

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR FIBER HARVEST

NEAFP
New England Alpaca
Fiber Pool Inc.



MOTHER NATURE'S
Finest Fiber
USA ALPACA

The goal at the end of shearing is to finish with the highest amount of usable alpaca fiber.

USABLE FIBER IS:

FREE OF ALL CONTAMINATION
SEPARATED BY COLOR & GRADE
UNIFORM IN STAPLE LENGTH
& MICRON COUNT

STREAMLINE SHEARING

Prepare: Band samples & identify fleeces going to shows or to processing.

Your Shearer: Seek a shearer months in advance. Communicate your goals with them.

Your Help: Educate & assign staff, family & volunteers to specific tasks.

Work Smart: Keep the queue moving with a 2nd shearing station. Shear from lightest to darkest & clean areas in between.

CONTAMINATION

Contamination is the #1 reason that fleeces are downgraded or discarded. Prevent contamination before shearing begins!

- Utilize low hay feeders
- Clear pastures of thistle & burdock
- Clean shearing area, barnyards & stalls
- Use shredded cardboard or straw bedding (not hay)

WHAT TO AVOID:

VEGETABLE MATTER (VM)
FARM DEBRIS
COLOR CONTAMINATION
SECOND CUTS
GUARD HAIR

CLASSING

Blankets:

Remove in one piece. Send straight to the skirting table, cut side down

Leg & Neck:

Keep together

Apron, Belly, Coarse Fiber:

Remove immediately

Keep different sections of fiber separate as they come off the animal & leave grading to the professionals.

LIGHT SKIRTING

Skirt the fleece as it comes off the animal. Do NOT tumble your fleeces!

Use a wire mesh top skirting table. Keep each skirted fleece separate regardless of color.

SKIRT OUT:

EXCESSIVE GUARD HAIR
ARMPIT HAIR
SECOND CUTS
VEGETABLE MATTER
DIRT, DUNG & DEBRIS

PACKAGING

Roll individual fleeces in newspaper or place in small plastic bags for **short-term storage & shipping**. Combine into larger bags to be sent for processing.

Put completely dry fiber in paper lawn & leaf bags for **long-term storage**.

Put fiber to use soon after harvest or you may lose it to rodents, moths, or mold & mildew contamination.