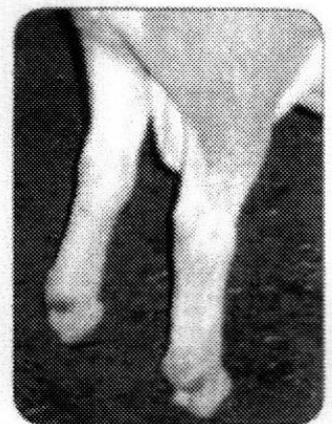
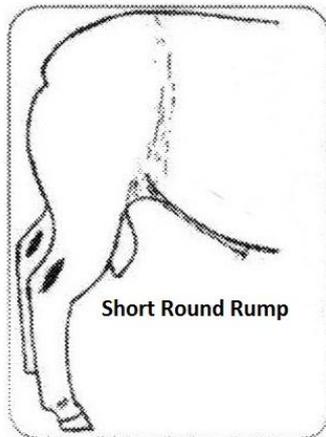
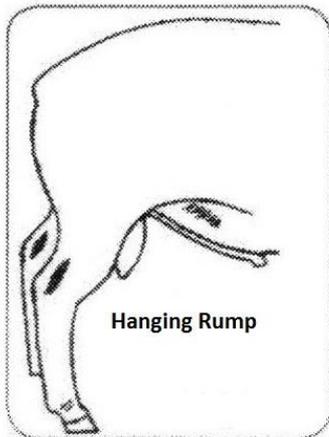


Mid Section:

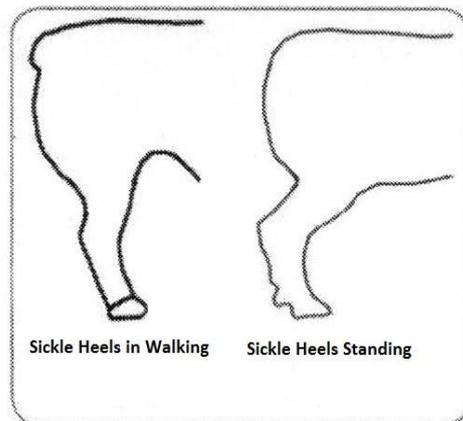
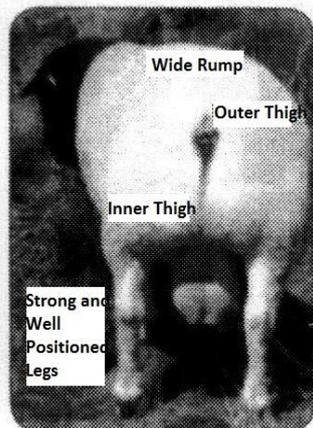
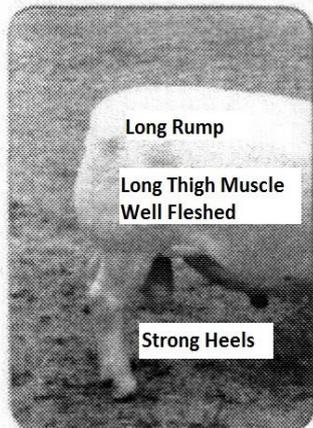


Definition: The ideal is a long, deep, wide body with well spring ribs and loins that are wide and full. The sheep must have a long straight back and not be pinched behind the shoulders. A slight dip behind the shoulder is allowable.

Hind quarter:

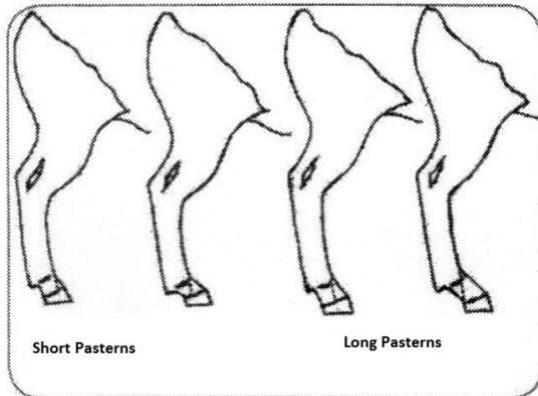


Definition: An elongated wide rump with a long thigh muscle is the ideal. Discriminate against short rolled up thigh muscles with naked thigh bones. A short or hanging rump must be discriminated against in grading. The inner and outer thighs must be well fleshed low down on the thigh bones of a mature animal. The back legs must be strong and widely placed, with strong feet and pasterns. Weak, crooked pasterns and sickle heels should be discriminated against in grading. The heels must be strong without a tendency to turn neither inwards nor outwards. Bow legs or perpendicular heels are cull faults.



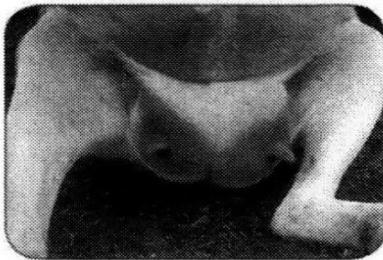
Pasterns:

Weak pasterns must be discriminated against in grading. Remember that environment also plays a role. For example under wet and intensive conditions claws grow more quickly and can destabilise the joints.



Weak Crooked Pasterns that Sag

Genital Organs:



Well Formed Udder



Well Formed and Large Testicles

Definition: A well formed udder and genital organs are essential in ewes. The ram's scrotum must not be too long and the testicles must rather be large and not too small. Any abnormality in the testicles is a cull fault. – Minimum circumference requirements for the testicles in a sitting position are:

-10 months 30cm

-2 tooth ram 32cm

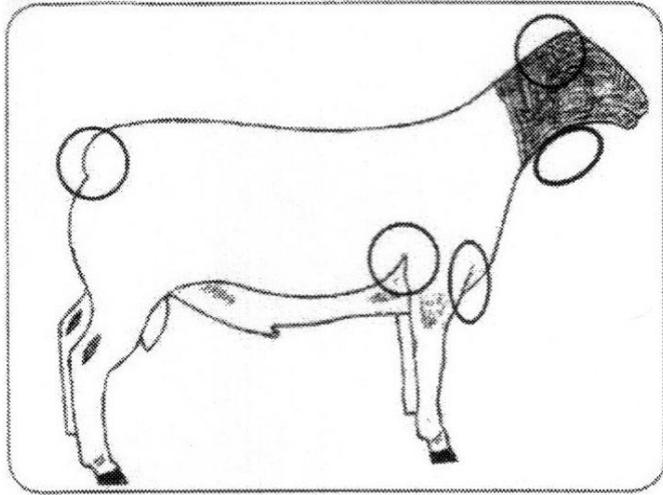
-4 tooth ram 33cm

-6 tooth ram and older 34cm

-In the ram's scrotum there is a cleft with a maximum depth of 1.5cm measured from the deepest point to in line with the two lowest points, allowable.

-The projection of a rectal or vaginal prolapsed is a cull fault.

Fat distribution:



Definition: Too much localisation of fat on any part of the body is discriminated against when grading (see circles on diagram). An even distribution of a thin layer of fat over the whole body and between the muscle tissue is the ideal. The sheep must be firm and muscular to the touch.

Note: Fat distribution is defined as what is found under normal extensive veld conditions. Animals in feedlots shall accumulate fat.

Colour pattern:

Dorpers: A White sheep with black limited to the head and neck is the ideal. Black flecks to a limited degree on the body and legs are allowable, but totally white sheep and sheep that are predominantly or totally black are grading faults. Brown or white hair may occur intermittently around the eyes. Pink teats, pink under the tail and white hooves are faults. Brown on the face is undesirable.

