



SHEEP ACTIVITY BOOK



Learning About Sheep

Domestic Sheep (*ovis aries*, scientific name) are quadrupedal, ruminant mammals typically kept as livestock.

Sheep were among the first animals to be tamed and bred (over 7,000 years ago).

Sheep are found all over the world. They are very social animals and live in groups called flocks.

The male is called a ram (if castrated it is a wether), the female is called a ewe, and their offspring is a lamb.

The present-day breeds of domesticated sheep are bred for their meat, wool, skins and their milk.

After the meat is removed from a carcass, there is still a great deal of product available for use. The byproducts from sheep are used in everyday goods such as textiles, paint, chewing gum, cosmetics, crayons, marshmallows, dog biscuits, etc.

Try unscrambling these words to find more byproducts that come from sheep.

1. elgu _____
2. apos _____
3. bsebaall _____
4. nostutb _____

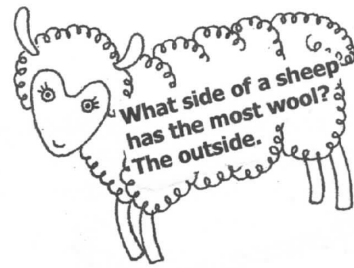
Sheep Breeds

A breed is a group of animals with a common ancestry (family) and characteristics (what they look like).

Using your breed chart as a reference, draw a line from the breed in the left hand column to its corresponding description in the right hand column.

HAMPSHIRE
CANADIAN ARCOTT
SUFFOLK
KATAHDIN
DORSET

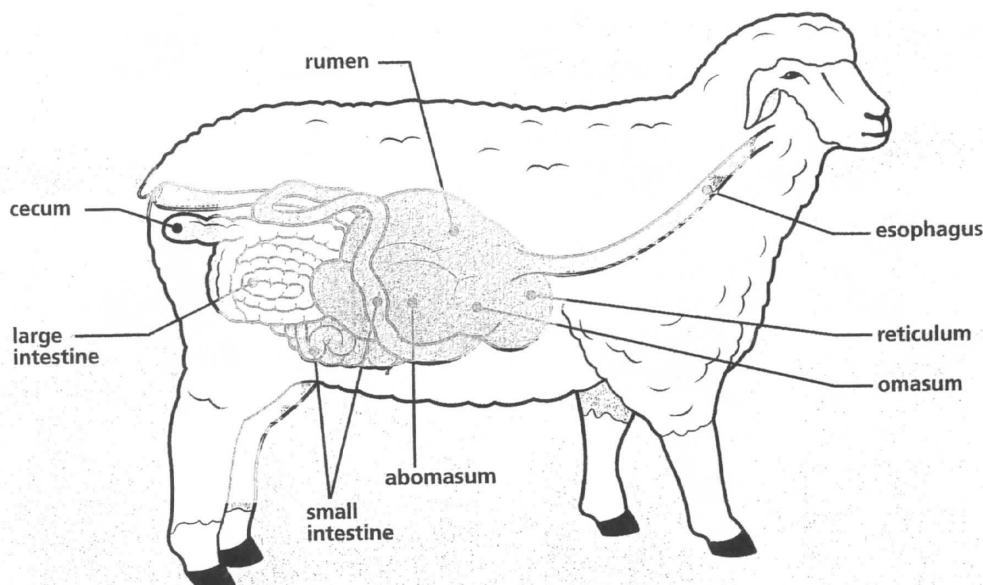
- A. No shearing required.
- B. Result of a cross breeding program.
- C. Breed out of season, prolific, good milkers.
- D. Widely used as terminal sires, good carcass quality.
- E. Very docile, fast growing lambs.



Digestion In Sheep

Sheep belong to the ruminant classification of animals. The primary difference between ruminants and simple stomached animals, like people, is the presence of a four-compartment stomach that includes the rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum.

The rumen is a large storage space for food that is quickly consumed, then later regurgitated, re-chewed, and re-swallowed in a process called cud-chewing. Healthy mature sheep will chew their cud for several hours each day.



POPULAR CUTS OF LAMB

Popular cuts of lamb are listed below. See if you can find them hidden in the block of letters.

Be Healthy With Lamb

Lamb contains many important vitamins and minerals. Lamb is a good source of protein. Protein builds and repairs all your body's tissue and keeps your muscles strong. Lamb is a good source of iron and the B-vitamins. Iron helps red blood cells carry oxygen to body cells and tissues. You also need iron to fuel everyday physical activity. Lamb is a good source of zinc. Zinc helps you think and improves things like memory and paying attention. While lamb is high in these many necessary nutrients, it's relatively low in calories. A three ounce serving of lean lamb, from cuts such as the leg or loin, only contains 176 calories.

