Your strong and independent
voice for livestock producers

SHEARING

29 March 2020

Both shearing and crutching address significant animal welfare issues. There is also an economic impact in terms of wool being discounted due to being over the optimum length for processors.

Preparation

- It is strongly recommended that farmers or shearing team members over 60 years of age or those with underlying high-risk conditions (e.g. smoking) do not engage in non-essential activities as part of shearing.
- Encourage communications in preparation to shearing via phone or digital means where possible.
- Essential personnel only – do not allow people that are not essential to the wool harvesting process i.e. visitors, children, etc into the shearing shed.
- Prior to arrival, people involved in the shearing process must have sought to eliminated or minimise activities which may increase the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19

Operations

- The basic rule is that you should always maintain 1.5 meters metres (approximately two arms-lengths) from anyone else, and to quarantine yourself if you have good reason to suspect that you have been exposed to the virus.

- Consider only using every second shearing stand
- Wool handlers should wait until the shearer is in the catching pen before they pick-up.
- Keep gear separated. Workers should bring storage bags or tubs for their gear

Breaks / Meals

- Wash hands often with soap and water particularly before and after eating or using the toilet.
- Ensure eating areas allow 1.5 metre social distancing.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently used objects (hand pieces, brooms) and hard surfaces (tables, catching pen doors)
- Avoiding shared/ing food (communal bowls, water bottles, cups).

Accommodation

- Each individual must have their own room.
- Ensure eating, bathing and social areas allow at least 1.5 metre social distancing

These notes draw on recommendations made by AWEX, Wool Producers Australia, The Shearing Contractors Association of Australia, Sheep Producers Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and the National Farmers Federation

PIRSA maintains a comprehensive information page relating to COVID-19 AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES