

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.
WOOL

Wool forms the coat of our domesticated sheep. Other animal fibres are spoken of as hair. The difference between hair and wool may well be illustrated by the case of primitive wild sheep, whose coats were double, with an inner coat of fine wool that had a two-fold structure: an inner or cortex, and an outer or cuticle. The other coat was coarse hair, each hair having a three-fold structure: Medulla, cortex and cuticle. Certain varieties of wild sheep have hair only, similar to the longer hairy fibres secured from llama, alpaca, angora and cashmere goats.

The wool that is clipped from our domestic sheep is a soft elastic fibre. It is distinguished from other fibres by its slender, wavy or curly structure. When examined under the microscope it has a serrated surface; this is a very valuable characteristic, because it gives wool fibre its felting property that it possesses in a much more marked degree than any other fibre.

A sheep's skin on which the wool is produced consists of four layers: The outer skin made up largely of dead cells; the true skin, called the epidermis; then a layer of cells filled with minute blood vessels, and the inner or corium cells known as the dermis. Hair projects from the skin in innumerable numbers. The wool is formed in these follicles and is exuded as a plastic liquid, and when it emerges it hardens into wool fibre.

Wool is a hair like covering that grows on the skin of domesticated sheep. Its fibre consists of three parts with the medulla in the center composed of soft, globular cells. Next to it there are spindle-shaped cells known as corticles, and the outer part is made up of horny scale-like cells overlapping like shingles. This is described as having a serrated surface.

Ordinarily sheep are shorn once each year, but in some areas, where the seasons are very hot, they are shorn twice each year, in the spring and autumn. With machine clippers, some shearers are able to clip up to 200 head per day. The amount of wool per animal varies from three to twelve pounds, according to the breed of sheep and the environment, with the average fleece weighing 10 to 15 pounds, from five to eight pounds.

Most wool goes into the markets as fleece wool, and is the product of a single year's growth. Dealers, wool handlers and graders want each fleece rolled and tied separately. They can then easily divide each fleece into the several grades according to the area of the sheep's body on which the wool grew. The most valuable wool is that produced on each of the fore shoulders.

Lamb's wool is the first or finest clip, and may be taken from the lamb at from 8 to 12 months of age. When the lamb is shorn at more than 12 months of age, its wool is known as hog or hogget wool. This is similar to lam's wool, having a tapering point to each fibre and being of the quality.

The life history of sheep is recorded in their wool fibres, just as that of fish is learned from an examination of their scales and the age of trees can be determined by their annual growth rings. The fibre diameter of the wool reveals important facts with reference to the race to which the sheep belongs and the environment under which they lived.

The serrations on the wool fibres of Merino sheep are exceedingly numerous, pointed and acute, giving it a very high felting quality. Some of the coarse wools do not have more than 500 serrations per inch. The long-wooled English Lincoln and Leicester sheep have about 1,800 serrations per inch, while as many as 2,800 serrations per inch have been counted on wool fibres from the Saxony Merino. There is also a great variation in the maximum diameter of wool. There are coarse wools with a diameter of 17/250 of an inch, while the finest Merino may vary from 1/2000 to 1/4000 of an inch.

In wool fibres the crimp or curl is also a very important property and plays a very large part in making yarn or in the felting of cloth. These curly fibres will spin into finer yarn and make better thread than straight fibres, as their serrations interlock and the crimp prevents them from unwinding.

Cloth made from curly wool has much better felting properties. The manufacturers have classified wool as combing, clothing and carpet wools. The carpet wools are either carded or combed; short wools can be used for clothing but for combing they should be at least 2 1/2 inches in length, thought a French comb made possible the combing of shorter or "baby combed" wool.

Many people from a wide area were present to see and enjoy the pictures shown in the public hall on Nov. 26.

Week-end visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Douglas MacEachern, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Murchison MacEachern.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Everett Glover, Norboro, in the misfortune of having accidentally sustained severe injuries to his ankle while attending to barn work.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd MacQuarrie have left on a motor visit to points in the Annapolis Valley. During this visit they will be the guests of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Allen.

Argyle School pals of Lloyd MacPhail, son of Mr. Bert MacPhail, are greatly pleased to learn that he went through a successful operation in the P. E. Island Hospital and is gradually convalescing at his home in Argyle Shore.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Inman, Brehwood, who have left to take up residence in the City during the winter months, will be greatly missed in both church and community life where their services have been appreciated.

Many attentive worshippers at the service of public worship on Nov. 28, in this pastoral charge, heard a most interesting survey of church activities, our responsibility and call to the task ahead. Hymns sung were: "Before Jehovah's Awful Throne, Ye Nations Bow With



SECTIONAL TRAY... Discarded tin cans of uniform size, preferably the type in which condensed milk is sold, can be cut in the manner indicated in drawing and then crimped and soldered together to make storage trays that will be useful for storing various small parts.

