1-1957

Sheep shearing technique

W. L. McGarry
D. A. Young
M. Butler

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol6/iss1/3

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3 by an authorized administrator of Research Library. For more information, please contact jennifer.heathcote@agric.wa.gov.au, sandra.papenfus@agric.wa.gov.au, paul.orange@dpird.wa.gov.au.
FIG. 1.—TAKING SHEEP FROM CATCHING PEN FOR SHEARING

When a sheep is taken from the catching pen, it should not be roughly handled, or allowed to become excited. Excited sheep will tend to strain and kick, making it very difficult for the shearer to maintain the correct positions for shearing. Always catch the sheep quietly, by placing the left hand under the jaw and pressing with the right hand on the sheep's tail. When taking the sheep to the shearing stand it is preferable not to lift the sheep clear of the board, as this practice only increases the work of the shearer. Allowing sheep to remain in contact with the board is less likely to disturb them than carrying them from the catching pen.

SHEEP SHEARING TECHNIQUE

By W. L. McGARRY, Officer-in-Charge, Sheep and Wool Section; D. A. YOUNG, Shearing Instructor, and M. BUTLER, Sheep and Wool Instructor

The shearer is an important link in the chain of operations that places our greatest export commodity—wool—before the world's buyers for valuation and purchase. It is equally true that good shearing makes a significant contribution towards more profitable sheep and wool production.
As the sheep is brought into position for the commencement of shearing, the belly of the sheep should be in line with the downtube and sufficiently distant from it to allow the shearer to work comfortably. The shearer's feet are close into the sheep's rump with the animal turned slightly outward. Turning the sheep outward slightly will allow the handpiece to be correctly placed and will also eliminate locking of the back joint.

In this illustration the shearer is about to grip the sheep with his knees.

With this in mind an attempt is made in the following article to supply that help and advice so necessary to the learner shearer, and to shearer tradesmen who are keen to reach a still higher degree of proficiency in their work.

**LEARNING TO SHEAR**

The main points to remember in learning to shear sheep are clean shearing; care and patience in handling the sheep; holding or "balancing" the animal in the positions for correct shearing; avoid-
COMMONWEALTH WHEAT CHAMPIONSHIP

*CERESAN* WINS AGAIN!

And again, wheat grown from 'Ceresan'-pickled seed wins the Australian Commonwealth Wheat Championship.

'Ceresan' has proved itself—over and over again—the best dry seed pickle. Insist on 'Ceresan' for better germination, strong healthy growth, clean grain, and big profits.

Congratulations to Mr. J. W. Wall (at left), of Stony Creek, Narrabri, N.S.W., many times winner of the Australian Commonwealth Wheat Championship and present champion wheat-grower. Mr. Wall's champion wheat was grown from seed pickled with 'Ceresan,' which Mr. Wall uses exclusively on all his wheat crops.

'Ceresan' is now acknowledged to be the leading seed pickle. It has been tried, tested and proved over many years by leading scientific authorities and practical farmers throughout Australia. 'Ceresan' has been found to be the only real answer to seed-borne crop diseases—it kills disease spores on the seed! Such adverse diseases as seed-borne flag-smut, foot-rot and black-point disease, and bunt or stinking smut, are entirely eliminated.

'Ceresan' supplies the important trace element, mercury, combined organically and scientifically—crops come up greener, grow more quickly and produce more and better grain. 'Ceresan' is crop insurance at its best. It helps crops through such adverse conditions as cold and wet when germination would be delayed when ordinary pickles are used. It has been proved more powerful because it is fully effective on barley and oats as well as wheat. Ordinary pickles are useless on the two first-mentioned crops, but 'Ceresan' is effective on all cereals. 'Ceresan' is easy to use and, considering the tremendous benefits, very economical in price. If you have your grading done by contract, insist that your grader use 'Ceresan' on all your crop seed—and be certain of better germination, better disease control, BIGGER yields of BETTER GRADE GRAIN.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A." when writing to advertisers
YOU WILL LIKE THIS RECIPE....

You will want—
4 tablespoons raisins.
Sherry to cover.
2oz. butter or margarine.
\(\frac{1}{2}\) cup sugar.
2 eggs, separated.
\(\frac{3}{4}\) cup S.R. flour.
2 tablespoons milk.
1 tablespoon blanched and chopped almonds.
\(\frac{1}{2}\) cup sugar for egg whites.

This is what you do—
Soak raisins in enough sherry to cover them. Beat butter or margarine to a cream with sugar. Add egg yolks and mix well. Sift flour and add to mixture alternately with milk and 1 tablespoon of sherry in which raisins were soaking. Chop raisins and add half to cake mixture. Place in a greased 7-inch cake tin. Add a pinch of salt to egg whites and beat until stiff. Gradually fold in sugar and stir in almonds. Sprinkle remainder of raisins on uncooked cake and top with meringue. Bake in a moderate oven from 35 to 40 minutes. Remove carefully from tin on to a tea towel. Turn on to a cake cooler. Serve cut into wedges.
Fig. 3.—SHEEP IN POSITION FOR REMOVAL OF BELLY WOOL
(Front view)

Showing how the sheep is held for the removal of the belly wool. Gripping the sheep between his knees the shearer has the sheep positioned and the belly nicely rounded to commence shearing the belly wool. It can be seen that the shearer holds the sheep with his knees and left hand as he reaches for the handpiece to commence shearing, also that the sheep is slightly turned away to enable the belly wool to be shorn without undue effort.

