

Shear Success

**A guide to maximise
your wool's value**



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Advised and supported by



IRISH GROWN
WOOL COUNCIL



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Maximise Your Wool Returns: Farmer Video Guide

Here we focus on how best to harvest your wool at the time of shearing to maximise its value. Sheep farmers have an important role to play during this process if they are to see improvement in returns for their clip. It takes 12 months for a ewe to grow a fleece and seconds to destroy any potential of maximising value.

Read this leaflet and see our short videos to ensure you get the best possible presentation and value for your wool. Visit: **bit.ly/shearingtips** or scan the QR code below.



Scan code with phone camera to watch our short videos by farmers.



Unacceptable

Not dagged, coloured fleeces mixed with white wool, wet or damp and not rolled.



Acceptable

Clean, dry, breeds kept separate and an attempt at rolling.

Before & During Shearing

- ✔ Sheep must be dry for shearing. Where necessary house on slats or on straw bedding that has accumulated over the winter. Avoid fresh straw or shavings as this adds cost to remove later.
- ✘ Don't feed animals at least 4 hours before shearing to avoid soiling of wool
- ✔ Separate lambs from ewes before shearing
- ✔ Dags should be removed
- ✘ No straw or shavings in the holding pens
- ✔ Clean surface for rolling fleeces
- ✔ Coloured sheep to be shorn last to avoid colour contamination



➔ Ideal

Clean, dry, breeds kept separate and well rolled.
(Blackface rolled outside out)



IRISH GROWN WOOL COUNCIL

Our objective is to transform Irish grown wool; an underutilised and undervalued resource, into a branded, value-added product for the benefit of farmers and the wider supply chain. We are a voluntary body with an all island approach.

Following these guidelines can help sheep farmers to improve their wool quality, maximise fleece value and contribute to a more sustainable wool industry.

Prevent Fleece Deterioration:

Prompt Storage: Store fleeces in a clean, dry environment to avoid further deterioration.

Timely Scouring: Scour fleeces within 12 months to prevent damage from dirt, grease, and sweat. This also eliminates breeding grounds for bacteria and pests.

Lanolin Removal: Lanolin can make fleeces sticky and attract dirt. The scouring process is essential before wool is used as a product.

IGWC: 9/24



Follow our flock



#irishwool

After Shearing

- 1 Remove dags if present
- 2 Place belly wool within fleece
- 3 Roll fleece from rear to neck on a clean dry surface
- 4 Blackface fleeces to be rolled outside out
- 5 Coloured fleeces should be packed separately
- 6 Label bales/packs with breed information



Storage of Wool

- Keep mountain breed fleeces separate from lowland breeds. This includes lamb's wool. These are separate grades and valued differently.
- Keep wool off concrete floors until the fleece leaves the farm. Concrete moisture **will** be soaked up by wool which results in damaged fleeces that come into contact with it, even through the bale / pack.
- Damp wool discolours and weakens the wool fibres limiting its potential use and value.

Cleaner Wool, Better Results: Follow These Shearing Tips



Shear sheep when they are dry. If not, wool will heat and rot and the staple tips will turn brown and devalue your wool.



Empty sheep to avoid soiling of wool in advance of shearing and keep animals dry before shearing. If possible, crutch sheep in advance.



Only use scourable spray marker/branding fluid. Otherwise extra processing is needed to remove colour, adding cost and reducing value.



Keep mountain breeds fleece separate from low land breeds. These wools are graded differently so shouldn't be mixed together.



Coloured fibres will contaminate white wool and reduce its value.



Follow The Fleece: The Power of Wool

Wool has a wide range of uses, including clothing, bedding, carpets, upholstery, fertiliser, insulation, textiles, crafts, medical devices and cosmetics. Wool is also used in industrial applications, such as filters, acoustics, packaging and padding.

Your flock's wool is a testament to your hard work and dedication. Everybody in the wool supply chain has a role to play in delivering a quality product and helping to build a market for Irish grown wool.

**Wool
pillow & duvet**



Sustainable Rope



**Wool
rope/braid**

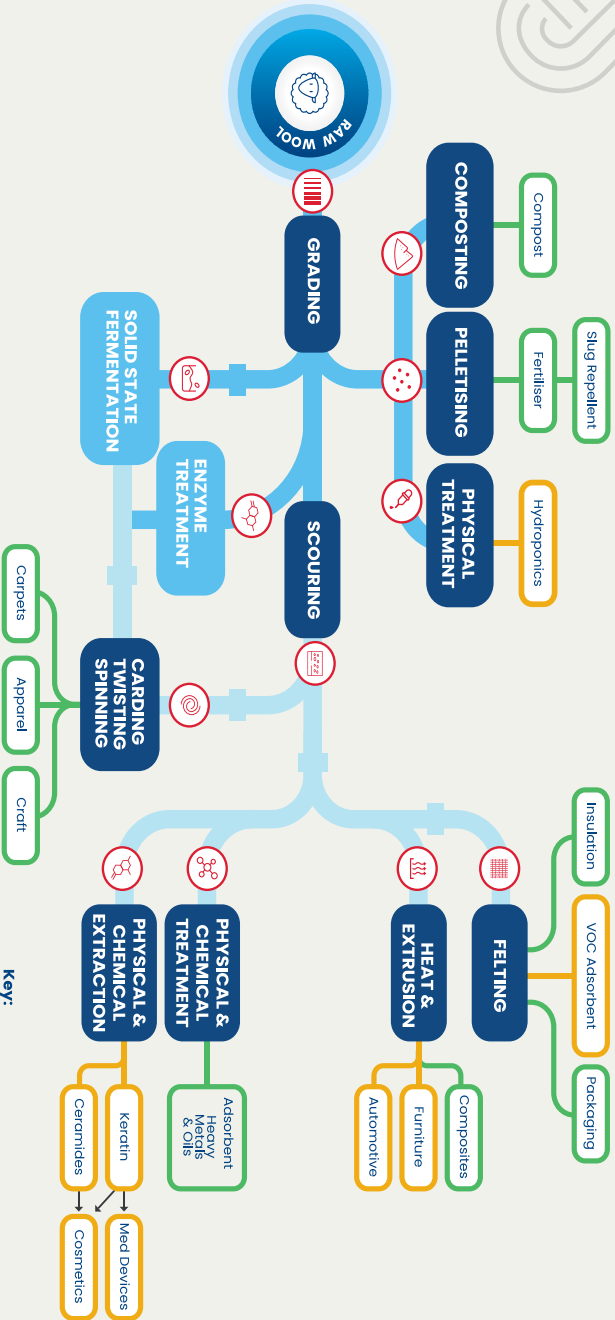
The Trinity Series
by Rhyme Studio



**Wool
carpet/tapestry**

Potential Innovations

Our Wool Hub partners help maximise the potential of Irish-grown wool.



Available on market
R&D Validation Required