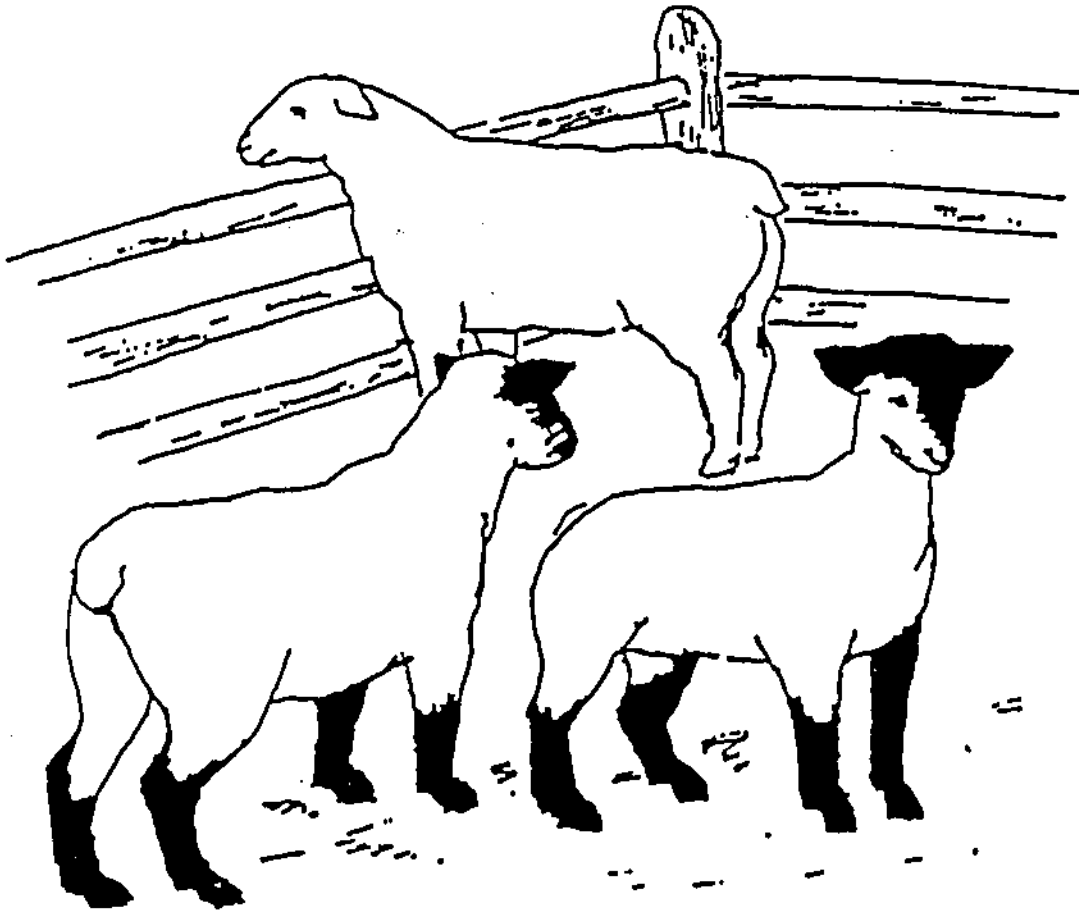


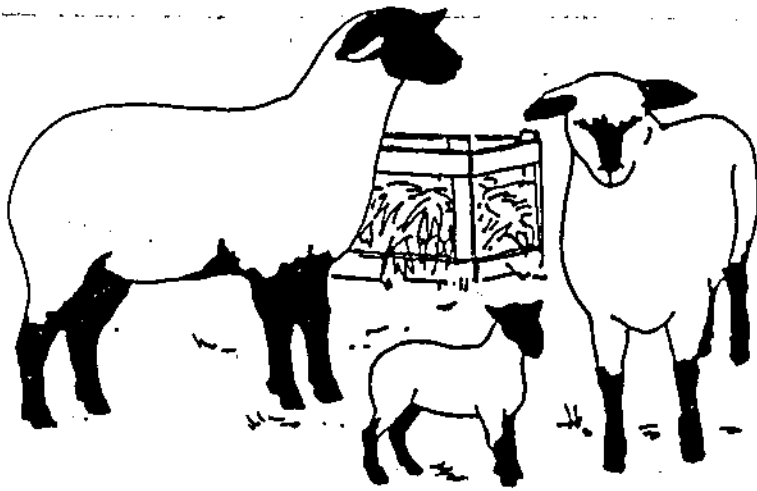


THE LITTLE SHEPHERD'S ACTIVITY BOOK



This booklet has been designed to use with the sheep-to-shawl demonstration presented by the Snyder County office of the Penn State Cooperative Extension.

