

*April 21, 2010*

## **Judy Glibbery: Fleece Preparation**

Judy Glibbery gave instructions on how to prepare a fleece for sale or show and included the following:

The mechanics of putting on a fleece class:

- Not necessarily at fairs, can be held anywhere, can just be a fun day
- Need to secure a judge and a clerk
- Need to warn fairs ahead of time as to # of ribbons

Classes include:

- Long strong wool – eg Romney
- Medium wool – the ‘down’ breeds, Dorset, Suffolk
- Fine wool – Corriedale, Merino

Each of the above can have white fleece or coloured fleece

- Each class then goes to best in show
- Prize money – need someone to approach businesses

Class Rules:

- Fleeces are not to be tied
- Need to be put in a clear plastic bag – left open
- Will be displayed on tables
- Need small table for judge to display fleece to be looked at for judging
- Brought to fair day of judging, judge will put into correct category
- Assign 2 helpers for judge to handle fleeces
- Let everyone know fleeces will remain for duration of fair
- No names on fleeces till after judging – a card will be stapled on the plastic bag and will be opened after judging
- Have hand cleaner ready for judge
- Someone responsible for thank you to judge when finished
- Judges normally give reasons for their results – fleece classes should also.
- Try to be flexible and cooperative with fair people.

Fleeces:

- Should be this year’s fleece
- Grease should be evenly distributed throughout
- Uniformity of crimp throughout is important
- Fleece should be kept dry, or allowed to dry if damp, as mold happens quickly
- ‘Skirting’ – take off all the nasty bits: manure tags, belly wool, leg wool, any stained wool
- People who buy fleeces want to be able to use all of it.

- Stained wool includes manure, urine, summer ram chalk, which is very resistant to washing out
- Stains should be skirted out, and fleeces are not discounted for removing chunks which are stained
- Short 2<sup>nd</sup> cuts should be removed
- Bacteria spots caused by dampness can be pink, green or black in colour
- Remove all visible vegetation: dirt will wash out, vegetation does not
- A skirting table large enough to throw a fleece on is ideal to remove debris
- Blood from shearing cuts does not come out.
- Tenderness' refers to wool which breaks when pulled; strong wool does not break
- Fleeces should be stored in the dark, as dry as possible, to prevent oxidation