



Ewe what?

Spring marks the start of lambing season in the UK, but the physically-demanding task of sheep shearing generally takes place between May and July.

12 Fascinating Facts about Sheep Shearing

1. Britain's 31 million sheep produce around 30 million kilos of fleece wool per year.

2. Clipping takes place between July and September in the Lake District. In warmer parts of Britain, shearing begins in May.



3. Hiring a professional shearer charge about £1 per sheep.

4. It takes around 6 to 8 weeks for a fleece to grow back enough to protect the sheep from cold weather

5. Shearing should be carried out on a clean, dry surface

6. Sheep shearers need to be highly skilled so they don't injure the sheep



7. A typical fleece weighs 1.5-10kg

8. Back in 2004, Shrek the Merino sheep hid in a cave for six years so he wouldn't have to get sheared. But the time he was cornered and given his long-overdue haircut on New Zealand national television, there was enough wool to make 20 men's suits.





Fascinating Facts about Sheep Shearing

9. A highly skilled shearer can shear 400-500 per day; an apprentice shearer can do up to 200.

10. The fastest sheep shearer in the world, according to Guinness World Records, is Australian Hilton Barrett, who sheared a sheep in 39.31 seconds in 2010.

11. Sheep will feel uncomfortable if they are not sheared at least once a year

12. A good sheep shearer can shear a sheep in under two minutes

