

LAMBS

Lambs consist of three basic elements:

1. meat
2. fat
3. bone

Of these three elements, bone is the only element that cannot be changed by feed or exercise. When selecting a show lamb, keep in mind that 60% of it's length should be hindsaddle. The hindsaddle is the last rib to the dock. This type of skeletal structure should be one of your top priorities.

Meat or muscling may be determined by the bulge of the leg, width of the top, and length of the loin. Some of the better lambs for sale each year are thin pasture lambs. When selecting lambs that are thin in fleshing, there are several things to look for:

1. The circumference and length of the cannon bone is an indication of possible size and scale of a lamb.
2. The length of the neck is an indication of size and scale.

Most lambs will hold their milk teeth for twelve to fourteen months of age. The minimum weight at most stock shows is 90 pounds for all breeds except Southdowns, which is eighty pounds. The starting weight of the lamb varies from 50 pounds up. A lamb will usually gain from one-third to one-half pounds per day on full feed.

Lambs will be bought the first 2 weeks of September. They will be February\March lambs.

There are as many lamb rations as there are feeders. The feed should be one that will do the best job of making an animal grow for you.

Some of the rations that are commonly used are a mixture of oats, corn, sweetfeed, or barley, including calf manna, or alfalfa pellets as a protein supplement. Many feeders are having success feeding pre-mixed feeds such as Acco Lamb Feed or many other show lamb rations. Lamb rations should contain between 14-18% protein.

Hay and grass are generally not used because of the large middle produced.