

# ASI Wool Production Programs

**Heather Pearce**

ASI Wool Production Program Manager

**American Sheep Industry Association**



# **Assist wool producers and improve the quality of wool produced in the U.S.**

Support wool  
production

Improve the  
quality of wool

Enhance market  
infrastructure  
and  
opportunities





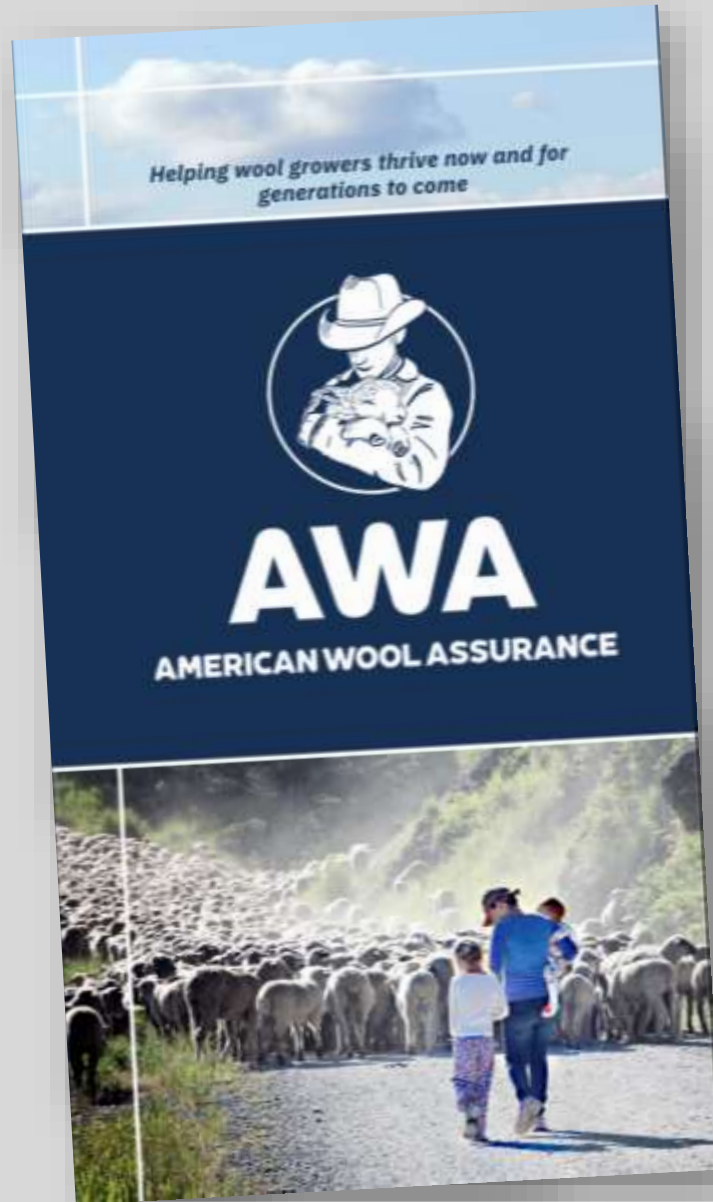


# American Wool Assurance

## Major Developments

- Auditor Training





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- Auditor Training
- Grower Outreach







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- Major Developments
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  - Grower Recognition





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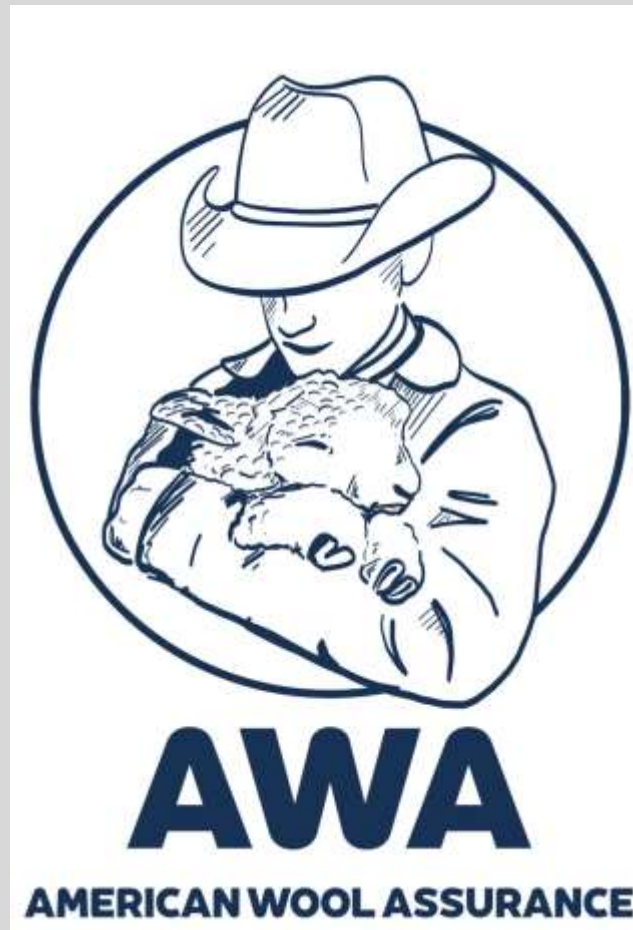
- Auditor Training
- Grower Outreach
- Grower Recognition
- Traceability Research



# American Wool Assurance

## Current Participation

- > 270 Registered
- 92 Level I Educated
- 1 Level II Process Verified
- 2 Level III Certified



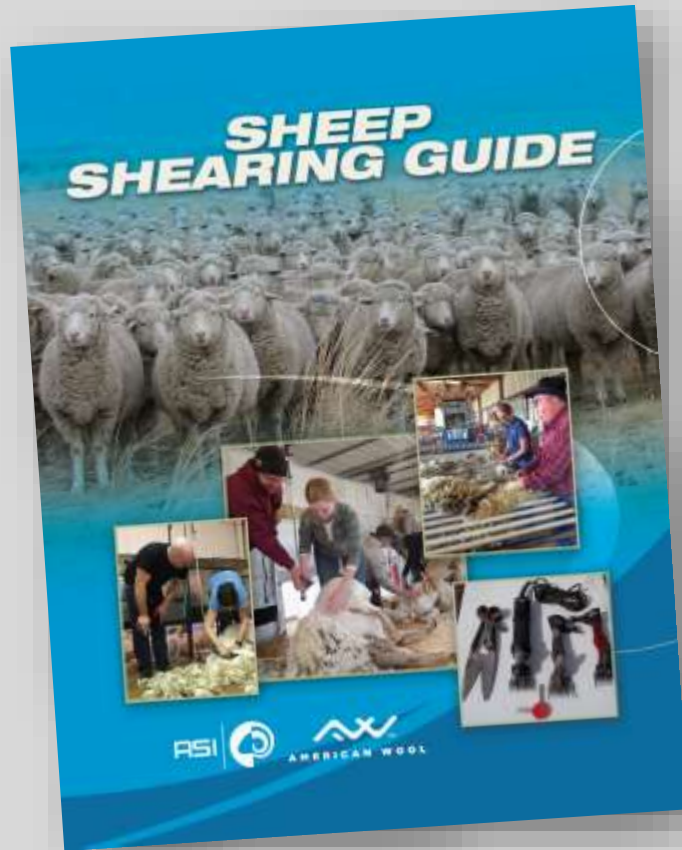
## Next Steps

- Traceability
- Resources
- Grower Involvement
- Wool Trade Visibility
- USDA ISO Certification





# Beginner Shearing Materials & Schools







# Developing Shearer & Mentor Grant

**Assisting developing, committed shearers**

- **In 2022**
  - **7 Developing Shearers and 3 Mentors**
    - Submitted applications, progress videos and summary
    - Received \$1500 each
- **In 2023**
  - Application process closed January 1
  - 10 shearers will be selected

# Advanced Shearing Schools

- Helped with instructor travel costs
- Advanced schools held in OR, MT and IA
- 38 students







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# Preparing for Shearing



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## MONTHS BEFORE SHEARING

- Schedule shearers
- Schedule extra labor as needed
- Sheep handlers
- Wool handlers/classer
- Other supplies
- Wool packs/bags, clips and markers
- Veterinary supplies including antiseptic spray, antibiotic medication, fly ointment
- Other supplies such as disinfectant, insecticides, wormers, vaccines, hoof trimmers, branding fluid
- Reduce wool contamination (dirt, hair, colored fibers, etc.)

## 7 DAYS BEFORE

- Prepare holding pens
- Clean from all contaminants (weeds, shavings, straw, etc.)
- Prepare shearing area
- Shearing Board/Floor-wood floor is essential, such as plywood on the ground (if plywood) . Never use concrete

Floor should be:

- Flat, non-sloping
- Solid
- Smooth, but not slick
- Easy to sweep and keep clean
- Large enough for each sheep to have space to shear
- Covered to provide protection from weather
- Clean

Overhead Machine motor

Electrical outlets within 6' of the shearing area

- Lighting as needed
- Prepare wool handling and packaging equipment
- Clean the area from any debris and contaminants
- Setup equipment as needed (skirting tables, sorting bins/racks, packing equipment)

Prepare wool storage area

Ensure the area is empty, and will remain dry (ideally, not directly on concrete)

Prepare restrooms, potable water, handwashing station

Other amenities as needed

## 1-5 DAYS BEFORE SHEARING

- Keep sheep dry- wet or damp wool should not be shorn
- Pen sheep
  - Sort into groups as needed (consider breed, wool color, age, sex, sick/diseased)
    - Shear white sheep first
    - Shear colored or wool with medullated fiber (hair) next
    - Shear sick or diseased sheep last
- Fast sheep
  - To ensure sheep safety and comfort as well as shearer safety and wool quality, fasting is critical

# GROWER PREPARATION FOR SHEARING

Source: Worksafe New Zealand Fasting of Sheep Prior to Shearing Guide <https://worksafe.govt.nz/dmsdocument/278/Fasting-of-sheep-prior-to-shearing>

## SHEARING DAY

### BEFORE SHEARING

- Ensure supplies are ready (wool packaging, veterinary supplies, other supplies)
- Have a morning meeting
  - Ensure outside equipment is disinfected
  - Point out facilities/amenities
  - Reiterate who is doing what tasks
  - Discuss animal handling and animal welfare expectations





# Wool Classing Schools

- 2 Wool Classing Schools in ND and TX
- 13 new level I classers





# Wool Classing Advancement

- Mill Tour
- 8 classers participated
- Toured scouring through fabric production
- Allows them to understand processing, the industry and the importance of classing
- Part of advancement to Level III





# Wool Testing

- OFDAs
  - 6 OFDAs leased to universities and warehouse in 5 states
- Coring Equipment
  - Wool coring equipment that can be produced in the U.S. has been designed and is currently being tested







# Specialty Markets

- Resources Available
  - Webinar recordings
  - Contact lists
  - All wool resources
- Next Steps
  - Resource list
  - Updating contacts
  - New brochures







THANK YOU