

# BCSBA Code of Practice: Selling Wool to Hand spinners 2018

**Fleeces:** Must be from **Sheep free from disease.**

**Recommended withdrawal period:** There **must** be at **least 3 months** between treatment of sheep with **externally applied dips (or pour ons) & shearing.**

## 1 Fleece Condition

**Raw fleece offered for sale to hand spinners should be:**

**Sound:** Without breaks or weakness in the staple. This should be tested before offering for sale.

**Clean:** Substantially free from vegetable matter (i.e. hay, straw, twigs burrs seeds etc.) second cuts, dust, soil, dung, stains or any other contamination.

**Free opening:** Easy to tease apart, with good separation of individual staples. Wool should be reasonably free from kemp, dry and **not** cotted or matted. True to breed type!

### Preparation of Fleeces for Sale

**Skirting of fleeces:** Producers should consider removing belly and britch wool before sale, along with any inferior or shorter wool from the fleece. 'Skirtings' can be offered for sale as such.

**Rolling fleeces:** Should be done to show the shorn ends of the staples. Fleeces need not be tied with neck wool. Baler twine or other plastic twine must **not** be used.

**Storage:** Fleeces may be offered for sale or sent in plastic containers but should not be stored in them for more than a few days. If feed bags are used they should be carefully emptied beforehand.

## 2 Offering Fleeces for Sale

**Labelling:** Fleeces or containers should be labelled with information on the breed or cross. Whether, ewe, hog, ram etc., date of shearing, whether skirted or not, price, name and telephone number of the seller. Any faults should be disclosed.

**Inspection:** Buyers should be allowed to pull out or test a lock or staple and be given the chance to inspect the fleece before buying. This should be done in the presence of the seller and should not damage the fleece.

**Mail order:** Buyers should be asked to identify their requirements and be sent samples on request (these may be charged for). If the buyer is not satisfied, money paid in advance should be refunded in full, provided that the fleece is returned immediately in its original condition, at the buyers' expense.

**Prices:** They are determined by the individual sellers and the Association cannot make any Recommendations.

If wool sold does not conform to this code, the matter should be taken up with the seller. If necessary the Association should be informed. The Association does **not** buy and re-sell members wool.

Government Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-by-products-handling-and-treating-wool-and-hair>

