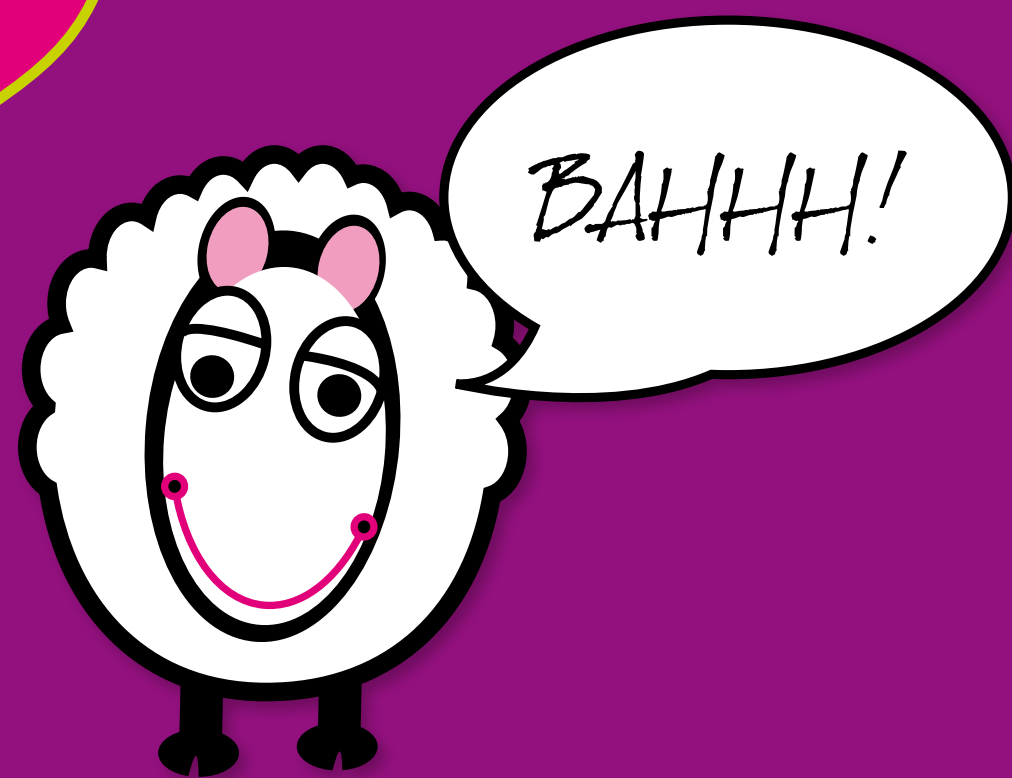


Did you know?



Sheep make a bleating sound.
A baby lamb can identify its mother by her bleat.

Adult sheep eat between 1kg and 4kg of grass or hay a day.

Sheep live in groups called flocks



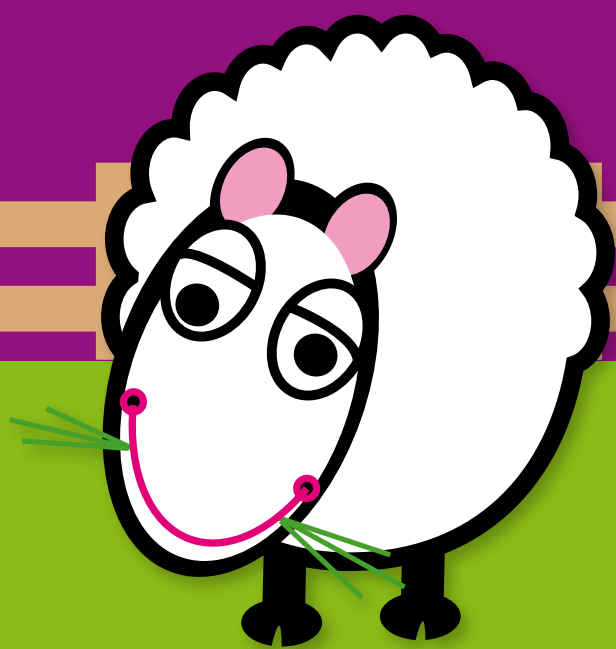
Sheep have four stomachs



Sheep have two toes on each hoof.



