

Caring for your Ag Day Lamb or Kid Goat

Lambs And Kids

Most of the lambs and kids that become available for Calf Club are orphans. Usually the farmer will nurse them through the first few days and then they can be passed over to you. Make sure the animal is healthy with no diarrhoea and has been fed colostrum in the first 6 hours of life.

You may still need to help your lamb or kid as it learns to suck from an artificial teat for the first few days. For very young lambs or kids you will need to provide shelter such as a pen or an old dog kennel, especially for night time. It is a good idea to get a wool cover/jacket to help keep them warm in the early days.

For the first few days as you become friends, it will help to have a small area, so wherever you are in the pen, you are close to your lamb or kid. It can hear your voice and will soon begin to trust you. The best way to become friends is of course by feeding it. Right from the start your lamb or kid will need feeding at least four times a day. You may need Mum or Dad to help out with this while you are at school. If you need to purchase lamb milk formula, mix it with warm water. It is very important to keep whatever equipment you use to feed your lamb or kid completely clean – lambs or kids can get a tummy bug called scours (diarrhoea) from dirty feeding equipment, so clean everything after feeding with hot soapy water and rinse thoroughly.

How much to feed

After feeding your lamb or kid will look “full”, their tummy will be round and the lamb or kid will be happy, not calling for milk. It is important to mix powders to the correct levels, so make sure you read the instructions on the packet carefully. Be sure to feed your lamb or kid at the same time each day, as it won't take long for it to know when dinner time is! Bottle fed lambs & kids are at high risk of suffering from a very serious, life-threatening condition called abomasal bloat. The best way to prevent this from happening is to yoghurtise the milk feeds.

Weaning

Refer to the instructions on the milk formula packet for reduction of feeds. Eventually four feeds will be reduced to three, two and then once a day. Lambs or kids generally remain on once a day milk feeds until after Group Day.

Fitting a collar

Collars and leads can be purchased from your local veterinary centre or rural store. When fitted correctly, you should be able to fit two fingers between any part of the collar and your lamb or kid's skin, and it should not pull off, if the lamb or kid pulls back. The collar can stay on, but as your lamb grows, check the collar regularly and loosen it off as you need to.



Ag Day Competition – Lambs And Kid Goats

Leading

The Judge will be watching your lamb or kid to see how obedient it is. Your lamb should be leading well and obeying your instructions to turn and stop.

Most Obvious Pet

The Judge will be looking at how quickly your lamb responds to your call, and how easily you can re-attach their lead.

Rearing & Grooming

The Judge will be looking to see how well it has been reared (fed, groomed and cared for). You must present the lamb in spotless condition but remember you shouldn't wash lambs as it strips the wool of natural oils, so clean your lamb by brushing and spot clean any stubborn dirty bits.

- Wool clean so there is no debris, or dags.
- Feet clean – remember to wipe any earth away from its hooves.
- Clean under its legs and around the outside of its ears.
- Clean around its nose and eyes.
- Clean collar and lead.

The lamb or kid has to be well behaved and stand still to allow the Judge to run his/her hands over its body.

The Judge may ask you some questions about your pet – its name, when it was born, what breed it is, and what you have been feeding it.

Ag Day Lamb and Kid Goat Rearing Tips

Keep a close eye on your new pet, and if anything changes, get your parents to check it out. Make sure you keep all the gear and bedding clean and dry.

It is very important that you have good hygiene when working with your animal. There are diseases you can catch if you aren't careful, so make sure you always wash your hands and wear protective clothing, especially if your animal is sick.

Talk to your vet about the best time to get your animal vaccinated and treated for parasites. If it's a boy you'll need to think about when to get him castrated as well.

Kid goats need to be disbudded, discuss this with the person you got your animal from, or your vet. All animals MUST be given effective pain relief at the time of disbudding, regardless how old it is. This means, at a minimum, local anaesthetic must be used, but it is also a good idea to provide longer acting pain relief (such as a long acting anti-inflammatory) to keep your pet comfortable.

Talk to and pet your animal. The friendlier they are, the better they will perform for you at Ag Day.

Start off by fitting your animal with a collar. Once they seem comfortable with this you can begin teaching them to walk with a lead. Your animal should be trained to walk on your right, with its head/shoulder level with you – you don't want to be pulling them and you don't want them to be pulling you!

Don't let the lead drag on the ground, and never wrap it around your hand as you could get really hurt if they suddenly start running.

Stopping should be slow and smooth, without tugging sharply on the lead. Practice standing still, and only allowing the animal to move forward again when you are ready. This is important so that the judge has time to look at your animal when you go to Ag Day.

Once you are happily walking straight, start practising turning. You should lead on the outside of the curve, and the turn needs to be quite large, to begin with.

Training should be fun for both you and your animal. Make sure to train every day, but not for so long that either of you get bored or tired.

Remember you are on display as well, and judges will be looking for signs that you are comfortable with, and care for your animal.



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Te Kauwhata
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Draw or stick a photo of your lamb or kid goat here

Name: _____

Breed / Type: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Feeding routine (insert dates):

6 times a day until _____
then 4 times a day until _____
then 2 times a day until _____
then once a day until weaned. (Follow the instructions on the bag).

Training routine (tick when complete)

- Happy to wear a collar
- Happy being lead
- Walks beside you
- Can turn when you want it to
- Stops when you want it to
- Comes when called

Grooming and handling routine (tick when complete)

- Likes to be brushed
- Is clean and tidy

Animal Health checklist (tick when complete)

- Disbudding _____ (Date) (Kid Goats)
- Castration / Docking _____ (Date) (if applicable)
- Lambvac + 5 in 1 vaccination _____ (Date) (Lambs)
- Covexin 10 vaccination _____ (Date) (Kid Goats)
- Worm drench _____ (Date)