

SHEARING DAY PREP

EVENING PRIOR

Pen your sheep at least 12 hrs prior to shearing. Sheep MUST be dry to shear. If they're locked in a dry barn AFTER getting wet, it will take several days for them to dry sufficiently.

Shearing wet sheep is bad for the sheep, the shearer, and the wool!

Sheep must have NO food for 18 hours prior to shearing. This includes access to grass, pasture, grain, and anything else ingestible. If this request creates concern, please refer to the following research-based guidelines:

<https://u.osu.edu/sheep/2022/03/22/fasting-sheep-before-shearing/>

<https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/fasting-of-sheep-prior-to-shearing-gpg/>

If clean wool is important to you, removing access to water 8 hrs prior to shearing will reduce possibility of urine

MORNING OF

On shearing day, your sheep should be penned in an area with access to electricity, on level ground with a plywood board laid down to shear on.

Water must be removed from the catch pen before I arrive. (Sheep WILL step in or knock over water while they are being caught)

PREPARING YOUR SHEARING SHED

Shearing must be done in a clean, safe area. This means a dry, well lit, level area where other animals (especially guard animals) won't be present to interfere with shearing.

The owner must provide a clean surface (plywood, rubber mat, or wooden barn floor) to work on.

The catch pen must be a suitable size to the flock of sheep to keep them calm and easy to catch. Your shearer must be able to easily catch and drag sheep to the shearing board without chasing sheep inside a pen that is too big. Undue additional time spent on chasing sheep will be added to your bill.

If the owner does not have a suitable pen they must provide help to escort sheep to the shearing board for the shearer in a safe and timely manner.

I do not travel with a generator or extension cords. Access to 120V power and an extension cord (if necessary) must be available.

Please note that I shear with a **1/2 HP** motor that requires mounting at **~6' high** (either screwing onto a wall/beam or ratchet strapping can work). I cannot shear flocks >10 head if there is no a suitable place to mount this motor

What a safe and suitable shearing space can look like:



SAFE SHEARING PROTOCOL

My safety, your safety, and the safety of your sheep are very important to me. Observers, especially young children, should be kept a safe distance back, and all skirting must happen after the sheep is completely shorn and the fleece is off the board.

Vaccinating or deworming with shearing is not recommended. This creates more stress for sheep, reduces medication effectiveness, and adds to the cost of the time billed for shearing.

SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS

If you need to cancel or reschedule, let me know as soon as possible.

If I arrive for a shearing appointment and your sheep are not penned, not dry, and/or not fasted I will not shear. These conditions are unsafe for sheep and shearer.

If weather conditions, such as snow/ice make it unsuitable for shearing, I will reach out to reschedule your shearing appointment