

WOOL – THE ANIMAL FIBER - PART II

REF: TT/ JUNE 2018 / WK 3

Processing of Wool

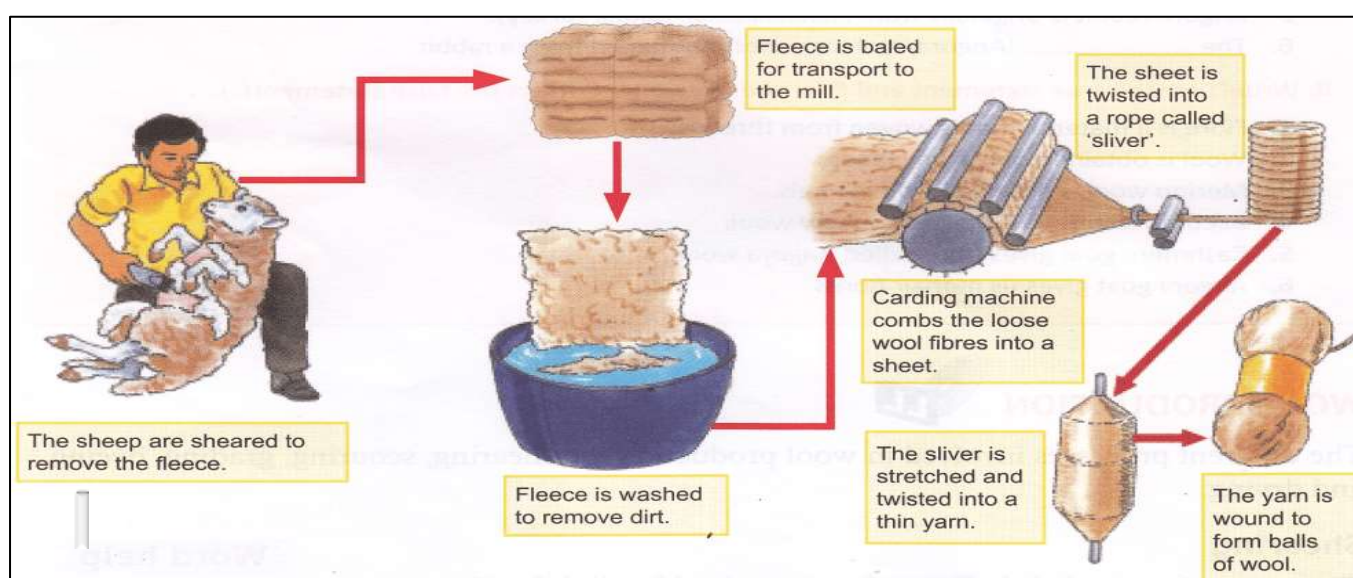


Fig 1.1 Flow Chart – Wool Processing

- **Shearing** - Refer the link from previous week article (Part I) to watch the video.
- **Grading and Sorting** - **Grading** is the breaking up of the fleece based on overall quality. In **Sorting**, the wool is divided into different quality fibers.
- **Cleaning and Scouring** - The raw wool taken directly from the sheep contains sand, dirt, grease, and suint (dried sweat). Wool is scoured in an alkaline bath to remove these contaminants. Excess water from the fleece is squeezed out but the fleece is not allowed to dry completely. Following this process, the wool is treated with oil to improve its handling.
- **Carding** - The fibers are passed through a series of metal teeth that straighten and blend them into slivers. Carding also removes residual dirt and other matter left in the fibers. Carded wool intended for worsted yarn is put through gilling and combing, two procedures that remove short fibers and place the longer fibers parallel to each other. From there, the sleeker slivers are



compacted and thinned through a process called drawing. Carded wool to be used for woollen yarn is sent directly for spinning.

- **Spinning** – The wool fibers cling and stick to one another, it is easy to spin wool into yarn. After the yarn is spun, it is wrapped around bobbins, cones, or commercial drums.
- **Weaving** - Woollen yarns are made into fabric using a plain weave and worsted yarns are used to create fine fabrics with different patterns using twill weave. The result is a more tightly woven, smooth fabric.
- **Finishing** - Different finishing is done on woollen fabric.
Fulling - Immersing the fabric in water to make the fibers interlocked.
Crabbing - Permanently setting the interlock.
Decating - Shrink-proofing.

[Follow this link to know more about wool processing](#)

To be continued...

Wishing you a great week ahead!

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