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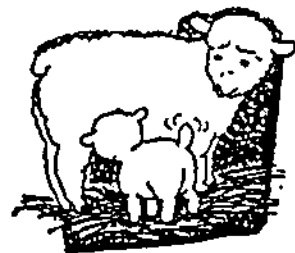
Sheep live on farms. Most times sheep live in groups. These groups of sheep are called **flocks**. Sheep like to stay in groups. A sheep that is away from its flock will become homesick.

The farmers who watch over the flocks of sheep are called **shepherds**. Some shepherds have well-trained dogs to help guard the flock.

In a flock there are many families of sheep. The male or father sheep is called a **ram**. The female or mother sheep is called a **ewe**. The baby sheep are called **lambs**.

Rams and ewes eat hay, grain mixtures and grass. Baby lambs nurse on their mother's milk. When they are several days old they also begin to eat a special grain mixture and grass.

Lambs are usually born in the springtime. Many times a ewe will give birth to two lambs or twins. Occasionally a ewe may have triplets which is three lambs.



After the baby is born, the ewe and her new lamb are taken away from the other sheep in the flock. They are put in a separate pen called a **lambing jug** for a few days. This is done so that the ewe and her new lamb will get to know

each other. When they are returned to the flock they will be able to find each other easily.

While in the lambing jug, a tag is placed in the new lamb's ear. This is done so the shepherd can easily identify the lamb.

Lambs are born with long tails. The lamb's tails are cut off to a short stub or docked. Docking is done to help keep the lambs clean. This does not hurt the lambs.

Sheep have a soft, special kind of hair called wool. The wool from one sheep is called a fleece. One fleece usually weighs approximately eight to fifteen pounds depending on the size of the sheep. When the shepherd cuts the wool from the sheep it is called shearing. Shearing is done at least once a year, usually in the springtime. Shearing does not hurt the sheep.

Many people believe that sheep are always hot. This is not true. The wool on a sheep acts as an insulation. In the winter the wool protects the animal from the cold. In the same way, the wool also protects the animal from the heat during the summer.

After the wool is sheared from the sheep, the fleece is rolled and tied with paper twine. It is packed in burlap sacks or large cardboard boxes. The shepherd then sells the wool from all of his sheep at the wool market. A wool market is a place where all the shepherds bring their wool to be sold.

Wool is used to make clothing and blankets. Before it can be made into these items it goes through several steps to make it ready for use. First, the wool is washed to remove dirt and the natural grease it contains. This grease is called lanolin.



The wool is placed in a drying chamber after it is washed. The clean, dry wool is carded to straighten the

wool fibers. This carding process prepares the wool for spinning. Spinning is when the wool fibers are carefully held and shaped by hand until the spinning wheel twists the loose fibers into yarn.

