



# Itasca FFA

Sheep Guide

# 3 Keys to Success

- Genetics
- Good management program
- Effort

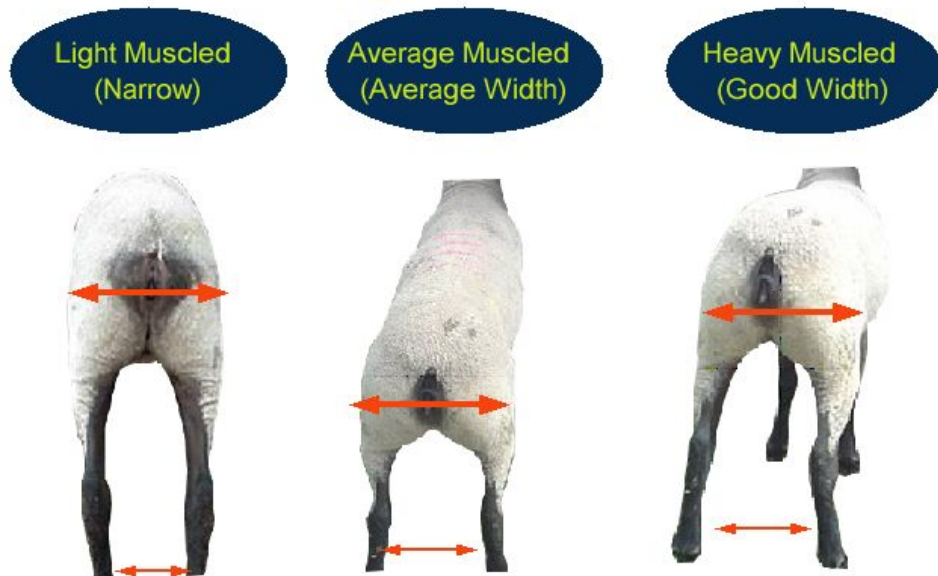
# Genetics

- Genetics play a big role when selecting your animal. Select an animal with quality genetics.
- There is no perfect animal for every judge at every show, but they all have similarities.
- Priorities for selection:
  - Target show (Ex. County only, or major shows)
  - Age & genetics
  - Structure & design
  - Muscle pattern

# Selection

- The forearm is a key indicator of muscling. It is the only muscle that can be worked out or changed. Muscling is proportional. If the forearm is large, the other muscles should be as well.
- Look for width in the rack and loin.
- Look for levelness in the hip.
- Look at size of bone.
- Look for good dimension of rib shape.

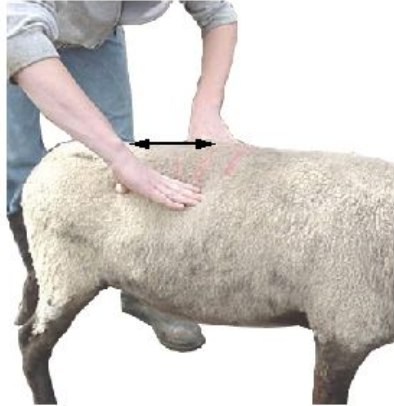
## Evaluating Degree of Muscling – Center Leg and Base Width –



## Evaluating Degree of Muscling – Width and Length of Loin –

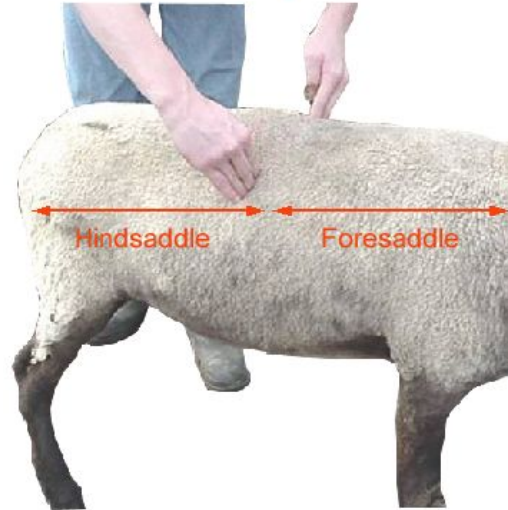


A Wide Loin is Desired



A Long Loin is Desired

## Evaluating Degree of Muscling – Length of Hind Saddle –



Greater Length in the  
Hind Saddle is Desired

## Evaluating Balance and Style

### Good Style Points

Smooth at Point  
of Shoulder



Very High  
Set to Neck

Clean, Flat Breast

## Evaluating Balance and Style

### Good Style Points



Tight Over Shoulders  
(Correct Angular Shape)

