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## SHEEP EAT ABOUT 120 OUT OF OUR 140 WEEDS, TURNING THEM TO MONEY

There Is More Than a Double Return for Sheep Each Year; The Wool, the Lambs and the Fertilizing of the Soil—The Average Valley Farm Would Profit From Sheep if They Did Not Return a Pound of Wool or Mutton

Editor Statesman:—  
That the Willamette valley is an ideal place to raise sheep is a proven fact. Sheep from this valley have gone into the strongest competition and more than held their own. It is a splendid climate, the diseases and the things which go to make the growing of sheep hazardous are not so numerous as in many places, and their helpfulness in adding to their owner's income and restoring plant food to the farm is above that of any other farm animal.

### Double Return and More

Our climate is similar to that of England, where the sheep industry in an intensified way has perhaps been developed as in no other country and on ground where the yearly rental is equal to the selling price of a good deal of land in this valley. The double return of both wool and lambs with the least outlay in care and feed other than that garnered by themselves leaves them the most profitable of all farm animals.

For the average farm it is not a question as to whether the land is too valuable to run sheep on it or not but, whether the farm can be successfully run without them or not.

Those who are acquainted with the farming operations of this valley for the past 50 years do know that some way of restoring plant food to the soil must be found.

### They Eat 120 Weeds

Of something like 140 different weeds sheep eat something like 120. In this way they are turning into money food that is both detrimental to crops and an improver of the soil. On the average farm they would be a

benefit if they did not return a pound of wool or mutton. All the mutton breeds do well; they need no expensive buildings, and they do not require more care than any other farm animal.

**More and Better Sheep**  
Sheep are not nearly so hard on our pastures as horses or cattle and half the money will build and maintain the fences for sheep that is required for horses and cattle.

I you haven't a few sheep get them. Start with a few, learn the business as well as the joys, give them reasonable care, and the profits will be sure.

Yours for more and better sheep,  
—G. G. BELTS,  
Harrisburg, Oregon,  
July 30, 1923.

## THE WOOL OF SHEEP IS "VELVET," SURE

Hon. T. B. Kay Says They Would Pay Better Than Hogs, Without Wool

Hon. T. B. Kay, manager of the Salem Woolen Mills, has been telling the Salem Slogan editor for four years that the thing for Willamette valley farmers to do is to raise medium wooled sheep, like the Shropshires, Oxford, Hampshire, etc., or crosses of Merinos or Cotswolds and Lincolns—  
And to raise more of them.  
He thinks the present conditions as to demand will persist—that the demand will be indefinitely for the finer cloths, made from the finer and medium fibered wools.

The quotation on medium wools at the Kay mills yesterday was 35 cents a pound.

At this time two years ago these mills were paying 16 cents a pound for medium wools. But Mr. Kay predicted then that wool would bring gradually higher prices in this country—that the sheep breeding industry of the United States would "come back" with the rising tide of general prosperity, and on account of the protective tariff on foreign wools. At the opening of the season this year wool prices were higher than now. Some clips sold around 45 cents a pound, and a few of the large pools of finest quality as high as 50 to 52 cents. But there has been a recession in prices, due to many things; partly to the effort all over the country to bring down the general average of prices.

But Mr. Kay has always insisted that the sheep breeding industry would be a paying agricultural

line if they did not produce any wool at all—that the wool of the sheep is "velvet" to the breeders of sheep—

That sheep would pay better than hogs if they had no wool; because sheep fatten themselves, and help keep the land free from weeds and also help in keeping up the fertility of the soil. He points to the fact that lambs are now bringing \$7 to \$8 a head.

He thinks every farmer in the Salem district should keep some sheep, and that they should get into the medium wooled breeds, and that there is no other one thing that will do more towards making this district solid and prosperous.

## GREEN FEED IS VERY IMPORTANT

The Reasons Given Why This Is an Absolute Essential to Best Results

The importance of green feeds to poultry does not rest so much on their nutritive value (though alfalfa and clover have a high feeding content) as it does on their chemical and physical action on the system. If fed in the fresh stage, green footstuffs assuage thirst, while their lime and mineral salts maintain health and a robust physical condition. Experienced breeders appreciate these factors, hence, maintain a bounteous feeding of green stuffs in variety. Much has been said and written on this phase of poultry feeding, to which we have contributed our mite; but rarely have we seen it stated more clearly than in the following paragraph from the New Zealand Poultry Journal:

"The digestion of protein and carbohydrate yields matter of an acid nature, which if allowed to remain in that condition would injure the individual cells of the tissue, and hence the body as a whole. Sufficient mineral matter must always be available to maintain the body fluids in a state of neutrality. When there is a deficiency of calcium (or lime) in the diet, the body will actually tear down its own structure in order to obtain the calcium necessary to maintain the neutrality of its internal fluids; then the only source of supply (the bones) become actually absorbed, and death rapidly intervenes. All seeds are deficient in mineral salts, and it has been proven by actual experiments that it is impossible to induce growth in young birds on a diet of wheat alone, but if a suitable mineral mixture is added, slow growth will be obtained. Indeed, mineral deficiency is the first limiting factor in the use of seeds from a dietary standpoint. . . . All birds probably eat a considerable amount of mineral substance in the form of particles, which they deliberately swallow, and they secure in their natural state more or less of all the essential elements in their drinking water which has permeated the ground. These supplementary sources of food substances, which one is first inclined to overlook, or if considered, to regard as of an accessory nature, are in reality of such importance that it is not too much to say that the preservation of the species might turn upon the opportunity or the lack of opportunity to secure these substances."

This would seem to emphasize the importance of vitamins in the ration, and also that the functions of green feeding are of wider significance than many of us supposed. To remove a living organism from its natural (wild) conditions involves factors about which none of us can know too much.

## 300,000 SHEEP AND GOATS IN THE WILLAMETTE AND UMPQUA DISTRICTS

Room for Standardization on One or Two Breeds, According to a Man Who Knows the Industry From the Ground Up—Conditions Favorable for Producing a Natural Fibre of High Value

(By R. A. WARD, General Manager Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers)

Western Oregon should grow more sheep. The Willamette and Umpqua River valleys of western Oregon, together with the foothills of the Cascades and the Coast Range, now furnish feed for more than 300,000 sheep and goats. The climate of portions of this territory is not unlike that of England, and, on account of the excessive moisture, the coarse wool predominates.

The flocks range in size from 50 to around 300 head. The sheep and goats are run on rape and meadow pasture or turned into the oak brush on the low hills. In many localities, winter feeding is not practiced, and the animals remain in the hills throughout the winter. However, winter feeding should be more generally done. Herding is generally not practiced, and the sheep and goats range at will within the large fenced pastures. The majority of farm-flock masters own a small band of sheep and goats on account of the usefulness of the goats in cleaning up brush.

It is customary to run goats the first year or two on the rough land to clean up brush and browse after which sheep are turned in. Lambing takes place early, and by the end of April, the spring lambs commence to arrive on the market. Cotswolds, Lincolns, Hampshires, and Shropshires predominate, though there is a goodly sprinkling of Delaines and some Romneys and Corriedales.

**Room for Standardization**  
While there are some very excellent breeders in the valley, there is great room for standardization on one or two breeds. The benefits from such products would be large both in the way of

permitting the selling of bucks in large lots, for range purposes, and the production of uniform wools. At the present time valley wools are inclined to be quite irregular, many grades being present. There is a real need for paying more attention to the wool production end. The mild, moist climate, with the abundance of browse and the great amount of scrub oak hill land, suitable only for grazing, makes possible the production of excellent sheep and wool. Conditions are favorable for producing a fine, natural fibre of high value, and with a little more attention to the wool end this will be done.

The bulk of the western Oregon wools are handled through the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers. This association now has over 2500 wool growers as members and has in the past three years marketed about 4,000,000 pounds of wool at prices netting growers from 3 to 7 cents per pound more than was obtainable at country points at shearing time. About 300,000 sheep and goats are represented in the membership.

Wool growers generally regard the marketing of wools in a graded and merchantable condition, through the Association, as far superior to the old system of selling to local country buyers, based on the value of the poorest fleeces which the sacks contained. The Association's warehouse is on deep water docks, which enables it to ship by rail or water, whichever is the most economical and satisfactory.

(The office of the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers is in the Fitzpatrick building, Portland, Oregon. "Wear Virgin Wool" is the slogan of the association.—Ed.)

## RAISE MORE SHEEP TO INCREASE WOOL

Notes on Sheep and Wool Prepared by an Expert for the Country's Benefit

(Under the heading, "Raise More Sheep—Produce More Wool and Mutton," the American Economist in its issue of July 29, prints an important article; (though the Slogan editor does not admit that it is necessary to produce less wheat in this country. He believes that we will have no surplus of wheat, if the farmers and manufacturers of this country will see to it that we supply our needs in this country from the home production and manufacture of flax and linen, sugar, wool and mutton, and many other things which we import from other countries.) The editor of the American Economist is Wilbur F. Wakeman, and he is the secretary of the American Tariff League, and one of the best posted men in his lines in the United States. Following is the article mentioned:)

It is evident that the farmers of the United States must diver-

has been inevitably lowered.