It is quite wrong to assume that speed is the first consideration in shearing sheep. Invariably, the best shearers are those who have taken the time to learn properly, have developed a good style and who have learned to “position” the sheep for ease of shearing, thereby eliminating waste effort and, at the same time, have acquired a knowledge of how to maintain their handpiece, combs and cutters in perfect working condition at all times; all of which is most necessary before
sheep can be shorn at a fast pace without undue strain on the shearer, damage to the fleece, or possible injury to the sheep.

Taking these points singly, clean shearing is of paramount importance. Nothing looks worse than a pen of badly-shorn sheep, with ridges of wool showing, sweat-

locks adhering to the lower parts of the body, and wool left under the jaw or on the neck which is most noticeable as sheep are being counted out.

The ability to shear sheep cleanly, and without ridging or second-cutting the wool, can only be achieved by learning to
At the completion of the first blow on the belly the wool is broken out by turning the handpiece to the left. This movement breaks the wool cleanly without running out of the wool and cutting through the staple. The remaining wool on the belly is then shorn with cross blows.

use the handpiece in the proper manner. Ridging, or "weather-board" shearing, as it is known, is brought about by shearing with the lower, or right hand tooth of the comb raised off the skin, then making the following blow with the top, or

Fig. 5.—COMPLETION OF FIRST BLOW ON BELLY
(Shearer breaking out the wool)
The third blow on the belly is made in an upward manner, which has the advantage of safeguarding the pizzle in wethers and rams, by shearing with it rather than against it as would occur in downward blows. Note the sheep being held in control by the shearer’s left arm, which also controls the sheep’s right foreleg.

Care in handling sheep, both in the catching pen and on the board, is essential to good shearing, as sheep that are roughly handled become excited and will tend to strain and kick while being shorn, greatly increasing the work of the shearer in restraining the animal. Positioning or “balancing” the sheep is an important left hand, tooth close to the skin. When this is done it will be necessary to make second cuts, which lose time, and reduce the value of the wool.

In order to avoid leaving ridges of wool on the shorn sheep, attention must be paid to keeping the lower tooth of the comb on the skin at all times.
THE ORIGINAL PARATHION • STILL REMAINS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMIC INSECTICIDE OF ITS KIND.

ALL insecticides have to be handled with caution

For FULL effect at Low Cost use the proven product you KNOW.

E605 "FOLIDOL"

Australian Distributors:
LANE'S PTY. LTD.
Sydney, N.S.W.
and at
497 MURRAY ST., PERTH, W.A.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers
I'm so busy!

Ferguson

The World's Busiest Tractor

The Earth Scoop, ideal for dam-sinking, soil-conservation control, digging and covering silage-pits, and other earth-moving jobs.

Not only is Ferguson ploughing, discing, harrowing, raking, mowing, transporting, tilling, hoeing, planting, spraying, harvesting, hammer-milling, potato-spinning, ridging, wood-sawing, winching, post-hole digging, inter-row cultivating, manure spreading, loading and many other jobs in the farms all over the world . . . not only is Ferguson grading, trenching and digging and scooping for councils, contractors, and sporting clubs . . . but in industry, too, Ferguson is playing an ever-increasing part. It is, without doubt, the most versatile, The Busiest Tractor in the World.

Send for the full interesting story now to:—

The British Tractor & Machinery Co.

(Division of Mortlock Bros. Ltd.)

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A." when writing to advertisers
Fig. 7.—LAST BLOW AT COMPLETION OF BELLY

Completing the belly, the wool is broken off and laid to one side. At this stage the shearer allows the sheep to lie slightly back and applying pressure with the left arm, spreads the sheep's hind legs in preparation for shearing the crutch. Gripping the handpiece well back, the shearer's reach is extended in readiness for shearing the wool in the crutch.

Part of shearing; if you watch a good shearer at work, you will observe that the sheep is always in the correct position for easy entry of the handpiece into the wool, and unless it is, it will not be possible to shear properly.

Positioning the sheep, is to balance the animal allowing it to carry its own weight and moving it to the desired positions, mainly with the shearer's knees, the shearer never carrying any of the sheep's weight. Good positioning allows the shearer's left hand full freedom for use where best required and, in addition, the sheep will be less inclined to strain against the shearer.

Second cuts are costly to growers, and a loss of time to the shearer by having to
shear twice in the same place. The more this can be avoided, the more sheep he will be capable of shearing in the day and the better will be his style of shearing. An effective method of gaining a good style when learning to shear is to count the blows taken to shear a sheep, then endeavour to lessen the number of blows taken. This will encourage the learner to fill the comb, also to make full use of each blow and is most helpful in developing a good style of shearing which not only increases the tally but also satisfies the flock owner.

A lack of knowledge of the handpiece, combs and cutters, etc., is a great disadvantage when shearing. The handpiece would only need to be slightly out of adjustment to cause the comb and cutter to pull at the wool and cause pain to the
Fig. 9.—SHEARING THE CRUTCH

After shearing the wool, with outward blows, inside the sheep's right hind leg, the handpiece is turned to shear back and around inside the crutch, the shearer still continuing to control the right leg of the sheep by using pressure in the flank until the wool is shorn from under the teats. As this point is reached the shearer places the right foreleg of the sheep behind his right knee in readiness for shearing out inside the sheep's left hind leg.
In altering his position for completing the crutch the shearer has moved his body towards the right side of the sheep. With its foreleg between his own legs the shearer retains complete control of the animal by allowing it to lay against his legs. This action brings the sheep into the correct position for completing the crutch and shearing the left hind leg. How the sheep's leg is controlled by the shearer’s left hand is clearly illustrated.

Sheep which will then kick and struggle out of position making it impossible to shear correctly.

Observe a good shearer at work, you will rarely see a sheep make the slightest attempt to kick or strain. This is because his machine is at all times cutting sweetly and causing no discomfort to the animal, which, as a consequence, can be shorn without undue effort. Speed in shearing is not learnt but comes naturally with the ability to absorb and co-ordinate all the time and labour-saving points in shearing, and is attained by practice, which eventually becomes habit. Remember, good habits are better than bad ones!

With machine shearing the sheep must, at all times, be within the range of the machine, as the handpiece cannot be made to reach sheep that are out of posi-
LYSAGHT
HEAVY GAUGE
prefabricated water tank

Four standard sizes range from 25,000 to 100,000 gallons capacity.

MATERIAL: Heavy Gauge 5/5" corrugated galvanized sheets, pre-drilled and curved. Waterproof jointing material: Bolts, nuts, washers and tools. Outlet fitting, drilled and threaded to suit every pipe size up to 6".

Bolted construction facilitates replacement of sheets without dismantling.

LYSAGHT Tanks are designed to be erected on concrete bases (provided by the purchaser). Details of recommended bases, using the cement penetrant method of construction, are available on request. Special materials for cement penetrated concrete base are available as optional extras. Cement, sand and aggregate are provided by the purchaser.

Overflow unit available at slight extra cost

**Prices Ex Fremantle Store**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Capacity</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25,000 gallons</td>
<td>23' 10&quot;</td>
<td>10' 4&quot;</td>
<td>1 1/2 tons</td>
<td>£329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>33' 5&quot;</td>
<td>10' 4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/2 tons</td>
<td>£460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>40' 7&quot;</td>
<td>10' 4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/2 tons</td>
<td>£577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>45' 9&quot;</td>
<td>10' 4&quot;</td>
<td>3 1/2 tons</td>
<td>£656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices C.I.F. capital cities available on application

10,000-Gallon Water Tanks (tall or squat) are available also

**10,000-Gallon Water Tank Prices Ex Fremantle Store**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14' 4&quot; Dia., 10' 7&quot; High</td>
<td>19' 1&quot; Dia., 6' 5&quot; High</td>
<td>£135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISTRIBUTED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA BY:

- Dalgety & Co. Ltd., Perth
- Elder Smith & Co. Ltd., Perth
- Goldsborough, Mort & Co. Ltd., Perth
- Katanning Stock & Trading Co. Ltd., Katanning
- Harris, Scarfe & Sandovers Ltd., Perth
- McLean Bros. & Rigg Ltd., Perth
- R. A. Reilly & Co., Narrogin
- Westralian Farmers' Co-operative Ltd., Perth

MANUFACTURED BY—

LYSAGHT'S WORKS PTY. LTD., Newcastle Works, N.S.W.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.;" when writing to advertisers
LOCAL FIELD TRIALS prove
MARSHALL 70 H.P. BRITISH DIESEL

is...

MORE POWERFUL

MORE ECONOMICAL

Note these outstanding MP6 FEATURES

- The MARSHALL MP6 Wheeled Tractor is designed for large scale farming operations.
- Weight in working order, 9,500 lbs.
- Speeds: 6 forward. 1st—1.71; 2nd—3.00; 3rd—4.06; 4th—5.06; 5th—7.55; 6th—14.60.
- TYRES: Front 7.50 x 18—6 Ply. Rear 15.00 x 34—6 Ply. Heavy Cast Wheels or Dual equipment optional.

Undergoing extensive field trials and demonstrations on Messrs. Fowler Bros. property, Congelin Park, Williams, W.A., the MP6 easily handled the heaviest drawn tillage equipment available in this State. Photograph above shows the MP6 pulling a 21 tine rigid tine stump jump scarifier at maximum depth in red loam in fourth gear (5.06 miles per hour). The dynamometer shows an average pull of 4,400 lbs., which is equivalent to a rated 60 drawbar horsepower. Fuel consumption throughout the test on both single and dual wheels averaged 2.4 gallons per hour. Full details of these comprehensive field trials will be gladly sent on at request.

