



FACT SHEET

FLEECE MEASUREMENT

Service Summary

Samples of fleece wool that are taken from individual sheep are submitted by sheep breeders and wool growers for the routine measurement of Fibre Diameter (micron) using a Laserscan instrument. This instrument provides other data in conjunction with the Fibre Diameter result, including the Coefficient of Variation of Diameter (CVD), Comfort Factor and a Fibre Curvature measurement result. The testing of other attributes including Yield, Staple Length, Staple Strength, Staple Position of Break and Colour are also available.

The results of individual fleece measurement tests are often used for the following purposes:

- The selection of individual animals exhibiting superior fibre characteristics by breeders;
- The marketing of stud stock;
- Scientific research or trial work;
- Fleece competitions at agricultural or sheep shows; and
- The identification of sheep with fleeces with lower Fibre Diameter so that their fleeces can be separated or segregated to create bales of fine wool that may be sold at a premium price.

Fleece measurement is predominantly performed on sheep's wool but most of the above attributes can also be measured on mohair, alpaca, cashmere or other animal fibres.

Fleece measurement is often also referred to as mid-side testing, taking its common name from the location on the animal from where the sample is taken.

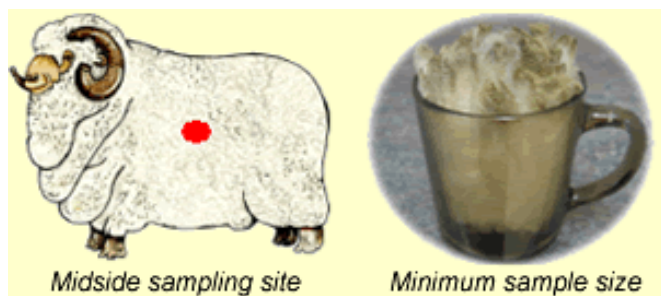
Supplies

Contact AWTA Ltd for Fleece Measurement Service Request form and a free supply of:

- Individual sample bags;
- Sample identity cards; and
- Large bags for the dispatch of samples.

Sampling Procedures:

- Mark the sample identity card with a unique number that relates to the animal (eg. ear tag number). Don't write on or stick labels on the sample bag;
- Take a 20 gram sample, ideally from the mid-side. The sample should fill a coffee mug. Smaller samples mean less precise results and may also be incompatible with testing equipment and therefore unable to be measured;
- A larger sample of up to 50 grams will be required if additional tests such as Yield or Staple Length & Strength are requested. Smaller samples that are unsuitable for yield testing may be tested for Fibre Diameter only;
- Place each individual sample in a separate sample bag along with the appropriate sample identity card. Ideally the card should be positioned so that the details can be read through the sample bag;
- Secure each sample bag so that the contents cannot spill out and mix during transit;
- Where possible, samples from different groups should be batched and packaged separately.



Dispatch of Samples

- Complete a Fleece Measurement Service Request form;
- Place individual samples in the supplied dispatch bag;
- Forward the samples to the nearest AWTA Ltd office, address details are provided on the request form;
- Common methods of dispatch include Australia Post or courier firms.

Availability of Test Results:

Results are normally available within 5 days of receipt at our laboratory, unless the sample batch is very large. In such instances the completion of testing may take a little longer.

A printed copy of the test results will be mailed. Results are also available by fax or email.

CONTACT US

For more information on this service contact **AWTA Raw Wool** on:

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Fremantle Laboratory:	+61 8 9418 5333	or	lab.fre@awta.com.au