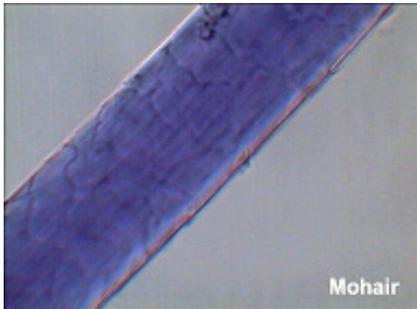


MOHAIR



Over 60% of the world mohair production is in South Africa – their clip for 2005 was expected to be approximately 3500 tonnes. As indicated on the [cashmere](#) page, the number of goats actively farmed in New Zealand has fallen to an all-time low, and it is estimated by Meat & Wool New Zealand that only approximately 80 tonnes of Angora mohair fibre are produced annually (compared with 500 tonnes at the peak). Despite the relatively low cost of fleece testing and the benefits of selection given the usually wide range of fleeces within flocks, on the whole few animals are objectively measured in New Zealand and consignments tend to be assembled on the basis of subjective assessment.

Nevertheless, where testing or shipment certification is undertaken, SGS laboratories play their part, with mean fibre diameter, yield, medullation, kemp and fibre length being the most common test requirements. Mohair is particularly vulnerable to medullation, and this was one of the primary factors that led to development of the OFDA test method for medullation (IWTO-57), in which “objectionable fibres” can be differentiated from normal medullated fibres.

Mohair prices and production are very fashion-dominated and hence the fibre is said to be relatively volatile compared with other animal fibres. Fashion requirements for lustrous fibres, which can give brighter dyed colours, and brushed surfaces, tend to trigger demand. Mohair fibres are relatively smooth compared with wool, and that gives the fibre a smooth and silky handle.

Mohair is frequently blended with wool. The International Mohair Association (IMA) recognises three grades of velour for the upholstery trade:

- Gold-signet products are from 100% natural Mohair-Velours.
- Silver-signet products contain not less than 70% natural Mohair fibres.
- Products with at least 30% of mohair fibres are allowed to wear the black & white signet.

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