Stock

ABOUT WASHING SHEEP

The practice of washing the fleece of sheep before shearing is a relic of the early days, when each family kept a few sheep, and the female members of the family cleansed, spun, and wove the wool into garments for winter wear. It was then easier to clean the wool with the chemical materials to hand (soft soap, etc.), if the principal part of the dirt had been removed before the fleece was taken from the sheep. All this is changed now; manufacturers have learned how to scour the wool as easily and cheaply, if sheared unwashed, as when the sheep have been plunged into and soaked in cold water before shearing. The question now is one of profit and not of convenience. There are many reasons why sheep owners should abandon the practice, and only one or two in its favor. The day of necessity has passed and the owner and his flock ought to be glad.

If sheep are washed in the spring, the work of shearing is materially lessened, both in time and in severity. Being free from dirt and grit when well washed and the shears do not dull so quickly, and the wool cuts more easily. Then the fleece looks cleaner and whiter, does not weigh so heavy and the buyer is willing to pay more per pound for it. These are all the arguments in favor of the practice of washing sheep.

On the other hand, we have first, the evident cruelty of plunging the sheep into cold water, and after keeping them there until thoroughly chilled, taking them out and letting them run in the pastures, exposed to cold winds until the thick, close fleece is dried out. The loss of animal heat during these operations must be very great, with the inevitable consequence of loss of strength, flesh, and vitality. There is no means of measuring the loss entailed upon the owner, but it is very great. Men are apt to handle sheep roughly while in the water, as they themselves are not apt to find their own exposure to cold water very pleasant or strengthening. Hence, they are in a hurry to get through with the unpleasant and unhealthy job as fast as possible, without stopping to regard any possible comfort of the animals, in the way of gentle handling and short immersion. While it is true that most of the yolk is washed out of the fleece by the operation, rendering the wool whiter and lighter in weight, the real value of the wool is not much enhanced thereby, in the eyes of the manufacturer. This yolk is the natural lubricant provided for the preservation of the wool fibre. It is a soapy substance, with considerable potash in it, resembling no other animal secretion, but is in fact a natural soap, with more or less fur oil. It preserves the elasticity of the fibre, and should be left in the wool until wanted for manufacturing. It is well known to manufacturers that so-called washed wool, if kept a long time, becomes more brittle in fibre than wool which is graded as unwashed. I never heard of any one's finding a moth in unwashed wool which is, as a rule, free from the attacks of all kinds of vermin.

The percentage of yolk in wool is very even from flocks of even grade but vary in the different breeds very materially. In the long wooled breeds, it is not half what it is in the Merinos, and is more abundant in the Merino ram than the ewe of the same flock. In washing this yolk is not all removed, but only a very varying percentage of it. Hence, it is difficult for buyers to grade prices in such a way that they are proportionate to real value. The only difference made by many buyers formerly was to rate unwashed wools at two thirds the value of that washed on the sheeps back. This was very often an unjust discrimination against unwashed wool, but was customary, and therefore enforced, even in cases where sheep were shorn unwashed after having been kept in clean pastures and stables, and no dirt except the natural yolk was in the wool. Intelligent buyers are coming to discriminate between yolk and dirt, and grade fleeces accordingly. This removes the only reasonable objection to shearing sheep unwashed. The name or designation of "washed" or "unwashed" has ceased to have much significance with buyers, and the sooner the practice of washing sheep is abandoned, the better it will be for owners and manufacturers.—Live Stock Journal.

There is no better time for spreading manure on level land than on the last snows of winter. The fear of loss from evaporation is a bugbear which will soon disappear after a few careful experiments. This has been our experience, and that of a great many others.

THE STATE FAIR RACES.

Entries of Horses for the Annual Races at the Oregon State Fair.

[From the Salem Statesman.]

From the books of J. T. Gregg, secretary of the Oregon State Board of Agriculture, the following entries for the races to take place at the coming state fair are taken.

RUNNING RACES.

Race No. 1; ⅝ dash.—Best & Gray names Geo. Winters, b g, by Joe Hooker dam Abbie W.

E. P. Nichols name Lila Ferguson, s. m., ped. unknown.

W. H. Babb names Bogus, ch g, by Ophir dam unknown.

G. G. Glenn names Glenbrook, b s, by Delaware dam Naptha.

Oregon stables names Neyella, b m, by California dam Laura Barnes.

Jos. Paquet names Keepsake, b m, by Flood dam Kathrina.

T. Malarkey names Lady Duffey, ch m, by Patsy Duffy, dam by Monte Cristo.

C. Tolman & Co. names Quebec, s g, by Norfolk, dam Jennie Hull.

W. M. Murray names Leap Year, b m, by Norfolk dam Lady Jane.

Race No. 3, two years old, dash ⅝.

W. H. Babb names Duffy Winters, b g, by Patsy Duffy, dam Neva Winters.

W. B. McAllister names Kitty Wells, b m, by Woodbury, dam unknown.

J. N. Sawyer names Laura D. ch s, by Glen Dudley dam Laura C.

J. A. Porter names Caddie P, b m, by Glen Dudley dam Caddie R.

Oregon Stables names Mark Twain, ch s, by Monday dam Jennie C.

C. J. Matlock names Barb Wire, br g, by Osceola dam unknown.

W. M. Ayers names Diavolo, b g, by Shannon dam Winters.

Race No. 4; 1⅛ dash three years olds.

J. B. Jacobs names Dudley Howard, b g, by Glen Dudley dam Lena Howard.

T. Malarky names Lady Duffy, ch m, by Patsy Duffy dam by Monte Cristo.

E. P. Nichols names Argo, by Patsy Duffy dam Nerva Winters.

W. H. Babb names Tom Daily, ch g, by Patsy Duffy dam Sunshine.

Oregon stables names Why Not, ch m, by Geo. Wilks dam Flora A.

Race No. 6; free for all, dash 1 1-6 mile.

Best Gray names Geo. Winters, b g.

C. Tolman & Co. names Quebec, s g.

Matlock Bros. name Repetta, b m, by Alarm dam Lognim.

Wm. Tompkins names Becky K, ch m, by Geo. Wilks dam Flora A.

Oregon stables names Neyella.

Joseph Pacquet names Keepsake.

W. M. Murry names Billy Ayers, b s, by Shannon dam Lady Clair.

Race No. 8; two year olds ¾ mile.

J. N. Sawyer names Laura D.

J. A. Porter names Caddie P.

W. H. Babb names Duffey Winters.

Oregon Stables names Mark Twain.

Wm. Ayers names Diavolo.

Race No. 10, free for all 1⅛.

Best & Gray name Geo. Winters.

Matlock Bros. name Repetta.

W. W. Babb names Tom Daily, ch g, by Patsy Duffy dam Sunshine.

W. G. Scoggin names Jim Merritt, br g, by Langford, dam Sweetwater.

W. M. Murray names Billy Ayers.

Oregon Stables names Why Not.

Race No. 12 Handicap, ⅞ mile.

Best & Gray names Geo. Winters.

J. B. Jacobs names Dudley Howard b g, by Glen Dudley, dam Lena Howard.

C. Tolman & Co. names Quebec.

Matlock Bros. names Repetta.

Joseph Pacquet names Keepsake.

Oregon Stables name Mark Twain and Why Not.

W. H. Babb names Tom Daily, also Bogus, ch g by Ophir.

Wm. Tompkins names Beckey R. ch m. by Geo. Mekes dam Flora A.

W. M. Murray names Del Norte, b g, by Flood dam Esther.

TROTTING RACES:

Race No. 2—Three Minute Class.

Geo. H. Thompson names Rockwood, Jr, by Rockwood, dam Susana.

M. Fisk names Mambrino Frank, by Mambrino Gift, dam Lady May.

C. Russel names Metropolitan, by Echo, dam Tenbrock.

E. J. Jeffroy names Edna J., by Kisber, dam old Fly-by-Night.

G. W. Gill names Diamond, by Blue Mountain Boy, dam by Vermont.

J. R. Sawyer names Kitty Ham, Hambletonian Mambrino, dam Kitty Lewis.

Moore Bros. names Fleeta F., by Altamont, dam unknown.

