

Sheep Production

What Do You Want to Produce?

- ❖ Meat
- ❖ Wool
- ❖ Dairy

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Sheep Production

Which Type of Sheep Do You Want to Raise?

- Large Breeds
- Smaller Breeds
- Domestic Breeds
- Primitive Breeds
- Hair Breeds

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Sheep Production

What Things Should You Consider When Selecting Sheep To Raise?

- Facilities
- Fencing / Fields
- What You Are Raising the Animals For
 - Extent of Management Required

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Breeds of Sheep

Meat Breed:

- 160-220 Pounds
- Black Face
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 5-8# Fleece / 2.5-4"
- Market Lamb Producer
- Good Carcasses

Hampshire



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Breeds of Sheep

Meat Breed:

- 150-210 Pounds
- Dark Brown Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 5-8# Fleece / 3-5"
- Hampshire x Cotswold

Oxford



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Breeds of Sheep

Meat Breed:

- 105-155 Pounds
- Speckled Faces and Legs
- No Wool on Legs or Faces
- Males and Females Horned
- 5-6# Fleece / 10-14"
- Hardy

Scottish Highland Blackface



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Breeds of Sheep

Meat Breed:

Shropshire

- 150-195 Pounds
- Dark Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 5-8# Fleece / 3-4"
- Good Carcasses
- Southdown x Leicester x Cotswold Crosses



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Breeds of Sheep

Meat Breed:

Southdown

- 120-160 Pounds
- Light Brown Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 5-8# Fleece / 2-3"
- Good Carcasses of Lighter Weight
- One of the Oldest Breeds



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Breeds of Sheep

Meat Breed:

Suffolk

- 170-250 Pounds
- Black Faces
- No Wool on Legs and Face
- 3-7# Fleece / 2.5-3.5"
- Largest in U.S.
- Good Growth Rate
- Southdown x Norfolk



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose:

Cheviot/North Country Cheviot

- 115-155 / 125-185 Pounds
- White Faces
- No Wool on Head or Legs
- Polled
- 5-8# Fleece / 3-4"
- Scottish Breed
- Wool in Tweed



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose:

Columbia

- 150-210 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs
- 9-14# Fleece / 4-6"
- First U.S. Breed
- Lincoln x Rambouillet



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose: Dorset

- 130-180 Pounds
- Horned or Polled
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Faces
- 5-8# Fleece / 3-4.5"
- Tend to Breed Out of Season



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose: Finnsheep

- 110-150 Pounds
- White Faces
- No Wool on Legs and Face
- 3-7# Fleece / 3-6"
- Multiple Births
- Not Great Confirmation
- Used for Cross Breeding
- Came to U.S. in the 1960s



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose: Montadale

- 140-190 Pounds
- White Faces
- No Wool on Legs or Faces
- 5-9# Fleece / 3-5"
- U.S. Breed
- Cheviot x Columbia



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose: Polypay

- 130-180 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 6-10# Fleece / 3-5"
- Idaho / California Breed
- Targhee x Dorset X
- Rambouillet x Finnsheep



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose: Panama

- 140-195 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- Polled
- 9-14# Fleece / 3-5"
- Idaho Breed
- Lincoln Ewes x Rambouillet
- Look Like Columbias
- Range Animals



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Breeds of Sheep

General Purpose: Texel

- 130-190 Pounds
- White Faces
- No Wool on Legs and Faces
- 9-14# Fleece / 4-6"
- High muscle:bone and lean:fat Ratios
- Extreme Muscling
- Came to U.S. in 1990s



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Breeds of Sheep

Novelty/GP: Babydoll Southdowns

- 19-23 Inches
- Off White Wool
- Cinnamon or Gray Faces and Legs
- Re-introduction of the "Traditional Style of Southdown"
- New, Novelty Breed



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Breeds of Sheep

Hair Breed:

- 170-200 Pounds
- White or Black Faces
- Mixture of Hair and Wool
- Do Not Require Shearing
- South African Breed (1940s)
- Blackhead Persian x Dorset Horn

