“To Provide a Point of Reference for Suri Alpaca Owners, new and experienced, looking to add additional knowledge and revenue streams to their alpaca business.”
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter One:</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiber Basics................</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing-Hay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Two:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiber Preparation for Market</td>
<td>6-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating Fiber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin Biopsies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.H.I.P.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiber Harvest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading and Classing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Three:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiber Market Options</td>
<td>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-ops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing Options &amp; Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Four:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating Product</td>
<td>14-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with Mills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Processing Equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Five:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where to Market Promote Fiber Products</td>
<td>31-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarn Stores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build your own Store</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Six:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Markets</td>
<td>33-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Seven:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An additional place of reference that is noted throughout the directory is the Suri Network’s, Product Development Committee’s and educational DVD.

**Pasture to Process  P2P  Product to Profit**

Disc 1 - Introduction  
What Kind of Herd are you  
Understanding Suri Fiber

Disc 2 - Data: You can’t afford not to have it  
Nurturing your Harvest  
Shearing: Your Fiber Harvest  
Skirting, Sorting & Grading

Disc 3 - Fiber Processing Options  
Conclusion
Basic Alpaca Needs

The key to healthy animals is quality water, balanced nutrition and minerals. Managing the nutrition is important.

Nutrition effects your fiber.

Some Nutritional stresses are:
- Pregnancy
- Weaning
- Seasonal changes
- Heat stress, cold stress
- Parasites
- Pasture and feed changes
- Transportation

Effects of fleeces from animals with poor health
- Tenderness
- Reduction of fleece length and quality
- Dull, chalky, listless (lacks luster and vitality)
- Poor nutrition effects fetus growth and skin follicle development

Alpaca Basics by Norm Evans, DVM
Local extension office

Nutrition

Nutrition information is listed in the resources listed below.

Alpaca Field Manual – By: C. Norman Evans, DVM
Dr. Evans’ manual contains a wealth of info on diagnostics, immunization, drug dosages, etc.

Llama & Alpaca Care: Medicine, Surgery, Repro, Nutrition and Herd - By: Robert J. Van Saun, DVM, MS, PhD

Dr. Van Saun Articles
www.researchgate.net/profile/RobertVanSaun/publications

The Complete Alpaca Book – By: Eric Hoffman, with contributing authors.
Order from the author at [www.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
Testing Hay

Agronomist - an expert in soil management and field-crop production.

It is important to feed quality hay to your alpacas. Hay quality can be measured by having your hay tested. Your local agronomist can take samples of your hay and send to the lab. You will get a report from them. Hay that is over a year old will lose some of its nutrients, molding hay should be discarded. Feeding poor quality hay can lead to sick animals. Feeding to high of protein can affect your fiber.

Dairyland Laboratories, Inc.
217 E. Main St.
Arcadia, WI. 54612
608-323-2123

A & M Agrilife
Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab
For USPS-
2478 TAMU (For USPS)
2610 F & B Road (for FedEx, UPS & etc)
College Station, Texas 77843-2478
979-845-4816
www.soiltesting@tamu.edu

Midwest Laboratories, Inc.
13611 B. St.
Omaha, NE 68144
402-334-7770
www.midwestlabs.com

Testing Water

Webinar on the Suri network website “Nutrition part 1: What about the water?” Presenter is Gary Horrisberger from Holmes Laboratory, Inc.

Water Testing Locations:

- Holmes Laboratory, Inc – www.holmeslab.com/
- Dairyland Laboratories, Inc. - www.dairylandlabs.com

Contact your local County offices.

Veterinarians

www.alpacanation.comvetlinkvetlink.asp/
Chapter Two: Fiber (Evaluation and Harvest)

Evaluating Fiber

Primary Follicle and Fiber

Primary follicles are the first follicles to develop in the fetus during the first three months after conception and are the focal point around which secondary follicles form at a later stage. Primary follicles produce fibers that are greater in diameter than secondaries.

Secondary Fiber

The secondary follicles develop around the primary follicles after the fourth month to create follicle groups. A higher ratio of secondary follicles to primary follicles creates finer, softer and more uniform fleeces.

More detailed Fiber information—Understanding Fiber

www.ourheritagefarm.com/articles/38/heritage-farm-suri-alpacas-understanding-alpaca-fiber-structure

Histograms

Educational DVD – P2P - Disc 2, Chapter 1

Definition

Laser Scan Micron Testing for Average Fiber Diameter (AFD), is an established technology used worldwide by the textile industry. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) developed the current grease wool and top standards for fineness. A fleece sample, usually from the alpaca’s side is sent for testing.

Providers of Histograms and additional information:

Alpaca Consulting Services USA - www.alpacaconsultingusa.com

SGS Testing Labs www.wooltesting.sgs.com

(AOA certified lab for EPD calculations)

Histogram tests terms:

AFD — Average fiber diameter in micron

The lower the AFD the finer the fleece
All fiber is priced by fineness and sold by weight.

    Grade 1 — <20 microns
    Grade 2 — 20 - 22.9 microns
    Grade 3 — 23 - 25.9 microns
    Grade 4 — 26 - 28.9 micron
    Grade 5 — 29 - 31.9 micron

Anything under 25 is considered good, especially for an adult. Fineness is influenced primarily by breeding, then by age, sex, hormones, diet and health.
**SD — The Standard Deviation**

Indicates how much the diameter of each fiber varied from the other fibers in the sample. The smaller the standard deviation, the more uniform the fleece and the better the handle or softer feel to the fleece. This figure and AFD are the primary fleece statistics for breeding decisions.

**CV — The Coefficient of Variation**

Also indicates the uniformity of a fleece using the AFD and SD. The Coefficient of Variation is the Standard Deviation divided by the AFD multiplied by 100 and reported as a percentage.

**Example** - A fiber sample with SD of 4 divided by AFD of 24 means a CV of .16 or 16%. A fleece with a CV under 20 is very uniform and desirable particularly if the AFD is very good. The following document on CV is helpful in understanding its place. [SD or CV article](http://www.aaff.com.au/library.html)

Then find SV v CV, there are many other great articles in this link.

**Histogram Tests:**

**OFDA 2000**

OFDA 2000 is a portable computerized fiber measurement instrument. It measures the fiber diameter profile along the length of the staple from previous shearing to present.

OFDA 2000 measures:

- Mean fiber diameter (distribution histogram).
- Percentage of fibers greater than 30 microns.
- Curvature and standard deviation of curvature.
- Standard Deviation (SD)
- Coefficient of variation (CV)
- Staple length and along staple profile.
- Position of the finest and broadest points along the staple.

The OFDA 2000 is a good tool to use for herd management as you can look back and see fiber effect, husbandry and health as well as underlying fleece quality.

**OFDA 100**

OFDA 100 can be used at all stages of the wool processing pipeline, from fleece to yarn and fabric. Source for EPD information and for bale evaluation.

OFDA 100 measures:

- Mean fiber diameter (distribution histogram).
- Percentage of fibers greater than 30 microns.
- Standard Deviation (SD)
- Coefficient of variation (CV)
- Spinning Fineness.

The OFDA 100 measures 2mm fiber snippets from a clean scoured sample. The OFDA 100 is taken from the fiber closest to the skin, which is an indicator of the most current fiber characteristics-looking into the future.
Skin Biopsies

_P2P_ - Disc 2, Chapter 1

**Definition**

Pioneered by Australian merino breeders skin biopsies give the breeder additional tools primarily relating to density - essential for fleece improvement and blanket quality and weight.

The following article by Liz Vahlkamp explains Skin Biopsies. Page 15 of Purly Suri Summer 2011.  

**Biopsies are provided by:**

Dr. Norm Evans, DVM - docevet@aol.com
Ian Watt at Alpaca Consulting - [www.alpacaconsultingusa.com](www.alpacaconsultingusa.com)

Suri Herd Improvement Program (S.H.I.P)

_Educational DVD - P2P - Disc 2, Chapter 1_

**Definition**

The Suri Network created a classification system, used to score alpacas on sixteen traits, eight fiber and eight conformation/phenotypic, using a 1-5 scale. Classification is conducted on-site, at individual farms, by a trained classifier.
[www.surinetwork.org](www.surinetwork.org)

Additional information:
[www.surinetwork.org](www.surinetwork.org)/

Fiber Harvest

_Educational DVD - P2P-Disc 2, Chapter 4_

**Shearing**

Guidelines to maximize value at shearing:

Refer to the Suri Network Harvest Code of Practice for an in-depth look at setting your farm up for a successful fiber harvest.

**Shearers**

It’s best to start with a Regional Alpaca Organization in your area, to ask who they would recommend. [www.alpacainfo.com/findaffiliate-search/](www.alpacainfo.com/findaffiliate-search/)

Ensure you hire a shearer and secure a shearing date in the fall. Quality shearers will have their travel schedule set by spring, making it difficult to find someone at the last minute.
Equipment, supplies for purchase
Heiniger Shearing Equipment - Heiniger Parts - www.heinigerusa.com/

Light Livestock Equipment & Supply - Light Livestock -
www.lightlivestockequipment.com/

Grading and Classing of Fleece:
Educational DVD - P2P - Disc 2, Chapter 4

For those who want to learn to grade and class their own fleece or to send it to have it done Sorting Grading Classing is developing training and workshops. Their goal is to create standardization across the USA. www.SortGradeClass.com/

Haliburton School of the Arts and Alpaca Ontario has Basic Farm Sorter Workshops, which are a prerequisite for the Certified Alpaca Fleece Classer Course. www.Certifiedalpacafleececlasser.com

Alpaca fleece grades:
Grade 1 — <20 microns AFD
Grade 2 — 21 — 22.9 microns
Grade 3 — 23 — 25.9 microns
Grade 4 — 26 — 28.9 micron
Grade 5 — 29 — 31.9 micron
Chapter Three: Fiber Market Options

Fiber Co-ops, Pools and Buyers

If you would like to sell your raw fiber below is a list of fiber co-ops that will purchase raw fiber

**North American Suri Company (NASCO)**
Collection of raw Suri of all grades, will pay farmers a market rate for fiber. NASC also sells graded fiber to those who want to work with specific grades of Suri alpaca fiber.
www.nasurico.com/

**Purely Alpaca**
Collection of both raw Huacaya and Suri fiber. Grades and manufactures products to farmers at wholesale pricing and to the general public.
www.purelyalpaca.com/

