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SHEEP MANUAL

For 4-H MEMBERS

Circular 648

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS · · COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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This circular by W. G. KAMMLADE, E. I. PILCHARD, and R. O. LYON
is a revision of Circular 351.

A SHEEP MANUAL

for 4-H Club Members

IF YOU LIKE ANIMALS and like to work with them, you will get a lot of satisfaction from your experiences in a sheep project. Sheep, like other farm animals, always respond to good treatment.

By carrying on a sheep project you learn not only about caring for sheep, but you also learn about the business side of raising livestock. Quick income from lambs and wool, plus the low cost of the original animals compared with some other types of livestock, makes a sheep project a good one for 4-H Club members.

In going into a sheep project, you will need to think carefully about the type of sheep you are going to raise and how you will care for them. Poor-quality lambs kept thru the summer on poor pastures and sold late in the summer may bring such a low price that they will return no profit. In Illinois it is better to start with high-quality lambs and creep-feed them grain for early market in June. Lambs handled in this way are likely to return most profit.

FOUR PROJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM

In starting your club work with sheep, you can choose any one of four different projects. These are explained below. While the information in this manual applies most directly to the breeding and management of the flock, you will find that much the same information is needed to guide you in the other divisions of the work also.

You must personally own and care for the animals used in your project, but you will find it a big help to do your work under the guidance of an experienced leader.

General Project Requirements

Purebred sheep flock. One purebred ewe is required, but you are urged to begin with two or more. This project is a good way to start a purebred flock quickly. The project should start when the ewes are obtained, but in no case later than January 1.

Market sheep flock. If you would like to produce market lambs, you can choose this project. At least three ewes are required. They may be grade ewes but must be bred to purebred sires. Lambs may be sold at one of the district market shows usually held in June. The project should start when the ewes are obtained, but in no case later than January 1.

Purebred ewe lamb. This project should start in the spring when the lambs are weaned, but in no case later than June 1. Two or more lambs born in the current year are required.

Lamb feeding. If you have had some experience, you may buy western feeders in the late summer or early fall for use in this project. At least 15 spring lambs are required. If the lambs are owned in partnership with a parent or some other adult, or if they are cared for under a management agreement, 125 lambs are required. A county tour of such projects and a trip thru the terminal market are suggested in place of an exhibit.

This project will usually last for about 4 months.

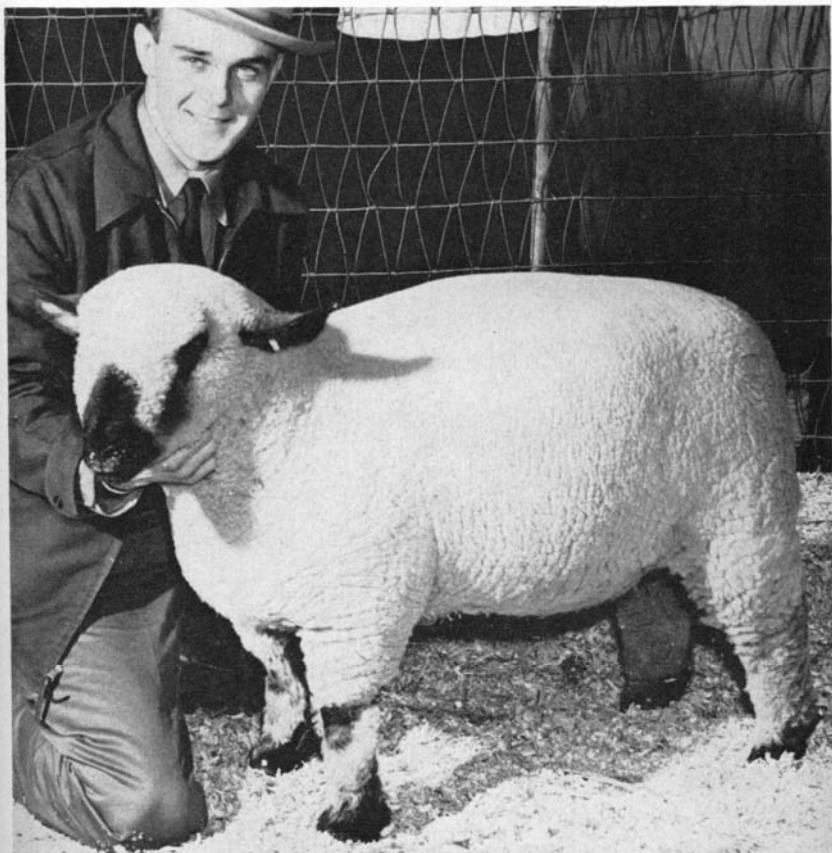
(For more information on lamb feeding, 4-H members should refer to Illinois Circular 523, "Fattening Lambs for Market.")

Records and Exhibits

In each of these projects you must keep records of the kind, amount, and value of all feeds fed, with notes on the care and management of your animals. Record books for this purpose will be supplied by your farm adviser.

You must also exhibit at a show arranged by the county committee, except if you are entered in the lamb feeding project. In that project you can substitute a tour.

At the end of your project, you must submit a completed record book to your local leader. The record book must include a story of your work.

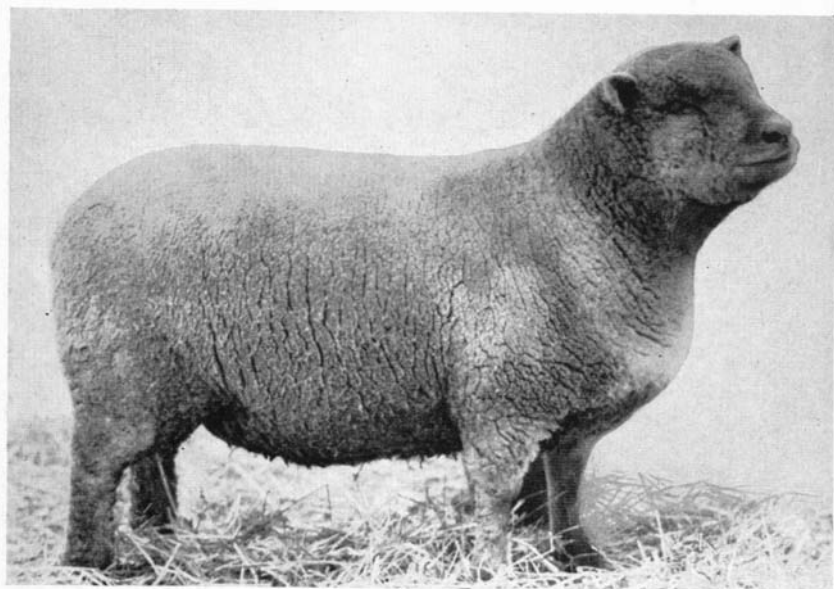


A good type of wether lamb. This wether has depth, width, general smoothness and compactness, and easy fattening qualities. (Fig. 1)

ESTABLISHING THE FLOCK

The *market* phase of sheep production will perhaps give you the best start. But if you enjoy caring for sheep you will also want to develop a flock of *breeding ewes* some time. In the breeding project you can learn more about caring for sheep and you can make some money. It is a good way for you to start in the real business of raising sheep.

Small flock has advantages. It is best to have at least two ewes for a breeding project. More than two may be desirable,



Here is a typical champion Southdown ewe. Note straight body lines, showing excellent capacity for feed. The fleece is even, dense, and of good quality. The legs are moderately short and rugged. (Fig. 2)

but 10 is as large a flock as you are likely to be able to handle the first year without neglecting the learning side of your project.

With a small flock you can study each ewe and learn to recognize the type that is prolific and motherly and will give enough milk to grow her lambs rapidly. You can also become skillful in recognizing certain advance symptoms of ill health, a skill that every good shepherd has.

Select ewes carefully. In the *sheep flock projects* you may use either purebreds or grades. Grades are suitable for beginning. Later you will find more satisfaction if you use purebreds, choosing a breed suited to modern conditions. Whether you decide to use grades or purebreds, select the individuals carefully.

When buying ewes try to have them meet these standards:

1. Age, one to four years.
2. Sound, especially in udder and teats.
3. Well-grown, healthy, and vigorous.
4. Evenly covered with a dense fleece of good quality.

5. Straight in body lines and showing capacity for feed.
6. Uniform in size and breeding.
7. Showing good breed type if purebred.

Use younger ewes. If you are a beginner, the ideal ewe for you is a yearling or one that is two or three years old. Ewes at these ages are in their prime for both lamb and wool production. Yearling ewes may be the best investment because they are increasing in their productive powers.

Ewes as old as four or five years may be useful for two or three years; but if you use them, someone who is a good judge should help you select them. Ewes that are six years old or older are often on the decline as lamb and wool producers and should not be selected for the project unless the price is low.