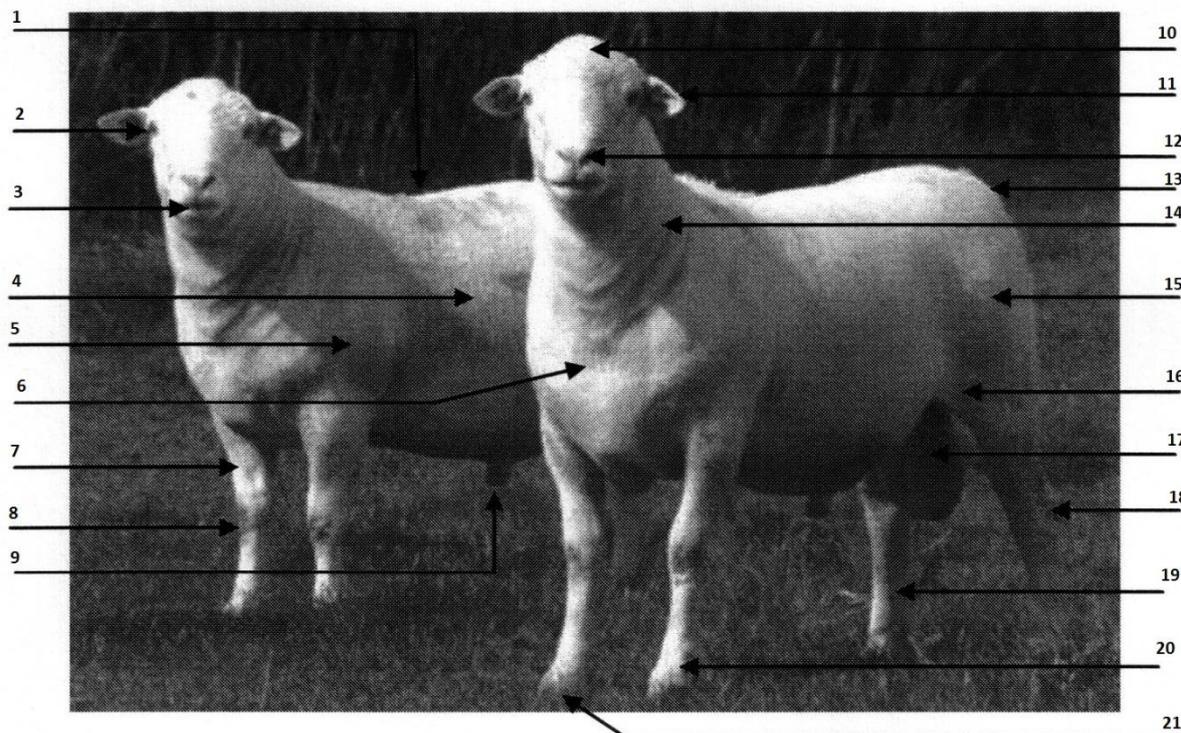
White Dorper: A White sheep with complete pigments around the eyes, under the tail, on the udder and teats is the ideal. A limited number of coloured flecks are allowable on the ears and on the under belly.

Covering:

Short, light mixture of hair and wool with a natural clean hemp undergrowth. The head must be covered with smooth short hemp.

General appearance and balance:

The sheep should be symmetrical and the body parts must be in proportion to each other. A calm temperament with a vigorous appearance is ideal



1. back	8. knee	15. leg
2. eye	9. penis	16. groin
3. mouth	10. head	17. testis
4. ribcage	11. ear	18. heel
5. shoulder	12. nostril	19. hind leg
6. breast	13. rump	20. pastern
7. front leg	14. neck	21. hoof

Meat Features

The price of meat is determined by the

- age
- fat distribution
- conformation

The body weight of the sheep is determined by:

- the length of the body
- depth of the body
- width of the body

Because meat is sold per kilogram, the body weight plays an important role together with the growth rates of the lamb. Lamb is more tender than mutton and fetch better prices.

In the show ring muscling plays a large role. Leg of lamb and back cutlets are expensive and enjoy the special attention of the judges. When the sheep's body length is displayed, the judge assesses the size of the sheep. From the back view of the sheep he looks at the degree of musculature of the sheep's inner - and outer thigh. A broad chest is a good indication of breast capacity which can house healthy lungs. The animal's ability to walk is important particularly if they have to graze in mountainous conditions. So the pasterns should also be strong.

