Wool Press
Grant Updates

Wool Council Meeting
January 2020
Wool Press Grants

In 2018/2019

• 5 grants of $5,000 each were awarded to 5 shearers
• 3 shearing crews & 2 individual shearers
• Affecting ~450,000 head/year
• Very positive, appreciative comments received
Wool Press Grants

In 2019/2020

• 1 application has been received & was accepted into the program
• Deadline extended to January 15
• 4 more applications received
Raw Wool Updates

Wool Council Meeting
January 2020
American Wool Assurance

- Working with ASI Staff, Paul Rodgers and Colorado State University
- Draft sent and comments received from industry personnel including:
  - Producers
  - Warehouseman
  - Veterinarians
  - Mill representatives
  - Shearers
  - Academia involved in sheep and animal handling
  - Extension
American Wool Assurance - the program

- Used resources primarily from SSQA, Sheep Care Guide and Sheep Production Handbook
- Focuses on:
  - Shearing: pre, during and post
  - Health
  - Handling
- 3 levels
  - I - education
  - II - implementation
  - III - audit
American Wool Assurance

Presentations will be given at:

• PERC meeting- Thursday
• Wool Roundtable- Friday morning
• Board of Directors Info Session- Friday afternoon
• CSU available for discussion through Saturday
Wool Testing

- Yocom-McColl has announced they will be closing
- Meeting in July - Industry expressed a desire to keep a lab in the U.S.
- Texas AgriLife is working to develop a lab
  - Lab is currently operational to small producers
  - Lab will be ready for commercial testing in mid to late 2020
Commercial Testing in 2020 & beyond

2020 interim- Tests sent directly to New Zealand Wool Testing Authority (NZWTA)

2021- Tests sent to Texas AgriLife
New Zealand Tour

• 10 buyers, warehouseman and ASI staff
• Toured:
  • NZWTA
  • 2 ranches
  • 1 shearing
  • 2 warehouses/auction house
  • 1 wool auction
  • 1 scouring mill
  • 1 spinning mill
New Zealand Tour

- Issues in New Zealand
  - Training & keeping shearers
  - Wool prices
  - Spray paint
  - Fly & parasite problems
NZWTA

• Lab offers many testing options including:
  • Strength & length
  • Color
  • Length after carding
  • IWTO Certificates

• Results typically sent in 1-2 days
• Online system
• IWTO Certificates
2 Classing Schools in 2019

- California in May
  - 16 attended
    - 1 interested in commercial
    - 15 fiber enthusiasts/handspinning producers
- North Dakota in November
  - 16 attended
    - 2 commercial interest
    - 7 interested in commercial & handspinning
    - 7 college students

- 10 Shearing Schools supported
Classer Program Updates

- Schools
  - Classroom portion added- focuses on wool for fiber enthusiasts

- Program Level Update
  - Level 3
    - 100,000lbs classed- wool pool can be \( \leq 50,000\)lbs
    - Complete a Skills Test
    - Points clarified and updated
    - Several people interested in moving to Level III (mill tour)
Wool Testing - OFDA & FibreLux

OFDA
• 5 OFDA2000 leased
• 1 OFDA2000 at ASI

FibreLux
• 1 owned by ASI
• Shipped and used by producers
• To borrow: $20/week plus shipping
Educational Materials

Materials updated and printed:

- Shearing Pattern Poster
- Over 60 shearer’s contact info updated; posters sent
- Wool Press Record
- American Wool hats
Educational Materials

Materials in the works:
• Wool Grades & the Sheep that Grow the Wool
• Sheep Breeds poster
• Shearing Videos
• Preparation Steps to a Quality Wool Clip
• Fiber to Fabric sample cards