

Fact sheet 10. How is mohair classed



Mohair is classed according to its texture and fineness, length, style and character, and general appearance.

Texture and fineness – the finest hair is obtained from kids shorn for the first time at the age of six months. As the animal grows older, the hair becomes stronger, straighter and lighter in weight .

Length – the ideal length for mohair is from 125mm to 150mm. The trade prefers mohair that is not too short or too long. Length can be measured easily and the different lengths are assigned a corresponding symbol:

- A – length is greater than 160mm
- B – length is 125mm to 150mm
- C – length is 100mm to 125mm
- D – length is 75mm to 100mm
- E – length is 50mm to 75mm

Style and character – the ideal mohair is a combination of twist and even character within a soft but firm staple. Too much character results in spongy mohair, which is undesirable. Old angora goats of good style and character continue producing hair of good quality, while excess style causes the goats to produce hair of a poor quality, even at a young age.

Figure 1. Example of style and character



General appearance is determined by:

- lustre – mohair must have a bright lustre and not be dull in appearance
- absence of foreign fibres – mohair must be free of kemp, black and brown fibres or any other foreign fibres. Foreign fibres can harm the end product considerably and are easily damage the quality of the product, once the hair has been washed and combed.
- condition of hair – mohair must contain just enough natural oil to be hardly noticeable. This natural oil protects the fibre against weathering and ensures fibres are healthy for processing.
- dust – must be limited to the minimum. Goats should not be transported on dusty roads or kept in a pen or yard. Crutch the goats at three-months growth
- seed – can be avoided by keeping the goat in clean paddocks until after shearing. Goats with long hair should not be kept in dirty yards or paddocks that can contaminate the mohair with foreign matter like bale twine, wire or fibres from other stock
- stain – remove all stain from the fleece, whether it is urine, dirt or faeces from scouring.

Classes of mohair

Almost all mohair is classed visually as A, B, C, or D length and age type Kid, Young Goat and Adult. Testing is done once the mohair is baled to present to buyers in the warehouse; there are very few fleeces that are classed by micron and are classed visually by the professional mohair classers.

When classing mohair, separate the short-leg fibre and head topknot, and place in bins that are marked accordingly.

In the production class, your wether will be part of a group of three angora wethers. A profit analysis spreadsheet for the group of three can be used, and each animal will be valued according to the scores from the main spreadsheet that is used for the determination of the values of the competition.

A dual-purpose wether score card will provide the figures to analyse mohair type weights and fat score and returned to each student to complete their wether record project.

Table 1. Mohair type length, age group, classing

Kid	Young goat	Adult goat
Kid good long fine (A/B)	Young good long fine (A/B)	Adult good long fine (A/B)
Average long fine (A/B)	Average long fine (A/B)	Average long fine (A/B)
Good long strong (A/B)	Good long strong (A/B)	Good long strong (A/B)
Average long strong (A/B)	Average long strong (A/B)	Average long strong (A/B)
Good medium fine (C)	Good medium fine (C)	Good medium fine (C)
Average medium fine (C)	Average medium fine (C)	Average medium fine (C)
Good medium strong (C)	Good medium strong (C)	Good Medium strong (C)
Average medium strong (C)	Average medium strong (C)	Average medium strong (C)

Table 2. Mohair micron classing

Mohair type	Symbol	Micron range
Fine kid lines	FF Kid	22–25 microns
	F Kid	26–28 microns
	Kid	28–30 microns
Young goat lines	FFYG	29.5–32 microns
	FYG	31–32 microns
Fine fine hair	FFH	32–34 microns
Fine hair	FH	35–36 microns
Hair	H	36–42 microns

Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation website <https://ausmohair.com.au/>

Suggested activities

1. Research on Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation (AMMO) website <https://ausmohair.com.au/>

AMMO Mohair descriptions and fill out a classing sheet!

AMMO Measurement card print and laminate

2. Mohair samples from breeder identify mohair types and age group and look at the general appearance of the lock and talk about it