

All about sheep

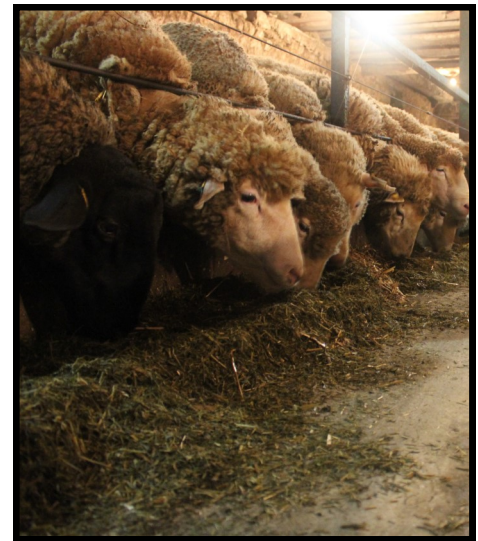


Where do sheep live?

Some sheep are kept in a barn year round. They are kept in small groups in pens. They have access to feed and water.

Some sheep are kept outside year round in a field. Even though sheep have wool, they still need barns or a windbreak - like a group of trees - for shelter in the winter.

A group of sheep is called a flock. A farmer's flock can range from two sheep to over 1,500 ewes with their lambs.



What do sheep eat?

Sheep are ruminants, meaning they eat plants and digest it in a series of four compartments in their stomach. A sheep's diet consists of mainly forages - grasses like alfalfa and clover, or hay (dried grasses). Sheep often graze on land that can't grow other crops.

At certain times during the year, farmers may also feed their sheep feed grains - corn, barley, oats, soybeans - as well as vitamins and minerals.

What comes from sheep?

Most of the sheep raised in Canada are for meat (called lamb). Dairy sheep are milked much like a dairy cow and their milk is then used to make dairy products like cheese and yogurt.

Some sheep are raised to produce fibre. The wool from the sheep is sheared at least once a year. It is then cleaned and spun into yarn.

Fast facts

- An adult female sheep is called a ewe. An adult male sheep is called a ram. A sheep that is less than 1 year of age is called a lamb.
- Sheep need to have their wool shorn at least once a year. One mature sheep can have between 7 and 10 pounds of wool in a year.
- Sheep give approximately 2 litres of milk per day.



To learn more about sheep farming visit
www.OntarioSheep.org.



Search OntarioSheep

You can tour a sheep farm virtually from your computer at www.FarmFood360.ca.

Sheep dictionary



Do you speak sheep? Find some of the common words used in sheep farming in the word search below.

Look for the words down, across, and backwards.

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

Word list

ewe

ram

lamb

flock

grain

fleece

wool

fibre

farmer

shearing

barley

shepherd

straw

hay

oats

water

corn

