A NEW IMPROVED MESH BAG ADAPTED FOR USE WITH THE WILSON TYPE FLEECEx OPENER

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Before grease wool can be properly secured for experimental shrinking tests, it is necessary that the wool be passed through a fleece opener to remove loose dirt and to separate the fibres in the staple. This leaves the wool in a more or less fluffed-up condition, which facilitates actual securing.

The fleece opener* consists of an enclosed revolving, toothed, cone-shaped cylinder. The teeth subject the wool to a beating action. Sufficient air current is generated by the whirling cylinder to blow the dusted wool out of the machine and into a screened collecting cage. When the wool is to be weighed, it is transferred from the cage to a weighing basket.

A mesh bag equipped with a 36" zipper has been used successfully to replace the delivery cage and weighing basket commonly employed with the Wilson type fleece opener when grease wool samples of 3000 grams or less are to be prepared for securing. The new adaptation calls for an extension of the delivery tube. A 3/4" flange at the end of the extended tube holds the mesh bag in place with a drawstring.

The bag itself is the type used in laundries. It is 36 inches in length and 24 inches wide, with the drawstring
opening on the width end.

The wool fed through the dusting machine goes directly into the mesh bag from the delivery tube. A metal or wooden rod is employed to compress the dusted wool to reduce the bulk in the bag. Use of the rod is especially necessary when medium wools are dusted.

To save handling and considerable time, 2 bags are needed. Bag #1 receives the wool after the first dusting. Bag #2 is then removed from the delivery tube, and bag #2 is hung in its place. For the second dusting, the wool is fed into the machine directly from bag #1.

To maintain a constant tare of 500 grams on the mesh bags, small safety pins are added to the bottom seam. This facilitates weighing considerably.

When it is desired to prepare sub-samples of dusted wool for scouring, the zipper is pulled open after weighing. This opens the bag along the midline. Handfuls of wool can thus be selected from various portions of the contents of the mesh bag.

By the simple method described above, loose, dusted wool is handled at a minimum, and transfer from delivery cage to weighing basket is eliminated.

When entire fleeces, or graded wool samples in excess of 5000 grams are to be dusted, the regular delivery cage must be used. However, since the graded samples prepar
for securing at the Colorado A. & M. Wool Laboratory rarely exceed 2500 grams, the mesh bag has been found to be most satisfactory and practical.

* The basic design for the fleece opener used at the Colorado A. & M. College Wool Laboratory was made by Dr. J. P. Wilson, Professor of Animal Husbandry, University of California.