

Flock Management

How flock management can effect your fleece.

- Feeding and pasture management.
- Coating the sheep will help keep them contaminate free.
- Degree to how you skirt/sort / store—skirting.

Shearing Day

- Schedule appointment with shearer—discuss additional services i.e. hooves trimmings and vaccinations.
- Watch the weather and keep sheep dry.
- Withhold feed and water 12—24 hours to lessen mess.
- Be prepared.
- Schedule your crew and establish and prepare your work area.
- Set out all necessary tools and supplies.
- Have plenty of snacks and beverages available for crew and keep First Aid kit on hand for animals and people.
- **Attends to the needs of the sheep.**
- Skirt, sort and store.

“As your shearing day comes to an end, be sure that everyone is rewarded for their hard work—a long awaited feeding for the sheep, payment for the shearer, fleeces for fiber friends, and a delicious meal for everyone involved. After everyone has gone home, sit back and admire your bags full of beautiful fleeces—the greatest reward for a well organized shearing day.”

- From article in 'Sheep' magazine *Shearing Day: Everyone Wins When Planning Smooths The Job*
By Lois Wissmann & Chris Durrill



Become a Member

The Vermont Sheep and Goat Association is a non-profit agricultural membership organization and in existence for over 100 years. As a volunteer organization, we could do nothing without the good will, ideas and support of our membership made up of sheep and goat producers with many different breeds, farm sizes and farming philosophies. The VSGA provides its members with many useful services.

- Mentoring
- Newsletter
- Website
- Educational workshops
- Shepherding network
- Farm tours/pasture walks
- Grants
- Marketing/advertising
- Organizational collaborations

For more information or to become a member visit us at:

<http://vtsheepandgoat.org>

or

email: vsga@gmail.com

Handspinning & Mill Bound Fleece

- When shearing it is better to try to keep the fleece in one piece.
- Shearing wet sheep and storing will spoil the fleece.
- Skirt fleeces before storing—attention to skirting increases the value of the fleece.
- Roll or tie fleece—cut end out—from neck to tail.
- Fresher fleeces are preferred—this year's fleece is worth more than last year's fleece.
- Every breed has a purpose and value. Find the market for your breed. Generally fine is used for next to skin, mid-grade for outer wear and accessories, and coarse for rugs. Felters enjoy all grades of wool!
- Label breed, shearing date, staple length, and individual information if available. Most spinners prefer a staple between 3" and 6". Be honest. Learn to accurately evaluate your fleece and price them accordingly.
- Be ready to send a sample lock or supply or a good photo.



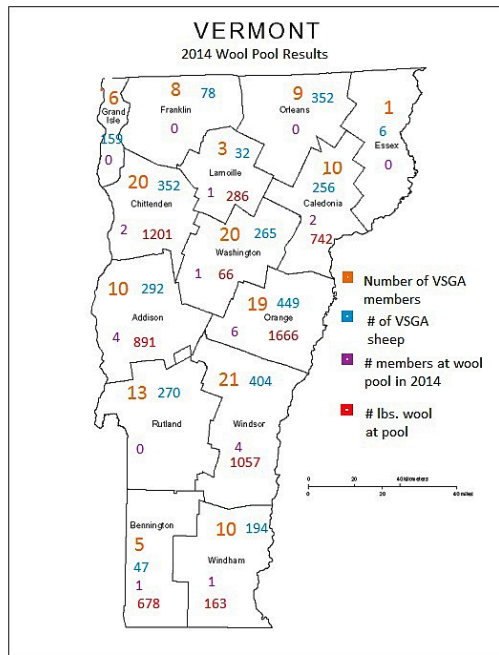
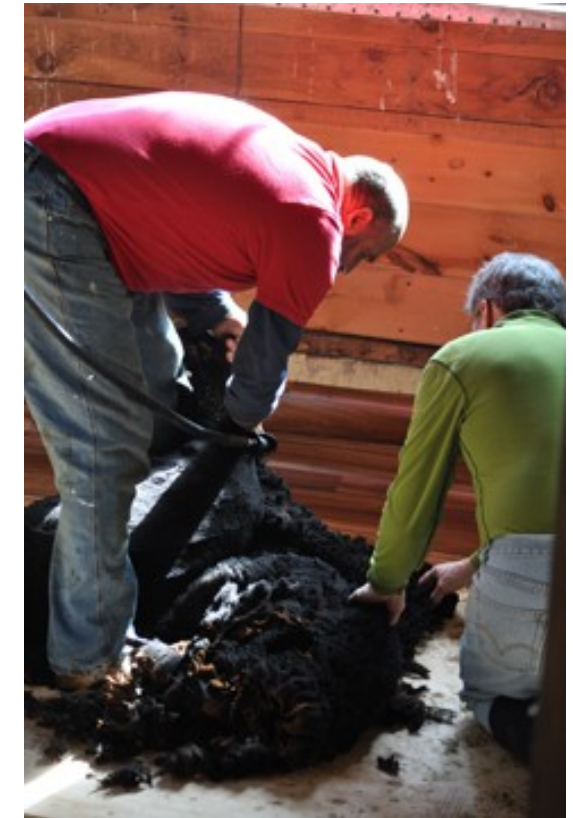
“Wool Pool” Clip

- Do not shear wet sheep.
- Minimize contamination (vegetable matter, paint branding, see below “Proper Packaging”).
- Sort sheep prior to shearing by wool type/ color—shear from light to dark.
- Do not mix colors.
- Package different types of wool separately i.e. belly, tags, legs, top knots and sweepings packaged separate from body wool.
- Use approved wool packaging materials—never poly feed bags or burlap—use plastic trash bags, sheets or cardboard boxes—all packaging should allow for breathability and should be placed in a clean dry location.
- Label wool bales/bags properly and keep a record—all labels should be on exterior.



VERMONT SHEEP & GOAT
ASSOCIATION

Producing a Quality Clip: And what to do with it!



Resources

- Vermont Sheep & Goat Association
<http://vtsheepandgoat.org>
- VSGA Wool Pool, To participate in this year’s pool, contact Mary Lake at mary.m.lake@gmail.com or (802) 338-2250
- Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival
<http://vtsheepandwoolfest.com/>
Wool sale at the festival open to everyone. Do not need to be vendor at the festival
- American Sheep Association
<http://sheepusa.org>
- Feeders
<http://premier1supplies.com>
<http://wellscroft.com>
- Shearers
<http://vtsheepandgoat.org/resources/shearing-services/>
- Mills
<http://vtsheepandgoat.org/resources/fiber-processors/>
- Sheep Coats
<http://www.rockysheep.com/>
http://gypsytinker.com/sheep_coats.html
- Visit our website for more resources.



**Vermont Sheep & Goat
Association**

<http://vtsheepandgoat.org/>