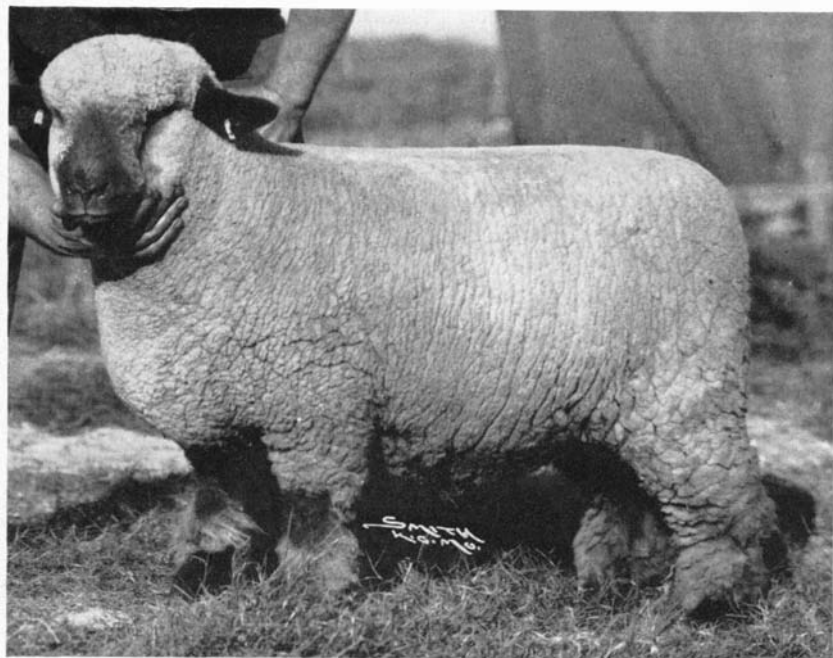
Neither is it wise to choose ewe lambs for the breeding project. Because they are so young, some of them will not be good mothers. Also if they are bred to raise lambs when they are only a year old, their full development is likely to be delayed.

Note condition of udder. Give careful attention to this point if you are buying ewes that have raised lambs. A sound udder is soft and pliable, showing no hard sections. The teats are free from injury and hard cores. Sometimes shearers accidentally cut off the ends of the teats. In healing, the milk channel is closed and the teat is useless. Avoid ewes with udders that show any abnormal condition.

Inspect teeth. It is especially important to do this if the ewes are over four years old. Usually the appearance of the front teeth indicates the condition of the mouth. Do not buy old ewes that have lost any teeth unless you can buy them cheap and give them ground feeds.

Consider general health. Sheep of good health and vigor are lively and energetic. They have bright, clean skin of deep pink color (except in some individuals of the dark-faced breeds). Their eyes are bright and there is plenty of red blood showing in the veins inside the eyelids.

Poor health is indicated by coughing, pale skin, dry, harsh wool, chronic scouring, and a very thin condition. Of course some ewes may be thin because they have been suckling lambs and have not had enough feed. It is all right to buy such ewes if they



This champion of the Hampshire breed shows the deep and wide body of an excellent breeding ewe. She is strongly made, and her head shows no coarseness. The dense fleece of good quality extends even to the hocks. (Fig. 3)

are otherwise desirable, but unthrifty ewes should not be purchased, for they may be infested with internal parasites and may not have a good constitution.

Examine fleece. Too often the fleece of breeding ewes is not carefully examined. A grade ewe yielding less than an 8-pound fleece should be discarded unless she is an unusually good producer of lambs.¹ To get a fleece of desirable weight, the body must be densely covered with wool of good length — at least 2½ inches for one year's growth. The belly should be well covered and the wool should extend at least to the knees and hocks.

A good fleece is even in quality, bright in color, free from dark fibers, and shows crimps or waves from the tip of the fiber

¹ Purebred ewes of such breeds as Suffolk, Southdown, Cheviot, Dorset, and Hampshire often produce less than this amount of wool.

to the skin. A dense, compact fleece that completely covers the body not only will sell for more money but will protect the ewe's health. It will protect her from rain and lessen the effects of sudden changes in temperature. A complete covering of wool on the face, altho sought by some breeders of certain breeds, is of no practical importance and is often a handicap.

Note general form. The best breeding ewes are deep and wide in their chests, middles, and hindquarters. Their bodies are strongly made but their heads show no coarseness. Their backs are straight and strong. Their legs are moderately short and rugged. Select ewes with these qualities whenever you can.

Look for good size and good breeding. More uniform and more valuable lamb and wool crops are likely to come from ewes of good size and good breeding. With capacious bodies and straight body lines, such ewes tend to have well-formed and well-nourished lambs. And such lambs are ready for market sooner than others.

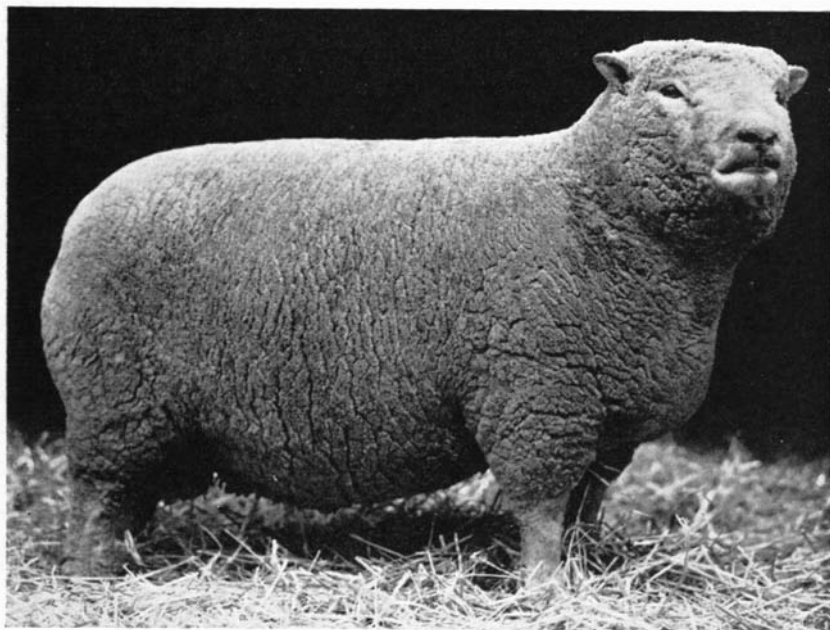
If you decide to buy purebred ewes, ask your farm adviser for names of breeders, or write the COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE at Urbana. In selecting the ewes, you should have the help of someone who knows the characteristics of the breed desired.

Select a purebred ram. While you may get good lambs from a grade ewe, you should have a purebred ram for breeding. To have a good ram is more important than to have high-class ewes, for by the continued use of good purebred rams a grade flock can be greatly improved. With purebred rams of poor quality, or with grade rams, but little improvement is possible.

See that your ram is —

1. Of medium size for the breed, or larger.
2. Active, vigorous, and from one to three years old.
3. Masculine in head features and strong in constitution.
4. Symmetrical and evenly developed.
5. Covered with firm flesh but not real fat.
6. Strong and straight in the legs.
7. Evenly covered with a dense fleece.

Study the pictures on pages 10 and 13 to see what good rams look like.



This Southdown ram is a good specimen of a mature ram. He is short-legged, rugged, masculine, and alert. (Fig. 4)

IN THE BREEDING SEASON

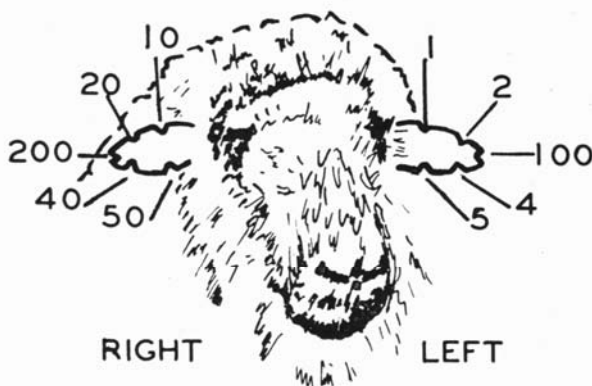
Club members often find it best to "go together" to secure rams for the club. If you do this in your club, you can breed the ewes as a flock and save the expense and trouble of each member buying a ram, but you will have to arrange for a suitable pasture where your flocks can be kept during the breeding season.

Have ewes in good condition. At mating time see that the ewes are gaining rather than losing weight. If they are thriving, they are more likely to come in heat and all may be bred within three or four weeks.

Ewes that have raised lambs may be thin. So about two weeks or a month before the ram is put with them, give them extra feed by turning them into better pasture than they have had or give each about $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of grain each day in addition to their usual pasture feed.

Legumes, or legumes and grasses, or a fresh growth of good bluegrass, timothy, or mixed grasses make excellent pasture for the breeding season.

Marking ewes and lambs. The ewes belonging to each club member can be given a distinguishing mark by a series of notches clipped in the edge of the ears (see below). These notches serve as numbers and will identify each member of the flock. If the lambs are marked too, you will be able to identify them and to know which dam they belong to. These notches can be made with an ear marker or a punch.



Notching the ears of ewes and lambs is a good way to identify them. By a system of 5 notches in each ear any number up to 399 can be built up very easily. On the left ear a single notch stands for 1, 2, 4, 5, or 100, according to its position. To indicate 3, 6, 7, or 9, you use two notches in this ear (1 and 2 = 3, 4 and 2 = 6, 5 and 2 = 7, 5 and 4 = 9); 8 needs three notches (1, 2, 5). On the right ear, combinations of notches will give numbers 30, 60, 70, 80, or 90; a notch in the tip stands for 200. To build the number 127 requires 4 notches: at positions 100, 5, and 2 in the left ear and at 20 in the right ear. Number 238 requires 6 notches: at tip and at positions 10 and 20 of the right ear, then at positions 1, 2, and 5 in the left ear. (Fig. 5)

Another way to mark sheep is to insert initialed and numbered metal tags on the underside of the ear fairly close to the head. Still another method, which is only temporary, is to stencil some number or mark on the back or sides of the ewes and lambs. Soluble paint or Kemp's branding fluid is used for this purpose. (*Do not use ordinary paint* — the manufacturer cannot get it out of the wool with the usual cleaning process.)

Trimming docks and feet. It is good practice to pen the ewes and look them over carefully before turning them with the ram. Filth around the dock, known as "tags," should be clipped off with the shears. If the feet are uneven, they should be trimmed. Uneven feet may make an animal stand wrong; or the outer part of the hoof may turn under and form a pocket that fills with dirt and causes the hoof to become diseased.

