

# **BRITISH SHEEP AND SHEPHERDING**

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British sheep and shepherding by W. J. Malden

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**W. J. MALDEN**

**BRITISH SHEEP AND  
SHEPHERDING**



# BRITISH SHEEP AND SHEPHERDING.

BY

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"RATIONAL PIG-KEEPING," "POTATO IN FARM AND GARDEN,"  
"TILLAGE AND IMPLEMENTS," ETC.

JUDGE OF

FARM PRIZE COMPETITIONS, LIVE STOCK, MACHINERY, PRODUCTS, ACTS OF  
HUSBANDRY, ETC., FOR ROYAL DUBLIN, R.A.S.E., BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS'  
ASSOCIATION, AND OTHER LEADING SOCIETIES.

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## PREFACE.

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BRITAIN is the home of sheep breeds and the breeding place of skilled flock-masters. There are soils, climates, and indigenuous stock, together with a wide range of husbandries, that enable the breed-maker to build up types suitable to his home needs and the world's requirements. Whilst this is so, the subject of sheep must have wide interest, and no apology is needed for bringing out a modern book on sheep. It was written just before the outbreak of the great war. Sheep have become very dear, and all kinds sell readily—even the larger breeds. With prospective high prices for a long time, some remarks may appear to be of less force than they would have been, but some of the principles I have advocated are only temporarily affected, and time will readjust them. Much that was set out in my previous book, "Sheep-raising and Shepherding," has been incorporated, in slightly altered form, because many teachers of agriculture desired that it should be, as it was convenient for their work.

The general object has been to produce a book both practical and suggestive. Personal experience in handling many breeds in their native districts, and many when away from them, enables me to write with a confidence I otherwise could not presume. Although I have handled many Scotch sheep, I have not lived on their native hills; therefore I have to thank Mr. Anderson who has had much experience with them on Scotch hills, and who is now successfully engaged in developing new breeds in Wales, for the reliable record he has set out. Mr. A. Mansell and others among flock improvers, as well as those associated with many flock books, have supplied information as I have needed it, and I gratefully acknowledge their kindness. Captain Leency, A.V.C. (then Mr. Harold Leency, F.R.C.V.S.), wrote an article in the Journal of the R.A.S.E. on "The Lambing Pen," and this in pamphlet form has been sold in vast numbers. Undoubtedly hygienic principles at lambing time as a common practice date from the publication of this paper, and thousands of ewes and lambs are saved yearly as a result. I felt it would be greatly

## PREFACE.

appreciated if the Veterinary Section of this book were written by Captain Leency, as he could treat it with an accuracy and up-to-dateness which a layman would not do; so, with the co-operation of the publishers, this was arranged. That it has added to the value of the book there is no doubt, and I welcome it with much pleasure.

As I have not an expert knowledge of wool when it has left the sheep, Professor Barker, of the Leeds Technical College, kindly undertook to write a short section, which is full of interest and instruction.

I would like to call attention to the fact that Chapters XI. to XIX. are specially designed to enable the inexperienced to follow out the work with the different sections of the flock day by day, and season by season, throughout the year. It sets out what the farmer actually has to do, and in this form I have been assured on many occasions that the year's shepherding and sheep management can be readily grasped by those whose experience is very limited. I would, therefore, suggest that these chapters be read consecutively, so that the thread of the work be gripped and intelligently understood. A mass of facts without connectiveness rarely proves useful; and knowledge itself is of little use unless it is turned to account; and in writing simply I have tried to reduce to practice anything that has been put forward, so that the least experienced may understand. I would urge the ancient adage: "With all thy getting, get understanding."

To those who are devoting time to the making and improving of breeds, all owe thanks; doubtless they find in it ample interest and reward, for it is a life full of interest.

W. J. MALDEN.



# CONTENTS.

	PAGES
INTRODUCTION .. .. .	i
CHAPTER I.—INDIGENOUS BREEDS .. .. .	1
CHAPTER II.—INFLUENCE OF THE BREED-MAKER .. .. .	6-18
BREEDS OF SHEEP CLASSIFIED—BAKEWELL'S WORK—CROSSES FROM WHICH BREEDS SPRING—BREED-MAKER'S FUNDAMENTAL IDEA—MR. ELWES' WORK—WOOL AND FLESH—HEAD COVERING—MUTTON PRODUCTION OF HIGHEST QUALITY—FACE COVERING—CROSS BREEDING—LESS SERVILE ADHERENCE TO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS.	
CHAPTER III.—BREEDS AND THEIR MODIFICATION .. .. .	19-25
CHARACTERISTICS OF BREEDS—HEATH BREEDS—INFLUENCE OF SOIL HERBAGE AND CLIMATE—THE NORFOLK HORNED SHEEP—MR. BOYS' SHEEP MEMORANDUM—VALUE OF INDIGENOUS CHARACTERISTICS—EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT—MENDEL'S LAWS AND SHEEP EXPERIMENTS.	
CHAPTER IV.—SHEEP CENSUS .. .. .	26-27
CHAPTER V.—DOWN AND HORN BREEDS .. .. .	28-44
SOUTHDOWN—SHROPSHIRE—THE HAMPSHIRE DOWN—THE DORSET DOWN—THE OXFORD DOWN—THE SUFFOLK—THE DORSET HORN—THE RYELAND—PRIMITIVE AND RARER BREEDS—THE MERINO.	
CHAPTER VI.—HILL AND HEATH BREEDS .. .. .	45-60
CHEVIOT—WELSH MOUNTAIN—THE KERRY HILL—CLUN FOREST THE BARNOR—THE BLACKFACED MOUNTAIN—THE LONE—THE DERBYSHIRE GRISTONE—SWALESDALE, PENISTONE, AND OTHER ENGLISH HILL BREEDS—WICKLOW—THE KERRY MOUNTAIN SHEEP—THE HERDWICK.	
CHAPTER VII.—LONGWOOLS .. .. .	61-73
THE LEICESTER—BORDER LEICESTER—THE LINCOLN—THE WENSLEYDALE—THE COTSWOLD—THE KENTISH OR ROMNEY MARSH—DEVON LONGWOOL—SOUTH DEVON—THE ROSCOMMON.	
CHAPTER VIII.—CROSSES AND CROSS-BREEDING .. .. .	74-81
INFLUENCE OF FOUR-COURSE SYSTEM—OXFORD—HAMPSHIRE; SOUTHDOWN—ROMNEY MARSH; DOWN CROSSES—CHEVIOT OR EXMOORS—LINCOLN CROSSES—CROSS-BREEDING FOR MUTTON IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND—MOUNTAIN BREEDS—FIRST CROSSES—BORDER LEICESTER—CHEVIOT—BORDER LEICESTER—BLACKFACE—BORDER LEICESTER—HERDWICK—WENSLEYDALE—BLACKFACE—SECOND CROSSES.	
CHAPTER IX.—SELECTION OF A BREED .. .. .	82-83
CHAPTER X.—POINTS AND NOMENCLATURE OF SHEEP .. .. .	84-88
THE POINTS: BODY, TAIL, LOIN, NECK OR SCRAG, HEAD, TEETH, HORNS, WOOL, SKIN, UNDERSIDE—HANDLING—DENTITION—MOLARS—NOMENCLATURE.	
CHAPTER XI.—THE RAM AND EWE .. .. .	89-92
CHOICE OF RAM—NUMBER OF EWES—THE EWE—CULLING EWES.	

## CONTENTS.

	PAGES
CHAPTER XII.—THE GREEN FOOD SUPPLY .. .. .	93-98
DIVISION OF THE YEAR—SWEDES—KOHLE-RABI—MANGELS— CABBAGES—KALE—RAPE—WHITE TURNIPS—GREENS—RYE, BARLEY, ETC.—MUSTARD—ENSILAGE—SAINFOIN—STUBBLES— PASTURE—WATER MEADOWS—CATCH CROPS.	
CHAPTER XIII.—CONCENTRATED FEEDING STUFFS .. .. .	97-98
LINSEED CAKE—COTTON CAKE—SPECIAL FEEDING CAKES— WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS, ETC.—PEAS, BEANS, LENTILS—MAIZE AND RICE—MALT CULMS, PEA HUSK AND BRAN—HAY.	
CHAPTER XIV.—SECTIONS OF THE FLOCK .. .. .	99-103
COMPOSITION OF THE FLOCK—WORKING A MIXED FLOCK— WEANING—LAMBING—HEAD OF SHEEP AT DIFFERENT SEASONS— SHEPHERD'S ACCOUNT BOOK—SHEEP REQUIRED TO FEED OFF CROPS.	
CHAPTER XV.—A YEAR WITH THE EWES .. .. .	104-116
THE EWE AT WEANING—TREATMENT OF EWES BEFORE AND DURING GESTATION—THE LAMBING YARD—SHELTER—SHEPHERD'S REQUIREMENTS IN THE LAMBING PEN—LAMBING OR YEANING— PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN THE LAMBING PEN—THE SHEPHERD'S TASK—EXAMINATION FOR FOOT- ROT.	
CHAPTER XVI.—AFTER-MANAGEMENT OF EWES AND LAMBS .. .. .	117-122
IN THE FIELD—FEEDING THE LAMBS—ON GRASS—TAILING AND CASTRATION—OLDER LAMBS—HOVEN OR BLOWN.	
CHAPTER XVII.—TEGS .. .. .	123-129
TEGS IN SUMMER—SUMMER KEEP OR FEED—CONCENTRATED FOOD—TEGS IN AUTUMN—TEGS IN WINTER—SLICING ROOTS— PASTURAGE THE NATURAL FOOD—FIRST FEEDING OF LEYS.	
CHAPTER XVIII.—SHEEP SHEARING .. .. .	130-135
SHEARING—SHEARING AFTER WASHING—METHODS OF SHEAR- ING—SHEARING BY HAND AND BY MACHINERY.	
CHAPTER XIX.—DAILY MANAGEMENT OF LAMBS AND TEGS .. .. .	136-148
WHILE WITH THEIR DAMS—ON GRASS—IN SUMMER—DIPPING— WHEN LAMBS SCOUR—IN AUTUMN—KEEPING SHEEP WITHIN BOUNDS —HAY FEEDING—IN WINTER—LAME SHEEP—FOLD-SETTING—UN- HEALTHY FOODS—SELLING OUT TEGS.	
CHAPTER XX.—SHOW SHEEP .. .. .	149-153
MANAGEMENT OF A SHOW FLOCK—OCCASIONAL PURCHASE OF EWES—IN-BREEDING—HOUSE FEEDING—TRIMMING FOR SHOWS— COLOURING FOR EXHIBITION—OILING AND GREASING—TRAVELLING TO A SHOW.	
CHAPTER XXI.—MANAGEMENT OF A BREEDING FLOCK ON THE CRABLES ..	155-164
AUTUMN AND WINTER FEEDING—RAPID CROPPING—ELLMAN'S SYSTEM ADAPTED—A WILTSHIRE ROTATION—EARLY MATURITY— CULLING AND DRAFTING—EWES DURING GESTATION—PRIOR TO LAMBING—SHELTER—HIGH PRESSURE FEEDING—VALUE OF WATER MEADOWS—WEANING—EWES AFTER WEANING.	
CHAPTER XXII.—MANAGEMENT OF A BREED LARGELY ON GRASS, AND WITH FEW CATCH CROPS ON ARABLE LAND .. .. .	165-166
THE LINCOLN—FLUSHING THE EWES—DRAFT EWES.	
CHAPTER XXIII.—MANAGEMENT OF A MARSHLAND BREED .. .. .	167-173
KENT OR ROMNEY MARSH—FLUREY LAND—BREEDS USED— INFLUENCE OF THE CHEVIOT—NO BEST BREED—LAMBING IN THE OPEN—EWES FEED FOR THEMSELVES—SHEARING LAMBS—MARSHES TOO WET FOR LAMBS IN WINTER—CHANGING A BREED'S CHARACTER —A GRAZIER'S BREED—CROSSES WITH THE ROMNEY—FAT LAMB CROSSES.	

