

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
WORKSHEET 4 /LESSON NOTES & ACTIVITIES

School: Penang Sangam High School

Year/Level: 12B

Subject: Geography

Strand	Physical Geography
Sub Strand	Agriculture and Food Supply
Content Learning Outcome	Evaluate the future of agriculture and its benefits

Week: 11

Types of farming in New Zealand

1. **Sheep farming** – Sheep farming is New Zealand’s most valuable industry. The two main products of the industry are wool and sheep meat- lamb, hogget and mutton. In order to produce high wool and sheep meat in the country with a varied climate many different breed sheep are farmed.

There are three types of sheep farming

i) Fine wool production – sheep farming for the main purpose of producing fine quality wool.

- Long strand wool that is used in textiles and clothing manufacture
- It is produced in the high country of the South Island .

Climate

- The cold and dry climate of the high country prevents weight gain by the sheep as most energy is used to produce a fine fleece of wool to keep them warm.
- The cold weather promotes rapid wool growth to protect the sheep against the cold.
- The vastness of the rugged terrain, massive mountain ridges acts as natural barriers so farmers do not need to put many fences.

Farming Practices

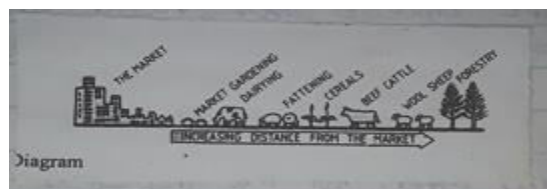
Some of the important farming practices are;

- A proven work cycle – the work cycle is closely geared to the seasons. Farmers must ensure that stock numbers are minimum and sheltered in the country during winter to avoid large stock losses due to increase in cold.
- Transhumance – is the movement of stock from the tops to the sheltered valleys before winter.
- Pre-lamb shearing – on some high hill country farms sheep are shorn in winter before lambing. Removal of fleece makes the ewes seek warmer more sheltered positions with their newly born lambs. This means that fewer die from exposure to cold, harsh conditions and the lambing percentage is raised. The lack of a thick fleece enables the sheep to move around unhindered in wet conditions and the cold of the winter promotes fast wool growth as well.
- Aerial top-dressing – to fertilize some of the river valleys more stock can be grazed on the better pastures or fertilized river valleys.
- Keeping beef cattle to graze on rough pastures and to supplement from income (additional source of income for the farmers)

- f. Cultivation – of fodder crops in river valleys. Lucerne and turnips are fodder crops that are grown to feed the stock in winter when the pasture does not grow.
 - g. Deer and rabbit control programmes – to reduce soil erosion.
 - h. Sub- division of large blocks of land – into small fenced blocks to improve farm management.
 - i. The use of helicopters and aircrafts – to assist farmers to drop supplies into remote areas and locate snow bound flocks of sheep which are ranked out by shepherds using snow rakes. To keep the system operating some outputs from the farm must be sold so that cultural inputs, such as capital, fences, new stock, fertilizer and buildings can be maintained and improved. Farm output that is channeled back into the farm usually in another form is called feedback.
- ii) Store sheep – breeding sheep and selling them to other farmers for fattening and slaughter.
- Store sheep are usually bred to produce both wool and meat.
 - These dual purpose sheep breed from a selection of bred sheep and meat sheep and sheep breeds.
 - Store sheep are born in the hill country regions where they are kept or stored for a year or so, being sold prior to winter the sheep are shorn for the first time so the farmer has two sources of income – the wool clip and the store sheep.
 - There is a good pasture growth in the warmer months which means that lambs body weight is kept to a satisfactory level for most meat production while it maintains a steady growth of wool.
- iii) Prime lambs- fattening sheep for sale to the freezing works.
- Prime lambs farming provide much of the sheep meat consumed locally and almost all the sheep meat that is exported overseas.
 - Prime lambs are lambs that have been fattened on good pastures to produce high quality meat.
 - They are kept on land or low lying areas or plains on superior pastures .
 - Rapid weight gain produces tender meat and a valuable carcass
 - North Island prime lambs farming is generally limited to the coastal lowland countries.
 - Store sheep are often brought from the hill country stations to fatten during periods of peak pasture growth on the lowlands
 - Wheat, barley ,maize and oats are grown during the summer months and the lambs are often fattened on the stubble left the grain is harvested.
 - This combination of cropping and prime lamb is produced called mixed farming.

Factors affecting this type of farming

- a. The cold and dry climate of the high country prevents rapid weight gain by the sheep as its energy is used to produce a fine fleece of wool to keep it warm.
- b. The cold weather promotes rapid wool growth to protect the sheep against the cold.
- c. The vastness of the rugged terrain, massive mountain ridges act as natural barriers so farmers do not need to put many fences.



2. Cattle Farming – the raising of cattle rivals sheep farming as New Zealand's most important industry.

- ☐ The products from this industry satisfy an important home market and an important export market.
- ☐ Cattle raising can be divided into two categories are : (a). dairying (b). beef cattle.