

CERTIFIED WOOL PROGRAMS

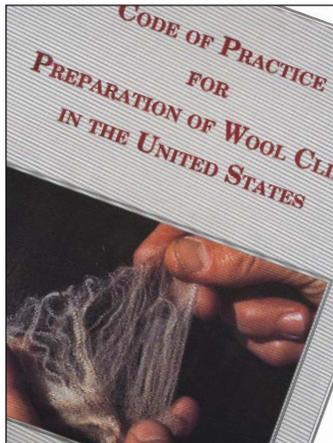
A series of bulletins containing valuable information for the wool grower.



U.S. Certified Wool Programs for Producers and Shearers

To improve the quality and reputation of U.S. wool, the American Wool Council is developing the U.S. Certified Wool Programs. **Sheep shearers and producers are encouraged to voluntarily participate in one of the three programs.** The programs follow the "*Code of Practice for Preparation of U.S. Wool*" developed by the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the U.S. Wool Marketing Trade.

The *Code of Practice* booklet offers a set of standards for a self-regulatory approach to wool clip preparation for either a ranch or farm-flock sheep operation. **Growers have the option of producing either a Choice Wool Clip or a Premium Wool Clip.** Each



program offers a step-by-step approach allowing anyone to implement improved wool preparation and packaging techniques regardless of breed type, operation size or geographic location.

Although wool preparation cannot necessarily change market conditions, it can increase the number of markets available to the producer.

As more sheep shearers and producers participate in these programs, confidence will grow from buyers and processors for American wool, thus improving market conditions for all U.S. wool producers.

SHEARERS

Certified Sheep **Shearing** Program

Shearers participating in the Certified Sheep Shearing Program are required to practice the *Code of Practice* guidelines and sign the self-certification declaration and check list. The check list has four basic requirements for shearers:

1. Reduce contamination:
 - No poly tarps or twine are allowed;
 - Notify owners/classers of black wool or other contaminants;
 - Take practical steps to remove wool contamination; and
 - Allow sweeping of shearing area between shearing each sheep to avoid contamination of freshly shorn wool.
2. Shearing order:
 - Provided steps have been taken to properly sort the sheep before shearing, shearer agrees not to shear an out-of-sequence sheep;
 - Shear sheep by wool type group; and
 - Package wool types separately and label accordingly.
3. Wool preparation:
 - Shear in a manner that will allow the wool to be properly prepared for marketing;
 - Package belly wool separately;
 - Remove top-knot and place with sweepings and leg wool;
 - Remove detected poly and dispose of it properly; and
 - Notify the owner/classer of colored spots on white-face wool sheep.
4. Packaging and labeling:
 - Use only new and approved packaging materials;
 - Label wool according to the *Code of Practice* guidelines;
 - Do not mix wool types, wool lines or off-sorts; and
 - Do not allow contamination due to carelessness.



American
Sheep Industry
Association, Inc.

P: (303) 771-3500
F: (303) 771-8200
www.sheepusa.org
info@sheepusa.org

WOOL PROGRAMS



PRODUCERS

Producers select one of the below programs that applies to their operation. Those participating in either of these programs must complete a check list and sign a self-certification declaration form.

Choice Wool Clip Program

The Choice Wool Clip Program is designed for all sheep producers to improve wool quality. The check list and form requires producers to complete the following:

1. It is recommend that growers use a certified sheep shearer or shearing crew;
2. Make efforts to minimize all wool contamination with emphasis on poly and colored fibers;
3. Sort sheep prior to shearing by wool type and package the wool separately;
4. Prepare wool in the bellies out manner and package belly wool separately from fleece wool and tags;
5. Use only new and approved non-contaminating wool packaging materials;
6. Not allow contamination due to carelessness or neglect;
7. Label wool bags and packs properly;
8. Maintain a written record of the produced wool clip; and
9. Notify marketing agency of the actions taken to produce a Choice Wool Clip and file the necessary documents.

OR

Premium Wool Clip Program

This program is directed at larger flocks of wool and dual-purpose breeds of sheep which table skirting will improve the marketability of the clip and the volume of wool is sufficient to allow for classing by a certified wool classer. In addition to the requirements expected of the Choice Wool Clip, the Premium Wool Clip includes:

1. Wool that is exclusively from white-face wool sheep that have been sheared prior to lambing or crutched within 90 days of shearing to reduce the amount of stained wool and colored fibers;
2. Fully table skirt the wool;
3. Wool is classed by a certified wool classer;
4. Wool is baled in new nylon wool packs and labeled according to the ASI *Code of Practice*; and
5. Fleece lines are properly sampled, tested and described for marketing including core test for average fiber diameter, yield and vegetable matter; grab sampled and tested for staple length and strength; and assigned an AWEX-ID.



**American
Sheep Industry
Association, Inc.**

P: (303) 771-3500
F: (303) 771-8200
www.sheepusa.org
info@sheepusa.org

