

Are you ready for the Pool?

The Georgia Sheep and Wool Growers Association Wool Pool, that is!



What's a wool pool?

Individual farms combine (pool) their wool with other producers. The combined wool is then sold to a buyer who is looking for bulk wool, rather than individual fleeces. Buyers can include manufacturers, mills or other states looking to create an even larger wool pool.

What type of wool goes into the pool?

Clean, quality wool (excess hay, straw, burrs, feces, vegetative matter removed)

Only wool (hair, medullated fibers, or wool from hair and wool mixed breeds cannot be included. Hair cannot be dyed or processed like wool; hair contamination can cause an entire wool pool to be thrown out.)

What else do I need to know and do?

Separate and package your wool based on length and color:

Two Lengths: Less than 2 inches (belly wool, lamb's wool) and Greater than 2 inches

Three Colors: White-faced sheep; Black-faced and other colored-faced sheep; and Black or multicolored wool

Packaging: Package your wool in clear plastic ventilated 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 bag wool in plastic feed sacks. Plastic feed sacks contaminate wool with polypropylene and can ruin the quality of the wool bale.

Beyond the Wool Pool: You can pool all of your wool – but should you? Identify any fleeces that you want to keep for spinning, felting, sale, or show. The Georgia Sheep Wool Show (September at the Gwinnett Fair) includes cash prizes and ribbons. Your shearer can help you identify your highest quality fleeces.

Drop off: UGA Sheep Facility at 155 Double Bridges Road, Winterville, GA 30653.

Be sure your wool is labeled, prepared and packaged according to the guidelines above. Questions? Dr. Tom Huber has expert advice: mthuber1@yahoo.com or 706-614-0826.

