

Items and Articles of Special Interest to Our Farmers



Suggestions for Handling the Wool Clip

By W. H. J. TISDALE

Professor of Animal Husbandry, University of Saskatchewan.

Provincially, the sheep industry has prospered greatly during the past four or five years and a portion of that prosperity is no doubt due to the methods that have been adopted in the marketing of the annual wool clip. Since 1913 the Department of Agriculture, through the Co-operative Organisation Branch, has been collecting and marketing the wool upon a co-operative basis with most gratifying returns to all concerned. The small producer with 10 or 20 sheep has had an equal chance of getting full value out of his clip along with the man who owns and shears annually several thousand head.

Along with this gradual development in connection with the marketing of the wool, we have been improving slowly and gradually in our methods of shearing and handling. Many of us are still on the "long, long trail" as far as efficiency at certain phases of it are concerned. We do not shear, roll, tie, pack and ship our wool in such a way that it realises the full value upon reaching the market. The raw product is worth money now-a-days and it is to our advantage to see that neatness and attractiveness play their part in its disposal. Preparation is everything and it is with the idea of helping to improve in this respect that this article is prepared under the following heads:

1. Care previous to shearing.
2. Some common fleece defects.

shoulder wool which is always the superior portion, on the outside of the roll. The grader always estimates the grade by the appearance and quality of this wool over the shoulder and heart-girth, that over the hind-quarters usually running a grade or two lower.

(d) Tying the fleeces. Having rolled tightly, tie both ways with the special paper twine supplied by the Department. Never under any consideration use binder twine as the fibres become attached to the wool and follow right through into the cloth where they always show up quite prominently. Many mills have refused to have anything whatever to do with clips that have been tied with binder twine. If the paper twine is not available use any stout cord other than binder twine. Tie each fleece separately, never tying two or three together in the same bundle. Furthermore, avoid as much as possible the shipping of loose wool. If you have two or three different breeds of sheep, possibly a grade flock and a pure bred flock, it is wise to keep the wool from each breed separate and pack it so.

3. PACKING AND STORING

In order to facilitate the work of handling and grading in the warehouse, pack in as few sacks as possible and preferably in those sacks supplied upon demand and at cost by the Co-operative Organisation Branch, Regina. Several growers have formerly sent in 20 or 30 fleeces packed in 7 or 8 gram sacks. All this wool could have been packed in one large jute sack, thereby saving space in shipping and storing to say nothing of the time saved in handling. Many of these large sacks too are often packed much too loosely thus using more than are required. A 40 inch by 90 inch sack should hold at least 40 range fleeces or 30 domestic fleeces if it is packed properly.

Where two or three different breeds are kept, the wool should be packed separately, using paper if necessary to designate divisions of wool in a sack. Pack tags and damp stained pieces separately; also black fleeces. When the "blacks" are packed with the "whites," locks from the black fleeces often become mixed with the white and cause no end of work to the grader who has to pick them all out. The manufacturer objects strenuously to the presence of any black locks in the white wool that he wishes to use in the manufacture of light coloured fabrics.

When a sack is packed sew firmly with strong cord, never with binder twine. The latter used for this purpose is almost as troublesome as if used in tying the fleeces. Store the sacks where they will be kept dry until the time of shipping. Care must be taken not to allow the wool to become wet or damaged in any way after it has been removed from the sheep's back. Such wool always brings a much lower price. Be sure that it does not lie exposed on the station platform several days before it is shipped out as such exposure often means a damaged condition.

4. SELECTION FOR BETTER WOOL

The majority of Saskatchewan wool is and will continue to be (more increasingly each year) what is known as "domestic wool," a class of wool that comes from sheep of a dual nature, or sheep that are useful in the production of mutton as well as wool. Hence in our selection we have two things to bear in mind and we must be careful not to improve along one line at the expense of the other. Breeding sheep of good mutton conformation must be well and evenly covered with a fine, sound, compact, weighty fleece of good length and in order to effect such a combination the following rules must be closely adhered to.

- (a) Use only a pure bred sire and be very careful in the matter of his selection as he has a wonderful influence for improvement upon the flock whether it be grade or pure bred.
- (b) Practise rigid selection year after year amongst the breeding ewes retaining those that possess in a marked degree the combination of wool and mutton desired.
- (c) Through reading, through a close examination of individual fleeces at shearing time and better still by spending a day with the grader at the grading point, obtain a working knowledge of the various grades of wool. Get to know those grades commanding the highest figure and get suggestions as to how improvement may be wrought within your own flock. This feature of visiting the grading warehouse is a commendable one. The grader will always welcome you and you will find him willing to impart any knowledge he possesses on the subject.
- (d) Weed out all sheep having a tendency to run black or gray in the fleece. They only propagate more of their kind.
- (e) The points just outlined may have more bearing upon future clips than they have upon the present one but that old adage "a stitch in time saves nine" holds

good here as elsewhere. Start now upon a system of improvement that will mean dollars to you in a very short time.

5. SOME COMMON FLEECE DEFECTS

The following brief definitions may be helpful to some who have already noted defects in the wool as it is removed from certain sheep:

- (a) Break in wool.—The staple (fibre) is weak and easily broken at some particular point, this making it hard to use in the process of yarn manufacture. It is usually due to scant feeding, the vitality of the sheep being lowered to such an extent that the fleece cannot be properly nourished. Sickness interferes with the growth in a similar way.
- (b) Cloudy wool.—Usually caused by rain dripping on the sheep from leaky roofs or irregular and uneven exposure. It is sometimes inherited and is recognised by the presence of discolourations scattered through the fleece, particularly on the back and sides.
- (c) Clotted wool.—We often find that the oil or yolk secretion being insufficient, the fibres become tangled and felted close to the skin. This lack of yolk and consequent felting is usually due to sickness, a high fever of inferior vitality.
- (d) Damp wool.—If sacked wet or stored in a damp place the wool becomes yellow and in some instances mildew develops. Scouring will not remove the discolouration and hence the wool is unsuitable for white yarns and its value is materially lowered.
- (e) Frowsy wool.—Lack character and general appearance and usually dry and harsh due to lack of oil.
- (f) Kempt wool.—Consists of many dead fibres that are chalky white and lacking in strength and lustre. Most commonly due to inferior breeding or lack of vigour.
- (g) Second cuts.—Careless shearing results in many short second cuts being made when removing the fleece and the presence of a large quantity of these short cut fibres results in a decided lowering in value. To the beginner the machine shear is unquestionably the solution of this difficulty.
- (h) Wiry wool.—Harsh stiff wool, very low in spinning properties. Due to heredity and a very poor class of wool to produce.

FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PERSONS MARKETING WOOL THROUGH THE CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATION BRANCH

1. Preparation of Fleece:

- (a) Remove all manure or paint clotted locks.
- (b) Roll the fleece with the flesh side out.
- (c) Tie each fleece by itself using only paper fleece twine.

2. Packing:

- (a) Include only dry wools in your consignment.
- (b) If two or more breeds of sheep are kept, pack the wool from each breed by itself, or when necessary pack in the one sack and place sheets of strong paper between the different kinds.
- (c) If you wish to forward the tags (manure or paint clotted locks clipped from the fleeces) or black or brown fleeces, always place these in sacks by themselves.
- (d) Pack the wool tightly into the sacks. A 40 inch by 90 inch sack should hold at least 30 range fleeces.

3. Labelling:

- (a) Fill out two shipping labels for each sack, being careful to give name and address of shipper, and net weight of fleeces.
- (b) Place one label inside the sack and sew the sack up, using strong, hard twine.
- (c) Sew the second shipping label securely to the side, not to the end of the sack.

4. Storing:

- (a) Store the sacks where they will be kept dry until ready to ship.

5. Shipping:

- (a) Forward the wool by freight, via the most direct route, to the Co-operative Organisation Branch, Department of Agriculture, Regina, making the shipment between June 1 and July 26. No shipment should be forwarded later than July 26.
- (b) Either prepay the freight to Regina or forward the shipment, freight charges collect, and the department will pay the freight and deduct the amount from your cheque when making final settlement.
- (c) As soon as the shipment is made, forward the bill of lading at once by mail to the Co-operative Organisation Branch, Department of Agriculture, Regina.

WINTER RYE

By Prof. John Bracken, College of Agriculture, Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan grown Rye won all the first prizes and the Championship for Winter Rye at the Dry Farming Congress, El Paso, Texas, in October, 1916.

Notwithstanding this, however, the cultivation of winter rye has as yet received but little attention in Saskatchewan. It is true that on the Experimental Farm at Indian Head rye has been grown with marked success since 1903, and of late years a few progressive farmers in the province have grown a small acreage each year. The great majority of farmers, however, have had no experience in growing this grain, and consequently do not realise that its introduction would result not only in a direct financial benefit, but would also aid materially in solving some of the problems of cultivation and management which now confront them.

The records of the Indian Head Experimental Farm show that the average yield of winter rye during seven years was 43 1-3 bushels, the highest yield recorded being 55 1-3 bushels in 1908 and the lowest 32 bushels in 1911. At Saskatoon the yields have not been so high and, in one season when the spring opened up early and spring frosts were unusually late the crop was caught by spring frosts when in the blossom stage, resulting in partial failure, locally.

Information obtained from farmers growing this crop shows that the average above mentioned is only slightly over the averages which they have obtained. The expense of growing and harvesting the crop is, approximately, the same as for growing wheat. Prior to the war when wheat was from 75c to 80c at shipping point, rye was about 60c per bushel. Of late years the price obtained at typical Saskatchewan points has ranged from 80 to 90 cents per bushel, while in October, 1916, Saskatchewan growers realised from \$1.10 to \$1.15 per bushel at point of shipment and even higher prices were obtained since that date. In view of these facts the financial returns from the crop must have been highly satisfactory.

ORIGIN AND USES.

Rye has been cultivated and had a place among both grain and pasture crops for upwards of two thousand years. Its original home is supposed to have been in South-eastern Europe, in the vicinity of the Caspian Sea. For centuries it was the principal bread food of Europe, and is still extensively used as human food in Germany, Austria, Russia, the Scandinavian peninsula and elsewhere. In America, in addition to bread making, it is principally used as a food for stock and to a small extent, like wheat and corn, in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages. When cut green the crop is frequently used as hay, and in dairy sections it is used extensively as a pasture both in fall and early spring.

ADVANTAGES IN SASKATCHEWAN.

While not recommending that winter rye displace any of the grain crops already grown in the province, where they grow successfully, it is nevertheless believed that this crop can with advantage be added to those that have a regular place in our system of cropping, and in many fields and districts be a profitable substitute for wheat on fallow land, especially where a wheat crop is liable to lodge or be frosted or be filled with wild oats. The advantages on the cultivation and management of a farm which may be expected to result from the introduction of winter rye as an additional grain crop may be briefly summarised as follows:

1. Summerfallow that is sown to rye in the latter half of August or early September is not subject to soil drifting, either in fall, winter or spring, as it is when a spring sown grain, such as wheat, is used because the crop occupies the land and prevents drifting.
2. Owing to its rapid and early growth rye chokes out many weeds. It is of particular value in combating wild oats in this account, and also because it ripens between the middle of July and the end of the first week in August, or much earlier than barley.
3. As rye makes vigorous early growth in May and June the crop is well developed before the arrival of summer droughts, so that in place of appreciably decreasing the yield these really assist in maturing the crop.
4. Rye ripens much earlier than wheat and consequently is not subject to damage from early fall frosts.
5. Ripening before other cereals it distributes the harvest season over a longer period of time and justifies a farmer in hiring his harvest labour perhaps a month earlier than he otherwise might, thereby securing it at a lower rate.

Dentistry

DISEASED TEETH ARE OFTEN CAUSE OF DISEASE. Disease germs are always found in and around diseased teeth and very often find their way into the blood-stream and are thus carried through the entire system. If they lodge in the joints patient suffers from rheumatism, if in the heart the patient has heart trouble etc. Have mouth put in a healthy condition and avoid disease.—EXAMINATIONS FREE.

PLATE WORK AND BRIDGE WORK—SPECIALTY

THOROUGH SATISFACTION GUARANTEED EVERY PATIENT

Drs. DIXON & MINION

1st Floor Sterling Trust Bldg., opposite City Hall
Corner Rose St. and Eleventh Ave., Regina
PHONE 5-8-2-1

6. A field of Winter Rye affords fall pasturage and also the earliest green pasturage in the spring that can be provided by a grain crop in this country. If sown early Winter Rye may be pastured in the fall, but care should be exercised to see that it is not eaten off too early, otherwise in a severe winter, on exposed elevations, the grain will be killed out. Unless stink weed or other annual weeds are present, early spring pasturing, provided the top soil is dry, does not cause serious injury but lessens the yield of grain. If cut green it makes excellent fodder and generally yields as much per acre as the heaviest producing grain crops. When grown for hay two crops may often be taken in one season, about June 15 and August 1.

