Farmers and ranchers who raise sheep in the U.S. take great pride in the care they provide for their animals. The Sheep Care Guide, sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Association, was originally published in 1996. The 2017 edition was updated and expanded to include new research findings regarding animal care.

As long as there are sheep, shearing must be practiced for the health and hygiene of each individual animal. Unlike other animals, most sheep are unable to shed. If a sheep goes too long without being shorn, a number of problems occur:

- Excess wool impedes the ability of sheep to regulate their body temperatures
- Sheep with large amounts of wool can become immobilized
- Urine, feces and other materials become trapped in the wool

Shearing sheep is nothing more than a haircut and helps the animal stay comfortable and healthy. Sheep also provide us with warm clothing!

Farmers keep detailed health, nutrition and wellness records. Regular monitoring of health, body condition and growth rates allows farmers to evaluate the adequacy of flock nutritional programs.

Understanding sheep behavior improves animal care and handling. The instinctive nature of sheep to move into the wind is considered when determining the location of working facilities and watering sites.

Farmers pair their flocks with dogs, llamas or donkeys to keep them safe from coyotes!

Lambs are vulnerable to many predators including coyotes, wolves, mountain lions and bears. Farmers protect their flocks with the help of guard dogs, donkeys and llamas.

A lifecycle assessment of wool sweaters found that the greatest way to reduce the environmental impact of the clothing item is to wear it more often and keep it longer!