

AUSTRALIAN WOOL

Australia is the world's leading producer of wool.

- Accounting for approximately 20% of the world's greasy wool production, followed by China (19%), former USSR (10%), New Zealand (8%), Argentina (2%), South Africa (2%), the UK (2%) and Uruguay (2%).

Australia is also the world's leading exporter of wool.

- Accounting for over three quarters of the world's greasy wool exports.

Australia is the world's leading producer of fine apparel wool.

- Growing 90% of the world's supply of fine apparel wool (< 19.5 microns).

The Australian sheep flock is overwhelmingly Merino (approximately three quarters of the flock), with the remainder a mixture of crossbreds and other breeds.

Merino sheep produce finer wool than other breeds (normally ranging from 15 and 24 microns), consequently the vast majority of Australian wool is suited to the manufacturing of the world's highest quality apparel and high-end fashion garments.

- Other major wool-producing countries (such as China and New Zealand) have greater proportions of crossbreds relative to Merinos. As a consequence, they produce wool more suited to interior applications, such as carpets, upholstery and furnishings.

There are over 50,000 Australian woolgrowers, spread right across Australia, committed to producing the world's finest and highest quality wool.

Wool is produced in Australia under a range of environmental conditions, from the highlands of northern and southern NSW and Tasmania, to the pastoral zones of Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

Australian woolgrowers genuinely care for their animals and the environment, and are committed to doing what's best for their animals and their land.