

# THE WOOLGROWER



## The woolgrower



Australian wool is produced by skilled farmers who look after their livestock, **pasture** and the environment.

Most Australian wool-producing families have been producing wool for generations.

Woolgrowers work hard to make sure their sheep are healthy, safe and have plenty of food, water and shelter all year round.

As well as looking after their sheep, producers care for the land and environment so it is protected for future generations.

Woolgrowers fence off areas of bush to keep sheep out and look after waterways so rivers stay healthy.

Sheep are moved between paddocks to protect the soil from **erosion** and ensure **pasture** lasts for many years.

Most Australian woolgrowers have a lifetime of experience working on farms. Often they have undertaken further study to increase their knowledge about wool production.

This means Australian woolgrowers use the latest technology and the most advanced management practices in the world.



**Lifelong learning:** Woolgrowers continue learning by attending workshops and courses run by experts.

## Did you know?

- During lambing, producers make sure ewes and lambs have plenty of **pasture** and lots of shelter (trees and shrubs).
- Producers try not to disturb ewes while they are lambing to ensure the ewes and lambs develop a strong bond.
- Producers bring their sheep into the yards to check their health and treat them with medicines for worms, flies and lice.



Australian woolgrowers use modern technology to manage their farming businesses including:

- electronic ear tags for animal identification
- automatic weighing and **drafting** equipment to weigh and sort their sheep quickly and efficiently
- drones to monitor sheep, **pasture**, fences and water
- computers, smartphones and electronic tablets (like iPads)
- breeding technology, such as **genomics**
- smartphone applications, such as Lifetime Ewe Management (LTEM)

## Glossary

**Drafting** — taking individual sheep out of a group in the sheep yards using dogs, gates and yards.

**Erosion** — when soil is left bare, wind and water can blow or wash it away.

**Genomics** — the study of genes.

**Pasture** — plants that have been grown specifically to feed animals such as sheep and cattle.

## More information

To find out more about Australian woolgrowers, take a look at:

- [learnaboutwool.com](http://learnaboutwool.com)
- Beyond the Bale magazine: [beyondthebale.wool.com](http://beyondthebale.wool.com)

