

Judson Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources 2023-2024 Lamb Feeder Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of a production livestock-feeding program is to allow students to develop responsibility, leadership skills, and gain hands-on knowledge and application of the livestock production industry. All feeders should experience success, develop a responsible attitude, and take pride in their accomplishments. The JISD Agricultural Science Complex Instructional Facility Guidelines and Expectations, Lamb Guidelines, AET Recordbook Agreement, and COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed at all times and each student must have a signed copy of the agreements (lamb guidelines, recordbook and barn contract) on file with the agriculture teacher in charge of the lamb projects before the animal enters the barn.

Please be advised that we follow UIL rules, if you are not passing then you are ineligible to show. We follow the secondary grading timeline for grade reporting dates.

Every student enrolled in agriculture science class for the 23-24 school year will have the privilege of FFA membership through a \$20 activity fee (chapter t-shirt included).

Price of Projects

The total price for the lamb project varies depending on feed cost and can approximately cost \$1300 - \$1500 per lamb for the duration of the project. This includes the Lamb, Feed (not additives), Facility use fee, Validation, and 1 Judson Agriculture entry. Cost of the lamb itself can vary depending on how much you are willing and able to spend on the project, you can expect to spend around \$800 for a project of good quality. Do keep in mind there can be additional costs associated with the project such as prospect shows, major stock shows, and additional materials/supplies.

Market Lambs:

Purchase of Lamb (Varies)	\$ 800-1,000+ (average)
Facility Use Fee	\$ 100.00/Lamb
Validation	\$ 20.00
Hay	\$ 20.00
*Past Aug. 1- the fee is \$40.00	
Cost of Feeding	\$ 250-500
Judson Agriculture Exposition Entry	\$ 30.00/entry
SALE entry	\$ depends on passes bought

Before the lamb can come into the barn, I will need to get the Facility Fee, Hay Fee, and Validation Fee which totals \$140 before August 1st. If after August 1st, the fee increases to \$160 due to the validation cost going up after that date. If you already know you are purchasing a lamb please make sure to at least get these fees to me ASAP to avoid late fees.

Materials/Supplies (Equipment)

***Lamb Halter *Lamb Feeder Bin *Water Bucket *Wool Card**

By the shows you will need a Lamb Blanket (2 of them is recommended to have), Lamb Muzzle, and Shampoo (clipping/shows)

******Leg Hair Conditioner-see me for the recipe- this is a really important regimen for the lambs**

Other Supplements throughout the show season may be needed depending on the lambs conditioning.

Feed / Supply Stores

St. Hedwig Feed 210-667-1346
New Braunfels COOP 830-625-2381
La Vernia Country Store (CoOp) 830-779-2600

Feed and health

All lambs must be fed on a regular schedule to get the maximum potential out of your project and all feed will need to be purchased by the student. Please note these animals should be fed at the same time everyday even on non-school days, because this can cause the animal to be confused and stressed. **You should never run out of food and not feed your animals. You will also need to make coastal hay available to them at every feeding and use alfalfa 1- 2 feedings a week; this is because they are a ruminant and are important for the health of the rumen.**

Brands of Feed (Not Limited To)- make sure you are buying lamb feed and not goat feed; you should also be feeding the same feed each time unless otherwise directed or it can cause GI upset.

The feeds recommended are:

High Noon Purina Honor Show Chow

In the beginning, they may also be on the Linder's Creep feed from St. Hedwig depending on the lambs size at time of purchase. **Before changing the amount being fed please speak to the Ag teacher in charge of lambs. ****Please make sure that when you are told to switch or add supplements you do so immediately to ensure that the animal is on the correct track.** If you can not afford something, please let me know ASAP.

It is important that we have a preventative health program here at Judson HS within the withdrawal guidelines for shows. We will deworm monthly if it meets withdrawal guidelines and will be done at a lamb meeting and if you miss a deworming this could set your animal back significantly.

