

## Re: Foxes, ladies and weapons

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- *From:* " Jill" <[news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 4 Jun 2006 21:25:36 +0100
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"fenwoman" <[fenwoman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:fenwoman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:ca2dne2HoOJmqR7ZRVnyig@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ca2dne2HoOJmqR7ZRVnyig@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

If you bring them into small paddocks you can very quickly get serious poaching problems

Not if you use something like a straw yard on well drained land.

As most of the sheep in the UK are on the west and on higher ground your chances of running several hundred let alone a couple of thousand on a straw yard is nil

Even 20 in a straw yard at lambing time [mid spring] on the West coast would do nothing but create a revolting wet soggy disgusting mess in a couple of days

I certainly would not lamb in that. We have occasionally lambed indoors with success but they are MUCH better and happier outdoors.

A good field is much better – its clean and if well chosen has natural shelter in many different directions to help protect against the weather

I can remember reading something about sheep farming a couple of years ago where some research was done. Apparently more farmers will bring sheep under cover to lamb and it results in more live births and less lambing problems/dead ewes/predator attacks. Stands to reason in my book.

In any place where the population want affordable lamb the system is to do as little as possible.

The result in a few generations is easy lambing ewes with no interference. The more you interfere the worse the genetics get. There are "breeds" – genetic aberrations for double muscling etc – which are demanding more and more intervention to get successful lambs. These may well be the ones you hear of coming indoors. These are very small scale and that will end with the upcoming agricultural changes.

In many parts of the world like, for example, New Zealand one man lambs over

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5,000 sheep --- its one of their easiest times of the year --- they practise a no interference policy.

The stock have improved considerably and they stay out on the hill.

This country is heading that way with the lack of support for agriculture.

However the transition period is not one that will be pretty. :( Importing good breeding stock from New Zealand is non-viable. Not having sheep on the hills will grossly affect the ecology to its detriment.

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regards

Jill Bowis

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