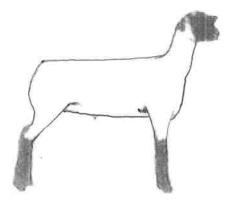
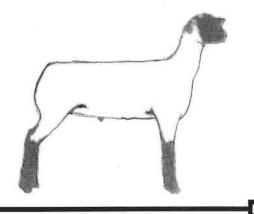
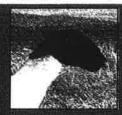
HILMAR FFA



SHEEP EXHIBITOR HANDBOOK





LAMB MANAGEMENT TIPS

- Have safe, clean pen available upon arrival
- Allow lambs to settle in by feeding mostly hay the first three days
- Provide fresh, cool, clean water at all times
- Hand feed the grain ration two times a day
- Feed the lambs at least twelve hours apart
- Make any ration changes, or increases, gradually over several days
- Closely monitor health, watch for signs of illness
- Stay current on tetanus and overeating vaccinations, as well as worm frequently
- Weigh lambs regularly and monitor gains
- Grain intakes should be two to four percent of the lamb's body weight
- Provide exercise to condition lambs for show
- Switch to Total Lamb to maintain top show condition
- Practice showing lambs in different environment to get show ready
- Minimize stress when handling your show lamb
- Good management, proper nutrition, health monitoring and good genetics will put you in the winner's circle

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to assist you in successfully raising a sheep project. The information contained in the following pages will act as a guideline. Some of the statements may not pertain to your project since individual situations may be different. It must be understood that this material is not the only information you will need to raise your animal, but it does cover the most common aspects of the project. Refer to this handbook often. Should any questions arise concerning your project don't hesitate to contact your project advisor for help.

Good luck on your endeavor of raising a sheep project. With hard work and dedication, your project will be a success!

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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE BUYING A SHEEP PROJECT

 A sheep project can be a very exciting and rewarding experience or a very frustrating and discouraging project depending on the amount of time and energy you put into the project.

2. The duration of a market lamb project is anywhere from 4-5 months. It is important that as much attention be given to your project during the last months as is given

during the first months.

3. Raising market sheep is not a hit and miss proposition, you must be consistent in how you raise your animal. In other words, you get out of your project what you put into it.

4. It is critical that a person understands that the animal will be dependent on you for every aspect of its well-being including feed, water, shelter, health, exercise, etc. You must be willing to provide for each of these areas on a daily basis for the duration of the project.

GETTING READY FOR YOUR SHEEP PROJECT

- 1. If you are housing your animal at the Hilmar Ag Farm facility, you will need to fill out a Pen Rent Contract.
- 2. If you plan to raise your animal at home, make sure your pen meets the following requirements:
 - a. Protection from cold drafts, rain and the sun. It should be large enough to allow your animal to exercise (About $15' \times 20'$).
 - b. Shade/shelter should be provided in the pen, with straw for bedding (during cold weather) at a location away from their feeder and water bucket so their sleeping area remains clean and dry.

c. Adequate feeding and watering facilities must be provided.

d. The fencing and floor should be free of loose wires nails and boards.

e. It should be sturdy enough to prevent the animal from getting out.

3. You should purchase your feed 1 - 2 days prior to receiving your animal. Check with your advisor on the kind of feed to purchase and from whom.

PURCHASING YOUR ANIMAL

- 1. There are different ways to purchase a sheep project. No one way is right or wrong. You need to determine what is best for you in terms of your budget and willingness to work with your animal. The most common ways of buying an animal are:
 - A. Purchase your animal through your advisor. Your advisor will travel to various sheep producers to select and purchase market animals. He then brings them to school where students draw numbers to pick their animal.

B. Purchase an animal on your own. You MUST have advisor approval.

- C. Purchase your animal through a sale. Sometimes you find good deals at sales, but usually you end up paying a little more for your animal. However, this is the best way to obtain a superior animal.
- 2. Whichever way you choose to purchase your animal, make sure that you consult with your project advisor prior to buying it.

