

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WOOL PREPARATION AND STORAGE

To enable Canadian wool growers to achieve better wool preparation and higher financial returns the following are the recommended guidelines. Producers should also implement biosecurity measures to prevent and control the spread of disease. Please refer to The National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice for Sheep.

1) All sheep need to be emptied out before shearing. i.e. No feed or water to be administered to the sheep for a minimum of 12 hours prior to shearing. By carrying out this practice the sheep's stomach and bladder will be empty and therefore the wool does not become contaminated with dung and urine. The sheep will also sit better for shearing as they do not struggle the same which enables the shearing process to be easier for both the shearer and the sheep. Never shear wet wool or pack wet wool.

2) The belly wool needs to be kept completely separate from the fleece wool. The shearer should remove and throw the belly aside as the sheep is being shorn, belly wool to be packed separately.

3) All short, stained wool and tags need to be removed from the crutch area as the sheep is being shorn. This wool is kept completely separate from all other types of wool and packed separately.

4) All fleeces should be thrown onto a wool table to enable the skirting of the fleeces to be performed in a proficient manner. Chaffy or bury wool should be skirted from the fleece and packed separately.

5) The board should be swept and kept clean between sheep as well as during the shearing of the sheep.

6) All fleeces should be shaken to remove any second cuts before rolling and pressing the fleeces.

7) When pressing the wool all the different categories of wool are to be pressed separately. There should be no mixing of the different wool types during shearing but when pressing at the end

of shearing the different types of wool can be put into one bag but they need to be separated by sheets of newspaper.

8) All bags are to be sewn with butchers twine. Please do not use baling twine, wire, electric fence wire, or polyprop twine to sew the wool bags.

9) All bags need to be identified as to their contents.

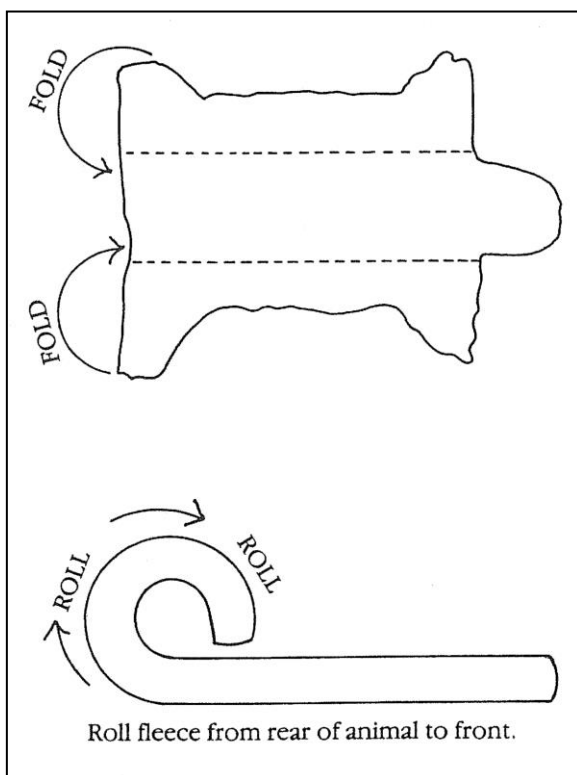
10) Where possible during shearing the level of straw needs to be kept to a minimum and away from the shearing area to keep the contamination level to a minimum.

11) Coloured & Blackface sheep are to be separated and shorn last so as not to contaminate the white wool with coloured fibres.

12) Fleece preparation incentives of up to 8¢/lb is applicable for bright high yielding fleeces that have been properly skirted and packaged.

13) Maintaining a clean shearing board and floor is an important and continuous process. It must be done before, during and after shearing to insure a quality clip.

14) Wool should be packed in approved packaging and then stored in a dry environment in order to preserve optimum quality. Wet wool has no value and wool bags are not water proof.



Rolling the fleece (all wools)

- * Spread skirted fleece on skirting table or clean wool handling area, flesh side down
- * Fold fleece into thirds
- * Roll fleece from rear of animal to front
- * Roll fleece flesh side out