

*Waikato King Country Boys and
Girls Agricultural Activities*



**Lamb & Kid Goat
Judges & Stewards
Hand Book**



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for agreeing to offer your services as a Lamb Judge or ring Steward. Lamb Judges and ring Stewards are all volunteers who enjoy the opportunity to be involved with children and their animals, and being part of a movement that is unique to New Zealand and its Rural Education Heritage.

Essential to being a good judge is to be organised, observant and have a willingness to listen and learn, as well as having good interaction skills with children and their animals. It is recommended that prospective Judges and Stewards read the Lamb section of the Boys & Girls Agricultural Projects ring binder, (the yellow folder) which is obtainable from your local school. All information in this resource book is also available on the Waikato Agricultural & Pastoral's Show's website www.waikatoaandp.co.nz After reading this you will have an insight into what is expected from the children and their lambs on show day. Also you should endeavour to regularly attend a Judges Demonstration Day which are organised each year at various venues. Your local Co-ordinator will advise as to where and when these are held.

At first you will be appointed as an Assistant or Associate Judge and will do all your judging alongside a Senior Judge. When you have judged for some time (usually three years) and your Senior Judges consider you have the confidence and capabilities to be a Senior Judge you will be promoted. You will then be able to judge on your own and teach future Associates Judges.

Once a Senior Judge, you will have attained a good knowledge of all facets of how Agricultural days are structured and organised. Some Judges may have previously been Ring Stewards at School Agricultural days which would be helpful in giving them an understanding in ring craft and how the day is organised.

JUDGES INFORMATION AND ETIQUETTE

As a Lamb Judge you will need to come prepared with a clean white coat. **Note:** No product advertising on judges clothing. A neat and tidy presentation is expected, tie preferred for men. A notebook, two pens and two pencils, (a clear non-crackly plastic bag is beneficial if it's a wet day). You also may find it useful to have in your pocket a damp cloth in a plastic bag to wipe your hands. Some schools laminate the name cards so if this happens you will need a felt marker (Vivid).

Remember sun block and a hat if it's a hot and sunny day, if wet you will need a raincoat that won't be noisy or flap if it's windy as this will spook and frighten lambs. You will not have a free hand to hold an umbrella.

If you as a Judge or Associate Judge are asked to judge lambs at a School or Group Day it is a wise idea to contact your co-ordinator or the school where you are to judge on the day before to confirm their starting time. On arrival, always check with the Head Steward or the Show Organiser as to what the particular judging requirements are for the day. There are sometimes variations between schools and Groups Day in different locations. Individual schools can run their Agricultural Day however they like, but Group Days and Show Days usually remain with the same format each year.

You will be advised on where your judging assignments are by your Group Co-ordinator. Always allow plenty of time to travel to the venue as it is not a good look to have the Judges arriving late.

Upon arrival at the School or venue introduce yourself to the Head Steward or Senior Judge and they will then assign you to a judging ring. Some schools provide morning tea and lunch which is an ideal opportunity to meet the other Judges and Stewards assigned for the day. A Senior Judge will address the people responsible, usually PTA or BOT members and give a speech of thanks for the food and drinks offered for the day. Always display a positive attitude and make the day as enjoyable as possible for everyone and by doing this you are fostering the Agricultural Day activities so that future generations can enjoy the life skills gained and retain fond memories of Agricultural Club.

PLEASE TURN ALL CELLPHONES OFF



LAMB SECTION



RING CRAFT

On the day the Senior Judge will assign you a ring to judge, arrive at your assigned ring at least 5 minutes early so as you can walk the ring to make sure that the layout and pegs are all correct. If they are not, contact your organiser or steward and ask if they could be placed correctly before you begin. Before judging, introduce yourselves to the children, wish them well and try to make them feel relaxed and promote the fact that above all they are there to enjoy their day with their lamb.

The ring is divided into three sides so the notebook needs to be ruled into four columns – one for child's number and one column for each side. A larger section should be left for abbreviated comments and totals. Most judges find it easiest to judge each side out of 10 but each judge will develop their own system over time with experience. This will give a total out of 30. Always total up after each competitor to save time and confusion at the end of the event. If there are two competitors with similar results, sort out the order immediately with a plus or minus to avoid having equal placing's at the end. It is easier to do this earlier in the event as you can still remember how they both went. Show days do not come prepared for equal places. Always check how many places and ask if there are spare ribbons before you begin. Never line a child up for a placing if there is no ribbon even if there is one child left out. Try to sort this out beforehand. Some schools make sure that every child wins a ribbon in the first event and some wait until the end. Group days and Waikato Show do not provide ribbons for each competitor. As a judge, always be sure of the number of competitors in each section and make sure each child has participated each time. Once you have made a decision at the end of the event, call your steward over and give results to him/her. It is good then as a judge to have a quick word with children who have not won a ribbon and encourage them for the next event. The steward will usually arrange for a person known to the winner to present the ribbons. The judge can stand out of the way holding the extra ribbons until the presenter is ready to tie them on – usually in a loose knot around the belly of the lamb.