STARTING OFF RIGHT

- 1. Good quality market lambs should posses 1) adequate size for age, 2) clean-cut about the head and neck, 3) heaviness of skeleton, 4) structurally correct in feet and legs, 5) level top, 6) length of carcass, 7) expression of loin & leg muscle, 8) legs set well apart.
- 2. As soon as you get your animal, it is imperative that you observe your animal closely for any signs of illness. Generally, if sheep are hauled a long distance, the chance of illness is greater than those hauled shorter distances. Signs to watch for include runny eyes and/or nose, droopy head, and inactivity. It will take a few days for the animal to acclimate itself to its new surroundings.
- 3. Your animal may not want to eat the first day or so. This is normal. However, if it is not eating by the second day, you should contact your advisor. Refer to the section on feeding for more information.)
- 4. Training the animal to brace as early as possible is important. It is much easier to teach a smaller animal to work than a larger one. DON'T WAIT!!

DUTIES OF SHEEP EXHIBITORS

- 1. Follow all instructions given to you by your advisor. Communication is the key to a successful project.
- 2. Clean your pens daily. Rake the dried manure and straw into a pile and remove it from the pen.
- 3. Make sure your animal does not go without feed (even for one feeding). Plan ahead!
- 4. During hot weather, hose down the pen to help keep the animal cool.
- 5. If you are utilizing the Hilmar Ag. Farm facilities, you will be required to do barn duty. This will be on a rotational basis.
- 6. All exhibitors will be required to meet with their advisor periodically to discuss the progress of their animal, to weigh the animal, and for informational meetings. These meetings will be scheduled as much as possible around the students schedules.
- 7. The Hilmar FFA Advisors employ a "three strike" system. If for any reason you do not abide by any of the rules and/or guidelines set forth in this handbook, you will receive a "strike" for each violation. After three "strikes", YOU'RE OUT!
- 8. If you encounter any problems at all concerning your market sheep project, some other person's animal, or the facilities, please contact your advisor immediately!

FEEDING YOUR MARKET LAMB PROJECT

General

1. Nutrition is the single most important aspect of raising a quality market sheep project. Consistency is the key when feeding sheep with regards to the type of feed, amount of feed, and feeding schedule. A proper feeding program can make the difference between a high quality animal and a poor quality animal. Always follow the advisor's recommendations.

2. One of the most overlooked elements of a good feeding program is water. The water your animal drinks should be fresh, clean and cool at all times. Dirty or stagnant water can have an affect on the health of your animal. The water trough should be cleaned daily. If you wouldn't drink it, your animal probably wouldn't drink it either if given a choice. If using an automatic watering system, make sure the pipes are not in direct sunlight as this will warm the water.

Hand Feeding

- 1. Your advisor will direct you on how to feed your animal. Feed recommendations are based on individual differences in weight, rate of gain, and conformation. It is important to know exactly how much you are feeding so that accurate average daily gains can be calculated. This information will tell you whether you are on track to meet the desired projected weight for your animal.
- 2. If you are raising your animal at home, it is very important to set feeding times in the morning and evening and then stick to them. There should be no more than a 15 minute variation in feeding times from day to day. Drastic changes in the feeding times can have an adverse affect on your animal in terms of appetite and health.
- 3. Whenever a new feed or increase in feed is introduced, the change should be made gradually over a period of time. Never change feed or feed quantities without checking with your advisor.
- 4. Make sure that the animal is eating all the feed at each feeding. Feed that is not consumed by the next feeding should be removed and the amount fed should be reduced in proportion to the amount left over.
- 5. If your animal goes off feed for more than one day, contact your advisor or a veterinarian immediately. Generally, lack of appetite is one of the first signs of illness. The sooner the illness is detected, the easier it is to treat. Any type of illness will cause a decrease in the daily gain and could affect the desired end weight.
- 6. It may be necessary to add a feed supplement to the ration. The supplement will help in increasing growth, appetite, feed efficiency, health and stress resistance. Check with your advisor before adding a supplement to your feeding program.

CARING FOR YOUR SHEEP PROJECT

- 1. Clean your pen at least once a day. Make sure the water and feed are OK.
- 2. Observe your lamb for body condition, alertness, appetite and signs of scouring or respiratory symptoms (fast or labored breathing, coughing). Watch the way it walks, for swollen joints, sores or cuts, runny nose or droopy ears. A drop in weight along with slight coughing may indicate worms. Limping may indicate foot rot. If any of these occurs, consult your advisor immediately.
- 3. The four main disease symptoms that you could encounter in raising sheep include 1) respiratory, 2) scours or diarrhea, 3) changes in body condition, or 4) fever. Most disease symptoms are precluded by going off feed and changes in behavior. When in doubt, take the lamb's temperature and then notify your advisor.
- 4. Do not administer any medications without consulting your advisor or a veterinarian first.