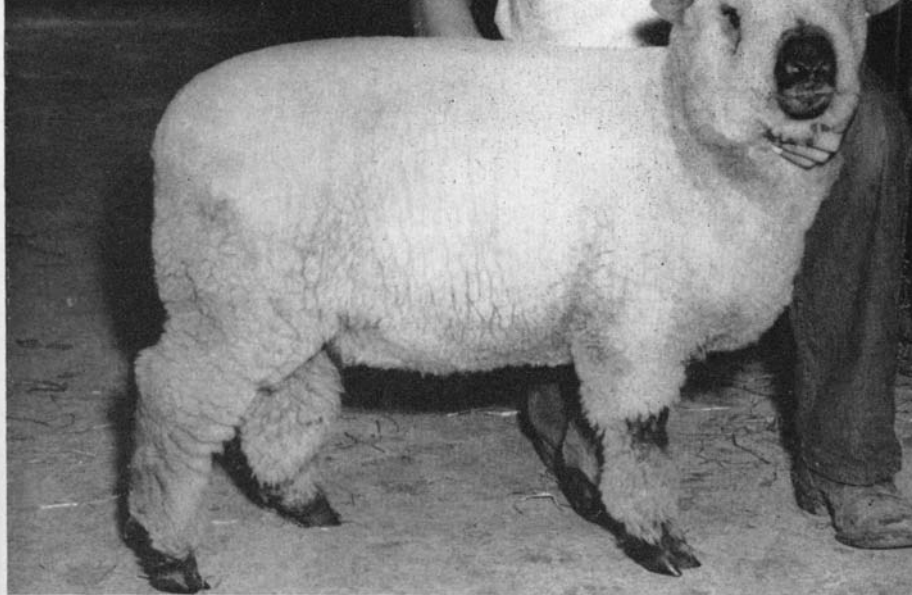
A pair of sharp pruning shears or a pocket knife is a good tool for trimming feet. Set the sheep on its rump and cut off the surplus part of the hoof. When properly trimmed, the sides of the hoof will be level with the sole. It is much easier to trim the feet if the sheep have been on damp pasture and their feet have been wet for an hour or more.

Keep ram in good condition. The ram will be most active if in medium flesh during the breeding season. If he is of medium size or larger (as recommended), he should have at least one pound of some grain mixture each day if he is to be kept in good condition. Three parts of oats and one part of wheat bran by weight is a good mixture.

If the ram is heavily woolled, clip short the wool on his belly for several inches in front of the penis before turning him in with the ewes, or shear him completely.

A vigorous ram one to four years old will serve 35 to 50 ewes even if allowed to run with them all the time during the mating season. Leave the ram with the ewes until you are fairly certain that all of them have been served. Note the behavior of the ram. If he grazes somewhat apart from the ewes, it is likely that the ewes have ceased or about ceased to come in heat. If he appears not to be serving the ewes, it will be best to try another ram. Generally, ewes of the mutton-type breeds do not begin coming in heat in Illinois until September.

Try to determine the date the ewes are bred. Your record may be merely the date the ram was turned in with them, or you may make daily or weekly observations. If you daub some marking fluid every two days between the front legs of the ram, he will mark the ewes he serves. Such marking fluids can be made by mixing enough lamp black or red or yellow ochre with cylinder oil to make a thick paste.



This winning Shropshire ram lamb at the 1948 State Fair is a good type to select. Compare his qualities with those listed on page 9. (Fig. 6)

Sixteen or 17 days after first marking the ram, you can use fluid of a different color. This will enable you to detect when the ewes are bred, and thus you can keep an accurate record. With such a record you can prepare for lambing time better.

Arrange breeding date to fit good lambing time. If they can be given protection from cold, it is usually best to breed ewes to lamb in February or March. If the lambs are not to be kept for show or for breeding, they should be ready for market at weaning time. This will be in June or July, when they are four months old, if they are from large breeds. If they are from small breeds, it will be about six months before they are ready. This plan has these advantages:

1. You have time in February and March to devote to lambing.
2. Well-fed lambs marketed at weaning time still have their "baby fat," which they may later lose. This fat is costly to replace.
3. Lambs often do not gain weight during July and August because of hot weather and parasites. If dropped early, they are better able to resist these hardships.
4. Lambs weighing 75 to 90 pounds usually bring good prices in June and July.
5. Early lambs will be better developed than late lambs when most of the shows come.

PREPARING FOR WINTER

Make plans for feed and shelter. Preparation for the winter season means looking ahead to see that you have plenty of suitable feeds, proper pasture, and comfortable quarters for ewes and lambs. The house pictured on page 15 is a good house for a small flock.

Protect against ticks and lice. The best time to dip sheep is in the spring about two weeks after shearing. But be sure to examine the flock thoroly for parasites before cold weather comes in the fall and before putting ewes and rams into winter quarters. If they have any parasites, such as ticks or lice, dip them or spray them thoroly. You can buy prepared dips. Directions for using these dips are usually on the container.

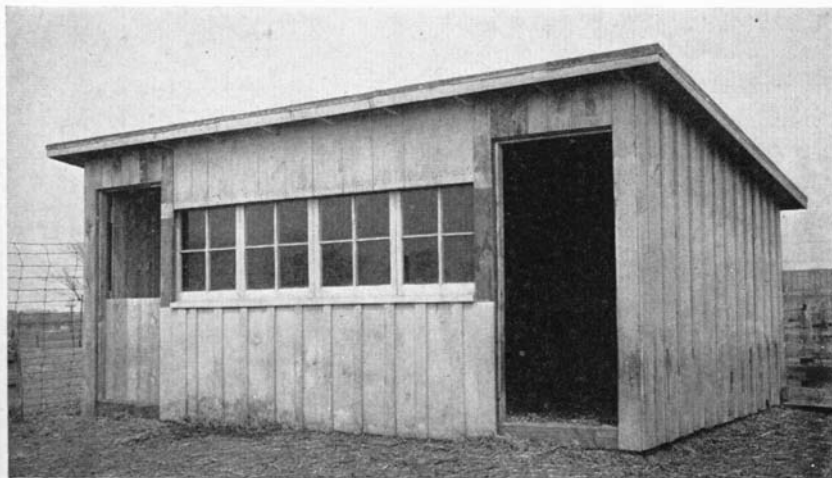
Do the dipping or spraying on a warm day to avoid colds. (Further suggestions for dipping will be found in Farmers' Bulletin 798 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

CARE OF EWES DURING PREGNANCY

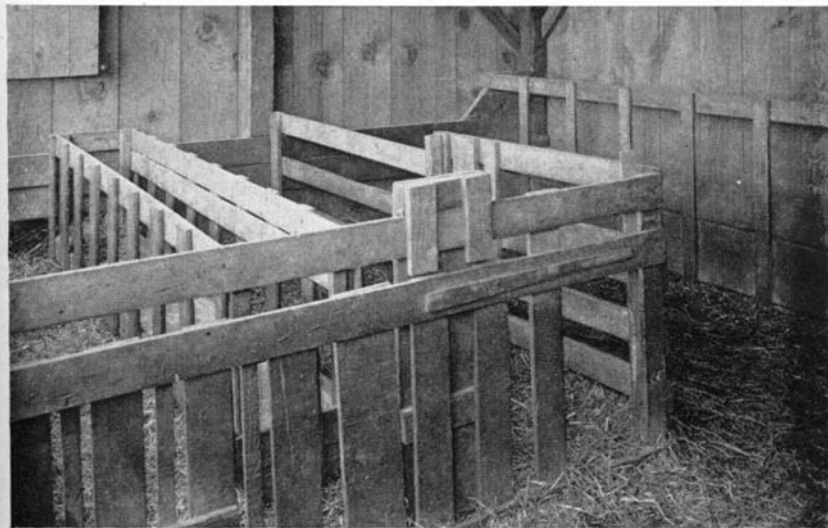
Shelter and exercise. Sheep do not need a warm shelter except during the lambing period. A three-sided shed, open to the south, dry and free from cracks, is ideal.

Pregnant ewes should always be protected from cold rains and storms. Provide a shed that has wide doors and is free from sharp projections which could injure a ewe and cause her to lose her lamb. Before lambing, an allowance of 10 square feet per ewe is barely enough. After lambing, each ewe should have at least 16 square feet. It is best not to turn ewes in with cattle or hogs.

Exercise is needed by all sheep to keep them vigorous and healthy. It is especially needed by pregnant ewes. Weakness and paralysis just before lambing are commonly caused by too little exercise and faulty feeding. Turned on pasture during the day, ewes will get good exercise. If you can't turn them on pasture, you can drive them half a mile each day. But never subject ewes to violent exercise such as walking thru deep mud or very heavy snow.



Good house for a small flock. With 2 doors and 4 sliding window sashes, a house of this type will serve for a small flock in practically all kinds of weather. Note the half-doors. These can be used to confine the flock and yet give plenty of ventilation. (Fig. 7)



House is well arranged inside. Note penned-off section for the lambs, with a door too small for the ewes to enter. A feed rack for the lambs is inside the inclosure, and another for the ewes is built along the back wall. The house is well lighted and bedded. To keep ewes and lambs healthy, good straw must be used and the house cleaned frequently. (Fig. 8)

Rations for ewes. Early in the pregnancy period you can let your ewes glean over the entire farm after the crops have been taken off, cleaning up stubble fields and fence corners. At this time they can utilize rough, waste feeds as a part of their ration. But if you want the lambs to be well grown, you will have on hand a good supply of other suitable feeds for the ewes while they are pregnant and later for both nursing ewes and their lambs.

