**THE FOUR PILLARS OF WOOL HANDLING**

The Four Pillars of Wool Handling were developed by wool handler coaches across Australia and are the core underlying principles of the AWI Skilled Wool Handler Training Program.

To become a competent wool handler one should focus on:

1. **TEAM WORK**
   - Communication
   - Shed layout - classer and wool handler
   - Table and board organization
   - Roles and responsibilities
   - Knowing where your mates are at all times

2. **TIMING**
   - Rhythm
   - Work flow - i.e. Awareness of space
   - Work efficiently
   - Reading the pace

3. **TECHNIQUE**
   How to:
   - Prepare bellies
   - Remove and prepare crutch, shanks and stain
   - Position back leg
   - Set up fleece
   - Pick up fleece
   - Throw fleece
   - Remove brands
   - Skirt efficiently
   - Stack bins
   - Use the paddle
   - Press the bales

   Why do we need to do it?
   - Education - shed to market
   - What are the problems?
   - Why is it a problem?
   - When and where do the problems impact?

4. **TEMPERAMENT**
   - Pride and passion
   - Inner drive
   - Common sense
   - Competitions
   - Social benefits
   - Provide encouragement
   - Focus on the good points of your team mates

**TAKE HOME MESSAGES**
The major objectives of wool handling are:
- Adopt the Four Pillars of Wool Handling
- All crutch wool should be removed on the board
- Keep a clean and tidy work area
- Work as part of a team

**ALWAYS KEEP THE WORK AREA CLEAN AND TIDY**

Four thousand sheep per day were shorn in this 20 stand shed “Cooinbil” NSW above with hardly a lock to be seen and no fleeces on the floor. Adequate staff and teamwork are the key to a well run shed.

**CONTAMINATION FOUND IN WOOL BALES**

- Baling Twine
- Metal Objects
- Remnants of Jumper

**WOOL TYPES TO BE KEPT SEPARATE AT ALL TIMES**

- Urine Stain
- Shanks
- Brands
- Water Stain
- Black Wool
- Skin Pieces

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