**Sheep & Goat Health**

**Housing & Bedding**

* Provide shelter
* Bedding - wood shavings or straw
* Bedding should be cleaned and replaced weekly
* Keep pen clean and dry to prevent sickness and disease

**Nutrition**

* Provide clean water at all times
* Hay
* Feed that contains 16-18% protein
* It is better to feed them twice a day than to use a self-feeder. They can overeat.
* Loose salt and minerals ( DO NOT use cattle mineral, it has a high copper content that will kill lambs)
* Goats
  + A least 10-14% fiber
  + About 1.0 pound/day (Half in the morning and half in the evening)\*
* Lambs
  + Start with ¼ to ½ pound and gradually increase to about 1.5 lb/day (Half in the morning and half in the evening)\*
  + They should be eating about 2.5-3.5% of their body weight.
  + Your lamb should clean up all of their feed before you increase the amount.

*\*These are only estimates there is no magic amount of feed, every animal is a little different.*

**Common Diseases**

* Sore mouth – scabs or blisters around the mouth
* Ringworm – circular, thick, flaky lesions
* Be sure to wash your hands after handling your animal; they can spread ringworm and sore mouth to you!
* Signs of illness: off feed and/or water, rough hair coat, runny nose or eyes, diarrhea, limping, hair falling out, etc.

**Possible Judge Questions**

* Breed of your lamb or goat
* Parts of the animal and where the cuts of meat come from
* What are you feeding your animal and the percent protein of the feed
* How much does your animal weigh?
* Average Daily Gain = current weight minus starting weight divided by the days between weighing

***Questions?***

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