

Everything But The BAA!

Presenting Yourself and Your Wool Garment

Eighty percent of your score for lamb lead comes from the interview process and the wool garment you selected to wear.

Your hobbies, interests and 4-H experiences as well as details about the outfit you selected will make up a large portion of the questions you will be asked during your interview.

Scoring

Interview (55 points)

- Overall Response to Questions
- Poise & Self Assurance
- Posture (standing, walking, sitting)
- Personality
- Knowledge Of Garment

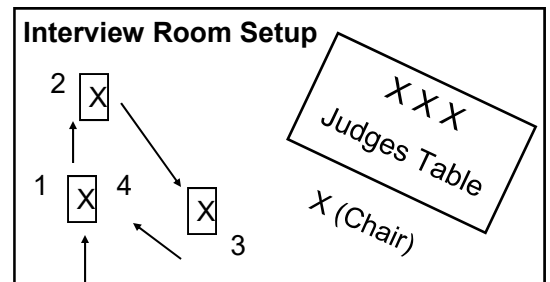
Garment (25 points)

- Knowledge about wool garment worn
- Style (current & figure flattering)
- Fit (proper size, shape, etc.)
- Color (enhances individual features)
- Complementing Accessories
- Appropriate for age and Lifestyle

Sheep Skill-A-Thon (20 points)

You will answer 10 questions worth 2 points each. The questions will come from this handout. They could be True or False, Multiple Choice or Fill In the Blank questions.

This will test your knowledge of sheep and wool.



History of Wool



Like human civilizations, the story of wool begins in Asia Minor during the Stone Age about 10,000 years ago. Primitive man living in the Mesopotamian Plain used sheep for three basic needs: food, clothing and shelter.

Later on man learned to spin and weave. As primitive as they must have been, woolens became part of the riches of Babylon.

The warmth of wool clothing and the mobility of sheep allowed mankind to spread civilization far beyond the warm climate of Mesopotamia.

Between 3000 and 1000 BC the Persians, Greeks and Romans distributed sheep and wool throughout Europe as they continued to improve breeds. The Romans took sheep everywhere as they built their Empire in what is now Spain, North Africa, and on the British Isles. They established a wool plant in what is now Winchester, England as early as 50 AD.

The Saracens, nomadic people of the Syrian-Arabian deserts, conquered Spain in the eighth century and established a widespread wool export trade with North Africa, Greece, Egypt and Constantinople.

History of Wool Continued..



During the twelfth century, weaving in Florence, Genoa and Venice was stimulated by the Norman conquest of Greece. The conquerors sent about a hundred Greek weavers to Palermo as slaves, and their extraordinary work was copied at once by Italian weavers.

Back in Spain a thriving wool trade helped finance the voyages of Columbus and the Conquistadors. Guarding its wealth closely, Spain levied the death penalty on anyone exporting sheep until 1786. That year King Louis XVI imported 386 Merino ewes to cross with sheep on his estate at Rambouillet in Northern France. The resulting Rambouillet breed is highly desirable today because of its fine and long-staple wool.

Just like Spain, England froze its borders to raw wool exports. In 1377 England's King Edward III, "the royal wool merchant," stopped woven-goods imports and the domestic weaving of foreign wools and invited Flemish weavers fleeing the Spanish invasion to settle in England where the industry thrived. By 1660 wool textile exports were two-thirds of England's foreign commerce.

Columbus brought sheep to Cuba and Santo Domingo on his second voyage in 1493, and Cortez took their descendants along when he explored what is now Mexico and the southwestern United States. Navajo and other Southwest Indian tribes are famous yet today for their magnificent woolen rugs and colorful wall hangings.

Although pelts may have been worn in Britain as early as the late Bronze Age (3000 BC) England's "empire of wool" peaked during the 1509-47 reign of King Henry VIII. He seized the flocks of the monasteries and redistributed them to court favorites. This caused unemployed shepherds to be sent to prison for non-payment of debts and was one of the unfair treatments which incited immigration to America.