W.A. Distributor

TO MOORE ROAD MACHINERY
(W.A.) Pty. Ltd., Subiaco

Please let me have full details of the Marshall MP6 Diesel Wheel Tractor.

Name  
Address  

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers

Journal of agriculture Vol. 6 1957
To shear the left hind leg the shearer retains his pressure with his left hand on the flank, as illustrated in Fig. 10, until a blow is made outward over the top of the leg. This blow is made outward to enable easy entry of the handpiece into the wool as it is turned to shear back along the leg. Making the first blow back to level with the flank the shearer relaxes the pressure and rolls the wool back with his left hand. In this manner he is able to avoid cutting the animal and also exposes the flank. The wool is then shorn from the hind leg back as far as the tail, shearing back along the leg.

Consequently, attention must be paid to turning the sheep to suit the machine if ease in shearing is to be acquired.

This can only be brought about by correct placing of the sheep at the start and maintaining the proper positions from start to finish while the sheep is being shorn.

In the following pages the various positions in which the sheep are balanced and the manner in which the blows are made are fully explained in the order in which they take place.

**COMBS AND CUTTERS**

The choice of combs and cutters is sometimes a difficult problem for the learner shearer. Frequently the question is asked which is the best type of comb to use. The answer is, the best combs to use are the ones you accustom yourself to using with good results.
To shear over the tail, a reverse blow is made. Making this reverse blow over the tail eliminates any danger of picking up the skin with the points of the comb. Shearing over the tail in this position is preferable to pulling up the sheep in an effort to complete the last few blows at the finish which is a strain on the shearer as well as a loss of time and carries the risk of damaging the vulva. A well-shorn crutch and tail is an effective measure against blowfly strike. Before moving from this position the wool on the topknot is removed.

There are a number of shearing combs of different make on sale, all of which conform to standard pattern and width, 2½ inches, Australian conditions.

Whilst there are slight variations in the pattern of combs of different make, they will all give satisfactory performance until worn out. The learner’s problem can therefore be overcome by selecting the type of comb he likes and continuing to use that particular type to the exclusion of all others. The degree of skill attained by the shearer is due to his own adaptability and to becoming thoroughly accustomed to the tools he selects.

It is not good practice to use several different types of combs during shearing, as this prevents the shearer from becoming used to one type.

When purchasing shearing combs and cutters, be careful to select the cutters that are made to match the comb. The use of unmatched combs and cutters is NOT recommended as this practice reduces...
Fig. 13.—FIRST BLOW, OPENING UP THE NECK

From position 12, the shearer has moved the sheep into position for shearing up the gullet. To achieve this position, which enables the shearer to hold the sheep firmly between his knees, it is necessary to bring the sheep back into a sitting position; at the same time, stepping the left leg well around the sheep's body, following this movement by placing the shearer's right foot in the crutch, making sure the knee grip in the brisket is not at any time relaxed. This alteration in position, if correctly carried out, allows the sheep to be properly balanced and held comfortably between the shearer's legs.

A close study of this illustration will show that the shearer's left foot has been placed well around the sheep. By placing the foot well around the sheep the shearer is able to achieve good control and balance which enables him to lightly hold the sheep's jaw in position for opening up the neck. Holding the sheep's jaw lightly when shearing up the neck will reduce the animal's tendency to kick or strain against the shearer. Notice the sheep's right foreleg is securely held in a locked position by the shearer's right leg.

the handpiece's ability to cut the wool cleanly. The cutters must at all times be maintained at even thickness to ensure that the post setting of the handpiece will be correct for all cutters when adjustments are made to the centre post. Adjustments to the centre post are necessary from time to time to compensate for wear on the cutters caused by frequent grinding. How these adjustments are made, is fully explained in Leaflet No. 1075 "Aids to Better Shearing" which deals with handpiece maintenance and grinding, and can be obtained free on application to the Department of Agriculture, Perth.

Before putting new combs into use, it is advisable to test the points for "prickiness" by drawing the comb points across the palm of the hand. Some combs even
when new are found to be pricky on the points and will need to be smoothed off before using, otherwise they tend to pick up the skin. Stropping the points of a comb that exhibits signs of being pricky will smooth the points ready for use.

When combs are worn out and become pricky they should be replaced. Continuing to use combs that are obviously worn out will increase the danger of injuring sheep and cause the shearer to lose confidence in his ability as a tradesman.
NO STOOPING
when you install

AMES
ENGINEERED
IRRIGATION

AMES Equipment incorporates the World-famous ABC BALL COUPLER
Coupling and Uncoupling is done just as you see above. No twisting ... No latching ... Less fatigue ... FASTER!

FREE PLANNING SERVICE
FOR EVERY IRRIGATION NEED

SANDOVERS Fellow of the Water Research Foundation of Australia

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers
PROOF
nodulaid inoculation
PAYS BIG!

