At Work on the Range
Brands are read from left to right, top to bottom, outside to inside.

Before calves or lambs are moved to the pasture they are marked with the owner’s brand and vaccinated against disease. Brands are the animal’s ID (identification), like a driver’s license is to a human and a license plate is to a car. Brands act like a return address. If an animal gets out and goes over to a neighbor’s place, the neighbor can read the brand and know where to return the animal. Sheep brands are placed on the animal with a special paint. Branding day is a big event on the ranch; family, neighbors, and friends gather to help brand the critters.

Reading Brands
Brands are read from left to right, top to bottom, outside to inside.

Can you read these brands?

Diamond Bar, Lazy K over R, M Bar 9, Lazy J M.

Answers (left to right): Diamond Bar, Lazy K over R, M Bar 9, Lazy J M.
Lambs drink their mother’s milk and grow strong. A lamb will be almost grown when it is only six months old. It will weigh between 100 and 110 pounds.

Spring is shearing time for sheep. Shearing is like getting a haircut. Their hair is a natural fiber called wool. The wool is removed as one piece and is called fleece. The oil in sheep’s wool is called lanolin. It is used to make lotion.

Solve these math problems:

1) One of Woolgrower Wilma’s sheep grows a fleece that weighs ten pounds. After the fleece is scoured (washed) to remove the dirt and lanolin (oil), the wool weighs six pounds. How much dirt and lanolin was in the fleece?

______________ pounds

2) How many pounds of wool would be left after the fleece from two sheep is washed and the oil removed?

______________ pounds

Answers: 1) 4 pounds, 2) 12 pounds.
Ranch Word Roundup

Ranching is a job. Montana ranchers work hard, but it can be fun too. They work from sunup to sundown caring for their land, their livestock, and their families. Find these ranch words hidden in the box.

HAYBALE  COWS
BARN       SHEEP
TRACTOR    RANCHER
FENCE      GRASS
HORSE      LAMB
FIELD      BRAND

Unscramble the Types of Food and Fiber

Farmers and ranchers provide the rest of the world with food and fiber. Unscramble these words and learn what they produce to make their livings.

WOLO       URGHAMREB
KILM       TKEAS
MTUTON     ECHESE
LRTHEAE    LONIOT

Answers: wool, milk, mutton, leather, hamburger, steaks, cheese, lotion.

One cowhide can produce:
• 144 baseballs or
• 18 soccer balls or
• 12 basketballs or
• 20 footballs or
• 18 volleyballs or
• 12 baseball gloves