Raw Wool Services Update
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American Sheep Industry Association
ASI Certified Wool Classing Schools:

• In 2017, schools were conducted in Texas, Washington, California, & North Dakota

• 42 students were trained Level 1 classifiers

• Participants included sheep and wool producers, fiber enthusiasts, and wool handlers interested in obtaining classing certification.
New Wool Classer Manual – Fall 2017
Wool Classing School Challenges:

• Identify a system to provide advanced training for Level 1 wool classers to progress to Level 2
  • Level I – Beginner
    • Classes Own clip only – attends ASI school
  • Level II – (Level I and class min. 100,000 lbs)
    • Classes own clip and local clips
    • Development of apprentice program?
    • Advanced Classing School?

• Address the need for more advanced classers
Wool Handling Schools:

- Revised curriculum of ASI wool handling schools
- Large interest in wool handling schools in Midwest and eastern parts of the US
- School was held in Vermont (June 2017) where 16 students completed the 2 day course
Future Wool Classing/Handling Schools:

- Classing schools are scheduled for Utah (February), Wyoming (February), California (May), Kansas (tentative; October), Wisconsin (tentative; November), and North Dakota (November)

- Handling schools are scheduled for Virginia (April 2018), Iowa (June 2018), and Wisconsin (September 2018)
Animal Care Emphasis:

- Created additional teaching tools to address “Responsible Wool Production” for use with producers, shearers, and wool classifiers/handlers
- Responsibility in Wool Production Initiative
Responsibility in Wool Production Initiative:

• Draft a white paper on wool and shearing welfare with the goal of developing a color brochure (3-5 pages in length with color and photos).

• Purpose is two-fold:
  • Brochure/handout available for state and national meetings, producers, textile industry, and apparel groups that explains US wool animal welfare
  • Provide the framework used for future learning modules

• Plans for self-audit declaration and certification for “Responsibility in Wool Production” in SSQA