No other modern scientific farming practice takes as little time, effort and money as NODULAID Inoculation of legumes . . . yet no other practice pays the farmer so handsomely, and so soon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Planting Rate per Acre</th>
<th>Inoculation Cost per Acre (incl. labour at 7/6 an hr.)</th>
<th>Benefits Needed to Pay Inoculation Costs</th>
<th>Average Quantity of Nitrogen Fixed per ac.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lb. per Acre Extra Seed</td>
<td>lb. per Acre of Nitrogen Fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Clover</td>
<td>1 1/2 lb.</td>
<td>10d.</td>
<td>1/10th lb.</td>
<td>1/2 lb. nitrogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Clover</td>
<td>4 lb.</td>
<td>1/2d.</td>
<td>1/5th lb.</td>
<td>2/3rd lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucerne</td>
<td>15 lb.</td>
<td>4/4d.</td>
<td>1/2 lb.</td>
<td>24 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Peas</td>
<td>4 lb.</td>
<td>1/2d.</td>
<td>1/4 lb.</td>
<td>2/3rd lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetch</td>
<td>60 lb.</td>
<td>8/9d.</td>
<td>8 lb</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub. Clover</td>
<td>60 lb.</td>
<td>8/9d.</td>
<td>11 lb</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lupins</td>
<td>60 lb.</td>
<td>8/9d.</td>
<td>10 lb</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Value of nitrogen fixed (last column) based on nitrogen as a commercial fertilizer, would be much higher if based on increases in yields of following crops, due to increased nitrogen content in soil.

The extra available nitrogen taken from the air, and added to the plant by NODULAID can make spectacular increases in yields. But there are also other benefits . . . less spectacular . . . but just as valuable. Protein content is higher making better feed. Plants are more vigorous . . . and crops grown during the following years benefit from the extra nitrogen left in the soil.

A PRODUCT OF
AGRICULTURAL LABORATORIES
Distributed by:
ELDER SMITH & CO LIMITED
111-113 St. George's Ter., Perth

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers
Fig. 15.—SHEARING THE SHOULDER AND LEFT FOREARM

After shearing the shoulder wool, the sheep's left forearm is next shorn. This is done by holding the foreleg outward, not upward, and shearing from the knee joint back along the forearm. Holding the foreleg outward the wool can be shorn with less risk of cutting the skin, and fuller use of the comb. Shearing the lower shoulder and forearm the sheep is held in a balanced position by the shearer's elbow holding the sheep against his left knee, while keeping the opposite foreleg securely locked behind his right leg.

The remaining wool on the shank is removed, before turning the sheep into position for the long blow, by gripping the shoulder joint and straightening the leg, shearing outward on the inside and back on the outside.
Fig. 16.—This side view of Fig. 15 clearly shows the position of both sheep and shearer and illustrates how the sheep is balanced in a nicely rounded position for shearing the shoulder and foreleg.

Fig. 17.—SHEARING THE LONG BLOW

In preparing to shear the long blow, a complete alteration is made in position. In making this alteration the shearer still maintains the sheep in a sitting position as he turns it to face in the opposite direction, shearing out any wool left on the brisket as he does so, then allows it to slide down his left leg on to its back, control being maintained by keeping the left foot well under the animal’s shoulder. This is essential if proper balance and control is to be achieved. The sheep should not be allowed to lie flat on its side, but kept in a balanced position, the right foreleg securely locked behind the shearer’s left leg. Starting at the flank, the wool is shorn from the side and over the backbone with blows made parallel with the backbone.
Fig. 18.—A FURTHER STAGE IN SHEARING THE LONG BLOW

Prior to reaching the backbone, it will be necessary for the shearer to change the position of his right foot from between the sheep's hind legs to the outside of the animal. Note that the shearer does not kneel on the sheep.

Fig. 19.—SHEARING OVER THE BACK OF THE NECK

Shearing one blow over the backbone, the blow is continued up the back of the neck and around over the ear and face.
Fig. 20.—SHEARING OVER THE HEAD AND NECK OF SHEEP

Shearing over the head, prior to shearing down the neck; the blows are made, starting below the ear and shearing towards the brisket point, continuing the blows until the neck is shorn, taking most of the weight on the shearer's left leg.

Shearing this part both forelegs of the sheep must be securely held behind the shearer's left leg, otherwise complete control is impossible. Note that the shearer has not dragged his foot through the fleece.

Fig. 21.—A front view of figure 20, showing how the sheep is controlled by the shearer's left foot as the face wool is shorn.
PROOF!

you can get more miles per gallon, more power from your car!

