



2020 Shearing Survey

Questions? Call Dr. Huber or email @georgaisheep@gmail.org

Name: _____

Farm address: _____

Telephone number: Cell: _____ Home: _____

Email: _____ Will you be onsite with the shearers? _____

Breed/s of sheep: _____ Number to be sheared: _____

Comments: _____

Email, call, or mail your information to Dr. Tom Huber

706- 769-6721 or 706- 614-0826; MTHuber1@yahoo.com

1280 McRee Gin Road, Watkinsville, GA 30677

Preparation:

Pen sheep up before the shearers arrive. If rain is forecast, pen them up the day before. Shearer cannot shear wet sheep.

Water but do not feed until after shearing. This is important for the sheep's health and comfort.

Plan to assist with the process: bringing the sheep to the shearing area, sweeping the floor between sheep, sorting and bagging your wool, etc.

Shearers need electricity and a clean, smooth area for shearing.

If you have hair sheep or cross breeds mixed with hair sheep, separate them long before the shearer arrives. Hair cannot be dyed or processed like wool. Hair contamination can cause an entire wool pool (other peoples' wool as well as your own) to be thrown out.

Tips:

Take care of the shearers! Good lighting, bottled water and an accurate count of sheep to be sheared goes a long way. Adding a neighbor's sheep at the last-minute is disruptive to the schedule. If you want additional paid services (ex: hoof trimming) let Dr. Huber know so the schedule can be adjusted.

Think of how you can protect the shearer and yourself from any Covid-19 issues.

Wool Handling:

Package your wool in clear plastic wool bags. The shearers and the Georgia Sheep Association have these bags available for \$5.00 per bag. You can also use burlap and paper bags. Do NOT use plastic feed sacks. They contaminate wool with polypropylene and ruin the quality of the wool bale.

Separate your wool as it is sheared based on length, color and quality:

Length:

- Less than 2 inches (belly wool, lamb's wool)
- Greater than 2 inches

Color:

- White-faced sheep; white wool
- Black-faced and other colored-faced sheep; white / cream wool
- Black, brown, gray or multicolored wool

Quality:

- High quality fleeces
 - Suitable for showing / selling / processing (shearer can help identify best fleeces)
- Good
 - Fleeces suitable for Wool Pool (or retained for personal use in pet beds, other projects that don't require the highest quality)
- Poor
 - Fleeces suitable for compost / mulch due to wool break, high amounts of vegetative matter / animal waste, and poor animal health

Wool Pool:

The Georgia Sheep Association participates in a Wool Pool with other southern states. The wool is collected, weighed and transported to Tennessee. Producers receive a check after the pool is sold. The past two years, the price has been around 50 cents per pound. Wool Pool collection dates will be announced this spring.

Membership in the Georgia Sheep Association is required for participation in the Wool Pool and for shearing services that are scheduled through Dr. Huber. Dues are \$35.00 per year and can be mailed to Georgia Sheep or paid online at (<https://gasheepandwool.org>).