



Northern Colorado's Premier Artisan Fiber Mill and Boutique

(970) 284-7711 TheFleeceFactory@yahoo.com

February 2018 Newsletter

Notes from Rhonda...

Tis the season of love! Wouldn't you LOVE to get those bags of fiber out of the dark storage spots! We have recently lowered our outgoing price on rug yarn! This is a great use for those seconds and neck and leg fibers which makes a yarn that produces nice woven, knitted and crocheted rugs! We have also added new services like bulky single yarn for those creative projects that need a larger more flexible yarn. Re-combing of roving that has been "squished" or dyed to where it has lost its' loft is a new service we have to offer. Needle felted sheets are another great product for those multiple staple lengths and nice neck and legs fibers. These sheets can then be made by you into many items like rugs, clothing, hats, table runners, and much more. With these helpful ideas on what you can have your fleeces processed into we hope that you will LOVE your fiber and bring it on in.

Please take a look at the information provided in this newsletter on the CSU Camelid Castration clinic. This is a great chance for alpaca owners to get a good price on castrating males and it's a good opportunity for the students to learn these procedures.

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.

Keep in mind that spring shearing is just around the corner so look for a shearer that can make your harvest and skirting process the easiest it can be (this should include noodling)!

Have a great month,

Rhonda



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 of fleeces! Call the mill at (970) 284-7711

MAY- GWAS (Great Western Alpaca Show) National Western Stock Show Complex, May 4th -6th

We will have a presence at this show on Friday May 4th. Call us to schedule a stall appointment!



LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE! See great tips, and events! *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 “repluff” 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!

Not sure how to use this loom? Check out our Peg Loom class!

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

Introducing the new Erica Loom! Click below to find out more about the new weaving loom offered from Louet.

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

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





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.

CSU Camelid Castration

My name is Joel Foote and I am coordinating the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching School camelid castration clinic in March. Dates have not been set yet and CSU needs at least 20 animals to hold the clinic - to date we have 15. CSU can do 35/day and if there are more than 35, a second day can be added. This is a once-a-year clinic so please help to spread the word.

The clinic is open to all alpaca and llama owners (no limit on the number of animals per 'customer') on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$45.00 for alpacas and \$55 for llamas and includes nail and teeth trimming.

Gelding candidates must be in good health, halter-broke, reasonably well-behaved, and at least 18 months old. Both testicles must be descended into the scrotum so even though the animal is 18 months, if the testicles are not descended they cannot participate. Because this is a production clinic, genitourinary anomalies cannot be accommodated. NO exceptions. Please check your boys!

The animals will be anesthetized so please keep them off food for 12 hours before the appointment. An appointment schedule will be sent the week before the clinic. A reminder will be sent in February,

Please contact me if you have any questions. My email is fuzzyfarm@earthlink.net, my cell phone is 303-748-2308, and the house phone is 303-465-1576. Please include the number of animals, their age, and your contact information (address, telephone, email, etc.)

Thank you,

Joel

CLASSES

FEBRUARY 17TH CLASS: PEG LOOM WEAVING or RAKE LOOM KNITING

We are offering a choice between two classes this day. Please choose one class and see description below for class information. Call The Fleece Factory office to reserve your space and pay your deposit.

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. Classes may also be listed on our Facebook Page, but this will not count as reserving your space in the class. Please use this as a helpful way to remind yourself of the class and share with your friends!



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 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 and do 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/person. 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/ 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 9-12pm Cost is \$45/person 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 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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You are getting this email due to your interest in classes, mill info, farm and mill tours, or just curiosity! If you want to be removed from our newsletter just reply and let me know! Thanks!