

SHEEP AND SWINE.

GROUP OF LINCOLN SHEEP.

THE PROPERTY OF MESSRS. GEARY BROS., BLISBRO
STOCK FARM, LONDON, ONT.

Of the Lincolns Mr John Geary writes as follows:—

"Of sheep I prefer breeding pure Lincolns, as I think they are better adapted to this country than either the Cotswolds or the Leicesters. They retain their wool much better than the Leicesters, and the demand for it is just as good. I have imported a large number of Lincolns from England with a view to their wool, to their quality as mutton sheep, and their general adaptability to this country. I think crossing the Leicesters with the Lincolns produces a good sheep, and one that gives good wool. I breed only pure Lincolns; they are a very hardy and easily kept sheep."

prefer white animals. Notwithstanding that the black pigs present some of the most striking illustrations of skilful breeding, and are the perfection of form and of swinish beauty, people are prejudiced against them by early associations. Their first knowledge of pigs was gained from white ones, and in their minds, white is the proper colour for pigs. The number of so-called breeds of white pigs known in England was at one time very large; a slight variation, such as we may expect in a strain, was given a distinctive local name, and called a breed. English breeders took a long step in simplifying pignomenclature when they grouped pigs by their colours and sizes, and gave us large and small black breeds, and large and small breeds of white pigs. In 1852, a well-known English breeder exhibited at one of the important fairs several pigs of extraordinary merit; but too large to be judged among the small white breed, and not large enough for the Large Whites. The animals were so remarkably fine that they

sheep. When sheep are driven quite a distance, as they usually must be in order to find a suitable place for washing them, they are both warm and tired when they reach the brook or pond. To be plunged into cold water (and at the time when this work must be done, if it is done at all, the water is cold) when both heated and exhausted must cause a sudden and violent chill, which will not only be uncomfortable, but is liable to produce disease. A large quantity of water will remain in the fleece until it is removed by the slow process of evaporation. Thus for quite a period the animal heat is kept far below the proper point. Ewes having lambs are especially liable to sickness or injury from being washed in cold streams, though the most vigorous animals are not unfrequently harmed by the exposure to which they are thus subjected. If any reader thinks this is entirely an imaginary evil, let him go into a cold stream wearing heavy woollen clothes, and after he comes out keep them on until they be-



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WHITE PIGS—LARGE, MIDDLE AND SMALL BREEDS.

Notwithstanding the superiority of some of the black breeds of pigs, and in spite of the fact that the colour, unlike beauty, is not even "skin-deep," the blackest pigs dressing quite as white as the whitest, there is, in this country, in the Northern States at least, a prejudice against black pigs. In the Southern States, in localities where the pigs run at large, and the Paint-root grows, it is black pigs or none at all. White pigs, if they feed upon Paint-root (*Lachnanthea tinctoria*), become completely blind, and their hoofs drop off, while the black pigs can eat the plant without apparent injury. This singular fact accounts for the prevalence of black pigs in many Southern localities. There are counties in England in which there is a prejudice against white animals, and others in which only black pigs are tolerated. While in the Western States the prejudice against swine that are black, in whole or in part, is rapidly disappearing, it remains quite strong in many of the older States, where those who keep but few swine or who raise the "family pig," almost invariably

could not be disqualified. The judges met the difficulty by making a third class, calling it the Middle White breed. Since then, while only the large and small black breeds have been admitted, the white pigs have three breeds, the Large, Middle and Small White — *American Agriculturist* for May.

WASHING SHEEP.

On this timely topic "Farmer" addresses the following observations to the *American Cultivator*: Whether to wash their sheep, or shear them without washing, is a question which many farmers are now considering. Each course has strong advocates. I have tried both ways, and it seems to me that, as the work is usually performed and as it often must be done on account of circumstances which the farmer cannot control, washing is a failure. The number of farmers who favour washing their sheep seems to be diminishing. It is to be hoped that it will rapidly grow less, until none remain.

Unless the attending circumstances are unusually favourable, washing is injurious to the

come perfectly dry. By the time he gets perfectly dry and warm again he will have a better idea than he had previously entertained of the discomfort to which the sheep are subjected by being washed.

While the washing harms the sheep, and is often injurious to the men who do the work, it fails to secure the end for which it is performed. The wool is not made clean, and it cannot be kept as nearly clean as it has been made. Much of the dirt is removed but much still remains. While the sheep are going home, often over dusty roads, and while they are in the pasture, not a little foreign matter will get into their wool before the shearing is done.

Buyers know that some men wash their sheep a great deal better than others, and in fixing a price for washed wool they design to make a liberal allowance for all the dirt which remains in the poorest lots. The man who does not do the washing well may not get more than the wool is worth but he gets more in proportion than the man who washes his sheep as well as possible. The latter may get a little more per pound than the former, but he will not be likely to get as much money for his wool as a lot as he would have received if he had not washed it at all.