



Northern Colorado's Premier Artisan Fiber Mill and Boutique

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January 2018 Newsletter

Notes from Rhonda...

Happy New Year and welcome all the new Fleece Factory followers we have been meeting at the shows and tours this past year! It has been such a pleasure visiting with you and having you tour our mill. We hope you will keep sharing your experience with friends and family.

2017 brought us some wonderful new changes and advancements! Most notably we have developed a new spinning machine that allows us to make a coreless bulky single. This machine allows us to show our artistic hand in producing a nice new bulky single for you to use in your projects. We also have been slowly developing our website, www.thefleecefactoryoftherockies.com Please keep checking back as we are updating with new information all the time! Also be sure to see the new services and pricing listed below as it may be of great help to you and your projects. We also added two new team members and have a great photo introduction farther into this newsletter!

Many of you have been inquiring about taking fiber classes. Different classes will be offered once a month and will require a deposit when signing up for the class. Most classes will be posted as an event on our facebook page where you can RSVP and get information about sending in your deposit. We will be adding them to our website as soon as we can. New classes such as drop spindle spinning, felted bowls and children's classes will be added to the list so be watching for those!

Our timeline for processing in the mill is currently at a 7-8 month turn around time. You are always welcome to call and see where we are with your order. With that being said, some of you are still hoarding your harvest! We understand how daunting it can be to get motivated to send your fiber into the mill so to help you, we would like to recommend our FREE skirting class. The class allows you to bring a fleece in and learn how to skirt it for processing. Most people like to skirt that first fleece and then check it in after class to hold their place in line while they work on the other fleeces at home. This class is held on the last Thursday of each month (except Nov and Dec) at 6pm. You must RSVP to hold you space at the skirting table as they fill up fast!

Tours of the mill have become very popular and we are very excited to share this wonderful process with everyone! Tours can be scheduled for Wednesdays and Saturdays depending on our schedule. Please call the mill for availability.

We look forward to all the new and exciting things that 2018 has to offer and we hope that you can share them with us! Please stop in and take a tour, see the alpacas and meet the team!

Thank you,

Rhonda

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



I'd like to introduce to you the newest members of the Fleece Factory workshop team: Amy, our new secretary and office manager will be answering your calls to the mill, and Laura and Ramona our new workshop helpers! Laura and Ramona have great knowledge of fiber and are very enthusiastic about working here at the Fleece Factory! (Amy has also caught the fiber bug!)

(From left to right) Amy, Sharon, Rhonda, Ramona and Laura.



SHOWS, SHOWS and MORE SHOWS! And CHECKING IN FIBER!

The Fleece Factory attends alpaca shows a little differently than in the past. We will be visiting your booths/stalls individually instead of purchasing our own vendor booth. We know shows can be a crazy time for you to run by and talk to us about your fiber so we will stop by your booth instead. This way we can pick up your fiber or drop off an order at your convenience.

There are certain fiber shows where we will have a booth that will showcase what we do here at the mill, but mostly we will just have representatives at shows for your check-in and drop off needs. We look forward to visiting with all of you! As always you can still swing by the mill to drop off fleeces! Call the mill at (970) 284-7711



LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE! *The Fleece Factory Of The Rockies LLC*

NEW SERVICES!

RECOMBING: We have added a RECOMBING SERVICE to our list of services. Recombining is something we can do to roving that has been dyed or that has been jumbled a bit and needs recombined. Recombining will "refluff" the roving. Keep in mind that we will have to approve the roving for this service, such as fibers that are felted too tight or dyed fiber that is still bleeding dye will not be run. The cost for this service is \$25/hr.

New BULKY SINGLES! We now offer a new option of getting coreless singles that are handspun! This service will be offered starting this January at \$30.00/lb outgoing weight price.

NEW PRICING!

Additional dehairing is now offered at a separate service. \$6.00/lb per pass.

Rug Yarn is now reduced to \$8.00/lb outgoing weight price! Put those neck and leg fibers to good use!

NEW PRODUCTS!

HAT SHAPERS are now available at the Fleece Factory! Stop by and see all the new hat forms that you can purchase and make your own hats! We have 12 styles to choose from. You can also try out our wet felting class where we use these wonderful hat forms!

HAND MADE PEG LOOMS specially designed for rug yarn are available in 24", 36" and 72" (collapsible). The 72" is available by special order only! Order yours today!