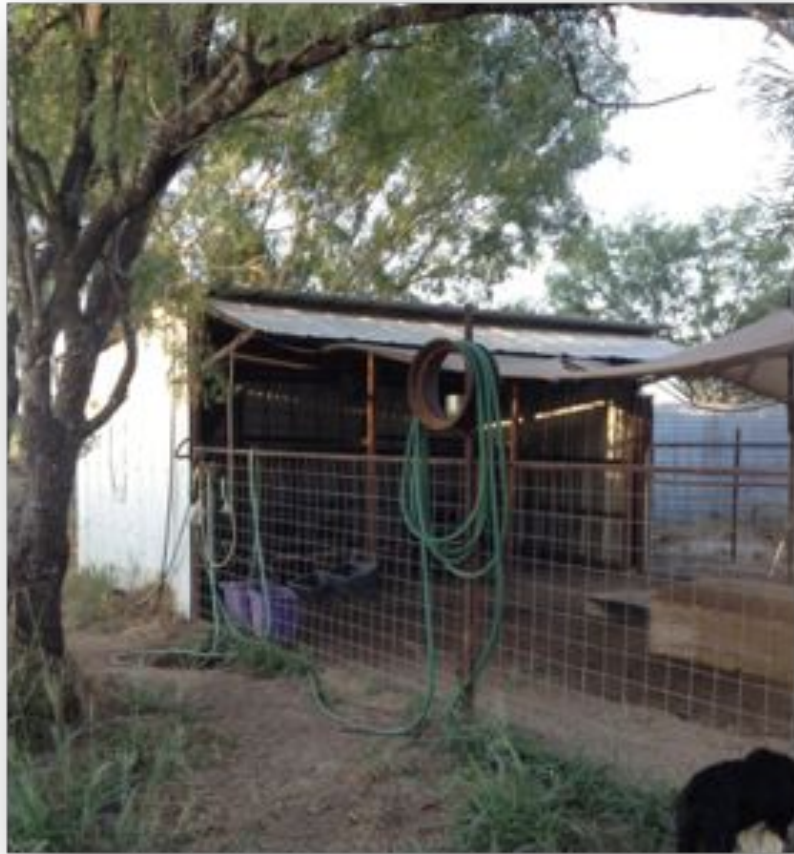
## Evaluating Degree of Finish



# Facilities

- Does not have to be elaborate.
- Partially covered (shade vs. sunlight)
- Good air flow (be aware of wind direction)
- Good drainage to prevent disease
- Concrete in feeding area will help you keep the area clean. But not necessary
- Adequate area for the animal to move around (min. 5' x 10')
- If you are feeding multiple goats and/or lambs, **DO NOT FEED TOGETHER!** You need to be able to monitor consumption for **EACH** animal separately.





# Equipment

- Feeders - Be sure they clip to the fence.
- Water Buckets - KEEP IT CLEAN!  
If you won't drink it, neither will the animal.
- Hoof trimmers
- Elevated Feeding Stand (can set up cinder blocks or something of the sort)



# Equipment

- Halter
  - Start with nylon/rope
- Muzzle
- Cover/blanket
  - Sock or sleeve
  - Pro Cool for hot days
  - Canvas/cloth for cold
  - Leg covers



# Feeding

- Things to keep in mind when selecting feed:
  - How fresh is it?
  - Quality of ingredients
  - Availability
- Most important tool when feeding is YOU!
  - Feed plans will not stay the same for each animal all year long. Plans change as your animal changes. (This is why a food scale is VERY important.)
- There are many show feeds out there. Do your research and consult with your Ag. Teacher and local feed dealer for advice.

# Feeding

- When you first get them, gradually switch to desired feed
  - Find out what feed they have been on
  - Week 1,  $\frac{3}{4}$  old feed  $\frac{1}{4}$  new. Week 2,  $\frac{1}{2}$  old  $\frac{1}{2}$  new. Week 3,  $\frac{1}{4}$  old  $\frac{3}{4}$  new
- Keep it simple! There is no “magic formula” that will make your animal an automatic champion. Don’t introduce too many supplements at one time.
- Try to feed 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. to 2 lbs. daily to start.
- Alfalfa hay to help regulate digestion.
  - One handful per day, per animal.
- Keep water clean and fresh!!
  - Remember, if you won’t drink it, neither will they.

# Feeding

- Keep your end goal in mind
- Allow at least 2 weeks before reevaluating
- Lambs
  - Find a quality show lamb feed that fits your budget. Consult with your Ag. teacher and local feed dealer help.

# Supplements

- They are not magic! If it works for one, it may or may not work for another.
- Three types
  - Fat
  - Protein
  - Health and conversion
- Just like feed, there are many supplements on the market. It can be overwhelming, I know! Do your research, ask questions, and consult with your Ag. Teacher and local feed dealer for help.

# Health & Care

*I am not a vet and I advise you first consult with your local vet on dosage and withdrawal periods for any medication you use. However, these are things that have worked for me in the past.*

- Parasite Control - Develop a schedule to maintain good health
  - Deworm every 30 days (find a wormer that works and use it until it doesn't. These can be found at Tractor Supply Co.)
- Check fecal samples if one is sick to know what he has and treat accordingly (your local vet can help).
- Be alert after heavy rains. Moisture is how the eggs are spread.



