



# British Wool

## New member

Information for Isle of Man Sheep Farmers

[britishwool.org.uk](http://britishwool.org.uk)

# MARKETING YOUR WOOL THROUGH BRITISH WOOL

This guide provides a simple explanation of how to market your wool through British Wool's collective marketing scheme.

## OUR DEPOT NETWORK (DELIVERING YOUR WOOL)

**Once your wool is ready please call one of the collection sites below to deliver your wool.**

Danny Creer, Coilingel, Maine Road, Crosby, Isle of Man, IM4 2DW  
07624 496534

Stanley Skinner, Ballachink Farm, Eairy Marown, Isle of Man IM4 2HQ  
07624 478257

# SHEARING YOUR SHEEP

**Shearing is vital for the welfare of your flock and the first step in harvesting your wool for sale.**

Good practice during shearing is vital for the welfare of both sheep and the shearer alike. British Wool organises shearing courses providing advice on technique, animal welfare, gear maintenance so that you can learn the skills required to shear your sheep safely and effectively.

Courses are tiered from beginner through to advanced and can be booked via our website at [britishwool.org.uk](http://britishwool.org.uk) To find out more about our courses please contact our shearing training team on **01274 688 666** or by email [shearing@britishwool.ork.uk](mailto:shearing@britishwool.ork.uk)



# ROLLING YOUR FLEECES



**We encourage our members to roll their fleeces after shearing. Well rolled fleeces are quicker and easier for our team to grade and help us to maximise the value of your wool.**

- After shearing throw out the fleece onto a clean surface flesh side down. Fleeces from the Blackface, Herdwick and Rough Fell breeds should be laid flesh side up.
- Pick off any straw and daggings and place clean, dry belly wool on the fleece before folding the flanks towards the centre.
- Turn in the britch end and roll the fleece firmly and neatly towards the neck.
- After rolling, part the fleece and tuck the neck wool firmly into the body of the fleece
- The rolled fleece should be firm and secure.

# PACKING YOUR WOOL

## TOP TIPS FOR PACKING YOUR WOOL

- Where possible pack fleeces from different breeds and types separately to avoid cross contamination.
- Please do not mix hill wool with lowland wool. Kemp from hill wools can cause cross contamination and spoil lowland fleeces.
- Please do not mix coloured wool with white wool. Fibres from coloured fleeces will contaminate white wool.
- Please pack hogg wool separately from wool from ewes and wethers.
- Please keep Bluefaced Leicester and Teeswater / Wensleydale fleeces separate from mule fleeces.
- Different types of fleeces can be placed in a bag within a wool sheet.
- Please do not mix oddments with fleece wool.



# LOOKING AFTER YOUR WOOL

**Wool can easily be damaged. When this happens it can significantly reduce the value of your wool. In many cases this can be avoided with a little extra care.**

## **KEEP WOOL DRY**

Where sheep have been shorn damp, or fleeces have been stored in damp conditions, wool can become brittle and suffer from discolouration. Please store your wool in a clean, dry shed and avoid direct contact with concrete floors.

## **SHEAR IN A CLEAN SHED**

Some vegetable matter contamination is unavoidable in areas of natural grazing but too much straw makes it hard to process wool. Please avoid shearing your sheep on straw.

## **USE APPROVED MARKER SPRAYS**

Excessive marking can make wool more difficult to process. Please use sheep marking fluids sparingly and always use British Wool approved marking fluids. Our approved marker products always carry this logo.



Our licensed marker products are easy to identify as they bear this logo.

**Please do not pack and send in wool that has been damaged by Fly Strike or infected by Sheep Scab. Fleeces containing maggots are likely to damage other wools.**

## LABELLING YOUR WOOL

**Please ensure that every wool sheet you pack is labelled with your name, address and British Wool membership number.**

Please write your trading name, address and seven digit British Wool membership number (found on your welcome letter). We ask that you attach one label to the outside and place one label on the inside of each wool sheet you use.

If wool is not clearly labelled it is much more challenging for British Wool to ensure that members are paid correctly.

## UNDERSTANDING OUR GRADING SYSTEM

Given the number of breeds of sheep in the UK and the variation in wool type all wool we handle is hand graded. We do this to maximise value of wool for our members. Grading allows us to sell high quality lots of a consistent character in volumes that allow for commercial processing of the UK clip.

British Wool's grading system sorts the wool based upon both its style and characteristics. The style of the wool is generally determined by its staple length, crimp, fineness, handle and lustre. Within each style of wool, fleeces are graded by quality with our skilled graders assessing a range of characteristics. These characteristics include; whether the wool comes from a Hogg or a Ewe, Colour, Staple Strength and Uniformity, the presence of Kemp or Grey fibres, and whether the fleeces are Cotty or Matted. Organic wool, lamb wool, winter shorn wool and oddments are processed separately.



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Please ensure that every wool sheet you pack is labelled with your name, address and British Wool membership number.

Once we have received your wool our team will grade your fleeces by type and quality. We do this to maximise the value of wool we handle on behalf of our members. Once your wool has been graded we will send you a grading statement to let you know the grades your wool has been sorted into.

Once sold we calculate the value of your wool. Wool values are based on the average auction price for each grade less our handling costs.





## British Wool

Tel: 01274 688666

Email: [memberservices@britishwool.org.uk](mailto:memberservices@britishwool.org.uk)

[britishwool.org.uk](http://britishwool.org.uk)

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