

Diné College Wool Program

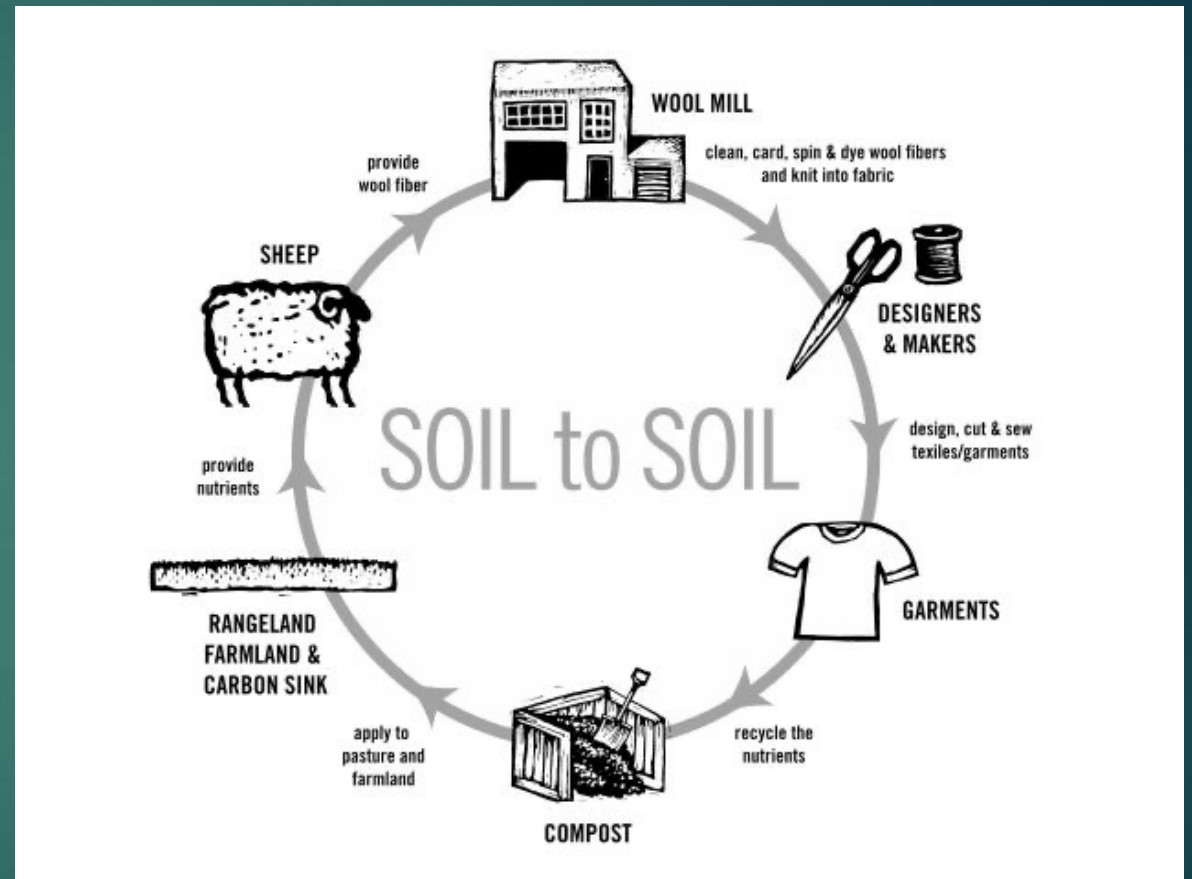


BENITA LITSON

KEIDRELL RUSSELL

Why Wool?

- ▶ Use to trade for necessities (groceries, blankets, fuel, livestock feed)
- ▶ Weaving, cleaning, carding, spinning, and dyeing
- ▶ Wool has been a huge part of the Dine People.
- ▶ Today, sheep is still a huge part of Navajo Agriculture



Common Practices on Navajo

- ▶ We are primarily seeing mix breed herds
- ▶ Shearing later in the season – Overall practice, sheep should be sheared before lambing.
- ▶ Breeding in the late fall – other areas, producer try to lamb three times in two years (Increase production in a shorter amount of time)



Annual Wool Buy Event

- ▶ The wool buy has been week long visit, moving from Eastern Agency to Western Agency.

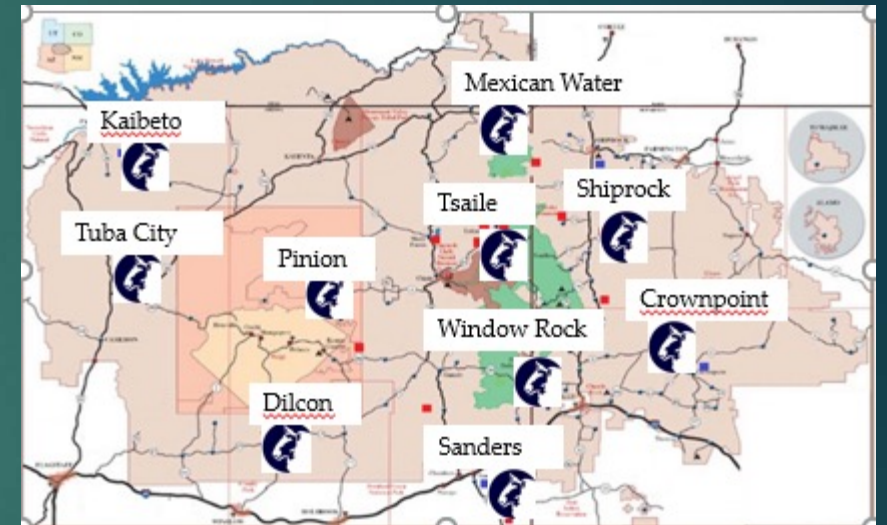
- ▶ Day One – Shiprock/ Aneth
- ▶ Day Two – Crownpoint
- ▶ Day Three – Tsaile
- ▶ Day Four – Tuba City
- ▶ Day Five- Pinion
- ▶ Day Six – Dilcon
- ▶ Day Seven – Window Rock

- ▶ DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC WE HAVE NOT CONDUCTED A WOOL BUY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS –

Wool Buy

- 2012 \$8,453 = 12,077 lbs.
- 2013 \$32,622 = 44,688 lbs.
- 2014 \$46,691 = 80,503 lbs.
- 2015 \$42,911 = 80,939 lbs.
- 2016 \$61,771 = 96,176 lbs.
- 2017 \$73, 260.96 = 123,763 lbs.

Total =
\$265,708.96



Mohair

- 2014 \$741 2017 \$7, 000 +
- 2015 \$7,588 10,000 lbs. +
- 2016 \$7,201
- 2017 \$7,00+ ; 10,000lbs. +; 200 seller

Collaborators

- ▶ Black Mesa Water Coalition
- ▶ Mid State Wool
- ▶ Teddy
- ▶ Maine Wool
- ▶ Utah State University

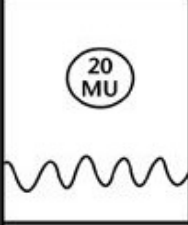
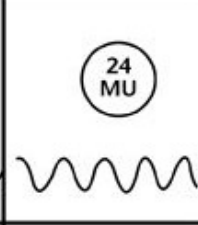
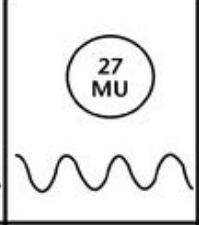
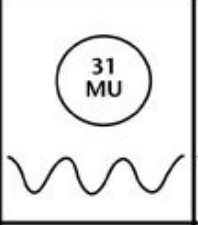
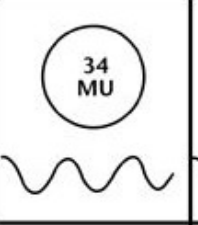
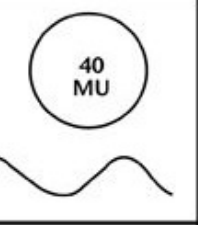
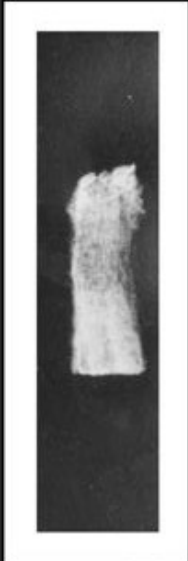
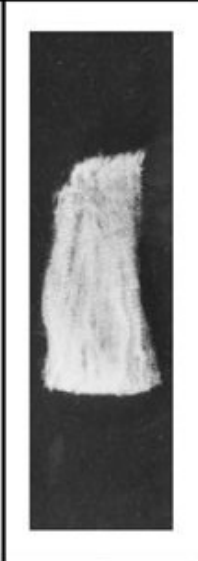
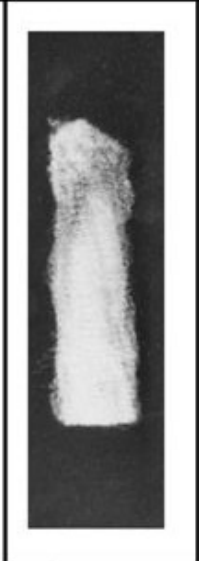
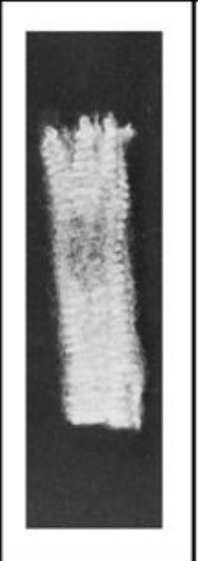

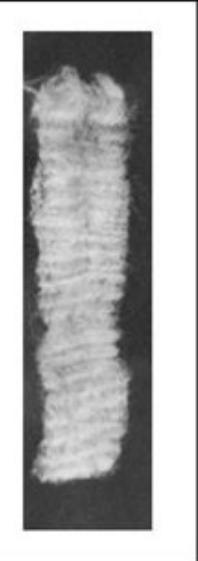


Process/ Education Component

Understanding Quality

- Staple Length
- Coarse – Fine Quality
- Crimping
- Microns
- Cleanliness
- Sorting
- Color
- Packaging



FINE	1/2 BLOOD	3/8 BLOOD	1/4 BLOOD	LOW 1/4 BLOOD	COMMON/BRAID
					
C.P.I. = 20	C.P.I. = 14	C.P.I. = 12	C.P.I. = 10	C.P.I. = 8	C.P.I. = 4
					

Sheep and Wool Research

- ▶ We want to continue our sheep and wool research.
- ▶ We anticipate venturing into the communities that had lower quality wool.
- ▶ We will continue to collect fleece and carcass evaluation to ensure that the breeding program developed is improving meat and wool.
- ▶ We are looking for alternative funding to continue to support our efforts.
- ▶ Educating the producers about implementing herd health and breeding programs.



Next Steps

- ▶ Working on developing a Wool Marketing Program
- ▶ Based off of the challenges from the wool buy, we can improve our efforts.
- ▶ Pre-sort and clean debris off the wool, package and sort by quality.
- ▶ When we get enough to fill a truck, we can market the product.



CHUSKA
WOOL MARKETING

Tradition  **Welcome to Chuska Wool Mill**
Located in the central part of the Navajo Nation at Diné College, Tsaile Campus.

Navajo Grown  Increasing opportunities for marketing wool cooperatively with educational value.

Education 

- **Navajo wool clip** - Chuska wool mill to handle large volume of wool on Navajo Nation to draw in Domestic and International buyers
- **Indigenous marketing** - attract buyers from all over the world to promote sale to guarantee Navajo producers best price for their wool clip
- **Wool inventory** - wool buyers and producers full test details & samples of each bales represented
- **Providing outreach education** - share detail cord samples to Navajo producers to improve wool quality
- **Marketing options** - cash sales: purchase wool without grade and yield, grade & yield: paid after cord testing and market on value of wool clip

Marketing  

Chuska wool market provides information that consider market advances tailored to the needs of Navajo sheep producers. By forming alliances with key buyers and venturing to export wool clips appealing to many markets possible. Clients ranging from large sheep operation to corporate small hobby farms which we can offer selling options customize to suit specific needs. Once wool clips are graded, wool sell facility can enhance and obtain maximum market support for clients

    **BE BOLD. Shape the Future.**
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University Extension Service
Extension Educators

More information contact: Land Grant office (928)724-6941 or 6947
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.DINECOLLEGE.EDU

Goals

- ▶ Our goals are to assist the sheep producers across the Navajo Nation improve their herd quality. We anticipate more than 30 new producers will improve their current operations.
- ▶ We will continue to offer extension education programs to sheep producer across the Navajo Nation.



Questions