7. In newer districts where goaphers and cut worms sometimes do real serious damage to spring grain, a crop of Winter Rye is so far advanced by June 1 (a time when these pests are very destructive) that it has largely lost its palatability and attraction.

8. Fall Rye, because of its earliness, is also practically proof from rust damage, which is no small advantage in itself.

On June 1, 1916, Winter Rye at the Saskatchewan College of Agriculture, averaged 16 inches high and was in the "shot blade," while the earliest wheat did not cover the ground, and was less than 5 inches long.

SOME OBJECTION TO WINTER RYE.

The chief objection to the use of Winter Rye in a wheat growing district is in its "volunteering." Unless care is taken the rye seeds get distributed about the farm and grow up in other crops. It is possible that a mixture of Winter Rye in wheat might lead to the lowering of the grade. There need, however, be no danger from this source if reasonable care is taken to see that the threshed grain is prevented from being distributed about the farm, or if a rye crop is followed by oats instead of wheat.

CULTIVATION.

On account of its ability to produce good yields when sown on soil too poor to grow other cereals, rye has been much used on light and sandy soil. It will, however, respond to a fertile soil and to good cultivation as well as any other grain. To obtain the best results the seed bed should be in fine tilth, well compacted and should contain a large amount of moisture. Summerfallow, ploughed 6 to 8 inches deep during the first week in June, harrowed immediately and well worked thereafter so that the soil is compacted, the rainfall retained, and all weeds kept down, makes an ideal seed bed for rye. As rye makes much of its growth during May, a time when there is usually very little precipitation, the importance of summerfallowing the year previous, so as to conserve all the moisture possible, cannot be over-estimated. The crop ripens early, so that damage from fall frosts need not be considered, while the early spring growth produces a stiff straw that seldom lodges. Rye should not be grown continuously on the same field, as this practice is favourable to the development of ergot. This fungus frequently attacks rye when sown in low wet land or grown repeatedly on the same field. When the crops are properly rotated there is little danger from this disease.

SEEDING.

Seed can be procured from any Western seed house or from farmers who are already growing the crop. Care must be taken to procure home grown seed, as the crop from imported seed will often winter kill. In Saskatchewan rye should be sown during the latter part of August so that it will have time to get well established before winter. When this is done there

is very little danger of winter killing. The seed should be sown with an ordinary grain drill, being planted from 2 1/2 inches to 3 inches deep, so that it is certain to be down into moisture. When sown on well prepared summerfallow one bushel per acre is ample. This amount will be sown if the drill is set to sow one bushel of wheat. Heavy seeding is apt to result in stunting the crop before the usual June rains arrive. It is perfectly safe to sow seed from a crop that has just been harvested. Late seeding or too thick seeding should be avoided. On the Agricultural College farm at Saskatoon in 1908 the highest yield was obtained from a seeding of one-half bushel per acre. Light seedings, such as a rate, given the heavy yields at Saskatoon, but the soil conditions were probably better than on the average farm. Ordinarily not less than three-quarters acre more than one and one-quarter bushels of seed should be used.

Should stockwood intended land sown to rye show a new growth of this pest after the rye is sown, a stroke of the harrow should be given to destroy such weeds, so that as few as possible of them enter the winter alive. When fall harrowing with very light harrow is contemplated for stink weed, then the thicker seeding of 1 1/2 bushels should be practised to allow for the plants damaged and destroyed by the harrow. Again in the spring the harrow may be used to advantage to break up the surface crust and kill any weeds which may have started. If intended primarily for fall pasture the rye should be sown early in August or late July, but should not have the stock turned on it till late in October, so that the rye plants may first be well rooted. Spring pasturing of woody fields is not advisable, as it grasses the weeds a chance and causes the crop to be considerably later in maturing.

"North Dakota No. 569" is the hardest and therefore the best variety to use.

HARVESTING.

Under ordinary conditions winter rye is ready to cut by the first week in August of the year following that in which it is sown. By a dry year it will be ready somewhat earlier, probably from July 15 to 30 depending on location, tillage, rainfall, thickness of seeding, etc. It should be cut with a grain binder and handled exactly like wheat. Care must be taken, however, to have the grain thoroughly dry when it is threshed, as rye seems to become musty more readily than other grains. Stocking is best done, with least shelling, on the same day as cut. Rye should not be allowed to get over-ripe as it shells easily.

MARKETING.

