



# UConn Wool Blankets for Sale



Looking for a perfectly unique gift for the Valentine's Day?

The UConn Department of Animal Science offers a limited number of wool products for sale each year. The new pattern is a buffalo check and the blanket is made from wool from the University of Connecticut's flock of sheep as well as other CT sheep. The blanket project is run by a group of people who belong to CT Sheep Breeders Association. Each product comes with its own Certificate of Authenticity and series number.

- Scarves (8 x 72) - \$25 each
- Baby blanket (45 x 45) - \$75 each
- Throw (45 x 60) - \$85 each
- Long throw (45 x 72)- \$95 each
- Twin blanket (72 x 90)- \$145 each
- Full blanket (80 x 90)- \$170 each
- Queen blanket (90 x 90) - \$185 each
- King blanket (90 x 106) - \$225 each

**Please contact Michelle Lewis at [Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu](mailto:Michelle.B.Lewis@UConn.edu) to reserve a blanket/scarf. They are available on a first come, first serve basis and there is a very limited supply of blankets.**



- Products can be purchased using exact cash or check made out to UConn or with our new online payment option.
- Blankets can be picked up in the George White building main office (room 107) at the UConn campus in Storrs, CT.
- Shipping is available at buyer's expense.

To receive a notice when the next shipment arrives at the end of this year, please visit [www.animalscience.uconn.edu/join.php](http://www.animalscience.uconn.edu/join.php) to place your name on the email list.



## WOOL BLANKET HISTORY

The Connecticut Blanket was manufactured originally by Charles W. House & Sons in Unionville, Connecticut. The wool for the blanket was collected from Connecticut farms, mostly from members of the Connecticut Sheep Breeders Association. When the company went out of business in 2001, Charles House suggested that CSBA might be interested in continuing the blanket.

The CSBA Connecticut Blanket Project began with wool collected in the fall of 2002, producing the first blankets in the winter of 2003 and has continued each year to the present day. Over 2000 blankets have been produced since 2003. The Connecticut Blanket Project has helped Sheep Associations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to start producing blankets in their states from their wool.

To produce the blankets, the fleeces from each sheep are sheared, skirted, and cleaned individually at each farm which may take about 1 hour per fleece. All the wool is inspected at the University of Connecticut livestock barn, and if the wool is acceptable, it is weighed and packed into tall plastic bags for shipping by a dedicated group of volunteers. Approximately 200 pounds of wool fill each bag. The wool is then shipped out for scouring (cleaning) and then yarn is spun, the blankets are woven, filled, napped, and cut in seven sizes from baby blankets to king size. Finally, these blankets are distributed to the participants so they can be sold by the shepherds at their farms. The complete list of farms is below.

The blankets are available in baby 45x 45, throw 45 x 60, long throw 45x 72, twin 72 x 90, full 80 x 90, queen 90 x 90, and king 106x 90. Each blanket comes with a Connecticut Blanket label and is packed in a zippered plastic bag with a numbered certificate listing the farms. A different balanced pattern of dark and light natural colored wool is chosen each year. Customers not only buy blankets for their own beds, but also buy them for gifts for weddings, birthdays, graduations, showers, retirement, boats, cottages, housewarmings, or stadium. Many blankets are bought for friends or relatives who no longer live in Connecticut.

The state-wide project allows sheep producers of both small and large flocks to contribute to the project. So even a shepherd with just a few sheep may be able to get one of these special blankets made for the cost of making the blanket.