

Shearing quick check guide

(for detailed explanations see complete Harvesting Code of Practice, File on Suri Network web site under Product Development)

Before shearing day

Confirm shearer (he will usually come with his head man)

Enlist helpers as needed

Fiber chicken or assistant sorter

Two men for put down. One ropes man

Some one on the butt to assist moving 3rds out of the way

Sweepers, Runners

Clean shearing area and arrange the necessary spaces shearing mats (1 or 2)

Check tie downs

Make an order of shearing beginning with white through darker colors and within each color from finest to coarser

Print list so it can be posted

Have ready

3 Clear plastic bags for each animal labeled with name/ number and the following: (if collecting “pieces” 4 bags) blanket, neck, histogram sample

First aid kit

Clean rags

Bins for sweepings and trash

Markers

Fish scale if you are weighing shearing day

Refreshments

Halters and leads

Herd health equipment if giving shots and trimming nails

The day before

Set up holding pens.

Have name tags ready for animals so runners can find them easily.

Wand animals.

Withhold any grain and water and hay the evening before shearing.

Set up bio security measures.

Check shearing area again for cleanliness.

!!!Safety first!!!

No Second cuts! No cuts on animals!

Be sure each member of the team knows his or her job.

Keep curious observers out of the way so work can proceed smoothly and safely.

If stretching animals, have shearer go through the steps with the animal handlers and ropes man so neither the animal or the handlers are injured.

If someone is helping on the butt, review that task.

Keep hands away from the shears. The shearer will indicate when to move fleece.

If performing husbandry tasks, shots etc. do it **only** when the shearer is through, **not** while he is shearing.

THREE-MICRON GRADING SYSTEM

Grade #1---- under 20 microns.....Suri Ultimate (SU)

Grade #2---20.1 – 22.9 microns.....Suri Superfine (SSF)

Grade #3---23.0 ---25.9 microns.....Suri Classic Fine (SCF)

Grade #4---26.0---28.9 microns.....Suri Medium (SM)

Grade #5---29.0---31.9 microns.....Suri Coarse (SC)

Grade #6---32.0---35.0 microns.....Suri Extra Coarse (SEC)

LENGTH CATEGORIES

Under 3 inches.....Suri Short (SS)

3.5 – 5.5 inches.....Suri Medium (SM)

5.5 – 7.5 inches.....Suri Long (SL)

7.5---10.0 inches.....Suri Very Long (SVL)

To meet these grade levels, your fleece will have no more than 1% vegetable matter in it, there will be no tenderness to the locks, the length will be no more than 5.5 inches for Grade 1 and 6.5 inches for Grade 2, and guard hairs must be limited. Deviation from these requirements may result in a reduced grade or even “no value” assigned.

Skirting, sorting, grading and classing

Skirting — . Remove all coarse, stained or contaminated fiber, tender fleece and any second cuts.

Sorting, — group by color and roughly by coarse, medium, and fine.

You may or may not do the following:

Grading — grouping fibers together, by grades (see box on the left), by staple length and by color.

Classing — this is where various groups of fleece are assigned a destination or use.