Reasons Information:

1 Commercial Classes - **To be placed on the basis of greatest return to the producer.**

a. Pounds of clean wool - determined by the combination of grease fleece weight and percent yield.

A large, bulky, heavy fleece with little dirt penetration will yield more pounds of clean wool than a small, compact, heavy fleece showing a lot of dirt. Avoid a large, fluffy, harsh-handling fleece which is very light weight. Longer staple length is usually indicative of higher yields of clean wool.

b. Staple Length - Wool is classified by the length according to the type of manufacturing it will undergo, and the longer wools within a grade are worth more on the marked. A longer staple fleece will usually return more to the grower than a shorter staple fleece at the same grade and weight. If a fleece is tender it should be acknowledged in the reasons but not moved down in placings. However, if a fleece exhibits a definite break it should be placed last regardless of weight

Following is a chart of length classification used in intercollegiate wool judging contest. There are not official USDA length standards and most manufacturers determine their own length requirements.

Length Classification	Fine 64's & Finer	1/2 Blood 62's , 60's	3/8 Blood 58, 56's	1/4 Blood 54, 56's
Staple Length	Over 3"	Over 3"	Over 3.25"	Over 4.0"
Fr. Comb. Length	1.5-3"	1.5-3"	1.75-3.25"	
Clothing Length	Under 1.5"	Under 1.5"	Under 1.75"	Under 4.0"

c. Uniformity of Grade - A uniform fleece makes a uniform yarn, and requires little or no sorting, so a fleece which varies wildly in fiber diameter is worth less than one which is predominantly one grade. A coarse britch fleece is an example of what to particularly guard against.

d. Character - A combination of several properties influencing the appearance and handling qualities of a fleece. Softness, elasticity, luster, color, and crimp are all factors to be considered.

e. Strength - A strong fleece is desired, as strong wool will make a strong yarn and can also be spun into a finer yarn. Fleeces with weak or unsound fibers will usually be classified into the shorter length classification groups. Lack of strength increases wastiness (noilage) in combing fleeces. Excessive weathering also decreases strength.

f. Vegetable Matter- Some vegetable matter is found in most fleeces. Excessive vegetable matter content increases wastiness in carding and combing. Some type of vegetable matter cannot be removed by carding and combing and may require carbonizing. Heavy burrs may decrease yield.

g. Purity - The presence of medullated or kemp fibers is undesirable and the amount of discrimination varies with the percentage present. The presence of black or other colored fibers is more serious matter.

2 Breed Classes-

The primary difference in emphasis between a commercial class and a breeding class are that strength and vegetable matter content are influenced by environment rather than heredity and thus are disregarded in a breeding class and a little more attention is given to character and purity. The following are considered:

a. Pounds of clean wool - Traits considered to be high in heritability.

b. Staple length- Traits considered to be high in heritability.

c. Uniformity of grade - The grade of the fleece should be representative of the breed.

d. Character - The same factors are considered as in a commercial class but more attention is given to the distinctness of crimp and whether it is typical of the grade of the fleece and the breed. (Color Crimp and condition)

e. Purity - Medullated, kemp and colored fibers are very undesirable in a class of whiteface breed fleeces. Colored fibers are tolerated in the mutton breeds, but these should be typical of face or leg clippings and not be scattered throughout the fleece.

f Density - Indicative of more pounds of clean wool. Estimated by lock size and depth of dirt penetration or weathered tip.

C Terminology

1 <u>Yield:</u>

A larger, bulkier fleece.

A heavier fleece that will yield more pounds of clean wool.

A heavier fleece that will scour out more clean wool and therefore have a higher value.

A higher yielding fleece.

A fleece containing more pounds of clean wool.

A lighter conditioned fleece that contains less dirt and vegetable matter.

A cleaner fleece with less dirt and other foreign matter.

A greasy low-yielding fleece.

A dirty low-yielding fleece that will yield fewer pounds of clean wool.

2 Length of Staple:

Has greater length of staple (Fiber).

Longer staple.

A fleece that will yield more staple length wool.

A fleece that is more uniform in length.

Has less variation in staple length.

Lacks uniformity in length.

A fleece that has shorter length of staple.

A trait high in heritability and thud important to the Rambouillet (Columbia) breeder.

3 Grade and Uniformity of Grade:

A fleece with a higher spinning count.

A finer fleece.

A more uniform grading fleece.

More uniform in fiber diameter.

A coarser fleece that has an especially hairy britch.

Lacks uniformity of grade

4 Character:

A more attractive fleece

Displays more desirable character since it is brighter and whiter in color and has a more distinct crimp.

A more even and distinct crimp.

More uniform crimp.

A Whiter fleece with fewer stained areas.

A well-grown fleece of superior handle and character.

Softer more desirable handling properties.

