

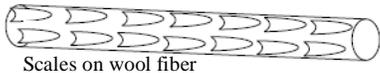


## HONEY, I DIDN'T SHRINK THE SHEEP!



If a wool sweater shrinks why doesn't the wool shrink when sheep get wet? Wool fibers have scales that become

interlocked when the wool is processed. When wool is growing on sheep the scales are all facing the



same direction so they tend not to

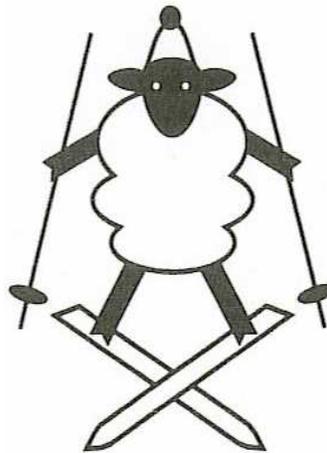
interlock. Sheep produce lanolin which keeps the wool fiber well lubricated. This

also helps to prevent interlocking of the scales while the wool is still on the sheep. When the wool is cut off and processed the fibers become disarranged and the scales interlock. This also helps the wool cling together when it is spun into yarn. If you wash a wool sweater in hot water the wool does not shrink but the sweater shrinks due to "felting". Felting occurs when wool is put in hot water and agitated. This acts like a ratchet and tightens the contact between the fiber in the yarn and the yarn in the sweater. It is actually the scales on the wool fiber that give it the tendency to felt and seemingly shrink.

## HITTING THE SLOPES

In the winter, Vermont's Mount Snow Ski Resort trails are crowded with skiers but during the summer sheep rule the slopes. Mount Snow uses sheep as a quiet, energy-efficient way to mow the grass.

From mid-June through late August, sixty sheep, a shepherd, a

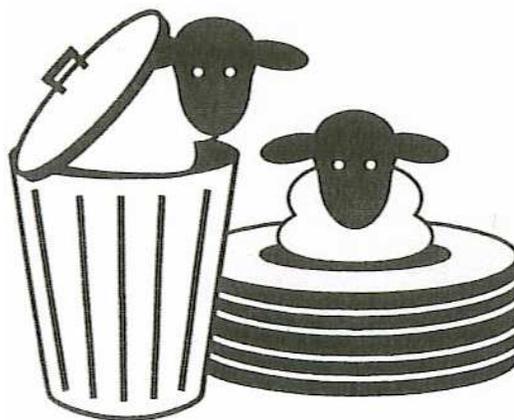


border collie and a guard dog named Figaro are enclosed in a movable, solar-powered electric fence on the ski trails.

Not only are the sheep effective lawnmowers, they add to the resort's appeal with summer guests who love to watch the sheep grazing the slopes.

## MEANER THAN A JUNK YARD EWE?

Everyone has heard of the junk yard dog, right? What about a junk yard sheep? Well, in Alabama, a flock of sheep have a job at the local junk yard. They are not guarding the "treasures" but they are keeping an eye on unruly grass and weeds. This is a win-win



situation for everyone. The old ewes get a new lease on life; their owner gets some extra cash from their rental; and the junk yard owner gets his grass and weeds mowed naturally.