Here are some rations that supply what pregnant ewes need. You can select one that fits your feed supply. The amounts are for ewes weighing 125 to 150 pounds. (*Your ewes should not weigh less than 125 pounds when in good condition or you will not get fast-growing lambs.*) For the larger ewes use the larger amounts of feed indicated.

First 3½ to 4 months of pregnancy

Ration 1	<i>Pounds per day</i>	Ration 2	<i>Pounds per day</i>
Legume hays	1½ to 3	Corn silage	3 to 4
Pasture: bluegrass, etc.		Legume hays	2 to 3

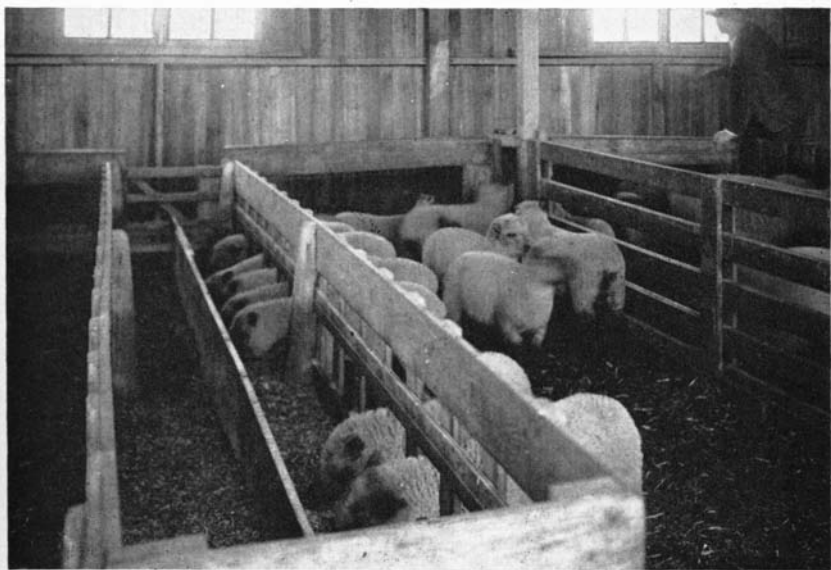
Last month or 6 weeks

Ration 3	<i>Pounds per day</i>	Ration 4	<i>Pounds per day</i>
Oats and corn in equal parts	½ to ¾	Oats and corn in equal parts	½ to ¾
Legume hays	3 to 4	Legume hays	2 to 3
		Corn silage	2 to 3

Ration 5

	<i>Pounds per day</i>
Mixture of oats 5 parts, corn 3 parts, bran 1 part, and soybean or linseed meal 1 part	½ to ¾
Legume hays	3
Corn silage	2

Ewes wintered on good clean clover or alfalfa hay usually get plenty of protein and mineral matter. Pasture and legume roughage may be expected to provide the vitamins. Besides



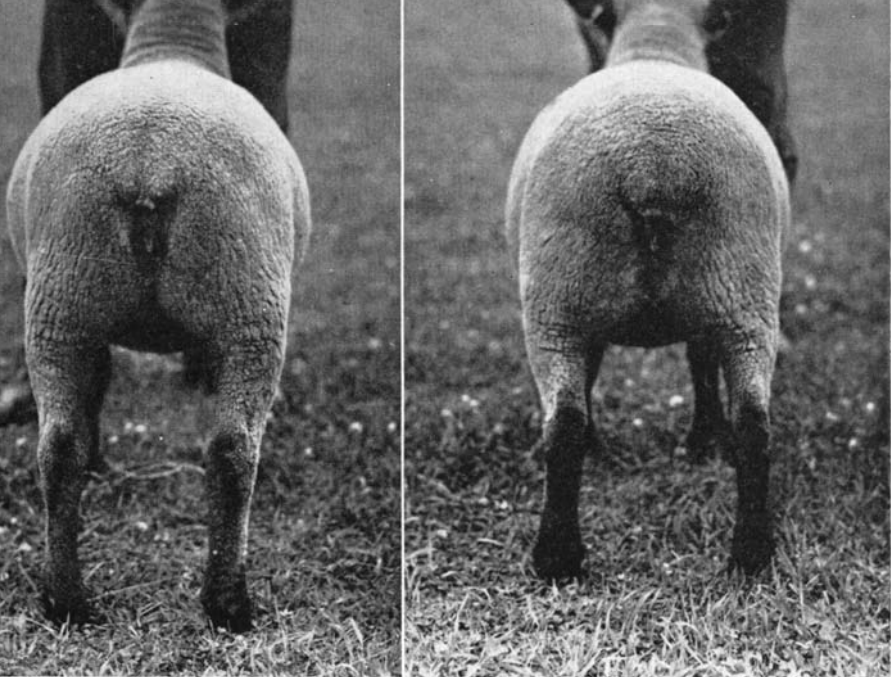
A well-designed feed rack. This rack has space for grain as well as hay. Note dividing board down the center. Sheep can feed from both sides at once, tho they happened to be collected on one side when this picture was taken. The straight sides prevent chaff from falling into the fleece. Sheep should be kept away from a rack when feed is being put into it. (Fig. 9)

these feeds, corn, oats, and perhaps some soybean, linseed, or cottonseed cake or meal should be available. Cake or meal is especially needed if oat straw or corn stover is used in the ration, for these two feeds are short in protein.

During the entire period of pregnancy the ewes should gain 15 to 25 pounds. This gain is needed because a ewe will lose at least this much at lambing time in the weight of the lamb and the surrounding membranes and fluids.

Provide suitable feed racks. Sheep are dainty in their feeding habits and relish clean feed. The matter of providing suitable racks and troughs is therefore important. They should be so constructed as to make feeding and cleaning easy, cut down feed waste, and keep the fleece as clean as possible.

There are many types of feed racks, but the kind shown above is easy to make and is very satisfactory.

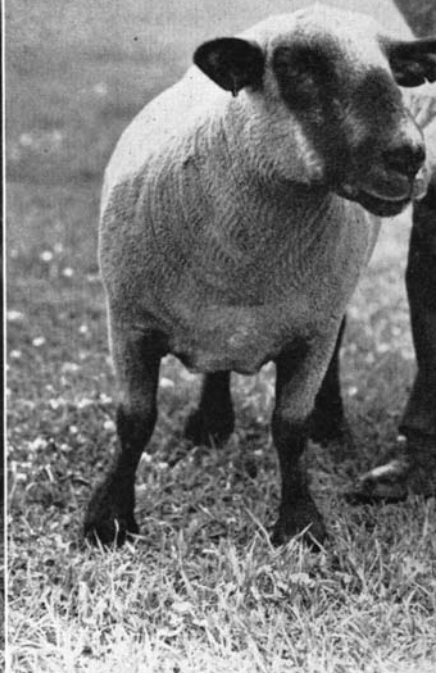


(Fig. 10)

Even within the same breed, ewes may differ markedly. A beginning manager of a breeding herd should learn how to choose the better ones.

(Fig. 12)





(Fig. 11)

In the pairs of pictures shown here, the better ewe is on the right. She has shorter legs, thicker hind quarters, shorter neck, and is more compact.

(Fig. 13)



IN THE LAMBING PERIOD

Have a separate pen for each ewe. Plan to give extra attention to the flock at lambing time. Among other things, you will want to make individual lambing pens where you can put the ewes as they show signs of lambing. Some club members make these pens by placing together hurdles 4 to 6 feet long. By having each hurdle in two parts fastened together with hinges, you can easily arrange the pens. Keep the pens clean and bed them with clean straw.

For 2 or 3 days after a ewe lambs, keep her and her lamb in the separate pen. Then turn her and the lamb into the larger area with others. If the weather is cold, find some way to provide a warm place for the newborn lamb so it will not chill.

Give attention to feed and water. Most ewes eat less as lambing time nears, for they cannot handle so much bulk then as earlier. This is one reason for using grain, but much grain just before lambing is not good either. A ewe that is properly fed will show a somewhat laxative condition at lambing. Plenty of water at this time is very important.

Have necessary supplies on hand. Before the lambing season starts, have these drugs and appliances on hand:

1. Epsom salts, castor oil, or raw linseed oil, to be used as laxatives.
2. Tincture of iodine to be used on navels and swollen udders.
3. Swan-bill nipples and bottles for feeding milk to orphan lambs.
4. A metal syringe for giving some kinds of medicines to ewes and lambs.

Know how to help a ewe in labor. Anyone who is caring for lambing ewes should know how to give first aid in an emergency. Every club member should therefore learn certain first-aid measures and should have experienced help.

If there is a good veterinarian within reasonable distance, get acquainted with him and be ready to call him if help is needed. If the veterinarian lives some distance away, and the ewes are grades, you may find that it won't pay to call him for anything but serious cases and for contagious diseases.

Most ewes, except those of a few breeds, are usually able to

deliver their lambs without help. When a ewe is giving birth to her lamb, do not disturb her as long as everything seems to be going well.

If a ewe is making little or no progress after much laboring, she must have help. Then the first thing to do is to find out in what position the lamb is. Normally it should come forefeet first, with the nose lying between the forelegs. If it is in this position, pull steadily on the lamb slightly downward toward the ewe's udder and use most strength in pulling when the ewe labors. Be sure to keep the head coming with the forefeet.

There is sometimes a membrane, or covering, over the nose of the lamb. Remove this as quickly as possible after the lamb is born. (Some lambs die because of this membrane over the nose.) Then put tincture of iodine on the navel cord of the newborn lamb to help prevent infection.

