

**PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL**  
**P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI**  
**LESSON NOTES**

**School: Penang Sangam High School**  
**Subject: Agricultural Science**  
**Year/Level: 11**

**Week 25**

<b>Strand</b>	Strand as 11.4 LIVESTOCK
<b>Sub Strand</b>	Sub-strand AS 11.4.3 SHEEP
<b>Content Learning Outcome</b>	The students will explore on the livestock concepts common to sheep, pig, and goat in Fiji.

AS 11.4.3 SHEEP

Lesson 1: Introduction

**Vocabulary**

Ovis aries - Scientific name of sheep.

Mouflon - a small wild sheep with chestnut-brown wool, found in mountainous country from Iran to Asia Minor. It is the ancestor of the domestic sheep.

**Notes**

- member of the family Bovidae and is closely related to the goats

Lesson 2: History of Sheep in Fiji

<b>Pre- Commercial sheep rearing in Fiji</b>	<b>Commercial sheep rearing in Fiji</b>
Sheep farming was not a major pre-commercial enterprise in Fiji because the sheep introduced from Australia and New Zealand found the Fiji climate too hot.	In 1980, the Fiji Government began Phase One of the Sheep Breeding Programme aimed at producing a sheep breed suitable for Fiji conditions. This breeding programme began on Makogai Island, in Lomaiviti, where the Barbados Black Belly sheep and the Wiltshire Horn sheep were cross bred. This 10 year programme developed the Fiji Fantastic breed.

Lesson 3: Breeds of Sheep in Fiji

**Vocabulary**

- Inguinal region - lower lateral region of the abdomen on either side of the pubic region

**Notes**

They have an average life span of 11 years,



#### Barbados Black Belly

The Barbados Black Belly sheep originated on Barbados Island in the Caribbean from African ancestors.

Its distinguishing characteristics include light tan to mahogany red hair with black stripe on the face and black legs, inguinal region, chin and chest.

Due to their African heritage, Barbados Black Belly sheep can live in hot climates

They are comparatively small in size, fleet of foot, of high stamina and disease resistant.



#### Wiltshire Horn

The Wiltshire Horn sheep originated in Wiltshire in Southern England in 1794.

Its distinguishing features include horns, white fine wool intermixed with hair, black tips, straight back and prominent shoulders.

The sheep naturally moult when the weather is hot and produces quality meat.

They are medium sized and easy to handle.



#### Fiji Fantastic

In 1980, the Ministry of Agriculture began a 10 year breeding programme in Makogai where the Barbados Black Belly was crossed with the Wiltshire Horn to develop a foot and mouth free sheep breed adapted to Fiji conditions and named the result Fiji Fantastic.

In 1993, the sheep breeding project distributed Fiji Fantastic sheep to farmers for breeding and fattening.

The Fiji Fantastic's distinguishing feature is that it is white, produces high quality lean meat with little excess fat, produces twins and triplets which have a high growth rate and low mortality rate. Fiji now exports this breed to Samoa and Tonga.

### Lesson 4: Classes of sheep on Fiji Farms

#### Vocabulary

- Wether - castrated male
- Ram lamb - immature male
- Ewe lamb - immature female
- Lamb – newborn
- Flock – group (3 or more)

#### Notes

The three main breeds introduced to Fiji are compared below.

	Barbados Black Belly	Wiltshire Horn		Barbados Black Belly	Wiltshire Horn
Ram			Ewe		



## Lesson 5: Importance of Sheep

### Vocabulary

**Landscape** - all the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal.

### Notes

Advantages of raising sheep:	Disadvantages of raising sheep:
source of many items including: <b>i)</b> Meat <b>ii)</b> Milk <b>iii)</b> skin and leather <b>iv)</b> pets <b>v)</b> “lawn mowers” on landscapes	are less efficient at using coarse and cellulose feed materials.
Hair sheep acclimatise well in Fiji especially in the drier zones like Western Viti Levu.	sheep will follow the leader even into trouble.
easy to handle and generally require little input.	rams produce a strong musk during the mating season.
production does not require elaborate facilities and equipment	are subject to predation by dogs
help control weeds so assist with landscaping.	require better fencing than do cattle
utilise waste feed and fodder, grazing the forage at ground level, which goats refuse to eat.	internal parasites can create health problems when sheep are intensively grazed
require a minimum amount of supplemental feeding	
require small areas for housing	
tend to eat faster and have more time to rest, chew the cud and therefore gain weight faster than goats	
good companions and family pets	

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