

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Division

THOMAS P. COOPER, Dean and Director

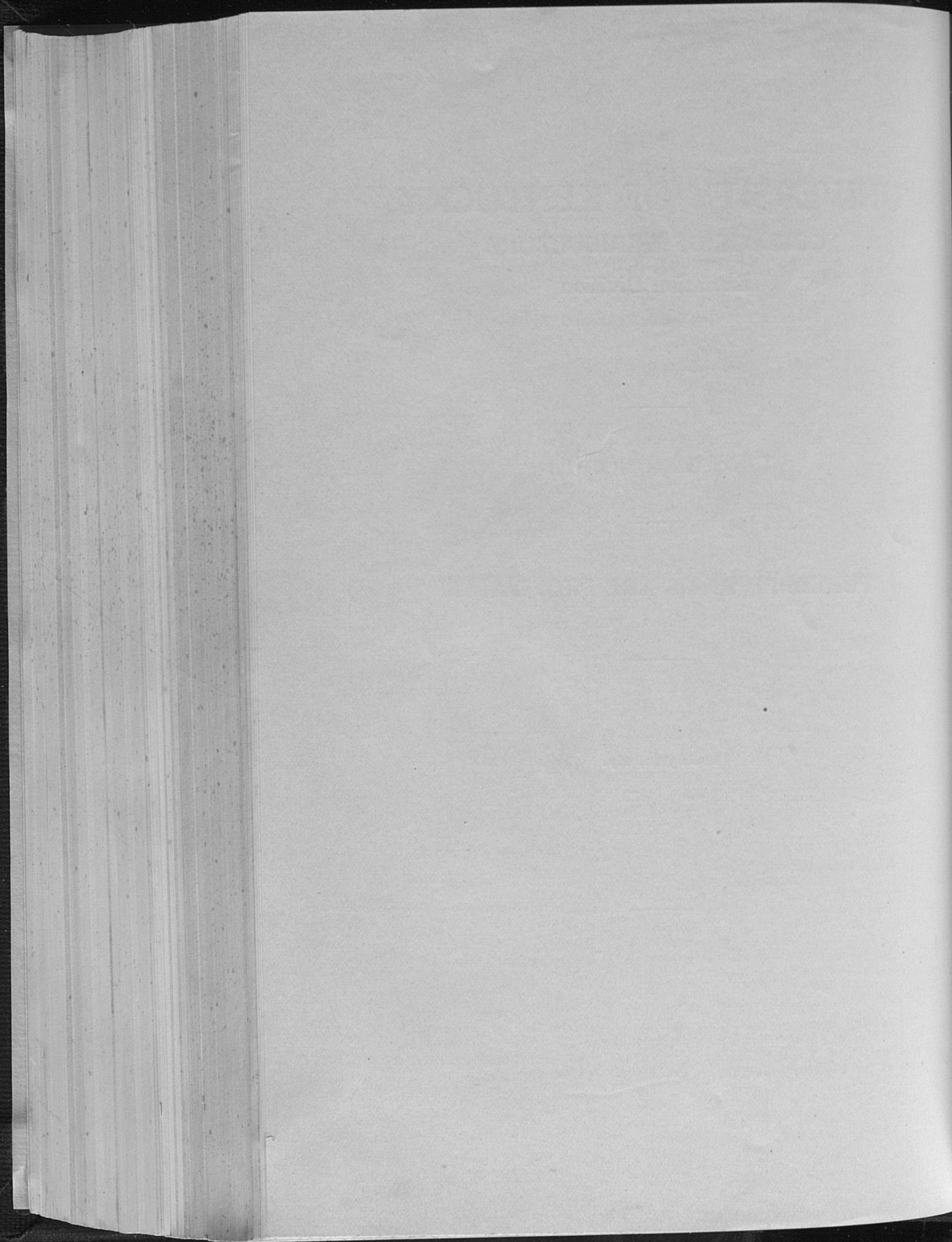
CIRCULAR NO. 153

PUREBRED RAMS ARE PROFITABLE

Lexington, Ky.

May, 1923

Published in connection with the agricultural extension work carried on by cooperation of the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and distributed in furtherance of the work provided for in the Act of Congress of May 8, 1914.



ra
sc

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

CIRCULAR NO. 153

Purebred Rams are Profitable

L. J. HORLACHER

The purpose of this circular is to show that purebred mutton rams of the medium wool type will return more profit than will scrub rams.

PUREBRED RAMS

1. Transmit their characteristics to their lambs with more uniformity than scrub bucks.
2. Are more vigorous.
3. Have better mutton forms.
4. Are more thickly fleshed.
5. Will shear more wool of a finer quality.

