



# FAST FACTS

## ABOUT AMERICAN WOOL



**Wool can be Worn Year Round** – Wool is comfortable to wear year round because it is an absorbent fiber that helps regulate body temperature. When the air is cool and damp, wool absorbs moisture and keeps a layer of dry, insulating air next to the skin. On the other hand, when it is warm, that same absorption capacity takes up perspiration, allowing the body's natural cooling system to work better. Fine-wool garments are very comfortable worn next to the skin as is the case for wool t-shirts.

**Wool can be Washable** – The process that allows wool products to be machine washed and dried without shrinking is available in the United States and offers great versatility for garments made of wool. This wool also meets the “Total Easy Care” standards for consumers.

**Wool Fabrics Protect** – Wool is the only fiber that naturally resists flaming. Unlike most artificial fibers, which often melt and stick to the skin when on fire, wool usually only smolders or chars. Although it will burn under intense fire, it normally self-extinguishes when the flame source is removed.

**Wool is Sustainable** – Wool is a natural, renewable fiber that offers a ‘green’ fabric choice. Wool is also biodegradable making it an eco-friendly product.

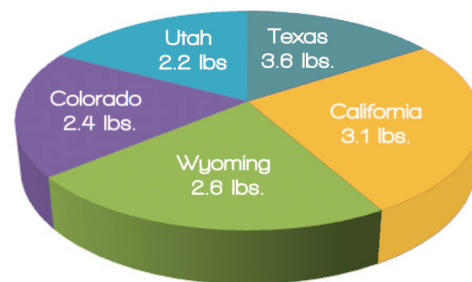
**Wool Garments are a Great Investment** - Since wool fibers resist pilling, snagging and breaking, wool garments typically outlast synthetic sweaters. Wool is color fast resulting in garments that retain their deep, rich color without fading. Furthermore, since wool fibers are naturally elastic, wool garments don't wrinkle, bag or sag out of shape.

**American Wool is Versatile** - American wool has many uses and is known for its ‘loftiness.’ In addition to its well-known uses in woven apparel, sweaters, hosiery and upholstery, American wool is also used to make insulation, hand-made rugs, tennis balls, bedding products and clean-up pads for oil and chemical spills.

### Spot Removal Tips for Wool Fabrics

- Alcohol or food: Place towel under area. Gently rub carbonated water toward center of spot.
- Blood: Pat with a damp sponge to remove excess. Then dab very gently with undiluted vinegar followed by cold water.
- Coffee or tea: Sponge with glycerin. If not available, use cold water.
- Red Wine or ink: Immerse in cold water.
- Lipstick: Gently rub with white bread.

Top Wool-Producing States in 2010<sup>1</sup>  
(clean pounds in millions\*)



**Wool Industry in the U.S.** - U.S. sheep producers traditionally harvest wool during the spring months. In fact, more than half of American-produced wool is shorn and sold during April, May and June. In 2010, the United States produced 30.6 million pounds of greasy wool.

The average weight of a fleece in the United States is 7.3 pounds. However, there is a variance from state to state; for example, an average fleece produced in North Carolina and Iowa weighs 5.0 pounds while an average fleece produced in Nevada weighs 9.8 pounds.

In the past, U.S. textile mills consumed nearly all of the domestic wool production. However, over the last several years, many of the mills have either closed or moved their production facilities to other countries. Because of this shift, export markets, along with the U.S. military, have become increasingly important to U.S. producers.

### Top 5 Wool-Producing Countries<sup>2</sup>

- 1 Australia
- 2 China
- 3 New Zealand
- 4 Russia
- 5 Argentina

<sup>1</sup>Source: USDA, NASS, Sheep & Goats, Jan. 28, 2011. <sup>2</sup>Source: International World Trade Organization, Market Information, Edition 2010.