

Answers:

- #1. C. Robins are not domesticated
- #2. C. In Canada sheep are raised primarily for meat.
- Special breeds of sheep are used as dairy animals and most of the milk is used for cheese.
- For most producers wool is considered a by-product.
- #3. A. Ram. B. Ewe. C. Lamb (female- hogget, male- wether)
D. Shepherd. E. Flock. F. Shearing.
- #4. C. Farmers use ear tag numbers to keep track of each ewe and her offspring.
- #5. Sheep are herbivores which means they only eat plants. They are ruminants and eat the same sort of food as cattle.
Do Eat: grass, canola meal, grain (barley, wheat, oats), water, alfalfa pellets, corn, poplar trees, dandelions, salt, hay, milk
When they are newborn up to several months lambs do drink milk from their mothers.
Don't Eat: cookies, hot dogs, bread, beef steak, potato chips, submarine sandwiches, dog food
- #6. All of these statements are true.
- #7. D. Protecting from predators & moving the sheep from field to field. Different kinds of dogs are used for these 2 jobs. Guardian dogs like Great Pyrenees or Maremmas live with the sheep. Border Collies can learn more than 15 different commands to help gather and move the sheep.
- #8. 1 & k. 2 & j. (3 & f.*) 4 & g. 5 & b. (6 & c.*) 7 & e. 8 & h. 9 & a. (10 & d.*) 11 & i.
(*) bee smokers, chicken waterers, & thistle knives are not used specifically for sheep production, but many farmers raise more than one kind of livestock & have interests beyond the farm



A Few Fun Facts About Raising Sheep in Alberta

- #1. Sheep have been domesticated for 7,000-10,000 years- that means humans have been living with and using sheep for a long time. In this list of animals which one is not considered domesticated?
A. dogs B. cattle C. robins D. chickens

There have been sheep in western Canada for about 200 years.

- #2. Farmers in Ontario and Alberta raise the largest number of sheep in Canada. In Canada farmers mainly raise sheep for:

A. milk B. wool C. meat

- #3. Cattle have special names- like cow, bull, steer, and heifer. There is specific sheep terminology too. Choose the term to fit the descriptions:

shearing	wether	nanny	shepherd
lamb	ram	kitten	hogget
stallion	flock	herd	shaving
sheepboy	ewe	calf	kid

- A. a mature male sheep is a ...
B. a mother sheep is a ...
C. a young sheep is a ...
D. a person that takes care of sheep is sometimes called a ...
E. a group of sheep is called a ...
F. removing a sheep's wool is called ...

#4. Do you know why farmers put ear tags on their sheep?

- A. They look pretty.
- B. It helps the lambs find their mothers.
- C. The farmers use the numbers to help keep records about each ewe.

- Since 2004 every sheep that leaves its farm has a unique identification number so it can be traced back to the original farm.

#5. Do you know what sheep eat? Here are some food samples.
Do you think sheep do or don't eat these things:

grass	cookies	canola meal
hot dogs	grain	water
bread	alfalfa pellets	corn
poplar trees	milk	dandelions
beef steak	salt	hay
potato chips	submarine sandwich	dog food

#6. Sheep can be considered “environmentally friendly”.
Which statement is true?

- A. Sheep produce renewable resources like milk and wool.
- B. Sheep can graze on land that is too rocky, too hilly, too wet, or too cold for other crops to be grown.
- C. Sheep manure recycles nutrients and organic matter to the soil.
- D. Sheep are used to eat weeds around forestry plantations so the little tree seedlings can grow faster.



#7. On many farms shepherds use dogs to help care for the sheep. Pick the 2 main ways dogs are used:

- A. Mowing the lawn & protecting sheep from predators (animals that eat sheep).
- B. Moving sheep from field to field & building fences.
- C. Keeping the shepherd company & shearing wool.
- D. Protecting sheep from predators & moving the sheep from field to field.

#8. Shepherds use some specialised equipment to raise their sheep. Match the description to the piece of equipment. Is there anything here you don't think a farmer would use for raising sheep?

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| 1. pail with nipples | a. gives commands to stock dogs |
| 2. ear tagger & tag | b. for removing tail on newborn lamb |
| 3. bee smoker | c. digging thistles from the garden |
| 4. hoof trimmers | d. chickens drink from this |
| 5. tail docker & rubber rings | e. keeping farm records |
| 6. thistle knife | f. calms honey bees while working |
| 7. CD ROM | g. used occasionally to trim hooves |
| 8. spray marker | h. helps to identify groups of sheep |
| 9. dog whistle | i. checks to see if fence is working |
| 10. chicken waterer | j. for individual identification |
| 11. electric fence tester | k. for feeding orphaned lambs |

