

# FARM WORKER: SMALL RUMINANT

Small ruminant farm workers are responsible for the daily care and maintenance of sheep that are used for meat or wool production, or goats that are used for meat or dairy production.

## WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Ensure animals have access to food and water at all times
- Identify sick sheep or goats and determine proper treatment or contact veterinarian
- Administer vaccinations and medications
- Assist in breeding programs like artificial insemination and castration; also assist in lambing or kidding
- Regularly bottle feed rejected lambs and kids
- Cut lamb tails once of age
- Assist in tagging lambs and kids
- Shear sheep at least yearly or hire sheep shearer to do so; some farmers choose to sell wool as well
- Perform and assist in milking operations for dairy goats; clean milking parlor after each milking and ensure milk quality is not compromised by following standards
- Maintain high standards of animal welfare at all time
- Transport lambs or goats to market once ready for sale or slaughter
- Clean and maintain farm buildings and fences



## WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

A high school diploma is required; an Associate's degree in animal science or animal husbandry is recommended

## THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, animal science, biology, mathematics, chemistry

## TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Small to large-scale sheep and goat operations that may be privately or company owned

## FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



## SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Sheep Industry Association
- American Goat Society
- State Sheep & Goat Industry Associations

## AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$32,000