Age Determination of sheep

After 12 to 14 months the lamb grows 2 permanent teeth

18 months 4 permanent teeth

2 years 6 permanent teeth

3 years 8 permanent teeth

3. GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING FOR SHOWS

Make sure in your selection that the animal has neither defects nor diseases (e.g. abscesses) because these animals are eliminated in the show ring.

The main purpose of a show is to bring good publicity to the superior animals and to measure the standard of your animals against animals from other breeders.

Hooves should be clipped a month before the show (do not cut too deep and damage the nerve, it will make the animal lame).

Washing: Only mutton sheep may be washed. Under no circumstances are wool and dual-purpose sheep washed.

Shear the wool/hair short and wash it with a mild soap mixture, rinse properly with water, dry the sheep and brush him thoroughly.

Cut / "Trim": Once the sheep are well brushed, only the outstanding hair/wool on the sheep's head (especially the stubs) and his body neatly levelled with you shears. Make sure to remove tufts and strings of wool/hair under the belly and between the legs.

4. GUIDELINES FOR WASH AND PREPARATION:

Needed in toolbox:

- Shears
- Small scissors
- Towel
- Face cloth
- Shampoo
- Small patch
- Linseed oil
- Hoof or pruning shears
- Halter or nylon rope
- Brush
- Bucket

Washing:

- a) Fasten the sheep on a fairly short line and fill the bucket of water.
- b) Turn the faucet on until the water flow is just strong enough. The water may not spray too hard.
- c) Start to wet the sheep behind his head, neck, over his back to the rump. Then wet the sides as well as the belly and legs.
- d) Then add the shampoo from his head to the rump. Remember his face and ears may not be wet or be washed with shampoo, because it is a chemical and the animal's nose or eyes can burn.
- e) Start now to wash the sheep by rubbing the shampoo well with your hands and fingers on his back and left side. Wash then on the right side to his chest.
- f) The belly is washed last because of all the dirt runoff. Lastly wash the legs and hooves with the scrubbing brush. Use your bucket with foamy water.
- g) Rinse the foam thoroughly from the sheep's body. Spray against the grain of the hair. Remember no foam may remain - especially under the belly and legs.
- h) Use your brush and brush the hair from front to back.
- i) Dry with the towel.
- j) Use the washcloth, just moist enough, and wipe the face, around the mouth, nostrils and ear cavities. Use the cloth to wipe inside the ears without damaging the coat of wax.

Preparation:

- a) The sheep are now well dried. Use the small scissors and trim the hair around his mouth and ears border and inside the ears.
- b) Now cut the hair evenly around the mouth.
- c) Get the shears and clip all hair or wool evenly that projects out over its body.
- d) Clip more on the hump and rump so the sheep show a level back.
- e) Clip the leg hair/wool level.
- f) Cut the hooves evenly if necessary with the pruning shears.
- g) Spread linseed oil on the hooves with a small cloth.
- h) Brush the sheep's hair again from front to back.

5. GUIDELINES FOR SHOWMANSHIP

The idea is to get your animal to show his best, as in a normal show. The only difference is that at Youth Shows, the handler, not the animal is judged. The animals are more or less handled as endorsed by the various Breed Societies.

The following should always be remembered when you enter the ring:

- 1. Concentrate - forget about everything outside the ring.
- 2. Maintain eye contact with the judge.
- 3. Do not move between the animal and the judge.
- 4. Look at your neatness and that of the animal that you are showing. Keep your clothes neat and your boots clean and the animal may not have straw or manure on his body.

Showmanship:

- a) Come into the ring with your right hand behind the sheep's tail and the left hand in front of the sheep's neck. Push to right and sent to left. Move left around the ring, maintain eye contact and find your place as indicated.
- b) Position your sheep correctly - front feet in line – hindquarters in line.
- c) Kneel beside your sheep with your right back shoe's nose backwards, leg stretched, bent left leg knee $\pm 45^\circ$ in front of the sheep's chest so that the animal's chest is visible to the judge.
- d) Left hand under the sheep's jaw and right hand behind the head. Look up to the judge if everything is ok. Do everything as quickly as possible. You are now ready to be judged.
- e) The judge will now ask that the sheep's front, side and rear are shown. In all cases, you should keep

your place and not move forward, backwards nor sideways.

