

Sheep Rack.

Patented July 11, 1865.



FIG. 1.

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My Dear Sir
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN SHEEP-RACKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,641, dated July 11, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MILTON BARNARD, of Unionville, in the county of Chester and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Sheep-Trough; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of my invention; Fig. 2, a transverse vertical section of the same, taken in the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

The object of this invention is to obtain a trough by which a number of sheep may be fed equably—that is to say, each have an equal share of the feed. Sheep eat very rapidly, and unless some means be devised to regulate the supply of feed to the trough and have the former equally distributed in the latter some of the sheep—the strongest and foremost ones—will get more than their share.

My invention, it is believed, fully obviates this difficulty; and to this end it consists in having a hopper placed over or above the feeding-trough—one or two of the latter being used—and having the hopper constructed in such a manner that the grain or feed may be discharged therefrom more or less rapidly into the feeding trough or troughs and equally distributed in them throughout their entire length.

A A represent two feeding-troughs, supported at a suitable height by end pieces, *a a*, or any proper framing. These feeding-troughs are divided by a partition, B, formed of two boards or planks which are inclined and meet at their upper edges, as shown clearly in Fig. 2. This partition extends a considerable distance above the troughs A A and projects within the hopper C, which is composed of two pivoted boards or sides, *b b*, one at each side of the partition B. The pivots *c* of these sides *b b* are fitted in the end pieces, *a a*, which extend up above the troughs A A and form the ends of the hopper as well as the ends of the troughs.

The sides *b b*, in consequence of being hung or suspended on the pivots *c c*, may be adjusted so that their lower ends will be in con-

tact with the partition B, as shown in tint in Fig. 2, or said ends moved out from B, as shown in red outline in the same figure. In the former adjustment of the sides *b b* the hopper C is closed, and in the latter adjustment it is open.

The sides *b b* of the hopper are moved or adjusted by means of two arms, *d d*, the outer ends of which are pivoted in the sides *b b*, the inner ends of the arms lapping over each other, each being slotted longitudinally, with a pin, *e*, passing through the slots, said pin also passing through the lower end of an upright arm, D, the upper end of which is fitted on the outer end of the lower arm of a bent lever, E, the fulcrum of the latter being in the upper end of one of the end pieces, *a*. It will be seen that by actuating this lever E the sides *b b* may be adjusted so as to open and close the hopper and let down the grain or feed into the troughs in greater or less quantities, as may be desired, the grain or feed falling down the inclined sides of the partition B into the troughs. In case several of these devices are used their levers E may be connected to a rod, (shown in red in Fig. 1,) so that the sides *b b* of all the hoppers may be adjusted simultaneously, and the levers E may be retained at any desired point within the scope of their movement by means of a pawl or arm, F, connected to them by a pivot, and having their lower ends engaging with a segment-rack, G, as shown in Fig. 1.

I would remark that the device may be constructed with only one trough, A, and a hopper, C, constructed with only one side, *b*; but the double form would be preferable.

Thus by this simple device the feed-troughs may be supplied with grain or feed gradually and evenly throughout, and the sheep equably fed or supplied with feed.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The pyramidal partition B, extending upward beyond and between the ends of the pivoted sides *b b*, for the purpose of forming two separate hoppers and troughs, substantially as herein described.

MILTON BARNARD,

Witnesses:

CHARLES BARNARD,
THOMAS W. JONES.