

Report to Oregon Sheep Commission
on the Oregon Sheep Growers Association Sheep Shearing School
2019-2021

During the last three years, the Oregon Sheep Commission has helped to fund the Oregon Sheep Growers Association Shearing School by purchasing three machines used by the students to learn how to properly shear sheep. The school began with older Lister machines that had been used when Umpqua Community College offered a shearing school several years ago. The Lister machines required repair and some were not usable. The school has borrowed Heiniger machines personally owned by Dan Dawson to provide enough machines to serve a class of 12 students. The three machines purchased with the help of Oregon Sheep Commission have replaced the older Lister machines. Our hope is to eventually replace all of the older equipment with new Heiniger machines.

Over the past four years, the OSGA Shearing school has shown tremendous growth. The first class had 5 students all from the local Roseburg area. Two of those students are currently shearing professionally. The second year there were 9 students from as far away as Southern California to the Portland area. Last year, there were 11 students from Colorado to California to Olympia, Washington. This year we provided instruction to 10 students from California to Washington. The school was taught by Randy Helms, a professional sheep shearer, with Dan Dawson, an experienced shearer and sheep producer, assisting.

The continued interest in the school is indicative of the success of the program and we are very appreciative of the support of the Oregon Sheep Commission. Currently, we have 10 people on a waiting list for the 2022 school.

Requests for referrals from Oregon sheep producers seeking a shearer are frequently received by the OSGA office and the Shearing School Coordinator, John Fine. We refer these individuals to the OSGA online directory to locate shearers in their area.