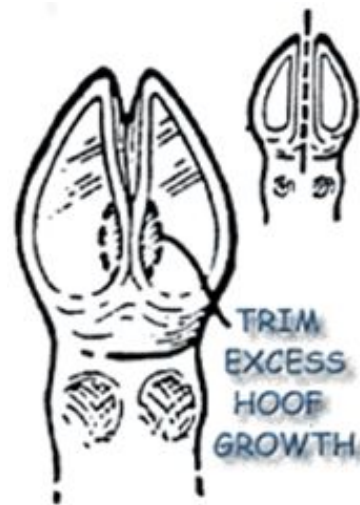
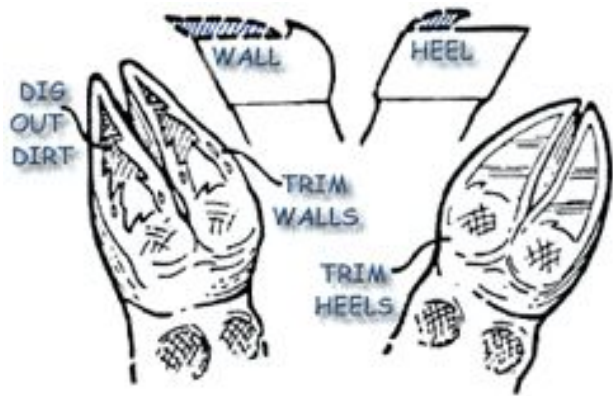
# Health & Care

- Monthly Dewormers



# Health & Care

- Hoof trimming
  - About once a month
  - A few days before a show
  - Take a little at a time.  
Stop when you see pink tissue.



# Health & Care Items

- Vetricyn spray - Helps with any wound.
- Corid - Follow directions on bottle to mix with water. Helps prevent urinary calculi (kidney stones).
- Probiotics - I recommend Doc's or Probios. Get the paste form!
- Disinfectant and Anti-fungal spray - Straight apple cider vinegar in a spray bottle works as well.



# Exercise

- Needed to keep the animal firm and fit and allows regulation of fat cover.
- Develop a plan that works for you. Build up slowly and monitor muscle and condition.
- Treat the animal as an athlete. We want a sprinter, not a distance runner.

## **Three common types:**

- Track (needs a dog, adds adrenaline)
- Treadmill (no dog, can walk backwards)
- Release and run (any exercise is better than none)

# Hair Care

- Keep your animal clean!
- Wash with a focus on legs 2-3 times a week in the following order to train and promote hair growth:
  - Wash using volumizer shampoo
  - Rinse
  - Condition (Mane n' Tail works great)
  - Rinse
  - Blow out and comb
  - Wrap legs

# Hair Care

- Leg wool gives sheep lots of eye appeal.
- This helps the animal look like it has a larger foot size and bigger bone.
- The lamb looks more balanced and appears to have a wider base.
- Also, shag will allow you the opportunity to clip the sheep to highlight strengths and minimize weaknesses.
- However, not every conformation issue can be solved with the presence of well-fit leg wool.

# Hair Care

- Cultivating shag often depends on the breed and genetics of the lamb, but there are a few things you can do to help wool growth.
  - 1.) Make sure that you are washing the leg wool in cool water two to three times per week. Don't skip on conditioning the legs each time.
  - 2.) Keep leg wool clean and protected. Dirty legs require more scrubbing and grooming, which can pull out or damage the shag on the leg.
  - 3.) Work the wool in a natural, downward direction.
  - 4.) Use leg wraps to ensure that sheep are not only staying clean but also so they cannot pull or bite at the leg wool.
- <https://www.thewinnersbrand.com/protips/sheep/show-lamb-leg-wool-care---growing-clipping-fitting>

# Showmanship

- This is where the last key to success comes in. Effort!
- “Hustle beats talent when talent doesn’t hustle.”
- Work hard! It will pay off in the end.
- Find showmanship clinics to go to, ask questions, seek advice from experienced exhibitors and your teachers.
- The only way to get better is to get out there and show! Find local jackpot shows to attend. This will help you and your animal be more comfortable in the ring.



# Showmanship

## Training to Lead

- Doesn't happen overnight.
- Start with a halter and graduate to the chain (for goats)
- Keep the animal's head slightly in front of the exhibitor as they walk (if the animal can't see, they won't go).
- Practice!

# Showmanship

## Training to Brace

- Move INTO the animal; always push, never pull
- Keep head pulled up
- All 4 feet square
- Nose down will keep the back level
- Feet perpendicular to the ground



# Showmanship

## Show Ring Tips

- Watch the judge!
  - Pay attention to what the judge wants to see
  - ALWAYS keep the animal between you and the judge
- Watch your surroundings
  - Leave enough space between you and the next animal
- If your animal acts up, circle clockwise and put him back in place. It helps him “reset”
- Show until the very end! Present your animal as if they are the champion.

Remember to have fun!