Always line up your place getters in the same way facing the crowd (left to right) for each section. While your Ring Steward is taking their details down on paper it gives the Judge the opportunity to speak to each place getter and offer ways they can improve, or reasons for their placement.

Tie ribbons around the stomach. A nice gesture is to invite a Sponsor or parent from the crowd to present the ribbons. If at any time your judgement is challenged by a parent or bystander don't panic or become confrontational, give your reasons confidently for placements and walk away. This situation is very rare.

For the first three years, or until you are confident, you will be an associate judge so that you can learn from a senior judge. You will both mark each event and then compare notes until the senior judge is certain that the results are in order. He/she will then pass the results on to the steward. A Senior Judge must get the details of the order of the day from whoever is in charge. The schools sets the criteria for the day by which the judge co-ordinates it. When you arrive at your ring, find out who your steward is and introduce yourself. Remove any distractions from the ring such as leaves, grass, rubbish, and tie up any loose string. Make sure that scrim is firm and flapping as little as possible. If you miss anything it must be left the same for each competitor. Structural changes cannot be made as equipment will not be available for this but if you see things that could be improved next year. ie: ring size and scrim quality talk to the head steward on the day. Make sure the stop peg is removed for the first event, Most Obvious Pet but is easily available for leading with a small hammer to put it in. Place corner pegs so that there is room for the child and animal to get around without tripping. As you introduce yourself to the steward you may find that he/she has never done the job before so you will need to explain exactly what is required in each event. Remind stewards that their job is outside the ring only. Once they release the animal the judged will control the event. Some stewards in an effort to help can sabotage an event for the child. Make sure they know how to hold the lamb for the Most Obvious Pet event – around the front of the chest, not the neck or holding the collar. They need to keep the child with the animal making sure the child has a number visible until the judge says they are ready. A person to watch the exit gate may be necessary to help with runaway animals. For the leading event, after the judge has explained what is required, it is the stewards job to make sure that the child with his/her number clearly visible and their lamb are at the entrance with the lead correctly held until the judge is ready.

In the rearing event, it is the steward's job to separate early and late classes and make sure that all children and animals are in the ring for their event. For all events it is the steward's responsibility to make sure that all the perimeters of the ring are kept clear of spectators to give competitors a fair go.

MOST OBVIOUS PET

(Often referred to as call follow and run)

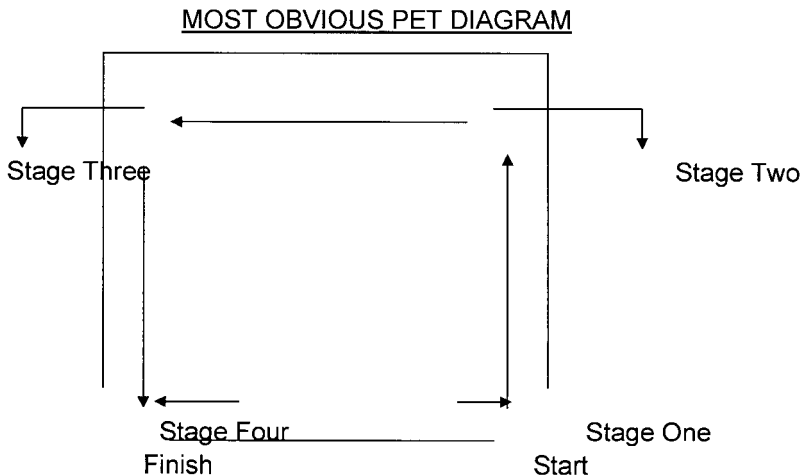
This event is completed in a 3 sided ring. Remove the stop pegs. Once competition has begun no changes are to be made to the ring. Ensure entrance and exits are manned but not blocked and competitors and spectators are kept back and quiet. Inform the ring steward what you require as for many this is their first experience. Explain to children what you require by explaining what is expected on each of the 3 sides of the ring. Ideally using a steward or yourself to physically demonstrate what is expected especially for young children or first time competitors. Allow a child with some previous experience to go first if possible.