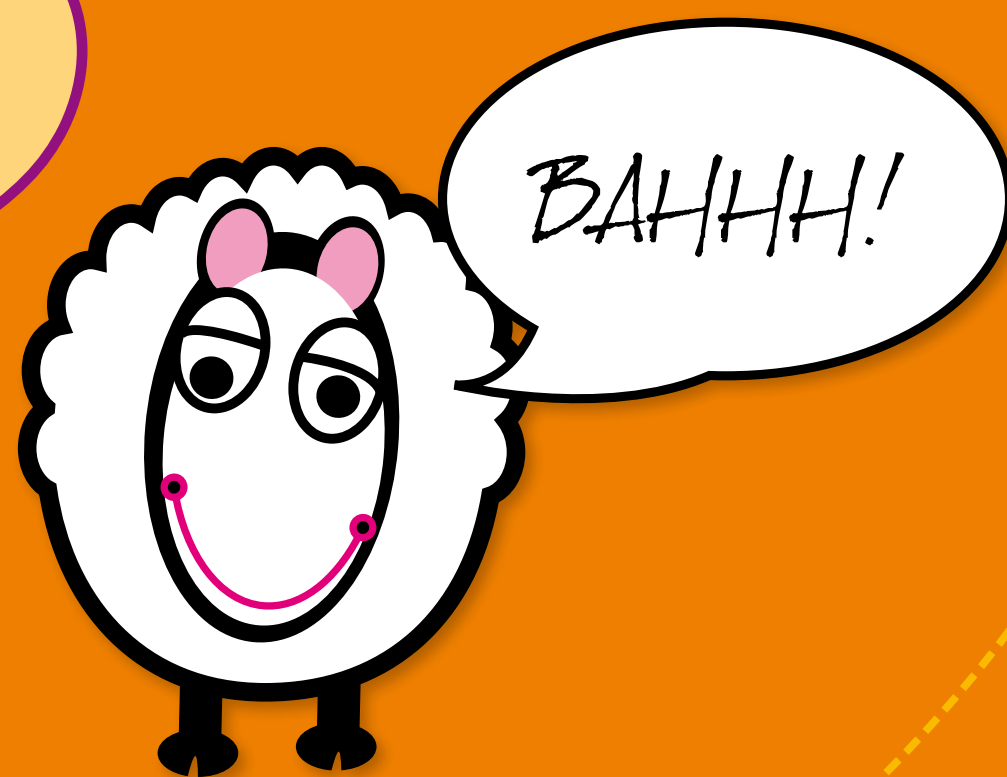
Wool is the hair of a sheep. It is also called fibre. Merino wool fibres are softer and finer than human hair.



Wool wax or lanolin keeps sheep dry when it rains. When wool is made into yarn the wax is collected, packaged and sold as moisturising cream.



Did you know



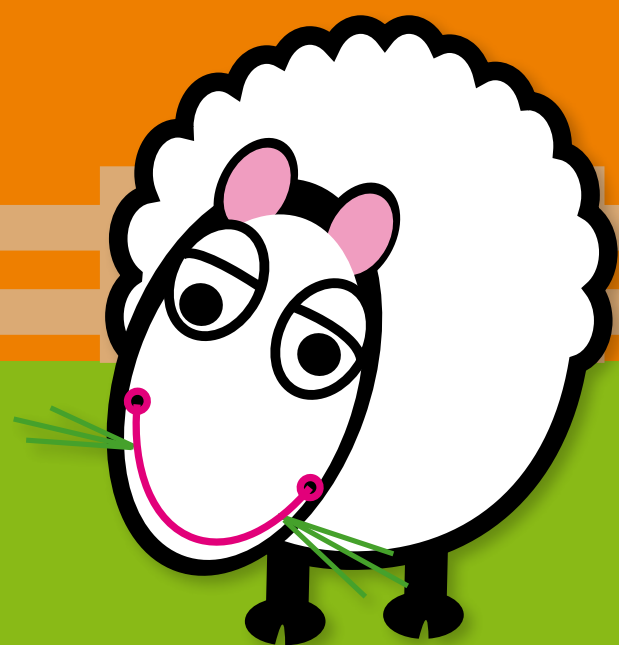
Australia is the biggest grower of wool in the world.

There are over 35 million sheep and 7 million people in NSW. That's about 5 sheep for every man, woman and child.

China has the most sheep followed by Australia then New Zealand.



China is the biggest buyer of Australian wool



Up to eight woolly jumpers can be made from one fleece.



Did you know?



BAHHH!

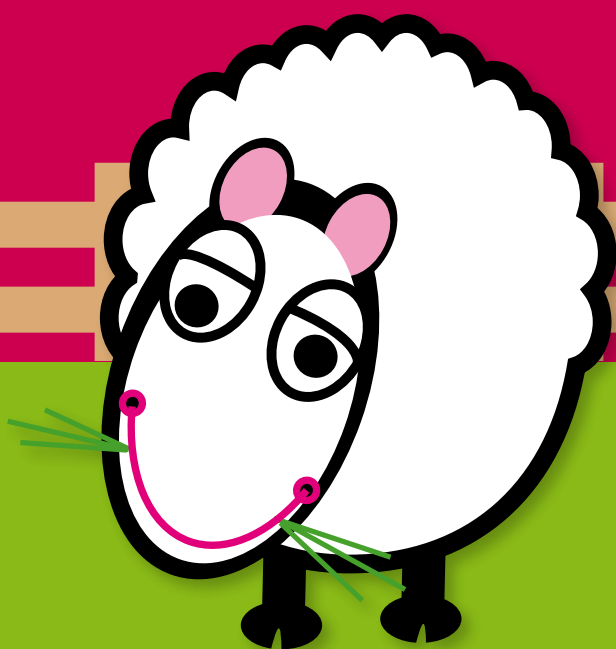
Jackie Howe holds the record for hand shearing sheep. He was able to shear 321 sheep in one day in 1892.



