

Annually select, fatten and sell faulty sheep to the butcher. By so doing you will have the profit and pleasure of having a fine and beautiful flock. We ought to improve our flocks, raise our fine wool, manufacture our own cloth; for if we pay twenty dollars for foreign cloth, it has to be in specie, and away it goes, and some bark has to draw in sixty dollars of her circulation. The difference is, had we bought American cloth our farmers and mechanics would have had the twenty dollars; and that same money kept among the industrious part of the community, might have paid a thousand dollars of debt in a year, and still have the same money to go on with.—*Wool Grower.*

#### NUMBERING, CLASSING, AND REGISTERING SHEEP.

VICTOR, February 9th, 1859.

MR. EDITOR:

The following plan for numbering, classing and registering sheep, I have practised for some years past, and I think with some profit. It consists in numbering each individual, so as to designate one from the other, by marks on the ear in the following manner:—A notch or half circle on the fore part of the left ear, means 1; one on the back part of the same, 3; with these I can number up to ten, thus: for number 1, I make one on each side; for 7, two on the back and one on the fore side; a notch on the fore side of the right ear stands for 10; one on the back of the same for 20; with these I can number up to 100. If the flock is large enough so that the lambs of each sex should reach 40 or more, 20 should be substituted for 10. This could be carried much farther, by cutting off the end of one ear for 100, and of the other for 200; two notches might then be made in the end of each doubling each time, from 100, which would make the last stand for 3,200. The age of my sheep is known by holes through the left ear; one through the left ear stands for one that is born in the year of 1841 or '51; one through the right for 3; so that those born in 1846 receive two holes through the right ear; those in 1847, two through the right and one through the left; those born in 1840 or '50, &c., receive no holes. For this purpose I use a half-inch punch, made like those used by shoe makers. In classing or grading my sheep, I am governed principally by the number of curves in a given space, believing with Morrell, in his American Shepherd, that "There is an intimate connexion between the fineness of the wool and the number of curves or otherwise, in proportion to the number of curves in a given span, is the diameter of fibres." Again he says: "The numerous and minute curves being as observed eminently characteristic of the pure Saxon and Merino, will serve as a sure test in all cases, of the purity of blood, and therefore affords a certain and unerring guide in the selection of breeding sheep."

I grade my sheep about the first of February, by clipping a small sample from the body of the sheep, near the centre, without stretching or disturbing the regularity of the curves, then by ascertaining the number of curves in an inch I am able to class as follows:—

1st class super. extra,	27 to 29 curves to an inch.
2d " extra,	25 to 26 " " "
3d " prime,	21 to 24 " " "
4th " No. 1,	19 to 20 " " "
5th " No. 2,	17 to 18 " " "
6th " No. 3,	16 " " "
7th " No. 4,	15 " " "

I seldom have any reach as high as the first class or as low as the seventh. A little experience in the business will enable a person to judge very correctly, on opening the fleece, to what class it belongs without the trouble of clipping. In order to

ascertain how my manner of grading agrees with yours, I enclose a few samples. The one marked extra was taken from an ewe three years old, her live weight was 63 lbs., her fleece 7 lbs. 3 oz. The one marked prime, an ewe 3 years old, live weight 77 lbs., fleece 5 lbs. 2 oz. No. 1 from a buck 4 years old, live weight 103 lbs., fleece 8 lbs. No. 2 from an ewe 3 years old, live weight 82 lbs., fleece 4 lbs. 10 oz. No. 3 from an ewe 3 years old, live weight 68, fleece 6 lbs. 8 oz.

The following is the manner in which I keep my books:

#### BREEDING REGISTER FOR 1849.

No. of ewe.	Year born.	Class.	Live wt.	Wt. fleece	Served by buck.	Date of lamb'g	Lambs by ewe
23	1847	4	53	3 7 1	1845	Ap. 9	1
17	1846	3	64	3 3 1	1848	10	1
21	1846	5	86	3 12 1	1848	10	2
24	1843	4	54	3 15 1	1845	10	2

In the first column is the number of the ewe; the next her age or the year in which she was born; in the third the class to which she belongs; in the fourth her weight when shorn; in the fifth the weight of her fleece; in the sixth the buck by which she was served; in the seventh her time of eweing; in the eighth and ninth the numbers of the buck and ewe lambs. I have practiced weighing my sheep only for the last three years; it being attended with a good deal of labor, I shall probably discontinue it.

I find the different grades, as a general rule, produce wool about in proportion to their weight, although some individuals produce more than others. My sheep are fed in barns, in the winter season, with a yard and trough of water attached to each, in flocks of about 50, sorted according to age, sex, and condition, the doors being usually left open so they can go out and in at leisure. A short time previous to the lambing season, which commences with me about the 15th of April, my breeding ewes are turned into a field near the barn, where they are allowed to run through the day, being always driven into the yards at night, and if the weather is bad into the barn. As fast as the lambs come they are numbered and put into an other yard or field for a few days, or until they become sufficiently strong, when they are docked and castrated, except such as I save for bucks, and turned away to pasture. The holes through the ear that denote their age are not made until they are six months old.

My present flock, except those I purchased for fattening, consists of about 250, from one to eleven years old, all of which are numbered and classed so that I can at any time ascertain the connexion between any individuals or families, and thereby be enabled to use bucks more or less from my own flock, without danger of too close breeding. I am also enabled to select at all times which I invariably do myself, such as I wish to dispose of, whether with regard to age, quality or quantity of wool. It also enables me by examining their increase to ascertain which are the most valuable for breeding, as it is frequently the case that an ewe, although nearly perfect in herself, will bring forth an indifferent offspring. I can, also, by knowing the amount of wool I have of each grade, more easily ascertain its value.

W. D. DICKINSON.

—[*Wool Grower.*]

#### SUB-SOIL FLOWING.

Much has been said in favor of deep plowing and sub-soiling the earth, the subject has hardly begun to excite that general attention among farmers which it ought to command. There is scarcely one acre in a