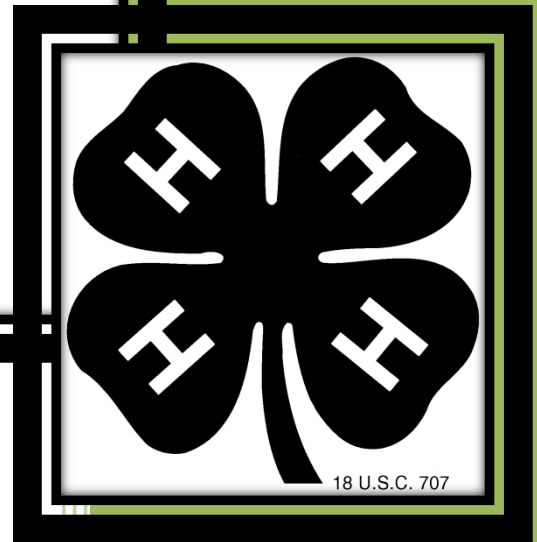
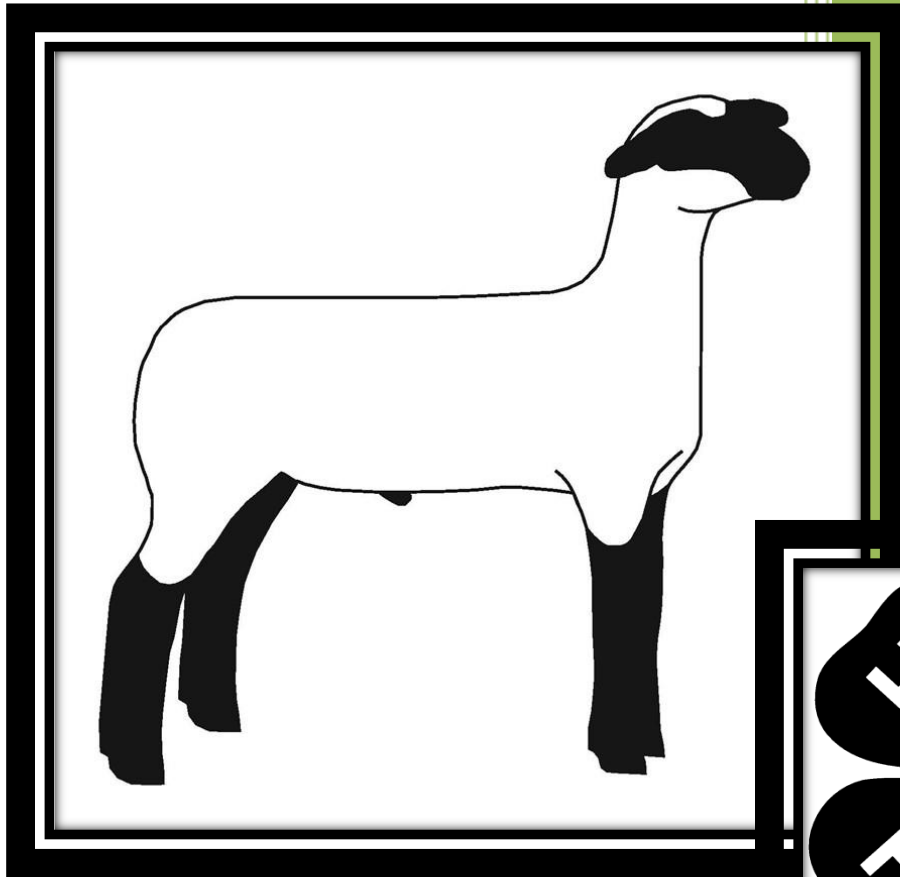