**New England Alpaca Fiber Pool, Inc. (NEAFP)**
Collects alpaca fiber and creates products for resale
www.neafp.com/

Fiber Schools and Classes
To learn more about your fiber below are some ideas for additional training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiber Arts School</th>
<th>Learn how fabric is made, how it behaves and how to manipulate it</th>
<th><a href="http://www.fiberartsschool.org">www.fiberartsschool.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina University Online Textile Classes</td>
<td>Learn about all types of fiber and processing methods</td>
<td><a href="http://www.textiles.ncsu.edu/professional-education-program/textile-continuing-education">www.textiles.ncsu.edu/professional-education-program/textile-continuing-education</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sievers School</td>
<td>A fiber and folk arts school for seminars and classes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sieversschool.com">www.sieversschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damascus Fiber Arts School</td>
<td>Textile classes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.damascusfiberartsschool.com">www.damascusfiberartsschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaston College Textile Technology Center</td>
<td>Fiber testing, sampling, customized training</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gaston.edu/textile-technology-center">www.gaston.edu/textile-technology-center</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northhouse Fiber Arts School</td>
<td>School offers a large sampling of classes in all art mediums</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northhouse.org/course/themes/fiberarts/index.htm">www.northhouse.org/course/themes/fiberarts/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John C. Campbell Folk School</td>
<td>School offers a huge array of folk art classes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.folkschool.org/index.php">www.folkschool.org/index.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youtube</td>
<td>You can usually find a video to demonstrate any technique you need. Play it once or as many times as needed!</td>
<td>Youtube.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueprint</td>
<td>Educational site for classes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.craftsy.com">www.craftsy.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some Processing Options and Resources

Roving and Batt
Small fiber mills, see chapter 4 for more information on mills. Batts or roving are raw alpaca that has been cleaned, carded and have all the fibers lying in the same direction. Some mills will also dehair the fiber. Hand spinners love roving or batts, as it makes spinning so much easier and faster. Most mills will do roving, but not all make batts. Contact the mill to ask them about their services. If you are requesting roving, you can get a variety of diameters or thickness to your roving. For Suri fiber, pencil roving works very well.

Felting
Felt Loom - Sales of felting machines & felted fabric: www.feltloom.com

Combed Top
Combed top is a process that takes practically all the vegetation and debris out of the fiber.
Loch’s Maple Fiber Mill
https://www.lochsmaple.com/fibermill/index.html
Stonehedge Fiber Mill - www.stonehedgefibermill.com/

Additional Fiber Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dying:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpacas d’Auxvasse</td>
<td>Dying of Suri Yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Gidding Yarns</td>
<td>Dying of Suri Yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Era Fiber</td>
<td>Dying of Suri Yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saco River dye House</td>
<td>Old dying institution bought recently in 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty Fiber Products:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Fiber</td>
<td>Hand painted yarn &amp; fiber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpacas d’Auxvasse</td>
<td>Yarns, dying, sock yarn, &amp; alpaca products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breezy Ridge Alpacas</td>
<td>Yarns, handmade garments, felting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingrid's Handwoven Rugs</td>
<td>Woven rugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Cupula</td>
<td>Handmade naturally dyed rugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Gidding Alpaca Yarns</td>
<td>Dyed yarns wholesale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Era Fiber</td>
<td>Custom patterns, knitwear, hand dyed, hand woven rugs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt River Mills</td>
<td>Yarns, pattern kits,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Weaver Farm</td>
<td>Fiber innovations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creative Non-Fiber Products:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart &amp; Soul</td>
<td>Pins &amp; clasps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rope Maker</td>
<td>Ropes, leads, reins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lo-Lo Bar</td>
<td>Skin softening products for fiber artists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasso the Moon Alpaca Farm</td>
<td>Alpaca Jewelry and other products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wholesale Fiber Artists:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simply Natural Clothing</td>
<td>Machine knit garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Era Fiber Mill</td>
<td>Finished products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breezy Ridge Alpacas</td>
<td>Yarns, handmade garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odelia</td>
<td>Machine and hand knit custom garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanette Freitag</td>
<td>Felted garments and fabrics out of Suri or Huacaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt River Mills</td>
<td>Yarns, pattern kits, (Can be found on Ravelry too)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Weaver Farm</td>
<td>Fiber innovations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weaving Companies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keystone Weaving Mills</td>
<td>As of 2014 is a subsidiary of Burlington Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle Hill Weavers</td>
<td>Weave mostly home décor fabrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shibori Textiles</td>
<td>HandwovenDyed Fabrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Exotic Fibers:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Farms Natural Fibers</td>
<td>Rovings &amp; Yarns of Paco-Vicuna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding Yarns
What size yarn you are producing for Knitting, Crocheting and Weaving?

Knitting Yarn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yarn Name</th>
<th>Yardage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Super Bulky</td>
<td>under 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulky, Chunky</td>
<td>500-800 yards per pound for wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aran, Worsted</td>
<td>900-1100 yards per pound for wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Knit, Light Worsted</td>
<td>1100-1300 yards per pound for wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport, Baby</td>
<td>1350-1650 yards per pound for wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingering, Sock</td>
<td>1675-2100 yards per pound for wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lace</td>
<td>2500+ yards per pound for wool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep in mind this is a very general guideline.
Knitting yarns have several methods of describing the weight of the yarn.

Weaving Yarn

Yarns that are traditionally used for weaving more than knitting are typically described by a number such as 3/2, 5/2, 10/2 and so on. This is a very clear way to describe yarns that contain the same fiber.
For Wool to determine the yardage in a pound of yarn divide the size by the number of plies and multiply by 560.
I.E. 20/2 wool 20 divided by 2 = \( \frac{10 \times 560}{2} = 5,600 \) yards.