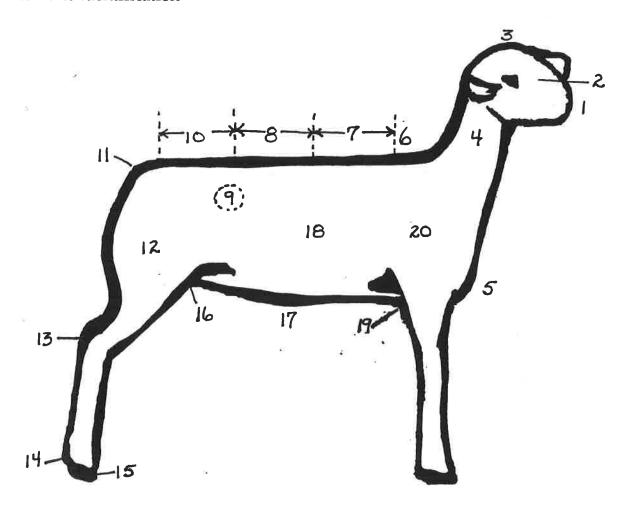
SHOWMANSHIP

- 1. The main purpose of showmanship is to present your animal to the judge in a manner that will make your animal look its best. Showing can emphasize strong points and de-emphasize weak points of the animal.
- 2. Success in showing begins at home. You and your animal cannot learn proper showing techniques at the last minute. It is important that you practice as often as possible. Showing can be a very rewarding experience if you take the time to learn how to show. When starting out, not only the animal must be trained, but the exhibitor must be "trained" as well.
- 3. When presenting the animal, the exhibitor should be properly groomed. Wearing the official FFA uniform is mandatory and it should be clean and in good shape. The animal should be properly groomed as well.
- 4. Listed below are a few general characteristics of a good showman. More technical information can be found in the following section.

A good showman:

- a. Is confident in his/her abilities.
- b. Understands the importance and purpose of proper showing techniques.
- c. Is alert in the show ring.
- d. Knows where the judge is at all times.
- e. Is conscience of the appearance of his/her animal at all times.
- f. Works the animal calmly and smoothly.
- g. Is not distracted by people or events outside the show ring.
- h. Starts showing from the time he/she enters the ring until he/she leaves the ring at the conclusion of the class.
- i. Is courteous to the other exhibitors in the ring.
- j. Displays good sportsmanship by congratulating the winners and accepting congratulations graciously.
- k. Gives his/her best effort every time he/she is in the show ring.

VI. Parts Identification



- 1. Muzzle
- 2. Face
- 3. Poll
- 4. Neck
- 5. Breast
- 6. Top of shoulder
- 7. Back
- 8. Loin
- 9. Hip
- 10. Rump

- 11. Dock
- 12. Thigh
- 13. Hock
- 14. Dewclaw
- 15. Hoof
- 16. Rear flank
- 17. Belly
- 18. Ribs
- 19. Fore flank
- 20. Shoulder

MARKETING YOUR PROJECT

The following information is for you to use when inviting potential buyers to this years fair to bid on your animal. Remember that it is strongly suggested that you do these things as it can benefit you financially. I have spoken to several businessmen in the area and this is what they suggest you do when you send out buyers letters.

The act of sending letters to potential buyers of your show animal is called "marketing" or "selling" your product. The simple fact that you are a member of the Hilmar FFA will likely earn you a minimum price for your animal. However, it is proven that "marketing" your animal can boost your returns substantially. I strongly encourage you to "promote" your product in the following ways:

- 1. Hand write the letters you send out. They are more personal and are more likely to be read. Send out your letters a few weeks prior to the fair.
- 2. One week after you send your letter(s), make personal visits to the prospective buyers and invite them to come to the fair to bid on your animal (even if they are a relative). You should wear your FFA jacket when you do this.
- 3. Don't limit your prospective buyers to people you know. Almost every business person in the area is a potential buyer if asked in the right way. Go out and "pound the pavement". This means <u>writing and visiting</u> the business people of the area. Again, wear your FFA jacket when you do this.
- 4. Don't limit the number of letters you write and visits you make. I've known students who have written up to 40 letters (hand written). Obviously, the more you advertise your product, the better your chances are of getting a good price.
- 5. Involve your parents in deciding how to write your letters. Make sure the grammar and spelling are correct and the letter is easy to read and understand.
- 6. Most prospective buyers want to be asked to be a buyer. So in your letter you should formally "ask" the person to be a buyer.
- 7. Explain a little about your project (where the animal came from, expectations of how the animal will do, what it will weigh, animal's name, etc.)
- 8. Be personal. Describe any funny or interesting experiences you've had with your animal. List and describe other chapter activities you are involved in.
- 9. Inform your prospective buyer(s) what time they should be at the fairgrounds to bid on your animal. Also, buyers will be invited to a buyers BBQ the evening of the auction.
- 10. Buyers will need to check-in and register with the auction at the sales ring. They will be assigned a bidders number and given a sales book which lists the sales order for the auction.

