



# MANAGEMENT

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## Glossary of Wool Terms

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**APPAREL WOOL:** Wool suitable for manufacture into apparel fabrics.

**BELLIES:** Short and often defective wool from belly of sheep.

**BLACK WOOL:** Fleeces from sheep containing gray, brown or black wool.

**BRAID:** Long, coarse, lustrous wool.

**BREAK:** Wool that is abnormally weaker in one spot along the fiber length.

**BREECH (OR BRITCH):** Coarse hair fibers on lower hind legs.

**BULK GRADE:** The largest percentage of grade in a lot of original-bagged wool or the major grade of a fleece.

**CARBONIZING:** Removal of burrs from wool by immersion in dilute sulphuric acid.

**CARPET:** Wools too heavy and coarse to be made into apparel; suitable for carpets and rugs.

**CLOTHING:** The shorter length wools within a grade.

**COLOR:** In wool trade usage, this refers to the actual color of the wool; a bright white to cream is most desirable.

**CORE-TESTING:** The coring of bales or bags of wool for the determination of yield and clean content.

**CRIMP:** The natural waviness of the wool fiber; it varies with the diameter of the fiber.

**CROSS BREED:** A sheep or the wool from a sheep resulting from the cross of two different breeds.

**FELTING:** The matting together of wool fibers.

**FIBER DIAMETER:** Measured by the latest in computer technology and reported in microns.

**FLEECE:** The wool from a single sheep in the shorn grease state.

**FLEECE WOOL:** Usually all fleeces grown in the states east of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

**FRENCH COMBING:** Wool of medium staple length, suitable for combing.

**GRADE:** The classification system used to describe grease wools. The grades are: Fine—64s, 70s, 80s; Half-blood—60s, 62s; Three-eighths-blood—56s, 58s; Quarter-blood—50s, 54s; and Low-quarter-blood—46s, 48s.

**GRADING:** The classification of fleeces according to grade and length.

**GREASE WOOL:** Wool as it is shorn from the sheep, before any processing.

**HANDLE (or HAND):** The actual feel of wool.

**HANK:** A 560-yard unit of wool yarn wound on a reel.

**KEMP:** Brittle, chalky white, weak fiber found as an impurity in the fleece.

**LANOLIN:** Wool grease; this substance, sometimes called “yolk,” is a secretion from the sebaceous glands of the sheep.

**LOCK:** A small, approximately finger-size bit of wool that tends to stay together when shorn from the sheep.

**NOILS:** The short and sometimes defective wool fibers removed in the combing of top.

**PELT:** The skin of the sheep with wool still attached to the skin.

**PULLED WOOL:** Wool removed from the skins of slaughter sheep.

**RANGE WOOL:** Wool grown on large ranches, distinct from wool grown on small farms; usually termed Territory wool.

**RAW WOOL:** Grease wool in natural state before scouring.

**SCOURING:** The actual separation of dirt, grease, and foreign matter from grease wool; this is usually done in a lukewarm, mildly alkaline solution, followed by a rinse.

**SECOND CUTS:** Short tufts of wool cut at least twice by the shearing.

**SHEARING:** The removal of wool from the sheep by the use of power clippers or blade shears.

**SHRINKAGE:** The weight raw wool loses when scoured, expressed as a percentage of the original weight.

**SORTING:** The separation of the whole fleece into parts, as well as removing the off-sorts.

**SOUNDNESS:** Freedom of the fiber from breaks and tenderness; relates to strength.

**STAPLE:** This term refers to the length of a lock of shorn wool; in the trade, “staple” refers to the longer length wools within a grade.

**TENDER:** Wool that is weak throughout the entire length of the fiber.

**TOP:** A continuous strand of partially manufactured wool, which previously has been scoured, carded, and combed; an intermediate stage in the process of worsted yarn.

**TYING:** After the wool is shorn it is rolled into a neat bundle and tied with a paper fleece tie.

**VEGETABLE MATTER:** Any material of plant origin found in the fleece, such as burrs, stickers, chaff and seed heads.

**WASTINESS:** The loss of fiber in carding and combing due to vegetable matter, weakness or tenderness or shortness of fiber.

**WOOLEN:** A system of processing that utilizes the shorter length wools within a grade.

**WORSTED:** A system of processing that utilizes the longer length wools within a grade.

**YIELD:** The amount of clean wool that is derived from grease wool in the scouring process; is expressed as a percentage.