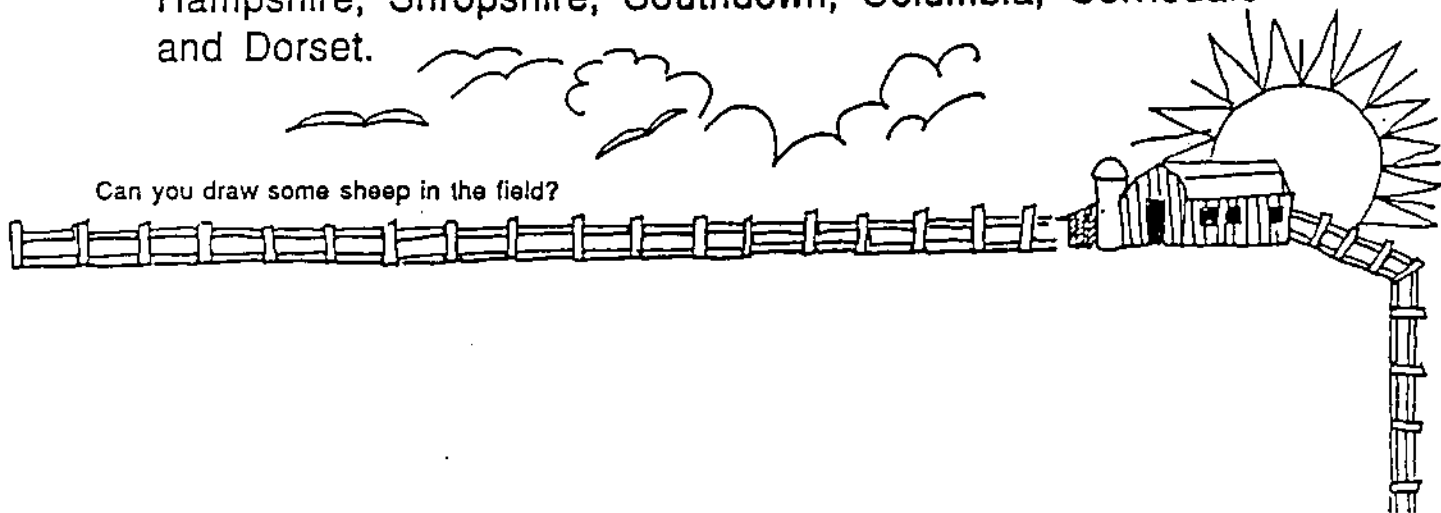
The yarn is now ready to be used for knitting, crocheting and weaving of fabric. Weaving is done on a loom.

We get many things from sheep. Wool is just one of them. The lanolin that is removed from the wool is used in soaps, hand lotions and other products to make skin soft. Sheep's milk can be made into special kinds of cheeses. Sheep skin is also used to make leather. This leather is very soft and is used to make gloves, shoes, handbags and jackets. Sheep are also used for meat.

There are many **breeds** of sheep. Breed means the kinds and colors of sheep. Some breeds of sheep are valued for their fine wool. Examples of wool breeds of sheep are Rambouillet (ram-bow-lay), Romney, Lincoln and Merino. These breeds are found mostly in the western part of the United States.

Most of the sheep in the eastern United States are called dual purpose breeds. This means that they are used for both wool and meat. These breeds include Suffolk, Hampshire, Shropshire, Southdown, Columbia, Corriedale and Dorset.

Can you draw some sheep in the field?





Wooly has hidden fifteen words about sheep to shawl in the puzzle below. Can you find them?

S	A	M	O	G	N	I	D	R	A	C	A	D
R	A	C	I	U	T	A	E	A	R	J	O	E
A	F	B	R	A	L	E	S	M	O	S	P	L
F	L	E	E	C	E	T	M	A	V	Q	W	E
R	O	A	M	L	S	R	N	L	L	O	O	W
C	N	X	M	A	M	W	E	V	A	I	N	E
M	A	R	O	B	L	T	R	O	N	Y	T	G
E	R	E	N	T	T	I	F	V	O	I	O	L
A	F	A	E	O	I	S	T	V	L	N	A	M
T	N	Y	T	R	V	E	E	I	T	I	C	
Z	R	B	S	D	O	C	K	I	N	G	A	F
M	E	D	R	K	D	R	E	N	W	R	O	L
Y	O	Y	E	O	G	E	N	B	D	I	W	O
R	C	L	R	R	B	T	B	Y	B	F	A	C
A	T	E	N	L	R	A	R	B	A	N	U	K
E	A	I	T	M	L	W	E	A	V	E	A	I
H	P	M	T	A	G	B	E	U	F	N	S	O
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	E	A	M	H

Breed
Carding
Docking
Ewe
Fleece

Flock
Lamb
Lanolin
Meat
Ram

Shear
Shepherd
Spin
Weave
Wool

Below you will find nine fleeces of wool. Can you card them out so they are ready to spin into yarn?

