



No need for ewe to feel sheepish about this issue. Bitty Bull has herd it's a woolly good one! Part 1 of 2

SHEAR DELIGHT

Sheep are an important part of Scottish business, providing meat, milk, and wool for clothing, mattress filling, blankets, and carpets.

Sheep are classified by their purpose (meat, milk, wool), the type of coat (fine, medium, long, or hair), the color of their faces (black, red, white, spotted) or by body characteristics. Naturally hardy, sheep can navigate the rockier, steep terrain and the colder, humid areas of Scotland. Sheep live about 10-12 years. They have four sets of teeth used for grazing and grinding vegetation. In order to break down and digest the grass, weeds, and hay they consume, they “chew the cud” or regurgitate, rechew, and reswallow their food to be processed in their four chambered stomach. Sheep tracks are never straight, but follow winding paths to allow them to observe what is behind them using their wide angle of vision. Their keen vision, hearing, and sense of smell allow them to perceive predators up to 1,500 feet away. When faced with danger, the sheep will flee and then group back together. Modern domesticated breeds rely more on man to protect them from predators. Predators include coyotes, cougars, black bears, foxes, and bobcats, but in the British Isles, the red fox, badger, predatory birds, and domestic dogs pose more of a threat to the sheep.

The Scottish Blackface is the most common breed of domesticated sheep in the United Kingdom. While no one is certain of the origin of the Blackface, records show that 12th century monks raised the forerunners to the modern Blackface sheep for their wool. James IV of Scotland established a flock of 5,000 Blackface in the Borders around 1503. Blackface ewes are protective mothers to their lambs and are also good milkers. The sheep are adept at mountain grazing. The lean lamb meat has a distinctive pleasant flavor and their wool is found to be very good for heavier use items such as mattress fillings, tweed coats, and heavy blankets.

Today sheep continue to be an important part of Scottish industry, but are raised more for meat than for their milk or wool.



Sheep sheering with sheepdogs as onlookers

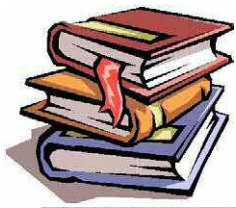


Devon's Racing Rams (photo Rick Turner)

Sheep race to celebrate Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012

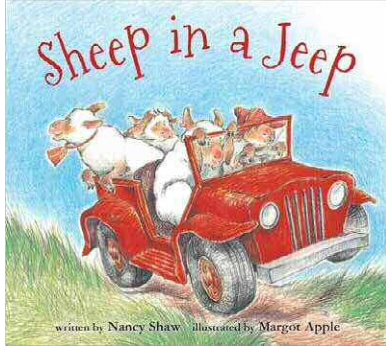


The Highland Shepherd, 1859 painting by French artist Rosa Bonheur



Book Nook

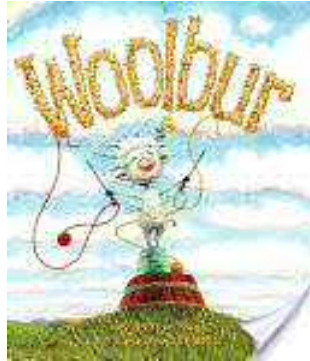
Tuck in with some sweet and silly books.



Sheep in a Jeep

by Nancy E. Shaw

Join five jolly sheep on their giggle inducing off-road adventure in a jeep.



Woolbur

by Leslie Helakoski

A spunky sheep delights in not following the flock, much to the chagrin of his parents.

Did Ewe Know?

Scotland has more sheep than people. According to 2016-2017 census, there are 6,800,000 sheep and almost 5,400,000 people.

Racing sheep is popular. Stuffed dummy jockeys are tied to the back of sheep while they navigate a series of hurdles in the race.

There are eleven colors of wool for a Shetland sheep: white, black, dark brown, emsket (bluish grey), fawn, grey, light grey, mioget (yellowish brown), moorit (reddish brown), musket (pale greyish brown), shaela 1 (dark grey), and shaela 2.

In the 1400's Queen Isabella of Spain used money from her wool industry to finance some of Columbus' exploratory voyages to the New World. He left behind some sheep in Cuba and Santa Domingo.



Sheep Snack

Serves 10-12
Adult help needed

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 2/3 C mini marshmallows, plus a few extra
- 4 C ringed cereal (chocolate or whole grained)
- 10-12 chocolate covered almonds (white and dark)
- 1/2 C chocolate chips
- 20-24 short pretzel sticks

1. **Melt** butter in saucepan over medium low heat. **Add** marshmallows and **stir** just until melted.
2. **Remove** from heat and add cereal.
3. **Mix** until evenly coated.
4. **Spoon** out one heaping tablespoon of mixture and **mold** into an egg shape with greased hands.

5. **Press** an indentation into one side with an almond.
6. **Melt** chocolate chips in microwavable dish for a few seconds. Use this as the glue to adhere the almond head and pretzel legs. **Press** firmly into cereal ball.
7. **Cut** reserved marshmallow into small pieces and using melted chocolate, attach to almond head for the ears.
8. **Dip** a toothpick into melted chocolate and dot the almond to make eyes.

