

# Purchasing a Market Lamb

## What to Know as a Buyer

At the time of the sale, market lambs will weigh between 100 and 150 pounds with an average weight of 140 pounds.

Market lambs sell for between \$2.50 and \$4.00 a pound with an average price of \$3.25 per pound.

Processing fees (butchering, cutting, and wrapping) vary based on the butcher. The estimated processing total is \$145. For a precise amount, contact one of the suggested butchers.

After butchering and processing, market lambs yield about 60% (+/- 10%) meat. If the average market lamb weighs 140 pounds, the yield will be about 84 pounds of meat.

84 pounds of meat will need about 2 to 3 cubic feet of freezer space.

Below is a summary of what to expect when buying a market lamb at the Ramona Junior Fair. (Please note, this information is an estimate and actual numbers may vary.)

A 140 pound market lamb is purchased at the price of \$3.25 per pound for a total of \$455. After the butcher's processing fee of \$145, the total is \$600. By dividing \$600 by the weight of the meat taken home (84 pounds) the price of \$7.15 is paid per pound for this high-quality, hand-raised meat. In the process, you have helped a young person complete their project, reach a hard-earned goal, and possibly make a profit to help fund future projects. Also, because you are buying through the Ramona Junior Fair (a 501 c3 non-profit), you can consult with your tax preparer and possibly receive a tax write-off for any amount that you paid that is over the current market price. It's a win-win situation for both parties!

## What Does an Exhibitor Put in to Raising a Market Lamb?

The animal receives 4 months of hand feeding, exercise, and care.

One market lamb is purchased for \$250 to \$400.

The cost of feed to finish a market lamb is \$200 to \$250.

The total estimated investment into raising a market lamb is \$450 to \$600.

With a conservative average financial investment of \$550 into a market lamb at an average weight of 140 pounds, the breakeven point for the kids, when selling through the auction, is \$3.95 per pound.