

“HIDE MANAGEMENT”

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Proper care of your club lamb/goats hide should be a priority if you plan on being competitive in the showring.

*Blanket management is a tool you can use to have your animal at their best when it counts most at the show.

*Blankets provide a physical barrier to flies, dirt, debris, heat and cold. There is a misconception among novice feeders that the sheep will get too hot under a blanket in the summer. Keep hides in good shape by shearing the sheep and keep them blanketed under a fan. Sheep actually need insulation to stay cool and any shorn sheep needs a light breathable blanket to protect them from sunburn, fly strike, dirt and wool picking. Even summer shows count.

*For everyday use in the pens at home, I prefer the cordura rip stop type blankets with mesh rear panels that are tough and more durable, along with the doe blankets that are open behind which give enough breathing space.

*At the shows, I recommend light weight breathable cotton/canvas blankets to keep your animal clean and comfortable.

*There are many options for show blankets today but being soft and breathable is always the right call during the warm season at the shows.

We will pick this topic up next time with more tips on shearing and skin management for your sheep and goats. Good luck with your stock!