

hasten the drying time. On short fleeced lambs and in warm weather, a bath towel provides a good means for drying.

Once the lambs have been washed and dried, it is better to begin shearing while the lamb is still damp rather than totally dry. Clippers will perform much better while the wool is still loose and damp. A pair of electric clippers equipped with 20 tooth goat combs and 4 point cutters or new 23 tooth combs and 9 point cutters should be used. There are many different combs and cutters available. It is felt that the equipment noted provides a smoother more attractive sheared lamb. The lambs should be sheared smooth with all the wool being removed at the same length. While shearing, the clippers should run parallel to the length of the lamb rather than making horizontal motions. This will help give the lamb better balance and appearance of being longer bodied. Wool should be left from the hock down on all four legs. This "boot" can be corded out and blended in with hand shears or electric clippers. By leaving the wool on the legs, a lamb will have better balance and eye appeal. Small oster animal clippers or a pair of heads may be needed to smooth around the eyes, ears, or delicate areas on the lamb.

As soon as the lamb is sheared, be sure and cover the lamb with a hood and blanket. A clean well bedded pen should be provided for the lamb in order to keep him clean and dry.

Some hints for showmanship:

1. Never get between the lamb and the judge.
2. Always keep an eye on the judge.
3. Only handle the lamb by the head and dock.
4. Cock the lamb when the judge feels it to harden the muscles. Never back the lamb up when the judge is feeling.
5. In setting the lamb up, set the hind legs first, pick the front up, and front legs will usually set.

EQUIPMENT:

halter
hurdles
feed buckets
water buckets
storage for feed
lamb blanket
shampoo