

**THE SHEPHERD'S
MANUAL. A PRACTICAL
TREATISE ON THE SHEEP**

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The shepherd's manual. A practical treatise on the sheep by Henry Stewart

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HENRY STEWART

**THE SHEPHERD'S
MANUAL. A PRACTICAL
TREATISE ON THE SHEEP**

Edward J. Wickson.

The Shepherd's Manual.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE

ON

THE SHEEP.

DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR AMERICAN SHEPHERDS.

BY

HENRY STEWART.

ILLUSTRATED



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PREFACE.....	v-vi
CHAPTER I.	
THE SHEEP AS AN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT.....	8- 11
Antiquity of Sheep Husbandry—The Future of Sheep Husbandry—Its Effects upon Agriculture—Demand for Mutton Sheep—Value of the Wool Product—Extent of Pasturage in America.	
CHAPTER II.	
THE SUMMER MANAGEMENT OF A FLOCK.....	11- 33
Selection of a Sheep Farm—Effects of Soils upon the Health of Sheep—What is a Good Pasture?—Value of Certain Grasses—The Western Plains as Sheep Pasture— Pastures—Fodder Crops—Root Crops—Folding Sheep— Dog Guards.	
CHAPTER III.	
MANAGEMENT OF EWES AND LAMBS.....	33- 49
Marking Sheep—Record for Breeders—Management of Rams—Care of Ewes—Care of Lambs—Selecting Lambs for Breeders—Prevention of Disease—Dipping Preven- tive of Parasites.	
CHAPTER IV.	
WINTER MANAGEMENT OF SHEEP.....	49- 81
Barns and Sheds—Feed Racks—Feeding Value of Differ- ent Fodders, Roots and Grains—Experiments in Feeding— Profit of Feeding—Raising Early Lambs for Market— Feeding Sheep for Market—Value of Manure—Markets for Sheep.	

(3)

3763

CHAPTER V.

	PAGE.
BREEDING AND BREEDS OF SHEEP.....	81-143

How Breeds are Established—Improvement of Flocks—
 Cross Breeding—Breeding for Sex—Maxims for Breeders
 —Native Breeds—Improvement of the Merinos—The Me-
 rino Fleecce—Long-Wool Breeds—Medium and Short-Wool
 Breeds—Foreign Breeds—Cross-bred Sheep—American
 Cross-breeds.

CHAPTER VI.

THE STRUCTURE AND USES OF WOOL.....	142-167
-------------------------------------	---------

The Method of Growth of Wool—Its Peculiar Structure
 —Its Composition—The Yolk—Classification of Wools—
 Character of Merino Wool—Washing Wool—Shearing—
 Packing and Marketing the Fleeces—Production of Wool
 in the World—Comparative Values of Wool in Different
 Countries—Favorable Conditions for Producing Wool in
 the United States.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ANATOMY AND DISEASES OF THE SHEEP.....	168-349
--	---------

Physiology of the Sheep—The Teeth—The Bones—The
 Vital Functions, Respiration, Circulation, and Digestion—
 The Causes and Prevention of Diseases of the Sheep—Dis-
 eases of the Respiratory Organs, of the Digestive Organs,
 of the Blood—Enzoötic Diseases—Epizoötic Diseases—
 Diseases of the Urinary and Reproductive Organs, of the
 Brain—Parasitical Diseases of the Intestines, of the Skin
 —Diseases of the Feet—Diseases incident to Lambing—
 Special Diseases—Diseases of Lambs.

TABLE OF APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENT MEASURES.....	249
---	-----

P R E F A C E .

The following Manual is designed to be a hand-book for American shepherds and farmers. It is intended to be so plain that a farmer, or a farmer's son, who has never kept a sheep, may learn from its pages how to manage a flock successfully, and to be so complete that even the experienced shepherd may gather some suggestions from it. When the author, some years ago, began to keep sheep, he sought in vain amongst the published works a simple practical, comprehensive book upon sheep and sheep-keeping, suited to his necessities. The excellent works upon the Merino and Fine Wool Husbandry by Mr. Randall, were the only ones to be obtained that were adapted for the use of an American shepherd, and these referred to a special branch of sheep husbandry which is becoming every year a less and less prominent one. The other books on this subject then extant, were either English works or compilations from them, and were out of date and incomplete. None of the works gave a description of the modern improved breeds of sheep which have of late become so deservedly popular; or any full or satisfactory account of the diseases of sheep, and the remedies proper for them under the modern systems of treatment which have grown out of the more accurate scientific knowledge of the present day; nor could any information as to the vastly increased scope of this branch of agricultural industry in America, be found in any book. It was necessary to learn by experience—in this case, as in all others, a costly teacher—how to meet the needs of the modern improved sheep in our climate and

under our methods of culture. The results of personal experiences of some years with the characters of the various modern breeds of sheep, and the sheep-raising capabilities of many portions of our extensive territory and that of Canada, most of which have been visited with a view to the effects upon our sheep of the varying climate and different soils; and the careful study of the diseases to which our sheep are chiefly subject, with those by which they may eventually be afflicted through unforeseen accidents; as well as the methods of management called for under our circumstances, were finally gathered into the shape in which they are here presented to the shepherds of America, with the hope that they may be as acceptable and useful to them as they would have been, when he first undertook the care of a flock, to

THE AUTHOR.

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The Shepherd's Manual.

CHAPTER I.

THE SHEEP AS AN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT.

From the earliest ages the sheep has been a source of profit to mankind, and its keeping and rearing an important industry. Abel, the second son of Adam, chose sheep-herding as his employment, and although his elder brother chose to cultivate the soil, the pastoral life became the favored occupation of the human race in its early periods, and the more toilsome tillage of the ground was followed from necessity rather than from choice. With a sparse population, a scarcity of labor, but at the same time an ample territory, the cultivation of flocks became in early times the readiest means of providing food and clothing, increasing the comforts of man and of accumulating transferable wealth. Although at first sight it is a singular circumstance, yet on reflection it is seen to be a necessity of the case that the territory upon which the flocks of the ancient patriarchs were fed and tended, is still the home of shepherds, and that there, for forty centuries, flocks have wandered from pasture to pasture under the care of their nomadic proprietors. Where the physical features of the country were favorable to pasturage, there the first civilized occupation was that of keeping sheep, and so it remains to this day.

In view of its bearing upon the future of sheep husbandry in the United States, it is important to remember this fact, that where peculiarly favorable physical features of the country were present, and the shepherd occupied the land, there the shepherd and his flock retain possession until this day. Thus, at the time of the conquest of Spain by the ancient Romans, that country was celebrated for its flocks and the quality of its wool, and to-day the