



CERTIFIED WOOL CLASSER PROGRAM

As of November 1, 2022, the following has been adopted and overrides all previous versions:

In 1990, ASI in consultation with USWMA (United States Warehouse and Marketing Association), Extension and other interested parties, set standards for the US manner to class wool and set parameters for grading lines. Changes to the Certified Classer Program will be made by the ASI Wool Council as needed.

A Review Committee will consist of the following:

- A member of the ASI Wool Council
- An ASI Staff member
- A wool warehouse representative

Level I: Classroom and Hands on Training

Qualified to class their personal clip.

- Attend a 3-4 day Wool Classing School which includes classroom and hands-on experience with an ASI instructor. A fee will be charged per person.
- Successful completion of an exam with 80% accuracy. If the applicant is not successful, they must resubmit the test with corrections.
- Classroom- review preparation, wool classing, shearing, processing.
- Hands-On with Sheep and Wool- "Hands on" grading, throwing fleeces (except when with a wool pool) and skirting.
- A minimum of 6 people per level I training class. Maximum number of students is up to the discretion of the instructor; usually 12 students for 1 instructor.
- ASI to provide: instructor, materials, certificates and additions to the ASI Classer Database.

Level II: Hands on Experience

Qualified to class clips in their area.

- Student has completed level I.
- Student will satisfactorily class 100,000 pounds. Poundage verification is the responsibility of the student and needs to be verified by a supervisor.
 - Line grade at warehouse or pool not to exceed 50,000 pounds.
 - Class at least 50,000 pounds or 160 hours on-farm or ranch of multiple grades and types of wool at a minimum of 5 different sites.

- Line grading under the supervision of a level II/III classer who is overseeing up to 5 individuals.
- Student is proficient to class wools in their region.
- Successful completion of a skills test under the inspection of the supervising level II/III classer including the following skills: discern the difference in various wool types; discern the difference between bellies, tags, and topknots; throw and roll a fleece; board and table skirting; setting up the line for best processing and value; bale labeling; communication with farmer and shearer; cleanliness of the shearing area.
- Students will keep track of their classing records (location, pounds, time, etc.) and submit them electronically to the ASI Office.
- ASI to provide certificate and level changes to the ASI Classer Database.

Note: Initially ASI realized the need to identify individuals who would certainly qualify as level II classers without classing 100,000 pounds of wool, post-classing school. The Wool Council approved this recommendation and guidelines were established and implemented for the 1992 season only.

Level III- Multiple Grades and Wool Mill Visit

Qualified to class anywhere in the United States.

- Student has completed level I and level II.
- Student is competent at classing of multiple grades and types of wool. Documentation should be provided to ASI.
- Student must class in at least 3 regions of the U.S. Regions include East/Northwest, Midwest, California, New Mexico/Texas, Idaho and Mountain States. Documentation should be provided to ASI.
- Students must class in various shearing situations and/or different selling systems. These can include: trailer shearing, board skirting, table skirting, small flock shearing, warehouse classing, pool classing. Documentation should be provided to ASI.
- Student has visited an ASI coordinated wool mill tour. Students are responsible for travel costs.
- Student is proficient to class any type of wool in any setting in any region in the United States.
- Certification will be granted by a review committee appointed by the American Wool Council.
- ASI provides: certificate for level III and level changes to the ASI Classer Database and ASI website.

Level IV- Instructor

Qualified to class anywhere in the United States and to instruct.

- Student has completed levels I, II, and III.
- Student has teaching experience.
- Student has apprenticed at a Level I Classing School.
- Student has knowledge of the wool supply chain, market conditions and classing variations and recommendations throughout the U.S.
- Certification will be considered by a review committee appointed by the American Wool Council.
- ASI provides: Certificate and level changes to the ASI Classer Database and ASI website.
- Details:
 - ASI approved instructors and those coordinating the schools will work together closely.
 - Instructors must teach by and use ASI presentations, tests and materials.
 - ASI will provide approved schools and instructors with paid travel, materials, and certificates.