

AG DAY 2025

HANDBOOK



NAME:

My Pet

Name:

Vaccination record

_____	☐
_____	☐
_____	☐
_____	☐
_____	☐
_____	☐

Date of birth:

About my Pet:

My pets breed? Personality? Likes and dislikes?
My favourite thing about my pet...

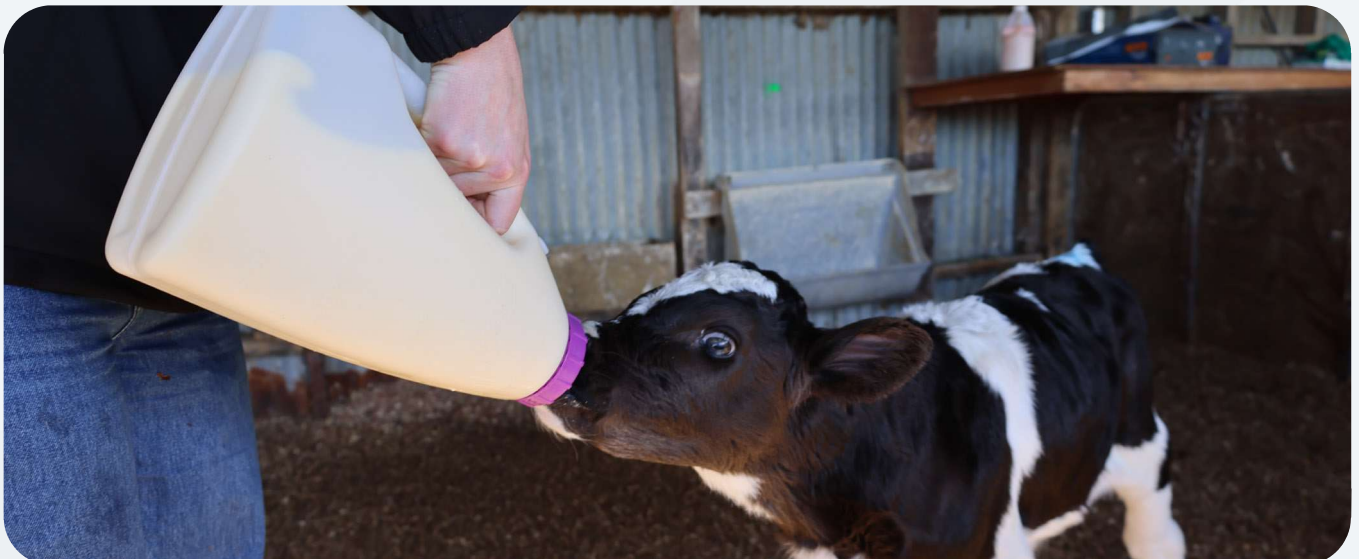
My Ag Day is on:



Photo of
my pet

Calf, kid goat and lamb checklist

- ☐ Happy to wear a collar or halter
- ☐ Happy being led & walks beside me
- ☐ Can move forward turn/stop when I want it to (when being led)
- ☐ Lambs/Kids - comes when called
- ☐ Likes to be brushed
- ☐ Disbudded, (Kid goats, Calves)
- ☐ Castrated or docked if applicable
- ☐ Has had its vaccinations
- ☐ Drenched for internal parasites



Spot 5 differences !

Can you spot all 5 differences in the photos below?



Preparing for the day

What to bring:

- ☐ Clean lead & collar/halter, fence pigtail for tethering animal
- ☐ Milk bottle & bucket for water
- ☐ Any food your animal needs
- ☐ Cleaning cloths for wiping nose, eyes, ears, hooves + bums (in that order!)
- ☐ Tidy clothes for you in the ring, rain hail or shine
- ☐ Fold-out chair - it could be a long day!



Typical questions from the judges

Practise your answers!

What is your animals name ?

Is it a boy or a girl?

What breed is your animal?

What do you feed your animal and how often?

What vaccinations has your animal had and why do you need to vaccinate your animal?

General Tips & Guidelines



Calves | Lambs | Goats

Naming

- ✓ Give your pet a special name
- ✓ Write down their birthday
- ✓ Write what breed they are

Shelter

- Make sure they have a sunny, draft-free shelter
- Keep them warm so they grow healthy and strong – covers help keep them warm and clean
- Check covers for rubbing and line with soft fabric if needed
- Give them space to run and play

Health / Feeding

- Use bedding like straw, shavings, or woodchips – keep it fresh
Make sure there are no poisonous plants nearby (e.g., Rhododendrons)
- Wipe milk off mouths after feeding to keep them healthy
- Ask your local farm store for feeding advice
- Give hay/grass to help their tummies grow strong
- Pellets can be used as treats for training
- Always have clean water available