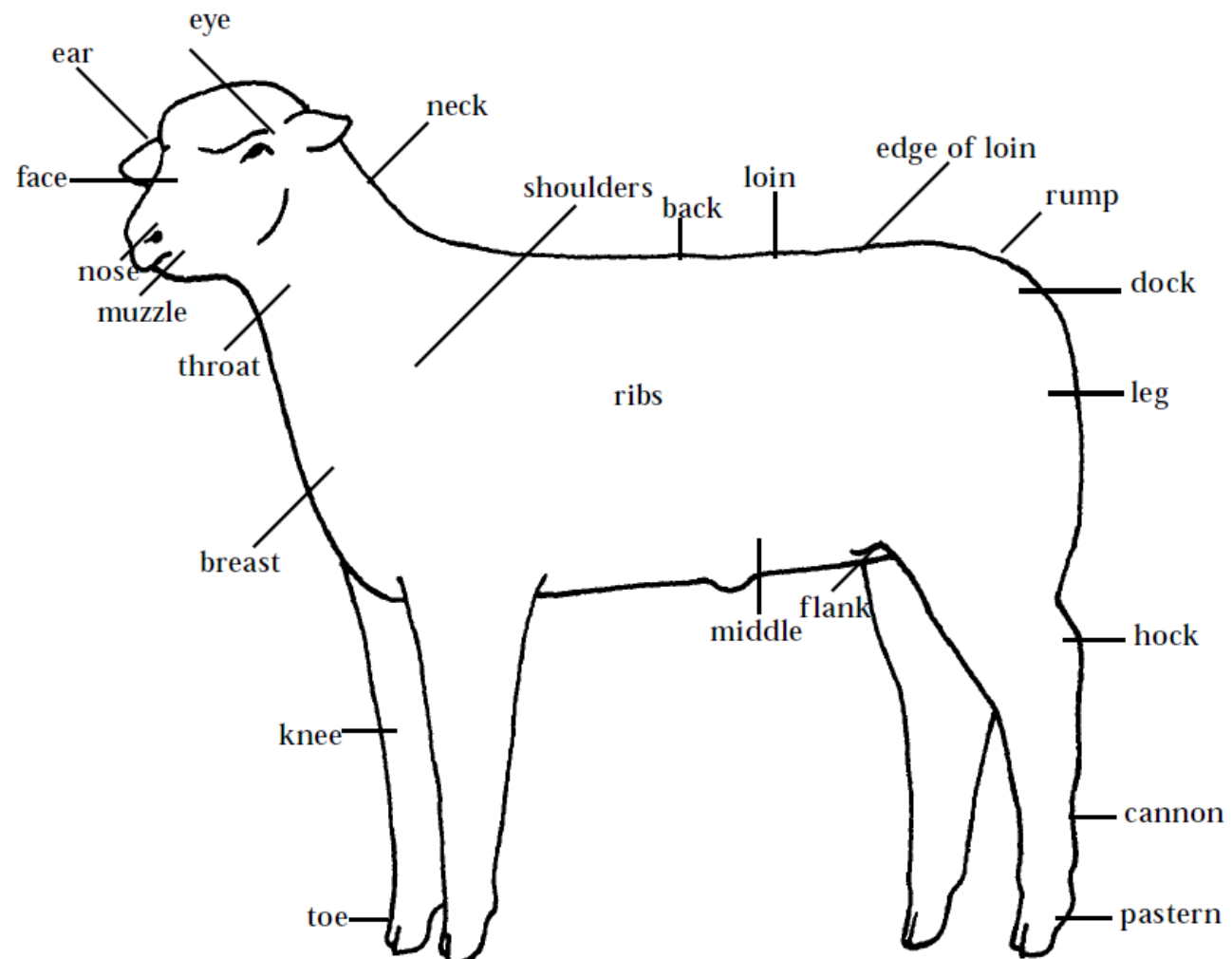


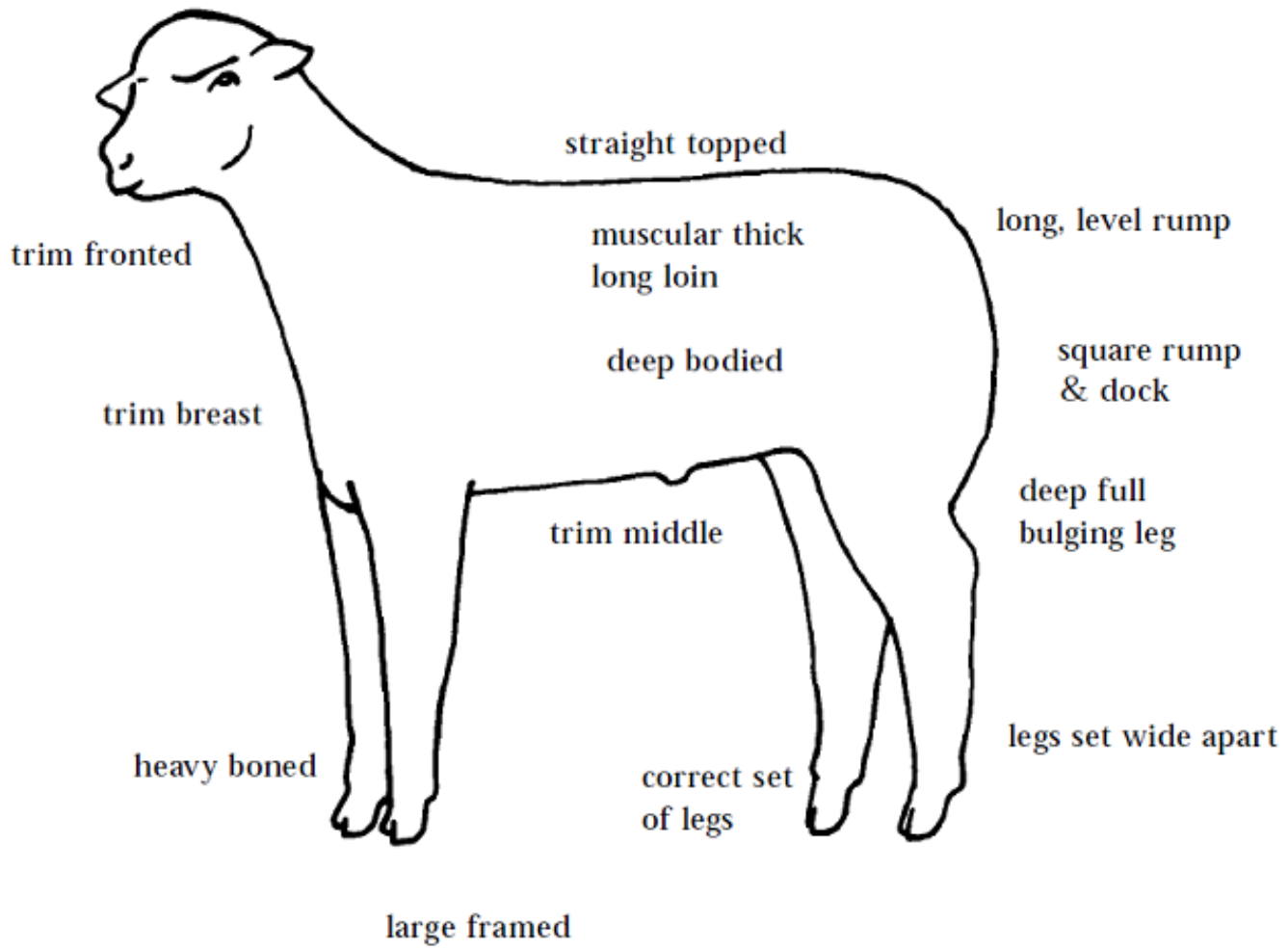
Sheep Showmanship



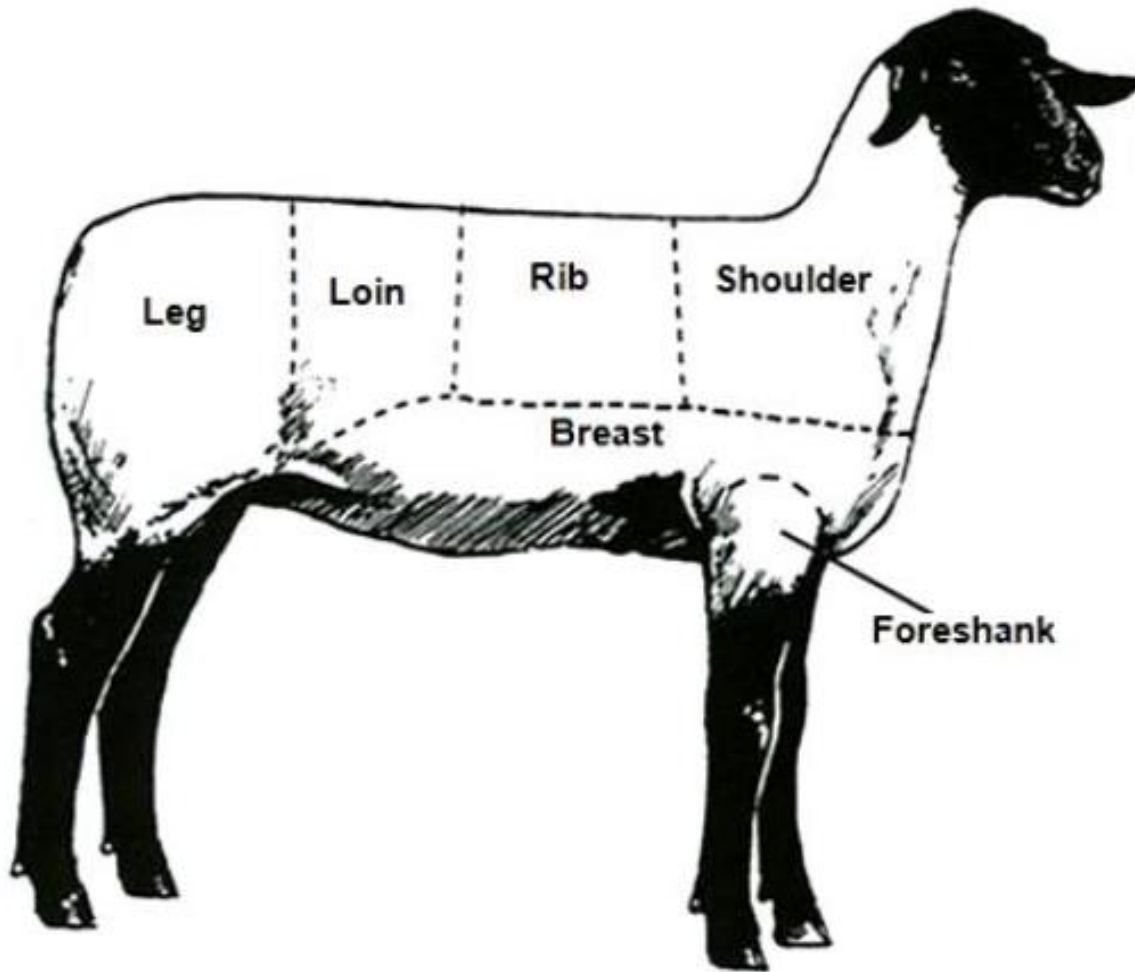
Parts of a Lamb



Ideal Market Lamb



Cuts of a Market Lamb



Common Sheep Breeds



Suffolk



Hampshire



Dorset



Southdown



Dorper



Romney

Showmanship Terms/Questions

Sheep: over 1 year of age

Lamb: less than one year of age

Ewe: a female sheep

Ram: an intact adult male

Wether: a castrated male lamb

Docking: cutting the tails short on lambs

Polled: an animal that naturally lacks horns

Lanolin: the oil called in the fleece of sheep

1. Name some meat breeds.
 - a. Suffolk, Dorset, Southdown, Hampshire
2. Name some wool breeds.
 - a. Merino, Lincoln, Cotswold, Romney
3. Name some dual purpose breeds?
 - a. Dorset, Cheviot, Polypay, Romney, Columbia
4. What disease is the biggest problem in the sheep industry that affects the central nervous system and has no known cure?
 - a. Scrapies
5. What is the purpose of a scrapies tag?
 - a. To trace the (bacteria/sickness) scrapies back to the farm where the lamb was bought.
6. What is rectal prolapse?
 - a. A protruding rectum.
7. What can cause rectal prolapse?
 - a. Overweight, coughing, short dock, too high gain ration, genetics
8. What is the feed conversion ratio for market lambs?
 - a. 7 lbs. feed/1 lb. gain
9. What is the average daily weight gain of a market lamb?
 - a. 0.4 – 0.8 lbs.
10. What is the approximate percent crude protein that growing lambs should be fed?
 - a. 14 – 16%
11. Name three commonly used grains in sheep rations?
 - a. Oats, corn, barley, wheat, rye and sorghum

