



Oxford English Dictionary Editors  
Oxford University Press

Via E-mail: [oad.uk@oup.com](mailto:oad.uk@oup.com)

**10 March 2026**

Dear Editors:

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). As part of your regular updates to ensure the dictionary accurately reflects our ever-evolving language, we're requesting that you please include "Plant Wool" under the entry for "Wool" to encompass the many innovative, eco-friendly, animal-free yarns available.

[Plant wools](#) like hemp, bamboo and linen have existed for centuries, and the OED notes that "pine wool" has been used since the 1850s. Now, cutting-edge fibres made from food waste, flowers, fruit and more are being used by designers in everything from sportswear to knits. Plastic-free plant wools match (and often outperform) animal wool for warmth and comfort while being less environmentally impactful and kinder to animals.

The OED prides itself on documenting "the continuing development of our society", and few issues affect society as much as climate change. As more people become aware of the vast amounts of land clearing, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with raising and shearing ruminant sheep, Plant Wool is emerging as a solution. Where the Made-By Environmental Benchmark for Fibres ranks sheep's wool as a "Class E" material – the worst possible category – hemp enjoys "Class A" status.

The OED's addition of the term "Speciesism" in 1985 also reflects society's evolving views of animals. More people now recognise that animals are not ours to wear. To date, PETA entities' exposés of over [150 sheep-wool-industry operations](#) across four continents have revealed sheep, who have been purposely bred to produce more wool than nature ever intended, being kicked, beaten, thrown, and stomped on in shearing sheds.

From adding words like "Greenwashing" and "Allyship" in 2021 to amending entries like "Footprint" to include the ecological sense, the OED has always documented words which capture how society evolves to improve the experiences of everyone. Now, we're in the throes of a *fashion revolution* borne of people's desire to subvert concern for animals and the planet, with plant wool at the forefront. Please add "plant wool" to the Oxford English Dictionary to reflect that we need not steal from animals; we can instead work *with* nature to grow wool. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Taylor  
Vice President of Corporate Projects, PETA

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315  
London N1P 2RG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327  
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

[Info@peta.org.uk](mailto:Info@peta.org.uk)

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
FOUNDATION – a charitable  
company limited by guarantee,  
with its registered office at  
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,  
London EC4N 6AF.  
Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

**Affiliates**

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands