The Value Of Your Wool

These factors apply to selling individual fleeces or a container of wool.

FACTORS INFLUENCING WOOL PRICE

- Genetics
- Environment Management
- Fleece Quality
- Clip Quality
- Contamination
- Sizing
- Sorting
- Classing
- Marketing
- Price

Wool Industry

30 Years Ago
US was consuming majority of its domestic wool production and exporting much smaller amount.

Today
US is exporting a majority and consuming smaller amount.

Value determining characteristics
17.0-25.0 micron merino fleece wool

- Micron: 54%
- Strength: 12%
- Mid breaks: 5%
- Other marketing factors: 6%
- Staple measurement: 0%
- Style: 4%
- Colour: <1%
- Length: 7%
- VM: 3%

Value determining characteristics:
- Micron: 17.0-25.0
- Staple measurement: 0%
- Style: 4%
- Colour: <1%
- Length: 7%
- VM: 3%
- Mid breaks: 5%
- Other marketing factors: 6%

Value determining characteristics:
- Micron: 17.0-25.0
- Staple measurement: 0%
- Style: 4%
- Colour: <1%
- Length: 7%
- VM: 3%
- Mid breaks: 5%
- Other marketing factors: 6%

Value determining characteristics:
- Micron: 17.0-25.0
- Staple measurement: 0%
- Style: 4%
- Colour: <1%
- Length: 7%
- VM: 3%
- Mid breaks: 5%
- Other marketing factors: 6%

Value determining characteristics:
- Micron: 17.0-25.0
- Staple measurement: 0%
- Style: 4%
- Colour: <1%
- Length: 7%
- VM: 3%
- Mid breaks: 5%
- Other marketing factors: 6%

Value determining characteristics:
- Micron: 17.0-25.0
- Staple measurement: 0%
- Style: 4%
- Colour: <1%
- Length: 7%
- VM: 3%
- Mid breaks: 5%
- Other marketing factors: 6%
Yarn diameter must contain a minimum of about 44 fibers.

Fiber Diameter

- Fine
- Course

WHAT'S IN GREASE WOOL

- Fiber 50%
- Grease 23%
- Water 10%
- VM 2%
- Dirt 12%
- Other 3%

STAPLE LENGTH

Defects
PREMIUMS & DISCOUNTS FOR QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS
(Australia - 1993-94; Merino Wool - 22.5)

-3.5"
-4 %

3.0" to 3.5"
+1 %

2.7" to 3.0"

LENGTH

< 1%

1 % TO 3 %
-1 %

3 % TO 7 %
-10 %

> 7 %
-18 %

VEGETABLE MATTER

CONTAMINATION

Poly

Other
- Hair
- Stain
- Ked

Stain
CONTAMINATION

Other

- Jute
- Sisal
- String
- Rags
- Cigarette Buts
- Blood

CONTAMINATION

Paint Brands

Marking Chalk

Skin Pieces

Colored Fiber
1. Minimizing Wool Contamination
2. Sort & Package Separately
3. Tags Out / Bellies Out
4. Full Skirt
5. Classing

BREED SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Shearing Setup

Grower Responsibility

→ Clean Shearing Board
→ Pick bellies, topknots & locks (keep out of fleeces) and place in proper place
Additional Skirting (depending on market)

- Removing Excessive Contamination
  - Any wool contaminated with hair from neck runner or britch
  - Blood stain
  - Skin pieces

Additional Skirting (depending on market)

- Short wool from Fleece edge and jaw (frib)
- Heavy stained wool from sweat points and rump
- Heavy VM contaminated wool from crows nest

Additional Skirting (depending on market)

- Other Defects
  - Stained wool
  - Water stain
  - Black Spots
  - Paint Brands ??
  - Damaged wool
  - Other

The Value Of Your Wool

A little extra effort at shearing can be extremely profitable

Neglect can easily create a product that has no value