Hygiene

- Wash bottles and teats after every feed
- Use hot soapy water for cleaning
- Wash your hands well after feeding or playing with your pet
- Rinse all equipment well after washing
- Keeping things clean helps stop bugs that can make your pet sick (runny bum/diarrhoea)
- If your pet gets diarrhoea, see a vet quickly – young animals can get sick fast
- The vet might suggest giving electrolytes
- Sometimes a change in food can upset your pet's tummy

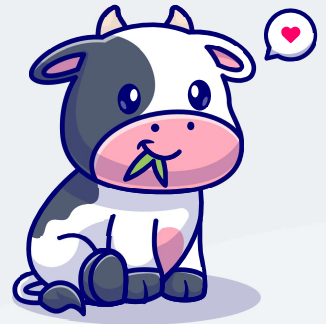
Bonding & Training

- Spend lots of time with your animal so it gets to know you
- Be the main person to feed your animal
- Pat and brush them while feeding so they know your voice
- Slowly introduce a halter or collar
- Take them for short walks and get them used to different sights and sounds
- Practice calling your animal so it learns its name
- Before Ag Day, practice the leading course with cones or fence standards

Diary & Events

- Check if your school wants you to keep a diary about your animal
- Read what your school's Ag Day events and judging rules are
- Train your animal for the events you will enter
- If you're going to Group Day or an A&P show, check their rules too

Calves



Choosing Your Calf

- Best choice: Girl calf (heifer).
- Want a boy calf (bull)? Check your Ag Day rules first.
- Get your calf at 1–2 weeks old after it's had its special first milk (colostrum).



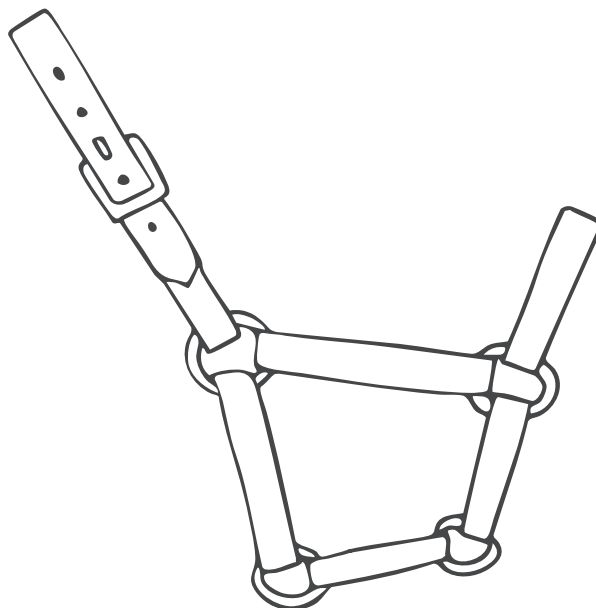
Did you know? Colostrum is like a supermilk that helps calves fight off germs when they're little!

Halter & Coat

- Use a soft rope or leather halter.
- Put it on for about an hour a day so your calf gets used to it.
- Get your calf a warm Thermoo jacket (as seen on the back cover) to keep them clean and toasty!



Activity: Colour in this halter in the colours you'd want your calf to wear on Ag day!



Grooming Time!

- Brush your calf every day.
- Use a comb for the tail and a firm brush for the coat.
- 1 week before Ag Day: Give a warm wash with dog or horse shampoo.
- Dry and brush straight away so they don't get cold.
- On Ag Day: Just spot clean any dirty bits.



Did you know: Brushing your calf isn't just to make them pretty — it helps their blood flow and keeps them healthy! It is also great for building trust and will make them calmer around others at your Ag day.

Leading Practice

- Spend lots of time with your calf.
- Practise walking, stopping, and turning.
- Always walk on the LEFT side, with your calf on your RIGHT.
- Practise in all kinds of weather.



Tip: The more you practise, the calmer your calf will be on Ag Day!

Horn Removal (Disbudding)

- Done when calf is about 2 weeks old.
- Must be done with pain relief — your vet will help.

Keeping Your Calf Healthy

- Calves need vaccines to stop sickness like Tetanus and Blackleg.
- They also need worming medicine.
- Ask your vet what's best for your calf.

Lambs



Choosing & Bonding With Your Lamb

- Get your lamb when it's just a few days old, after its first colostrum milk.
- Spend time talking, reading, and cuddling so it knows your voice.
- Train it to come when called — hide the bottle behind your back, call loudly, and practise often!



Did you know? Lambs can recognise your voice after only a few days!

Leading Practice

- Lead your lamb on your RIGHT side.
- Start with short walks — never drag the lamb.
- Practise in a ring, steering with the hand holding the lead.
- Don't let the lead drag on the ground.



Tip! A 15 cm Miami dog collar fits lambs perfectly!

Keeping Your Lamb Clean

- Use a warm damp cloth to clean ears, face, under legs, and bottom/tail daily.
- Don't use soap — it removes the lanolin that keeps them warm and waterproof.
- Brush lightly and spot-clean any stains.
- If their bottom gets dirty (dags), get an adult to help.



Did you know? Lanolin is a special oil in a lamb's wool that keeps rain from soaking through.

Keeping Your Lamb Healthy

- Lambs need vaccines to protect from sickness like Tetanus and Blackleg.
- They also need worming medicine.
- Ask your vet what's best for your lamb.

Lamb Jackets

- Wool jackets keep young lambs warm in their first few weeks.
- Natural fibres mean they won't overheat.
- Jackets stretch as your lamb grows.



Tip! Get your lamb a wool jacket from shoofdirect.co.nz to keep them warm and cosy!



Kid Goats



Choosing Your Kid Goat

- Best choice: Girl goat (doe).
- If you get a boy goat (buck), make sure it's castrated at 1–2 weeks old (ask for this before you take it home).
- Bring your kid home when it's about 5 days old, after it's had its first colostrum milk.

Feeding & Growing

- At about 1 week old, they can start eating grass.
- Later, add hay and other rough food to help their tummies (rumen) grow strong.



Did you know? Hay helps goats chew for ages — it's like their version of bubblegum!

Leading Practice

- Lead your kid on your RIGHT side.
- Hold the lead: Right hand palm up, about 10 cm from the collar.
- Left hand holds the rest of the lead, knuckles up.
- Walk at the same pace as your kid — don't drag or push.
- Call clearly so they can hear you.



Did you know? Goats have excellent hearing and can pick out your voice from far away.

Grooming & Cleaning

- Clean face, ears, under legs, and bottom with a warm damp cloth.
- Brush daily with a soft brush.
- You can wash before show day (except for fibre goats), but it's not required.
- Check hooves often and trim hair between the claws and around hooves.



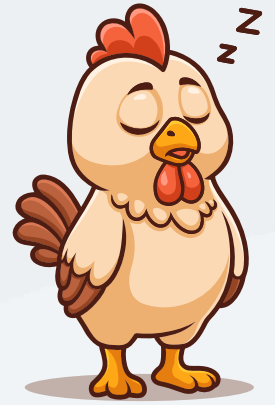
Tip! Hooves are like fingernails — they need trimming to keep your goat comfortable.

Horn Removal (Disbudding)

- Kid goats need their horn buds removed.
- Must be done with pain relief — your vet can help.



Chicks



Raising Your Chick

Chicks are like babies – they need warmth, food, water, and lots of care. Normally a mother hen would keep them warm and safe, but now that's your job!

- Keep your chick warm with a heat lamp over a box or fish bin lined with newspaper or straw. Secure the lamp safely to avoid burns or fire.
- Chicks are messy! Clean their area at least twice a day. Newspaper or shavings make cleaning easy.
- Use chick starter feed (not adult chicken feed) and provide clean, fresh water daily. Use a shallow water dish with a rock to stop spills and prevent drowning.
- Chicks need a calm, quiet space. They are blind in the dark, so keep lighting consistent and soft.

Choosing Your Chic

Pick a chick that is:

- Active and curious
- Fluffy and clean
- Bright-eyed
- Avoid chicks that are shivering, sleepy, or huddled alone.



Tip! Get more than one – chicks are social and happier together!

Housing & Growth

- Use a box or bin for the first few weeks with newspaper and a heat lamp.
- On nice days, let them scratch around outside (supervised). Keep them safe from pets and predators.
- By 8 weeks, they can move outside full-time into a draught-free run or hutch.
- Never introduce just one chick to older birds – do it in groups or use a small cage inside the coop to let them get used to each other first.

Categories to Prepare For (check with your school):

- Best Pet: Handle your chick often so it becomes friendly, calm and easily handled.
- Best Reared Farm Bird: Make sure your chick is healthy, clean, and well cared for.
- Knowledge: Be ready to answer questions about breed, age, diet, housing, and health.

Feeding Tip:

- 0 – 4 weeks: Chick starter mash or pellets, fed frequently.
- After 4 weeks: Add pellets and wheat, 3 – 4 times daily.

Final Tips

- Keep chicks warm, clean, and fed.
- Handle them gently every day so they trust you.
- By Ag Day, they should be healthy, sociable, and living in a proper run or chook house.

With care and love, your chick will grow into a happy, egg-laying hen around 5 months old. Good luck and enjoy Ag Day!

Diary

Use this diary to keep notes on your pet as they grow. Some good things to write down are their feeding habits, behaviour, what they are learning, milestones and any fun stories about them.

Week 1	Week 2
Week 3	Week 4
Week 5	Week 6
Week 7	Week 8
Week 9	Week 10

Shoof Products

We've got all the gear you and your animal need to look your best. From halters and brushes to cosy covers and jackets – Shoof has you covered for the big day!

Check out our www.shoofdirect.co.nz website (ask mum or dad to help you) to pick out some items to make your animal look their best including:

- Feeding products
- Leads, collars & halters
- Grooming brushes
- Jackets





For all your Ag Day products, shop at
www.shoofdirect.co.nz



You can also find our products at our
stockists located nationwide:

