

Woolcool and animal welfare

WOOLCOOL



As an ethical and environmentally responsible business, Woolcool is very sensitive to the welfare of animals and in particular, sheep, from which our amazing, sustainable insulated packaging material, Woolcool, is made.

There are two reasons to shear sheep. Firstly, to harvest their wool, and secondly, for welfare reasons: a heavy fleece not only causes a sheep to overheat in the summer, but it also provides an ideal environment for harmful parasites.

In accordance with UK Law, Woolcool purchases all wool produced in the UK through the The British Wool Marketing Board organisation and its agents. As a matter of principle Woolcool does not purchase 'pulled' wool derived as a by-product from the fellmongering industry.

The British Wool Marketing Board

Under The British Wool Marketing Scheme of 1950, the BWMB is required to register all producers with four or more sheep (with the exception of Shetland, which has its own arrangement). There are currently over 46,000 registered producers.

The Board of 9 elected producer members, representing 9 different areas of the UK, and 2 Government appointees, meets eight times a year and reports back to nine regionally elected committees.

Day to day operations are run from the Board's headquarters in Bradford, with small regional offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. "Independently assessed for its environmental impact, British Wool has ISO 14040-2006 and 14044-2006. The additional Best Management Practices Study outlines that British sheep are

reared to a very high standard which places the welfare of the sheep and the countryside before levels of productivity. "We have invested in environmental studies and data to help the industry meet the environmental agenda and our organisation to set standards." Mr Booth (from the BWMB) said. For more information go to the BWMB website: www.britishwool.org.uk

DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs).

Sheep and goats: Welfare Regulations.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence to cause or allow unnecessary suffering to any animal and introduces a duty of care for all animals.

As a livestock farmer, you must take such steps as are reasonable to ensure your animals' welfare.

General welfare requirements for all

farmed animals - including sheep and goats - are outlined in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007. You must treat all farm livestock - including sheep and goats - so that their health and welfare meets the minimum requirements for care and husbandry.

RSPCA

Adult sheep of breeds which have continuously growing wool should be shorn at least once every year, to help reduce the risk of external parasites and keep the animals comfortable. Shearing has to be carried out carefully and sympathetically to avoid problems such as handling stress and injuries. It is also important that shorn sheep are managed correctly to protect them from weather conditions. Website: www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/sheep/keyissues

WOOLCOOL ETHICS

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Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC)

The five freedoms of animal welfare.

The Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) - a government advisory body has identified five freedoms that - if maintained - can help ensure the welfare of your livestock. These state that, at all times, animals should have freedom:

- From hunger and thirst - animals must have access to fresh water and a diet which will maintain health and vigour
- From discomfort - an appropriate environment should be provided, including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- From pain, injury or disease - you must ensure the prevention of illnesses, or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- To express normal behaviour - sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind should all be provided
- From fear and distress - you must provide conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering Website: www.gov.uk/sheep-and-goat-welfare

Wool Processing

The washing and scouring that our wool undergoes prior to felting is very rigorous, going through a multi-stage process to arrive at the clean fleece product ready for felting into Woolcool. This process is carried out to an international ISO standard.

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