

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WOOL PREPARATION

To enable Canadian wool growers to achieve better wool preparation and higher financial returns the following are the recommended guidelines.

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.

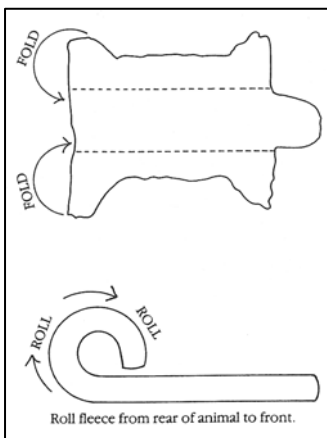
9) All bags need to be identified as to their contents.

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.



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.

Before Shearing

...While the wool is on the sheep
Canadian fleece will be worth more when you...

- * Use proper health and nutritional practices. Consult your Ag. Rep. or sheep specialist for help and advice.
- * Use approved feeders that allow sufficient feeder space for your flock and which protect the fleece.
- * Handle all forage and bedding carefully to prevent it from entering the fleece. Immediately remove and dispose of baler and poly twines.
- * Use sufficient clean bedding. Increased care in feeding and bedding translates into a cleaner more saleable product.
- * Brand with a scourable marking substance. Paint makes your fleece worthless as a marketable commodity.
- * Practice proper weed control. Burrs and thistles will lower your wool grade and market value.
- * Crutch sheep before shearing, removing tags, burrs and chaff. More care in fleece preparation translates into better wool grades for you, more efficiency, a more valuable product and higher financial returns.

Shearing Tips

If you are hiring a custom Shearer

...shearing will be more efficient when you...

- Book well in advance.
- Have sheep crutched before-hand.
- Pen sheep close 12 hours prior to shearing with no feed or water.
- Prepare a clean, well-lighted area with access to an electrical outlet.
- Provide plenty of head room.
- Have catching pen near the shearing area.
- Have extra help for filling the catching pen and preparing the fleece for market.

If you are doing the shearing

...shearing will be more efficient when you...

- Get qualified instruction.
- Shear only dry sheep on a clean, dry surface.
- Shear belly wool first and pack separately.
- Shear coloured sheep last and pack this wool separately.
- Do not shear black face and leg fibres.
- Avoid second cuts on the wool wherever possible.

Preparation for Sheep Shearing

Tips provided by: Donald S. Metheral, Professional Shearer, Ontario and Anita O'Brien – Sheep & Goat Specialist, OMAFRA, Kingston, ON. Edited by Marg. Zillig. March, 2008.

*Aim for a **STRESS FREE** Shearing Day!*
Be prepared. Have an efficient set -up.

Shearing Facilities:

- Goals:**
1. Delivery of sheep to shearer with minimal effort for handler; sheep and shearer.
 2. Removal and preparation of wool with minimal effort.
 - * clean and careful fleece preparation
 3. Skirting table and wool packer conveniently located.

Keep in mind:

- * a DRY place!
 - Pens, shear floor, wool handling & storage area, all free of drips, leaks, excessive dampness.
- * Facilities do not need to be permanent
 - but arranged before shearer arrives!
- * Get ready the day before shearing.
 - put up temporary lighting in the shearing & wool handling areas.
 - shearing floor should be level to stand on
 - provide for ventilation
 - have good wiring to clipper outlet
- * Sheep will be reluctant to move toward noise of shearing machine
 - in chute, use a stanchioned “decoy” sheep
 - if possible, have helper for moving sheep so shearer and wool handler can work without interruption.
- * Catch pens should hold 12 – 20 ewes (15 ideal)

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Examples of layouts for shearing facilities

by:

Donald S. Metheral, Professional Shearer, Ontario and
Anita O'Brien – Sheep & Goat Specialist, OMAFRA, Kingston, ON.

Fig. 1.
**Shearing board
in "Bull Pen".**

* sheep close to
shearer for quick
catching.