Most of you have written buyers letters in the past and may have done this years already. The information listed above is intended to be used as a guide so use what you think will be helpful to you. If you have any questions, contact your advisor.

General Rules for Hilmar FFA Fair Exhibitors

Student's Name (print)	76
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- 1. Because of the importance of scholastic achievement, the Hilmar High School Ag Department requires its livestock exhibitor to maintain a satisfactory scholastic record in his/her classes. Therefore, if any exhibitor fails to meet this requirement, he/she may lose their show privileges. Students must have a 2.0 GPA the prior grading period to start the project.
- 2. All exhibitors are to follow the directions and advice given to them by the designated Advisor for that species. The advisor's directions are to be followed for the entire length of time the project is eligible for show, and during the fairs when the project is being exhibited.
- 3. All rules and regulations of Hilmar High School will apply to the students who participate at fairs since showing is a school activity.
- 4. All exhibitors are expected to haul their animals and tack to the fair unless other arrangements are made with the advisor.
- 5. FFA members are required to obtain their homework from all their teachers in advance of missing school for attending fairs.
- 6. Each exhibitor must read and understand the rules and regulations in the fair's premium book.
- 7. Where dormitories are provided, all FFA members must sleep in the dormitories.
- 8. Where dormitories are not provided, these procedures should be followed for campsites or motels:
 - A. Los Banos or Merced Fair Exhibitors must complete a camp site reservation form obtained from the fair in order to reserve a trailer site at the fairgrounds. This form will include the names of the students residing in the trailer, the trailer license number and the name of the adult who will be staying to chaperon these students.
 - B. Each exhibitor will obtain permission from his/her advisor PRIOR to the fair.
 - C. Approved adult supervision is required from 6:00 pm to 7:00 am.
- 9. Each exhibitor is responsible for feeding, watering, grooming and keeping an eye on his/her animal(s) for the entire duration of the fair.

- 10. Each exhibitor is required to serve barn duties as assigned and specified by the project advisor.
- 11. All FFA exhibitors will be required to wear the official FFA show uniform described below while showing their own animal(s) or helping others in the show ring.

FFA Show Uniform

- Boys White pants, white dress shirt, FFA Jacket, FFA tie, appropriate shoes.
- Girls White pants, white dress shirt, FFA Jacket, FFA scarf, appropriate shoes.
- 12. All FFA members are to attend the awards program at every fair wearing his/her FFA jacket.
- 13. Market animal exhibitors are required to write thank you letters to their buyers.
- 14. All exhibitors must attend assigned meetings by the project advisor unless prior arrangements have been made.
- 15. The advisor of any species will have the authority to take whatever disciplinary action necessary toward any student that fails to comply with the rules.

Your signature below verifies that you have read, discussed, understand, and agree to abide by these rules. Please sign and return this form to the project advisor. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact the advisor at the Hilmar Ag Department (667-8366).

Parent Signature	<u>.</u>	Date	
		-	,
Student Signature		Date	

HILMAR FFA SHEEP EXHIBITOR RULES

1. <u>Daily Activities</u>

- A. Spend time with your lamb, observe and exercise it.
- B. Check the amount of feed in the feeder and make sure it is clean and dry. Feed twice a day at scheduled times the amount you were told to feed. Watch your lamb, make sure it is eating the feed. Do not overfeed.
- C. Thoroughly clean the pen. (This should be done twice a week.)

2. Periodic Activities

- A. Attend, for the duration, project meetings approximately every two weeks.
- B. Attend, for the duration, weigh days at school if your animal is housed there.
- C. Be at your project site when the advisor weighs your animal if it is housed off school grounds.
- D. Perform barn duty functions on a rotational basis if your animal is housed at school.