When a pound of wool is spun into 560 yards of yarn it is known as size number one.
A size two would be 12 the size, (grist) and contains 1,120 yards per pound, the higher the number the thinner the yarn

The first number is the size of each ply that makes up the yarn. The second number is how many plies the yarn has. So 32 is two plies of size three yarn and 52 is two plies of size five yarn. The number that describes the size is larger the thinner the yarn. So size 5 yarn is thinner than size 3 yarn. Just keep in mind that size 3 yarn in cotton is not the same as size 3 yarn in wool and linen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wool</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/2</td>
<td>5,600 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>2,240 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>3,360 yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>1,680 yards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a more information
https://woolery.com/yarn-weights-helpful-explanation/
www.cs.arizona.edu/patternsweavingmonographs\lyarth.pdf
In general there are two main systems of preparing fiber for yarn: the **worsted** system and the **woollen** system. The Worsted system is defined by the removal of short fibers by combing and top preparation by gilling. In the Woolen system short fibers are retained, and it may or may not involve combing.
The following is an additional way to comprehend the above Mill Process!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machine</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>End Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raw Fiber</td>
<td>Sorting</td>
<td>Fiber ready for shipment to Mill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Tumbler&quot;</td>
<td>Tumbling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Picker&quot;</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Fiber Washer&quot;</td>
<td>Washing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Picker&quot;</td>
<td>Opening</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blending (optional)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiber Separating</td>
<td>Cloud of Prime &amp; Waste Fibers</td>
<td>Cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Carder&quot;</td>
<td>Carding</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bump Batt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Needle or Wet Felting - Batt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Core Spun Attachment&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core Yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Comb Top Machine&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Draw Frame&quot;</td>
<td>Roving</td>
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<td>&quot;Pin Drafter or Draw Frame&quot;</td>
<td>Drafting</td>
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<td>Sliver</td>
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<td>&quot;The Spinner&quot;</td>
<td>Spinning</td>
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<td>Single Ply Yarn</td>
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<td>&quot;The Plyer&quot;</td>
<td>Plying</td>
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<td>2,3,4 or Novelty Yarn Product</td>
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<td>&quot;The Steamer&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Cone Winder&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Skein Winder&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Ball Winder&quot;</td>
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P a g e 16
TUMBLING-Check with your processor, some do not want you to tumble!

The tumbler is a mechanical skirting aide. It tumbles the fiber, allowing dirt, vegetation, shorts, and guard hair to be released from the fibers and fall to the floor. The tumbler can be used either pre or post washing. It could also be a big asset to fiber producers. Tumbling your fleeces on your farm will save you money in shipping and add quality to the end product.

SCOURING-WASHING

The fiber wash system will wash a large amount of fiber in a single operation. Up to three lots of fiber can be cleaned at the same time with variable wash action and centrifuge. The integrated recycling system allows reuse of approximately 40% of the water and 30% of the heat.
**PICKER**

The picker’s two functions in fiber processing are Opening and Blending. ‘Picking’ improves homogeneity within a batch and it is the best stage in the processing to achieve blending of colors mixes or percentages of fiber types. Opening is simply the reduction of fiber entanglement. Entanglement in natural fiber occurs on the animal in locks, from exposure to weather or rubbing against objects. It can also be caused in the washing operation. At the picker, fibers are fed through a feed arrangement at low speed. The fibers are brought into contact with the pins on the rotating drum, and are rapidly teased out. By virtue of the drum speed, the fibers are thrown from the rear of the machine into a “collecting room”. Most of the opening effect is accomplished by the air movement caused by the speed of rotation and the vanes on the drum. Blending is the process of mixing fibers. There are noticeable differences in the fiber within a fleece, between fleeces from animals of the same breed and even within the same herd. These differences can be evened out so that the yarn is identical in characteristics from the start to the end of the batch.

**FIBER SEPERATOR (DEHAIRER)**

Also known as a “dehairer”, the fiber separator is deigned to accept clean fiber and selectively separate finer fiber from coarser fibers and vegetable matter. Unwanted materials are collected in a chamber beneath the machine, and finer fibers exit the machine at the end in the form of a web.
The Carder is the heart of the fiber processing mill. All fiber must be carded successfully. We may define the carding process as the conversion of a random mass of fiber into a continuous web, either to form a “batt” for felt making, or drawn together to form a “Sliver”. However, this simple definition does not convey the complexity of the working of the fibers, which is of fundamental importance.

- Individual separation of the fibers from each other.
- Fiber alignment
- Consistently even delivery in the form of a web.

CORE SPUN ATTACHMENT-RUG YARN

With this attachment we can create a core yarn at the Carding stage. A “core yarn” is simply a core material wrapped tightly with fiber. The core ensures durability and longevity and gives mats and rugs the required weight to lie on the floor. This machine is capable of making quality rugcraft yarn from lower grades of fiber. Fiber artists are knitting, crocheting, braiding, and weaving with these yarns. It is also capable of creating coreless lopi yarns.
**COMBING-only a few in the U.S.**

*Combing* is a method for preparing carded fiber for spinning. Combing is divided into linear and circular combing. The Noble comb is an example of circular combing. The French comb is an example of linear combing. The process of combing is accompanied by *gilling*, a process of evening out carded or combed top making it suitable for spinning. Combing separates out short fibers by means of a rotating ring or rectilinear row of steel pins. The fibers in the 'top' it produces, have been straightened and lie parallel to each other.