Sheep are shorn once a year

A very good shearer called a "gun" can shear up to 200 sheep a day. The wool off 200 sheep weighs as much as a small car!

It takes around 53 strokes to cut the fleece off a sheep in one piece. Sheep are shorn with a tool that looks like hair clippers.



A shearer can shear one sheep every 3 to 4 minutes

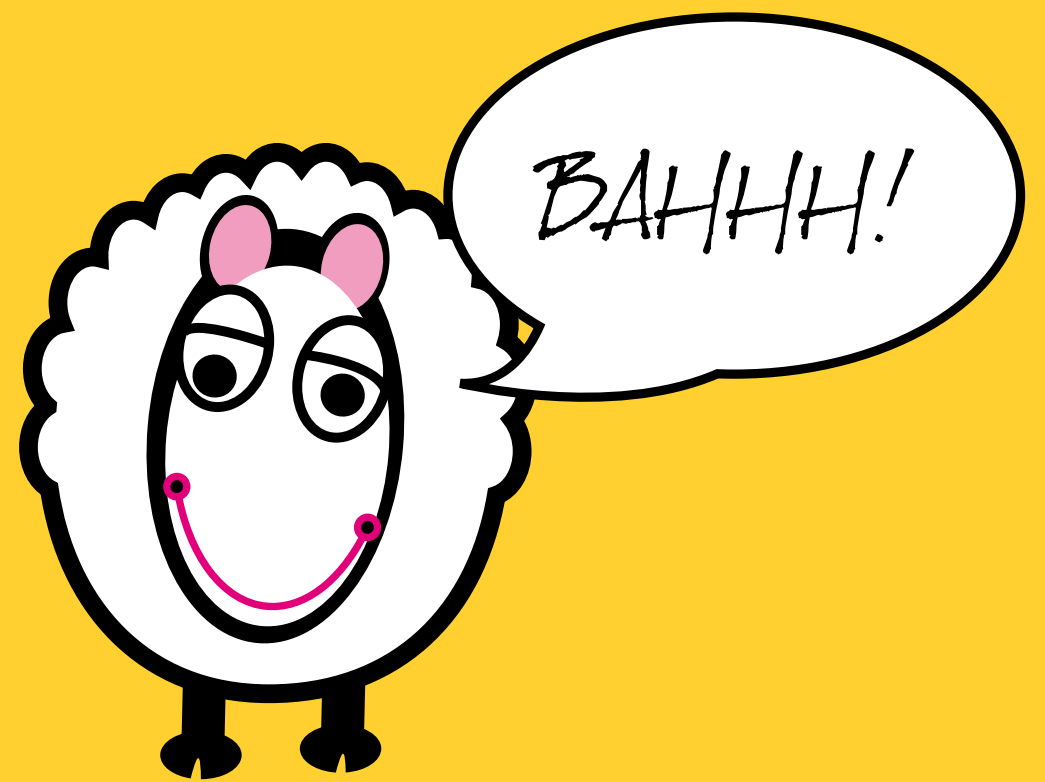


NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Wool growing sheep in Australia

Many breeds of sheep are farmed in Australia. Some breeds or types of sheep are farmed for wool. Merinos are the most common wool sheep in Australia and are famous all around the world for their beautiful fine wool.



Merinos grow heavy fleeces of fine, white, soft wool.



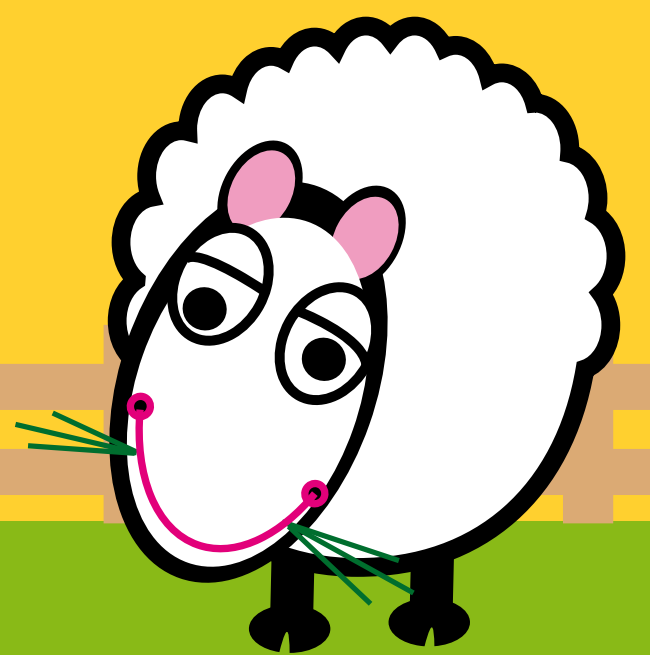
We are Merino rams (boys) see our curly horns.

Fine means very thin. One fibre of wool is thinner than one of the hairs on your head!



We are Merino ewes (girls).

Other wool breeds include:



Polwarth



Corriedale



Crossbred

