

The following particular points demand attention; and as in cattle, the male has the greatest influence, it is proper to specify those requisites which are considered essential to a good Ram.

The head of a Ram, should be fine and small, his nostrils wide and expanded, his eyes prominent, and rather bold and daring; ears thin, his collar full from his breast and shoulders, but tapering all the way to where the neck and head join, which should be very fine and graceful, being perfectly free from any coarse leather hanging down; the shoulders broad and full, which must at the same time join so easily to the collar forward and chine backward, as to leave not the least hollow in either place; the mutton upon his arm, must come quite to the knee; his legs upright, with a fine bone, being equally clear from superfluous skin and coarse hairy wool; the breast broad and well formed, which will keep his fore legs at proper wideness; his chest full and deep, and instead of a hollow behind the shoulders, that part by some called the fore flank, should be quite full; the back and loins broad and flat and straight, from which the ribs should rise with a fine circular arch; his belly straight; the quarters long and full, with the mutton quite down to the hough, which should stand neither in nor out; his twist deep, wide and full, which with the broad breast will keep his fore legs open and upright; the whole body covered with a thin pelt and that with fine bright soft wool. The characteristic marks of the Ewes should be the same as those of the Ram. There is no breed of sheep equal to the Leicester as far as beauty and symmetrical form goes, also in coming to early maturity, but they are too delicate for our long and severe winters.

The Teeswater is far better adapted to Canada than the Leicester; but I have no objection to a dash of the Leicester with the Teeswater.

The Cotswold or New Oxfordshire Sheep is equally well adapted to Canada, and in some respects perhaps better, being of a very hardy constitution, growing to a large size, and and producing a splendid fleece of wool.

In the specimens of wool which I have shown you, you will perceive that there is considerable difference in the length and fineness of the staple, the weight of the fleece being about equal, the Teeswater growing so long and thin in some cases leaves the back of the Sheep quite bare, while the wool on the Cotswold grows in a thick compact mass, so that it is almost impossible for wet to penetrate through it; in this respect the Cotswold has the advantage over every other kind of long woolled sheep; perhaps they are not equal to the other breeds in coming to early maturity.

To be a successful breeder of Sheep, requires a great deal of patient perseverance, and attention to all its details, and a thorough acquaintance with the principles of breeding; the reason why so many individuals who have invested large sums of money in purchasing expensive animals have failed is the want of practical knowledge. One injudicious cross in a valuable flock will leave its mark for years. I will give you an illustration of this: for the last two years I have used two rams, the one a Cotswold, the other a Teeswater with a dash of Leicester; part of the ewes that had lambs by the Cotswold ram in 1858, have had lambs by the Teeswater ram in 1859; the type of the Cotswold is very plain in some of those. I do not say this was a bad cross, I mention it for illustration.

All females are very susceptible during the time of conception; perhaps the greatest instance we have of this is in the case of Jacob. I suppose you are all acquainted with this circumstance. I hope there is no one present but will acknowledge, that the hand of Divine Providence was at work in this instance. Yet it shows on the part of Jacob an intimate acquaintance with the nature and habits of breeding animals.

It was said by Mr. Burke that the man who made two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before was a benefactor to his country. We think that the man who can produce a breed of sheep that will yield a double amount of wool and mutton on a given quantity of food, where only half the quantity was produced before may also be considered a benefactor to his country.

Among the breeders of long wool sheep, the late Mr. Bakewell stands at the head of the list. He was the originator of those beautiful animals known as Leicester Sheep. There is a number of others who are entitled perhaps to almost as much credit as he is for following up his improvement. Mr. Jonas Webb, renowned as a Southdown breeder, is well known. He has done more than any other man to improve that valuable breed of Sheep.

There is another breed of Sheep which is gaining favour in England. I mean the