**GILLING BOX**

![Gilling Box Image]

**COMBING MACHINE**

![Combing Machine Image]
DRAW FRAME

Drawing or drafting is the reduction in weight to length or linear density of the fiber stream or sliver. It is achieved on the draw frame by passing the sliver through the nip points of two sets of rolls. The nips are achieved with a lower steel roll and an upper rubber coated roll or “cot”. The “front” set of rolls has a higher surface speed than the “rear”. The sliver is elongated or “drawn”, by a factor equivalent to the ratio of the speeds, of the two sets of rolls. To keep fibers of varying length under control we use a porcupine roller that also improves the parallelization of the fibers.

The operation of drawing sliver is quite straightforward and simple in comparison to the complexity of carding, but it is important as a means of establishing the linear density of the sliver to a level suitable for spinning.

PIN DRAFTER

Pin Drafter is used to further align the fibers in the sliver after the card. This has several effects on the sliver. First, it aligns the fibers to a more parallel state and second, it takes several slivers at once and blends them together. This produces one sliver out that is more even than the slivers produced by the card. Fibers may be pin drafted to align them further into a parallel sliver. This allows an easier draft and produces a “semi-worsted” type yarn. Fibers must be pin-drafted several times to prepare them for machine spinning.
SPINNER

Spinning is the process by which twist is inserted into a sliver. There are two parts to this Spinning system, the Draft and the Twist. The Ring Spinning Frame has a wide range of possible rates of draft and twist insertion. Depending on fiber fineness and fiber length, a very wide range of yarn types may be produced. A “Master Dial” adjusts the speed of the front and back rollers and the spindle speed. By correct adjustment of the control knobs, a yarn of the desired count (thickness) and twist level may be produced. The spindle direction may be reversed to give “S” or “Z” twist direction and to allow twist reversal, for the purpose of plying the single yarns. Regarding the amount of twist to insert into the yarn, the required amount depends upon the count and the type of fiber.

PLYER

Plying, may be performed on a 4 spindle spinner and is done by simply bypassing the draft zone and reversing the direction of the twist. There are many aesthetic changes brought about by plying single yarns. The most obvious is that of appearance and development of loft and softness. There are many others, plying single yarns of different count, twist level and color may produce fascinating results. In single yarn twist gives the fibers cohesion and strength. However, the single yarn can be hard and not suitable where softness and warmth are important.

To achieve loft and softness the yarn must be twisted in the opposite direction to that in which it was spun, with two, three, four or five single yarn strands. A great deal of variation in plied yarn properties may be achieved by varying the amount of twist inserted into the plied structure.
STEAMER

This piece of equipment is one way to “set” the yarn. Yarn is passed through a chamber where it is exposed to live steam under slight tension. It is then allowed to cool as it passes through a stainless steel tube.

CONE WINDER

Yarn is removed from the bobbin and wound around a cardboard cone. This allows for larger amounts of continuous yarn to be removed from the bobbin. Many times weavers prefer cones to skeins.
SKEIN WINDER

A skein is a measured length of yarn which has been wound into a large circle and then is usually twisted into a convenient shape for sale, storage or further processing such as dyeing. The winding operation is essentially the removal of single or plied yarn from the bobbin into a reel. This time consuming manual task is accomplished at high speed producing several skeins simultaneously.

What you should know about your mill and what questions to ask.

- Who are they? Are they a large or small organization?
- Where are they?
- What are their hours? Can you call at all times?
- What is their pricing structure?
- What equipment do they have?
- What is included in each pricing group?
- How do they feel about processing Suri?
- Will they make it “to order”?
- Do you have a choice of skeins or cones?
- Do they make recommendations for your fleece?
- Can they supply blending fibers should you desire?
- What is delivery time?
- Can your order be expedited?
- What additional services do they provide?
- How do they want you to pay?
- Are they open to tours and or visits?
- Do they attend functions where you could drop off your fleece?
Fiber Mills That Process Suri

This is a listing of fiber mills that have indicated they are interested in processing suri fiber. This is not a recommendation, but is a guideline to help make your processing decisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiber Mills</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **A Simpler Time Alpacas & Mill** | Dave & Barb Davies  
1802 Alta Place  
El Cajon CA, 92021  
619-579-9114  
ddavies@dslextreme.com |
| **Alpaca Pines Farm & Fiber Mill** | Vickie Glenn-Donley  
21756 Beaverton RD.  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
815-292-3222  
www.alpacapines.com |
| **A&B Fiberworks** | Anne Goodwin  
PO Box 678  
Unden, Canada T0M 1J0  
403-443-5907  
aandbfiberworks@gmail.com |
| **Arizona Fiber Mill** | Rita Beeson  
7485 E 1st St. Ste. A  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314  
928-713-3244  
Rita@arizonafibermill.com |
| **Blue Hills Fiber Mill** | Ridgeley Reichert  
W12855 Christianson Rd.  
Bruce, WI 54819  
715-868-9045  
reichert@brucetel.net |
| **C&M Acres Fiber Mill** | Christian Davies  
33707 663rd Ave.  
Maxwell, IA 50161  
515-387-8607  
cmacres@cmacres.com |
| **Central Virginia Fiber Mill** | Mary Kearney  
1710 Welsh Run Rd.  
Ruckersville, VA 22968  
434-985-3669  
Centralvafibermill@gmail.com |
| **Crooked Fence Alpacas & Mill** | Linda Kenison  
HC 60 Box 85  
Mona, UT 84334  
801-367-1629  
info@crookedfencealpacas.com |
| **Dakota Fiber Mill** | Chris Armbrust  
17061 54th St. SE  
Kindred, ND 58051  
701-238-4002  
Dakotafibermill@gmail.com |
| **Fitch Fibers** | Linda Adelman  
25 Stockhouse Rd.  
Bozrah, CT 06334  
860-222-3119  
fitchfibers@gmail.com |
| **Friend’s Folly Farm** | Pogo & Marcia  
319 Norris Hill Rd  
Monmouth, ME 04259  
207-632-2115  
friendsfolly@roadrunner.com |
| **Going To The Sun Fiber Mill** | Diana Blair  
805 Kienas Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-756-6772  
montanamill@gmail.com |
| **HLA Fiber Mill** | John & Sara Morris  
10289 SW Parkview Rd.  
Augusta, KS 67010  
316-258-4036  
hiafibermill@yahoo.com |
| **Luste Fiber Designs** | Linsey & Matt Carey  
11282W Murphy Blvd.  
Hayward WI 54843  
715-214-5963  
alpacaroyale@hotmail.com |
| **Mesa Trail Alpacas** | Stacey Skildum  
1295 State Route 22 A S  
Jack's Creek, TN 38347  
262-391-6114  
mesatralpacas@yahoo.com |
| **Morro Fleece Works** | Sheri McKelvy  
1920 Main St.  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805-772-9665  
mfw@morrofleece.com |
Mystic Pines Fiber Processing
Rob Jorissen
7892 N Trails End Drive
Williams, AZ 86046
480-326-7279
Info@mysticpinesfiber.com

