

Sheep slaughtering in Norway

Good practices experienced on Study Trip in
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To be mentioned

- **Shearing of sheep before dehidning**
- **Use of rodding**
- **Use of bagging**
- **Use of steam vacuum**
- **Clipping of neck**

Shearing before slaughter

- **Long tradition of shearing sheep before slaughtering**
- **Gives a clean, dry and hygienic starting point for slaughter**
- **Increased focus to improve the system last decade**



Shearing before slaughter

Traditionally done prior to slaughter either at the farm or at the slaughterhouse

Traditionally no big difference economically for the farmer – the slaughterhouse is always the buyer of the wool either way

Exceptions made for hides that are to be sold with wool on – special breeds

Shearing before slaughter

Disadvantages of shearing at the farm

- **Often done some days before transport to slaughterhouse**
- **Gathering, housing, bad weather, transport and waiting at the slaughterhouse will soon cover the hide with new dirt**
- **No more wool to shear to clean the animals again**

Shearing before slaughter

Important realization:

- **Clean animals – one of the most important factors for hygienic slaughtering**
- **Prior to slaughter should sheep be: Dry, clean and newly sheared**
- **How to achieve this??**
- **Economical incitements necessary to make the farmers choose to let the sheep be sheared at the slaughterhouse.**

Shearing before slaughter

Economics:

At home – cost for shearing ~ 3-4 €/animal

**At slaughterhouse ~2 €/animal sheared at
slaughterhouse or not**

Wool prices approximately equal

Rules if shearing at home

- **Preferably – do not shear at home**
- **If you shear at home – no more than 3 days prior to transport or at least 1 cm of new wool**
- **Dry pasture areas at home or clean stables**
- **Clean transport with few animals**
- **Clean sawdust in slaughterhouse lairage**

Penalty system

- **Animals sheared more than 3 days prior to slaughter with less than 1 cm of wool**
- **Animals that are dirty and can not be sheared**
- **Animals to be slaughtered with wool on**
- **Fee of 120 NOK (~ 12 EURO)**
- **Meat only used for products to be heat treated (not cured raw sausages)**

Shearing at slaughterhouse - before killing

Before killing – most common

- **Hard work!**
- **Animal welfare issues (handling, cutting wrong)**
- **Slaughterline some times has to wait**
- **Costly**



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Shearing at slaughterhouse – on line

After killing – on line

- **Better working conditions**
- **Less need of specially skilled workers**
- **Better for animal welfare**
- **Does not slow the slaughter line**
- **More dust/ short hairs/ pieces of loose wool left on the skin** (the sheep does not shake themselves as they do alive)









Norway (2).mp4

Rodding of esophagus

- **Significantly reduces spillage of stomach contents**
- **Can be done at 250 sheep/ hour**



Bagging of the rectum

- **Norwegian interpretation of «measures must be taken to prevent the spillage of digestive tract content during and after evisceration..”**

(2004/853 annex III, section I, chapter IV pt 7 c)

- **The intestine has to be removed as a whole. Bagging (or alternative methods) has to be performed to prevent spillage**
- **Can be done at 250+/sheep per hour**





Steam vacuum

- **Can be a useful tool to remove invisible contamination**
- **Visible contamination must be removed prior to use**
- **Has to be used by trained persons – can be a contamination source itself**



Clipping of neck

- Can be useful if neck is contaminated when cutting the head
- Unnecessary if head is cut off from inside and out



Thank you for your attention!

