

Sheep Shearing and Fleece Evaluation Demonstrations

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South Dakota Sheep Growers Association

Follow the Fleece: Back to Back

Sunday, September 24th

Location: Barn

9-10 am: Sheep Shearing only
10:30-11:30 am, 1-2 pm, 2:30-3:30 pm:
Shearing and Fleece Evaluation

Free OFDA analysis of wool samples

Alex Moser is a Champion ASI-Certified shearer based in Iowa. Alex uses the New Zealand method of shearing, which was developed with modern shearing gear to be efficient and as gentle as possible on the animals while maintaining fleece quality.

In February, Alex represented the U.S. on the professional machine shearing team for the 2017 Golden Shears World Shearing and Wool Handling Championship in Invercargill, New Zealand. Alex shears across the U.S. and also teaches sheep shearing at NDSU and SDSU.



Tri State Neighbor Photo
by Bruce Falk

Amanda Long, Certified Wool Classifier and M.S. student at the North Dakota State University Hettinger Research Extension Center, will show what table skirting looks like and explain the process of sorting and classing wool. Amanda will also operate the OFDA (Optical-based Fiber Diameter Analyzer). This automatic microscope captures an image of each fiber and measures fiber diameter, comfort factor, and yield, and many other parameters of the wool sample. In addition, the OFDA can give a picture of the fiber growth profile of the individual sheep over the growing period of its fleece.

NCCFF will be offering free OFDA analysis of your fleece!

Bring a sample of fleece, either shorn or cut from the side of the animal. Sample should be at least 1/4", though the longer the staple, the more meaningful your data will be.

Please limit the number of samples to 5 per person.
Sheep wool only.