

# SHEARING SHEEP



## TIMING

Sheep are typically shorn in the spring but technically can be shorn anytime as long as they can stay warm in the winter. Select a shearing date and begin preparing your shearing area, tools, and wool storage. Learn from others before attempting to shear your own sheep, and have an expert available until you are comfortable.

## TOOLS

In addition to shearing tools (electric or hand shearers) you will need a raised shearing area, a holding area to pen sheep, and somewhere to clean the wool and store it before selling. First aid supplies should be on hand to treat potential wounds, hooves can also be trimmed at this time.



## TIPS

Keep sheep dry for at least a week before shearing, wool must be dry on shearing day. Separate your flock according to wool type/color for easy wool sorting and bagging. Designate at least one person to collect, clean, and sort wool into appropriate wool bags. Keep sheep off pasture 24 hours before shearing, and off of feed for 12 hours prior to shearing.



More information available here:

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/1045e/>