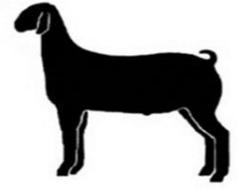




Allen FFA Sheep & Goat Project



Beginning Info

PURCHASE

The initial purchase cost is the 100% responsibility of the student and family. The exact cost should be determined by the family, student, and advisor; based upon the student's interest level, time, and goals. As a range, please expect to spend no less than \$500. (The average exhibitor around the state typically spends between \$500 - \$10,000. On average about \$2,500.) Costs may differ based upon quality of the animal, availability, expenses related to raising the animal experienced by the breeder, time of purchase, and time the animal will be shown. The teacher will travel and select the student's animal. **Students may select their own animal for purchase, pending approval from the advisor.** As soon as the animal is purchased the student and family become responsible for its daily needs.

ANIMAL HOUSING

All animals are housed, fed, and maintained at the AISD Agriculture Project Center or at the student's home. The AISD Agriculture Project Center is located at 740 Ingram Ln Lucas, TX. All students and parents must sign a contract agreement to keep animals at this location. This agreement is a method of holding students liable for their animal and the cleanliness of the facility. A weekly cleaning schedule is maintained to ensure all tasks are delegated to each student. Students who fail to follow through with their cleaning obligations will be suspended from exhibiting their animal. Moreover, it is imperative that your animal be taken care of properly. If the animal is being mistreated or not being cared for in a humane manner, the animal will become property of the AISD Project Center and will be sold at market value.

FEEDING

Lambs and goats must be kept on a high quality ration and be fed no less than twice daily. The ideal feeding times for twice daily feedings would be on 12-hour increments (ie: 7 AM & 7 PM). **The most important detail in successfully feeding any species of livestock is consistency.** Create a schedule that works best for the student and maintain that schedule throughout the show season. If the student's schedule allows feeding the animal 3 times daily, please discuss this possibility with your advisor.

Feed is purchased at D&L Farm and Home 1502 N Church St, McKinney, TX 75069 (972) 562-9995 or Farmersville Grain & Hardware 210 S Main St Farmersville, TX 75442 972-784-7261. The beginning feed will cost around \$20 for a 50 pound sack. Goats will consume around 2-3 pounds daily. Sheep will consume 2-4 pounds daily.

As the show season progresses, we may change feed supplements or add other feed additives which may result in a price increase. From time to time throughout the show season we will feed roughage (hay).

The most important thing to remember regarding feeding your animal: Always keep your advisor informed of any feed irregularity, if you would like to try something different than the feeding program mentioned above, or questions about why we are feeding what we are feeding. Talking to others who have experience is great, but please remember I see your animal on a regular basis and they do not. Please consult me the advisor before you do anything. Properly feeding an animal is essential for their overall health and their success in the show ring. The items mentioned above and the feeding recommendations by the advisor are all proven by years of success.

SUPPLIES

Below is a list of supplies that need to be purchased for your animal project, along with a brief description of the item and an approximate cost.

FEEDER → All animals will be feed from a 10inch clip on feeder. These are the best feeders because they can clip onto the animals pen. ~\$20

WATER BUCKET → Students will need to purchase a 5 gal. water bucket to water their animal.

HALTER → Halters are used to lead the animal around the project center and at the shows. Halters are not used in the show ring. I prefer the Weaver's Nylon Adjustable Halter with a chain lead or the Poly Rope halters with a snap. ~\$10 -15

CHAIN → Chains are used in the show ring to lead the goat. Do not leave the chain on the goats at the project center. Please buy the chain with the leather handle, these are much easier to use in the show ring and will aid in your overall success. ~\$20

BLANKET → Animals will be blanketed from time to time. Blankets are used to protect the hide and skin of the animal especially after clipping and shearing. Two blankets will need to be purchased: a canvas heavier blanket and a ProCool blanket. Blankets are sized according to weight; therefore you may have to buy several blankets throughout the year. All blankets will need to be washed prior to use and on a weekly basis to prevent ringworm/fungus. Canvas Blankets: \$25-\$30 ProCool: \$30-\$35 (your animal is going to grow, therefore you may end up purchasing more than one throughout the year)