t h r e a l e

g w v i n a e

c r a d g i n

n p s n i i g n

l e e c e f

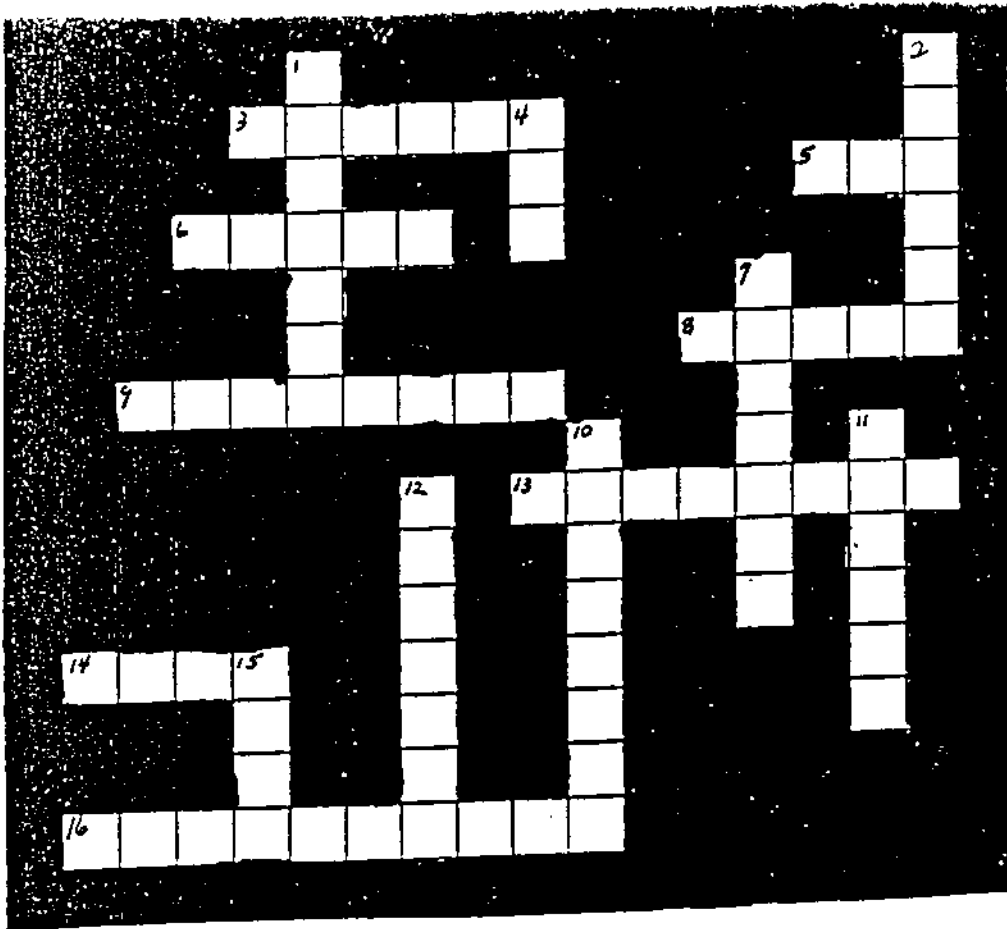
p h e r h d s e

c l o k f

r a e h s

b e d s e r

**Here's a clue!! Look at the dark black words in the story!!



DOWN

1. The natural grease in sheep's wool is called _____.
2. A _____ is all the wool cut off of one sheep.
4. The father sheep is called a _____.
7. Sheep's skin is used to make _____.
10. Cutting the wool off of the sheep is called _____.
11. Kinds of sheep are called _____.
12. Straightening the wool fibers before spinning is called _____.
15. A _____ is a baby sheep.

ACROSS

3. The person who takes care of the sheep is a _____.
5. The mother sheep is called a _____.
6. A group of sheep is called a _____.
8. A loom is used to _____ yarn into fabric.
9. Yarn is made by _____ wool fibers.
13. _____ is another name for a farmer who takes care of sheep.
14. Sheep have a soft, special kind of hair called _____.
16. A _____ is the pen where the ewe and her new lamb are kept for a few days after the lamb is born.

