



TO: WOOL POOL PARTICIPANTS
SUBJECT: 2021 WOOL POOL

Upcoming Wool Pool

July 6, 7, 8, 2021

Glade Springs, VA - June, 2021	Phil Blevins ~ 276-676-6309
Tazewell, VA* - June, 2021	John Blankenship ~ 276-988-0405
Pulaski, VA – June, 2021	Morgan Paulette ~ 540-980-7761
Greenville, NC – June, 2021	Andy Burlingham ~ 252-714-4150
Western NC – June, 2021	Ethan Henderson ~ 828-456-3575
Elk Creek, VA* - July 6,7,8, 2021	Kevin Spurlin ~ 276-773-2491

(*baling locations)

If you have questions or want to schedule a drop off, contact Aaron Ray Tompkins at 336-363-4639

Producers in North Carolina and Virginia interested in marketing their wool through local wool pools will have the opportunity to do so again in 2021. Producers are encouraged to package, handle, and store their wool in an appropriate manner in order to maximize the value of their wool clip. Wool should be packaged by type and grade (Black Face, White Face, Short & Belly, and Burrs) in plastic bags, and be clean, dry, and have foreign material (straw, mud, manure) removed prior to packaging. The wool will be put out to bid and will be sold direct and thus wool will be graded and baled and you will be paid approximately 2-3 weeks following delivery. We will be scheduling drop-off times for baling locations.

The last baling will take place at Bottomley Warehouse in Elk Creek, VA. Bottomley Warehouse is located at 10278 Elk Creek Parkway, Elk Creek, VA 24326. From Wytheville take Rte. 21 South towards Independence approximately 19 miles. Bottomley’s Warehouse is located on the left side of the road.

If you know that you will have more than 500 pounds of wool, please call to schedule an appointment (336) 372-5597.

The contract price on wool is \$.40 for 2021.



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 If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Kevin Spurlin at 276-773-2491 during business hours to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is 800-828-1120

Proper Wool Handling

Proper harvesting, packaging, and storage of the wool is important to realize the full value of the wool clip. Since wool sales represent a very small portion of the gross returns for most sheep enterprise, wholesale changes to the genetics of the flock to improve fiber diameter and fleece weight are likely not justified for most Mid-Atlantic producers. However, there are several important steps that should be considered to maximize the value of the wool clip.

A. Minimize Contamination:

1. Keep shearing area clean and free of straw/hay and other potential sources of contamination.
2. Avoid use of plastic baler twine in sheep operation that may contaminate fleeces (this contamination occurs throughout the year, not just at shearing time).

B. Use Proper Packaging Material:

1. **DO NOT** use plastic feed sacks to store or package wool.
2. Plastic film bags are available and preferred. Points to consider with plastic film bags are:
 - Sheep need to be dry when sheared. Plastic bags will not breathe as well as jute bags (more possibility for wool to mold or rot).
 - Plastic film bags will tear easier when handled.
 - Tie plastic film bags shut in similar manner to jute bags.
3. Store wool in a dry place; avoid cement or dirt floors to prevent moisture uptake.

C. Sort Wool at Shearing Time:

1. Shear white-face sheep first, black-face sheep last to avoid contamination of white-face wool with black fibers.
2. Package lam and ewe wool separate.
3. Remove tags at shearing and discard.
4. Sort belly wool and bag separately. Also, sort wool caps and leg wool out if justified.
5. Off-type fleeces (black, high vegetable matter, etc.) as well as belly wool should be packaged first in a small plastic garbage bag or paper sack. The small bag may then be added to the large polyethylene film bag. The small bag serves to keep these wools separate and prevents them from contamination other fleeces already packaged, and results in a more uniform lot of wool.
6. **DO NOT** tie wool with paper twine.