Mobilgas SPECIAL

with

AVIATION ALKYLATE

These three stock cars, and all other cars in the 1,000-mile Mobilgas Economy Run, showed big fuel economies by using Mobilgas Special with Aviation Alkylate and Mobiloil Special! Aviation Alkylate is an essential component of Aviation Gasoline and only the Mobilgas people refine Aviation Gasoline in Australia. Mobilgas Special with Aviation Alkylate is the great new gasoline now available at all Mobilgas Service Stations. Mobiloil Special was proved in two million miles of road tests. It ensures a faster start, adds mileage and maintains new-car performance. Mobiloil Special is the one oil for all cars all the year round.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A." when writing to advertisers.
Know Your Timbers

Jarrah is the standard trade common name of the tree known botanically as *Eucalyptus marginata*. Jarrah was the aboriginal name for the tree and was adopted about 1840 in place of "mahogany," the name applied by early colonists because of the timber's slight resemblance to Honduras mahogany. The timber has established a high reputation in many parts of the world, and it finds diverse uses in numerous countries, particularly those around the Indian Ocean and the United Kingdom.

Distribution.

The tree occurs in a compact belt in the southwestern part of Western Australia, in probably the most valuable hardwood forest in Australia. The prime forest extends over the summits of the Darling Range from east of Perth to south of Manjimup, where the karri forest predominates, and outlying forests are found from the south coast in the vicinity of Albany northwards to Gingin. This is roughly within the 25in. isohyet which forms a line of demarcation with savannah woodlands to the east. Its optimum development occurs on the laterite capped hills of the Darling Range above a rainfall of 40in. per annum.

Timber.

Jarrah timber is dense, hard, but fairly easily worked, of a red colour darkening with age to a rich brown with a beautiful grain, and takes a fine polish. It can be bleached satisfactorily and fumed to a chocolate brown tone. It is not seriously attacked by *Lyctus* borer.

Seasoning.

Western Australia was one of the first States to investigate modern air and kiln drying methods so that the seasoning of jarrah is successfully carried out. Warping is the principal cause of degrade in kiln drying and attempts to remove it by a final steaming treatment have not proved very successful. In narrow flooring boards, checks are not serious in either air or kiln drying, but in wider boards and thick backawn material, care must be exercised. Some difficulty is experienced with end checking in large sectional stock during transportation from Western Australia. Isolated cases of checking parallel to the growth rings have been observed. The extent of collapse in this species is not very great, but it does occur when drying case stock under high temperature schedules. Collapse is not easily removed by final reconditioning treatments.

Uses.

In Western Australia jarrah is a veritable solution to all timber problems. Despite its beauty as a furniture wood, it is, of course, in its own State used as a utility timber because of its strength and durability. In the form of piles, strainers and decking it has been employed to such an extent that there is scarcely a wharf, pier or jetty in Western Australia into the construction of which jarrah has not extensively entered. It is eminently satisfactory as a building timber, being used in the sawn state for stumps, joists, weatherboards, plates, studs, rafters, laths and shingles, while flooring, lining, frames, doors, windows, interior trim, mantel pieces, and other furnishings testify to the beauty and suitability of the dressed timber for high grade purposes. In large buildings jarrah makes excellent beams, columns and rafters, while as dadoes, panelling, partitioning, stair-railing, counters, and similar furnishings, it adds to the beauty of the interior. In a country subject to bush fires, its fire resisting property makes the jarrah fence post highly valued, apart from its durability in the ground. Nevertheless, paradoxical as it may seem. jarrah when once well alright and with a good draught is a satisfactory firewood. Waste timber is universally used in the South-West as firewood, and jarrah forms the chief firewood supply of Perth, thus providing a profitable by-product for sawmills near the metropolitan area. A further use for jarrah is found in shipbuilding. The durability of jarrah is remarkable. When used for posts or shingles in contact with the ground it gives a long life of valuable service, and it is not surprising that jarrah sleepers and crossing timbers have a worldwide reputation. Lately it has also been used in the manufacture of plywood.

Availability.

Supplies can normally be readily obtained from State Saw Mills and their agents in other Australian States. Climatic conditions are favourable to air seasoning and in addition, modern seasoning kilns are operated to ensure that the timber is marketed in a properly seasoned condition. The quantity of jarrah produced annually exceeds that of any other single species in Australia and steps have been taken to regulate the supply to ensure continuity for all time.

Direct your inquiries to...

STATE SAW MILLS

Head Office: 306 MURRAY STREET, PERTH
Country Branches at Merredin and Narrogin

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers
Fig. 22.—COMPLETION OF THE NECK IN PREPARATION FOR SHEARING THE SHOULDER

At this point the shearer presses down on the head, not pulling it upwards, which is the natural tendency. This pressure on the sheep's head, in combination with the locking grip maintained by the shearer's left foot, rolls the sheep backwards and upwards into a sitting position.

Fig. 23.—SHEARING THE SHOULDER

Notice the method of holding the sheep to shear this portion which is shorn by using blows made in a curving manner to below the shoulder blade. The sheep is in the right position and is very easily controlled by the shearer's left heel and hand.
Fig. 24.—SHEARING THE RIGHT FORELEG

Shearing on past the shoulder-blade and before releasing the foreleg, a short blow is made outward on the foreleg to remove the wool from the shoulder joint. This blow is essential in order to avoid severing the shoulder vein when shearing the right foreleg and is made as the shearer is about to release the foreleg. How control of the animal is maintained by the shearer's heel can be seen in the above illustration.

