June 18, 1935.

T. J. DRAGOO, JR

2,005,649

BUCK MASK

Filed April 26, 1933

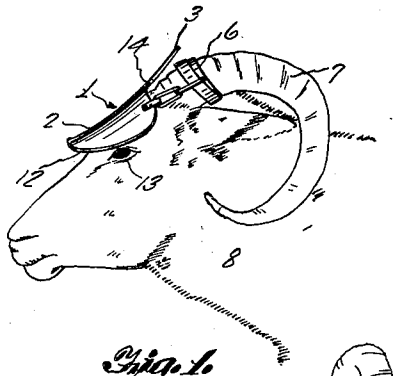


Fig. 1.

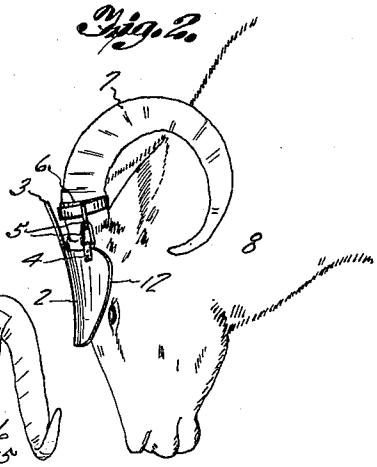


Fig. 2.

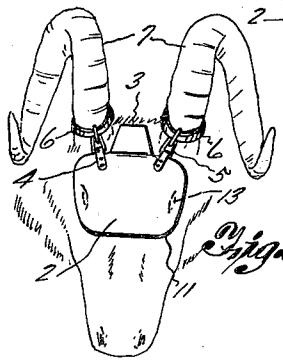


Fig. 3.

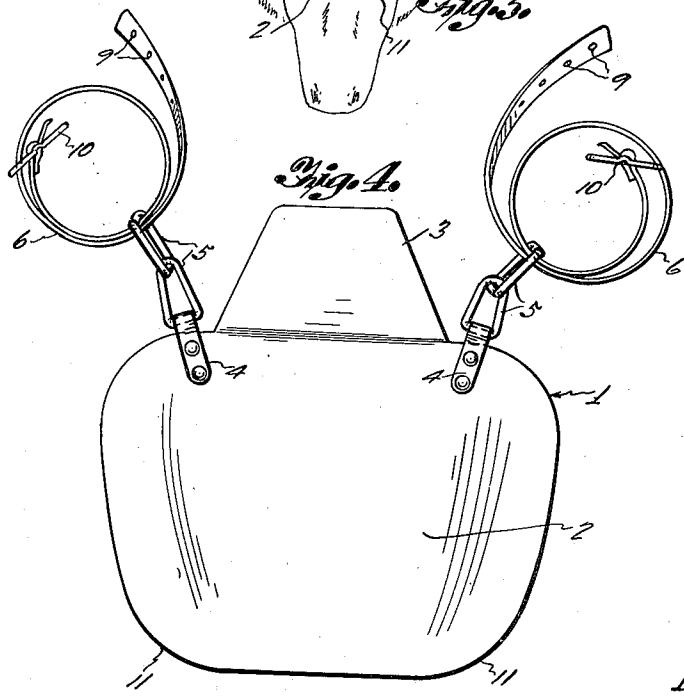


Fig. 4.

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BUCK MASK

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Application April 26, 1933, Serial No. 667,969

1 Claim. (Cl. 119—104)

This invention relates to masks, shields and blinders for installing in front of or over the eyes of such animals as buck sheep to prevent their fighting one another. Such fighting is very common amongst sheep herds and is very injurious to the participants, as wounds are opened upon the head which become infected, thus resulting in the death of the animals.

It is the prime object of the present invention to provide a mask which may be readily mounted upon the head of a buck sheep or the like, and disposed in front of the eyes in such a way that so long as the animal keeps his head raised his vision remains unobstructed in all directions, but when he lowers his head as in grazing or charging, the mask assumes automatically a position which will cut off the animal's vision forwardly, thus destroying the charge.