3. Activities Prior to the Fair

- A. Find a buyer for your animal.
- B. Attend and participate in a mandatory show day.
- C. Wash and shear your lamb approximately 1-2 days before show.
- D. Obtain an FFA Show Uniform (white pants, white dress shirt, FFA tie/scarf, FFA jacket, appropriate shoes). ALL exhibitors MUST have his/her own FFA jacket and FFA tie/scarf. Jackets and ties/scarves may be borrowed from another FFA member that is NOT exhibiting any type of livestock at the fair. Failure to have the proper show uniform for any reason will disqualify that student from showing.
- E. Obtain the proper equipment (halter, towel, soap, rubbing alcohol, rags, spray bottle, hose and show box).
- F. Exhibitors are required to haul their own tack to the fair.
- G. Exhibitors are required to haul their lamb to the school if the advisor is taking it to the fair.

4. Activities at the Fair

- A. Exhibitors are expected to be at the fair for the purpose of caring for and preparing their animal for show.
- B. Exhibitors are NOT allowed in the carnival area until the completion of the last sheep show day.
- C. Exhibitors must be in the sheep barn no later than the time announced by the advisor and must participate in the daily morning clean-up, feeding, and meeting. Exhibitors must also participate in the evening feeding and meeting at the time announced by the advisor. Late exhibitors will be assigned an additional barn duty for each infraction.
- D. Sheep must be regularly checked throughout the day by their owner.

- E. Exhibitors must serve scheduled barn duties which includes being on time, keeping the sheep, pens, aisles, and tack areas clean and watering all sheep at least once during the shift. Each infraction of these responsibilities will result in an additional barn duty.
- F. All exhibitors are required to be present on weigh day.
- G. On show days, all exhibitors are required to stay in the barn area for the duration of the sheep show.
- H. All exhibitors are required to attend the fair awards ceremony wearing their FFA jacket.
- I. All exhibitors are required to help clean up and load tack on the last day of the fair.
- J. All exhibitors are required to work together, follow all instructions from the advisor, and cooperate with a POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
- K. Each exhibitor also agrees to allow any Hilmar FFA advisor to pick up his/her auction check from the fair.
- L. At the conclusion of the fair, each exhibitor will be required to write a thank you letter to the buyer(s) of his/her animal, the breeder of their lamb, and the Perry family (if the livestock loan program was used). They must also pay any remaining money owed to Hilmar FFA and clean their pen (if animal housed at school farm) before receiving his/her auction check.

4. <u>Disciplinary Procedures</u>

- A "Three Strike" discipline system is used by the Hilmar FFA advisors. Any student failing to fulfill the obligations of the project in accordance to the rules and guidelines set forth by the project advisor will receive a "strike". Infractions include, but are not limited to, missing a project meeting/weigh day without prior notice, neglect of animal (feeder empty, not feeding on time, pen not cleaned, etc.), failure to perform required duties before and/or during the fair. Once a student has received three strikes, he/she forfeits his/her privilege to show with Hilmar FFA.
- B. Other disciplinary problems may result in the removal of exhibitor and animal from the school farm (if housed there) or fair, withdrawal of animal from the fair livestock auction, and/or loss of showing privileges with Hilmar FFA for one or more years.

Your signature below verifies that you have read, discussed, understand, and agree to abide by these rules. Please sign and return this form to the project advisor. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact the advisor at the Hilmar Ag Department (667-8366).

Parent Signature		Date	
in the state of th	<u>*</u> .		
Student Signature		Date	

HILMAR AG DEPARTMENT AG FARM USE CONTRACT

Exhibitor (print)			Date
Fair (circle one)	LOS BANOS	MERCED	Year
Species (circle one)	SWINE	SHEEP	GOAT
The Hilmar Ag De	epartment will pro	ovide use of the Ag	g Farm facilities under the
 Pay \$10 p Make surproject ac Keep the Participa Pen must Hilmar F District in property Students lose show 	pen rent for each animal is dvisor's instructions pen, feed room, and te in required cleant be cleaned at the coffA, Hilmar Ag De due to theft, vandalismay be required to ving privileges with	s properly cared for o I livestock area clean oup days. empletion of the proj epartment, project ac e for loss of anima ism, or accident. o remove his/her an Hilmar FFA if the al	on a daily basis based on the at all times. ect. dvisors, and Hilmar Schoolls, equipment, or personal imal from the Ag Farm and pove conditions are not met.
abide by these rules	. Please sign and re ny time, please fee	turn this form to the	ed, understand, and agree to project advisor. If you have advisor at the Hilmar Ag
Parent Signature			·
Student Signature_			
Advisor Signature_			<u>.</u>