Stage One: **The Start:** When the judge is ready, the steward will hold the lamb in the appropriate manner which is hands around the chest, not by the collar.

Stage Two: **The Call:** The child goes to the first peg standing back so the lamb has space to move around the peg. The lead is in their hand neatly folded. The child calls the lamb loudly at which time the steward releases the lamb. Points are awarded for eagerness, recognition and speed of response from the lamb. A pat on the head is required only at the first peg. Please note any comments during each side of competition as this will aid in arriving at totals.

Stage Three: **The Follow:** The child then walks to the 2nd peg, calling the lamb along the way making sure he/she is walking forward. Observations of interest of the lamb, distractions and distance from the child should be noted.

Stage Four: **The Catch:** Once the child is at the 2nd peg, he/she run to the exit of the pen making sure that the lamb follows and is caught inside the ring. The lead is put on and together they walk out of the ring. This is where judging stops.



LEADING

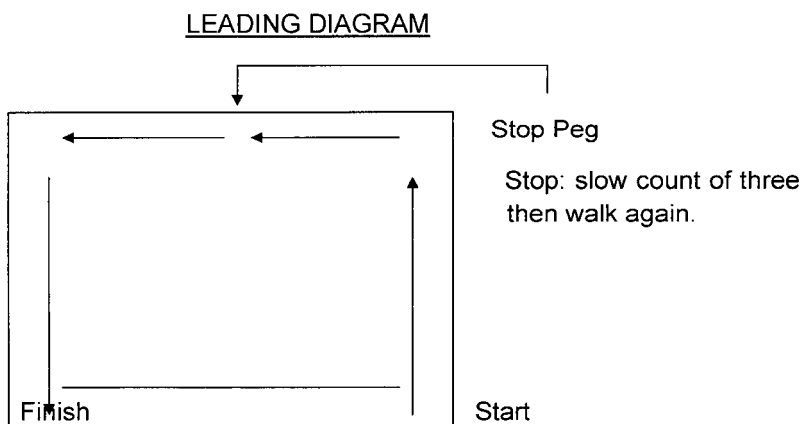
This event is also completed in a three sided ring with an entrance and an exit. The 'stop' peg is now returned to halfway along the second side. At the beginning, check for distractions. Spectators and competitors need to be kept back and quiet. Exit gate needs to be kept clear.

It is the judge's job to make sure the steward knows what is required of him/her. Make sure that children are ready and holding leads correctly when the judge is ready to judge. Left handed leaders may lead clockwise.

The right hand should grip the lead palm upwards. The left hand should grip the lead knuckle downwards leaving a loop of slack lead between the hands. There should remain only about 30-40 cm of tail end of lead hanging free from left hand. The loop and any remainder trailing ends should be folded neatly into the left hand. All control is to be exercised by the right hand on the lead and should never be removed from it. These instructions are given in reverse for left handed children. If a left handed child prefers to lead the same way as other children, this may be permitted. Some young children get upset if asked to do something different to their peers.

Do not hit, jerk, drag or nudge your animal if possible. Lambs may only stop at stop peg or toilet break. When the judge is ready the child will lead around 1st peg continue to the stop peg!

The lamb is to be led between the child and scrim. The child should stand up right. Points are awarded for corrected placement of the lamb and child (at shoulder of lamb) Both the lamb and child should be in tandem, lead correctly held, smooth take off and continuity of lead until stop peg is arrived at. Child stops and counts to 3 then continues with a smooth take off around 3rd peg and leading to exit where judging stops.



REARING

Lambs are often divided into early and late sections for rearing. Rearing is judged on care (knowledge), condition and cleanliness.

KNOWLEDGE

Every child should know the lamb's name, breed, date of birth and feeding information of lamb.

For older children it would be an advantage if they know other information, eg. Other breeds, 5 in 1 (vaccination for pulpy kidney, tetanus, black disease, blackleg and malignant oedema) wool information, poisonous plants, drenches, docking, gender names. It is important to know what lamb has been fed ie: milk and how often, pellets silage and hay. Housing and covers should be noted as many lambs appear extremely white and the judge needs to know how this was achieved.

LIST OF SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

What is your lamb's name?

What breed is the lamb?

What date was the lamb born?

How much milk per feed and how many times a day is it fed?