## CONTENTS.

	PAGES
CHAPTER XXIV.—MANAGEMENT OF A HILL FLOCK OF BLACK-FACED SCOTCH SHEEP .. .. .	174-176
EWES IN WINTER—LAMBING—WASHING AND SHEARING—WEANING—DRAFTING FLOCK.	
CHAPTER XXV.—GENERAL FEATURES IN SHEEP MANAGEMENT ..	177-186
THE SHEEP FARMER—KNOWLEDGE OF MARKETS—IN SEASONS OF SHORTNESS—TIME TO BUY—THE SHEPHERD—THE SHEEP DOG—LAMENESS—CATCHING AND TURNING A SHEEP—FOOT TROUBLES—ON FLOODING LAND—SHEEP-SICK LAND—DRIVING SHEEP SLOWLY—EAB-MARKING—SALE AND PURCHASE.	
CHAPTER XXVI.—BRITISH WOOLS .. .. .	187-196
TWO TYPES OF BRITISH WOOLS—TYPICAL LONG-WOOLS AND LONG-WOOL BREEDS OF SHEEP—VARIATIONS IN THE FOREGOING TYPES—VALUE OF ENGLISH BREEDS FOR CROSSING.	
CHAPTER XXVII.—IMPROVING WOOL AND MARKETING THE FLEECE ..	196-200
IMPROVEMENTS IN MUTTON AND WOOL—EXPERIMENTS AT CAMBRIDGE—CLASSIFICATION OF WOOLS—MARKETING OF WOOLS—WOOL QUALITIES.	
CHAPTER XXVIII.—DISEASES OF SHEEP .. .. .	201-202
SIGNS OF DISEASE.	
CHAPTER XXIX.—DISEASES OF THE BLOOD .. .. .	203-207
SIMPLE FEVER—ANÆMIA—PERNICIOUS ANÆMIA—RED WATER—ANTHRAX—QUARTER-ILL, SYMPTOMATIC ANTHRAX, STRIKE—BRAXY, SHEEP SICKNESS, STRIKE.	
CHAPTER XXX.—DISEASES OF THE BREATHING ORGANS .. .. .	208-210
CATARRH—NASAL GLEET OR OZENA—PLEURISY—PNEUMONIA OR INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS—BRONCHITIS—VERMINOUS BRONCHITIS OR HUCK.	
CHAPTER XXXI.—DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM .. .. .	211-218
APHTHA OR THRUSH—MALIGNANT APHTHA—CONTAGIOUS FUSTULAR DERMATITIS, LIP AND LEG DISEASE—CHOKING—LOSS OF CUD—HOVEN OR TYMPANY—PLENNAVIA OR DISTENSION OF PAUNCH—FARDEL BOUND—WOOL BALLS AND CONCRETIONS OR STONES—WOOL-BALLING IN LAMBS—INFLAMMATION OF THE STOMACH OR ABOMASUM—SCOURING CAUSED BY WORMS—TAPWORM—THE HOT FLUKE, FARCTOLIASIS.	
CHAPTER XXXII.—DISEASES OF THE URINARY ORGANS .. .. .	219-225
INFLAMMATION OF THE KIDNEYS—KIDNEY STONES—STOPPAGE OF URINE—LEAKING OF URINE FROM THE NAVEL—DISEASES OF THE GENERATIVE ORGANS—CASTRATION—ABORTION—INFECTIOUS ABORTION—PARTURITION TROUBLES—EVERSION OF THE VAGINA—MALPRESENTATIONS—COMING OUT OF THE WOMB—COMING OUT OF THE VAGINA AND BLADDER—NOT CLEANING—INFLAMMATION OF THE WOMB—GARGET—INFECTIOUS GARGET.	
CHAPTER XXXIII.—DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM .. .. .	226-227
GID, STURDY, TURN-SICK—FITS—LOUPEL ILL—TETANUS OR LOCKJAW.	
CHAPTER XXXIV.—DISEASES OF THE EYE AND SKIN .. .. .	228-231
CONJUNCTIVITIS—EYE BLIGHT, INFECTIOUS—DISEASES OF THE SKIN—ECZEMA—DROPSICAL SKIN—SCAB OR SHAB—LICK, KEDS, TICKS, ETC.—LEG OR FOOT MANGE—FLY OR MAGGOT—SORR HEADS.	
CHAPTER XXXV.—SPROFIC DISEASES .. .. .	232-233
JOINT ILL, NAVEL ILL—INFECTIOUS SCOUR.	
CHAPTER XXXVI.—LAMENESS, DISEASES OF THE FEET .. .. .	234-235
FOOT-ROT—INFECTIOUS FOOT-ROT.	
CHAPTER XXXVII.—MEDICINES .. .. .	237-239
SIMPLE REMEDIES—DRENCHING—DILUTION OF MEDICINES—BALLS OR BOLUSES.	