Dorper



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Breeds of Sheep

Hair Breed:

- 110-160 Pounds
- Any Color Pattern
- Wool on Legs
- Shedding Hair Coat
- Adapted to Hot Climates
- U.S. Breed (Maine)
- Caribbean Hair Sheep x Woolled Breeds

Katahdin



Provided by Katahdin Hair Sheep International

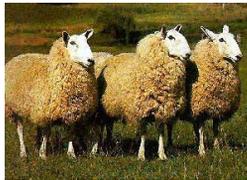
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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 140-195 Pounds
- White Faces
- No Wool on Legs or Faces
- Colored Variety as Well
- 8-12# Fleece / 5-10"
- Long Coarse Wool
- Spins Well

Border Leicester



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 120-165 Pounds
- Recessive Color-Pattern Allele
- Wool on Face and Legs
- Cream, Dark Gray or Silver
- 6-12# Fleece / 3-5"
- From White Romeldale (Romney x Rambouillet)

Californian



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 135-180 Pounds
- White or Colored
- Wool on Legs and Faces
- 9-14# Fleece / 3.5-6"

Corriedale



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 165-200 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 11-15# Fleece / 12-15"
- Old Breed
- Lock of Wool on Face
- Wavy, Curly Fleece

Cotswold



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- Swedish Breed
- Black to Gray
- No Wool on Legs and Face
- Polled
- Short Tailed
- Primitive
- Fur Breed
- Lustrous, Colored, Curly Fleece
- Karakul x Romanov x Gute

Gotland

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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 120-160 Pounds
- White, Tan, Brown, Gray, Black
- No Wool on Legs or Legs
- 3-5# Fleece
- 3" Undercoat / 18" Outercoat
- Meat
- Wool for Lopli Yarn
- Hardy and Long Living

Icelandic

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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 90-130 Pounds
- Distinctive Black Facial Markings
- Black Spots on Body
- No Wool on Legs and Face
- 3-6# Fleece / 4-6"
- Multihorned
- Kempy Wool (tweed)

Jacob

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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 145-215 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 10-14# Fleece / 8-15"
- Long Coarse Fleece
- Spins Well
- Used to Develop Columbia and Targhee

Lincoln

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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 120-160 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 9-14# Fleece / 2.5-4"
- Fine Wool
- High Quality Fleeces

Merino

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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 80-120 Pounds
- White, Black, Gray, Brown
- No Wool on Legs / Wool on Face
- Rams – Up to 4 Horns
- Ewes – Small Horns
- 3-7# Fleece
- 5-6" Undercoat / 8-14" Outercoat
- Developed by Navajos
- From Churro (First Domestic Sheep in North America)
- Spins Well (Navajo Blankets)

Navajo-Churro

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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 140-190 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 9-14# Fleece / 2.5-4"
- Fine Wool
- High Quality Fleeces
- Foundation of Range Sheep

Rambouillet



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 130-180 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- Also Come Colored
- 8-14# Fleece / 5-8"
- Withstands Wet, Cold Areas
- Spins Well

Romney



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 70-100 Pounds
- Colorful Wool Production
- No Wool on Legs and Face
- 2-4# Fleece / 4-6"
- Primitive
- Hardy
- One of the Smallest Breeds
- Natural Short Tails

Shetland



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- Small
- Light to Dark Brown
- Shed Fleece in Summer
- Primitive

Soay



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 135-190 Pounds
- White Faces
- Wool on Legs and Face
- 8-14# Fleece / 3-5"
- Idaho Breed
- Rambouillet x Columbia X
- Rambouillet x Corriedale
- Medium to Fine Wool

Targhee



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 70-110 Pounds
- Black WM – Colored Wool
- Wool on Legs
- 3-4# Fleece / 3-4"
- 20-24 Inches Tall
- Lincoln x Rambouillet

Welsh Mountain Sheep



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Breeds of Sheep

Wool Breed:

- 200 + Pounds
- Black Faces
- Wool on Legs and Faces
- 16-20# Fleece / 10-12"
- Long Wool
- Prolific

Wensleydale



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Breeds of Sheep

Dairy Breed:

- 140-185 Pounds
- White Faces
- No Wool on Legs or Face
- 8-12# Fleece / 4-6"
- No Black Fibers
- 1100-1700# of Milk
- Rat Tail
- Came to U.S. in the 1990s

East Friesian



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Breeds of Sheep

Dairy Breed:

- French Breed
- No Wool on Legs and Head and Belly
- Higher Total Solids than Friesians
- Milk that Makes Roquefort Cheese
- Introduced to U.S. in 1998

Lacaune



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Breeds of Fiber Goats

Goat Breed:

- Mohair Fiber
- Ringlet or Flat Fibers
- 5 Pound Fiber, Sheared Twice a Year
- Males and Females have Horns
- 100-225 Pounds

Angora



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Breeds of Fiber Goats

Cashmere

- First Imported into U.S. in the 1980's.
- Dual Coats – Guard Hairs and Cashmere Fiber



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Breeds of Sheep

**WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND A BREED
THAT WORKS**



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Sheep Breeds

- ⊙ It Is A Buffet So Make An Educated Selection
 - ⊙ Think About Availability
 - ⊙ How Far Are You Willing To Travel
 - ⊙ How Much Do You Want To Pay
- ⊙ ARE YOU HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU ARE PRODUCING?

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OK I Have a Breed Now What?

- ⊙ Soundness
 - Feet
 - Legs
- Reproductive
- ⊙Disease Exposure
 - ⊙Genetics
- ⊙Breed Character
 - ⊙Confirmation
 - ⊙Personality

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Judging



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Management of Sheep

- ✓Feeding
- ✓Housing
- ✓Health
- ✓Reproduction
- ✓Record Keeping

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Sheep Aren't Stupid!

Sheep are Prey to Other Animals
 If They Are Scared They Run
 Chasing Animals Won't Calm Them Down.
 You Need to Be Calm
 Remember – "Don't Panic"



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Setting Up Your Place

Facilities Should Make Movement Easy
 Flexibility is Important
 Make it Strong (they are small but powerful)
 How are You Going to Clean It?
 Separation of Animals

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Feeding Sheep

- ✓ Water
- ✓ Free Choice Salt/Minerals
 - Selenium!
- ✓ Roughage
 - Pasture
 - Hay
- ✓ Grain
- Watch for Copper

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What Should You Feed

- ★ Grass
- ★ Pasture with Grain/Hay Supplement
- ★ Feedlot – Grain/Hay

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How Much to Feed

- ✓ Different for Various Breeds
 - ✓ See Reference
- ✓ Check Body Condition
- ✓ Adjust Throughout Year as Situation Changes

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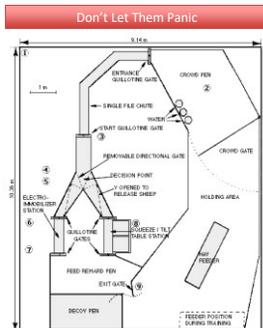
Feeders

Keep Feed Off of Ground and Off of Sheep
 Get a Feeder/Feeding System that Works for You and Your Sheep



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Pens



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Vitals

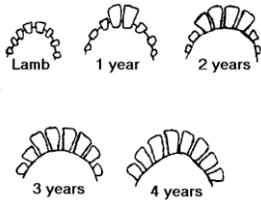


- Ram (Buck) – Male Sheep
- Ewe – Female Sheep
- Lamb – Animal Under 1 Year of Age
- Wether – Castrated Male
- Lamb – Meat From an Animal Under 1 Year of Age
- Mutton – Meat From an Aged Animal

- Temperature – 102.5°F
- Respiration – 20 breaths/minute
- Heart Rate – 75 beats/minute
- Gestation – 148 days
- Estrous Cycle – 17 days
- Heat Length – 2-3 days

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Aging Sheep by their Teeth



Solid Mouths - All Teeth
 Spreader – Teeth Show Wear
 Broken Mouths – Teeth Missing
 Gummets – No Teeth

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Hoof Diseases



Foot Rot – Caused by *Dichelobacter nodosus*. Lameness, Separation of the outer layer of the hoof from the fleshy part of the hoof, black rot, nasty smell.

Foot (Hoof) Scald – Caused by *Fusobacterium necrophorum*. Whitish gooey lesions between cloves of hoof. Way easier to control.

Treatment: Don't get it, Buy clean sheep, Keep trailers and equipment clean, Trim hooves frequently, Control mud, Foot baths, Footvax, Volar



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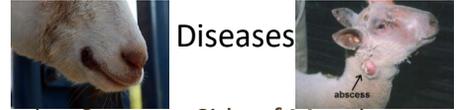
Sheep Aren't Evil

Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF)

- Outbreak at Puyallup Fair
- Cattle Exhibit Symptoms Similar to Hoof and Mouth Disease
- From Fluid to Fluid Contact Between Sheep and Cows
- Virus is Killed in Sunlight
- Not a New Virus
- Management of Animals is Key



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Diseases

- Sore Mouth – Sores on Side of Mouth
 Common in Open Herds, Show Flocks
- Caseous Lymphadenitis – Pus Filled Sores
 Common in Open Herds, Show Flocks
- Urinary Calculi – Crystals in Male Urethra
 Ca:P Ratio Should be 2:1 in Feed

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Parasites



FIGURE 17.4 Sheep ked, *Melophaga ovinoides* (Phlebotomidae), is a blood-sucking parasite of domestic livestock. Agricultural Extension Service

- Lice V
- Ticks
- Keds V
- Fly Strike V
- Worm or Drench

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Sheep Aren't Evil

Scrapies

- Codon 171 Scrapie is the most common.
- Animals isolate themselves, bunny-hop and rub consistently.
- Animals can be blood tested for susceptibility.
 - QQ-most susceptible.
 - QR-heterozygous resistance
 - RR-homozygous resistance



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Tag Them

Scrapies

•ALL PRODUCERS MUST TAG ANIMALS FROM THEIR OPERATIONS WITH WSDA SCRAPIES TAGS WITH THEIR FLOCK NUMBERS.

- ORDER THEM AT USDA,
- Olympia (360) 753-9430 /
- [USDA APHIS](#) or [NIAA](#)



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Vaccinations

CDT



- ✧Treats Enterotoxemia Types C and D and Tetanus
- ✧Treat the Ewes (a month before lambing) or Lambs (no earlier than 6 weeks)
- ✧Do a Yearly Booster

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VCPR

Know Your Vet!

Form a Relationship with Them Where They Know Your Operation.

Your Operation.

They Are A Great Resource!



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KILLERS



- Fence Well
- Bring Animals In
- Watch Your Animals
- Use Dogs
- Use Llamas

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Next Generation

Flush Ewe Before Breeding – Increased Feed Intake Increases Egg Release for Higher Lambing Percentages

Mark Ewes or Rams to Determine Breeding Date and If the Ewes are Remarked



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Lambing Time

Prepare Lambing Pens or Jugs



Prepare Lambing Kit
Keep Watch



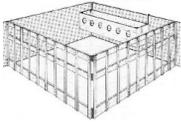
Watch for Problems But Let Them Do The Work



Care for Lambs
Enjoy!

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They Are Up and Running



Docking?
Castrating?
Creep Feeding?
Watch Ewes and Lambs
Monitor and Adjust



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Meat Production

★ Types of Feeding Systems

★ Size of Carcass



★ Finish
★ Flavor
★ Quality

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Market/Club/Fat Lamb

Market Lambs 75-150#
Club Lambs Show at Multiple Shows Throughout the Summer
Fat Lambs ≅ Current Trends
WHAT DO YOU NEED?



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When is My Lamb Ready?

