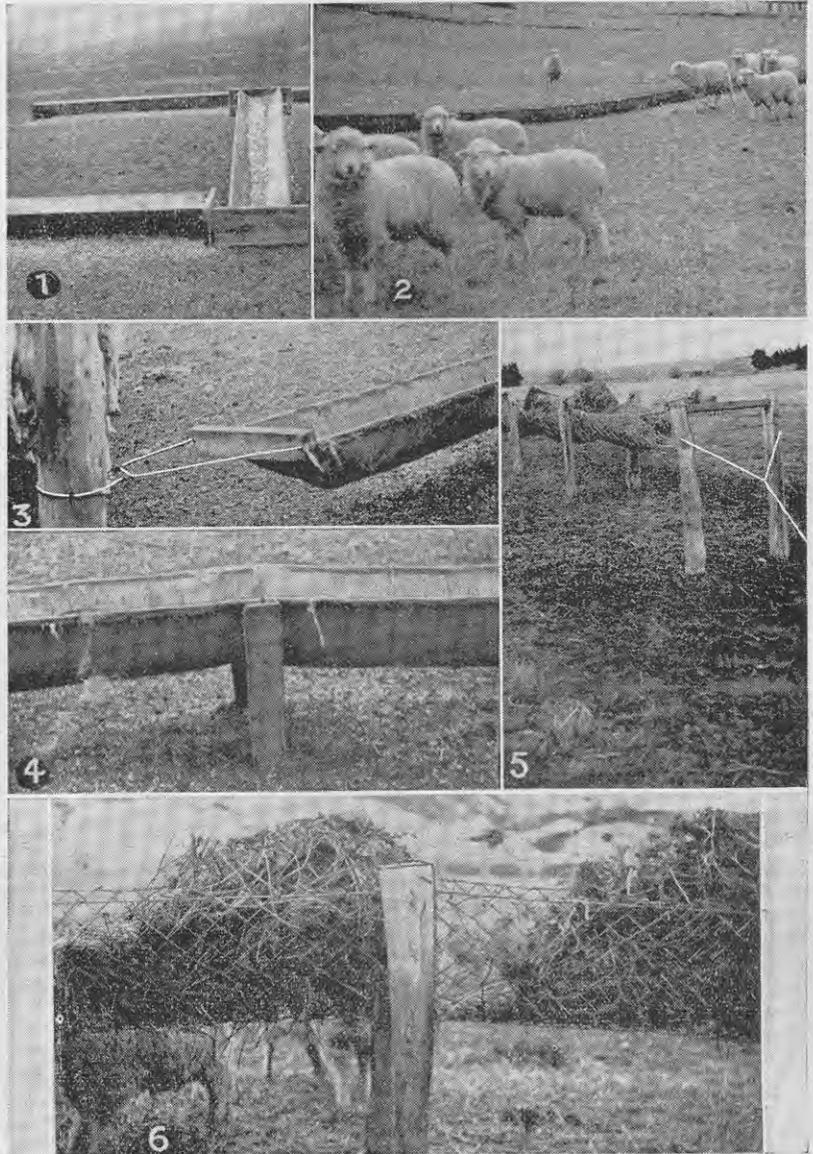


Feeding Hay to Sheep by Bag and Wire Trough

THE wintering of sheep usually requires some form of supplementary feeding, which is supplied as green feed, turnips and swedes, chaff, hay, or ensilage. Whichever is supplied is usually a matter of choice, based mainly on the ease of producing the feed under the local conditions.

The methods of feeding-off green feed and turnips are universal—that is, they are fed-off in breaks of sufficient size to keep the flock going for some days. With turnips and swedes, failing or broken-mouthed sheep or lambs may go first to clean up the foliage, the sound-mouthed sheep following and feeding on the roots. The system of feeding-off breaks or temporarily fenced-off areas is seldom varied, except in odd cases when some turnips or swedes may be pulled and carted out to sheep, as is done in feeding-out mangolds.

There are many methods of feeding out chaff, and especially hay. Occasionally, chaff is poured on to the bare ground in lines, and the sheep feed from there. Probably the most common method is to use wooden troughs either triangular (see Fig. 1) or rectangular in cross section, but feeders made from bags are becoming common. These are sometimes erected alongside a permanent fence, in which case one of the fence wires is used for holding one side of the bags, or the feeder is erected well away from a fence on a well-drained piece of the paddock. Fig. 2 gives a general view of this type of feeder made from used superphosphate bags. Fig. 3 is a close-up view of the end of the bag feeder and post to which the two supporting wires are strained, and on which the bags are sewn lengthwise. It also shows the piece of wood stapled between the two supporting wires to keep the



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