

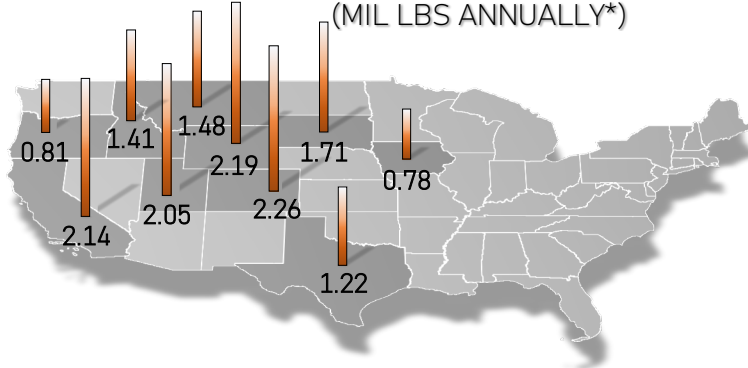
# U.S. WOOL AND MOHAIR INDUSTRY

## PRODUCTION

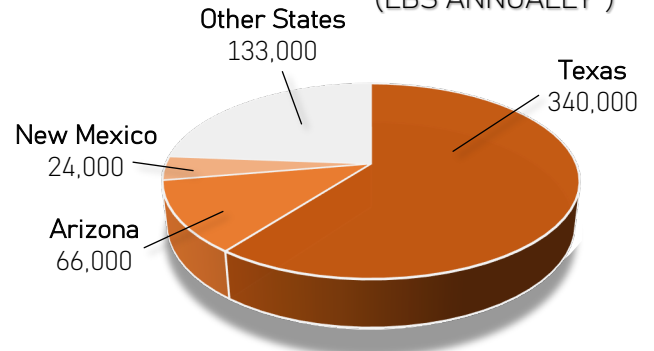
The majority of U.S. wool is produced in the western mountain regions and is shorn in the springtime. Current U.S. wool production averages 22.6 million pounds per year with an average value of \$1.63 per pound. Individual fleeces are roughly 7 pounds grease weight\*.

Prior to 2007, the U.S. was the second-largest producer of the world's mohair. Since then, both domestic and international production has steadily declined. Mohair prices across the country average \$5.70 per pound with most goats averaging 5.3 pounds of mohair per clipping\*.

TOP WOOL-PRODUCING STATES  
(MIL LBS ANNUALLY\*)



TOP MOHAIR-PRODUCING STATES  
(LBS ANNUALLY\*)



\*Data are calculated averages based on USDA data from 2020-2022



## PROCESSING



Raw wool is spun into yarn using one of two methods - **worsted processing** or **woolen processing**. Worsted yarn is made using long, fine, uniform fibers from the fleece to create smooth and lightweight items. Woolen yarn is made using short, non-uniform fibers that vary in diameter to create thick and warm items. The process of turning raw mohair into yarn is similar to the worsted processing of wool. After spinning, the yarn can be knitted or woven to create fabric for further manufacturing of wool or mohair garments.

- 1 **Shearing** - collect raw fiber from animals
- 2 **Scouring** - clear dirt, debris, and natural oils (lanolin) from the raw fiber using soap and water
- 3 **Carding** - separate and blend fibers by passing through wire rollers
- 4 **Combing\*** - remove short fibers and any remaining debris using fine-toothed, rotating cylinders
- 5 **Drawing\*** - reduce thickness by stretching and twisting to prepare for spinning
- 6 **Spinning** - yarn is produced by twisting to increase strength and to achieve a specified thickness

\*Worsted processing only

## PRODUCTS

-  Insulating and moisture-wicking allowing for year-round use
-  Modern technology enables wool to be conveniently machine-washed

-  Flame-resistant
-  Mohair is the strongest animal fiber, resistant to wrinkling and stretching, and soft enough for sensitive skin

Wool and mohair are popular in luxury fashion and décor, but their insulative and heat-resistant qualities also make them valuable for the automotive and aeronautical industries as well. The natural oils, known as lanolin, collected in the scouring process are widely used in cosmetics.