12. What are three examples of feed ingredients used as a protein source in a ration?
 - a. Linseed Meal, Cottonseed Meal and Soybean Meal
13. What is the normal temperature of a sheep?
 - a. 102.0°F - 103.0°F
14. The gestation period for a ewe is...?
 - a. 5 months
15. How many stomachs does a lamb have? Name them.
 - a. 4: Rumen, Omasum, Abomasum, and Reticulum
16. Name a disease sheep may get.
 - a. Blue tongue, sore moth, tetanus, Enterotoxemia, foot rot
17. Name a common internal parasite.
 - a. Liver flukes, tape worms, large stomach worms, brown stomach worms, stomach hair worms, coccidiosis
18. Name a common external parasite.
 - a. Ticks, maggots, lice, mosquitoes
19. What are the top sheep producing states?
 - a. Texas, California, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota
20. The acceptable weight range of an ideal market lamb should be...?
 - a. 115 – 160 lbs.
21. What is the average dressing percent for a market lamb?
 - a. 50-55%
22. What are the more expensive cuts of a market lamb?
 - a. Rack, loin, leg
23. What is the average amount of backfat on a market lamb?
 - a. .30 in.
24. Where is backfat measured?
 - a. At the 12th rib over the rib eye muscle.
25. How is the yield grade determined?
 - a. $(\text{Backfat} \times 10) + 4$

Sheep Showmanship

Promptly enter the show ring, leading the lamb from the left-hand side. Small exhibitors may use a halter. Advanced exhibitors lead the lamb with the left hand under the chin and the right hand behind the ears. Keep the ears in an alert or forward position while on the move.

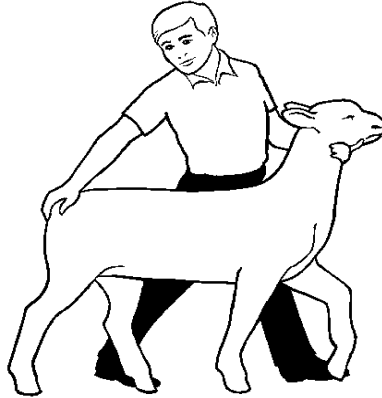


Figure 1. Lift the lamb's dock to encourage your lamb to walk.

Position the lamb straight in the side-by-side lineup. Quickly, yet smoothly, set the lamb so that all four feet are squared with the rear legs slightly back. Do not get down on your knees to set up a lamb; this causes you to have less control of the lamb. Small exhibitors may use a knee or feet to set the lamb's legs. By bumping the breastplate with the knee, smaller exhibitors can move the animal's rear legs back.



Figure 2. Head-In/Rear-View (left) or Profile/Side-View/Head to Tail (right).

Larger exhibitors can lift the front end of the lamb with a leg to move the lamb into proper position. Larger exhibitors can also use their hands to help set up the lamb. Set the rear legs first, and allow the lamb to push into your leg, then lift and set the front legs.

