

AGRICULTURAL.



Sheep-raising and Wool-growing.

The reports which have been made in relation to the wool crop this season represent that, in nearly if not every county in the State, the clip has been light; far less than it ought to have been from the number of sheep sheared, in consequence of so many flocks having been affected by the disease commonly known as the scab, to that extent that at least one-half of their wool was shed off and lost before shearing-time arrived. This was the result of bad management, and, in consequence of less attention having been given by owners to wool-growing than to sheep-raising, there being a slight, if not a wide difference between those branches of business, and the latter has ever been considered of more importance in these valleys than the former, by a majority of those who have followed the business of keeping sheep; but the neglect and inattention that has been manifested by many in relation to caring for their flocks in a way and manner calculated to increase their numbers as well as to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their wool, has, in many instances, been painful to witness.

Had the people, from the time of their entering these valleys up to the present, been impressed with the importance of raising sheep and producing wool, not for exportation, but for home use and consumption, to the extent that their necessities required, these hills and valleys would have been covered with flocks ere this, without any importations more than have been made. Sheep, when properly taken care of, are very prolific, and the few that were brought here by the first settlers, had they been generally cared for as they ought, they would have multiplied and increased in a ratio many times greater than they have, and there would have been thousands and tens of thousands in the State where there are but hundreds now, and a sufficiency of wool would have been produced for all purposes for which it is used, whereas there is not more than one-tenth as much grown as is needed and would be manufactured if it could be obtained.

The importance of raising sheep, and those of a wool-producing kind, is being more fully understood as time progresses, and if those who are engaged in the business will take that care of their flocks which is due, and raise sheep for their wool rather than mutton, but a short time will elapse before the quantity of wool produced in the State will be increased a hundredfold, and of a better quality than much which has hitherto been grown. Woolen fabrics, to the full extent of the demand, can then be produced, and the people can be clothed in garments of their own manufacture, more serviceable and durable than those they now generally wear, and for which their silver and gold has to be given in exchange. That the country is well adapted to the raising of sheep, all who have had experience in the business testify. Those which are kept and taken care of as they should be are healthy, and there are some as good flocks in Great Salt Lake and other valleys as there are to be found in any country according to their number, but by far too many farmers who have sheep bestow upon them but very little attention, not much, if any more, than they give their cattle and horses, which are turned out upon the ranges to go where they please, in consequence of which, their increase is comparatively small, the sheep become diseased, and die or shed their wool, as many have the past winter, which a little timely care would have prevented.

Whether any of those who had diseased flocks this spring have sheared them and turned them out on the commons or into pastures, without taking measures to cure them of the mange, with which they were affected, we know not, but presume, from the course many have heretofore taken, that some have done so regardless of the consequences to themselves and others; and why men, knowing the result of such proceedings, will be thus slothful and careless about a matter of so much consequence to themselves and to the public, is somewhat mysterious. The expense of curing sheep of the scab is but

trifling, and no diseased flock should be allowed to be kept or herded in proximity to those which are healthy and in good condition, and, so long as they are, the profits arising from the sheep-raising and wool-growing business, to those who persist in following that course, and to those who are effected by it, will be but small. It is hoped, however, that those having sheep will take better care of them in future, and that the evil complained of this season will soon cease and never again exist in Deseret.

Spanish vs. Common Sheep.—The following are the effects of crossing common sheep with good Spanish bucks: Luther Bartlett of Dupage county (Illinois) commenced with Spanish bucks on his flock of five hundred common sheep, five years since, when his yield of wool averaged him but 3½ pounds per head. The past season his whole flock averaged him 5½ pounds, with the same care and attention as formerly given.

An Item for Wool-growers.—Mr. J. H. Hollister, of this county, sheared thirty thousand pounds of wool from five thousand sheep; a small portion only of his celebrated Spanish Merino flock. Ten thousand pounds were shorn from one thousand bucks belonging to the same flock.—[Los Angeles News.]

