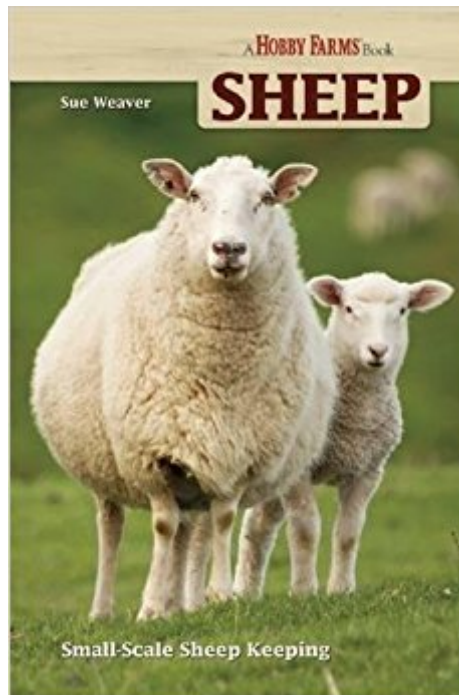




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# Sheep: Small Scale Sheep Keeping (Hobby Farm)



## Synopsis

Hobby farmer Sue Weaver provides a perfect primer in *Sheep*, ideal for novice or experienced sheep keepers looking to expand their hobby farm with a flock of woolly wonders. Illustrated with instructive and beautiful color photographs and loaded with charts and sidebars, this Hobby Farms title will make even newcomers feel comfortable choosing, caring for, and even sheering and milking their own sheep. Weaver begins, “Be they pets or profit makers, sheep should be part of every small-farm scene. They are inexpensive to buy and keep, easy to care for, and relatively long lived, making them great investments. While sheep dotting a green meadow add beauty and a possible tax write-off to any pastoral setting, hobby farmers can choose whether their sheep will be sold as pets, used as providers of milk, cheese, or wool, or raised as livestock for their much sought-after mutton. As a subject, sheep have a fascinating history to tell, as Weaver does in the opening chapter “Sheep from the Beginning, but once we get through the mythology, biology, and anatomical lessons, the farming begins. Sheep will assist the reader in buying the right sheep for his or her farm or land, based on availability, conformation, health, and so forth. The book offers practical advice, including how to move sheep from one locale to another (with a “ewe haul”). Sheep farming involves the housing, feeding, and guarding of the sheep, all detailed in the book. Weaver discusses the use of fences, shelters, pens, and stalls as well as the purchase of the right hay. She also addresses the use of working dogs to control and guard the flock. Understanding sheep behavior is the subject of the chapter “Sheepish Behavior and Safe Handling, in which the author discusses flocking dynamics, fleeing instinct, and sheep body and vocal language, leading to practical advice about how to handle and move sheep safely and with minimal fuss. The old adage “A sick sheep is a dead sheep” may not hold completely true in modern times, but it does underscore how important the health of a flock is to a responsible sheep keeper. The chapter “Health, Maladies, and Hooves” (and the appendix “A Glance at Sheep Afflictions”) offers farmers vital information about vaccinations, parasites, and hoof care to be proactive in the flock’s health. For hobby farmers interested in expanding their flocks, the chapter “The Importance of Proper Breeding” is a mini course in breeding and lambing, including bottle feeding, tail banding, and more. All of the joys of wool are captured in the chapter “Fleece: Shearing, Selling, Spinning, in which the author discusses the tools, skills, and fees required to fleece the flock. The chapter also discusses spinning your own wool and selling the fleece. The final chapter, “Mutton or Milk?” discusses the advantages and desirability of sheep’s milk and the possible markets for milk, cheese, and

meat. A glossary of over 100 terms, an extensive resources section (sheep-pertinent organizations, websites, and publications), and an index complete the volume.

## **Book Information**

Series: Hobby Farm

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Lumina Media; 1 edition (April 8, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 162008127X

ISBN-13: 978-1620081273

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #258,427 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #238 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Agriculture](#) #350 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Animal Husbandry](#) #9759 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering](#)

## **Customer Reviews**

This book is great if you are a total beginner and are interested in sheep. If you already have experience with other livestock or hobby farming then I would recommend something more advanced. Only four stars for this reason, would have liked to have seen more in depth health information as well as labeling pictures with something besides the sheeps' name.

I like sheep and enjoyed reading this work. Good starter for those interested in keeping sheep

I read this book being a complete novice on raising sheep. After reading this book, I really feel I have enough knowledge to raise my own sheep on my hobby farm. The author (Sue Weaver) writes in a wonderful down-to-earth and very easy to understand style. She covers everything sheep such as: choosing the right sheep breed for your needs, sheep disposition & behavior, sheep housing, nutritional needs, shearing & selling fleece, hoof trimming, delivering lambs, common sheep diseases and how to vaccinate your sheep. Whether you're a total novice like me or an old pro, I think you could learn a lot from this book. This book is put together on nice glossy paper stock. It also has tons of excellent photos. What I love most is that the author shows many photo's on how to correctly do many procedures w/sheep, such as vaccinations. Also this book sports an excellent

resource directory. The directory includes an online directory, sheep organizations, sheep suppliers, state & university resources and my favorite the book and periodical guide to all sheep. The only thing I would've liked in here (tho, I know it goes way beyond the scope of this book) is a chapter that had every sheep breed with photos and characteristics listed. Tho, the author does go a bit into what breeds are best for milk and for wool. This book is a great investment. I also have Sue Weaver's other book on raising chickens and it is wonderful as well. If you're reading this Sue, how about a book on raising Ducks and one on raising Alpacas next? :)

This book filled with information on raising a small flock of sheep leaving me with visions of spring lambs hopping sideways in the spring grass. Can't wait to get started!

I read this book before I picked up my first two Shetland sheep. I really enjoyed the read. It's very informative.

Lots of good information.

Very informative book. Just what we needed to help us decide if we want one.

This was a gift. Hope it is well liked. Lot's of information.

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