LAMBS Sired BY PUREBRED RAMS

1. Are more uniform in color and appearance than lambs sired by scrub bucks.
2. Are easier feeders.
3. Are ready for market at an earlier age.
4. Weigh 10 to 15 pounds more per head at 4 to 5 months of age.
5. Dress out a higher percentage.
6. Have more juicy and more palatable carcasses.
7. Are worth more per pound on the market.

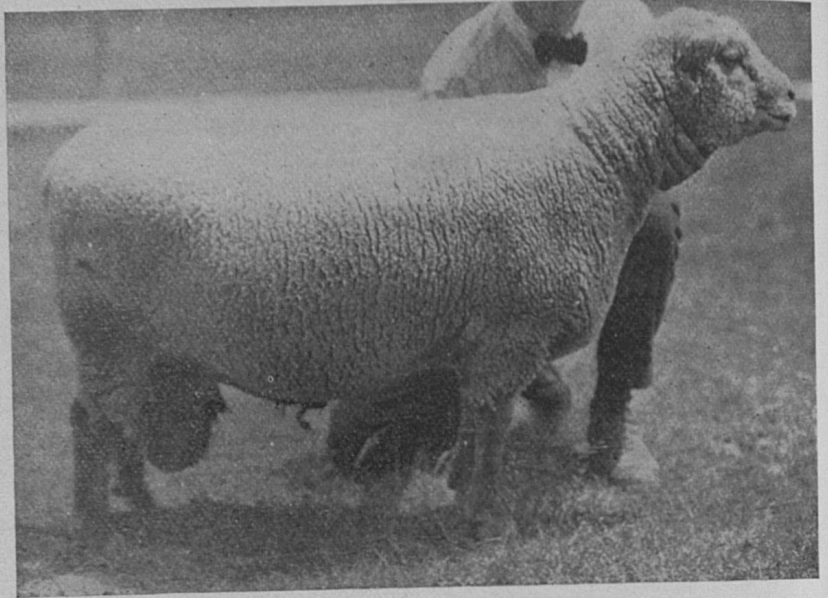


Fig. 1. Purebred Southdown Ram. This ram is the low-set blocky, compact type that gets good market lambs. Grade and purebred lambs sired by him have been prize winners.

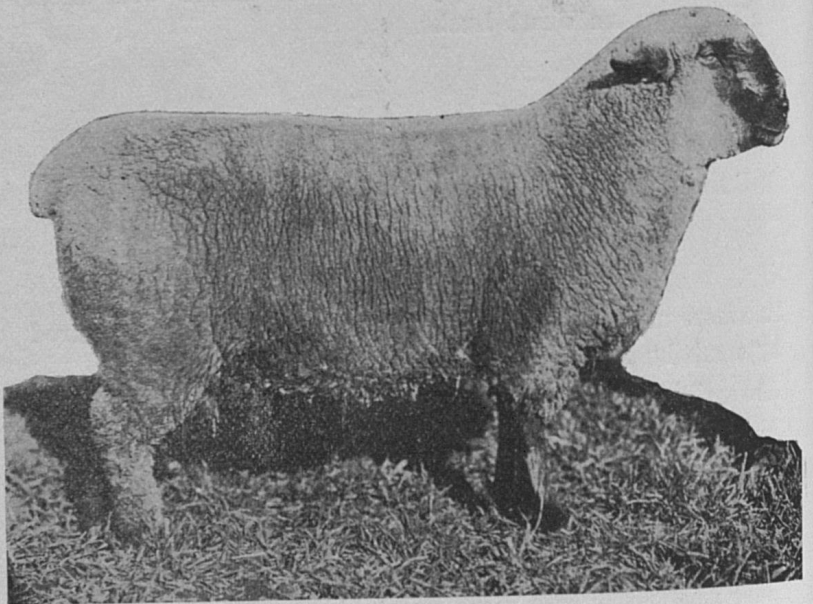


Fig. 2. Purebred Hampshire Ram. Masculinity and vigor are two prominent characteristics of this ram. His lambs reached market weight at an early age.

EWES SIRED BY PUREBRED RAMS

1. Make a much more uniform flock than ewes sired by scrub bucks.
2. Give the owner more pride of possession.
3. Shear 20 to 50 per cent more wool per head.
4. Produce wool that is worth more per pound.
5. Fatten easier.
6. Sell for more on the market when their days of usefulness in the breeding flock are over.