J. A. Porter names Orange Blossom, by Meredith, dam by John Silver.

H. S. Hogaboom names Mamie Comet, by Nutwood, dam by Sportsman.

L. B. Lindsey names Palatina, by Milton Medium, dam Snowstorm.

Race No. 5, two year olds:

L. Swan names Susie H., by Altamont, dam Robins, Vermont stock.

S. G. Reed names Columbia Rose, by Adirondack, dam Prunella. Also names Clara by Adirondack, dam Lakeland Queen.

F. L. Duncan names Mignonette, Inbred Nutwood.

J. Beach names Altago, by Altamont, dam Maggie Arnold.

John Pender names Lady Basset, by Rockwood, dam Lady Clark. Also names Democrat, by Rockwood dam Pathfinder.

J. L. Hallett names Delta, by Altamont, dam Tecora.

James Misner names Lady Giltner, by probably Iowa Chief.

M. Fisk names Katy F. by Adirondack, dam Lorenson's Abdalla mare.

J. L. Hallett names Cicero, by Adirondack, dam Daisy.

E. J. Jeffrey names Cleveland Brown, by Adirondack, dam Edna J.

H. S. Hogaboom names Beautiful Home, by Meredith, dam Sweet Home.

J. R. Sawyer names Van Tromp, by Badger Boy, dam Springfield Maid.

C. Russel names Foxy V. by Meredith dam Lusby.

P. J. Mann names May F. by Adirondack, dam Sally M.

Race No. , 4th Class 2:45.

J. Beach names Coquetta, by Altamont, dam Tecora.

J. Lorenson names Susie S. by Hambletonian Membrino, dam Bellfounder girl.

J. L. Hallet names Mattie P., by Main Slasher, dam Flora.

C. Russel names Metropolitan, by Echo, dam Tenbrock.

M. Fiske names Membrino Frank, by Membrino Gift, dam Lady May.

Jas. Weisner names Cora H. by Kisber, dam by Pathfinder.

H. S. Hogaboom names Mamie Comet by Nutwood, dam by Sportsman.

Race No. 9, Three Year Olds:

Isaac Moorhouse names Geranium, by Com. Belmont, dam Bouquet.

J. T. Apperson names Alta A. by Altamont, dam Lady.

Jno. Pender names Nantilla J., by Rockwood, dam old Fly-by-Night.

J. L. Hallet names Mattie P., by Mainslasher, dam Flora.

L. B. Lindsey names Palatina.

Race No. 11, Free for All.

J. R. Sawyer names Fred Hambleton, by Hambletonian Membrino, dam Springfield Maid.

Jas. Weisner names Kitty Lynch, by Bellfounder, dam Sumter mare.

L. B. Lindsey names Jane L., by Ham Mem. dam Molly Welch.

Jay Beach, Altamont by Almont, dam Sue Ford.

C. Russel names Tempest, by Bellfounder, dam Walnut Bark.

D. McCarty names Lady Maud, by Rockwood, dam Lady Clark. Also Melrose by Sultan, dam by Tenbroek.

J. L. Hallet names Almonette, by Altamont, dam Favorite.

Race No. 13, Class 2:35.

L. Swan names Alta, by Altamont, dam Maud.

J. R. Sawyer names Fred Hambleton.

Wm. P. Gwin names Lulu B., ped. not given.

J. Lorenson names Susie S., by Hambletonian Membrino, dam Bellfounder girl.

C. Russel names Nellie R., by Bellounder, dam Black Bess.

Geo. M. Meisner names Oleander, by Memelous, dam by Barder Chief. J. S. Hallett names Almonette.

Dan McCarthy names Lady Maud. Also Melrose.

Race No. 14, Four Year Olds.

Dan McCarthy names Lady Maud.

Wm. P. Gwin names Lulu B., ped. not given.

Jay Beach names Coquetta.

This race No. 14, was held open until the 15th and there may some entries come in yet by mail.

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