Sometimes lambs appear with hind legs first. Lambs delivered in this position will usually live if delivery is completed quickly. Before trying to help the ewe, especially if you must get the lamb into the proper position, be sure to disinfect your hand and smear it with vaseline or oil. Be careful not to tear the parts of the ewe. If you have large hands, it may be better not to attempt the operation but have someone else do it.

Watch ewe closely for several days. Soon after the lamb is born, draw a little milk from the ewe to make sure the milk channels are open and the lamb can get the milk. Watch the ewe carefully for several days. Notice whether she casts the placenta (afterbirth) and whether her feces are normal. Most healthy ewes pass the placenta within 20 minutes to an hour after the lamb is born. If yours does not pass it, call a veterinarian.

Feed according to appetite. Encourage the ewe to eat by giving her good feed. If she does not eat, her appetite may be stimulated by giving her, three times each day, a teaspoonful each of tincture of gentian and ginger in half a pint of lukewarm water. Watch the condition of her udder. Milk her if the lamb does not take most of the milk — this reduces the danger of a caked udder. Do not expose the ewe to cold drafts. Give her all the water she wants but not much at one time, and see that it is

not so cold as to chill her. Give her good feed, such as clover hay and oats, but feed grain sparingly for 2 or 3 days after the lamb is born.

A drench may be needed. Do not worry if the ewe refuses to eat for the first 3 to 6 hours after lambing, but if she continues not to eat, make sure her bowels are in good condition. If she is constipated give, as a drench —

4 ounces ($\frac{1}{3}$ pint) of raw linseed oil *or*
4 to 5 ounces of epsom salts dissolved in water

For a very quick-acting physic, give —

2 ounces (4 tablespoons) of raw linseed oil *with*
4 ounces of epsom salts

Suckling ewes need plenty of good feed. After the lambs are 3 or 4 days old, give their mothers a liberal allowance of nourishing feeds. This is the time the good milking ewe proves her worth. Such a ewe often raises twin lambs better than a poor milker will raise a single lamb. For a ewe weighing about 150 pounds a good ration is:

Oats, 50 pounds	} Mix and feed 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds daily
Corn, 30 pounds	
Wheat bran, 10 pounds	
Soybean or linseed meal, 10 pounds	

Alfalfa, clover, or soybean hay: 3 to 4 pounds daily

Also you may give the ewes good silage. You can use Rations 3, 4, or 5 shown on page 16 if you increase the amount of grain about $\frac{1}{2}$ pound. Remember that suckling ewes need grain until you put them on good pasture.

Examine udder frequently. If the ewe's udder is swollen, keep it milked out and paint it twice a day with tincture of iodine until the swelling begins to go down. Then paint it only once a day until you are sure that further treatment is unnecessary. If pus forms, make an opening for drainage and wash the affected part once a day with a good disinfectant. Veterinarians make use of drugs in treating mastitis, but beginners should not use them.

Remove all ewes that have swollen udders to comfortable quarters away from other ewes, for their trouble may be caused by an infection which might spread thru the flock. Since milk

from swollen udders may be poisonous, the lambs should be taken from their mothers and fed by hand until the swelling of the udder goes down and the milk is again normal.

Sore teats in ewes are most often caused by pocklike sores. As soon as you notice such sores, open them and wash the part twice daily with a good disinfectant or treat it with tincture of iodine. If the ewe refuses to let the lamb nurse, you will have to milk the ewe and feed the lamb.

Some lambs need special care. A strong lamb whose mother has milk needs little attention except perhaps to see that it finds the teat. But if its mother has no milk, the best thing to do at first is to take a little from a ewe that has more than enough for her own lamb. The next best thing is to feed the lamb some cow's milk, giving it about 2 tablespoonfuls every 2 or 3 hours. The milk should be warm (about 90° F.). Keep all the utensils that you use for the milk thoroly clean.

Here is a good schedule for feeding an "orphan" lamb:

<i>If your lamb is —</i>	<i>Feed it daily</i>	<i>Give these amounts of milk at each feeding</i>
1 to 6 days old.....	8 to 6 times	1 to 2 ounces
1 to 2 weeks old.....	6 to 4 times	3 to 6 ounces
2 to 3 weeks old.....	4 times	6 to 8 ounces
3 to 4 weeks old.....	4 to 3 times	8 to 10 ounces
4 to 6 weeks old.....	3 times	10 to 16 ounces
6 to 8 weeks old.....	3 times	16 to 32 ounces

Help a weak lamb. A lamb too weak to stand to nurse must have help. See that it gets a fill of its mother's milk soon after birth. If it is eager to nurse, back the ewe into a corner and hold the lamb to the teat. If it does not want to nurse, arouse its interest by milking into its mouth. If it still will not nurse, draw some milk from the ewe and feed the lamb from a bottle until it gains in strength and develops a strong appetite.

Prevent lambs from chilling. By thoughtful preparation and careful attention you should be able to prevent chilling and similar troubles. If a lamb does become chilled, one of the best ways to handle it is to place it — all but its head — in water as warm as your elbow can bear. Keep the water at this temperature until the lamb becomes somewhat lively. Then take it out

of the bath and rub it briskly with a coarse cloth until it is dry. Now feed it, wrap all but its nose in a thick blanket or cloth, and put it in a warm place to sleep. When it has become strong you can return it to its mother.

Have each ewe raise a lamb. If a ewe disowns her lamb, try to get her to claim it. Since a ewe recognizes her lamb at first wholly by smell, it may help to smear some of her milk on her own nose and on the rump of her lamb. Another way is to tie the ewe in the lambing pen, where you can hold her and force her to let the lamb nurse often. Usually you will not need to do this for more than 3 or 4 days.

When the disowned lamb is one of a pair of twins, place the twins in a pen next to the ewe's so that she can see them both. Then, always put both lambs with her at the same time for feeding, and in her eagerness to nurse the lamb she claims she will usually let the other nurse also.

If a ewe loses her lamb and has a good supply of milk, try to have her raise another — an orphan or one not getting enough from its own mother. If she has just lost her lamb, you may coax her to take another if the skin of the dead lamb is removed at once and placed on the stranger. But don't leave the skin on for more than a few hours. You may also use the suggestions given before for getting a ewe to claim her own lamb.

CARE OF THE GROWING LAMB

Be very particular about a lamb's feed. Economy is a good watchword in raising lambs, but it can be emphasized too much, and a poor, thin lamb result. As you gain in experience you will come to know how each lamb is reacting to its feed, and you will know better what to do for each one.

Lambs start to eat grain and hay when they are 8 to 16 days old, and you must be prepared to satisfy their appetites for such feeds. As this is the time the lambs make the greatest gains for the amount of feed they eat, a good shepherd makes the most of this period. Until lambs are 5 or 6 weeks old, the grain for them should be ground. After they are 6 weeks old, you can feed whole grain unless it is very hard.

Here is a grain mixture that is recommended for young lambs:

Corn (ground for first 5 or 6 weeks)	20 pounds
Oats (crushed for first 5 or 6 weeks)	20 pounds
Soybean or linseed oil meal	10 pounds
Wheat bran	10 pounds

With this mixture it is well to give a legume hay — clover, alfalfa, lespedeza, or soybean — that is clean and bright. This ration is especially good because it has variety and therefore stimulates the appetites of the lambs, making them grow better than less complete rations do. The wheat bran and oats contain needed mineral matter and add bulk to the ration, helping the lambs grow into better feeders. However, if the lambs get good legume hay, you can use a grain mixture of only ground corn and crushed oats (equal parts by weight) instead of the full grain mixture above, and get rather good results.

Feed only the choicest hays and grains to lambs. Cut hay may have advantages but is not necessary.

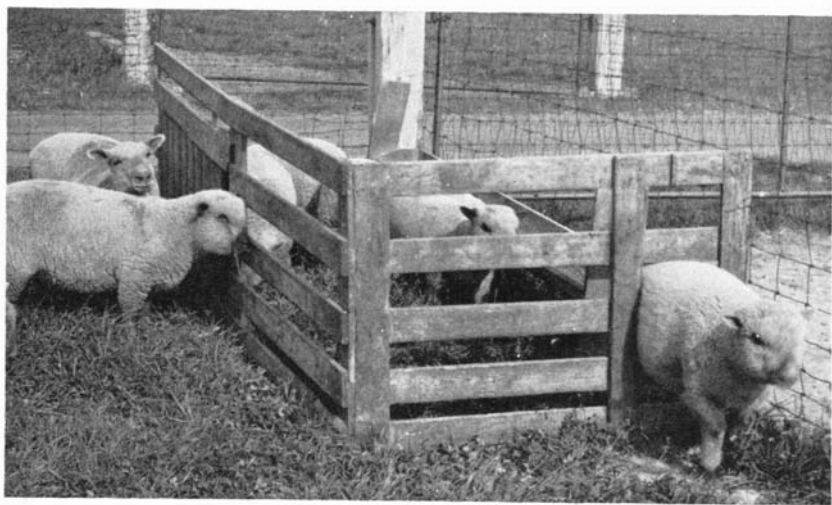
Lambs grow best when they have all the grain and hay they will eat in addition to their mother's milk. It is good practice to put only as much feed in the trough and racks as the lambs will eat in about half a day, because the part that is left after the lambs have eaten from it will not stay fresh long.

Make lamb creeps. A lamb creep is a closed-in place for the lambs only. Make it so the ewes cannot enter (see page 15). Have troughs to hold both grain and hay. A flat-bottomed feed rack like that shown on page 17 is suitable. Keep the feed rack clean.