Experiments at the Kentucky Experiment Station show that a purebred ram of any breed is much superior to a scrub. These experiments show that lambs out of mountain ewes sired by a scrub buck weighed only 56 pounds each at the age of 4 months, while lambs of the same age sired by a purebred Southdown ram weighed 72 pounds each. This is a difference of 16 pounds

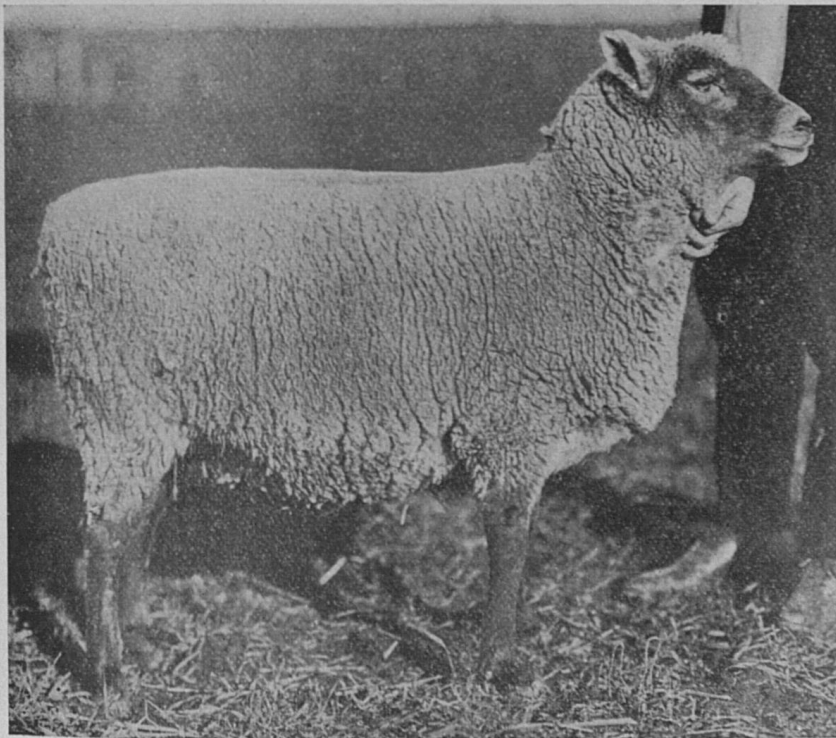


Fig. 3. Grade Southdown Yearling Wether. Sire, purebred Southdown. Dam, mountain ewe. This wether dressed 64.14 per cent.

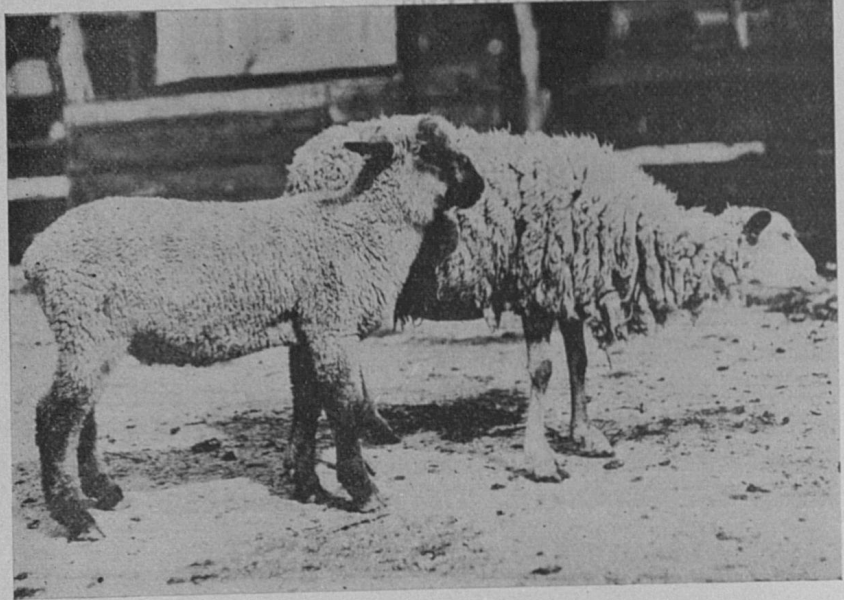


Fig. 4. Mountain ewe and her 50-day-old lamb. This lamb was sired by a purebred Hampshire ram. He has plenty of size and is an evenly fleshed lamb. Note the improvement in thickness and depth of body and in density and covering of fleece.



Fig. 5. Scrub lambs. Age five months. They are rangy, shallow and narrow, with coarse, open fleeces.



Fig. 6. Grade Hampshire lambs. Age five months. Out of the same kind of ewes as the lambs in Fig. 5, but sired by a purebred Hampshire ram. They are much thicker, more compact, more meaty and more blocky, with finer, more compact fleeces.

due to the influence of the purebred sire. The lambs sired by the Southdown ram sold at 1 cent a pound more than did the scrub lambs.

