



Farming

WOOL HANDLER

ALSO CALLED

- Shed hand
- Rouseabout
- Board person



WHAT'S THE JOB ABOUT?

The wool handler carries out a wide range of tasks involved with shearing from preparing the shed right through to the branding of wool bales. Depending on the number of shearing stands in operation in the shearing shed the tasks may be divided between the wool handlers who may specialise in particular roles:

- **Preparing and maintaining the shearing shed**
Cleaning the shearing shed, carrying out minor repairs and maintenance and watering yards in preparation for shearing.
- **Penning up sheep (Penner-up)**
Moving and penning sheep, keeping mobs separate and maintaining sheep supply for shearers.
- **Picking up shorn fleece (Board person, Picker-up)**
Gathering and throwing fleece, handling non-fleece wools, sweeping board.
- **Skirting fleece (Woolroller, Skirter, Board person)**
Skirting fleece to remove inferior wool, rolling the fleece ready for wool classing.
- **Assisting wool presser**
Preparing wool press, loading press with lines of wool, pressing and fastening wool bales, weighing, branding and storing wool bales.
- **Cut-out duties**
Cleaning the shed and storing equipment at the end of shearing.



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WORK CONDITIONS

- Wool handlers work in a shearing shed as part of a coordinated team harvesting the wool.
- Wool handlers must work quickly to maintain the flow of wool through the shed.
- 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.
- Wool handlers 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 wool handler may live and work away from home for periods of time.

EXPERIENCE AND RELATED TRAINING

- To be employed as a wool handler you will usually need to have some experience or training.
- You can undertake vocational training before starting a job or in a traineeship whilst working.
- Employers will provide on-the-job induction and training and may require you to do some vocational training.
- If you are already working at this level, you can have your skills recognised by applying for a qualification with a training provider.





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Career path	Training Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wool handler <p>Doing a range of the above tasks you work under supervision of the wool classer and shed overseer.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 2 in Wool Handling</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wool Presser <p>You are responsible for keeping the wool room clean and free of contaminants, pressing wool into bales under the supervision of the Wool Classer, weighing, branding and storing the wool bales and recording bale details.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 3 in Advanced Wool Handling</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Wool Handler <p>You are responsible for preparing the shed for shearing and you can specialise in one or more of the above tasks working as part of the wool harvesting team.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 3 in Advanced Wool Handling</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Wool Classer</u> <p>You are responsible for the quality management of the wool harvesting operation, supervising wool handlers, classing the clip and completing the documentation required.</p>	<p>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</p> <p>Certificate 4 in Wool Classing</p>

Related Jobs

- Shearer
- Shed overseer
- Shearing contractor
- Farm manager
- Farmer



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