This paper will read Jean de Brie’s treatise on ovine husbandry as a mirror for princes, one that effects a powerful transposition of the figure of the good shepherd of John 10 from the theological to the secular realm by insisting that the king has a duty of care towards his “œilles de l’umain lignaige”, for whom he is accountable to God. I will place this work in dialogue with the Préceptes cistériens d’économie rurale and the poetry of Eustache Deschamps to suggest that the analogy of people to sheep, one which troubles the human-animal distinction upon which theories of subjectivity are founded, defines subjects as a kind of population, one to be managed with an eye towards optimizing resource extraction.