Dock lambs when two weeks old. It is a great mistake not to dock and castrate lambs that are to be marketed. Many growers do not understand the need for docking and some have a mistaken idea that it is dangerous. Here are three good reasons why lambs should be docked:

1. Unless the tail is removed, filth is likely to collect in the wool. In warm weather this filth makes a good place for maggots to breed. These maggots burrow under the skin, causing sores, infection, and general ill-health.

2. The tail is of no use to the animal, and a long tail on a ewe sometimes interferes with mating.



A lamb creep in the field. These well-fed lambs show the advantage that comes from having their grain where the ewes cannot reach it. (Fig. 14)

3. Buyers favor docked sheep. Such sheep look better, as you can see the development of their hind quarters. Docking is evidence of good shepherding.

Several ways of docking. To dock sheep use either a knife or an emasculator. Probably most club members will use a sharp knife. Have some one hold the lamb as shown on page 27. If you are using a knife, grasp the tail by the end, and with a quick, drawing motion cut it off, leaving a stub about 1 to 1¼ inches long. Tie a string fairly tight around the dock to check bleeding. Disinfect the wound with tincture of iodine. Remove the string in 2 to 4 hours.

The advantage of the emasculator is that it prevents bleeding. In using the emasculator, place it around the tail about an inch from the body (see page 27). The cutting edge must be the farthest from the body. Close the emasculator completely. Open it slowly and remove it carefully. Disinfect the dock as you do when using a knife.

Docking may be done by placing a special rubber band around the tail, or using a hot iron or pincers. None of these ways is as good as the emasculator or knife from the standpoint of quick healing.



Docking with a sharp knife



Docking with emasculator

Two ways to dock a lamb. Hold the lamb securely by both front and back feet. Have another person use the knife or emasculator. If the knife is used, cut the tail with a quick downward motion. The emasculator, rightly used, causes less bleeding than the knife. The handles should be closed completely and opened slowly. Note that the cutting edge is away from the lamb. (Fig. 15)

Castrate lambs early. All grade ram lambs and all but very good purebred ram lambs should be castrated. A castrated lamb is called a *wether* lamb. These are some of the reasons for the operation:

1. Wether lambs almost always sell for more per pound than ram lambs.
2. The carcasses of wether lambs are better than those of ram lambs, as they generally show more quality and have more fat.
3. Wethers are easier to handle than ram lambs and they need not be separated from the ewe lambs.

Ram lambs may be castrated at the same time they are docked. There is little danger in the operation if it is done at the right time (preferably when the lambs are 1 to 2 weeks old) and proper care is taken to have everything sanitary. If you have not had experience, you will need the help of someone who has done such work before. Choose a clear warm day in order to keep the lambs as comfortable as possible and lessen the danger of infection.

There are three quite different methods of castrating. Choose the one that seems most practical to you, but always have another person hold the lamb. Also, unless you are skilful in

doing such work as castrating, it is best to call on a veterinarian for his help.

1. Using a Burdizzo instrument. This instrument is a special type of clamp or pincers used to crush the blood vessels and cords leading to and from the testicles. The testicles are not removed, but they almost completely disappear some time after the operation. This is the way the operation is done: Using one hand, place the jaws of the pincers about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch above one of the testicles. Close the pincers completely on the blood vessels and cords, which you hold in position with the thumb and forefinger of the other hand. Then do the other testicle in the same way.

Carefully and properly done, this operation causes no loss of blood and not much pain; there is no danger of infection, and the method gets the results intended. Of course if an operator is careless, the work may end in failure, but this is not the fault of the method.

2. Using special rubber bands and elastrator. The elastrator stretches a special type of rubber band so that it can be placed around the scrotum above the testicles. The band is tight enough to deprive the scrotum and testicles of nourishment and in the course of 2 or 3 weeks all parts below, and including the band, drop off.

This method is best for use on lambs not over a week old. The tight band causes distress for some time.

3. Completely removing the testicles. If you use this third method, proceed as follows in order to cause the least pain, loss of blood, and danger of infection:

Have someone hold the lamb in position for docking. In this position the lamb is easily controlled and the glands hang well down. Take the end of the scrotum firmly between the thumb and finger of your left hand and pull away from the testicles. Cut off the lower third of the scrotum, using care not to cut into the testicles. Both testicles will then be partly exposed. Push back the membranes covering one testicle, grasp the cords at the upper end of the testicle, and draw these out with the testicle. (If you have an emasculator, place it around the cords and membranes above the point where they are held, and cut them off rather than draw them out.) Remove the second testicle in the same way.

When you have removed both testicles, pour tincture of iodine into the wound and apply a little vaseline or use a sulfa ointment. Place the lamb in a clean, freshly bedded pen or on a clean grass pasture and watch him for a few days. If pus should form in the wound, make an opening to let it drain out and treat the wound as before, with tincture of iodine and vasoline.

Turn ewes and lambs on pasture. When pastures are ready, the ewes and their lambs can get most of their feed from them.

In fact, if the pastures are very good, the ewes will often do well without extra feed.

On some pastures sheep tend to bloat — alfalfa and clover pastures are most likely to cause trouble. Sheep vary considerably in this tendency, and the trouble seems worse some seasons than others. The best way to avoid bloat is to let the ewes and lambs have a good fill of grass before putting them on alfalfa or clover pasture, and to have water and salt available at all times. Then leave them on the pasture both day and night.

If bloat occurs and is severe, relief must be given quickly. The following recommendations are taken from Farmers' Bulletin 1155 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

"In acute cases the flank should be punctured in its most prominent part with a clean trocar and cannula and the trocar withdrawn to allow the gas to escape thru the cannula. A stomach tube or small rubber tube passed down the gullet serves the same purpose. Large doses of antiferments and stimulants, such as aromatic spirits of ammonia, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce in 5 ounces of water, and turpentine, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce in 6 ounces of linseed or castor oil, should be given. Driving the animals thru cold water or pouring cold water over the body is beneficial. Keeping the mouth open by gagging with a smooth stick tied behind the ears, and massaging the paunch with the fist against the left flank, will aid in causing a belching of gas."

Give lambs some grain while on pasture. It is usually a good investment to feed grain to lambs while they are on pasture, so they will grow well and stay fat. Thin lambs do not sell well. At shows fat lambs win the prizes in both the fat and breeding classes. A good grain mixture for lambs after they are 4 or 5 months old is made of:

Whole oats.....	50 pounds
Shelled corn.....	50 pounds
Wheat bran.....	10 pounds
Soybean or linseed oil meal.....	10 pounds

While not so good as the above mixture, whole oats and shelled corn in equal parts by weight make a satisfactory ration on which lambs will do well.

If the lambs have not been weaned, they may be fed $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of grain each day in creeps on the pasture. They will probably not eat more than this if the pasture is very good, but if they want more, they may be given it.

Salt, water, and shade are needed. Sheep must have salt. Keep it before them at all times rather than feeding it only at intervals. They must also have plenty of clean, fresh water if they are to thrive; so it too should be kept before them at all times. In summer, sheep need shade to help keep them comfortable.

Wean lambs at four months. Lambs can be weaned when they are 4 months old. If the ewes are still giving plenty of milk, you can wait another month. If the ewes are giving only a little milk, they and their lambs will be better off, particularly in hot weather, if the lambs are weaned.

In weaning lambs it is best to separate them and their mothers completely. If possible, put the lambs on fresh pasture, where feed is plentiful and where there is no danger of infestation with internal parasites.

You will need to use good judgment in all these matters, remembering that proper feed and health are of first importance.

Watch ewes' udders at weaning. By giving ewes less feed after you have separated them from their lambs, you can quickly check their milk flow. It may be necessary for 2 or 3 days, however, to milk the ewes that have full udders. When their milk flow has been checked and all danger of injury to their udders is past, you may let them glean over the farm and make use of waste roughages, or turn them on good pasture to get them in condition for market or breeding.

GIVE PROMPT ATTENTION TO AILMENTS¹

In caring for sheep keep in mind that you are much more likely to be successful if you always do things a little better than you have to in order to just "get by." Ask yourself: *Do the lambs have the best care and the best feeds that I can give them? Am I doing everything I can to help them grow and stay*

¹ For more detailed information about how to care for sheep ailments see Farmers' Bulletins 1330, "Parasites and Parasitic Diseases of Sheep," and 1943, "Diseases of Sheep and Goats." Both publications can be obtained free from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

healthy? Am I doing the best I can to keep the ewes vigorous and thrifty?

There are some ailments of young lambs that a herdsman should always be on the watch for. The only way to overcome them is to detect them early and treat them promptly. So try to learn to watch for any signs of them.

Navel infection. On page 21 you were advised to disinfect the navel of the newborn lamb. This will not prevent all cases of navel infection, but it is a worth-while aid. If this trouble is once well started, treatment for it usually does not help.

Sore eyes. Young lambs sometimes have sore eyes. As soon as you notice this condition, wash the eyes with a saturated solution of boric acid or apply a 10-percent solution of argyrol with a medicine dropper. Do this twice a day. Some cases of sore eyes last longer than others, and treatment must go on for some time. Turned in eyelids cause sore eyes. If you push the lids to the right position several times a day, they sometimes correct themselves. In very severe cases first clean the area around the eyes and then hold back the eyelids with special adhesive tape. If it seems necessary have a veterinarian stitch the eyelids back.

Sore mouth. Sore mouth in lambs is caused by bacteria or a virus. Vaccination will prevent the trouble. When it occurs, the usual treatment is to remove the scabs and then apply a fairly strong antiseptic, such as tincture of iodine or an ointment, to the sores. In severe cases you will have to repeat the application of antiseptic or ointment.

Pinning. "Pinning" is a trouble that may affect lambs a few days after birth. The first feces (droppings) are very sticky and sometimes collect in such a mass about the tail that they block further passage of feces. This collection must be removed.

