



AGNOTES

For all districts

Raised shearing boards

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Order No. 3419/85

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by Forbes Brien, sheep industry officer

Originally a New Zealand idea, the raised board helps to simplify the work of the boardboy as well as reducing interference between sheep, wool, shearers and shedhands.

A raised board should be between 800 mm and 900 mm above the wool room floor. The standard bench height is 840 mm.

A raised board should be 1830 mm wide at the stands. It may be built with the stands in a straight line, or with the stands positioned on a curved design.

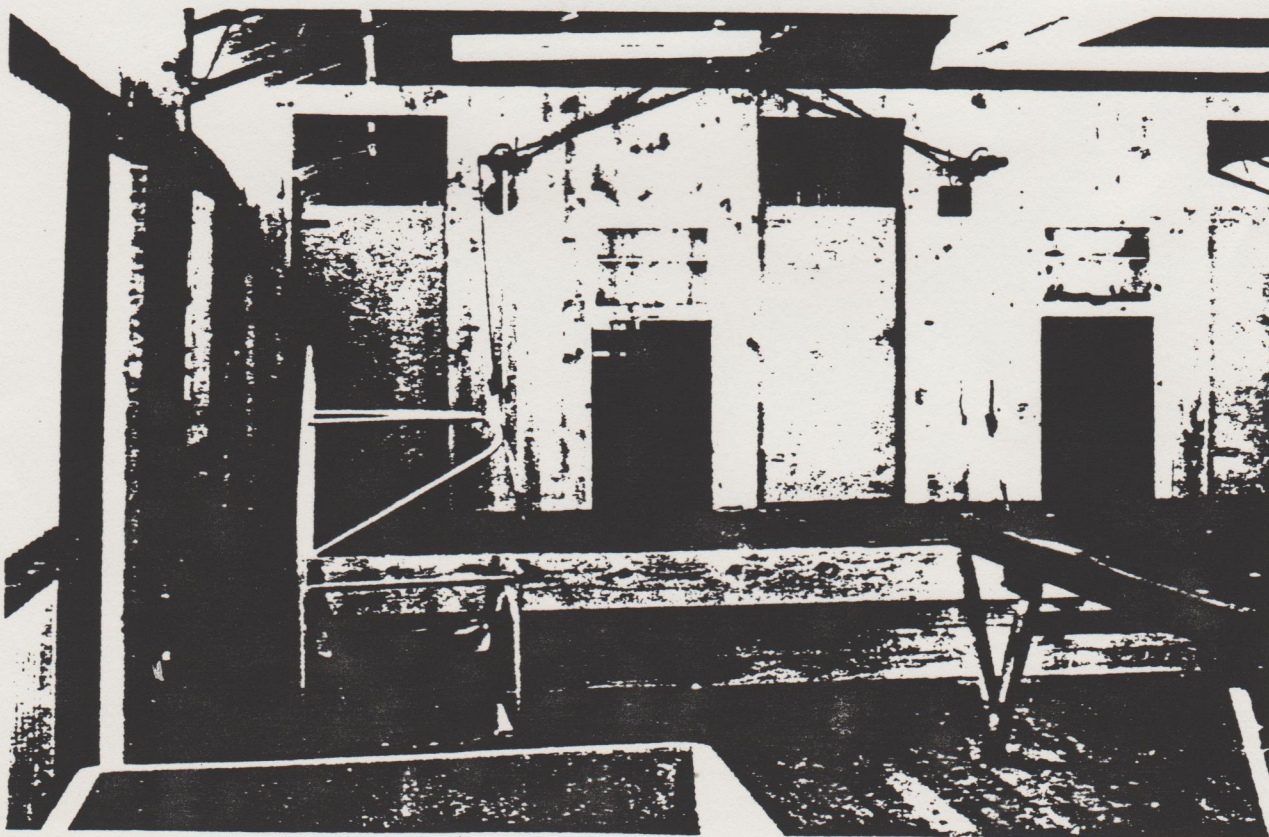
Operation of a raised board

The shearers shear the sheep in the conventional manner on a raised board. The advantages of this design are mainly to the benefit of the shedhands.

The board is cleared with a 900 mm x 150 mm length of light timber which is swept across the stand to remove locks and second cuts.

Advantages of a raised board

- The boardboy does not have to bend down to pick up the fleeces, thus making his job easier and more efficient.
- The boardboy can use the raised board as a table when checking bellies for stained wool.
- A fleece can be pushed to one side to allow the shearers a clear space for his next sheep if the wool table is occupied. This technique eliminates double handling of fleeces at the wool table, so there is less chance of poorly-thrown or tangled fleeces on the wool table.
- Interference between the shearers and the boardboy is minimised.



A raised shearing board.

Disadvantages of a raised board

- The cost of building a raised board shed may be 5% to 10% more than a conventional shearing shed of similar size.
- The shedhands must rely on the shearer to call "sheepo" when the catching pen needs filling, as the pens are not easily seen from the lower level wool room.

Raised board or conventional?

The wool room is at ground level in some raised board shearing sheds. This can cause two main disadvantages. Firstly, under-floor sheep storage is lost, and secondly, bales have to be lifted for loading onto trucks. On the other hand a ground level wool room (usually with a concrete floor) can be used as a machinery parking area or for the dumping of bulk superphosphate or grain.

The resolution of this problem depends on individual preference and may be largely gover-

ned by non-sheep and wool factors, for example, other farm enterprises, condition and area of other farm sheds, or the availability of a three-point linkage jib or front-end loader for lifting bales.

An alternative approach is to choose a sloping site on which to build the shearing shed. Sheep can enter the shed at ground level at one end and bales loaded at truck-height at the other end. Sheep holding pens can then be built under the wool room.

These notes also apply to Fawcett mat shearing sheds which are described in another agnote.

Acknowledgements

This agnote has been taken from an article written by Adrian Barber, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, South Australia, for the Australian Wool Harvesting Program.