

Gen. 46:32-34 SHEPHERDS AND CATTLEMEN

*"and the men are **shepherds**, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' 33 "And it shall come about when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' 34 that you shall say, 'Your servants have been **keepers of livestock** from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' that you may live in the land of Goshen; for **every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians.**"*

The reason Joseph told his family members to say they were keepers of livestock, rather than "shepherds" is as follows: Sheep will eat grass right down to the ground to the point of hurting or even destroying the grass, where-as cattle leave the grass long enough so it isn't damaged. That is why sheep must have a shepherd to constantly move them around. They will destroy the grass if not overseen. That's why cattlemen and shepherds don't get along very well. That's why Joseph said to his fathers clan to tell the Egyptians they were cattlemen, not shepherds.

DASYD Ministry

Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Nov 29/16)