



Farming

SHEARER

WHAT'S THE JOB ABOUT?

- **Harvesting wool from sheep and other animals**

Physically handling sheep to remove fleece usually with a mechanised shearing handpiece or with blade shears in special circumstances.

- **Crutching sheep**

Removing wool from the breech area of the sheep and around the eyes.

- **Maintaining and preparing own shearing equipment**

Preparing handpiece and downtube, grinding (sharpening) combs and cutters, attaching and adjusting downtube, handpiece, combs and cutters

WORK CONDITIONS

- Shearing usually takes place in a shearing shed where a coordinated team harvests the wool.
- The number of days spent in each shed will depend on the number of shearing stands in the shed and the size of the team and the flock.
- Hours and pay rates are determined by awards with regular breaks during the day.
- Learning to shear requires training and practice to develop the technique and speed required
- Shearers are paid according to the number of sheep shorn. Professional shearers have the potential to earn a high income.
- Shearing is one of the most physically demanding jobs and requires more strength and stamina than the majority of sports.
- Shearers may be hired by a shearing contractor or directly by the farmer.
- Sufficient work may be available in the local area allowing travel to and from home on a daily basis or the shearer may live and work away from home for periods of time.
- Highly experienced shearers may tour the world shearing specialty flocks and earning large incomes.



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EXPERIENCE AND RELATED TRAINING

- To be employed as a shearer you must be able to shear at a commercial rate and quality.
- Learner shearers can access training either in a dedicated shearing school or through a traineeship.

Career path	Training Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novice shearer <p>You are learning to shear and your pay is adjusted up to the shed hand rate.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 2 in Shearing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improver shearer <p>You are shearing at an acceptable rate to gain employment but you need further skills development.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 2 in Shearing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional shearer <p>You are shearing at a professional rate and quality.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 3 in Shearing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shed overseer <p>You are responsible for organising the shearing shed and team for an efficient wool harvest.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 4 in Shearing</p>

Related Jobs

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- [Wool classer](#)
- [Shearing contractor](#)
- [Farm manager](#)
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