

AMERICAN WOOL ASSURANCE GUIDE

AWA Levels

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
 TO BECOME A MEMBER, VISIT
WWW.AMERICANWOOLASSURANCE.ORG

	Level I Educated	Level II Process Verified	Level III Certified	Ranch Group Certified
Benefits	"Educated" certificate	"Process Verified" certificate to share with buyers Processor further promotion Stencil for marking wool bags	"Certified" certificate to share with buyers AWA logo use Processor further promotion Stencil for marking wool bags Listed on AWA website (optional)	"Ranch Group Certified" certificate to share with buyers AWA logo use Processor further promotion Stencil for marking wool bags Listed on AWA website (optional)
Recertification	None	Evaluation every 2 years	Evaluation every 2 years with an audit at least every 4 years	Evaluation every 2 years. Portion of members complete audit every 4 years
Requirements	Online education courses	2nd party evaluations Level I accreditation	Audit & evaluations Level I accreditation	Audit & evaluations Level I accreditation

Auditing Items

Written Plans should guide the operation on the best operating procedures. Plans should be developed for most AWA standards.

Contingency Plans provide a written plan for complications or alternate circumstances that are reasonably likely to occur. Contingency plans should be developed for most AWA standards. For example, you have a written plan for supplying hay to your sheep, but your regular source is not able to supply that hay. What is your contingency plan?

Records should be kept for several AWA standards and should include the date, sheep ID or flock, action taken and other relevant information. Records may be in any written format.

Direct observations will be used in an evaluation or audit.

Interviews may be conducted with the operation owner, manager and staff/herders/handlers.

Evaluations & Audits

Evaluations and audits provide outside verification that an operation is in compliance with the AWA standards. Both are arranged and conducted directly through an approved evaluator or auditor. Using direct observations and interviews, review of documents and records, audits and evaluations will address the relevance of the operating plan to the standards, implementation of the operating plan, adherence to the plan and AWA standards and will provide feedback on conformances and on areas needing attention. Individual animals or flocks may be assessed. Producers and/or managers should be present during on-site audits and evaluations.

The producer and/or manager should review the audit or evaluation results, focusing on the results of the audit/evaluation, new knowledge available and updates by AWA and other legislation. Audit and evaluation results should identify non-conformances; non-conformances should be prioritized and based on frequency of occurrence, severity to the animal and ease of remedy. Animal abuse or neglect must be addressed immediately. The operating plan should then be adjusted to account for non-conformances by addressing the root cause and a timeline set for when improvements will take place. Upon completion of updated plans and corrected action, another review may take place. Following an audit or evaluation, producers should keep data and results for future reference.

STEPS TO AN AUDIT OR EVALUATION

FOR MORE DETAILS ON EACH STEP,
VISIT THE AWA MEMBER HOME,
RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTS

01

Arrange

an audit or evaluation with an approved auditor or evaluator

02

Prepare

for an audit or evaluation ensuring documents and records are in order

03

Evaluation or Audit

performed through observations, interviews, plan and record reviews

04

Corrective Actions

completed when non-conformances are found

05

Certification



2nd party evaluations are designed to provide 2nd party verification and are performed similarly to an audit. Evaluators are trained and knowledgeable about wool production, will perform an evaluation to determine if an operation is in compliance with the standards and will provide feedback and suggestions. Evaluations are fairly inexpensive and must be performed by a trained and approved evaluator.

3rd party audits are designed to provide fully external verification. Auditors are trained and will perform an audit to determine if an operation is in compliance with the standards and will provide feedback. Audits are most costly, but may produce higher rewards.

CORRECTIVE ACTION LEVELS

FOR MORE DETAILS ON EACH STEP,
VISIT THE AWA MEMBER HOME,
RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTS

MINOR

Resolution within 4 years

MAJOR

Resolution within 2 year

CRITICAL

Response within 2 weeks

CERTIFICATION DEFINITIONS

FOR MORE DETAILS ON EACH STEP,
VISIT THE AWA MEMBER HOME,
RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTS

Certification

Successfully completed an evaluation or audit
Does not have any overdue corrective actions
Accredited as Certified or Process Verified

Conditional Certification

Completed an evaluation or audit
Has outstanding corrective actions
Accredited as Certified or Process Verified

Conditional Decertification

Completed an evaluation or audit
Has not completed corrective actions by date set
Cannot be accredited as Certified or Process Verified

AWA Standards & Guidance

Producers should develop an operating plan and hold records consistent with AWA standards and OIE TAHC guidelines by assessing current management practices, drafting a plan, implementing the plan and, finally, evaluating, reviewing, and updating the plan. Operating plans and practices should account for local conditions and should be attainable. The American Sheep Industry Association’s Sheep Care Guide may be used as a part of operating plans. Plans and records should be kept for at least 4 years.

Individual animals and/or flocks can be assessed. Non-conformances (gaps) between usual practices and AWA standards shall be identified and reported.

Auditors and Evaluators will submit findings to the producer and to the American Sheep Industry Association.

The “Helpful Resources” below are intended to assist and are not intended to be sole sources of information.

	STANDARD	INFORMATION	HELPFUL RESOURCES	ITEMS FOR AUDITING
MANAGEMENT				
1.1	PRODUCERS SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF, AND SHALL COMPLY WITH, APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING LABOR AND ANIMAL WELFARE	<p>Laws and regulations that all should be following.</p> <p>Learn about the following if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wages, hours and overtime pay <input type="checkbox"/> OSHA standards- a workplace free from recognized, serious hazards. <input type="checkbox"/> Workers compensation insurance <input type="checkbox"/> H-2A laws (if applicable) • Animal welfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any state specific laws 	<p>Labor laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/majorlaws • https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/state <p>Animal welfare laws and regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.nal.usda.gov/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare-act • https://www.animallaw.info/content/state-animal-anti-cruelty-laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide reference materials or training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations.

1.2	<p>HERDERS AND WORKERS SHOULD BE TRAINED AND SKILLED IN PERFORMING PRACTICES TO PROVIDE PROPER CARE AND REDUCE ANIMAL STRESS AND BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE OPERATING PLAN</p>	<p>Those working with sheep should be trained and provide proper care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan with specific steps for providing proper care and reducing animal stress. <input type="checkbox"/> Train and keep records for shepherds/handlers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The written plan <input type="checkbox"/> Proper care <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing stress to sheep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf • Sheep Handling Videos- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7LByfB_LYo&list=PLvmdHSmZBuFs4-NfIjGWVvWgS_zBaKOj • Sheep Production Handbook pg. 303-310 and 406-420 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plan and training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use interviews and observations.
1.3	<p>PRODUCERS SHOULD BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) REQUIREMENTS</p>	<p>When applicable (operations with employees), growers should meet OSHA requirements.</p> <p>Learn about and keep records and training records on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing zoonotic diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hand hygiene ○ Personal protective equipment ○ Vaccinations available ○ Worker training on infection control measures ○ Cleaning & disinfecting surfaces and equipment ○ Vaccinating animals ○ Isolating diseased animals ○ Tracking aggressive animals and restraints used when needed ○ Appropriately disposing of infected tissues and dead animals ○ Controlling pest infestations <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing needlesticks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have an approved sharps container ○ Never remove the needle cap by mouth ○ Avoid recapping needles ○ Wear gloves and/or other PPE <input type="checkbox"/> Other hazards around equipment and machinery, heat, ladders and falls, noise, unsanitary conditions, vehicle hazards, etc. 	<p>https://www.osha.gov/agricultural-operations/hazards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> When applicable, provide reference materials and/or training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations.

1.4	ROUGH HANDLING ¹ OF SHEEP BY ANYONE AT ANY TIME SHOULD NEVER OCCUR OR BE PERMITTED	<p>Sheep should be handled properly. It is unacceptable to intentionally strike, kick, throw, drop, poke into a sensitive area, slam objects on/into, cause bruises, cause falls to sheep or drive sheep over the top of other sheep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written policy that describes unacceptable handling practices. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Have shepherds/handlers sign acknowledgement of policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Handling Videos- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7LByfB_LYo&list=PLvm_dHSmZBuFs4-NfliGWVVwgS_zBaKOj • Sheep Production Handbook pg. 303-310 • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.
1.5	NEW ANIMALS SHOULD BE SUITABLE FOR THE LOCAL CLIMATE, DISEASES, PARASITES AND FEED SUPPLY	New animals should be suitable for your operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider: climate, diseases, parasites, feed supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations and interviews.
1.6	WOOL MUST BE GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES	<p>Sheep reside in the U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have operation and shearing records. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide records showing locations. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations.

STRESS

2.1	STRESS SHOULD BE MINIMIZED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR INCLUDING HANDLING, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND NUTRITIONAL STRESS	<p>Stress should be minimized at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan with specific steps to minimize stress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> When handled <input type="checkbox"/> For heat stress <input type="checkbox"/> For cold stress <input type="checkbox"/> Protection from extreme weather events <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate feed <input type="checkbox"/> When changing feed <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Handling Videos- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7LByfB_LYo&list=PLvm_dHSmZBuFs4-NfliGWVVwgS_zBaKOj • Handling- Sheep Production Handbook pg. 303-310 • Environmental & nutritional- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor must view at least one handling event and least 2 classes of sheep. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.
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NUTRITION & FEEDING

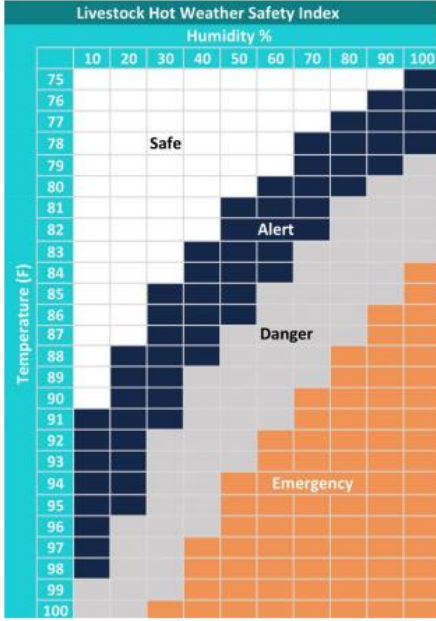
3.1	SHEEP SHOULD BE PROPERLY HYDRATED	<p>Sheep should have access to water, snow and/or lush forage daily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan describing hydration for all classes of sheep, during each part of the year. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.
3.2	SHEEP SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO FEED THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR STAGE OF PRODUCTION	<p>Sheep should have access to feed (hay, forages, etc.) that meets the nutrient requirements that are appropriate for maintenance, growth, gestation, etc. depending on the stage of growth and production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for each class of sheep. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Production Handbook pg. 815-820 • https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_circulars/CR685/welcome.html 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.
3.3	BODY CONDITION SHOULD BE MONITORED AND ACTION TAKEN AS NEEDED	<p>Sheep should be scored (by class and/or individually) for body condition periodically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment and monitoring of BCS <input type="checkbox"/> Objective, measurable criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Actions to be taken for animals that do/do not meet criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Production Handbook pg.821-823 • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.
3.4	DIETARY CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE GRADUALLY	<p>Change feed gradually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for managing gradual feed changes. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plan or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.
3.5	FEED AND WATER EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE DESIGNED AND MAINTAINED FOR OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE AND TO MINIMIZE INJURY	<p>Feed and water equipment should be suitable for sheep and clean.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for routinely inspecting equipment for cleanliness, functioning and safety to animals. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations and interviews.

FACILITIES & HANDLING

4.1	SHEEP SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SHADE, SHELTER, AND WINDBREAKS AS NEEDED (NATURAL OR CONSTRUCTED)	<p>When needed, sheep should have some form of relief. Shade for summer, windbreak for winter or other seasonal protection. Natural shelter is acceptable. Shelter is not always needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations.
4.2	HANDLING, HOUSING, AND PENNING FACILITIES SHOULD ACCOMMODATE SHEEP, MINIMIZE INJURIES AND STRESS AND ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE ANIMAL HANDLING AND NATURAL BEHAVIOR	<p>Facilities are designed so that sheep do not become injured, cannot become trapped in fences and flow through facilities comfortably. Facilities do not need to be complex but should be safe and effective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Production Handbook pg.308-336 	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations.
4.3	FACILITIES SHOULD BE REGULARLY EVALUATED AND MAINTAINED	<p>Facilities should be maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records on routine maintenance and repairs. 		<input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations.
4.4	SHARP OR PROTRUDING OBJECTS IN FACILITIES SHOULD BE ELIMINATED	<p>Facilities, fences, equipment, fixtures, etc. should not be broken or have sharp points where an animal could become injured or trapped.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations.

4.5	INDOOR HOUSING SHOULD BE CLEAN, DRY, AND WELL VENTILATED WITH ADEQUATE FLOOR SPACE FOR ANIMAL MOVEMENT AND REST	<p>Indoor housing should be reasonably clean, dry and well ventilated (natural or mechanical) with adequate floor space for sheep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for managing animals in confinement, including maintenance, ventilation and space allowances. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanliness Scoring- https://www.ams.usda.gov/site/s/default/files/media/LSDDGuidanceAssessingWelfareSheepMay2012.pdf • Space allowance- Sheep Production Handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene score can be used as an outcome-based measure to evaluate if bedding is clean and dry. • Ventilation can be natural or mechanical. • Pen dimensions and animals per pen can be calculated to determine if enough space is provided for each animal. 																																																																																																	
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Rams 180-300 lb.</th> <th>Dry Ewes 150-200 lb.</th> <th colspan="2">Ewes with lambs</th> <th>Feeder Lambs 30-110 lb.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Building floor space (ft²/hd)</th> <th>Solid</th> <td>20-30</td> <td>12-16</td> <td>15-20'</td> <td rowspan="2">1.5-2 ft² of creep space per lamb</td> <td>8-10</td> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Slotted</th> <td>14-20</td> <td>8-10</td> <td>10-12'</td> <td>4-5</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Temporary confinement</th> <td>Dirt</td> <td>12-20</td> <td>12-20</td> <td>15-25</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>Full confinement/extended periods</th> <td>Paved</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>Lot space (ft²/hd)</th> <td>Dirt</td> <td>25-40</td> <td>25-40</td> <td>30-50</td> <td></td> <td>20-30</td> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <td>Paved</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>20</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Feeder space (in/hd)</th> <td>Limit-fed</td> <td>18-20"</td> <td>16-20"</td> <td>16-20"</td> <td>2" lamb creep</td> <td>9-12"</td> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <td>Self-fed</td> <td>6"</td> <td>4-6"</td> <td>6-8"</td> <td></td> <td>1-2"</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Water (head/bowl or nipple)³</th> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>40-50</td> <td>40-50</td> <td>water available</td> <td>50-75</td> </tr> <tr> <th>(head/ft)</th> <td>Tank</td> <td>2</td> <td>15-25</td> <td>15-25</td> <td></td> <td>25-40</td> </tr> <tr> <th>(gal/hd-day)⁴</th> <td></td> <td>2-3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>0.1-0.3</td> <td>1.5</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Manure/day</th> <td>(lb)</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td></td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <td>(ft³)</td> <td>0.15</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.12</td> <td>plus bedding and spilled water</td> <td>0.065</td> </tr> </thead> </table> <p><small>¹ For lambing rates above 170%, increase floor space 5 sq ft/hd. ² Feeder space animal depends on: animal size, shorn vs. unshorn, breed, pregnancy stage, number of times fed/day, and feed quality. ³ Use heated or circulating type in cold buildings. ⁴ Water requirements vary considerably with time of year and ration. Use clean water and keep waterer clean. Maintain water above 35°F in winter and below 75° in summer.</small></p> <p><small>(Source: Midwestern Plan Service, 1982, Sheep Housing and Equipment Handbook)</small></p>							Rams 180-300 lb.	Dry Ewes 150-200 lb.	Ewes with lambs		Feeder Lambs 30-110 lb.	Building floor space (ft ² /hd)	Solid	20-30	12-16	15-20'	1.5-2 ft ² of creep space per lamb	8-10		Slotted	14-20	8-10	10-12'	4-5	Temporary confinement	Dirt	12-20	12-20	15-25			Full confinement/extended periods	Paved	8	8	10			Lot space (ft ² /hd)	Dirt	25-40	25-40	30-50		20-30		Paved	16	16	20		10	Feeder space (in/hd)	Limit-fed	18-20"	16-20"	16-20"	2" lamb creep	9-12"		Self-fed	6"	4-6"	6-8"		1-2"	Water (head/bowl or nipple) ³		10	40-50	40-50	water available	50-75	(head/ft)	Tank	2	15-25	15-25		25-40	(gal/hd-day) ⁴		2-3	2	3	0.1-0.3	1.5	Manure/day	(lb)	10	6	7		4		(ft ³)	0.15	0.1	0.12	plus bedding and spilled water	0.065
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4.6	INDIVIDUAL SHEEP SHOULD NOT BE KEPT IN ISOLATION FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME EXCEPT FOR HEALTH REASONS	<p>Except for health issues, sheep should only be kept isolated for the minimal necessary amount of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for monitoring sheep that are isolated. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records for sheep receiving care and sheep that are isolated. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews. 																																																																																																	
4.7	ANIMALS SHOULD ALWAYS BE HANDLED IN WAYS TO MINIMIZE STRESS	<p>Those handling sheep should be trained and handle sheep with techniques that reduce stress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Train those handling sheep at least annually (formal or in-formal training) and keep training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan if those working with sheep are providing un-due stress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf • Sheep Handling Videos- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7LByfB_LYo&list=PLvmdHSmZBuFs4-NflijGWVvWgS_zBaKOJj 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide training records and training materials. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations. 																																																																																																	

4.8	SHEEP SHOULD NOT BE DRAGGED OR PULLED BY THE WOOL (exception is in an animal care emergency) ⁸	<p>Sheep should not be dragged and pulled by the wool; for example, sheep should not be caught or lifted using the wool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written policy that describes unacceptable actions. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<input type="checkbox"/> Provide a written policy.
4.9	SHEEP SHOULD BE MOVED AT A COMFORTABLE PACE	Handlers should not cause sheep to move so quickly so that it is detrimental to the animal.		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations.
4.10	ELECTRIC PROD USE IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED	<p>The World Animal Health Organization states that electric prods should not be used to move sheep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written policy that defines if, who and when electric prods may be used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/prods.html 	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide written policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations.
4.11	PRODUCERS SHOULD HAVE GOOD COMMAND OF DOGS AND MAINTAIN CONTROL WHEN WORKING SHEEP	Guarding and herding dogs can be used and should be under good command. The minimum number of herding dogs should be used when sheep are penned. Dogs may grip the sheep, only in circumstances where it is deemed to ensure well-being of the group of sheep.		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations.
TRANSPORTATION				
5.1	EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE DESIGNED FOR LIVESTOCK, AND PREFERABLY FOR SHEEP, AND MAINTAINED TO MINIMIZE INJURIES AND STRESS	Trailers, etc. should be free of injury points, should not allow animals to become trapped, and should not allow escape.		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations and interviews.
5.2	VEHICLES SHALL BE PROPERLY VENTILATED	Trailers should be ventilated appropriately for conditions.		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conditions when sheep are loaded ○ Type of transport used ○ What features are present that facilitate airflow.
5.3	TRANSPORTATION SHOULD NOT OCCUR WHEN CONDITIONS ARE DANGEROUS TO	Sheep should not be transported when environmental conditions could be harmful (too hot, cold, humid for those sheep).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://animalhandling.org/sites/default/files/forms/Animal_Handling_Guide091719.pdf 	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plan or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will also use observations including:

	SHEEP OR PREDISPOSE ANIMALS TO DISEASE OR UNDUE STRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for transport, including monitoring environmental conditions and criteria for when transport should not occur for the classes of sheep. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAMI Heat Stress Chart  <p>The chart is a grid with Temperature (F) on the y-axis (75 to 100) and Humidity % on the x-axis (10 to 100). The zones are: Safe (top-left, dark blue), Alert (middle, grey), Danger (bottom-middle, light orange), and Emergency (bottom-right, dark orange).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current temperature and conditions during time of transport when observed and/or documented in records. • Length of fleece should be considered when transporting sheep during extreme heat, humidity or cold.
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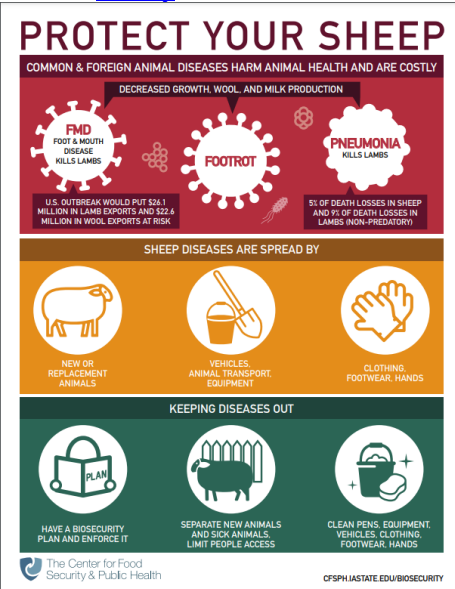
5.4	STOPS FOR REST SHALL BE PROVIDED AS REQUIRED BY LAW ²	<p>Stop for rest as appropriate or as required by law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for rest stops including monitoring transit times and positions. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records on transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/twenty-eight-hour-law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also interview haulers and observe logs.
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PREDATION

6.1	SHEEP SHOULD BE OBSERVED AND MANAGED FOR DEPREDATION REGULARLY	<p>Observe and manage for predators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for managing predators that includes regular observation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.
6.2	ALL LEGAL AND REASONABLE EFFORTS TO MANAGE AND LIMIT PREDATION SHOULD BE EMPLOYED	<p>Predators should be managed using legal methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan, including non-lethal methods, for managing predators. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf • https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/downloads/prodguide.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ signs of heightened flightiness ○ visible signs of injuries from predator attack ○ carcasses present

- <https://www.sheepusa.org/researcheducation-industryinformation-livestockprotectiondogs>

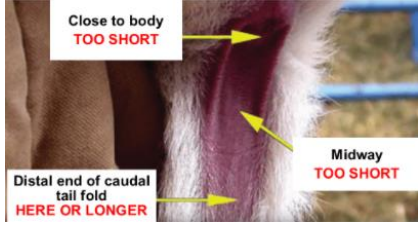
GENERAL HEALTH

7.1	SHEEP SHOULD BE OBSERVED AND MONITORED ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR HEALTH STATUS	<p>Health status should be observed at least each time the flock is gathered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for monitoring animal health including when and how to monitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf • Sheep Production Handbook pg. 413-415 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plan or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations.
7.2	BIOSECURITY MEASURES SHOULD BE EMPLOYED	<p>Protect your operation with biosecurity measures.</p> <p>Locked gates that prevent general access is one example that could be easily employed on private land. Visitors should be screened when possible for their exposure to other sheep. Footwear covering can be provided to visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for biosecurity. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/biosecurity/#filter=.sheep_biosecurity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.
7.3	DISEASES AND PARASITES SHOULD BE MONITORED AND MANAGED	<p>Monitor and manage for targeted diseases and parasites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for managing common diseases and parasites. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records of animal treatments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Production Handbook pg. 421-490 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.

7.4	HEALTH CONDITIONS SHOULD BE TREATED IN AN APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY MANNER	<p>Appropriately treat animals for health issues. Routine health management practices as well as treatments should be documented. Acutely or chronically sick animals without records of treatment would be evidence of an ineffective program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a VCPR with your veterinarian. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan on how to treat targeted diseases and parasites. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records of animal treatments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep Production Handbook pg. 421-490 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.
7.5	APPROPRIATE PAIN RELIEF SHOULD BE PROVIDED WHEN EXCESSIVE PAIN IS EXPECTED FOR A PROCEDURE	<p>Consult and follow veterinarian directives for pain relief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for managing painful conditions. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Document veterinarian advice. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records.
7.6	EUTHANASIA SHOULD BE PERFORMED IN A TIMELY AND HUMANE MANNER BY TRAINED PERSONNEL	<p>Provide training on proper euthanasia. Euthanize timely and humanly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for providing timely and humane euthanasia. <input type="checkbox"/> Train on acceptable methods of euthanasia and keep training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/2020_Euthanasia_Final_1-15-20.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plan and training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ procedure ○ animals in need of euthanasia
7.7	SHEEP ARE NEVER MULESED	<p>Sheep are not mulesed.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor uses observations.
BREEDING & LAMBING				
8.1	GENETIC SELECTION CRITERIA SHOULD CONSIDER ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	<p>The genetics of the flock should be suitable for the climate, topography, and management style.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for genetic selection including disease, parasite resistance, management style, etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plan or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.

8.2	IF LAMBING ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE STRESS AND BE PERFORMED WITH CONSIDERATION OF SANITATION	<p>Monitor lambing and provide low-stress assistance as needed. Consider sanitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for monitoring ewes and when and how to assist when needed. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Train herders/handlers on best practices and keep training records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7149567/ • http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/sheep/facts/98-091.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans, operation records or training records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.
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TAIL DOCKING³

9.1	TAILS SHOULD BE DOCKED NO SHORTER THAN THE DISTAL END OF THE CAUDAL FOLD	<p>Sheep should not be docked short. Some breeds do not require docking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that specifies where sheep should be docked. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations. <p>Assessor documentation should include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative impact (i.e. prolapse, etc.) • % of sheep with short tails. <p>Target: 95% of sheep should have tails as long or longer than the distal end of the caudal fold.</p>
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9.2	SHEEP SHOULD BE DOCKED AT 2 DAYS TO 6 WEEKS OF AGE	<p>Sheep should be docked between 2 days and 6 weeks of age. Pain relief must be used if sheep are docked older than 6 weeks of age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for when and how sheep will be docked and if pain relief is used. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews. <p>Assessor documentation should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods used (i.e. banding, cautery, etc.) • % of sheep docked at 2 days to 6 weeks <p>Target: 90% should be docked within 2 days to 6 weeks of age.</p> <p>In a range flock setting, it may be challenging to verify age and compliance in this category.</p>
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CASTRATION

10.1	SHEEP SHOULD BE CASTRATED AT 2 DAYS TO 6 WEEKS OF AGE	<p>Sheep should be castrated between 2 days and 6 weeks of age. Pain relief must be used if sheep are docked older than 6 weeks of age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for when and how sheep will be castrated and if pain relief is used. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews. <p>Documentation should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods used • % of sheep castrated at 2 days to 6 weeks <p>Target: 90% should be castrated within 2 days to 6 weeks of age.</p> <p>In a range flock setting, it may be challenging to verify age and compliance in this category.</p>
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SHEARING CONTRACTS, CONDITIONS, & FACILITIES

11.1	WOOLED SHEEP SHOULD BE SHORN AT LEAST ANNUALLY	<p>Shear sheep at least annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for shearing at least once annually. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and records.
11.2	SHEARING SHOULD NOT BE ROUTINELY SCHEDULED DURING THE INTERVAL OF ONE MONTH PRE-LAMBING TO ONE MONTH POST-LAMBING	<p>Schedule shearing at least one month before or after lambing. When sheep are actually shorn is often out of the producer's control, however, scheduling should be planned accordingly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan when sheep will lamb and when shearing should be scheduled for. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use records and observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • condition of ewes that are close up or recently lambed <p>Target- 75% compliance over time (years)</p>
11.3	SHEARING SHOULD BE PERFORMED BY A COMPETENT SHEARER WHO EMPHASIZES PROPER ANIMAL HANDLING TO REDUCE ANIMAL STRESS AND UTILIZES FEATURES	<p>Shearers should handle sheep properly and with low-stress techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that includes discussing safe, low-stress handling techniques and other AWA standards when contracting shearers. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or posed signage. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.

	OF THE AWA STANDARDS			
11.4	WRITTEN OR VERBAL SHEARING CONTRACTS ^{4,5} ARE ENCOURAGED AND SHOULD CONTAIN SPECIFIC WORDING HIGHLIGHTING CAREFUL AND SAFE ANIMAL HANDLING, INJURY AVOIDANCE, AND EFFICIENCY	<p>Discuss expectations with shearers including safely handling animals (for sheep and people), avoiding injury (to sheep and people) and shearing efficiently (not too fast or too slow).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written policy or posted signage that states expectations communicated with shearers that include safely. handling animals, avoiding injury and shearing efficiency. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample Shearer Contract- https://www.americanwoolassurancemember-resources/ • https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/safe-sheep-shearing-gpg/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written policy or posted signage. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessors may also use observations and interviews.
11.5	SHEARING EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE DISINFECTED EACH DAY AND BETWEEN PRODUCER OPERATIONS	<p>Discuss expectations with shearers that include equipment being disinfected (at least changing combs and cutters) each day and between operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that states expectations communicated with shearers that include disinfecting equipment. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://research.wsulibs.wsu.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/2376/13124/FS311E.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#:~:text=Chlorhexidine%20is%20a%20fast%20acting,disinfecting%20to%20prevent%20metal%20corrosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans, posted signage or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessors may also use observations and interviews.
11.6	SUFFICIENT LABOR, FACILITIES, AND ORGANIZATION FOR SHEARING SHOULD BE PLANNED PRIOR TO SHEARING	<p>Prior to shearing, plan for sufficient labor (shearing, handling sheep, wool handling, etc.), facilities (shearing, handling, worker, etc.) and other arrangements (date, other needs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a plan for adequate labor, facilities and organization for shearing. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Code of Practice for Preparation of Wool Clips http://d1cqrq366w3ike.cloudfront.net/http/DOCUMENT/SheepUSA/Code_of_Practice_low.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities • shearing process • management notes taken at shearing time
11.7	REGION, WEATHER, INSECTS, AND SHELTER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN TIMING SHEARING TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT THAT MAY IMPROVE ANIMAL WELL-BEING	<p>Schedule and plan shearing with consideration to animal welfare including weather, insects, shelter, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that includes planning for weather, insects/pests and timing of shearing. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep Care Guide- https://www.sheepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sheep-Care-Guide-2021-web.pdf • https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2020/07/14/control-of-sheep-pests/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use interviews and observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental conditions • provisions for animal well-being
11.8	FACILITY DESIGN SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE OPERATION IN	<p>Shearing facilities should have appropriate for shearing and handling sheep (capacity, animal flow, non-slip ramps and pens), be clean and be well lit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/sheep/yards- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use interviews and observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facility design

	TERMS OF SIZE AND PROVISION FOR ANIMAL FLOW, BE WELL-LIT, CLEAN, AND INCLUDE NON-SLIP FLOORING ON RAMPS AND PENS TO MINIMIZE FALLS AND TO HELP ENSURE SAFETY OF THE SHEEP AND SHEARER	<input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur.	equipment/general-information/board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any injury points.
11.9	THE OPERATION OWNER, MANAGER, OR SUITABLE PROXY SHOULD BE PRESENT DURING SHEARING TO MONITOR SHEARING ACTIVITIES AND ENSURE PROPER ANIMAL CARE IS UPHELD	<p>Identify a designated person(s) with responsibility for monitoring shearing.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur.		<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor will use interviews and observations.

PRE-SHEARING

12.1	SHEEP SHOULD FAST FOR 6-12 HOURS (LONGER IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES ⁶) PRE-SHEARING TO ENSURE ANIMAL COMFORT AND EFFICIENT SHEARING	<p>Sheep should fast from <u>all</u> feed and water sources prior to shearing to reduce stress and increase safety to animals and shearers. The stage of production will determine the ideal length of time. Keep in mind the number of hours fasted for the first sheep shorn and for the last sheep shorn each day.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for fasting for each class of sheep. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/fasting-of-sheep-prior-to-shearing-gpg/#lf-doc-21994 <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white;"> <th>Class</th> <th>Fasting from Feed</th> <th>Fasting from Water</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ewe- non-pregnant, non-lactating</td> <td>20-32</td> <td>12-24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ewe- early-mid pregnancy</td> <td>18-30</td> <td>12-24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ewe- late pregnancy and lactating</td> <td>12-24</td> <td>8-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yearlings- non-pregnant, non-lactating</td> <td>18-30</td> <td>12-24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yearling- pregnant and lactating</td> <td>12-24</td> <td>8-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lambs- pre-weaning</td> <td>6-24</td> <td>6-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lambs- weaned</td> <td>12-24</td> <td>8-20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Class	Fasting from Feed	Fasting from Water	Ewe- non-pregnant, non-lactating	20-32	12-24	Ewe- early-mid pregnancy	18-30	12-24	Ewe- late pregnancy and lactating	12-24	8-20	Yearlings- non-pregnant, non-lactating	18-30	12-24	Yearling- pregnant and lactating	12-24	8-20	Lambs- pre-weaning	6-24	6-20	Lambs- weaned	12-24	8-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use records and observations.
Class	Fasting from Feed	Fasting from Water																										
Ewe- non-pregnant, non-lactating	20-32	12-24																										
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Lambs- pre-weaning	6-24	6-20																										
Lambs- weaned	12-24	8-20																										

12.2	PRE-SHEARING PENS SHOULD CONTAIN AN ACCEPTABLE DENSITY OF ANIMALS	<p>An appropriate density of sheep should be in pre-shearing pens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan or posted signage to ensure sheep are not overcrowded. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal density- Sheep Production Handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pen dimensions
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		Rams 180-300 lb.	Dry Ewes 150-200 lb.	Ewes with lambs 5-30 lb.	Feeder Lambs 30-110 lb.
Building floor space (ft ² /hd)	Solid Slotted	20-30 14-20	12-16 8-10	15-20' 10-12'	1.5-2 ft of creep space per lamb
Temporary confinement	Dirt	12-20	12-20	15-25	8-10 4-5

SHEARING

13.1	SHEARING EFFICIENCY AND SPEED SHOULD BE PERFORMED AT A REASONABLE PACE THAT MINIMIZES INJURY TO SHEEP AND SHEARER	<p>Shearing speed should be reasonable and efficient-not too fast and not too slow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that describes shearing expectations, practices to be implemented to prevent injuries to the sheep and shearer, and actions to be taken if injuries occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and records including shearing logs (including number of sheep shorn each day/hour and number of shearers working).
13.2	CUTS AND MINOR LACERATIONS ON A SHEEP SHOULD BE TREATED IN A TIMELY MANNER AS APPROPRIATE	<p>Minor cuts should be treated appropriately, if needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan describing when and how to treat minor cuts. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use records and observations.
13.3	THE SHEARER MUST NOTIFY THE PRODUCER OF A SEVERE ⁷ LACERATION ON A SHEEP; A SEVERE LACERATION MUST BE APPROPRIATELY TREATED	<p>Severe lacerations (causing substantial blood loss, ≥ 4 inches in length, and/or deep to the epidermal layer of skin) should be treated and the producer notified so that they can provide further treatment as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan defining severe lacerations, how to treat them and stating that shearers must notify the producer when they occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use records and observations. <p>Target- Less than 2% should have severe cuts and lacerations.</p>
13.4	SHEEP SHALL NEVER BE INTENTIONALLY STRUCK BY A PERSON OR WITH SHEARING EQUIPMENT	<p>Sheep must never be hit by a person or with shearing equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written policy stating that sheep shall never be hit. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written policy or posted signage. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations and interviews.

13.5	WOOL SHOULD BE DRY WHEN SHEEP ARE SHORN	<p>Sheep must be dry when shorn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan that states sheep must be dry when shorn. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use records and observations.
13.6	YOUNG SHEEP SHOULD BE SHORN SEPARATELY (PREFERABLY FIRST) TO REDUCE SPREAD OF DISEASE WITHIN A FLOCK; SICK, WORMY, AND/OR DEBILITATED SHEEP SHOULD BE SORTED OFF AND SHORN LAST OR SHORN AT A LATER DATE WHEN REHABILITATED	<p>To reduce disease transmission, shear young sheep first and sick sheep last or at a different time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan describing order of shearing and special considerations and plans for sick or debilitated sheep. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations.
POST-SHEARING				
14.1	POST-SHEARING FEED AND WATER MUST BE AVAILABLE	<p>Provide sheep with feed and water after shearing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for providing sheep with feed and water after shearing. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations.
14.2	POST-SHEARING SHELTER, EITHER NATURAL OR MAN-MADE, SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IF WEATHER AND ENVIRONMENT ARE NOT CONDUCIVE TO APPROPRIATE THERMOREGULATION	<p>If weather and environment will have a negative impact on the sheep, shelter (natural or man-made) should be available to the sheep after shearing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a written plan for criteria (weather, etc.) when sheep will need shelter and what shelter is provided. <input type="checkbox"/> Have a contingency plan for complications reasonably likely to occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.canr.msu.edu/sheep_goats/reproduction/the-benefits-of-shearing-before-lambing • https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/sheep/health-and-welfare/sheep-shelter-guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written plans or records. <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor may also use observations.

¹Rough handling includes but is not limited to throwing sheep, poking sensitive areas with a driving aid (e.g., rectum, eyes, nose, or genitals), deliberately slamming gates on sheep, dragging downed or non-ambulatory sheep, and/or deliberately driving other sheep over a downed animal (source: Dr. Temple Grandin).

²See the “Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare” for Transportation Laws and Guidelines.

³As appropriate for breed of sheep.

⁴Suggested verbiage for inclusion in a shearing contract: “shearers agree to practice safe and low-stress animal handling practices in accordance with American Wool Assurance (AWA) standards including, but not limited to, handle sheep gently, ensure sheep are safely tipped over for shearing without falling, allow sheep to move at a comfortable pace, and minimize cuts and lacerations.

⁵Example written shearing contract is included in appendix 1 of the AWA Standards document.

⁶Based on industry expert opinion and WorkSafe, New Zealand “Fasting of Sheep Prior to Shearing Guide”, New Zealand Government, 5 Sept. 2017.

⁷“Severe lacerations” shall be defined as causing substantial blood loss, ≥ 4 inches in length, and/or deep to the epidermal layer of skin.

⁸In rare circumstances, pulling sheep out of an emergency situation by their wool is permissible to ensure the safety of the animal.

AWA Glossary of Terms

Audit instrument: audit form and questions

Auditor: entity performing a 3rd party audit

Class of animal: animals of different sex and in a different stage of production

Evaluator: entity performing a 2nd party evaluation

Fall: animal’s body makes contact with the ground or flooring surface

Fasting: withholding from feed or hydration. Performed prior to shearing and includes withholding from any vegetation or hydration source

Gap: A gap or difference between the stated standard and what is occurring at the operation

Handling event: an event when a group of animals are being handled, such as lambing, marking, transporting, weaning, shearing, weighing, sorting

Plan: a roadmap on how to achieve something

Policy: a specified guideline or principle to achieve something

Rough handling: handling animals in such a way that raises their stress level and/or inflicts pain

Severe Laceration: causing substantial blood loss, 4 inches in length and/or deep to the epidermal layer of the skin

Slip: animal’s lower leg makes contact with the ground or flooring surface

Training Record: evidence that certain people received certain training