Despite the fact that England tried to discourage a wool industry in North America, a few smuggled sheep had multiplied to about 1000,000 by 1665. Massachusetts even passed a law requiring young people to spin and weave. Traditions and folklore grew with the industry. Spinning duties fell to the eldest unmarried daughter in the family, hence the term spinster. Spun yarn was wound on a reel (weasel) which made a popping sound when a given yardage was reached. Pop goes the weasel!

King George III of England made wool trading in the Colonies a punishable offense. Cutting off the offender's right hand was the chosen punishment. This policy, together with other oppressive actions including the Stamp Act of 1765, which required that revenue stamps be affixed to all printed matter and official documents in the Colonies, helped incite the Revolutionary War.

Despite the King's attempts to disrupt wool commerce, the wool industry flourished in America. Both Washington and Jefferson maintained flocks of sheep; both were inaugurated in woolen suits. New inventions like the spinning jenny, combing machines and water-powered looms, expanded the industry rapidly. Sheep moved West with civilization and beyond; at the turn of the 18th century small flocks in the hands of pioneers started the industry in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Sheep are as versatile as the fiber they produce. All parts are used; they provide tender, delicious meat...and wool is a renewable resource. Sheep thrive in all 50 states and most nations of the world, often in rough, barren ranges, or high altitudes where other animals cannot survive because of lack of vegetation. Sheep can survive and flourish on weeds and vegetation other animals will not eat, therefore they convert to protein a group of natural resources, which would otherwise be wasted.



Characteristics of Wool



DURABILITY & RESILIENCY

Each wool fiber is a molecular coil-spring making the fiber remarkably elastic. Nature has folded the chemical polypeptide chains back upon themselves in such a way that they act like a coiled spring which elongates when it is extended and retracts when it is released. This molecular crimp, along with the 3-dimensional fiber, allows wool fibers to be stretched up to 50% when wet and 30% when dry, and still bounce back to their original shape when stress is released.

But be careful. When wool is wet the fibers are weaker. Recovery from stress takes place faster when the fiber is in a humid environment; that's why steaming a wool garment will freshen the fabric and why a steam iron is recommended for pressing wool.

The natural elasticity of wool also makes woolen fabrics resistant to tearing. In addition, the outer skin of the wool fiber acts as a protective film, giving wool cloth improved resistance.

FIBER ABSORBENCY

Wool can easily absorb up to 30% of its weight in moisture without feeling damp or clammy.

The capacity to absorb makes wool a "temperature regulator" because it can protect the body in both cold and warm conditions. This characteristic makes wool a versatile all-season fabric.

Wool absorbs perspiration; thus it keeps a layer of dry air next to the skin which, in turn, helps to hold in body heat.

The same principle of moisture contact on the skin acts to

protect against hot weather as well. The body cools itself naturally with the evaporation of perspiration. Wool expedites this process by absorbing perspiration and keeping the same dry air next to the skin. This is why wool clothing is worn throughout the desert regions of the world where it's hot during the day and cool at night.

TAKES DYE BEAUTIFULLY

Wool absorbs many different dyes deeply, uniformly and directly without the use of combining chemicals. Wool is an amphoteric, which means it reacts with both acids and bases; thus it accepts both acid and basic dyestuffs. Dyes penetrate into the inner medulla core of the fiber where a chemical reaction occurs making the color change permanent.

RESISTANCE TO FLAME

Because wool contains moisture in each fiber, it resists flame without chemical treatment. Instead of burning freely when touched by flame, wool chars and stops burning when it is removed from the source of fire. Wool is self-extinguishing. It will not support combustion; this is why wool blankets are recommended for use in extinguishing small fires.

CHEMICAL STRUCTURE

Wool is a natural protein fiber that grows from the follicles of the sheep's skin. It is like human hair in that it is composed of keratin-type protein.

About American Lamb

"Lamb" is used to define sheep meat less than one year old, while "mutton" is used to define meat from sheep one-year-old and older.

Lamb has a much milder flavor than mutton. In 1999, the latest year for which such statistics are available, the United States produced approximately 244 million lbs. of lamb, with 14 million lbs. of the total comprised of mutton.

Almost all lamb produced in the United States is sold in supermarkets and restaurants. Lamb consumption in the United States is heavier on the East and West Coasts due to their higher ethnic populations. Hispanics, Greeks and Middle Easterners eat more lamb and mutton than do other ethnic groups. Native Americans also consume a lot of lamb and mutton.

American lamb is preferred over Australian and New Zealand lamb. In taste tests, consumers preferred American lamb over foreign lamb by a seven-to-one margin, while restaurateurs chose American lamb over foreign lamb by a three-to-one margin.

American lamb's popularity is attributable to its milder flavor, which is achieved by grain feeding the lambs -- usually for two-and-a-half months. Australian and New Zealand lambs usually are just grass fed.

American sheep genetics are geared toward producing a superior product. Approximately 80 percent of U.S. sheep are geared toward lamb production, while just the opposite is true for Australia, where approximately 80 percent of the sheep are raised for wool.

Care of Wool



STAIN REMOVAL

Wool is naturally soil-resistant for two seemingly diverse reasons: its ability to repel and absorb moisture. The outer layer of the wool fiber has an epicuticle, or thin protective wax-like film, which acts like a raincoat, enabling wool to shed droplets of liquids without wetting the fabric, much like bird's feathers.

Although wool does not absorb liquids directly, it readily absorbs moisture in vapor form. Wool will absorb up to 30% of its weight in moisture. Because of this ability to absorb moisture, wool does not build up static electricity which attracts lint and dirt from the air. When wool is soiled, it is important to remove stains promptly.

GENERAL CARE

With proper care, the natural qualities of wool can be maintained for years. Follow these simple tips to insure the lasting beauty of your wool garments.

- Give wool clothing a 24 hour rest between wearing. Wool fibers will shed wrinkles and return to their original shape.
- Hang woven wool garments on shaped or padded hangers.
- Store knits gently folded in drawers.
- Brush wool clothing to remove surface oil.
- Use a damp sponge for knits and finer fabrics.
- Refresh wool garments quickly after wearing or unpacking by hanging in a steamy bathroom. Moisture from the steam will remove wrinkles.
- If wool gets wet, dry the garment at room temperature away from heat.

PRESSING WOOL

Always use steam when pressing wool. Set the iron on the wool setting. Avoid pressing wool totally dry. When possible, press on the reverse side of the fabric. Use a press cloth to avoid a shine when pressing on the right side. Extra scraps of wool fabric make great press cloths. Lower and lift the iron; don't slide it back and forth.

CARE IN STORAGE

The same chemistry that makes wool fiber resilient and durable, lets it breathe and shed wrinkles also makes it susceptible to moths and carpet beetles. These insects feed in the larva stage on the keratin protein present in animal fibers. To prevent infestation:

- Have your woolens cleaned before packing away. Cleaning will kill larvae.
- Brush clothing after each wearing.
- Keep closets, dresser drawers and trunks clean.
- Pack clothes in airtight containers. Read the garment label for proper cleaning instructions.

HAND WASHING

Follow these suggestions when laundering woolen garments labeled hand-washable.

- Make a paper pattern of knits by tracing the outline of the garment.
- Wash in lukewarm or cold water using a mild soap or liquid detergent (which contains no bleach).
- Soak for 3-5 minutes, gently squeezing suds through without twisting or wringing the garment.
- Rinse twice in clean water that is the same temperature as the wash water.
- Gently squeeze out excess water and roll the garment in a towel and pin the garment to the pattern, smoothing to its original shape.
- Dry away from sunlight and direct heat.

DRY CLEANING

If the label indicates the garment should be dry-cleaned only, take it to a reliable dry cleaner. Identify any spots or stains for special treatment.