The California Sheep-Shearing Festival.

The following communication to the *Atlas*, in relation to the Sheep-Shearers' Festival at Marysville, Cal., cannot but be interesting to sheep raisers in Deseret:

Knowing the interest your readable journal has always taken in stock-raising in this State, I have been at some pains to obtain reliable data for you relative to the Pioneer Sheep-Shearing Festival of California, which took place at the Fair grounds, in this city, on Tuesday of this week, under the auspices of the Northern District Agricultural Society. The sheep were of the fine French merino breed, imported by Mr. Samuel Brannan. Sixty-two head in all were brought upon the ground, of which forty-four were ewes, and all were last year's lambs, carrying, however, loads of wool upon their backs, which, as you will see by the subjoined figures, surpasses anything yet clipped from one-year old lambs. As this section of California is largely interested in sheep-raising, there were many sheep owners on the ground, and during the day most of the private carriages of the Marysville families drove out to witness the excitement and enjoy the fine weather.

The shearing commenced at half-past nine, and continued until about four in the afternoon, eight men being employed, of whom Messrs. Galbraith and Hodge took the first and second prizes, though Mr. Peck, of Napa, did the best shearing; but having announced that as he was partly interested in the sheep, he would not be a competitor for the prizes, he was not counted in. Refreshments were amply provided for the shearers, and during the day all the old-fashioned jokes and fun, usually connected with such occasions in the Eastern States, were indulged in. The chief importance of the affair, however, was derived from the opportunity thus afforded sheep raisers, to compare notes and estimate the relative capabilities of their several counties, for this great business. The French Merino sheep is gradually becoming mingled with the other breeds throughout the State, and producing yields of wool which will eventually astonish those who have ever doubted the resources of California. The fastest shearing was done by Messrs. Peck and Scott, who turned out, the former, eleven sheep in six hours and thirty-eight minutes, and the latter, eleven sheep in five hours and fifty minutes. The premiums, however, were awarded with a view rather to the cleanness than the rapidity of the work.

This lot of sheep were raised by Mr. A. L. Bingham, the manager of Brannan's Feather river ranch, with whom he has them on shares. Mr. Bingham has been chiefly instrumental in getting up this festival, and is himself a Vermont sheep raiser of thirty years' standing. The wool from this clipping, which is of extreme fineness and as soft as silk, amounts in the aggregate to about eleven hundred pounds, and has been already shipped to San Francisco, where an arrangement has been made with Mr. McLennan, of the Mission Woolen Mills, to have it manufactured into blue cloth, such as will be required for army and navy purposes. Taking into consideration the facility with which wool can be raised in this State, and the fact that it can be manufactured and profitably disposed of among ourselves, there is no reason why California should not soon produce all the cloth required for home consumption. The paralysis in every kind of business, caused by the last winter's floods, is gradually disappearing, and though the sheep interest has suffered cruelly, the despondent feeling is already giving place to the true Californian spirit of enterprise, and the recuperative energy which characterizes the Pacific coast.

The annexed figures are from careful weighing of each sheep and fleece, and may be depended upon for correctness. The table will illustrate to the world the productiveness of California, in one of the most important branches of her industry. Mr. Brannan has four hundred head of these full blooded sheep on his two farms in Napa and Sutter counties.

It is contemplated to hold the next sheep shearing festival in San Francisco county. AGRICOLA.

ONE YEAR OLD EWES.

Weight of carcass after shearing.	Weight of wool.	Weight of carcass after shearing.	Weight of wool.
1 98	15 24	98	09
2 90½	12 25	109	16
3 90	16 26	94	17
4 105	17 27	79	17
5 88	13 28	89½	18
6 79	12½ 29	83	19
7 78	15 30	73	16½
8 92½	14½ 31	95	17
9 91½	13½ 32	91	15
10 74½	11½ 33	90	13½
11 85½	17½ 34	85	14
12 83½	16 35	89	17½
13 93½	13 36	79	19
14 84	11½ 37	97½	15½
15 77	13 38	79	17
16 88	12½ 39	88	16
17 95½	16 40	86½	15
18 107	16 41	91	19
19 85	17 42	85	15
20 100	12 43	83	19
21 84	12½ 44	70	17
22 99	15½		
23 94½	13	lbs. 3 910	lbs 673½

General average of Wool of Ewes 15 lbs. 7 oz.

