

Responsible Wool Standard Update

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Other welfare standards:

- Sheep Safety & Quality Assurance
 - Developed by ASI and CSU
 - Ensures maximum consumer confidence in products generated by the U.S. sheep industry
 - Primarily targeted at the food industry and not textile
 - Manuals, Levels: 1 Participation, 2 Certification, 3 Verification
 - On farm audits available through certified trainers
 - Industry self-audit
 - Excellent foundation



Other Welfare Standards:



- USDA ISO Technical Specification 34700 Animal Welfare Assessment Program
 - Voluntary conformity assessment service provided by the Quality Assessment Division under the Quality Systems Verification Program
 - This program facilitates the marketing and distribution of certified agricultural products
 - No sheep specific reference
 - Designed for food industry and not for textile industry
- Could use this program to verify SSQA certification standards
- Add more creditability to our self-auditing system



Who is the Textile Exchange?



- A global nonprofit organization, formed in 2002 that works to make the textile industry more sustainable
 - Cotton
 - Down
 - Wool
- Brand funded, 197 brand members
 - NIKE, Patagonia
- Companies/Brands join TE because they want to be more sustainable
- NOT formed to create standards of production



What is the Responsible Wool Standard?



- RWS is a voluntary global standard that addresses the welfare of sheep and the land they graze developed by TE
- History of RWS
 - H&M expressed concerns about origin of wool, pressure from ARG regarding mulesing
 - 2014 TE reached out to stakeholders, 70 in all
 - Recognized not only an animal welfare component was absolutely necessary but also a land management component addressing sustainable land use
- RWS was funding by brands



A M E R I C A N W O O L

RWS Challenges



- RWS addresses the “big three”
 - Shearing
 - Castration
 - Methodology and timeframe very specific
 - Docking
 - Tail docking length, methodology and timeframe to dock very specific
- Sustainable land management component
- Parallel production
- Detailed record keeping
- Audit process and costs
- Push back from producers to brands to guarantee they will buy wool and pay up for it



RWS Positives:

- Better record keeping increases the potential for improved profitability
- Dialogue between consumers and farmers and farmers to consumers that will keep agriculture alive
- Preserve the reputation of wool, the farmers, and the brands



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Where are we going?



- We are losing our “right to farm” in the public’s eye
- Third party audited programs add creditability
- Programs like these may help stop the downward spiral in consumer confidence
- Should we try to work this program or should ASI help to modify an existing program?



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