



WOOLGATHERER CARDING MILL

WOOL GROWERS

Wool Industry Practices that we oppose:

Carbonizing: Wool fibers are dipped in strong acids to dissolve residual vegetable matter.

Chemical Crimping: Carbonizing can leave wool fibers unnaturally straightened and the fibers require a chemical "perm" to regain their coiled, crimped structure.

Dipping: At many farms all sheep are subject to a bath in a pesticide solution. We recommend a more holistic approach.

Bleaching: In order to get the purest whites and brightest colors, most wool fibers are bleached and dyed. Our batting is the color of natural white wool.

Harmful Shearing: We work with highly skilled shearing crews to make this process as quick and harmless as possible.

Mulesing: Cutting patches of skin off sheep (to discourage infection and flies from laying eggs in the folds) is used primarily with Australian Merino sheep. None of our growers practice this method.

Overgrazing: In addition to harming the land, overgrazing lowers overall wool quality. More invasive plants begin to grow and can increase the amount of vegetable matter in the wool.

Premium Wool Growers for Premium Products

WITH OUR HANDS ON APPROACH WE HAVE SCREENED ONLY THE BEST GROWERS THAT MEET OUR GROWING CRITERIA.

OUR WOOL GROWING CRITERIA:

- **PROPER GRAZING METHODS:** Our growers rotate sheep to different pastures to allow vegetation to recover from grazing. Our wool also comes from farms that do not overstock their pastures. Overstocking and infrequent rotation produces soil erosion, higher amounts of invasive plants, and the need to bring in outside feed. Proper grazing techniques reduce soil erosion, create higher quality wool, and reduce the risk of sheep acquiring internal parasites.
- **HEALTHY VETERINARY PRACTICES:** Only certain kinds of medications and supplements can be used to treat the sheep. We encourage alternative caring methods to keep sheep healthy with fewer chemicals. Generally, sheep raised in open pastures are healthier and require less veterinary care.
- **CHEMICAL CONTROL:** We oppose the use of herbicides and pesticides on fields where sheep will be grazing. We are able to determine if wool has been in contact with harmful chemicals through random spot-testing.

OUTSTANDING GROWERS:

All of our wool growers are outstanding; however, there are a few that stand out like Terry Wahl and Paul Wares. The USDA has recognized the Wahl's as leaders in the conservation. As well as, Paul Wares who raises his sheep to USDA Organic standards. Both of these growers are ahead of the curve and we use them as examples of how conservation and land management is done properly.

BREEDS OF SHEEP:

We utilize many different breeds of sheep for all of our products here at Woolgatherer. Although this is not every sheep breed that is used it is the majority.

- **Premium Eco Wool®:** Corriedale, Suffolk, Dorset, Cheviot, Romney, Morrit, Cheviot, Coopworth, and Columbia
- **Organic and World Class Wool:** Dorset and Columbia.
- **Fine wool Blanket Fabric:** Merino
- **Fine wool Melton:** Merino

Guaranteed Purity With Integrity

Supporting our customers with a pro-active philosophy towards ensuring only pure and

natural products are brought to the market. Woolgatherer Carding Mill takes the extra step by testing all of our products through the nations leading Toxicology Laboratory for animals, on an annual basis. This tests for any pesticide, herbicide and heavy metals such as arsenic. Test results are made available to all customers upon request.

