Evidence for wild sheep becoming first domesticated occurs in Central Asia and dates from about 10,000 years ago. Later, at about 3,500 years ago, wool was first spun into yarn that was subsequently woven or sewn into fabrics.

Sheep are not native to North America and were first brought from Europe by Christopher Columbus as expedition food. Early Spanish explorers took sheep with them in their travels and as a result, sheep were introduced into Mexico and the Western United States. President Woodrow Wilson allowed sheep to graze on the White House lawn during his term of office from 1913 to 1921.

For additional information about how to safely care for and handle sheep, go to the Clover Safe note at: http://ucanr.org/cloversafe.

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