1 grade Southdown lamb—72 lbs. @ 15c.....	\$10.80
1 scrub lamb—56 lbs @ 14c.....	7.84
Difference in favor of purebred ram	\$2.96

The average fleece produced by the mountain ewes weighed 5 pounds. . A purebred Hampshire ram increased this weight to 6.2 pounds and produced wool with finer fiber. This wool was worth 3 cents a pound more than that from the mountain ewes.

Grade Hampshire—6.2 lbs. wool @ 53c.....	\$3.29
Mountain ewe—5 lbs. wool @ 50c.....	2.50
Difference in favor of purebred ram.....	\$0.79

A purebred Rambouillet ram increased the weight of each fleece to 7.5 pounds.

Other good breeds to use for the production of market lambs are: Cheviot, Shropshire, Oxford, Dorset and Suffolk.

For further information refer to Kentucky Experiment Station Bulletin 243.

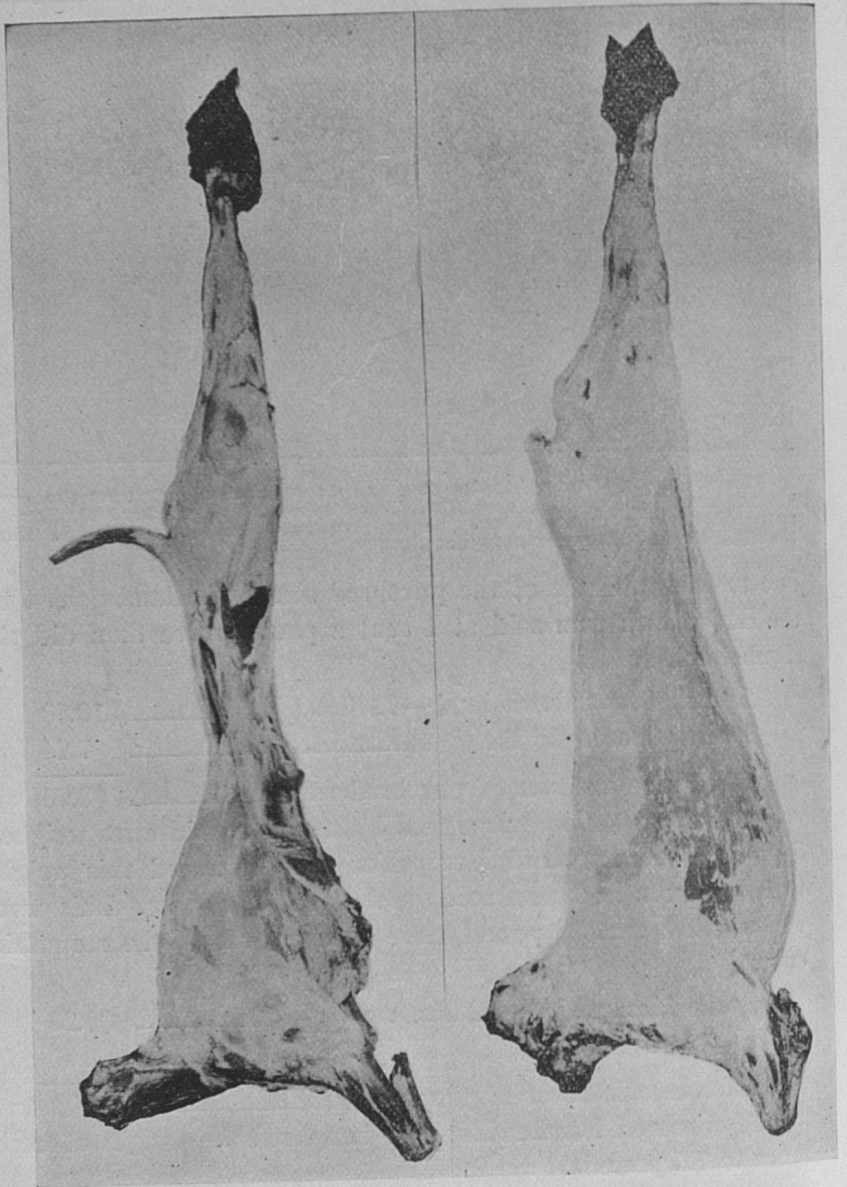


Fig. 7. Left, carcass of a scrub buck lamb. This lamb dressed only 45 per cent. Note the light leg of mutton, thin loin, and lack of covering throughout. Right, carcass of a Shropshire wether lamb. This lamb dressed 56 per cent, or 11 per cent more than the scrub shown in Fig. 6. This is a desirable type of carcass. The leg of mutton is plump and full, the loin and back are thick and meaty, while the whole carcass is balanced and evenly fleshed.