SOCK → Socks are a necessity for the winter months; they are used to keep the animal warm in the winter. They can be used beneath the blanket. ~\$15-20

MUZZLES → Muzzles are used at ALL shows. While at a show, animals are kept on a strict diet. The muzzle will keep animals from eating loose feed, hay, or shavings in their pen; which can cause digestive problems and cause the animal to go off feed. Goats will need a soft mesh muzzle with an adjustable strap. This ensures that the muzzle is secure on the animals face. Sheep will need hard plastic muzzles along with a soft mesh muzzle. Hard plastic muzzles: \$25.00 Soft Mesh Muzzle: \$10-\$12

SHAVINGS → As show season starts shavings are purchased for overnight shows and for bedding in the pens.

WORK

Students are required to regularly work with their animal to ensure it is fully prepared to attend shows. At the beginning of the process students will halter break their animal. As time goes by, along with additional instruction students will begin to "brace" their animal. Bracing is how the animals are presented to the judge at the shows. Daily practice is required for students and animals to become successful in the show ring. As the year progresses, students should be able to brace their animal in 20-minute intervals. Showmanship Clinics will be held from time to time and all students are required to attend. This will ensure that each student is getting the proper information, practice, and show ring experience. This will help to make the overall experience with the sheep or goat project successful.

EXERCISE

Currently, we have been exercising animals on a treadmill at the barn and running them in areas around the barn. This has proved to be a great way. At first, we will just walk the animals to get them used to walking on the chain/halter. As they get a little bigger we will establish an exercise program for your animal.

DRENCH

While attending shows, animals are kept on a very strict diet. Animals are not allowed to have “free-choice” water as they have at the project center. The advisor will create a “drench recipe”, similar to athletes drinking Gatorade during strenuous activity. Drench will be an added cost to each show.

MEDICINE

Various wormers, medications for sickness, vet costs, Fastrack, and probiotics will be used throughout the year. Animals will be wormed once a month. Occasionally, your animal will get ill. You may have to take your animal to the vet, which will be another added cost.

SHEARING/CLIPPING

All animals will need to be sheared or clipped (kept slick shorn) to ensure an accurate assessment of their overall body condition, weight, and to make sure they are free from ringworm/fungus.

SHOWS

Jackpot Shows—Not required, but highly recommended for student and animal growth and development as a showman.

Allen FFA local show— free and good practice

County Show – SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY Myers Park in McKinney (2 DAY EVENT) If the animal is selected to “make the sale” (top 1/3 of the class) will sale on Saturday. The Alumni buyers syndicate will bid on you and your animal at the premium auction- you do not get rid of animal, money is donation to you. Must be vested with the Allen FFA alumni through fundraising efforts in order to benefit at that auction.

Major Shows: San Antonio Livestock Show (Terminal show- does not come home; goes to market)

Shows are an opportunity for students to showcase their animal and all of their hard work and dedication.

Entry fees range from \$20-40. **(Parents must accompany their child to any overnight show that we attend.)**

COMMUNICATION

Communication is key in the success of the Allen FFA Sheep and Goat Program. Every student and parent will subscribe to the “Remind 101” account set-up for sheep and goat exhibitors. Vital information is passed on to parents and students alike through this text messaging system. Weekly Sheep and Goat Updates are sent via email to parents and students; this information is sent so that parents can also convey to their student what is going on and what is expected. Face to face contact is also made at school and at the project center. Animals are checked at the barn at least twice a week, most of the time more often than that. Remember there are over thirty of you and only one advisor. Just because you do not see the advisor at the barn when you feed does not mean that your animal has not been checked on. One on one contact is made with the student if students need to adjust feed, change the exercise program, etc. If ever there are questions, your animal is not eating, looks sick and is not acting normal, etc. please contact the advisor immediately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Should additional information be needed, please feel free to contact the advisor as listed below. Showing any species of livestock is a very rewarding experience for any student. This project can build friendships, instill strong work ethic in students, provide knowledge for future career paths, give opportunities for entrepreneurship endeavors and create memories that will last a lifetime. The AISD FFA advisors are always willing to give all students the knowledge that may be necessary for a successful and enjoyable show season. We look forward to an enjoyable and educational year!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Remind 101: text @ahslamb to 81010

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