Stomach worms. The stomach worm is the most troublesome internal parasite of sheep and lambs in Illinois. The adult worms are about the size of a pin, about 1 inch long, red and white in color, and are found in the fourth compartment of the stomach. Here the females lay enormous numbers of eggs. These eggs pass with the feces and hatch and develop into larvae (worms) on the pastures. When the sheep and lambs graze, these larvae are taken into their stomachs, where they grow into mature worms.

Signs of stomach worms are: loss of appetite, scouring, pale "papery" skin, paleness of the inner part of the eyelids, emaciation, and extreme dullness. Often the lambs die.

Clean pastures help a lot to control stomach worms. Use only clean pastures — those on which no sheep have grazed for a year are fairly safe.

The best treatment for stomach worms is phenothiazine. You can get directions for using it from your farm adviser or by writing to your EXTENSION SERVICE, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana, Ill.

Ticks and lice. Ticks and lice are a common annoyance to sheep. To get rid of them, dip or spray the animals with a good insecticide. When there are many of these pests, the whole flock should be treated. One thoro dipping or spraying with the best materials is enough. The best time to dip is after shearing in the spring.

PROTECT YOUR WOOL CROP

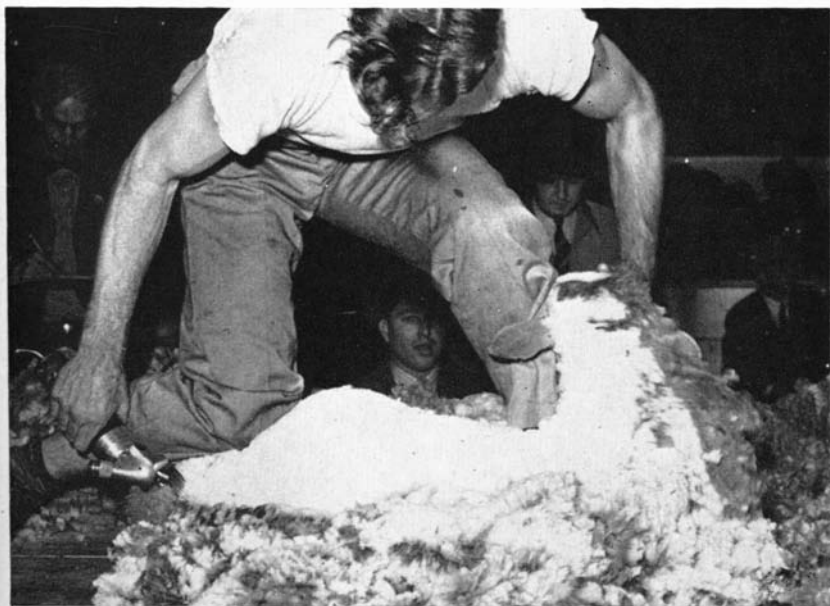
A large part of the income that a sheep raiser gets from his sheep comes from the wool as a rule. That is why it is important to take care of the wool crop. To get the best price for wool it must be good thruout. This means it must be free from dirt, chaff, burs, paint, and such things; and the fibers must all be equal in structure, length, and strength. When wool is sold on a graded basis, you will find it pays to send clean fleeces to market.

Keep fleece clean. You can keep the fleece clean if you are careful enough. For one thing, use pastures that are clean and free from burs. Also, use good feed racks and be careful while feeding the sheep to keep them clean. Do the shearing in clean quarters, too.

Shearing. Sheep should be sheared some time between April 15 and May 15. If you cannot shear your own sheep, you can probably hire a shearer to do it for you. Written directions are helpful if accompanied by good pictures, but even so they are hard to follow. You can learn something about shearing by going to one of the shearing schools held in the spring.

Have a clean, smooth floor, and keep the sheep that are waiting their turns in a clean pen. Power shears like those shown on page 33 are better than hand shears for you can do the best work with them and they are easier to operate. A good shearer follows very closely the outline of the sheep and tries not to cut the sheep or to make "second cuts" in the fleece.

Never shear when the wool is wet. A fleece rolled and tied while it is moist will mildew and be damaged.



Shearing with power shears. Careful shearing is important. A skillful shearer does not cut a sheep, and he keeps the fleece in one piece. (Fig. 16)

Getting fleece ready for market. When a careful job of shearing has been done, the fleece will be clean and in one piece. Put the tag ends aside. Later you can sell the tags separately.

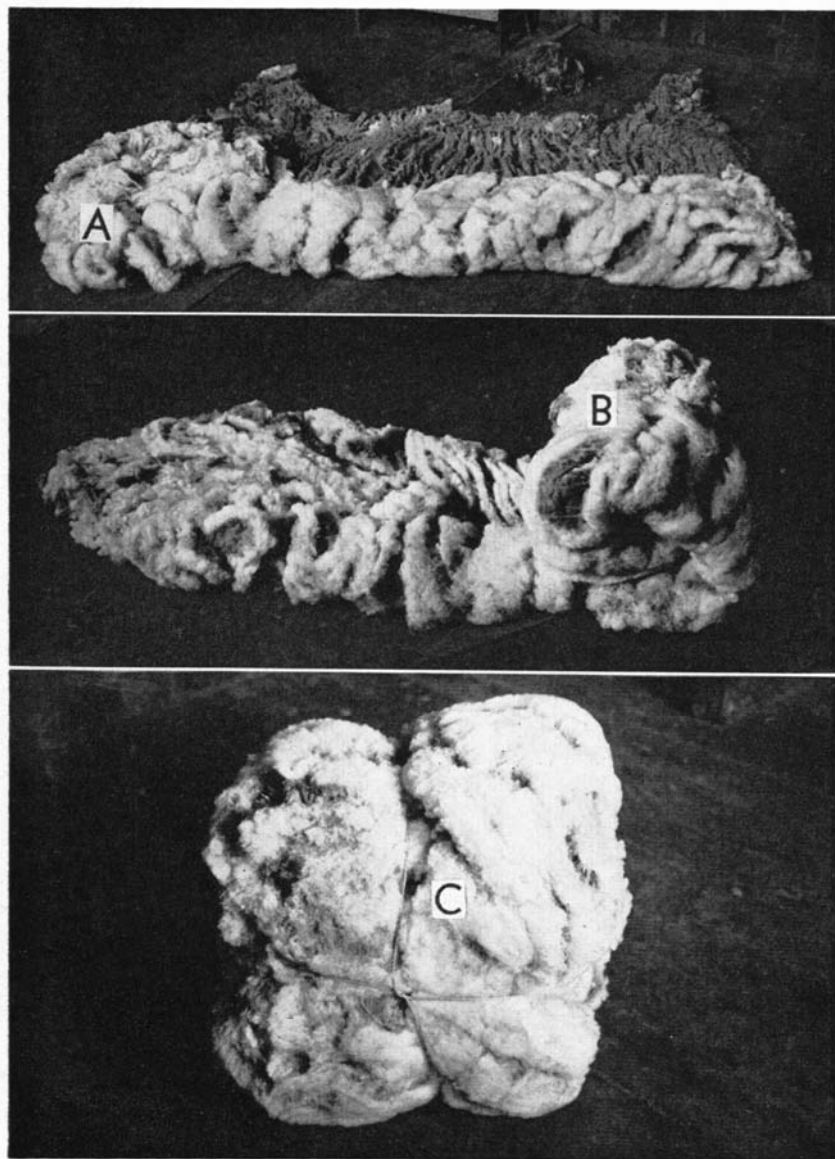
Roll the fleece neatly with the flesh side out. This makes a better-looking roll than with the flesh side in.

Tie the roll with smooth twine — a twine made from paper is best. If you use binder or sisal twine you won't get as much for your wool. Bits of the twine will get into the wool, be woven into the cloth, and make bad places in it. These fibers from the twine are weak and will not take dye well. Paper twine is made especially for tying wool.

Pack the rolled fleece into a standard wool sack. These standard sacks hold about 200 to 250 pounds. Sacks and twine may now be obtained free from the cooperative wool marketing association in Illinois.

Make a list of the weights and descriptions of the fleeces you have to sell. If your club joins a wool "pool," give your list to the secretary.

Marketing the clip. If possible, the entire "clip" of each local club in a county should be placed in a wool "pool." A pool is a



Rolling and tying the fleece. (A) First place the fleece flesh down on a clean floor, and turn in the leg and belly wool. (B) After both sides are turned in, roll the fleece, beginning at the rump. The shoulder wool is now on the outside. (C) Tie the fleece with smooth paper twine. Note how attractive the fleece is when rolled and tied in this way. (Fig. 17)

cooperative marketing enterprise. In a pool you join with other clubs to sell your wool in one lot. Your farm adviser can tell you more about cooperatives and he can arrange a pool. It is probably best for each club to ship its wool in the name of the secretary, who should have a list of the fleeces from each member.

Whether your club pools its clip or sells to a local buyer, you will want to know something about classes and grades of wool.

Classes of wool are based on the *length* of the fiber. Wool that is 2½ inches long or longer is classed as *combing wool* — this is the most valuable class. Wool that is less than 2½ inches long is usually classed as *clothing wool*.

Grades of wool are based on the *fineness* of the wool fibers. One of the common grading systems describes seven different grades: *fine*, *half-blood*, *three-eighths blood*, *quarter blood*, *low-quarter blood*, *common*, and *grade*. Those who wish to know more about this subject are referred to Illinois Circular 534, "The Sheep Enterprise."

A warehouse for handling wool sold cooperatively (thru wool pools) is now operated in Illinois by the Illinois Wool Marketing Corporation. If you make good use of this corporation, you and other club members can learn much about wool grading and marketing.