New Aim Fiber Mill
Nancy Williams
13 Robinson Rd.
Waldoboro, ME 04572
207-832-5162
nancy@newaim.com

New Era Fiber
Jan Heinrich
698 Wallace Rd.
Gallatin, TN 37066
615-452-7852
janh@newerafiber.com

Oklahoma Mini Mill
Cheri French
1324 N Wentz St Suite F
Guthrie OK, 73044
405-260-2705
contact@oklahomaminimill.com

Rach-Al-Paca Fiber Processing
Rachel Boucher
18495 Goodwin Ave.
Hastings MN 55033
651-485-7916
rachalpacafarm@aol.com

Ranch of the Oaks
Tom Goehring
3269 Crucero Rd.
Lompac, CA 93436
805-714-2068
Ranch@ranchoftheoaks.com

Scissor Tail Yarn & Fiber Mill
119 N Crawford Ave.
Norman, OK 73068
415-443-7951
Betsy@scissortailmill.com

Spring Harvest Fiber Mill
Denise & Bob Cathel
2361 Scoon Rd.
Sunnyside, WA 98944
509-837-8012
springharvestmill@gmail.com

Star Castle Fiber Mill & Farm, LLC
Barbara Simpson
56778 Fat Elk Rd.
Coquille, OR 97423
541-400-0081
Barbara@starcastlefarm.com

Sterling Wool Nook & Mill
1327 Byerland Church Rd.
Willow Street, PA 17584
717-371-4195
beth@sterlingwoollmill.com

Still River Mill, LLC.
Deidre Bushnell
210 Eastford Rd.
Eastford, CT 06242
860-974-9918
sales@stillrivermill.com

Sugarloaf Alpaca Company
Nancy Brandt
1347 Buckystown Pike
Adamstown, MD 21710
301-606-2133
nancy@sugarloafalpacas.com

Texas Handwoven Creations
141 S Roberts St.
Paint Rock, TX 76866
325-730-4370
paintrockrugs@gmail.com

Underhill Fibers
50 Wilson Rd.
Gorham, ME 04038
207-892-2617
underhillfiber@yahoo.com

Vermont Fiber Mill & Studio
Ed & Debbie Bratton
185 Adams Rd.
Brandon, VT 05733
802-236-9158
mail@vermontfibermill.com
### 2020 Mill Summary

**Set yarn key = W- Wash, S- Steam, B- Balanced**

**Yarn Type = S- Semi-worsted, W- Worsted, WL- Woolen**
Hand Processing Equipment

Hand Processing Definitions:

Ball Winders: Used to wrap yarn from skeins into balls for plying or knitting

Blending board: A flat board where fibers are mounted usually in creative, random order to create unique blends of fibers and color to be rolled off into rolags or punis in preparation for spinning art yarns.

Diz: A small device with holes of various sizes, used to draw combed fibers through a hole to make combed top for worsted spun yarn.

Drum Carders: Consists of two cylinders each covered with card clothing and mounted on a frame. The larger diameter cylinder is turned by hand crank handle or is motor driven. The smaller cylinder is turned in the opposite direction by means of a connecting driving belt. The rotation action draws the fibers through the teeth opening them and applying them to the drum. Drum carded fibers are ready for spinning after one or two times through the carder.

Dyes (Natural and synthetic): There are a vast array of dyes available suited for all types of fibers be sure and check each brand for instructions on use and which fibers it can be applied to.
Hackles: Traditionally this was a wooden block set with rows of very sharp steel pins through which flax is drawn to straighten and refine them. Modern hackles are built with one or two rows of steel teeth commonly used to comb or blend fibers using a hand comb and dizing off the fibers for perfectly prepared combed top. The longer fibers are removed leaving debris and shorter fibers in the teeth of the hackles.

Hand cards: Used in pairs hand held paddles opens shorter fibers to eliminate clumps to prepare them for hand spinning into twisted yarn.

Hand Spindles: Can be used suspended, supported or rolled in the hand or on the thigh.