Evaluate Body Conditioning and Muscling

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Body Condition Scores

Too Skinny



Just Right



Too Fat



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Yield Grade Scores

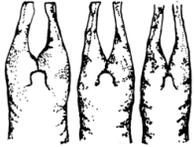


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Quality Grade Scores



Look for Flank Streaking
Equivalent to Marbling in the Meat
More Marbling Improves
Palatability and Flavor



Evaluate Leg Muscling
Prime / Choice / Good

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Wool Production

- ✂ Yield (clean and raw)
- ✂ Length
- ✂ Variability of Staple
- ✂ Crimp
- ✂ Strength / Breaks
- ✂ Color
- ✂ Diameter



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Sheep Shearing

Get Appropriate
Equipment

Know What are You
Shearing For

Keep the Equipment in
Good Shape



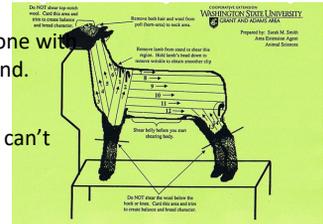
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Sheep Shearing

Shearing can be done with
the sheep on a stand.

Works great if you can't
flip sheep.

Need the stand and fairly
calm sheep or an assistant.



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Sheep Shearing

Key Points:

- Have someone around to help.
- Make sure your equipment is ready and sharp.
- Avoid second cuts.
- Watch what you cut, there are important bits that stick out.
- Don't tire yourself out – that's when cuts happen.



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Wool Production

Raw Wool Contains

- ✂ Lanolin
- ✂ Vegetative Matter

Protect Wool in the Field

- ✂ Feeding
- ✂ Housing
- ✂ Blankets



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Wool Production

Look for Crimp and Elasticity of Fiber



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Wool Production

Wool Varies From Front to Back
 In Places Where the Sheep Lays Down
 When Feed Changes
 When the Sheep is Sick
 During Lambing

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Wool Grades

- ✂ Fine
- ✂ Medium
- ✂ Coarse
- ✂ Carpet



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Wool Grades

Blood System Based on the Amount of Merino Blood in the Sheep



- ✂ Fine
- ✂ 1/2 Blood
- ✂ 3/8 Blood
- ✂ 1/4 Blood
- ✂ Low 1/4 Blood
- ✂ Common or Braid



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Wool Grades

Micron System



- ✂ Fine – 17-22 μm
- ✂ 1/2 Blood – 22-25 μm
- ✂ 3/8 Blood – 25-28 μm
- ✂ 1/4 Blood – 28-31 μm
- ✂ Low 1/4 Blood – 31-35 μm
- ✂ Common or Braid – 35 + μm

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Wool Grades

Worsted Yarn Count System

Represents the number of hanks (560 yards of yarn) that can be spun from one pound of top

- ✂ Fine – 17-22 μm – 80s-64s
- ✂ 1/2 Blood – 22-25 μm – 62s-60s
- ✂ 3/8 Blood – 25-28 μm – 58s-56s
- ✂ 1/4 Blood – 28-31 μm – 54s-50s
- ✂ Low 1/4 Blood – 31-35 μm – 48s-46s
- ✂ Common or Braid – 35 + μm – 44s or less



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Staple Length Required

- ✂ Fine – 17-22 μm – 80s-64s – 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
- ✂ $\frac{1}{2}$ Blood – 22-25 μm – 62s-60s – 3"
- ✂ $\frac{3}{8}$ Blood – 25-28 μm – 58s-56s – 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
- ✂ $\frac{1}{4}$ Blood – 28-31 μm – 54s-50s – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- ✂ Low $\frac{1}{4}$ Blood – 31-35 μm – 48s-46s – 4"
- ✂ Common or Braid – 35 + μm – 44s or less 5"

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Want to Learn More?

SID (Sheep Production Handbook)

Minnesota West - Pipestone

Campus Classes

WSU – Sheep 300 or Sheep 100



PSPSBA Workshop –

Here usually May

Fellow Producers

Pay attention and use what works
for you

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