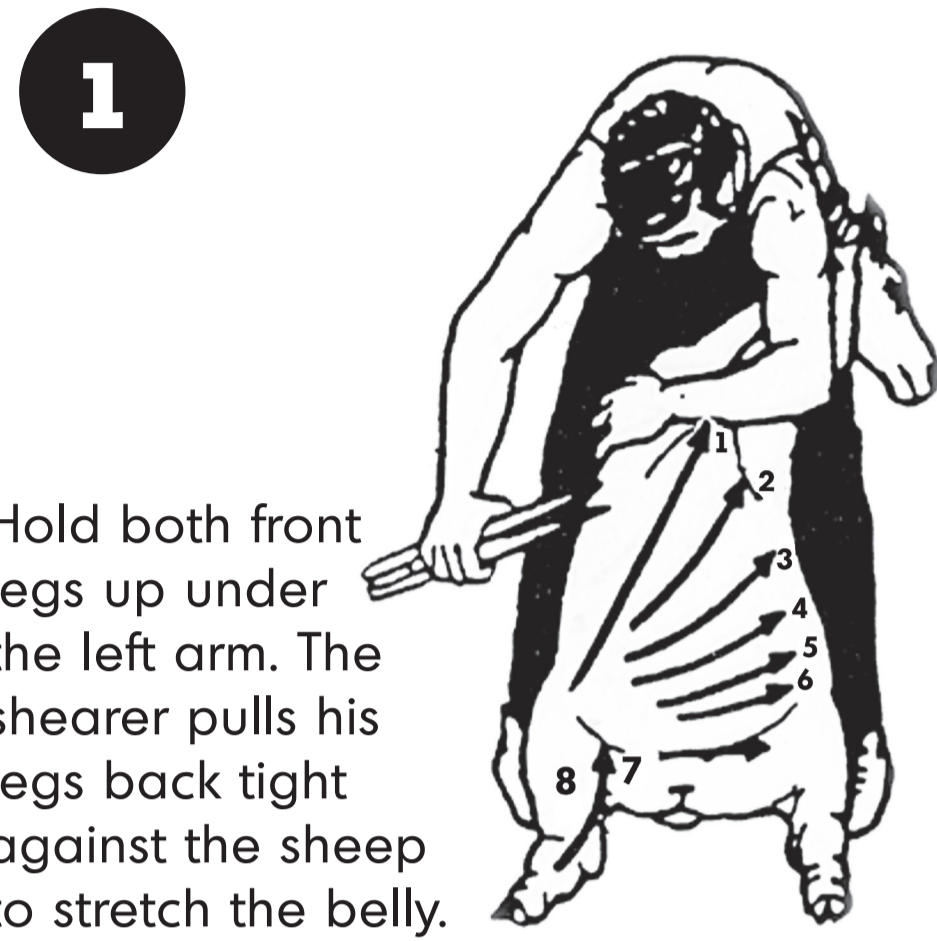


TECHNIQUE FOR BLADE SHEARING

Shearing is a science, but it does not take a scientist to master it! The most important secret of successful shearing is to be able to hold and move the sheep in such a way that it remains relaxed. Correct placement of feet are vital to keep the sheep comfortable and balanced.

Take care to handle and release the sheep carefully and calmly before, during and after shearing.

*"Blow" is the official term for shearing strokes, which means "a single sweeping cut of fleece".



1 Hold both front legs up under the left arm. The shearer pulls his legs back tight against the sheep to stretch the belly.

Take particular care not to cut or injure the animal, especially the teats/udders/vulva of female sheep and the sheath and scrotum of rams/wethers.