Inch Magnifying Glass (linen counter): Folding pocket magnifying glass complete with inch measure when laid on cloth or object enables threads to be counted.

McMorran Balance, Scales: McMorran balance is a device that measures the count of short lengths of yarn.

Mordents and Assists: Dye Assists; Acetic acid, Ammonia, Bran, Common salt, copper sulphate, cream of tartar, Glauber’s salt, synthetic detergent are all to some degree assist the dye process.

Needle felting: A felting needle has barbs that push the fibers down into the wool creating a dense and compact three-dimensional object. There are also large machines that produce sheets of needle felted fabric for garment construction.
**Niddy Noddy**: A device used to make skeins of yarn from the spinning wheel, usually measured in 1 or 2 yards wraps.

![Niddy Noddy](image)

**Nostepinne**: A straight or carved piece of wood used to wrap a ball of wool.

![Nostepinne](image)

**Spinning wheels**: Saxony wheels (horizontal), castle wheels (vertical), Norwegian wheels (horizontal on a bench) and what we call "modern", which can take on many forms, including wheels electric wheels.

![Spinning wheel](image)

**Spindle wheels**: Charkha

![Spindle](image)

**Spinning Wheel Accessories**: Threading Hooks, Lazy Kates (Bobbin holder), Bobbins, oil bottles

**Spinning gauge or control card**: Used to determine grist of hand spun yarn

[www.knitty.com/ISSUEss14/KSFEATss14KS.php](http://www.knitty.com/ISSUEss14/KSFEATss14KS.php)

**Support Spindles**: A new version of ancient and medieval spindles in numerous types such as Takhli, Tibetan, Kick spindles, Navajo and numerous other types of authentic and original designs available today. Used to sping short fine fibers that are not strong enough to bear the weight of a suspended spindle. For example; cotton, also yak, quivik, bison and camel down fibers.

![Support Spindle](image)
**Swifts & Skein winders:** Swift is an umbrella type frame, mounted and able to rotate easily. Also, large drum style of various sizes used in homes or mills. They are used to wind yarn into skeins usually 1-2 yards each for washing, dyeing or storage.

![Swifts & Skein winders](image)

**Wet felting:** A craft where fibers are melded together using water, soap and agitation to create a strong durable fabric that produces products such as rugs and insoles or as soft and delicate as lacy scarves and garments.

**Wool Combs:** Hand held tools are used in pairs to comb long stapled fleeces such as British long wools, mohair and Suri alpaca. Examples: Viking (smaller hand held version of the combs) or English (larger table mounted combs with 4-5 rows of teeth). Combing produces a parallel presentation of fibers for worsted or semi-worsted yarns where the short fibers have been removed. These yarns are longer wearing, smoother, and less insulating than woolen yarns.

![Wool Combs](image)

**Wool Picker:** Wool Picker is a hand operated or electric piece of equipment with large teeth used for picking open wool staples and prepares it for carding, combing and uniform consistent spinning. It is often used for blending colors and fibers before carding.

![Wool Picker](image)
Chapter 5: Where to Market Promote Fiber Products

Think about what your end product will be and who is going to be the end user of that product. In what ways will you get your product or service in front of the end user?

Events

Agri Tours
The practice of touring agricultural areas to see farms and often to participate in farm activities. [www.agritourismworld.com](http://www.agritourismworld.com)

Yarn Stores

Trunk shows
A trunk show is an event in which vendors present merchandise directly to store personnel and or customers at a retail location or another venue such as a hotel room. Trunk shows may be open to the general public and advertised in the mass media or may be confined to special customers or those on a mailing list.

KAL-Knit-A-Long (KAL)
When multiple knitters make the same project at the same time which is both fun and helpful to each other. A good way to get others using your yarn.

CAL-Crochet-A-Long (CAL)
Same as KAL

Classes
Teach a class or team up with a designer, using your Suri products, i.e. roving, yarn, rug yarn.

Other Market Places

Etsy
The world’s most vibrant marketplace to buy and sell handmade items. [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)

Zibbet
Zibbet is a marketplace powered by a global community of independent artists, crafters and vintage collectors. It’s a place where you can buy the most amazing, unique and inspiring products that can’t be found anywhere else. [www.zibbet.com](http://www.zibbet.com)

Fibershed
Fibershed develops regenerative textile systems that are based on carbon farming, regional manufacturing, and public education. [www.Fibershed.com](http://www.Fibershed.com)
**GuildsSpinnersKnittersFiber Artists**
An organized group of people who have joined together because they share the same interest.

**Internet**
www.Localfibers.com

**Ravelry**
Is a free site for knitters and crocheters. www.ravelry.com
You can list, trunks shows, knitting, crochet groups and Fiber festivals on Ravelry under events. www.ravelry-events.com
You can sell yarn and finished products under shop www.ravelry-marketplace.com

**Lateral Action**
10 mistakes of marketing: www.lateralaction.com
Search for: articles artists-internet-marketing

**Build your own store**

**Shopify**
Set up a beautiful storefront online www.shopify.com

**Storenvy**
Storenvy is a place where you can launch a custom store in minutes. www.storenvy.com
Chapter 6: Secondary Markets
Secondary Markets include but are not limited to meat, leather, and manure.

Meat:
Because the USDA does not consider the alpaca a meat animal, the sale of alpaca meat falls under the jurisdiction of the FDA and local state authorities.

