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A firstling is the very first animal to open the matrix of its mother. Each animal can have only one firstling -- even if the first dies or is stillborn. The first to open the matrix is the one and only one firstling of that animal (Exodus 13:2, Nehemiah 10:36).

The firstborn of clean beasts are holy and unredeemable while the firstborn of unclean beasts and of man are redeemable (Leviticus 27:26-28, Numbers 18:15-19). The scriptures indicate, along with some of the references that male and female firstlings are used for different purposes. The males were given to the ministers for consumption (Exodus 13:12, 34:19, Numbers 15:19, 18:17-18), especially for during annual Festivals, and should be done so within the animals first year (Deuteronomy 15:20), and anytime after the eighth day (Leviticus 22:27).

In Israel they used to take the firstling males to the priests where they were then utilized. Today, however, because the salary of the minister is handled differently, the animal should be sold and the money sent to headquarters (Pasadena) marked firstling money. You are probably aware that firstlings are basically considered second tithe. This money is added to the available second tithe account for the ministers as needed and utilized during the Feasts.

Unclean animals can be redeemed. In the case of an ass, the owner has the option of redeeming it with a lamb or breaking its neck (Exodus 13:13, 34:20). If there is any physical defect, the creature is not to be offered, but instead, eaten by the owner (Deut. 15:19, 21-23). Of course, this doesn't mean any defect inflicted upon the animal. The Jews had a system to assure honesty in discerning if an animal was fit for offering. A scholar and three prominent Israelites had to attest to the fact that it was unfit. To prevent graft, these witnesses were not allowed to use or eat any of the animal.

What about females? From all indications they are to be saved by the people for use during the Feast (Deuteronomy 15:20; 12:6, 17, 21; 14:23-27).

As is mentioned in verses 24 and 25 of Deuteronomy 14 that ". . . if the place be too far from you, which the Lord thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the Lord your God hath blessed thee: Then shalt you turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose:".

Today it is rare for someone to bring the meat to the Feast with them because of distance. On some occasions people are able to freeze and/or can some of it and in this way bring the meat with them but for the most part the firstling female should be sold, turned into money, which is added to your second tithe and used for your needs and desires while attending the annual Festivals.

1. IF The way be Too far etc. (Deut. 14:24-25) Firstlings can be Sold. Question, Can The OWNER Be The Buyer? IN such a case? First Born of Clean are UNRedeemable - Lev 27:26-28
Num. 18:15-19