

# How to Shear a Sheep (A Step-By-Step Guide)

Presented by



## Position #1: Sheep Sitting on its Rump

To get the sheep in this position stand by its side with your feet set wide apart in either side of its shoulder. Plant your feet and slip your thumb into its mouth behind its incisors and in front of its molars, twisting its head firmly back toward its far shoulder.

In the same motion push the sheep's rump toward the ground. When the sheep starts to sit down pull the sheep's front legs up and sit it comfortably on one flank, holding its shoulders securely with your knees.

In this position shear the inside of its legs, its breastbone, across its stomach, around its teats and between its legs.



## **Position #2: Sheep Sitting on its Right Hip, Leaning Against Your Legs**

After you've sheared its belly and between its legs, let the sheep sit back on its right hip, leaning against your legs as you support its shoulders with your knees.

This will allow you to shear its left rear leg, from the hip to the tail all the way up to the spine. It's important to bend from the waist to reach the sheep's rump in this position so you do not injure your back.



## **Position #3: Sheep Sitting Up on its Rump**

After you've finished shearing the sheep's left rear leg sit it up straight on its rump, stepping between its legs with your right leg, the toe of your foot under its flank and locking your knee between the sheep's breastbone and right foreleg. With your left leg support the sheep's back so it feels secure and doesn't struggle. This will allow you to shear the sheep's neck and head.

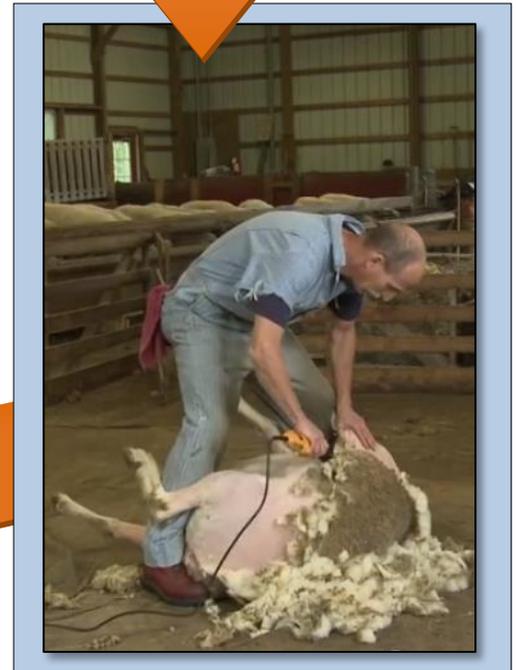
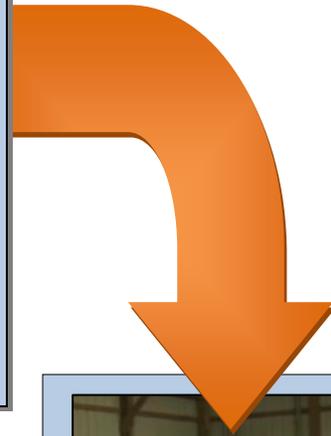


## Position #4: Sheep Laying on its Right Side

Once you've cleaned off the head, neck and left shoulder, keep your right foot exactly where it is but let the sheep's front end down gently, stepping back with your left foot and supporting the sheep's right shoulder.

This position will ensure that none of the sheep's feet or legs can touch the floor ... very important as the sheep will struggle if it senses it might be able to regain its footing.

Once the sheep is in this position make long cuts along its side and back, continuing as far as you can reach without rolling the sheep so it can touch the ground with its feet.

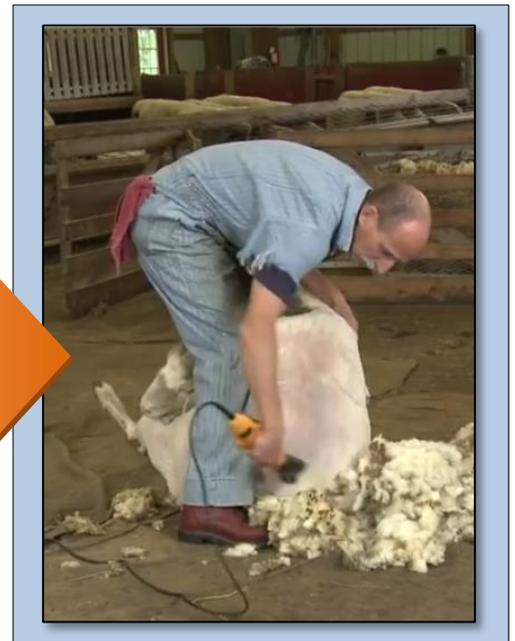
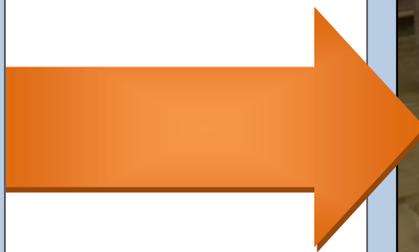


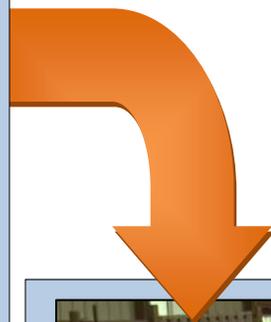
## **Position #5: Sheep on its Right Hip, Neck Bent Between Your Legs**

From this position kick your right foot out around the fiber, pulling it back in toward the sheep's body and then gently pull the sheep's head up, bending her neck back across her left shoulder and holding the head in that position with your legs.

In this position clean off the wool that remains on her head and begin working down her neck and right shoulder.

After you've cleared the shoulder and front right leg, grip the sheep's right elbow with your right hand to pull the skin taught and continue to support the sheep's head and neck with your legs, bending your knees and pointing your toes in at an angle beneath the sheep's hips.





**Position #6:  
Sheep on its Left Hip,  
Head & Four Legs in  
front of you and  
Leaning on Your Legs**

In this final position you have a clear view of where you need to go to finish shearing the sheep. The right leg, hip and rump are the only areas which still have wool at this point.

Shear the front of the right rear leg and then work down toward the rump and tail until you free the last of the wool from the sheep.

Congratulations! Gently stand your sheep up and admire your work.

**To Watch Mike Fournier of  
Penn State Extension  
Bucks County demonstrate  
these steps please visit  
RaisingSheep.net by  
clicking the URL Below:**



**RaisingSheep.net**