- **Internal Parasites/ Worms-** Lambs are very susceptible to internal parasites. It is recommended to deworm your lamb when you first get it and establish a deworming program every month.
- **Urinary Calculi-** this is a metabolic disease of male lamb which includes the formation of calcium stones in the urinary tract. Symptoms include restlessness, kicking at the belly, continued attempts to urinate, bloody urine. Balanced feed rations will have a 2:1 calcium/ phosphorus ratio and ammonium chloride added to the feed for prevention. Ammonium chloride can be added to the drinking water as a preventative in areas where problems exist.
- **Coccidiosis-** this is an infection in the intestinal tract characterized by bloody diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss and weakness. Sick lambs should be separated and treated. One effective method of treatment, which can be purchased at your local feed store, is to use amprolium 9.6% drench.
- **Ringworm/Staff infection-** Skin problems resulting from ringworm and staff infections have increased in severity over the past few years with exhibitors showing at prospect shows. Contagious animals spread the skin infections to other

animals through contact. Once the animals have become contaminated, extended treatment is needed to clear up the skin. I recommend that you seek advice from your local veterinarian for treatment.

- **Thiamine Deficiency**- This is a result of low copper status or high intakes of sulfur, which can cause blindness, convulsions, and cardiac arrhythmias. The signs can be acute or chronic and the animal may exhibit head pressing aggressiveness, head bent backwards-looking towards the sky, and muscular contractions. An injection of thiamine on occasion will help prevent the onset of this debilitating disease.

Be sure that you are checking animal(s) every day for feed consumption, scours (loose feces), proper urination, ringworm (Round Scab like sores on the body), coughing and snotty nose. Report any of these symptoms or changes immediately so the situation can be assessed on the care of the animal. Water buckets and feeders must be cleaned daily; lambs will not eat or drink out of dirty feeders and water buckets. However, due to some things being above our scope it may be best to seek veterinary care. Do not give any medication, vitamins, etc. without first discussing it with the Agriculture teacher in charge.

There are 6 things to consider when purchasing a Show animal.

1. Personal Goals for Success
2. How much am I willing to spend?
3. What is my project return?
4. What type of competition will I face?
5. What type of lamb do I need?
6. What age should the lamb be?

SELECTION- Excerpt from Jim Missildine's Lamb Guide

Whether you select the lamb or you have assistance, several factors are consistent with a good market lamb. These include:

- **Structural Correctness**- this includes the skeletal system/ bone structure of the animal. Look for a lamb that is heavy boned, level topped and level in his hip. Note the lamb's movement as he walks and look for the lamb that stands and walks out wide off of his front legs and back legs. Pay attention to the rear legs and avoid any lambs that might walk with their back hocks pointing in or out. Check the lamb's pasterns, making sure that they do not flex excessively in their pasterns.

- **Muscle**- muscle will always be one of the primary factors for success. The purpose of a market wether is to provide meat for consumption. Consequently, judges will prioritize muscle as a major factor in placing. A lamb that is wide based in structure is going to be heavier muscled than a narrow based lamb. Have someone hold the lamb in a driving position and handle the top of the lamb right behind the shoulder and across the loin. You want as much width as you can get. Analyze the rear leg muscle by watching the lamb walk away from you. Look for the width and depth of the leg muscle to compare.

- **Volume and capacity**- this refers to the width of the body and rib shape. Lambs that are shallow in their body with a tight rib shape are not going to eat, gain and grow as well as a lamb that is deeper bodied with more spring of rib. On the reverse side, lambs with excessive middle are not desirable because of the waste in dressing percentage when they are processed. "Show lambs" have to have enough rib shape and capacity to be productive, but they also have to be shallow enough in their depth of rib to have that "show" look that the judges are looking for.

- **Style and balance**- this refers to the combination of muscle and structure that gives the lamb that "show" look. You might own a show lamb with a lot of muscle and capacity, but if the lamb does not have the right "look", you probably will not win the class. This factor in selection takes time to learn. Generally, look for the lamb with a long neck that blends smoothly into the shoulders with a smooth and level top and level hip (few lambs are perfectly level in their hip/ avoid excessive steepness). The lamb should be "smooth" shouldered with a trim middle section. The underline should be level. Balance refers to the length of the body in relation to the height of the lamb. I have found that a lamb that is 2" longer than he is in height at the top of his shoulder balances very well from the profile view. (Length= measure from the base of the back of the neck to the end of the rump/ height= measure from the ground to the top of the shoulder). I also try to avoid excessively long bodied lambs as well as short bodied lambs. The longer bodied lambs will usually break in their top where the short bodied lambs do not balance well from the side view.