Hampton

Friends of Mr. Harold Ferguson will regret to learn of his present illness, requiring medical care.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Cudmore, Toronto, are visiting relatives and friends here and at Appin Road.

Business visitors to Summerside on Nov. 22 and 23 were Mr. and Mrs. Earle Calbeck, and Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Ferguson.

Among those making a return business trip to the City on Nov. 26 were Miss Mary Trainor, Mr. Russel Boyce and Mr. MacKenzie K. Dixon.

Capt. Dan Ferguson is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Jack MacKinnon, whose husband is confined by illness.

Mr. Vance Bridges, employee in the office of R. T. Holman Ltd., was a recent weekend visitor to his home here.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis and family, Summerside, were recent visitors to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon W. Lead and two daughters, June and Dorothy, R.N. of Charlottetown, visited relatives in Coleman over the weekend and were guests on Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas.

A miscellaneous shower was held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barbour at their home in Montserrat, Friday evening, Nov. 26. They received many beautiful gifts. Mrs. Barbour was formerly Kay Lockery of Cascumpec.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ashley and family have moved into the home in Brooklyn formerly owned by Mr. Ashley's brother, Mr. John Ashley, who is now residing in Union Road, near Charlottetown.

Mr. George D. Warren, Mill Road, accompanied by Mr. Harry Thomas, were recent visitors to Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Garth Harrison and family, O'Leary, were Sunday visitors to the home of Mrs. Harrison's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brenton Hudson.

Miss Joyce Callaghan, teacher of Cascumpec school, spent the weekend at her home in Kildare.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Raynor and daughter Anna were recent visitors to Cascumpec, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Gordon and family, and Mr. Murray Gordon.

Mr. Charlie Gordon is a patient in the Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, where he is undergoing an operation for the removal of a piece of steel from his eye.

strong wool which will produce wearing fabrics, it should have a high percentage of its fibres that will stand carding, combing and spinning processes without breaking. To secure this, the sheep flock should be healthy, given sufficient food at all times, and have protection from pests and storms.

Weak wool has a low tensile strength and breaks in processing; this results in the loss of a large number of short fibres, combed out and or waste material, "Tender" or wool that has a fibre that is weak throughout its length, and is caused by under-nourishment, old age or chronic illness of the sheep. Wool that has weak spots that break when the wool is stretched, is usually caused by a sudden, short sickness, a period of starvation that may be caused by a storm in areas where sheep have no shelter, or by indigestion from the overfeeding of concentrates.

Weak spots have occurred in wool produced at lambing time in many cases. To overcome loss from this cause, sheepmen have adopted a practice of shearing very soon after the lambing period, so that the effect of the "break" is overcome.

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Timely Notes

Silver Fox And Mink Farming

Quantities for the December sales of the Nordic Fur Auction Company, Stockholm, Sweden, were listed. Sale dates were December 1 and 2. Approximately 12,000 to 15,000 mutation mink were offered in the first two days of the sale and about 2,000 foxes on the third day. On December 15 to 18 between 55,000 and 60,000 standard mink will be offered together with 3,000 foxes. From the above it can be seen that Sweden is quite a fur farming country.

Willia, Fitzgerald, vice-president New York Auction Company, which conducted the first auction sale of chinchillas, has advised the National Chinchilla Breeders Association of America and the Farmers Chinchilla Co-operative of America, to make its second public offering at a New York auction some time in March, 1955. A minimum of 5,000 to 6,000 first and second color and quality pelts was advocated. The advantages of an auction in March, Mr. Fitzgerald said, should give the trade time to sell their present chinchilla garments and give consumer reaction, and there would be no competition at that time with any other pelt offerings. He recommended as permanent policy sales only of dressed pelts in New York, and cautioned the industry against attempts at selling finished garments directly to the trade or consumer.

Some 40,000 ranch and mutation mink including the first "Canada Dark Mink" were auctioned under this name by the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, (Que.) Ltd. at its special sale in Montreal yesterday. The mink section included a special catalogue of EMBA raw mutations together with an initial of "Canada Dark Mink" both for the account of members of Canada Mink Breeders. There was also a separate catalogue of ranch and mutation mink auctioned for the account of Independent Shippers. The mink offering was described in many fine quality strings of standard mink in various varieties including a large percentage of pelts from all western provinces as well as eastern types.

An editorial in the latest Black Fox Magazine and Modern Mink Breeder has the following in part: "The sale of live mink for breeding purposes outside North America has been frowned upon. The National Board at its last annual meeting passed a resolution to that effect. Many individual ranchers condemned the practise. However, the sale of live mink for export continues. To our mind the damage, if any, in export sales was done years ago. This attempt now to stop foreign purchases of live mink is like that old adage about locking the barn after the horse is stolen. Some foreign sales have been made by our most reputable ranchers and European breeders of mink now have our most recent mutations. The countries to which American mink have been sold are termed friendly countries and it is to be greatly doubted if the United States Government will put any ban on the export of mink. The present trend in government has been for what is termed "free trade" and this trend is likely to continue.

"American breeders who have visited Europe in the past few years all report the quality of mink they have seen abroad as

far below the quality here. They say the Scandinavian countries are five years back of us in producing quality mink. Animals bought in this country lose their fine fur quality after a year abroad and their offspring never acquire it. Undoubtedly the American breeder must meet more and more foreign competition. His future success depends upon improving the quality of the mink he raises. He should make every endeavor to stay five years ahead in his knowledge of raising top quality mink." Our comment on the above is that it appears to be very reasonable and we believe that our Canadian ranchers will agree that what is required is constant improvement in quality.

The Joseph Ullman Brokerage Corporation, New York, is this year celebrating its centennial in the fur business. The firm was founded by Joseph Ullman in 1841 at Saint Paul, Minnesota. He and his wife went to Saint Paul in a prairie schooner in the 1850's. The principal business was trading beaver and buffalo skins with the Minnesota Indians. The firm then moved to New York where it is located at 252 West 28th St., and is headed by Joseph Ullman, a grandson of the founder, who has been in the fur business for 54 years. Vincent Ullman, a great-grandson of the founder, now heads the ranch mink department. The above item will be interesting to W. Chester S. McLure, who in 1915 as manager of the P. E. I. Fur Sales Board, was the first man to interest the people of the United States in silver fox. It was with Joseph Ullman that he made his first connection. Mr. Ullman was delighted with the quality of the ranch raised silver fox and very shortly brought it into prominence and created a great demand for it. The rest of the story is familiar — how American cottoned

to the product of Prince Edward Island, how ranches were established and the industry grew to enormous proportions. Mr. McLure always spoke most highly of Mr. Ullman as a man for his many fine qualities and high principles in business.

This was taken from the latest Black Fox Magazine... A further development in the long-awaited return of long-haired furs is on the way with the current program of the American Fox Breeders Association, which is promoting three new types of fox — each magnificent in its own coloring — under registered trademarks by arrangement with the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association. These new types are: OPALINE Pearl-Platinum Fox, ONYX Silver Fox and PALLADIUM Platinum Fox. These three exciting new kinds of fox appeared again and again in the recent Paris, London and New York collections and are being promoted in an extensive advertising campaign which includes full color pages in Vogue Harper's Bazaar and Town and Country, backed up by substantial editorials. Advertisements abroad are running in leading fashion magazines of Canada, Germany, Italy, France and England.

The Murray river, largest river system in Australia, extends 1,609 miles.

Cascumpec

The many friends of Mr. Artemas Cameron are very pleased to see him home again after being a patient in the Prince County Hospital, Summerside, for the past two and one-half months.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FEDERATION of AGRICULTURE

QUEENS COUNTY - PRINCE COUNTY - KINGS COUNTY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

QUEENS COUNTY: TUESDAY, December 7th at 8:00 P. M. Sharp.
Birch Court — Experimental Farm

KINGS COUNTY: THURSDAY, December 9 at 1:30 P.M.
New Perth Hall.

PRINCE COUNTY: FRIDAY, December 10th.
O'Leary Public Hall — 1:30 p.m.

Information and discussion on livestock grading, grass silage, Potato Marketing Board, election of directors, review of Federation activities. Farm Forum short courses at New Perth and O'Leary during the evening of the above meetings.

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with RUTH WYETH SPEARS

STORAGE UNIT BUFFET
PATTERN 226

Use these four units wherever storage space is needed. They may be used separately or combined as found most convenient. As illustrated they form a handsome buffet and china cabinet with base sixty-three inches long. The drawers and door fronts are of 3/4" plywood with tops and framing of solid pine. There are beautiful plywoods available at local yards and they come in a wide range of prices so before buying the material decide whether you want to use the cabinets for out-of-the-way storage or as decorative pieces. The directions on the pattern are illustrated with large three dimensional drawings. The pattern number is 226 and the price is 35c.

Apply the Workshop Department, The Guardian Publishing Co.

WHY HAVE SORE FEET?

JUST RUB IN
MINARD'S LINIMENT
"KING OF PAIN"

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OUR BOARDING HOUSE
MAJOR HOOPLE

PLEASE CORRECT MY BAD GRAMMAR — BUT WHEN A GUY TIPS YOU OFF TO A SALE, DON'T HE RATE MORE THAN A BIG MAIL-ORDER PORCELAIN GRIN? — I HEAR YOU PEDDLED YOUR PORTRAIT TO MY PROSPECT, BASCOM CHARE!

EGAD, BUSTER! MUST YOU TINGE WITH COMMERCIALISM THE GENEROUS PLAN I WAS HATCHING FOR YOUR YULE STOCKING? — HAK-KAFF! IT SULLIES THE SPIRIT OF GIVING TO BE PELTED WITH HUNGRY THINTS!

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