The farmers must turn to the raising of other commodities and there is nothing which holds out a fairer promise than the raising of sheep, not only for the wool but for the mutton. Roughly speaking, we raise only about 49 per cent of the wool which we annually consume. If our farmers would raise the number of sheep necessary to accomplish this result it would clarify the situation to a large extent. Raising more sheep they would raise less wheat and the price of the latter would soon become more remunerative. Also we think that the farmers would find sheep raising more profitable than wheat raising.

We have sought authoritative information on the sheep raising industry, especially with a view to the possibilities and profits thereof and we are able to give our readers the result of our investigations in the following "Notes on Sheep and Wool" which were prepared by an expert who is in a position to know the facts. The information is authoritative and wholly reliable.

**Notes on Sheep and Wool**  
The commercial life of a breeding ewe is from 6 to 8 years, depending on type of sheep, and of range or feed, care, etc. The first lamb is dropped when the ewe is about 2 years of age. Four to six more are gotten before the animal is discarded.

Sheep are kept with success in every state in this country, and owing to changes in the fur world during the past 20 years, sheep are now dropped when the ewe is about 2 years of age. Four to six more are gotten before the animal is discarded.

The first fleece is shorn at one year of age, except in parts of Texas and California, where two shearings are taken each year and lambs are first shorn at the age of six months instead of 12 months. A full clip is secured each year thereafter until the animal dies or is discarded.

Sheep may be fattened for market after their breeding life is completed, or in the case of wethers, at any time in the animal's life. Most fattening done is with lambs, a large percentage of which do not reach the markets far enough from grass, and have to be grain finished to make desirable slaughter animals. They go on feed at about six to seven months of age and are sent back to market, fat, in from two to about five months, depending on conditions. Few other than range (far western) lambs enter the feed lots.

The commercial life of a sheep for wool production corresponds to their breeding life, i. e., about six to eight years of age. One or more additional fleeces often could be secured, but it does not pay to hold on to a ewe after she gets too old. In a few areas wethers are kept to an advanced age, but this is rarely done in the United States.

A sheep or lamb carcass has value only once as such, and that is when sold for slaughter. Speaking generally, a ewe, when bred for her first lamb, is at the most valuable period of her life. If the sheep and lamb market does not fluctuate, it worth \$10 then, she is worth, on the average, only about \$4 when discarded after having produced say five lambs. During her useful life of seven years she produces seven fleeces of about eight pounds each and

worth 45c per pound at present prices. She therefore grows wool to the value of \$25.20. On the average she will raise about four lambs during her five breeding years, and one of these will be retained to replace the dam, three being sold for slaughter or fattening at \$7 each, or \$21 for the lambs. The ewe will sell for about \$4, making \$25 received from animal sales and \$25.20 from wool sales, or a total of \$50.20.

Mutton and lamb are competitive with all other meats to a considerable extent, though about 85 per cent of the mutton and lamb is said to be consumed in Chicago and the cities east of the Alleghenies and north of the Potomac river. A marked increase in mutton and lamb, therefore, would tend to displace an equal amount of other meats. It should be noted, however, that per capita consumption of mutton and lamb is only about six pounds while per capita consumption of beef, and of pork (including lard) each are about 10 times as large.

Butchers in country towns unquestionably could butcher a sheep or lamb when the slaughter and local sale of beef would seem uncertain of profit. It is largely their own fault that more sheep are not so slaughtered.

## SHROP BREEDERS ON AN ANNUAL TOUR

Twenty Places Were Visited and Inspected on a Trip Lasting Two Days

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Ore., Aug. 1.

—Oregon Shropshire breeders have completed a two day tour of which 20 breeders in Benton, Linn and Marion counties were visited. F. A. Doerflinger, president of the association, conducted the tour. The main object was to establish better acquaintance among the breeders and study the different types of sheep kept by the farmers visited. O. M. Nelson, professor of animal husbandry at O. A. C., accompanied the group and conducted judging demonstrations. This is the first trip by the Shropshire association, and it proved such a success socially as well as educationally, say the officers, that it is quite sure to be made an annual event.

## Singing Frogs Again on Sale in Stores of Tokio

TOKIO, Aug. 1.—The shops of Japan are this month offering for sale the Kajika, or "singing frog" the harbinger of the rainy season. The animals are selling readily, although the prices range from one to 10 yen whereas a few years ago they could be bought for a few sen. But everything else it is a question of supply and demand, and while the gatherers find the frogs harder to get, the number of purchasers has increased.

The frog will sing for hours at a time and a couple of flies a day is all he wants in the way of nourishment.

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