While there is always a good demand for rye on the Toronto and Montreal markets and in the larger cities in the United States, it is somewhat difficult to obtain satisfactory prices at local points. Under these circumstances, owing to the fact that only a small amount is grown in the West and market facilities have not therefore developed, the best method of marketing is to ship in carload lots to some of the larger centres—Toronto, Minneapolis or Duluth, and there sell through a Winnipeg commission firm. Owing to rye being dry free and the freight rate to Duluth the same as to Fort William, Duluth has been for the past two years the best market for Saskatchewan rye. Under The Canada Grain Act rye is graded as No. 1 or 2 Canadian West Rye, or Rejected. No weight per measured bushel is specified, but 60 pounds is the accepted weight in commerce. Seed may be purchased from the Dominion Seed Purchasing Commission, Regina, or the Saskatchewan Dept. of Agriculture, Regina.

Grade	Lot 1			Lot 2		
	Lbs.	Net price per lb.	Total	Lbs.	Net price per lb.	Total
Fine medium staple	8	\$0.63	\$ 5.04	8	\$0.63	\$ 5.04
1/2 blood staple	19	.67	12.73	13	.67	8.71
3/4 blood clothing	7	.63	4.41	50	.63	31.50
3/8 blood staple	485	.68	329.80	195	.68	132.60
1/4 blood staple	983	.68	668.44	60	.68	40.80
Low quarter	227	.68	154.36	9	.68	6.12
Seedy				680	.55	374.00
Tags	42	.22	9.24	17	.22	3.74
	1,771		\$1,184.02	1,032		\$602.51
Average per lb.			66.9 cents.			58.38 cents.

The parties owning these two lots received very gratifying cheques but it is readily noted that in Lot 1 no "seedy" wool was found as compared to 680 pounds in Lot 2. The wool in each case was equally good in strength, fineness and general quality but the presence of so much dirt in Lot 2 kept it from falling into the three main grades, simply meaning a loss of 13 cents per pound or \$88.40 to the owner. A tidy little sum and very satisfactory pay for the extra care. Too much of Saskatchewan's wool (13,429 pounds) grades as "seedy." Let us all work together in an endeavour to eliminate this grade by allowing our flocks less freedom about the straw-stacks and adopting better methods of feeding. It is poor business to sell straw if it lessens the price upon our wool.

2. SHEARING AND TYING THE FLEECE.

(a) The shearing floor. Shearing should only be carried on under the most favourable conditions; upon bright, warm sunny days when the sheep are dry of fleece and the wool has "risen" somewhat from the body. Cleanliness and care in the removal of all fleeces is very essential and the shearing floor should be swept after each fleece has been removed and tied. This will eliminate a great deal of foreign matter which, although it may add weight, does so at the expense of quality.

(b) Dung locks or tags.

It will be noticed with many fleeces that there are certain hard dung locks or tags adhering to the britch ends. These contain a great deal of moisture and if left on and rolled into the fleece produce a damp heavy condition that means a higher shrinkage and hence less value. They should, whenever present, be snipped off with the shears before the sheep is shorn or else pulled off by hand after the fleece is spread out for rolling. They can very easily be packed and shipped separately, bringing more money this way than if left upon the fleece. The same is true of all paint clotted locks as well.

(c) Rolling the fleece.

Spread the fleece out on the floor, being careful not to pull it apart and with the flesh side down. Then fold the belly wool and both sides in until your fleece represents a strip about 18 inches wide. Starting at the tail end, roll tightly toward the neck thus leaving the

HAIL INSURANCE AGENTS WANTED

The LONDON GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT Co., LTD., of London, England, are desirous of placing agencies for hail insurance for season 1919. Please communicate with BELL & MITCHELL, Ltd., Western Trust Bldg., or the Company's Office, 208 Darké Block, Regina, Sask.

CALL AND EXAMINE THE CANADIAN FAIRBANKS-MORSE CO., LIMITED

line of machinery, including the famous WALLIS TRACTOR at Regina Agency

Cadillac Motor Sales Co., Ltd.

2047 Broad Street, Regina, Sask. E. T. WILBAND, Manager Phone 2952

Percheron Stallions and Mares

Stallions sold on liberal terms. Mares offered for cash only.

I sell more Stallions to German farmers in Western Canada than any person else in the business, and am always pleased to have visitors.

Correspondence answered in German.

J. H. GRAHAM
Ave. G. & 1st St. Saskatoon, Sask.