- f) Respond quickly to instructions. Count slowly to five. In this time the sheep's front and back legs should be positioned correctly. Use your right hand as leverage to push the sheep into position (not your knee). Do not lie on the sheep with your arm.
- g) When the instructions are completed you have to get up every time and position everything and kneel again. Concentrate and maintain eye contact with the judge.
- h) The judge will now ask you to show your animal. Leave your sheep and try to get him as close as possible to the judge without having to clap your hands. Maintain eye contact and if the judge moves to the left or right, move around the sheep away from the judge. If the judge stands still and your sheep is standing, you must stand upright with your hands at your sides.
- i) On the command, "Catch" ,push the sheep into the nearest corner. Catch the animal's left hind leg with your right hand above the heel. If the sheep is facing you, you can catch him on the neck.
- j) Move clockwise-and stand at your location.
- k) Position the animal's legs correctly, kneel and look up.
- l) The judge will now ask you to turn your animal in different directions. He will expect you to quickly make the movements. Concentrate and stay in your position.
- m) You may be asked to swap with someone else's sheep.
- o) If the judge asks you to open your sheep's mouth use your left hand thumb and index finger, turning the sheep's head to the judge using the fingers to separate the sheep's top and bottom lip.
- p) Get to know the different ages, according to the sheep's teeth.

6. GUIDELINES MUTTON SHEEP - GROUP

1. In each group there are three participants. Arrange yourselves from large too small or vice versa. The person in the middle gives the signs. Ideally you should be 3 girls or 3 boys.
2. In groups uniformity and cooperation is very important.
3. Clothing and footwear must be the same. Remove watches and girls should have the same hair elastics. Belts should be alike and shirts tucked into pants. Everything must be neat and clean.
4. Now enter the ring. Your sheep should be neat. Your right hand is behind the sheep's tail and left for the sheep's neck. Push the sheep and send him clockwise (leftward) to your location. Maintain eye contact with the judge.

5. Position your sheep's legs correctly. Front legs and hind legs straight, in line and together. Everyone waits until the last person is ready, give the signal and kneel in unison.
6. Your left hand is under the sheep's jaw and right behind the head. Do not lie on the sheep's back with your right arm.
7. Your left knee is $\pm 45^\circ$ to the left so that the sheep's chest is opened and your right leg pointing to the back and your shoe's nose to the back. If everything is right, show you are ready for review by simultaneously looking at the judge.
8. The judge will now ask you to turn the sheep's faces, sides and backs. It is important that you keep the spaces between you the same and move neither forward nor backward.
9. Stand each time and follow the instructions quickly. Get the sheep's legs right and kneel in line. Use your right hand as leverage to push the sheep into position every time. Try to do every move within five seconds, wait for each other and look up together. Concentrate and maintain eye contact.
10. The judge will now ask you to show the animals. Leave the sheep at the same time. Remain in your order and push the sheep towards the judge. Do not clap your hands. If the judge moves to the right or to the left, move away around the sheep. Maintain eye contact.
11. If the judge stands, you also stand with your hands at your sides.
12. On the command, "Catch" push the sheep into the nearest corner; catch the sheep in unison on the left hind leg with your right hand above the heel. When the sheep is facing you, you can sheep to catch it by the neck.
13. Move left again and stand in the correct order on your location.
14. Get the sheep's legs right, kneeling in unison and look up.
15. The judge could ask you to turn the sheep again in different directions. It will now be faster. Concentrate, do everything right and stay on your position without moving away.
16. If the judge asks you to open the sheep's mouths use your left thumb and index finger, turning the sheep's head to the judge, and then separate the upper and lower lip apart.
17. Get to know the sheep's age, according to his permanent teeth.

Enjoy the show! and remember

**"Ask a lot of yourself and expect little of others,
then you will not be disappointed so often "
(Confucius)**