HILMAR FFA PERRY PROJECT ANIMAL LOAN CONTRACT

Date		
Student (print	Pho	one#
Mailing Address		
Fair (circle one) LOS BANOS		
Species (circle one) SWINE	SHEEP	GOAT
Amount of loan_\$		
Due Date		
The above named student will receive following conditions are met. 1. The student agrees to main 2. The student must take full 3. Repay the loan within one 4. Write a thank you note to the	tain a quality project. responsibility for the p week of receiving his/l	proper care of the animal. ner sales check.
Your signature below verifies that yo abide by these rules. Please sign and any questions at any time, please feel Department (667-8366).	l return this form to the	project advisor. If you have
Parent Signature		<u> </u>
Student Signature		•
Advisor Signature		

HILMAR FFA FAIR CHECK PROXY

Exhibitor (print)				Date_	
Fair (circle one) LOS	S BANOS	ME	RCED	Year_	
Species (circle one)	SWINE	SHEEP	BEEF	GOAT	
I, (the above named exh auction check for me fro				to pick up n	ny livestock
If you have any questio Department (667-8366).	ns you may c	ontact an advi	isor at the F	Hilmar High S	School Ag
Parent Signature				<u>.</u>	
Student Signature					
Advisor Signatura					

RECIEVEING YOUR CHECK

At the conclusion of the fair, each exhibitor will be required to write a thank you letter to the buyer(s) of his/her animal, the breeder of their lamb, and the Perry family (if the livestock loan program was used). They must also pay any remaining money owed to Hilmar FFA and clean out their pen (if animal is housed at school farm) before receiving his/her auction check. The letters must be written, the money paid, and the pen cleaned within fourteen (14) days from the date of the Junior Livestock Auction. Failure to do so will result in the exhibitor not being able to participate in any fairs for one (1) year.

FAIR:	Los Banos	Merced
Year:		
Student		
Parent		
Advisor		

HILMAR FFA LIVESTOCK PROJECT "STRIKE" NOTIFICATION

Name	Date		•
You received a "strike" on	_for the follo	wing reason	:
Missing a scheduled meeting/weigh	day.		
Animal not feed/feeder empty.			
Pen not cleaned			
Ag Farm barn duty jobs not complet	ed.		
(Other)			•
Advisor	_ Species:	Sheep	Swine
You have now accumulated a total ofyour parents will be notified. If you receiv privilege of showing at the fair.	strike(s). e a third strik	If this is you e, you will fo	r second strike orfeit your
Please have your parent sign this form and have any questions or need clarification, pl	return it to yo ease contact y	our project ac our project a	dvisor. If you dvisor.
Student Signature		Date	<u>·</u>
Parent Signature		Date	•

OWNERSHIP ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

(Each enterprise requires a separate agreement)

This agreement is entered into this day of, 20 ur
December 31, 200 , by and between (your name)
and Hilmar and Dept. (or parents) and covers the student's enterprise in: (Other Party) Market Sheep Production. (Name of Enterprise)
This agreement must contain statements concerning what each party is responsible to provide and/or benefits he/she will receive. Items that must be addressed are: equipment, land, buildings, capital (money), management, and profit or loss.
Please use complete sentences and be specific with details.
I will provide all capital for the purchase of livestock, feed,
insurance, medicine, let bills, and related equipment. I will Drovide
all labor and management decisions regarding this project. I will also
Day the ac Dept. a \$10.00 pen rent fee (or provide your own
pen space). I will receive all profits generated from this project
and experience in raising market lambs.
the other party agrees to provide pen space to raise Warket lambs as well as advice and swidence regarding this project. In return, I will cooperate and put in an ronest effort to do the best job possible with this project.
8
Signatures
of Parties
Involved

TOTAL

_		l	-		
Pounds	Pounds			Pounds	
Desired Weight at Fair	Starting Weight	Weight Gain Needed	Days to Fair	Desired Average Daily Gain (Weight Gain/Days to Fair)	

Gadn/Day

Gain

Weight

WEIGHT RECORD

PURCHASE RECORD

Anome						
Pounds						
Feed Purchased						š
Dealer						
Date						