

Australia's first sheep were bought in Cape Town in South Africa in 1787. The breeding of sheep that took place in Macarthur's farm at Camden, New South Wales, over the next 20 years laid the foundation for the Australian wool industry. The Cape sheep had hairy rather than woolly fleeces, but they tasted good. Others helped as well, especially the Reverend Samuel Marsden, who some said was more devoted to his woolly flock than the human flock in his church. By 1813, most of the suitable paddocks on the coastal side of the Blue Mountains were full of animals. Others ate poisonous plants, and convicts stole two and ate them in the bush.