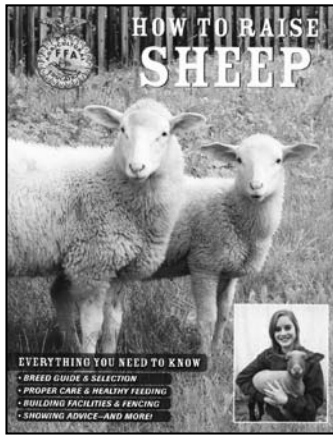


Book Review:



Philip Hasheider's
How To Raise Sheep
Everything You Need To Know

REVIEWED BY EVA GRIFFITH

Produced under license from the Future Farmers of America (FFA), this large-format full-color paperback of 192 pages gives the reader a peek at what to expect when considering a start in commercial sheep farming.

The author begins with advice to people who don't have any land for sheep-raising—what to consider before buying, such as the community

surrounding it, vet availability, schools, soil, etc. He suggests things to beginners like taking a vet along to avoid buying unhealthy animals and gives highly-condensed descriptions of breeds, with advice on further research in other publications. He warns would-be flockmasters to meet with county agents to learn about restrictions against sheep-keeping and also about the dangers of sheep-raising to the environment.

Many introductory photos and illustrations help the text sketch out subjects like the nomenclature of sheep, telling a sheep's age by its teeth, specialized instruments and procedures, harvesting wool, meat and milk, and a general idea of how these things get processed into consumer products.

I looked very hard without luck for specifics on today's numerous and proven methods of handling and selling sheep products directly to retailers and to the public. Even the chapter "Marketing Meat, Wool and Cheese" told a lot about these products—and had good clear pictures of the products too—but nothing on how to get people to buy them.

The chapter on "Lambs and Lambing" was informative, with good illustrations and descriptions. The "Sheep Management" chapter also outlined various husbandry concepts developed by leading universities.

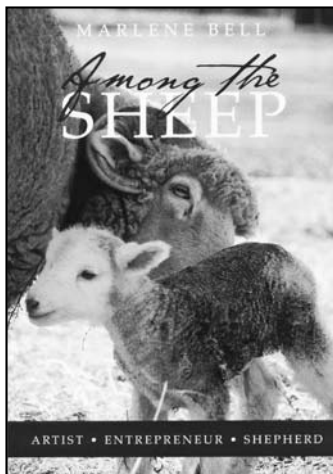
Chapters that looked at biosecurity and other health concerns—like the rest of the book—are profusely illustrated with lots of color photos.

There is even a chapter that names the predators plaguing sheep farms and ranches, and depicts guardian animals solving the problem for many growers.

Though *How To Raise Sheep* isn't truly an "everything-you-need-to-know" book of actual procedures, formulas, science and data, it gives beginners a wide-ranging overview of the things involved, and where to look to find someone to show them how to proceed.

Many people get out of the sheep biz every year, and for them there is a whole chapter on "Exit Strategies." A glossary and index top off this book, available at only \$19.95 from numerous farm supply stores, book stores, and online at www.VoyageurPress.com ♪

Book Review:



Marlene Bell's
Among The Sheep
Artist-Entrepreneur-Shepherd

REVIEWED BY NATHAN GRIFFITH

Of all the memoirs that have appeared by and about sheep people over the years, I think it is safe to say that this is the only one that will make and save a lot of money for those who heed its good advice and absorb its widely useful experiences.

This isn't a "how-to-grow-sheep" book. It is a "how-we-made-high-profits-with-sheep" book.

It's a memoir of people who have worked with sheep—good sheep,

headache sheep, show sheep and working sheep—and here share marketing secrets practically no one knows any more, but everyone needs, whether they know it or not.

Indeed, it's such an instructive memoir that it should have had an index. There are too many bits of advice on sheep profits tucked away into this narrative to avoid wearing it out trying to relocate each of them.

The first 80 of its nearly 400 pages are entertaining and do "set up" what comes after, but they're not going to tell readers much about getting ahead with sheep.

And yet, those who skip those first 4-1/2 chapters will wish the book had that index because later text refers to stuff that happened up front.

Marlene Bell is an excellent artist, and I think she should have had more of her artwork in the book. Even so, it's hard to complain—at only \$20.99 per copy and a downward-sliding scale for postage, it's a very good deal indeed.

Marlene and Gregg Bell's flock, better known as the *Ewephoric!* flock, is known coast to coast as a show-winning flock, even though they only keep about 60 ewes, on only 14 acres. This book tells a lot about how that success came to be.

The book's warm personal style will give new show people hope for their own success with sheep. It'll make others jealous at the "why didn't I think of that?" ways to make impressive returns with them. Still others are just going to be amused that anyone could get so serious about (admittedly often high-dollar) sheep pageantry—more or less a study in "style over substance." But the more they read, the more they'll learn, an attitude of respect likely replacing the ridicule.

Marlene Bell's *Ewephoric!* is also a business that retails sheep-related arts and gifts. In developing that business, the same principles applied as those used in high-dollar sheep farming. Even the most hard-headed non-showing flockmaster will profit from reading this book.

Get a copy—and extras for your friends—from *Ewephoric!* P.O. Box 970-b, Shafter, CA 93263-0970 or call (800) 742-5510 for credit card orders. E-mail: ewephoric@bak.rr.com; website: www.ewephoric.com. ♪