ENTER LAMBS IN THE SHOW RING

You can be justly proud of a good job of fattening your lambs or of producing and growing out a fine group of grade or pure-bred lambs, but your project does not end there. You still are required to enter your lambs in the show ring, where they will be compared with the lambs of other club members.

Fitting lambs for the show takes in feeding, training, and trimming. Feeding we have already talked about.

Now you will want to train your well-fleshed lamb or lambs for handling by judges. And you will want to trim it according to the rules of experienced shepherds. Then your lamb can make its best showing in the ring.

Training lambs for handling. Skilful shepherding is an art. Knowing how to catch a lamb, how to hold it, how to lead it, and how to show it are important things to learn. They show up the difference between a real sheepman and a novice.

To catch a lamb correctly you grasp its hind leg at the flank or you place your hand under its neck. Catching a sheep by the wool is painful to the animal and may injure it. If you catch one in this way, a good sheepman will say that you have not had good training or that you have not learned how to handle sheep.

You can train a lamb *to stand quietly* and let you hold it in place. Just take hold of the loose skin under its jaw, preferably with your left hand. Most lambs soon learn to stand quietly when held in this way. Any time yours isn't quiet, place your other hand on top of its head or at the dock.

To lead a lamb, hold it in the way just described and push it along with your right hand at its dock.

To show a lamb well, have it stand squarely on all four legs. You can arrange the legs with your right hand if you are holding the lamb with your left. It should stand with its head up and its whole body in position to show best.



A judging contest. By taking part in judging contests, 4-H club members learn the good points of many types of sheep. (Fig. 18)

When examining a lamb for its good points of form, flesh, and fleece, it is important to handle it correctly. A good way is to press down firmly with the finger tips except when grasping such parts as the back, loin, or ribs. Keep your fingers close together *and don't pound and claw the lamb's body*.

After handling the sheep to learn about its form and flesh,

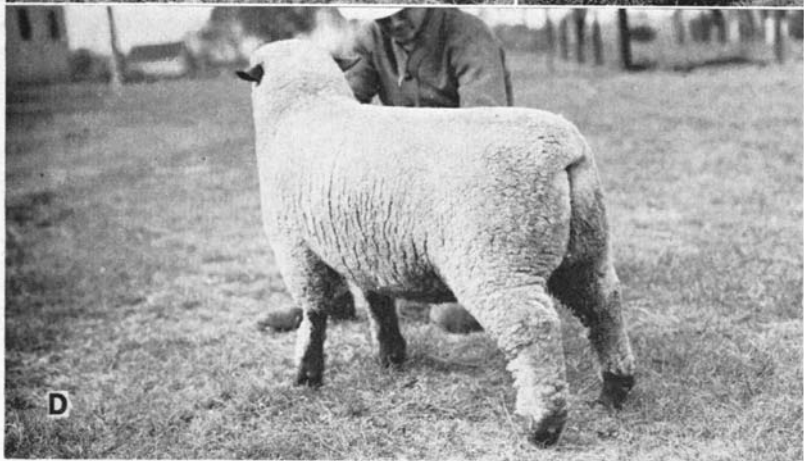
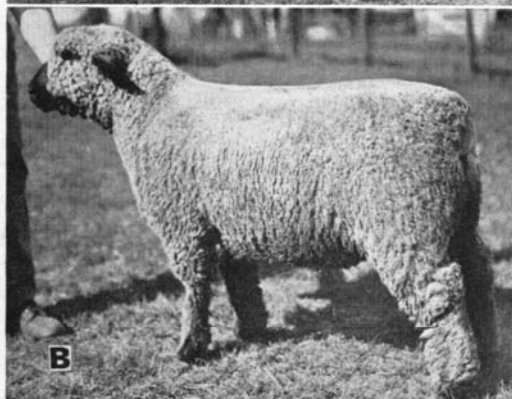
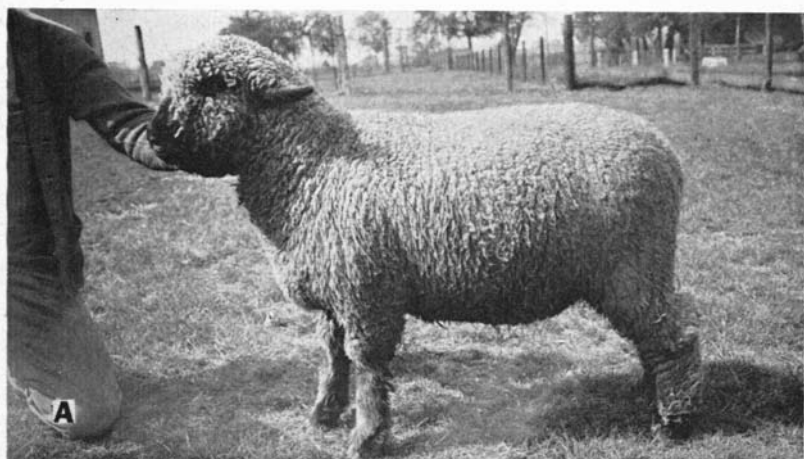


This champion ewe at the Illinois State Fair in 1948 is an example of the good ewes produced by Illinois 4-H members. Winners at the county fairs compete in the State Fair exhibits. Exhibiting at the State Fair is a method breeders use for advertising. 4-H members who are establishing a breeding herd should exhibit at the State Fair in order to let people know about their product. (Fig. 19)

carefully part the fleece on the sheep's side at the shoulder, midrib, and thigh. Now you can study the wool thoroly: its density, evenness, color, crimp, and other qualities. This will help you compare it with the fleeces of other sheep.

When you are through, always remember to rub your hand over the fleece where you examined it, in order to make the surface smooth again.

Never part the fleece on the topline, as that would leave an opening that would be hard to smooth over satisfactorily.



Trimming a lamb for the show. (A) Untrimmed lamb. (B) Straight line established along the back. (C) Sides blocked out and dock squared. (D) The finished job. See opposite page for full instructions. (Fig. 20)

Trimming improves appearance. Good trimming gives a lamb or sheep a straight topline and a straight underline, graceful curves, and a smooth, balanced blending of all parts. A trimmer also hopes to bring out in the animal the strong points of the breed. Skill in trimming a lamb for show comes only with much practice. You can get this practice most easily by working with someone who is skilled.

For the small local shows you may need only to "square up" the lambs and trim off the taggy locks of wool with a pair of sheep shears. For larger shows you need to "block out" your lambs and present them in the show ring the way the older shepherds do.

You can do good work with the equipment shown on page 40: a pail of water, sheep shears, a fiber or "dandy" brush, a round curry comb, and a wool card.

Begin trimming early. Start trimming the lambs 3 or 4 weeks before the show. Repeat the job several times several days or a week apart. Here are suggestions for the mutton type of lamb:

1. Study the animal to be trimmed and try to imagine how you want it to look. Then try to make it like the ideal you have in mind—don't just whittle away.

2. Before each trimming slightly dampen the tip of the fleece and thoroly brush it on all parts of the body. Use the card to "pick" the tips of the fibers and give the fleece a uniform, smooth blended appearance.

3. Have lamb stand squarely on all four legs.

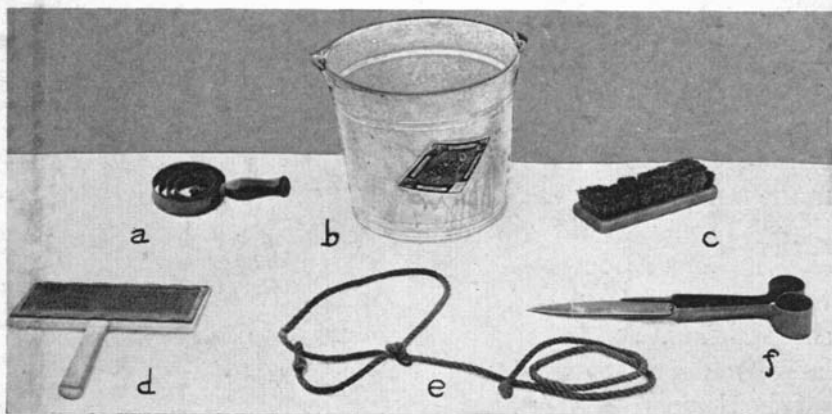
4. Start trimming by "cutting down the back," so it will look straight and broad. Begin at top of shoulder or at rump, and work from one point to the other. The wool, after this is done, is usually not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch long over the loin.

5. Straighten the sides of the lamb in the same way as along the back except that here you leave the wool longer. This makes the sheep look broader.

6. Round and smooth together the back and sides.

7. Trim head and neck to fit well with rest of body.

8. Finally, use back of card to "pack" the fleece and give it a smooth, dense surface. Blanketing the animal helps "condition" the fleece and keep it clean.



Equipment to take to the show. A sheep club member should have these inexpensive tools and become accustomed to their uses before going to the show: (a) curry comb, (b) bucket, (c) fiber brush, (d) wool card, (e) rope halter, (f) wool shears. (Fig. 21)

Washing a lamb. If a lamb's fleece becomes very dirty, you will want to wash the lamb about two months before show time. Use soft water if possible, and add 2 tablespoons of sheep dip to a gallon of water for the bath. For stained parts of the fleece use soap too. After the lamb comes out of the bath, "scrape" it thoroly with a wooden or metal sweat scraper to get the water out of the fleece. You may have to wash the lamb several times to get it clean. See that the fleece dries as soon as possible.

Your real benefits. Of course not every member can win first prize in the same show. Whether you win a prize or not, you can learn many valuable lessons from the experience of showing your animals. It is these experiences that are your real benefits, not the prizes you may win.