

GENERAL INFORMATION

CATCHING SHEEP.

Do not seize the sheep by the wool when catching it. The wool on the body of the sheep stands in the same relation to its body as the hair does to your head. Think and be gentle. Catch the sheep either by the jaw or the flank. If you wish to catch a sheep that is moving away from you, step quickly up to it and catch the flank. In this manner you will not have any difficulty in holding it while you reach with the other hand and catch it under the jaw. When the animal is moving towards you, catch it by the jaw at once. Hold a sheep by standing or kneeling on one knee at the left side of the animal, place one hand under the jaw and the other on top of the head. This method is convenient, simple, effective and is not unpleasant to the sheep.

TRIMMING FEET.

If the sheep are kept inside much of the time, you may find it necessary to trim their feet. Particularly is this true of the rams. The hoof grows long, turns under the sole of the foot, and accordingly it is difficult for the animal to stand straight on its legs. Trimming is very easily and quickly done. Turn the sheep on its rump and lean the shoulders back against your knees. Have a sharp jack knife at hand, and by holding the foot with the left hand, you can easily use the knife with the right. Cut away the unnecessary pieces of hoof and leave the sole of the foot as level as possible. If this is done, a number of the sheep will be kept a good deal better on their feet.

SHEARING.

This operation may be performed with the hand shears, or with the machine. For the small flock the hand shears are quite suitable, especially if there is a man on the farm who is an expert. Even with large flocks, hand shearing may be satisfactorily practised, if expert shearers are employed, but the amateur will find it very tedious and unsatisfactory work. With the machine the beginner will get over many more sheep than he could with the hand shears; he will also find it much less tedious work, and will make a noticeably better job. The machine shears can be purchased from the firms that handle horse clippers. They may be attached to the regular horse clipper gear, so