BUCKS, ONE AND TWO YEAR OLDS.

Weight of carcass after shearing.	Weight of wool.	Weight of carcass after shearing.	Weight of wool.
1 110	25 11	114	21½
2 127½	32 12	114	25½
3 133	25 13	119	23½
4 114	25 14	134	21
5 119	25 15	124	21½
6 122	30½ 16	129	24½
7 161	24½ 17	154	29
8 121½	23 18	106	23½
9 128	25½		
10 124	21	lbs. 2,304	lbs 451½

General average of Wool of Bucks 25 lbs. 1 oz.

Total Weight of Carcase of Bucks

and Ewes..... 6,214 lbs.

Total Weight of Wool of Bucks

and Ewes..... 1,125 lbs.

The Marysville Express in speaking of the festival, the choice sheep, heavy fleeces and fine wool says:

This wool has been sold for forty cents per pound, to the proprietors of the California Woolen Factory, at San Francisco, and is to be manufactured into cloth immediately. Thirty-two gentlemen have already given their orders for suits of clothes to be made from the cloth. Cloaks are to be made up within thirty days to be presented within two months to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. We think the manufactured articles will reflect much credit on the enterprise and skill of our young State.

The Best Laying Fowls Classified.

The following question, says the *Prairie Farmer*, has been repeatedly put to us, personally as well as by letter:—"What breed or variety of fowls would you recommend keeping for a supply of eggs?" In reply we would name—

1. White face black Spanish fowls as laying the greatest number of pounds of eggs. The Spanish hens are notorious as abundant layers of very large-sized eggs, weighing from two and a half to three ounces each. They require warm housing and an abundance of good, clean water.

2. The black Poland, with a white top-not. The Polish fowls are prolific of rather large-sized eggs, and are slow to sit, in fact, rare incubators. Hens of this variety have been known to lay from two hundred to two hundred and fifty eggs in a year. Chickens rather delicate and difficult to rear.

3. The Hamburg Fowls. All the Hamburg fowls are distinguished as great layers of middling-sized eggs, but rich in quality, and like all great laying fowls, poor incubators. Indeed, they are mostly everlasting layers, and are great favorites of those who require an abundance of eggs, rather than frequent broods of chickens.

4. The Crested Hamburg, like the foregoing are great layers of rich, well-flavored, medium sized eggs. Non-sitters—never knew one that wanted to sit.

5. The Game Fowls are next in order as good layers of rather small-sized, delicious eggs, and are excellent mothers and rearers of chickens good for the table. They are hardy and great foragers, and are preferred by some to all other breeds.

6. The Balton Greys are esteemed prolific layers of medium sized eggs of good quality; poor sitters, indeed mostly what are called "every day" layers, but less invariably so than some other breeds.

7. The Dominique—This well known fowl taken "all in all" is generally considered one of the very best we have, being pronounced good layers, good sitters, good mothers, and eggs and flesh of first quality.

8. The Dorkings are moderate layers of large and well flavored eggs; sit steady and are excellent mothers, rather delicate in constitution, chickens not easy to rear. They are to be ranked as among the largest of fowls, and are esteemed the best in quality of flesh.

9. Brahmas and Cochins. These fowls are more noted for early than abundant layers. Eggs of good quality, averaging about two ounces each—rather small in proportion to

the breed—good mothers, chickens strong, growing rapidly with good feeding, fit for the table at four months old, not after, till they arrive at maturity. As has often been said, they are early and excellent layers, and arrive at maturity earlier than any other large breed. By the term "maturity" is meant the age at which a pullet will commence laying, and thus perpetuate its race.