Another object is to provide a mask for attaching to the horns of a buck sheep or the like in such manner that the mask will depend forwardly partially over the eyes of the animal, but will not obstruct the lateral vision of the animal when his head is lowered as in grazing, nor his forward vision when his head is elevated as in walking from place to place.

Another object is to provide a mask of the kind referred to, comprising front and rear portions, and straps or other fastenings secured to the rear margins of the mask at points transversely aligned between the said front and rear portions, the said straps being designed for fastening to the base of the horns of the animal for providing a certain pivotal vertical play to the structure when mounted upon the animal's head, the forward portion of the device or mask proper being designed and shaped so as to obstruct the direct forward view of the animal when his head is lowered, though not interfering with his lateral view, and the rearward portion of the device constituting a point, tab or flap extended rearwardly and adapted to contact with the back of the head of the animal, for preventing the complete overturning rearwardly of the device, as by a wind.

With the foregoing and such other objects and advantages in view as may appear from the following specification, attention is directed to the accompanying drawing as exemplifying a preferred form of the invention, and wherein

Figure 1 is a side view of the improved mask as mounted upon the head of a buck sheep, the animal's head being raised.

Figure 2 is a view similar to that of Figure 1, the animal's head being lowered.

Figure 3 is a front view of the ensemble of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a frontal elevation upon a greatly enlarged scale of the mask itself, and attaching elements.

The invention comprises a head plate represented generally at 1, the same being made of sheet metal or any desired material, and comprising a relatively broad forward portion or mask proper 2 and a rigidly connected, relatively narrow and reduced or attenuated rear portion or stop flap 3. Immediately at the sides of the flap 3 attaching loops 4 are secured to the mask portion 2, the same being arranged in transverse alignment between the said frontal and rear portions of the structure. Chain links 5 are freely connected with the loops 4 and through the end links thereof are passed fastening straps 6 for passing around the horns 7 of the animal 8, whereby the device is mounted in place upon and over the forehead of the animal, the straps having perforated ends 9 for engaging buckles 10 at the opposite ends, for such purpose. The forward portion of the device or mask proper 2 is rounded off upon its frontal corners, as shown at 11, and the side margins are curved slightly down, as shown at 12, so that said mask portion conforms in a degree to the rounded shape of the animal's head, and the said margins 12 come fairly down towards the eyes 13 of the animal. By this arrangement the forward and lateral vision of the animal is unobstructed while his head is raised and his forward vision is obstructed and his lateral vision unobstructed when his head is lowered. The rear portion or stop flap 3 extends back over the back head of the animal, and prevents the rearward overturning of the device under the force of a high wind, or any other cause. This stop flap may be turned or curved up somewhat if desired, from its point of connection with the mask portion 2 and as clearly shown at 14 in Figure 1, whereby a greater degree of lateral play is afforded the frontal mask portion 2.

In use and operation, the device permits the animal to graze or to walk with head elevated, without hindrance, but the instant he lowers his head to make a charge as in fighting, his forward vision is cut off by the mask, thus removing his objective from his view and destroying the charge.

While I have herein described a certain specific manner and method of constructing and assembling the elements of my invention, it is understood that I may vary from the same in minor

details, not departing from the spirit of my invention, so as best to construct a practical device for the purpose intended, as defined in the appended claim.

What is claimed is,

In a device of the class described for the forehead of a horned animal, a transversely curved and forwardly tapered head plate of a width less than the distance between the outer sides of the horns at the bases thereof for disposition with its concave surface contacting the forehead, the side margins of the plate extending down toward the eyes and the frontal margin extending somewhat below and forwardly of the eyes when the device is installed, a stop flap extending from the rear of the plate narrower than the distance between the horns at their bases and disposable between the horns to prevent the device tilting over backward, and flexible connections disposed on opposite sides of said flap extending rearwardly from said plate for attachment to the horns.

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