

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LIMESTONE COUNTY

4-H News

It's that time again, time to start looking for the coming show season goat or lamb projects. The selection process is the most important decision one must make. The type of lamb or goat you select will have a major influence on the projects results. However, remember that a winning project is a combination of good selection, good nutritional management, a good exercise program, proper grooming and outstanding showmanship.

Everybody differs in there ability to select animals, some have what we call a natural eye for the selection process being able to determine high caliber, while others might not be able to develop this ability. With this in mind, do not hesitate to ask for assistance from your local extension agent or club leaders or project Master Volunteers during this or any other phase of the project life. Also, many breeders are more than willing to assist in the initial selection of a desirable show project.

In looking at the selection of lambs, keep in mind wool length and fat thickness. If at all possible, select your club lamb after shearing. Young lambs as well as young goats that are bloomy and fat always look good while young lambs and goats that are thin do not. Learn to look past the fat and recognize muscle so that you can pick the genetically superior lamb or goat. Other factors to consider during the selection process are structural correctness, muscle, volume and capacity, style and balance, and growth potential. Information to help in these areas can be found in your local 4-H office by contacting your local County Extension office.

Lamb and goat projects for the up coming show season both major and local county shows, should be found as soon as possible to help ensure the best quality. If you wait until late August or early September, then the best lambs and goats will have already been picked. If anybody is in need of assistance during the selection process or any other time during the feeding period, please feel free to contact me Lee Dudley County Extension Agent Agriculture and Natural Resources for Limestone County at (254)729-5314. If we in the Extension office do not hear from you, then we do not know if you need help.

For more information on these or any other Extension related activities please contact the Limestone County Extension Office at (254) 729-5314. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.