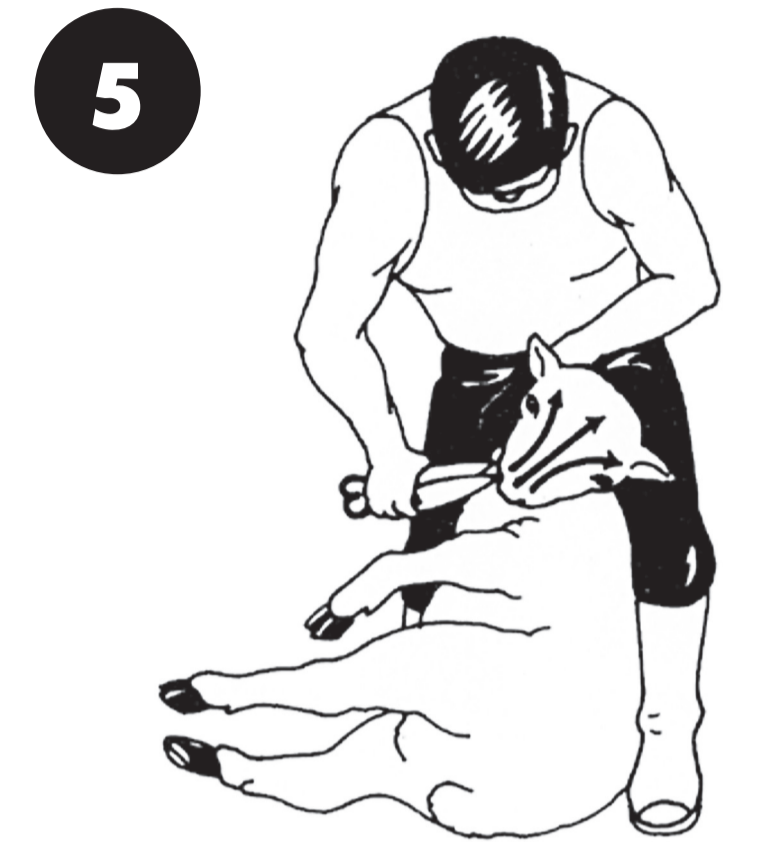
2 Place inside knee in front of the brisket.



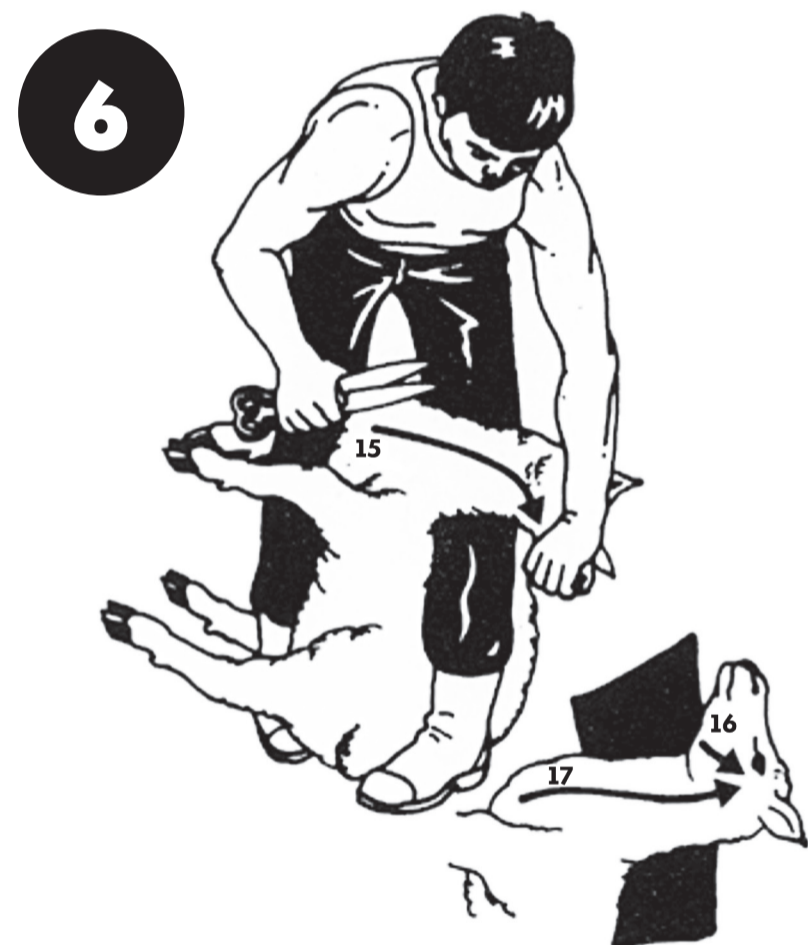
3 Inside foot moves back when clearing over the tail without lifting the sheep by its tail. Outside hand stretches the skin. **NOTE:** Full blow* over the backbone.



