

## Trimming the Market Goat

Most of the major shows in Texas enforce the shearing rule for goats. Because some differences in hair length are allowed at the time of show, it is important to **read the show rules prior to clipping your goat** for a particular show.

It is not always necessary to wash your goat, but it can be beneficial. Use a mild soap sparingly, rinse the animal thoroughly and dry the goat completely. Then, brush your goat with a stiff brush on a regular basis. Brushing removes all of the dead hair and dirt.

Shear your goat according to show rules at least 2 to 7 days before the show. This will allow clipper tracks to even out and the pink skin to become less apparent. A pair of electric clippers equipped with either a 20- or 23- tooth comb should be used to ensure a smoother, more attractive goat. While shearing, the clippers should run parallel to the length of the body rather than vertically. Hair below the knees and hocks should not be shorn, and the hair on the end of the tail should be bobbed. Small animal clippers may be needed to clip closely around the eyes, ears, pasterns or delicate areas on the goat.

If shearing in cold weather, cover your goat with a lamb sock and/or blanket immediately after shearing. A clean, well-bedded pen should be provided to keep the goat clean and dry.