Where do you keep your lamb?

How did you teach your lamb to lead?

Who helps your lamb to lead?

Who helps you clean your lamb?

Does your lamb have top teeth?

Can you name some poisonous plants?

Has your lamb been vaccinated?

Has your lamb been drenched?

What is a female lamb called?

What is a male lamb called?

CONDITION

This involves size for age and breed of lamb and feeding. General appearance, observing eyes, rear area and feet?

CLEANLINESS

Lambs must not be washed and need to have lanolin in their fleeces. A lightly brushed fleece is okay however the crimp should still in place. Lamb needs to have clean nose, mouth ears and eyes with grease removed from leg creases and tail area this can be achieved with warm damp cloth. The tail area needs to be free of faecal matter, preferable not crutched and the lamb needs to be clean underneath. A well reared lamb will be bright, clean, well grown and alert. If the judge suspects that a lamb has been washed, the child may be questioned but only marked down if certain that this has been done. Sometimes there is a distinct shampoo smell around the lamb. Remember, there can be other reasons for a very white lamb.



KID GOAT SECTION



There are many similarities between the lamb and kid goat sections of Agricultural Day but judges also need to be aware of the differences which are mostly found in the leading (obstacle course) section and the rearing. Most lamb Judges have also learned to judge kids as there are now very few specialist goat judges. Goat classes are often small or may even be incorporated into the lamb rings to make for challenging judging, especially at school days. Group Days and Waikato Show have separate sections.

The lamb judges and stewards handbook introduction, judges information and etiquette and ring craft are the same for the kid goat section. The goat ring is four sided with an entrance gate only. Kid goats enter and leave from the same gate. This is helpful when runaways happen though kid goats have been known to jump over scrim with little effort. Goats are much more inquisitive than lambs and mostly move more quickly.

MOST OBVIOUS PET

In this event, three sides of the ring are used and goats are judged in the same way as lambs. Because of their curiosity, goats are easily distracted but if all goes well, are very affectionate and playful when called. They make interesting pets. Ribbons may be tied around the kid goats or given to the child it preferred. Goats have a tendency to chew anything. The event finishes at the same place as the lambs but goats walk out of the entrance gate. The kid goat is called by name and patted on the head at the first corner. The child then walks forward with the goat following behind then changes to a slow run at the net peg and catches at the end of the third side.

OBSTACLE COURSE (Leading Event)

This event is completed in a four sided ring so is most easily marked out of 40 – 10 points for each side. The first side is a straight lead. The lead is held in the same way as for lambs but a bit more length between the right hand of the child and the goat may be helpful in enabling the goat a bit more freedom over the obstacles. A right handed child walks on left of the obstacles. The obstacles are not always exactly the same but it is the judges responsibility to make sure that they are placed correctly – 3 low (15cm) jumps on side two, 3 rings of firewood or boxes on side 3. These need to be big enough to be stable when the larger goats get onto them but

low enough for a smaller goat. They come in a variety of heights but the goats need to be able to move from one to the other then off the last one. The highest one works best in the middle of the three. Rings of firewood work well if they are wide and stable enough. Painted boxes are too slippery. On side 4 there is a plank from the ground onto the equivalent of a ring of firewood, for safety reasons no higher than 50cm. The goat walks up and jumps off the end and out of the gate. Judging stops here.

The guiding hand needs to remain on the lead at all times. Left handed children walk on the right side of the obstacles. Only the kid goat walks over the obstacles. (Not the child) There is no stop peg in the obstacle course though goats may stop for a toilet break. Points are awarded for lead correctly held, child and kid goat walking as a team and for a good smooth continuous lead with all obstacles covered.

LEADING DIAGRAM:

This event is now undertaken around an obstacle course.

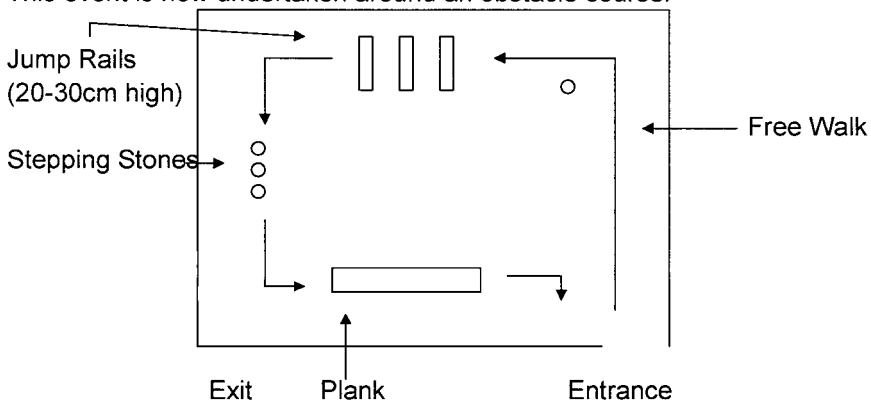
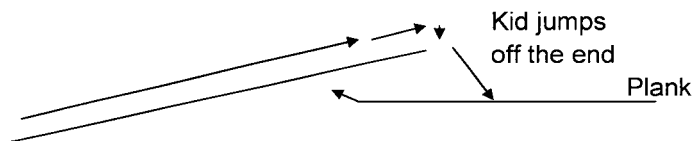


Figure Seven: Obstacle Course for Kid Goat



The Plank:

The child walks with the kid, staying on the outside of the obstacles. The child is not permitted to climb over the obstacles or to assist the kid on to them.

REARING

Kid goats may be divided into early and late sections if numbers permit. If goats have been competing with lambs, now is the time to separate them. Goats have hair or fibre, not wool. They may be washed except if they are fibre goats. Their feet need to be trimmed and also the hair between toes to prevent scald and foot rot. They may be dehorned but not essential. Their horns may be lightly sanded for smoothness and the hair on the tail lightly trimmed for a tidy appearance. Goats lose hair as they moult so need to be brushed to remove loose hair. Goats also need treatment for lice. As you can see, they are almost impossible to judge together with lambs in the rearing section.

CARE (KNOWLEDGE)

Rearing is judged on care (Knowledge) condition and cleanliness. The knowledge questions are very similar to lambs. We as judges are looking for child involvement in the rearing of their pet. They don't need to do everything themselves eg Trimming feet but they need to have been present when it was done. They need to have an understanding of procedure eg: drenching, vaccinations because they were there and have a basic understanding of why things were done and if a vet has been called what happened.

CONDITION

This is the same as lambs involving size for age and breed of goat and a healthy feeding regime ie, a well conditioned goat will be bright and alert. Look out for the "rope" on the back of a Saanen which indicates health and wellbeing for this breed.

CLEANLINESS

Goats are much easier to keep clean than a lamb because they have hair instead of wool with lanolin. Milking breeds may be washed and need to be well brushed to eliminate loose hair. They are often covered to keep them warm and clean but this is not essential. Children need to know how their pet was housed to protect them from sun and rain. Check for faecal matter around tail area. Ears, eyes nose and mouth areas need to be clean check for dried milk crusts and grease in these areas. Fibre of cashmere goats (which are not common today, **MAY NOT BE WASHED AND BRUSING NEEDS TO BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM**). Fingers combed through the fibre is often enough. Soiled areas may be wiped with a warm damp cloth.

Feet hooves are trimmed so that the kid goat walks flat on their feet. Trimming should be completed with a sharp pair of scissors for a young goat or hoof cutters if older. The hair around the hood is trimmed and the tail area may be lightly trimmed to tidy up. Check the kid goat for lice at this time, mostly found between front legs and in warm creases in the early stages. A lousy goat is one that is not thriving especially in later stages of infestation. A well reared goat scores well in all three areas. Care, condition, cleanliness. Score each section and total as you go round.

TEAM OF THREE LEADING

This event is run for goats alone if numbers permit but often is combined with the lambs. This event is a straight lead over a short distance, (about 25 metres). Three children with their animals, leads held correctly, walk this distance together. The children must be evenly spaced and lead at the same speed. Encourage fast leaders to slow down and wait for the slow one so that they leave and arrive at the end together. Points are awarded for presentation and uniformity of the teams leading. This event may be run after the leading event or at the end of the day. If done after leading, no milk feeding of animals until the event is completed in the championship ring.

All first place getters from each ring compete against each other in the championship ring. Once the Championship Judges have selected their Champion, the kid goat that was awarded second to the selected Champion will compete against all of the other first place getters for the Reserve Champion ribbon. (Not the Champion) The reason for this is that the two best Kid goats may have been in the same ring.

REMEMBER THIS IS THE CHILDS DAY RELAX AND ENJOY IT WITH THEM.



These guidelines for Lamb & Kid Goat
Judges and Stewards were compiled for
the
Waikato King Country Girls and Boys
Agricultural Group September 2012