- **Size potential**- all lambs will mature at different weights depending on genetics. Most shows have many classes broken into weight ranges. Each class has a winner. I believe that you should feed your lamb to his full potential and manage his weight at the end to fit into a desirable weight class. It is also important to match the size of the lamb to the

size of the exhibitor. Younger exhibitors are better off showing smaller lambs. Tall exhibitors are better off showing heavier lambs.

Facility Use Fee

The facility use fee for lambs is \$100.00 per lamb. The facility use fee covers the cost to rent the pen, maintain clippers, shearing tables, blowers, medicine, and other costs that are related to the lamb barn/equipment as they arise.

Hours For Agriculture Science Complex

*****these are subject to change**

School Days: 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM

School Days: 4:35 PM – 7:30 PM

Non-School Day: 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM; 4:35 PM – 7:30 PM

It will be the responsibility of the individual feeder to feed the lamb every morning and every afternoon and it will be the responsibility of the feeder to provide his or her own transportation to and from the barn. Each student must have a signed copy of the Judson Independent School District Rules & Regulations agreement and signed agreement of lamb feeder guidelines on file with the teacher in charge of lamb projects before the animal enters the barn. Otherwise the project will not be fed with the Judson FFA facility.

Validation and Entries

The validation cost is \$20.00 per lamb for this year; it is due to me by August 1st and the entry fee for Judson Agriculture Exposition is \$30 per lamb; the late entry cost for JAE is double the entry fee. Everyone must enter the JAE show (up to 3 head of lambs can be entered by one person), but you must remember that **all shows adhere to UIL Eligibility for showing.**

Validation will be held on October 19th at Sandra Day O'Connor HS (ASTA) from 3-6 pm and a parent or guardian must attend to sign the paperwork at the time of validation. **Validation tags must be purchased prior to August 1st at \$20/tag or it will be an increase to \$40/tag for late tag purchases.**

Prospect Shows and SALE entries will vary, however participation through the Judson FFA at the Bexar County Junior Livestock Show - BCJLS Show is prohibited; you must register under 4-H if you choose to participate in their show. All equipment is off limits for those going to BCJLS (clippers, cages, trailers, etc). *Note*** All students raising a lamb must participate in the Judson Agriculture Exposition **date is January 18-20.** If they choose not to participate, they will not participate in any other shows unless due to being ineligible.**

*** Major Show Entry-- Mandatory Workshop Night will be in the Fall in the Ag Building.** Please be diligent in knowing when that date is posted- You must attend to be entered in a major show (SALE/HLSR) - see calendar of events for date on the Judson FFA website. **There will be a late fee of \$25 per day for major show late entries to Judson FFA.**

AET RECORDBOOK

All students must complete their AET Recordbook that will entail all of the activities they did with their animals, money spent, etc. to be eligible to receive any checks from their animal projects (JAE and majors) This will be under the direction of Mr. Ramirez, he will host several recordbook workshops.

Animal Removal

If you are not eligible to show for any reason for the last show paid for, then you will need to remove your animal from the Judson Ag. Complex facility no later than one week once being informed of this ineligibility. After your animal is removed, your pen must be cleaned; any water and feed buckets must be removed, and sand must be replaced in the needed locations inside your pen (if available). Animals can be taken to auction in Seguin on Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday AM for lambs only, or if you would like to make arrangements to have the animal processed or to go on to live with a new family you may do so.

Barn Cleanup & Maintenance

At the end of the show season we will have a mandatory day for everyone who has had an animal in the facility to help clean up the pens, feeders, tools for the next year. The date for this year will be on **May 4, 2024 from 8 AM to Noon; the fine for not attending is \$100** and will be assessed as an obligation to JHS.

In order to make the Agriculture Science Complex Lamb Barn clean and disease free as possible all lamb feeders will be required to perform additional cleanup assignments inside the Lamb Barn during the duration of the projects. **Each lamb feeder will also be responsible for cleaning his or her pen every day, the manure should be removed and placed in the designated manure dumpster beside the swine barn as far back as possible.** All tools go back to where they belong and wheel barrows are put back in the storage room when students are done with them and must be rinsed off before putting them back.