A bolder crimp.

A whiter more lustrous fleece.

Crimp that carries distinctly from base to tip.

Contains less black fiber (or kemp).

A purer fleece containing less black fiber (or kemp).

A kempy fleece.

A dingy, harsh handling fleece.

Lacking uniformity and distinctness of crimp.

5 Strength and Wastiness

A stronger fibered, less wasty fleece.
Contains a definite break.
A fleece with fewer second cuts.
A frowsy weak fibered fleece.
A tippy, wasty fleece.
Less noilage.
A tender fleece that will be excessively wasty.
Would have to be considered a French Combing (clothing) length fleece because of the break.
Contains more vegetable matter and will be a more wasty fleece.
A more wasty fleece and therefore of less value to the manufacturer.
A sound fleece with greater strength of fiber.

D Reasons

Form used in giving reasons is similar to that used for livestock. Truth and completeness of description are the two most important items to consider in giving a good set of reasons. Reasons should be given in a clear and distinct voice in a confident manner.

It is preferable to start discussion of a pair of fleeces with the most important reason or reasons expressed in a general manner. Itemize in later statements, for example: I place one over number 4, because it will yield more pounds of clean wool since it is a heavier, higher yielding fleece that contains less dirt. In addition it is more uniform in grade, etc. Don't start out discussion the pair by mentioning uniformity of grade first, since this is of less importance.

Speak in present tense.

Delivery should not require more than 2 1/2 minutes.

Combine terms that are related as much as possible.

A heavier, higher-yielding, longer staple fleece that will yield more clean wool.

A more attractive higher quality fleece that is whiter and brighter in color and more uniform in grade

Terms for Breeding Classes are the same as for commercial classes, with the exception that the following terms should be used:

Displays more Columbia character in that it is a longer-stapled, bolder crimped fleece.

More typical Rambouillet fleece.

More desirable Corridale fleece.

Displays more breed character as noted by ……..

NOTE:

Rambouillets should produce fine grading wool.

Columbia and Corridales usually produce 2/8 blood and 1/4 blood (1/2 blood fleeces are acceptable but not typical).

It takes 10 higher percentage points of yield to make up 1 pound of weight.

Commercial Wool Reasons

I place this class of fine commercial fleeces 1-2-3-4.

I started with 1, as it was the heaviest, longest stapled, finest fleece in the class. In addition, it was more uniform in grade and length and would return more dollars and cents to the commercial producer as well as the manufacturer. I grant 2 was higher in its percent yield and more distinct in crimp from tip to base but was lighter weighing and coarser in grade so it is second.

In my middle pair of two similar weight fleeces I prefer 2 over 3. 2 was a higher yielding, brighter whiter, longer stapled fleece that was more uniform in length and grade thus being more advantageous to the manufacturer. Yes, 3 was finer grading and more distinct in its crimp but it was lower in its percent yield and shorter staple so it's third.

Nevertheless, I preferred 3 in the top of my bottom pair because it was heavier, finer grading , more uniform in length and grade and would scour more total pounds of clean wool. Furthermore, 3 displayed a tighter more distinct crimp. Yes 4, was longer staple and higher in its percent yield but it was the smallest lightest more variable in length and grade and would be the least economical to the commercial producer so it is last.

Breeding Fleece Reasons

I placed the class of Rambouillet breed fleeces 1-2-3-4.

In my top pair of similar weight fleeces, I preferred 1 over 2 because 1 was the longest staple, finest grading, brightest whitest fleece that was more uniform in length and grade and higher in its percent yield, traits highly heritable and indicative to the Rambouillet breed. I grant 2 had a tighter, more distinct crimp but it lacked the breed character so it is second.

However, I preferred 2 in the top of my middle pair of lower yielding fleeces as it was a heavier, bulkier, long stapled, finer grading fleece that was more distinct in its crimp from tip to base thus being more beneficial to the Rambouillet producer. I realize 3 was more uniform in grade.

In my bottom pair, I preferred 3 over 4 because 3 was heavier, bulkier fleece that was more uniform in length as well as having a more distinct crimp form tip to base. Yes, 4 was a finer, longer stapled fleece that had the highest percent yield but it was pounds light, lacked uniformity and had no definition of crimp therefore would be the least desirable to the Rambouillet producer so it is last.

Wool Grades

American Grade	Spinning Count	Micron
Fine	>80	<17.70
Fine	80	17.70-19.14
Fine	70	19.15-20.59
Fine	64	20.60-22.04
1/2 Blood	62	22.05-23.49
1/2 Blood	60	23.50-24.94
3/8 Blood	58	24.95-26.39
3/8 Blood	56	26.40-27.84
1/4 Blood	54	27.85-29.29
1/4 Blood	50	39.30-30.99