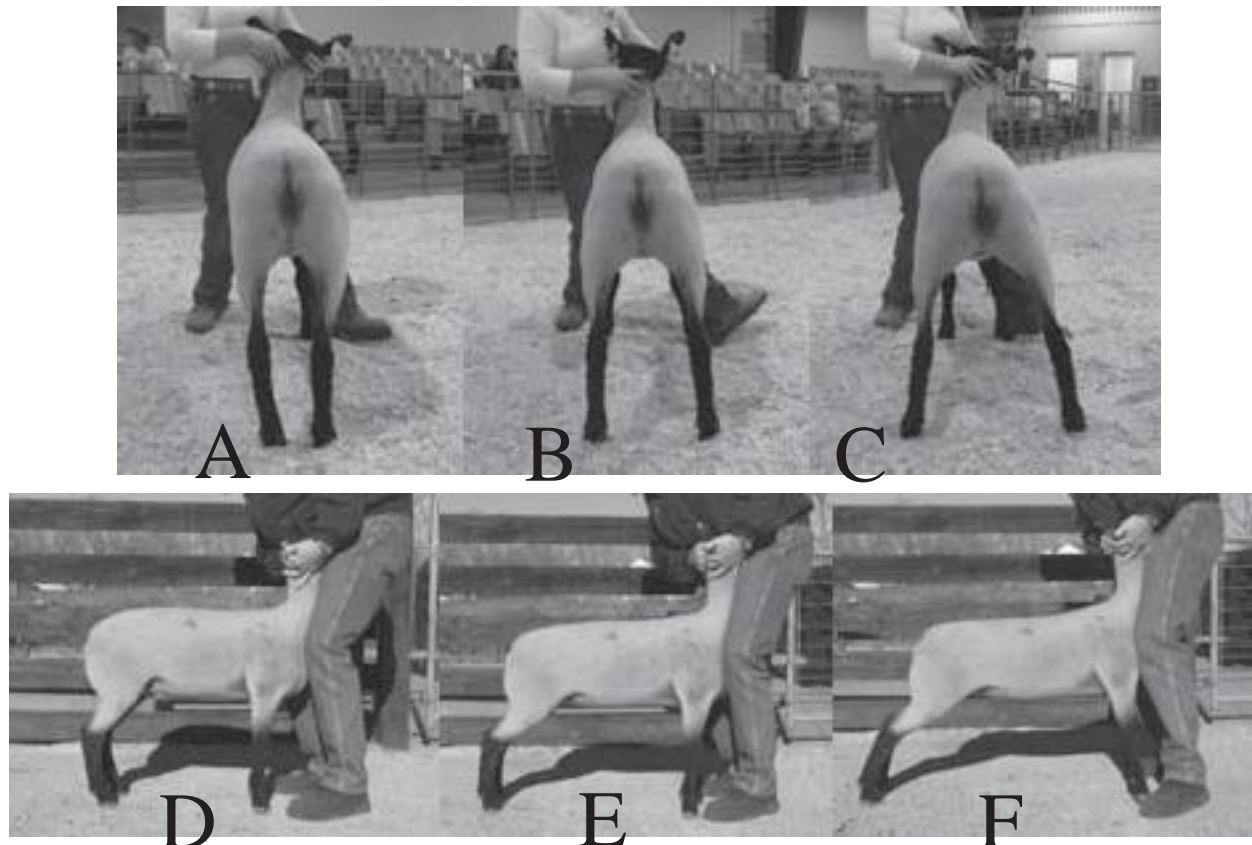


Figure 3. Correctly place each leg on the four corners of the lamb's body. Head-in or rear view: A = too narrow, B = ideal, C = too wide. Profile or side view: D = too short, E = ideal, F = too stretched.

Once the lamb is set up, keep its head held high, and locate the judge. Remain standing in front of your lamb when the judge is viewing the lambs from the rear. Push into the lamb so that muscle expression will appear in the rear leg. By driving into your leg, the lamb's muscles tighten up, feel firmer, and appear large and pronounced. Never place your hand on the lamb's back or the base of its neck. This will obstruct the judge's view of the lamb's top. As the judge moves around to the right of the lamb, stay on the left and in front of the lamb.



Figure 4. The showman's left hand should be placed under the lamb's muzzle and the right hand should be behind the lamb's head below his ears. A = ideal for smaller showman when moving lamb, B = ideal for larger showman when moving lamb; C = ideal for smaller showman when bracing lamb, D = ideal for larger showman when bracing lamb.

