

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 11, 1920

Does it Pay to Wash Sheep?—A writer in the American Stock Journal thinks the practice of washing sheep should be given up, for the following reasons:

First, it is of no conceivable advantage to the sheep, but on the contrary, often proves exceedingly injurious. Severe colds and coughs almost always break out in the flock immediately after washing, and often lay the foundation of other and more serious disorders.

Second, nothing is saved to the manufacturer by the washing, for washed and unwashed woolen fabric subjected to the same cleaning process.

Third, if sheep are washed, they must necessarily carry their lice well into hot weather, which is very uncomfortable and unwholesome.

Fourth, much wool is lost by being washed, not only by bushes and briars in the pasture, and by the slivers of the fences. There is also considerable loss from the legs and bellies of the sucking ewes.

He thinks, "from several years' experience in starting sheep early in the morning, that it is conducive to their health."

The proper time to graze in the spring, he believes, is when the weather is so warm that the sheep should be well shorn for some ten or fifteen days after the wool has taken off, after which no more will improve than that which has been shorn.

Every wool-grower should have comfortable sheds for his sheep during the winter, and there is no more in danger in shoring sheep early in the first of May in New England, and much earlier in the South and West.

This question is worthy of consideration. That the health of sheep often suffers from careless washing, there can be no doubt. There are some who believe that sheep should be washed in cold water.

Such a practice is injurious. On the other hand, sheep can be washed without injury to their health. They should not be washed until the weather is so warm that the sheep can be shorn without suffering from the cold.

Then, if the sheep have not been washed, they will not suffer by the process. The principal reason for washing sheep is to remove impurities and reduce the wool to a more general standard.

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FOR SALE—A tract of land containing 100 acres and lead mine, situated on the Potomac River, near the mouth of the river.

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