Fig. 25.—SHEARING BELOW THE RIGHT FORELEG

At this stage the shearer momentarily relaxes his leg grip, releasing the foreleg, which he then holds outwards until another blow is made along the leg. Picking up the foreleg, he commences to shear downward, curving his blows and shearing across under the armpit. By continuing to shear downwards the shearer would certainly cut the skin as it puckers under the armpit, therefore cross-blows are used, as shown, to ensure that the animal is not cut at this point.
Fig. 26.—SHOULDER COMPLETED, STARTING LAST SIDE
With the shoulder wool shorn, a start is made on the last, or "whipping" side. From this point the sheep is gradually brought back into a sitting position.

Fig. 27.—THE "WHIPPING" SIDE
Bringing the sheep upwards to a balanced position, the shearer is now at a point where it will be necessary to change his stance by lifting his left foot over the hind legs of the sheep and placing it close up under the rump, at the same time bringing its head up from between his legs.
Fig. 28.—THE "WHIPPING" SIDE

The shearer has now changed position to complete the last side. In making this change, he has stepped his left foot over the sheep's hind legs to a position behind the sheep and brought the animal's head up on to his lap. Placing his feet close up under the rump of the sheep, the shearer presses out with his knees curving the sheep's body to obviate wrinkling or picking up the loose skin with the teeth of the comb. In this position the blows are made more in a downward direction than crosswise.

Fig. 29.—As the last side is being shorn, greater control is secured by placing the left elbow on the point of the shoulder and exerting a light pressure which prevents the animal from leaning forward and straining. It also brings the body of the sheep into a good easy position for shearing that part.
RINGLOCK FENCING
by Cyclone

The safest fence for every class of stock

LONGER LASTING. “Cyclone” Ringlock Fencing of highest tensile quality galvanised wire is practically everlasting. The “Ringlock” joint binds hard-steel upright and horizontal wires immovably together, giving immense strength.

FIRE RESISTANT. Because of its unique construction from hard-steel wire, “Cyclone” Ringlock Fencing will not sag, break or twist in a fire like normal fencing. As no droppers are required, and fewer posts, there is less chance of dangerous tangles resulting from burnt-out wire supports.

STOCK-PROOF. Upright and horizontal strands are clamped together, giving a stock-proof enclosure. Alternative types are available for Sheep, Lambs, Pigs and Cattle. Prices, heights and all details are available on request.

... and costs you less to erect!

With fewer post holes to dig, and the fence strained up in one operation, erection time and costs are much lower.

See your local “Cyclone” distributor or

CYCLONE COMPANY
OF AUSTRALIA LTD.
BF 1434

and at Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Townsville.

MAKERS OF THE FAMOUS “CYCLONE” GATES

Please mention the “Journal of Agriculture, W.A.” when writing to advertisers
HOW TO PREVENT MASTITIS AND INCREASE YOUR MILK YIELDS!

1. About 50% of Mastitis cases can be prevented by dipping udder quarters immediately after milking in a pannikin of Sodium Hypochlorite solution (3 tablespoons to the gallon) and throwing the rest over the udder so that the cow leaves the bails dripping.

2. About 40% of Mastitis cases can be prevented by dipping teat cups two at a time — after first dipping them in clean water (preferably containing cleaner) — in a Sodium Hypochlorite solution (3 tablespoons to the gallon).

3. About 10% of Mastitis cases can be prevented by general shed hygiene. Sodium Hypochlorite solution is excellent for sterilising all clean surfaces. Use it on udder cloths, hands, floors, bail posts, leg chains, door handles, in fact everything you touch.

SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE
(12½% available Chlorine Solution) the recommended steriliser.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUTTER FACTORY OR USUAL SUPPLIER

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

DAIRY FARMERS! THE EXTRA TWO CANS REPRESENT OVER £850 PER YEAR!

It's nothing short of amazing to learn that two farmers, milking the same number of cows, can vary as much as two cans of milk in their daily output. Yet such is the case — the extra cans come from a shed where Sodium Hypochlorite is correctly used for maintaining shed hygiene, sterilising equipment, etc., and so reducing to a minimum the possibility of mastitis infection. You can be sure of an increased and cleaner milk yield when you use

SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE
(12½% available Chlorine Solution) the recommended steriliser.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUTTER FACTORY OR USUAL SUPPLIER

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A." when writing to advertisers
Fig. 30.—CLEANING THE FLANK
When the flank is reached, the shearer rolls the wool downwards with his left hand in preparation for shearing out that part of the wool that would otherwise be difficult to shear. This movement also allows the blow to be continued out along the leg.

Fig. 31.—HOW THE HIND LEG IS CONTROLLED BY THE LEFT HAND
By placing the left hand in the sheep's flank and moving back slightly, complete control is gained when finishing off the hind leg. Reasonable pressure at this point controls and brings the leg into a position where the shearer can reach to its full length. This pressure in the flank maintains the leg in a straightened position, eliminating the danger of severing the hamstring.
In finishing off, the sheep's leg is pressed down, not pulled up. The shearer's leg is now between the sheep's forelegs, which allows the animal to take its own weight. This picture shows where the finishing blows are made, on the rump, and not on the tail.

