

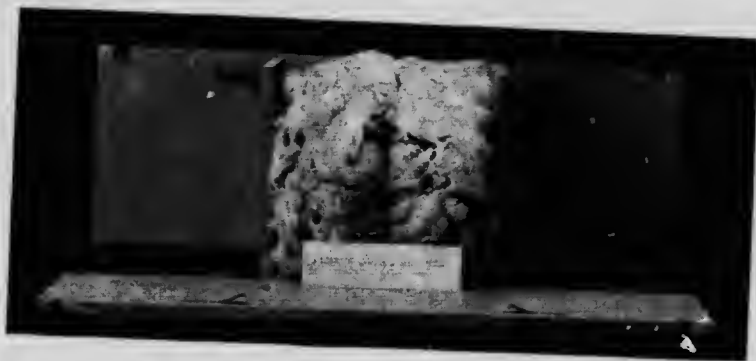
DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING AND PACKING WOOL.

(1) Feed sheep well and regularly. Sheep poorly fed will possess a harsh fleece lacking in oil and frequently with a feeble or weak fibre. This does not constitute desirable wool for sale. Where sheep are starved for a period, the effects will be shown in the wool by a weak section which will break readily and, consequently, cannot be used satisfactorily for combing or worsted purposes.

(2) Every effort should be taken to keep the wool free from chaff, hay and burrs. This can be avoided by using proper feed racks and care in preventing hay or straw dropping upon the sheep during feeding. Moreover, it should always be remembered in this respect that the more dirt there is incorporated in the wool, the higher will be the shrinkage; and wool is bought by the dealer upon the basis of the clean or scoured pound.

(3) Keep the wool well clipped behind at all times, especially if sheep are scouring, so as to prevent the formation of heavy dung locks.

(4) Endeavour to eliminate in breeding operations black sheep from the flock. Mate only sheep possessing pure white wool. Black wool is sold in the reject class and should be packed separately.



Fleece folding and tying box partially open; Fleece tied.

(5) In marking sheep never use oil paint or tar, which are insoluble and will not scour from the wool. Paint locks must be cut from the fleece by the sorter in the mill and cannot be used in manufacture, thus representing a complete loss to the consumer. There are proprietary materials upon the market which will give a permanent brand under ordinary weather conditions, and yet scour perfectly in the mill.

(6) Sheep must be dipped in some reliable material at least once a year and better twice, in the fall before entering winter quarters and in the spring after shearing.

(7) Shearing should be done on a smooth board floor, never on the dirt, and the fleece should be kept as compact as possible.

(8) Fleeces should be tied only with paper twine, never with sisal or ordinary binder twine. Nor should the neck-piece be used for tying. Effects of cold weather frequently make the neck-pieces so hard, if tightly rolled for this purpose, that great difficulty obtains in unravelling them in the mill. Turn in the sides of the fleece with the skin or clipped surface outward. Then fold alternately the neck-piece and the tail portion until they meet in the centre of the fleece. This arrangement permits the fleece being readily undone in the mill. Folding and tying may be facilitated by the use of a fleece box, which at the same time gives greater compactness and uniformity to the fleece.

(9) The wool should be packed in very closely woven jute, hemp or paper-lined sacks.