

KEKA

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Wool

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This is Gary Markegard, University of California Farm Advisor, with a report on wool.

Wool is one of the world's ^{best} ~~greatest~~ textile materials. Since the dawn of history, the wool of sheep has been used to protect and ^{hold} ~~conserve~~ the warmth of the animal's ^{own} body, ~~and~~ ^{man} has also used it for that same purpose. Although its chief use has been ~~clothing~~, wool is used widely for blankets, upholstery, carpets, felts, and ^{many} ~~numerous~~ other products in industry.

Wool is a natural resource and a product of the sheep industry. Wool has unique features that have enabled it to compete against other animal fibers, products of plant origin, and ^{the many} ~~innumerable~~ synthetic materials. Although certain other fibers may equal or even excel in one or ^{more} ~~several~~ qualities, none can boast of the total qualities possessed by wool.

Let me discuss some superior characteristics.

****Wool is porous and will absorb water more readily than any other textile fiber. It can absorb as much as 18% of its own weight in moisture without feeling damp and up to 50% of its weight without becoming saturated.

****Wool generates heat in itself.

****Wool is a superior insulator; it keeps the body heat from escaping and the cold air from entering. Because of this quality, wool is as effective in protection from tropical heat and sun as it is against the gale-driven storms of winter.

****Wool is light

****Wool is elastic; the average fiber will stretch 30% of its normal length and still spring back into shape. Because of this resilience, wool garments resist wrinkling, stretching, or sagging during wear..

****Dyestuffs are less liable to fade and are faster on wool.

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****Wool is durable.

****Wool is strong. Diameter for diameter, a wool fiber is stronger than steel.

****Wool is almost nonflammable. It will stop burning almost as soon as it is taken away from a flame.

Wool has become more popular in Humboldt County due to the formation of spinning and weaving groups. Many people are interested in making their own woolen garments. Some ladies even spin the wool in the grease in order to get garments that have natural repellency to rain.

This has been Gary Markegard, ^{Humboldt County} Farm Advisor, with a report on wool for ~~KEKA~~ KFLI.