

The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers

The Co-operative was established in 1918 by the sheep industry as a national system of collecting and marketing its members' wool on a co-operative basis. This meant that regardless of the size of the wool clip, the time of year received or distance from the market, each member was paid the same price for the same grade of wool. Being merely an instrument of the growers, the company is non-profitable and thus operates quite simply. It collects, grades, measures and markets the wool and after deducting the cost of operations returns the entire difference to the growers.

The Co-operative grades and markets approximately 2.5 million pounds of raw wool each year; the majority of this coming from Alberta and Ontario. Each of the three general classes of wool (fine, medium and coarse) are sold wherever the best price is available.

Wool is received directly from the producer by way of truck or rail. The wool arrives in large sacks, raw from the sheep. At the warehouse it is graded according to type classification, quality (diameter and length of the fibres, amount of grease, amount of foreign matter present) and method of preparation. Wool of similar types and quality are hydraulically packed in bales weighing 600lbs. or more. They are stored until sold. Ninety percent of all the wool is exported out of Canada.

In addition to handling wool, the Co-operative operates Stockman Supply outlets across the country and a Real Wool Shop at Carleton Place. The Co-operative also publishes an annual magazine entitled The Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Magazine, which is designed to assist the wool producer with information and a mail order catalogue for sheep supplies.

The company's mandate is to be a producer co-operative endeavouring to market wool at the top price it deserves while operating the business efficiently to maximize returns to the wool producer.

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited occupies what was once the round house and machine shops for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Company is situated just off Moore Street in Carleton Place and is a totally Canadian Company.