Students will be provided 2 show boxes and 2 barrels per a pen and will not be removed at any time from the area. The area around the barrels should be free of anything sitting out except 1 bucket that must be dumped daily (this includes shoes, supplies, etc). The box may have a combination lock only but the combination will need to be submitted in writing to your AST before placing it on your box. If the show box is damaged, has stickers, or it is "trashed" **it will cost you \$125** as an obligation before the end of the school year. If your stuff is left out or on the ground it will be tossed out, all items must be kept in your barrels or on the ledge behind them. **No chairs are allowed in the barn, you are there to feed your animal and work with it and that is all. After the last show that you attend, you have 1 week to remove all of your items from the barrels and show boxes or it will become property of JISD.**

Weighing and Meetings

Lamb meetings are on most **Wednesdays at 5PM** in the lamb barn, at this time, we will meet to clean, discuss any important information, we will weigh your animal(s), check the animal over, and have showmanship practices as necessary. It is the responsibility of each lamb feeder to be at the meetings and should have a parent come for information if you cannot be here; if you miss please see the AST for an agenda. **GroupMe will be used to also extend information, I will create an event for the meetings as a reminder. Please make sure that you have been added as well as a parent to the app.**

Fitting

Lambs will need to be sheared on an as needed basis, this includes before all prospect and stock shows. I will assign you dates/times for the shows that we will attend and I will gladly assist any lamb exhibitor that needs help with clipping. Before clipping, the lamb must be freshly washed and blow dried so that the clippers will not dull and injure the animal. After the animal has been clipped they should be conditioned to help prevent the lambs hide from drying out and becoming wrinkled. Also, a clean blanket will be needed to put on them after they have been sheared.

Exercise

Lamb projects should be walked and should be halter broken as soon as they are adjusted to you and the Agriculture Science Complex. To halter break an animal, you must halter the lamb and tie him to a post and place your lamb's feet properly in order to get your lamb accustomed to being "set up." **Remember; never leave tied lambs unattended, this goes for the lamb racks as well.**

The next step is to teach them to lead by hand and can be very frustrating since the lamb has a natural reaction to pull back when you pull on his head or halter. It works better to stand beside or behind the lamb and let the lamb walk forward and will usually take many attempts to teach the lamb to walk with and without the halter. You may also begin to put them on the lamb walker once instruction for use has been provided to you. If you have never had instructions on how to use please get with your AST before use.

After the lamb has learned to walk, you should start working with the lamb to drive. Driving the lamb- "driving or bracing" is an accepted practice in showing lambs to maximize their muscle expression. If you are unable to drive your lamb during the competition, you place yourself and your lamb in a definite disadvantage. **There are multiple youtube videos to help show you on proper handling in addition to when we have our lamb meetings.**

The biggest mistake in exercising lambs is to exercise them before they have enough condition (fat) on them. Exercising lambs for too long a period will actually tear down muscle, rather than build muscle. Approximately 3 months before your major show is when you will start exercising them more intently. Treadmills and lamb runs are excellent to help build up the butt muscles. Keep in mind that exercise and nutrition go hand in hand. Your AST will let you know when to start on the treadmill so that you do not injure them.

You should be working with each animal at least 1 hour a day for the best results of the animal's ability.

Write Ups

At the Judson Agriculture Complex there is a three-step write up procedure before an animal is removed from the Agriculture Complex for failure to adhere to the feeder and Agriculture Complex Guidelines.

- The first offense is a verbal warning.
- The second offense is that the student is notified and a signature from the student for the offense is required.
- The third is that both the student and parent are contacted and both signatures are required for the offense.
- The fourth and final offense will be required removal of his/her project from the complex and will not be allowed to show at JHS ever again.

Contact Information

Please feel free to call me with questions or concerns at (210) 945-1100 ext. 19310 or by Email: lhenderson@judsonisd.org

Judson FFA Lamb Feeders Guidelines

This page must be signed to ensure that the parent and student have received and read the guidelines to raising lambs at Judson.

I understand all the guidelines and will adhere to them. I hereby agree to ask or inquire if I do not understand or have any questions.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's name printed _____

Parent's phone number _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Student's name printed _____

Student's phone number _____

- **Please note that I will be adding both the parent and the student to the GroupMe app to receive notifications. If an additional parent needs to be added you are able to add them to the group as well once you have been added.**