

Make Your Own Lamb Blanket

By Crystal Emsoff of Emsoff Livestock Co.



Making your own lamb blanket is easy. My blanket is made from heavy canvas.

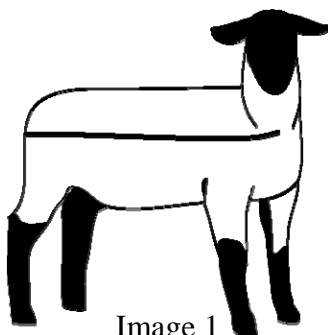


Image 1

Begin by measuring your lamb from the center of his chest to the outside edge of his hip (image 1). Add about 2 inches to this measurement for a small lamb, 4 inches for a larger lamb. This will be both the length of your blanket and width of your blanket (measurement A).

Next, using the measurement A for both the height and width, cut your fabric into a square. Fold the square in half lengthwise.

Next you will cut out the neck hole. With the fold on top, measure from the front edge along the fold (red line) 1/4 of the entire length of the blanket. Then measure down the front edge 1/3 of the entire height of the folded blanket. From these two points draw a semi arc (orange line). With the fabric still folded, cut through both layers to create your neck hole. You now have the basic layout for your blanket.

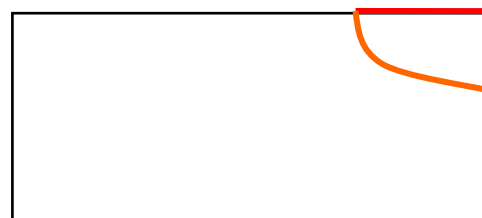


Image 2

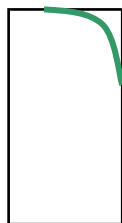


Image 3

Next you will make the back flap for the blanket. This can be made from the same canvas fabric or from a mesh fabric, which will stay cleaner, especially with ewe lambs. Cut another square of fabric that is half the height and width of measurement A (for example, if your blanket is 30" X 30", this piece will be 15" X 15"). Fold this square in half, this time with the fold on the right edge. Along the top, unfolded corner, draw a semi arc (image 3). With the fabric still folded, cut through both layers along this arc.

When you unfold the fabric, it should look like image 4. Now you will hem along the edges of the flap beginning about an inch below the arc as shown by the red line, and continuing around the bottom to an inch from the arc on the other side.

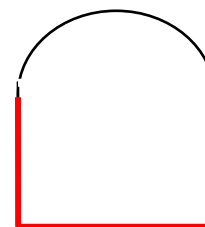


Image 4

Next you will attach the flap to the rear of the blanket. This is the most difficult part since the seam is curved. Make a mark on both the flap and the blanket where folds meet the edge of the fabric. Beginning here as you pin the flap to the blanket will ensure that it stays centered on the blanket. Make sure that you keep your hem that you just made on the flap on the same side as your seam so that it will be on the inside of the finished blanket. Beginning where you hem ended, sew along the curve, attaching it to the rear edge of the blanket.

Next hem along the neck hole, then sew together the two layers of fabric along the front of the blanket to form the chest. Hem the bottom edges of the blanket and along the rear to where the flap attaches. You're almost done and your project is looking like a real blanket!



The last step is to attach the leg straps. I used heavy duty 1 inch elastic with Velcro. Turn the blanket inside out. Cut 4 pieces of elastic, 8 inches long. Sew one piece on each side of the blanket about 1/3 of the way from the back and 1/4 of the way from the bottom edge. Sew the other two pieces on the rear of the blanket about an inch below where the flap attaches

and a inch forward of the rear hem on each side (image 5). Sew 3 inch strips of Velcro to the ends of the elastic straps.

As a finishing touch, I added our farm logo printed off our computer onto iron on transfer paper.