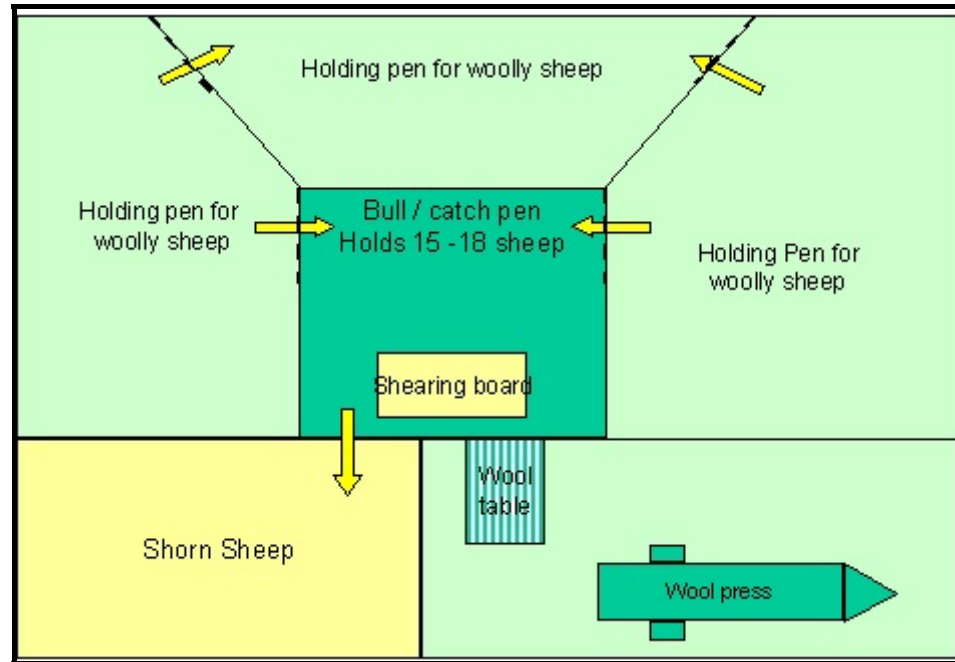
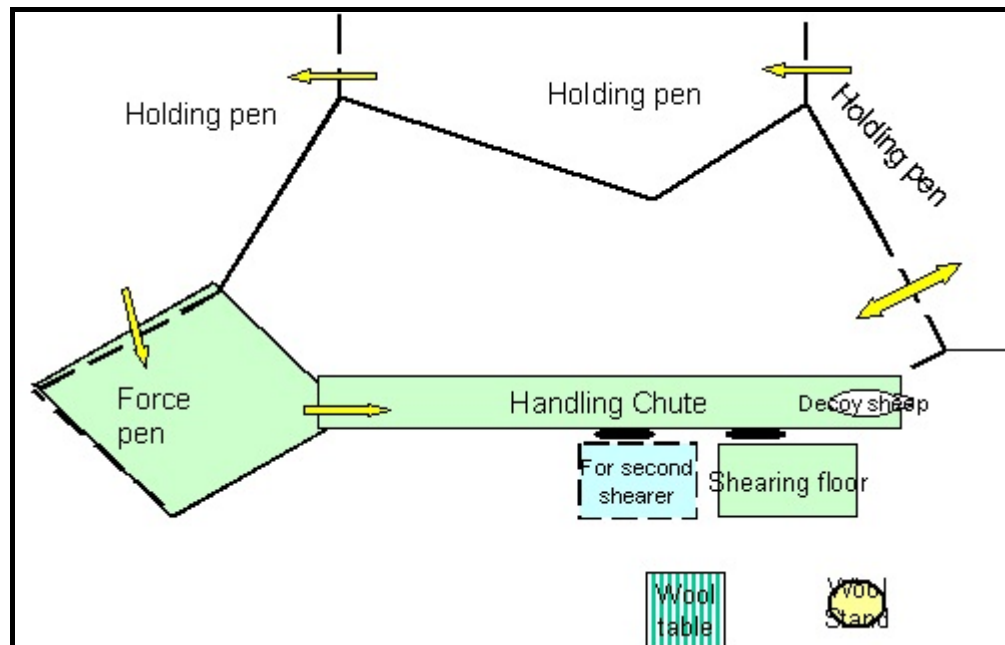


Fig. 2
**Portable
shearing
Chute.**

* useful in larger
(> 50 sheep) flocks

* best to have a
helper to keep
chute full of
unshorn sheep.



**Ontario**

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

USE SHEEP BEHAVIOUR TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

A. O'Brien

INTRODUCTION

Producers who understand sheep behaviour can use this knowledge to their advantage in all aspects of sheep production and management. Whether setting up and using handling and shearing facilities, moving the flock to a new pasture, or catching an individual sheep, taking their behaviour into account ensures the job is completed in an efficient, low-stress manner.

Some important aspects of sheep behaviour as it relates to handling and movement include:

- Sheep do not like to be enclosed in a tight environment and will move on their own accord into larger areas.
- Sheep move toward other sheep willingly.
- Sheep move away from workers and dogs.
- Sheep have good long-term memory (relative) especially with respect to unpleasant experiences.
- If given a choice, sheep prefer to move over flat areas rather than up an incline, and up an incline rather than moving down it.
- Sheep prefer to move from a darkened area towards a lighter area, but avoid contrasts in light.
- Sheep flow better through facilities if the same paths and flow directions are used every time.
- Stationary sheep are motivated to move by the sight of sheep running (away).
- Sheep will balk or stop forward movement when they see sheep moving in the opposite direction.
- Sheep will move faster through a long, narrow pen or area than through a square pen.
- Sheep move better through the handling chute (race) if they cannot see the operator.
- Sheep will more willingly move toward an open area than toward what they perceive as a dead end.
- Very young lambs that become separated from their dams will want to return to the area where they first became separated.
- Sheep react negatively (as do all livestock) to loud noises, yelling and barking.
- Young sheep move through facilities easier when their first move through is with well-trained older sheep.

Many years of observation by people who work with sheep under a wide range of conditions have gone into establishing the above-listed points of sheep behaviour. They illustrate that certain actions and reactions by sheep are very predictable, and can be used to the producer's advantage in all aspects of sheep management. Those producers who incorporate aspects of sheep behaviour into management of their flock will see positive results in the ease of moving groups, willingness of sheep to enter and be processed in handling facilities, and fewer stress indicators in the animals and handlers.

This Factsheet was written by **Anita O'Brien**, Sheep and Goat Specialist, OMAF, Kemptville.



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Wool Grading Statement

www.wool.ca

Name :

Lot No. :

Address :

Gross Wt :

Tare :

Collector:

Sacks:

Bags:

Account. No.:

Net Wt :

Grade	Range Wool	LBS.	Price	Total	Grade	Misc. Grades	LBS.	Price	Total
Fine Staple	Bright				Lot A	Bright			
	Semi-Bright				Black	Regular			
	Dark				Lot B	Bright			
Half Staple	Bright				Grey	Regular			
	Semi-Bright				Lot C	Bright			
	Dark				Grey	Regular			
Range 3/8	Bright				Low 1/4	Bright			
	Semi-Bright				Coarse	Regular			
	Dark				Romanov				
Range 1/4	Bright				Scotch Blackface				
	Semi-Bright				Mohair	Adult			
	Dark					Kid			
Range Clothing	Bright					Stained/Seedy			
	Semi-Bright				Offsorts and Defective Grades				
	Dark				Chaffy, Burry Stained *1	Range Domestic			
Range Lambs	Bright				Locks & Pieces (F)	S.B.O S.A.G			
	Semi-Bright				Locks & Pieces (M)	S.B.O S.A.G			
	Dark					Tags	S.B.O S.A.G.		
Domestic Wool				Grey & Black Clothing					
Western Domestic 3/8	Bright								
	Semi-Bright								
	Dark								
Western Domestic 1/4	Bright				Grey & Black Chaffy/Cotts				
	Semi-Bright				White Cotts				
	Dark				Scotch Blackface Cotts				
Eastern Domestic 3/8	Bright								
	Semi-Bright				Sub Total B		\$		
	Dark				Total		\$		
Eastern Domestic 1/4	Bright								
	Semi-Bright				Credits:	Handling Rebate (5¢-8¢)			
	Dark						Grand Total	\$	
Domestic Clothing	Bright				Debits:	Other A/R			Total Debits
	Semi-Bright					Freight			
	Dark					Check-Off			
Domestic Lambs	Bright					Supplies			
	Semi-Bright					Scrutiny Fee			
	Dark					Advance Cheque			
				Cheque No.					
Sub Total A				\$			Balance	\$	

*1. Chaffy, Burry, Stained includes Mothy, Tender and Discoloured

Grader:

Comments:

Date Rec'd :

Date Graded: