

[Receipt for Curing the Wood Evil, Frog Ill, Rickets Goggles, or Shaking in Sheep] Robert Fraser

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Contributors

Contributor Role

Author

Contributor Name

Robert Fraser

Publication Format

Print

Type

Agriculture

Veterinary Medicine

Symptoms

weakness

shaking

goggles

worms

rickets

wood evil

Ingredients

penny royal

wild scabeous

shepherds purse

ale

cumrain seed

fenugreek seed

caraway seed

treacle

Places

Devon

England

Halifax

Nova Scotia

Source: Royal Gazette and the Nova Scotia Advertiser.

Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm | **Reference:**

Consult the Nova Scotia Archives' "Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm" list (Royal Gazette) for a complete account of microfilm reels for this paper. EMMR includes recipes from Microfilm Reels 8162, 8163, 8165, and 8167.

Description

A discussion of sheep disorders followed by a recipe for treating wood evil dated May 31, 1794. Vol. 6, No. 299. Microfilm Reel 8165. The piece was published in Robert Fraser's *General View of the County of Devon*, p. 75 (London, 1794) without the introductory paragraph but with the signatory initials "A.B."

Transcription

London.

Mr. FRASER'S REPORT OF DEVON

DISEASE OF SHEEP.

The following extract from this valuable report, cannot fail to be very acceptable to our numerous readers in the country. It may perhaps induce people to attend more than hitherto to the diseases of this most useful animal

The stocks in the western part of England being very subject to the disease called the Goggles, &c. the following remedy for it, which comes from a respectable quarter, is recommended to the readers attention.

Receipt for curing the Wood Evil, Frog Ill, Rickets Goggles, or shaking in sheep

The disorders in sheep have been so little attended to, that it is difficult to le[a]rn the names of them; and when the names are obtained they are, in different counties applied to diseases accompanied with such very different, symptoms, that unless the nature of the disease be previously described, any receipt may be as useless or injurious in one country as it is beneficial in another.

The disorder for which the following receipt is recommended, is a weakness and perfect debility in the loins; which in different counties, is called by the names above mentioned. But shaking does not seem to be at all applicable to it, because the sheep is affected with no symptom of that kind. The goggles is a disease which affects

the head, and is occasioned sometimes by a worm and sometimes by water. In time it makes the sheep turn always on one side and give the appearance of the whole side and loins being affected; but the seat of that disease is in the head. The frog, or hoof of the sheep is not at all hurt, and therefore I would wholly reject the name of the frog ill, for the present. The rickets, a descriptive of the disease known under that name amongst children, is accompanied with a weakness in the loins, and therefore may be applied to the present complaint; but as that name denotes other ailments also, I would affix the name of wood-evil only to the following disorder:

In the winter 1792, I had a sheep which apparently had lost the use of his hinder legs: if raised from the ground he could not stand: and my shepherd baliff, and workmen agreed that he was past all recovery, and must die very soon. Under these circumstances it was impossible to do any harm, and, recollecting, that for some time past, the nights had been very cold and wet, I concluded that the sheep was chilled and benumbed; therefore I blooded him, and prepared the following medicine:

Take penny royal, wild scabious, and shepherds purse. of each half a handful; bruise them well, and boil them in three pints of a[l]e; then strain off the liquid part, by hard squeezing and pressing the herbs; add cumrain seeds, fenugreek seeds, and caraway seeds, of each one ounce, and of London treacle two ounces: put these in a bottle and stop it close.

I gave the sheep nearly half a pint in the afternoon; the same quantity in the morning and evening of the next day, and the remainder of the bottle on the day after, when the sheep got up, walked away has ailed nothing since, and has been fatted.

The medicine is not the worse for keeping, and will be found useful in many sudden complaints: but if given for a fever, omit the carminative seeds.

May 13, 1794.

Receipt for Curing the Wood Evil, Frog Ill, Rickets Goggles, or Shaking in Sheep recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/121>