10. The Guinea fowl is prolific of eggs, small but very nutritious; shells hard, and on that account can be transported any distance with safety. The young Guinea fowl is delicate eating, the flesh little inferior to our partridge, and is in season in March.

Corn and Buckwheat.

E. L. Holden describes, in the *Country Gentleman*, the results of two years when he planted corn after buckwheat, and calls upon his brother farmers for a solution of the difficulties encountered. He says:

"I planted a piece of corn last spring on land part of which was buckwheat the year before; the remainder sward land that had been mowed but one year; and all treated alike as nearly as possible. A fair coat of manure was plowed under, then a slight dressing spread on top and harrowed in. The corn was all planted at the same time, the rows running both ways, but planted across both parts. The result was, where the buckwheat was raised the corn was much smaller than on the sward land, not only in the growth of stalk but in the size and number of ears. In fact there was a great many hills on the buckwheat ground that never set an ear, while all on the sward part was well eared and well filled. Now what caused this great difference? The ground was all alike, a sand loam, and was all seeded with clover and timothy with oats, two years before, and that part that had the buckwheat was not mowed at all, but grass turned under before sowing the buckwheat. This was the second time that I had planted corn after buckwheat, and the result the same both times. I would like to understand the reason. Brother farmers, please give us your experience in this matter.

What an Acre of Ground Produces.

The Green Bay (Ill.) Press presents the annexed experience:

"Let those who think there is no profit in, and spurn the comforts of, a garden, look at this heap of 'sass' raised this season, from one acre of ground, on Astor Heights; the entire labor performed by one man, who, besides, has had the care of two horses, three cows, and done the 'chores' for two families; devoutly kept all the Saints' days, and aint dead yet, nor tired of his place. We—that is, the boy and the wife and us—have harvested this season, of fruits, at least forty bushels of apples, three bushels of cherries, one half bushel pears, one half bushel grapes, some peaches, all the strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants used or desired by the two families, besides ungathered quantities of crab apples—Siberian and native. Of vegetables—at least one hundred bushels of potatoes. Of celery, lettuce, asparagus, water cresses, cauliflower, cabbage, onions, turnips, melons, cucumbers, carrots, beets, parsnips, etc., sufficient for the current supply and winter's stock of the two families—and of some items a surplus. Of corn, at least twelve bushels, besides the table corn for more than a dozen persons.

Wash Your Fruit Trees.—The long damp weather has caused many trees to become musty with moss, under which insects of various kinds deposit their eggs. Now is the time to wash trees, and for this purpose prepare a wash of Potash-water, at the quantum of four or six pounds of potash to a barrel of water; four pounds if dry, six pounds if wet weather, as the rains will help wash when the lye is put on strong. Make a swab of old woolen rags, and swab every limb and the trunk of the tree, and the result will will repay the time and cost, both in the looks and health of the tree. Many trees become moss-covered by reason of being choked up at the roots with grass and suckers that should be removed.—[Farmer.]

How to Keep Butter.—Says the *Contra Costa Gazette*:

It is not generally known, perhaps, by our dairymen, that butter will keep fresh and sweet much longer when kept from the light. A quantity placed near a window will become spoiled on the side towards the light, while the other side will remain as good as new. This we know to be true from experience.

How to Get Up a Scientific Lecture.—The other evening, after a lecture on a scientific subject, a well-known author got up and said—"Well, upon my word, this is a very pretty thing; I have been invited here to listen to a lecture, and I find that it is from beginning to end a loose compilation from my own book."

And so it was. All that seems to be necessary to get a "scientific man" up in business is a catechism of chemistry and a pair of spectacles. Get the one by heart and wear the other and there you are.—[London Court Journal.]

Immodest.—A minister bringing the 'naked truth' before his congregation.