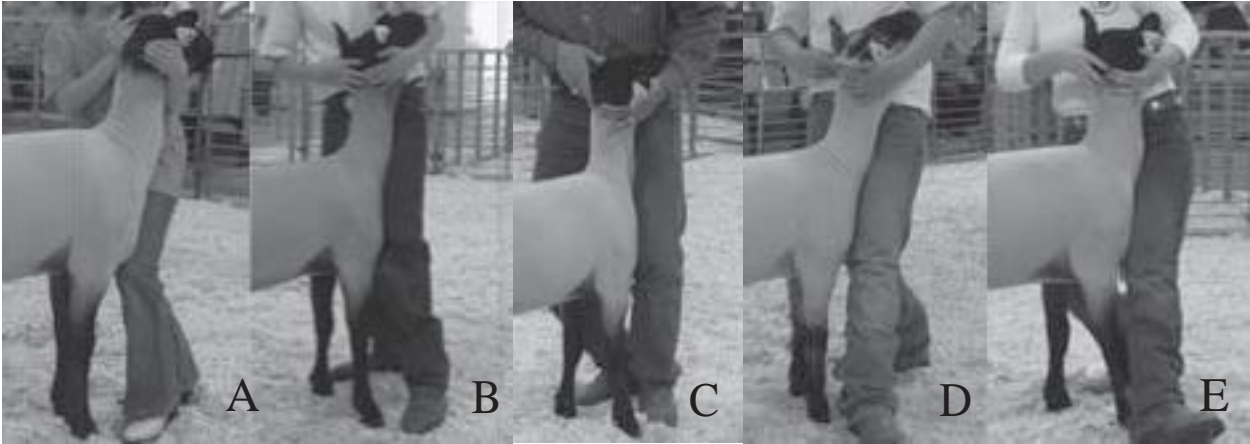


Figure 5. Correct hand, knee, and feet placement by the showman is critical to effectively brace a lamb. A = ideal for smaller showman, B = ideal for intermediate showman, C = ideal for larger showman, D and E = hands and knees are correct, but keep feet in front of lamb instead of potentially sticking out in the way of the judge or other showmen.

As the judge views the front of the lamb, move to the lamb's left side and face the judge. Hold the lamb's head erect with ears forward. Be sure to keep the lamb's head high and in line with its body. As the judge moves to the left of the lamb, move back to the front to give the judge a full view of the entire animal.



Figure 6. Front-view positioning of lamb and showman.



Figure 7. Ears should be held parallel to the ground unless the breed is noted for erect ears. A = ideal ear placement, B = acceptable but not preferred, C = unacceptable because this placement is not natural.

While driving the lamb, make sure all four feet remain on the ground. Never pick up your lamb so that its front feet are lifted off the ground while driving. This does not give you an advantage.

A firm top is a must when driving the lamb. Exhibitors who fail to produce a firm handle on the lamb will place down the line. A judge expects an exhibitor to be able to drive and maintain proper positioning of the lamb.



Figure 8. Drive your lamb by pushing back on its shoulder area with your knee or leg.

After handling all the lambs, the judge will want you to walk your lamb. Be sure your lamb is under control and between you and the judge.

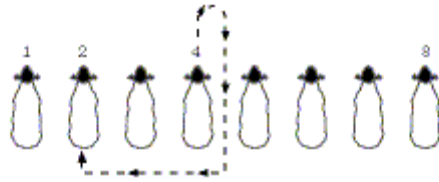
When the judge requests, stop the lamb for a side view. Set up the lamb as discussed earlier. Allow plenty of room between you and the lamb in front. This gives extra room to work around the front of the lamb and keeps the lamb behind from crowding you on the profile.

Stand in front and to the lamb's left side to maintain the profile position. Drive the lamb with your leg, applying enough pressure to maintain a level top. Extend the head and neck upward while keeping the ears erect. Keep the lamb's head in line with the rest of its body.

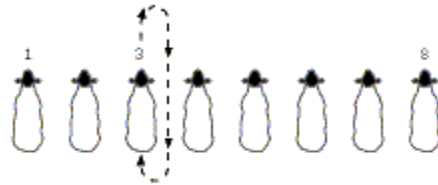
Stay alert. The judge may handle the lamb again or motion for you and your lamb to move to another line. As lambs are pulled from the profile line, move forward to fill any resulting space. Reset your lamb, and watch the judge with each move forward. Once you are pulled to the placing line, remember the class is not over. Be sure to keep the lamb set up and looking its best.

The judge may decide to place the lambs differently after one final look. Study figure 9 to learn how to change positions if the judge asks you to move in the line. Be sure to set your lamb in a straight line from the first lamb set up (illustrated in figure 9). Always turn your lamb to the right (clockwise) unless you are instructed to do otherwise. When the judge starts giving reasons, the class is over.

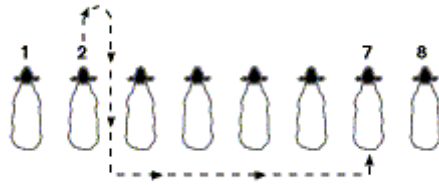
Figure 9



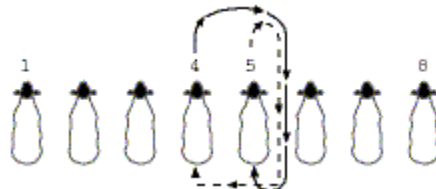
1. How to switch from position 4 to position 2.



2. How to reset in the same position using position 3.



3. How to switch from position 2 to position 7.



4. How to switch from positions 4 and 5; 5 moves out first.

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