Fig. 33.—This photograph clearly shows the position of the sheep and where the finishing blow is made.
Fig. 34.—LETTING GO

Having completed the sheep, the machine is first pulled out of gear before any attempt is made to release the sheep. This practice will assist the shearer by allowing him full use of his two hands in directing the sheep into the chute, thus avoiding the danger of the sheep becoming entangled in the wool. It is also good practice to have the machine stopped while not actually shearing as free running quickly dulls the edges of both the comb and cutter.

Fig. 35.—CORRECT METHOD OF RELEASING SHEEP.

Notice how the sheep is kept clear of the fleece as it is directed into the chute through the shearer's legs. The wool is left undisturbed and can be easily picked up in one piece, which simplifies the work of the woolroller.
The method in which the handpiece is held, is an important factor in sheep-shearing. Should the handpiece be held incorrectly, it is difficult to place the comb in the desired positions. Illustrated above is the correct (left) and incorrect (right) method of gripping the handpiece. Dealing with the correct grip, which is well back on the barrel of the handpiece, it becomes obvious that the shearer has greater control and better balance of his machine, a more extended reach, together with a freer wrist movement, which is a vital factor in shearing. Using the index finger and thumb more as a guide, the handpiece is held mainly by the remaining three fingers. Holding the handpiece in this manner the shearer has freedom to allow his machine to spin or turn in his hand for shearing certain parts of the sheep, such as the inner sides of the hind legs, the reverse blow on the tail, etc. Allowing the handpiece to turn with the drive for shearing these parts is a definite advantage to the shearer.

In the right-hand photograph, the handpiece is held incorrectly, with the thumb and fingers enclining it close up to the tension nut. This is a fault all too prevalent with learner shearsers, and greatly restricts the wrist movement, causing undue strain on the muscles of the forearm. The reach is shortened, and the machine is unbalanced with less control, which tends to bad shearing, also any heat developed by friction in the handpiece is usually at its maximum at the tension nut which causes much discomfort to the shearer. Another disadvantage of this type of grip is that the wool is not cut sufficiently far ahead of the shearer's hand to achieve a free, flowing style.

**CORRECTION**

On page 673 of our November-December issue, an advertisement was published on behalf of Lysaght's Works Pty. Ltd., Newcastle, which featured the Company's range of prefabricated Water Tanks. Inadvertently the incorrect prices were shown, which should read as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Capacity</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25,000 gallons</td>
<td>23ft. 10in.</td>
<td>10ft. 4in.</td>
<td>1½ tons</td>
<td>£329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 gallons</td>
<td>33ft. 5in.</td>
<td>10ft. 4in.</td>
<td>2½ tons</td>
<td>£460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75,000 gallons</td>
<td>40ft. 7in.</td>
<td>10ft. 4in.</td>
<td>23 tons</td>
<td>£577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 gallons</td>
<td>45ft. 9in.</td>
<td>10ft. 4in.</td>
<td>3½ tons</td>
<td>£656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices c.i.f. capital cities available on application

10,000-Gallon Water Tanks (tall or squat) are available also

**10,000-GALLON WATER TANK PRICES EX FREMANTLE STORE**

- Basic unit, £135
- Basic unit, £102

This advertisement is published again in our current issue on page 19
Phenovis' Brand of Phenothazine.

For Quantity

and Quality

use 'PHENOVIS'

the effective drench for worms in sheep

A DEPENDABLE ANIMAL PROTECTION PRODUCT

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND LTD.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A." when writing to advertisers
More for your money in style . . .

More for your money
in low cost motoring, too!

The graceful flair of long, low lines is only part of the Holden story. And first price is only part of Holden thriftiness.

For Holden combines the three things that make for really low-cost family motoring. Outstanding petrol economy that goes hand in hand with six cylinder performance and six passenger comfort. Low operating costs that result from amazing durability, ease of maintenance and ready availability of low cost parts. High resale value that protects your investment and means big savings when the time comes for you to buy a new car.

Holden pays dividends in other ways, too. In pride of ownership. In luxurious comfort with new front suspension and longer wheelbase of 105". In easy, accurate control with the new re-circulating ball bearing steering. In fact, Holden gives you more of all the things that matter most because it is the one car designed and built for Australia. More and more people are buying Holden—latest registration figures prove that in 1956 Holden outsold the next most popular car model by more than 4 to 1.

Contact your Holden Dealer — let a beautiful new Holden show you that in performance, comfort and easy handling as well as in economy, you get more for your money in Australia's Own Car. Priced from £910 plus tax, Holden is available on convenient GMAC Hire Purchase if you wish.

HOLDEN
REGD
Australia's Own Car
LIST PRICE FROM £910 PLUS TAX

There are two 'Air Chief' Car Radios specially designed for the new Holden

GENERAL MOTORS-HOLDEN'S LIMITED
BRISBANE • SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • ADELAIDE • PERTH

Sold and serviced by Holden Dealers throughout Australia.

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A." when writing to advertisers.