4 Remove all the trimmings inside the leg.



5 Shear topknot and clear the wool in front of ears and/or horns. Use inside leg to control the head, use free hand to manipulate wool and/or skin.



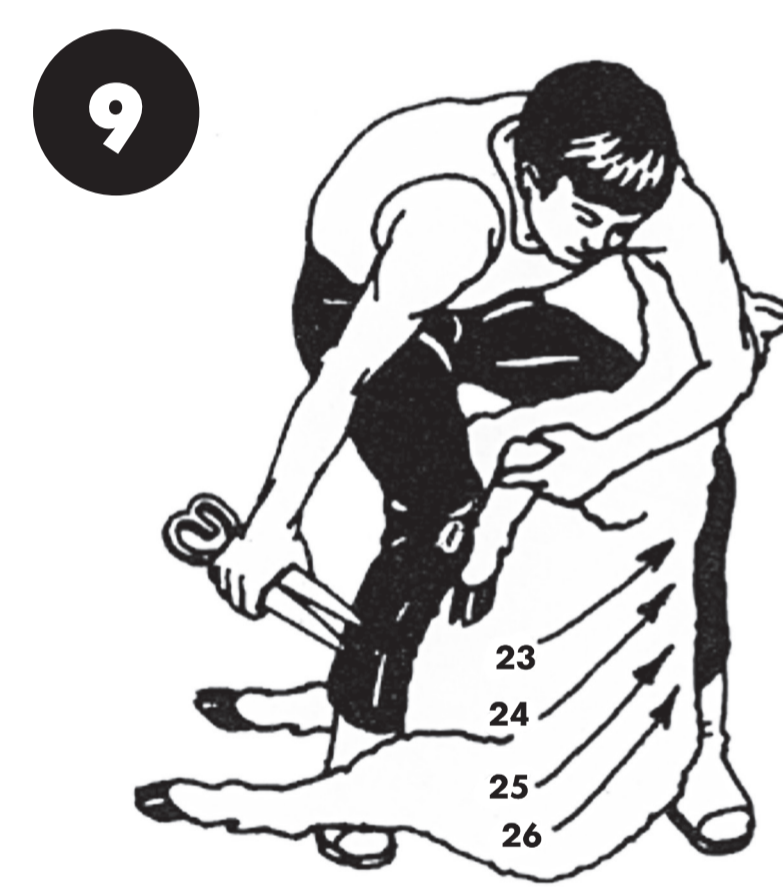
6 Blow* 15 – roll the head starting on the top side of the brisket. Finish square under the jaw, supporting head with left hand below the jaw.



7 Clear up behind the ears and top knot with the sheep's head below the shearer's knee.



8 Shear into the first shoulder, keeping points of shears down on the skin.



9 Shear around the first side, moving outside foot away from the sheep to let the sheep lie down for blow* 26, to commence the long blow*.



10 Put blow* 27 in as the sheep lies down. Step over with the inside foot as blow* finishes.



11 Complete a full blow* over the backbone. As blow* 28 finishes, step forward with the inside foot, turning toe in. Roll sheep towards inside foot with outside foot and outside hand.



12 The last cheek is cleared before releasing sheep's inside front leg.



13 Step outside with the outside foot when blow* 37 is completed.



14 The sheep's head is brought forward of shearer's legs.



15 Grip the loose skin in the flank and roll the fist on the firm part of the leg to keep it straight.



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