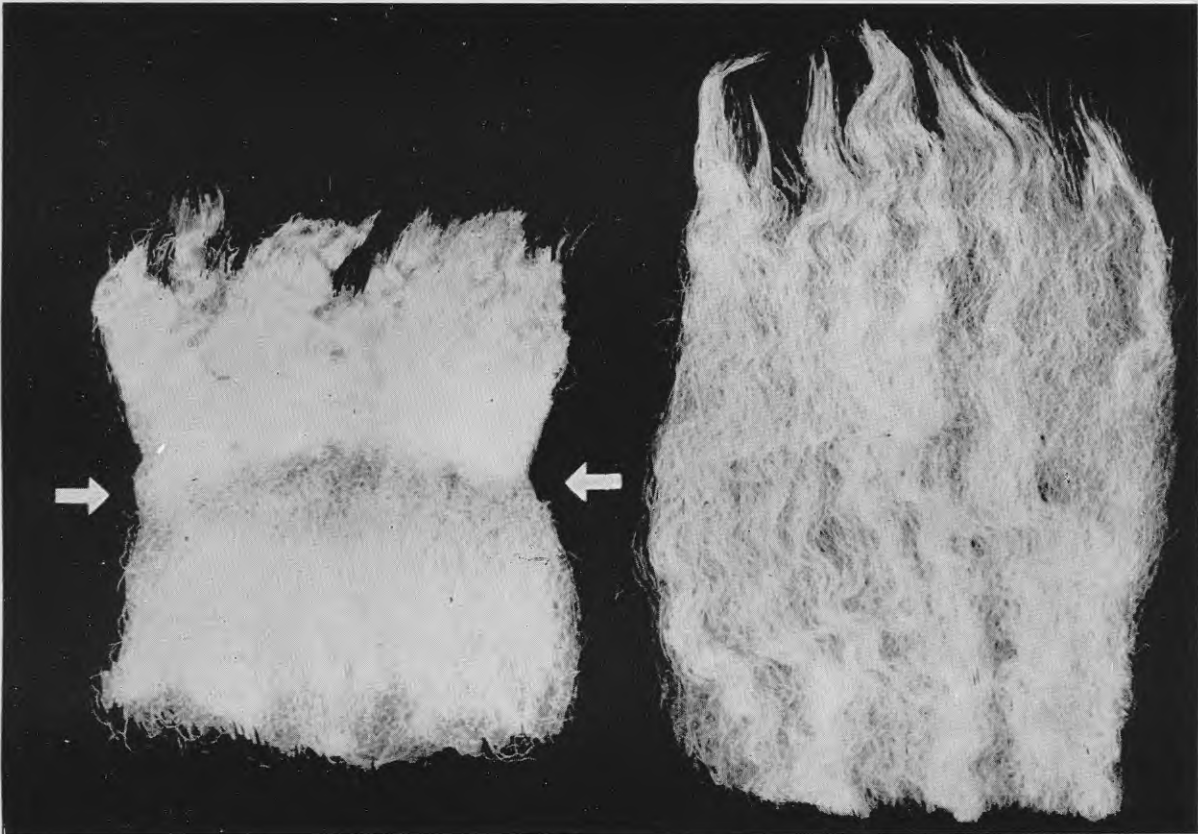


FAULTS IN WOOL



The staple on the left shows a severe break or weak zone (arrows) where the fibres have been thinned by some severe check received by the sheep. The staple on the right is quite sound and free from breaks.

5. Variation in fibre length:

- (i) Variation in fibre length from one portion of the fleece to another.
- (ii) Variation in length between individual fibres within the staple.

6. Harsh handle.

7. Indistinct crimp (mushy, characterless, or fuzzy wool).

8. Lightweight fleeces.

9. Tendency toward break and coting.

B. Acquired Faults

1. Break in wool (includes tenderness).

2. Cott's.

3. Fleece rot (combined effects of long-continued wetting and bacterial action).

4. Yolk stain (may be associated with caky yolk).

5. Canary stain.

6. Pink rot.

7. Pink tip.

8. Tippiness (frequently mistaken for hairy tip).

9. Mycotic dermatitis (also known as "lumpy" or "woody" wool).

10. Damp wool (wool which has been pressed when damp).

11. Urine (pizzle) stain.

12. Dingy wool (contamination with sand, earth, dust, etc.).

13. Log or charcoal stain (sometimes referred to as bush stain).

14. Fern stain.

15. Inkweed stain.

16. Vegetable matter (seeds, burrs, sticks, bracken, straw, etc.).

17. Ked (or "tick") stain.

18. Dip stain.

19. Disinfectant stain.

20. Phenothiazine stain.

21. Bluestone stain.

22. Shed or pen stain.

23. Unscourable brands, raddles, tuping paints, crayons, etc.

24. Jute contamination.

25. Lightweight fleeces.

A 1: Hairiness

Pure wool and hairy wool are both made of the same substance, keratin, but the essential difference is that pure wool fibres are solid, whereas hairy ones have a hollow core or medulla; hence this fault is sometimes

referred to as medullation. Most buyers object to hairy fibres mainly because of dyeing troubles. The hollow, air-filled medulla causes these hairy fibres to appear a lighter shade after dyeing than solid wool fibres. In many fabrics they show up as conspicuous blemishes. Hairy fibres also have a tendency to be coarser than their pure wool neighbours, so may tend to stick out on the surface of the yarn and cause the fabric to be harsh handling if these fibres are numerous.

Where medullation is well developed the fibres are easily identified, even in the fleece, where they have a chalky white appearance in contrast to the wool. If only a little medulla is present, it will not be conspicuous and the buyer is unlikely to penalise it. About 20 years ago the benzol test was very popular for detecting medullation and it certainly did the job, as even a single hairy fibre would show up among thousands of pure wool ones. Probably for this reason the importance of hairiness was much over-emphasised for a while. Even a slight trace of hairiness is admittedly undesirable in a stud ram, but among flock ewes, if it takes a benzol test