WE ARE YOUR LOCAL LOUET RETAILER! Now you can get LOUET fiber processing equipment and parts from The Fleece Factory!

<https://www.louet.com/>



MILL TOURS AND FARM TOURS

We are very happy to give tours! Appointments are the best way to arrange your tour! We can take large or small groups, young or old!

Tours can be scheduled for Wednesdays and Saturdays depending on our schedule. Please call the mill for availability.

Platte Valley Middle School FFA students visiting The Fleece Factory.

CLASSES

JANUARY 27th CLASS: DYEING

See description below for class information and call The Fleece Factory office to reserve your space.

The Fleece Factory (970) 284-7711



"THE BEST CLASS" - FREE SKIRTING CLASS We are continuing our popular free skirting class for anyone wanting to learn more about this process and about fiber! We hold this class on the LAST THURSDAY of the month at 6:00pm here at the Mill. You MUST give us a call to put you on the list as there is limited room! Please bring a fleece (blanket and seconds). This is a very informative class and you can take this class as often as you would

like until you get the hang of it. The more you know about your fiber the better. YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS- The following classes are available by reserving your space with a \$20 non-refundable deposit (except the Skirting Class). Please call The Fleece Factory at (970) 284-7711 for all reservations and questions.



NEEDLE FELTING Learn basic techniques and discover simple ways to create and decorate with needle felting. All materials and tools are included for the class. Please note that you will be working with a sharp needle and caution is advised. Cost is \$45/person. 9am-12 approx. Reserve your space for this fun class. (970) 284-7711



DYEING This is a basic acid dye class. You will be taught basic pot dyeing and handpainting yarn. Tools and dye are provided. Please bring 2 skeins of a protein based fiber (wool, alpaca, etc) for dyeing. Yarn is available for purchase at the mill. Cost is \$50/person. 9am-1pm approximately. Please wear clothing that you do not mind staining.



NEW PEG LOOM or HULA HOOP WEAVING WITH RUG YARN! This is a wonderful weaving class that uses a very simple way to weave. You will learn how to load your loom/hoop and so a simple weave. Tools for the class are provided. Please bring enough filler yarn; bulky yarn or rug yarn, plus a warp yarn for a small rug or place mat size. Rug yarn, warp yarn and looms are available for purchase at the mill. Cost is \$45/person. 9am-12 approx



HAT WET FELTING – Create your own fashion! Wet felt your own hat! This class teaches you how protein fibers felt and lock using water!

NEW! WET FELT A BOWL – This new class allows you to wet felt a bowl shape. This class teaches you how protein fibers felt and lock using water!

All materials are provided except a towel for you to take your project home on. Cost is \$75. 9am- 3pm approx.. Hat forms are now available for purchase. Must reserve your space in the class by calling the mill (970) 284-7711.



TRADITIONAL RUG HOOKING - In the Traditional Rug hooking class we will be teaching very basic rug hooking techniques; loading the frame and basic punching. Please bring two skeins of yarn (different colors) or you may purchase yarn at the mill. Cost for the rug hooking class is \$85 per person which includes the punch tool, frame and cloth.



RAKE LOOM KNITTING This rake loom knitting class teaches a basic pattern for a hat or scarf. Rake looms are provided for use during the class. Great class for youngsters! Please bring a skein of yarn. Yarn is available for purchase. Class is from 9-3pm Feel free to bring a lunch! Reserve your space in the class by calling the mill (970) 284-7711

HOW MUCH IS IN QUEUE AND WHAT IS THE TIMELINE? We often get these two questions at the mill. There is never a definitive answer to these because it is so fluid, but we can usually give you a guestimate! Here's how we make an educated guess: 1- How much poundage have you checked in and how much poundage is in front of your order? 2- What is each bag of your fleece going to be processed into and what is each bag in front of you going to be processed into? 3- What is in the mill being processed at this time and what is its time frame? 4- Maintenance and the unexpected? So when we look at you with a hesitant blank look it is not that we don't know the answer to these questions, it's just a lot to think about when trying to estimate! Thanks for your understanding!

WE ARE CURRENTLY PROCESSING MAY AND JUNE ORDERS.

Our INFORMATION BOARD: Anyone can post information for alpaca sales, services that help other customers, and any other information we approve! Email us if you want anything posted!

As always, if there are any questions, please call us or email us and we will get back to you as soon as we can!

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