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

ARM CHOP
CROWN ROAST
LOIN CHOPS
LAMBURGER
LEG
LEG STEAK
NECK SLICES
RACK
RIBLETS
SHANKS
SHISH KEBOBS
SHOULDER
SIRLOIN
SIDE RIBS
STEW MEAT

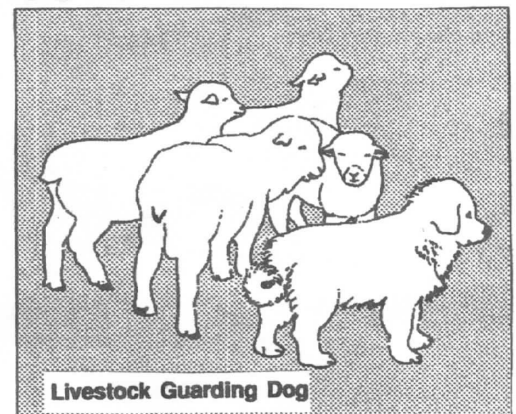


Dogs

There are two types of dogs used on sheep farms: herding dogs and guardian dogs.

Livestock Guardian Dogs are used to protect sheep from predators. Some of the more common breeds used in Saskatchewan are Great Pyrenees, Maremma, Komondor, Akbash, Kuvasz, Anatolian Shepherd. Most livestock guardian dogs are large and imposing, weighing 75-100 pounds. They are large enough to startle or intimidate predators. Rearing guardian dog pups with sheep creates an attachment or bond between the dog and sheep. Their job is to bond with the sheep not the shepherd.

Herding dogs are used to manage sheep. They are also called stockdogs or working dogs. Common herding dogs in Saskatchewan include the Border Collie, Australian Shepherd, Australian Kelpie and Australian cattle dog. A well trained herding dog works in partnership with its handler and obeys commands to perform its job. Properly trained, the dog is able to move the sheep just about anywhere.



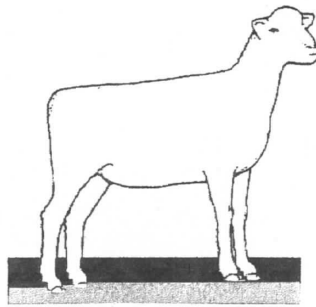
Sheep and the Environment

When sheep are properly grazed they benefit the land by:

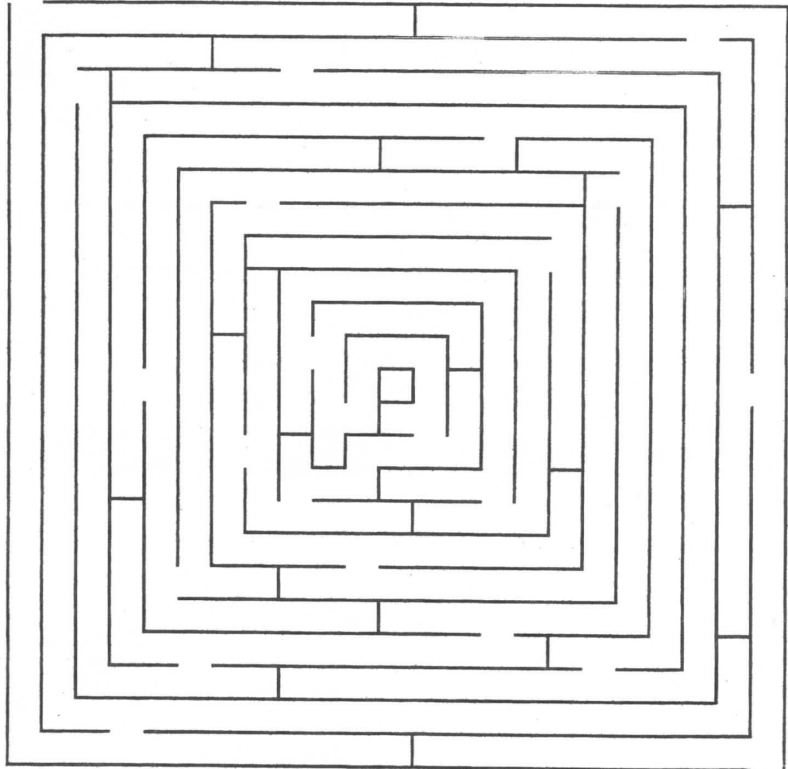
- aerating the soil with their hooves, which allows more oxygen and water to enter
- pressing grass seed into the soil, so it can start growing
- providing natural fertilizer

Sheep are nature's weed eaters. They control noxious and invasive weeds without the use of chemical or mechanical practices. One such weed is leafy spurge which is so competitive that it quickly crowds out all other plants. It reduces the land's market value and degrades grazing capacity, reducing profitability and productivity of livestock operations. The sheep will consume the top growth which in turn reduces plant vigour and seed production. Sheep primarily eat the flowers and vegetative shoots of the weed. They also strip leaves from mature stems. Repeated grazing weakens the spurge plants and allows grasses to become more productive.

ANSWERS: 1. glue 2. soap 3. baseball 4. buttons
Hampshire E, Canadian Arcott B, Suffolk D, Katahdin A,
Dorset C



Can you help Dora find the leafy spurge?



VOCABULARY: quadrupedal – four legged animal
ruminant – mammal that digests plant based food by first softening it within its first stomach
mammal – a class of animal
domesticated – tame
by product – a secondary product derived from a manufacturing process
aerating – process by which air is circulated
noxious – a plant that is injurious to livestock
predator – an animal eg. Coyote that feeds on its prey
textile – a network of natural fibres often referred to as thread or yarn

