**Lesson Title: Selection and evaluation of sheep**

**Unit: 11**

TEKS: 130.7(C) 5 (a)(b)(c)

OBJECTIVES

The student shall be able to:

1. List selection priorities of market and breeding sheep in order of importance
2. Evaluate selection priorities of market and breeding sheep
3. Understand the purpose of market and breeding sheep selection

TEACHING MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT

PPT: Selection and Evaluation of Sheep

TEACHING PROCEDURE

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| Interest Approach/Anticipatory Set | Teacher Notes |
| Open discussion – Review the selection process for cattle and swine  Priorities are muscle, finish, rib, structure etc. | Teacher initiated – Student led, teacher may have to encourage the students what to look for |

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| --- | --- |
| Teaching Plan and Strategy / Presentation of New Material | Teacher Notes |
| **Market sheep**  Muscle  Much like in cattle and swine, the forearm is an excellent indicator of muscle. Sheep are handled thoroughly to determine the amount of muscle they possess. The rack in sheep refers to their ribs. A handler or judge takes their right hand and runs it over the rack of the sheep determining the width and leanness of the rack. The meat from sheep is marketed entirely different from that of cattle and swine. When you go to a restaurant and order sheep ribs, you would say rack of lamb. The rack should also be free of fat and should handle firmly. The loin of a sheep is the same as in cattle and swine. When looking at the loin is it important that it is wide, long, and expressive. You also feel the loin to get a measurement of how firm the loin is. From the loin, the judge continues their handle to the hip. The hip should be wide and square. The larger the hip, the bigger the leg. The leg is where most of the meat is found on a lamb. The judge uses two hands on one leg to feel the circumference of the leg. The leg should show definition and expression. It should be free of fat and handle very firm. The purpose of handling sheep is to confirm what you eye tells you is already there. Base Width is determined by looking at the width between the back legs. Muscle pushes legs out. Consequently lack of muscle causes the back legs to stand narrower.  Correctness of finish  As stated earlier, it is preferable that sheep stay lean. The consumer pays for the fat that they are not going to eat. Sheep should have no more than 2/10 s of fat over their rack and loin. Although you cannot get a totally accurate measurement with your hands, it is very possible to tell the difference from the handle between a fat and lean sheep.  Growth/Weight  The length of the cannon bone is a good determining factor for estimating the size a certain sheep will finish out at. It is also more desirable to have a sheep that is more elongated. If the sheep has a longer cannon bone, one would venture a guess that they should be taller at the top of their shoulders. Also, if a sheep has a longer body, they should carry more weight which is important, because sheep are sold by the pound.  Skeletal Correctness  A sheep, much like in other species should have a proper 45o angle to their shoulder and a straight knee. They should also have a 45o angle to their pastern. Their hip or dock should come out level and square. When standing behind a sheep their hocks should be square and follow a straight line to the ground. It is also preferable if they have stout bones, also known as heaviness of structure.  Balance and Eye Appeal  A balanced and eye appealing sheep is extended up front. This refers to a long lean neck that attaches at the top of their shoulder blades. Some sheep will have a “u” neck. This is where the neck attaches low into their shoulder blades causing a “u” appearance when viewed from the side. A sheep should also be level from their shoulder blades to their hip.  **Breeding sheep**  Growth Performance  A larger lamb produces more meat, thereby resulting in more dollars for the farmers. Growth performance is genetic, so it is important that the ewe has the genetics to produce a lamb with a good growth performance.  Functionality  Structural correctness, review the importance of being structurally correct because of genetic influence as they are being used for breeding and also, they have to carry the lamb to term  Rib  Rib shape should be similar to breeding heifers. Within sheep we want a large rib capacity in order to have the room to produce a large lamb.  Balance and Eye Appeal  Similar to market lambs  Muscle  Similar to market lambs, although note that it is not the top priority, but it is important because it is genetic, and that will influence the potential offspring |  |

ENGAGEMENT

Students will write a paragraph explaining the purpose of selecting both market and breeding sheep

EVALUATION

A short Q and A at the end of the lesson

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

College & Career Readiness Standards: II.C.1; II.E.7

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