Sheep-shearing Machine. (Husbandry.) A machine for giving motion to the shears whereby sheep are shorn. The shears are usually angular cutters reciprocated over guards, which act as the other halves of the shears, much as in the manner of mowing-machine cutters, but on a very small scale.

In Fig. 4942, which may stand as an example of a score of different machines of this class, the shears are at the end of a flexible shaft, which is rotated by band connection from the fly-wheel on the crank-shaft. The vibrating shears have a shield to prevent the wool being cut more than once, and are attached by a flexible connection and tumbling-rod to a counterbalance arm, which is pivoted upon a standard, in which is placed the driving-wheel which gives motion to the knife.

In another machine, a vibrating motion is communicated to the cutter while being moved in any direction or passed over the body of the sheep, so that two different persons may work with one machine at the same time and operate upon two different animals, while other cutters may be stopped independently of the other by simply releasing the lever which holds up its driving-shaft. The machine may be driven by horse, dog, steam, or water power.

See the following list of United States patents, which includes horse-dipping machines:—