



# SHEEP SHEET

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## **Blood or Blood Grade:**

Used to indicate the degree of fineness or coarseness of wool. A subjective (ocular) evaluation of fiber diameter.

## **Braid:**

The coarsest of the United States grades of wool according to the blood system of classification. It is very coarse and lustrous wool.

## **Breech or Britch:**

Wool from the thigh area of the sheep. It is the coarsest and poorest wool on the entire fleece. It is usually manure encrusted and some urine staining.

## **Carpet Wool:**

This wool is coarse, harsh, and very strong. Suited more for carpet manufacture than fabric.

## **Carding:**

An operation or process which converts loose, clean, scoured wool into continuous untwisted strands.

## **Clean Yield:**

The amount of clean scoured wool remaining after removal of all vegetable and other foreign material.

## **Combing Length:**

Wool having sufficient length to comb. Must be at least 2 3/4 inches long.

## Basic Wool Terminology

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### **Sheepdex W-3**

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#### **Crimp:**

The degree of waviness or wave effect in the wool fiber.

#### **Finewool:**

The finest grade of wool.

#### **Grading:**

Classification of the unopened or untied fleece according to fineness, staple length, character, soundness, etc.

#### **Grease Wool:**

Wool in its natural condition as it comes from the sheep, either shorn or pulled.

#### **Kemp:**

A white straight, opaque, coarse, non-felting, inelastic fiber having a thick central medulla with hollow interspaces. It will not take a dye; hence its presence in wool is most objectionable, unless tweed fabrics are being manufactured. True tweed fabrics must have some kemp content.

#### **Noil:**

The short fibers that are removed from the staple wool in the combing or top making process. Noils are utilized in the manufacture of felts and woolens.

#### **Scoured Wool:**

Wool that has been washed or cleansed to remove dirt, grease, and suint (sheep sweat).

#### **Staple Length:**

Length of wool fibers in the fleece. Measured from skin to the tip of the fiber in a natural unstretched position.

**Spinning Count:**

A term used to indicate fineness to which a yarn can be spun. It indicates the number of hanks of 560 yards each in length in one pound of wool top.

**Suint:**

The perspiration of sheep that adheres to the wool and is removed during the scouring process.

**Tags:**

Large locks of britch or belly wool, some cotted (matted, tangled), usually contaminated with dung and dirt.

**Tenderness (break):**

Weak points along the length of a fiber. Usually will not be able to stand the pressure of the mechanical manufacturing processes in mills.

**Top:**

A continuous untwisted strand of wool fibers of pre-determined length from which the short fibers (noils) have been removed in the combing process.

**Vegetable Matter (VM):**

Any kind of bur, seed, chaff, moit (twigs), grass, or other vegetable matter found in grease wool.

**Yolk:**

The natural grease and suint covering on the wool fibers of the unscoured fleece, and excreted from glands in the sheep skin.

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