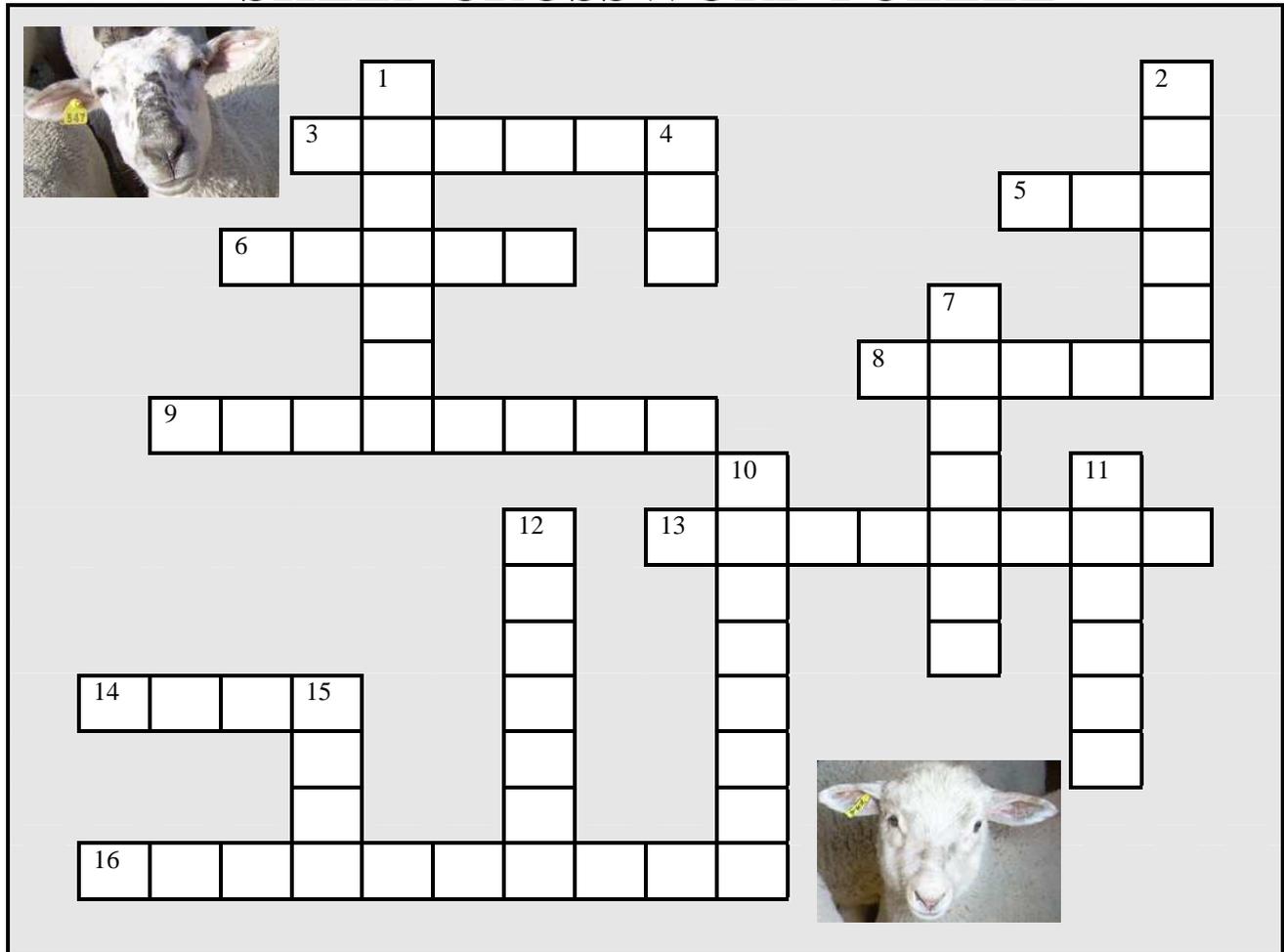


# SHEEP CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## DOWN

1. The natural grease in sheep's wool is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is all the wool cut off of one sheep.
4. The father sheep is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Sheepskin is used to make \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Cutting the wool off of the sheep is called \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Kinds of sheep are called \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Straightening the wool fibers before spinning is called \_\_\_\_\_.
15. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a baby sheep.



## ACROSS

3. The person who takes care of the sheep is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (This person might also raise crops).
5. The mother sheep is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A group of sheep is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. A loom is used to \_\_\_\_\_ yarn into fabric.
9. Yarn is made by \_\_\_\_\_ wool fibers.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is another name for a farmer who takes care of sheep.
14. Sheep have a soft, special kind of "hair" called \_\_\_\_\_.
16. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the pen where the ewe and her new lamb are kept for a few days after the lamb is born.



## Sheep Crossword Puzzle Information

Sheep live on farm or ranches in groups called **flocks**. When a sheep is separated from the flock it becomes frightened.

The **farmer** who watches over a flock of sheep is called a **shepherd**. Some shepherds have well-trained dogs to help herd and guard the flock.

The male or father sheep is called a **ram**. The female or mother sheep is called a **ewe**. The baby sheep are called **lambs**.

Rams and ewes eat hay, grain mixtures and grass. Baby lambs nurse from their mother's milk and when they are a week or two old they will also begin to eat a special grain mixture and grass or hay.

Lambs are usually born in the spring. Ewes will give birth to one lamb (single); two lambs (twins); three lambs (triplets); and sometimes even four lambs (quadruplets).

After the lambs are born, the ewe and her lambs are put into a separate pen called a **lambing jug** for a few days. This is done so the ewe and her lambs will get to know each other, which is called bonding. When they are returned to the flock they will be able to find each other easily.

While in the lambing jug, the shepherd will place a numbered tag in the ear of the lamb or paint a number on the lamb so it can be easily identified. The ewe knows her lambs but when there are 100 lambs in a group the shepherd can't know them all.

Lambs are born with long tails and most shepherds will dock the tails, which means to cut them short. This may seem like a mean thing to do but if the tail is not docked, manure may build up around the tail and flies may lay eggs in the manure. Later the eggs will develop into maggots that will eat into the flesh of the lamb. That area becomes infected and the lamb may die. If the tail is short the area under the tail stays cleaner.

Sheep have a soft, special kind of hair called **wool**. The wool from one sheep is called a **fleece**. One fleece usually weighs between eight and fifteen pounds, depending on the size and breed of sheep. When the

wool is cut from the sheep it is called **shearing** and is somewhat like when people get a haircut. Shearing is done at least once each year and does not hurt the sheep.

Many people believe that sheep are always hot, but this is not true. The wool on the sheep acts as an insulation. In winter the wool protects the sheep from the cold and in the summer the wool protects it from the heat.

After wool is sheared from the sheep, the fleece is packed into large burlap bags called wool sacks. A full wool sack weighs more than 200 pounds. The shepherd sells the wool to a wool buyer who takes it to a warehouse, where it is stored until being sold and made into products.

Wool is used to make clothing, blankets, carpet and other items. Before it can be made into these items it goes through several steps to make it ready for use.

First, the wool is washed to remove dirt and the natural grease it contains. This grease is called **lanolin**. After the clean wool is dried in a drying chamber it is carded to straighten the fibers. The **carding** process prepares the wool for spinning. **Spinning** is when the wool fibers are twisted and made in to long strands of yarn. The yarn is now ready to be used for knitting, crocheting and weaving of fabric. **Weaving** is done on a loom.

Wool is just one of the many products we get from sheep. The lanolin that was removed from the wool is used in soaps, hand lotions and other products to make skin soft. Sheep milk is made into special cheese and is in high demand. Sheep skin is used to make **leather** which is very soft and used to make gloves, shoes, handbags and jackets. Another very important product from sheep is meat. Lamb is a lean, healthy meat which is nutrient dense and easily digestible.

There are many **breeds** (or kinds) of sheep. Different breeds are valued for their fine quality or color of wool, high quality meat, ability to produce a lot of milk or other reasons. Most sheep in the United States are called dual purpose breeds. This means they are used for both meat and wool.