Web Based Information to Help Promote the Consumption of Alpaca Meat.
Excerpt from “Alpaca: The Other Red Meat” from the Modern Farmer
“Each mature alpaca harvested equates to about 60 pounds of meat – roughly the same amount of meat you can get from a deer. Lean, tender and almost sweet, alpaca meat is nutritionally superior to many of its red meat counterparts. Lower in calories, fat, and cholesterol, this high-protein, exotic meat is beginning to appeal to those seeking out alternatives to domesticated meat like beef or pork, and even wild meat, like venison. Ground alpaca is versatile enough to be substituted in place of ground turkey or beef in most recipes.”

Steps for Consideration:
1. How will you be using your meat product?
   a) Personal Use
   b) Farmer’s Market: [www.Local Farmers Markets](#)
   c) [State by State InspectionsSales Regulations for Alpaca Meat](#)

2. Which facility will process your alpaca?
   a) Find a facility licensed and inspected to process the whole animal into cuts labeled “not for resale” (to get USDA approval the alpaca must be mixed with another USDA approved meat) and then vacuum package the cuts.

3. How do you cook alpaca meat?
   a) [Meat Cuts Guide](#)
   b) La Viende is the brand name for alpaca meat in Australia: [www.laviande.com.au](#)
   c) YouTube channel that features alpaca recipes: Illawarra Prime Alpaca
   d) [Alpaca Recipes](#)

4. Herd Management Considerations for Meat and Leather Processing:
   a) Non-Breeders older than 24 months will be processed for meat.
   b) 3-6 months before “processing” all alpacas will be moved to an organic lifestyle to detox
   c) Will be shorn no less than 4 weeks before “processing” for better fur quality.
Leather (hide) Fur (pelt)

The tanning process for alpacas is similar to lambskin.
Alpaca Coalition: www.alpacacoalition.com/terminal-market-options/tannery-listings/

Manure: Web Based Information to Help Promote the Use of Alpaca Manure.

Excerpts from “Get a Load of Our Manure Guide” from the Modern Farmer:
“Manure is nature’s fertilizer. But beyond that simple truth is a world of complexity. Not all manures are created equally, and knowing the difference is a key to proper use. Choosing manure is a bit like choosing ingredients for a meal. The smell, texture and species of origin say a lot about how it will influence the overall composition—in this case, of the soil.

The most important point to consider when choosing manure is how much nitrogen it has in it. Most manures have so much nitrogen they will ‘burn’ the roots of plants, making the leaves brown and stunted rather than green and lush. These are called ‘hot’ manures and must always be composted with carbon-rich materials, like leaves or straw, before they are applied to the soil.

Alpaca pellets pack plenty of nitrogen and need to be aged or composted before tilling into the soil.

It is typically collected together with their bedding material (i.e. straw), which provides the carbon source needed to balance their nitrogen content. Bedding from these animals is a compost pile ready to happen.”

Excerpt from “How to Choose the Best Manure for Your Garden”
“Alpaca manure, rich in nitrogen and potassium, currently is in fashion among garden enthusiasts. Alpacas take 50 hours to digest food (horses take 1 hour), and produce poop pellets, which are easy to collect and spread.”

Steps for Consideration:

1. Do you want to age, compost or create liquid fertilizer?
   - AGING: Aging manure means letting it sit. Over time the nitrogen content ‘volatilizes,’ meaning it converts to a gaseous form and enters the atmosphere, leaving the poop cooler than when it was first deposited.
   - COMPOSTING: Composting is piling up the manure with alternating layers of a carbon-rich substance (leaves, straw, grass clippings, etc.) and keeping it moist and aerated until the pile decomposes into crumbly black earth.
   - LIQUID FERTILIZER: Manure tea, which is similar in nature to compost tea, enriches the soil and adds much needed nutrients for healthy plant growth.

2. Do you want to use on your own pasture gardens or sell?
   - Composted manure for sale: Example of Pricing
3. Other Resources Links:

- Manure on Your Farm: Asset or Liability?
- How to Start a Manure Business
- Using Composted Alpaca in the Garden
- Green Beans
- What is Compost Tea and What are the Benefits?
Chapter 7: Resources (Books, Websites, Associations, Etc.)

Associations

Suri Network: www.surinetwork.org
Alpaca Owners Association Inc.: www.alpacainfo.com
Alpaca Research Foundation: www.alpacaresearch.org
International Camelid Institute: www.icinfo.vet.ohio-state.edu/

Useful Links

Alpaca Owners Affiliate in Your Area: www.alpacainfo.comfindaffiliate-search
Alpaca World Magazine: www.alpacaworldmagazine.com
Camelid Identification System (CIS): www.cisdna.org
Camelid Community: www.camelidcommunity.us
Great Lakes Alpaca Association – Resource Center: www.glaa-alpaca.com
Hand Weaver’s Guild of Boulder (Guild Directory) - www.handweaversofboulder.org
Textile Society of America - www.textilesocietyofamerica.orgcommunityresources

Education

Alpaca Owners Association – Alpaca Academy: www.alpacaacademy.com
Suri Network Library: www.surinetwork.org
About Suri Fiber: www.surinetwork.orgAboutSuriFiber

Books

Books by Mike Safley and others: www.alpacas.comBooks
Books by Eric Hoffman: www.amazon.comEric-HoffmaneB001JS4AHIQ
Books by Cameron Holt: www.alpacaculture.comalpaca-culture-storea-definitive-guide-to-alpaca-fibre-detail
www.lightlivestockequipment.comproduct-categoryeducationbooks