

DATE: May 22, 2019

TO: Wool Pool Participants

FROM: Aaron Ray Tompkins

Extension Agent Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Ray Tompkins".

Upcoming Wool Pool

Friday and Saturday, June 7th & 8th

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Alleghany Fairgrounds

Sparta, NC

Producers in North Carolina and Virginia interested in marketing their wool through local wool pools will have the opportunity to do so through Tennessee Sheep Producers and SWVA Sheep Producers this year. Producers are encouraged to package, handle, and store their wool in an appropriate manner in order to maximize the value of their wool clip. Wool should be packaged by type and grade (ewe vs. lamb wool, long staple vs. short wools, fine vs. medium wools) in plastic bags, and be clean, dry, and have foreign material (straw, mud, manure) removed prior to packaging. Tennessee markets their wool direct and thus wool will be graded and baled and you will be paid approximately 2-3 weeks following delivery. **If you know that you will have more than 500 pounds of wool, please call to schedule an appointment (336) 372-5597.**

Price: .50¢ per pound



Proper Wool Handling

Proper harvesting, packaging, and storage of the wool is important to realize the full value of the wool clip. Since wool sales represent a very small portion of the gross returns for most sheep enterprise, wholesale changes to the genetics of the flock to improve fiber diameter and fleece weight are likely not justified for most Mid-Atlantic producers. However, there are several important steps that should be considered to maximize the value of the wool clip:

A. Minimize Contamination:

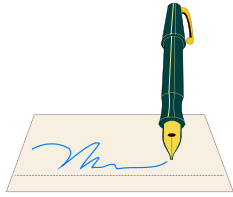
1. Keep shearing area clean and free of straw/hay and other potential sources of contamination.
2. Avoid use of plastic baler twine in sheep operation that may contaminate fleeces (this contamination occurs throughout the year, not just at shearing time).

B. Use Proper Packaging Material:

1. **DO NOT** use plastic feed sacks to store or package wool.
2. Plastic film bags are available and preferred. Points to consider with plastic film bags are:
 - Sheep need to be dry when sheared. Plastic bags will not breathe as well as jute bags (more possibility for wool to mold and rot).
 - Plastic film bags will tear easier when handled.
 - Tie plastic film bags shut in similar manner to jute bags.
3. Store wool in a dry place; avoid cement or dirt floors to prevent moisture uptake.

C. Sort Wool at Shearing Time:

1. Shear white-face sheep first, black-face sheep last to avoid contamination of white-face wool with black fibers.
2. Package lamb and ewe wool separate.
3. Remove tags at shearing and discard.
4. Sort belly wool and bag separately. Also, sort wool caps and leg wool out if justified.
5. Off-type fleeces (black, high vegetable matter, etc.) as well as belly wool should be packaged first in a small plastic garbage bag or paper sack. The small bag may then be added to the large polyethylene film bag. The small bag serves to keep these wools separate and prevents them from contaminating other fleeces already packaged, and results in a more uniform lot of wool.
6. **DO NOT** tie wool with paper twine.



Note from Julia at Farm Service Agency

Please call the Farm Service Agency to make an appointment to complete a crop report and CCC-633EZ. The number is:

372-5590, Ext. 2

336-246-8875, Ext. 2

To be eligible for a wool loan deficiency payment, these forms must be on file before you sell your wool. If you have not already done so, you will also need to complete your eligibility forms. Should you have any questions on filing the crop report or the eligibility forms, please contact the Alleghany/Ashe FSA Office as soon as possible.

If you are selling unshorn lambs, please bring these tickets to the FSA Office as you may be eligible for an unshorn wool payment. If you sell the lambs for slaughter straight from the farm, you can make a hand written ticket and have the buyer sign the ticket.

You will also need to provide us with the size of your flock, date of shearing and the breed or breeds of your sheep."

Thanks,

Julia Houck



Please let us know if you do not have sheep and no longer need to receive this information.

You may call 336-372-5597 or send an e-mail to

Aaron Ray Tompkins ~ aaron_tompkins@ncsu.edu



Wool Pool June 7th and 8th

90 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 7
Sparta, NC 28675
P: 336-372-5597

N.C. Cooperative Extension
Alleghany County Center
alleghany.ces.ncsu.edu

