



NSAA News

A message from the Director's Catch Pen...

Spring is here, fleece has grown, and shows have begun. Before and during shearing is the time to talk with your shearer to decide which of those cuties should head to the show before being processed into your favorite products.



Show results begin when the fleece is still on the alpaca. Have a show cut performed and treat that fleece with the reverence it deserves to make it the best, easiest fleece the judge looks at on the table.

NSAA's own Carol Boswell has recorded a YouTube video showing the procedure to "noodle" that fleece. What is a fleece noodle you may ask? Well, basically it is a way of rolling your show fleece to keep it nice and neat for show time. It is easy to do, but you need to plan for it before those clippers make the first cut. Should a show fleece be a one-piece or a two-piece? Honestly, the judge doesn't much care; they are much more interested in a well presented, easy to lay-out blanket so they can get to the judging aspect. You don't have to noodle but it is a great way to keep a well organized fleece together. Watch the video and get to noodle making.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpupDt3tvkl>

The 3rd Annual Fiber Fusion is in the works; we are continuing to grow and improve the show, but we need your help. There are many volunteer opportunities available; time and energy commitments ranging from a couple of hours during the show to setting up on Friday to tackling a chair position for one aspect or another. We desperately need YOUR help to pull off another great show. Team Fiber Fusion will be meeting on Tuesday May 28th at noon on the third floor of the Co-Op in

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Mount Vernon. Monthly meetings will be scheduled, we will plan of on some being held on weekdays, some on weekends - come to as many as you can and jump in, we are open to ideas, suggestions, constructive criticism, the show improves each year due to the thoughts brought out after the preceding show. Bring it, we really do want to hear.

Dina Blackstone,
NSAA VP



Meet
this month's

featured NSAA Farm Member



Fiber Fusion 2013 Update

Wondering what's new with Fiber Fusion? Lots of things are happening!

Registration for over 25 great classes is now open! We've got a great line-up of classes taught by outstanding instructors. From fiber prep to weaving, knitting, crochet, and felting you are sure to find a class that interests you!

Vendor registration opened in March. We've got a great vendor line-up so far! Thinking about vending? Don't delay - We are over 75% full!

Fleece show registration is scheduled to open June 1. We hope you will take advantage of this inexpensive opportunity to get valuable feedback on your fleeces.

We've got 3 sponsors! A big 'Thank You' to Gold sponsor -*Alpaca Adventures*; Silver sponsor - *American Livestock Magazine*; and Bronze sponsor -*Las Flores del Altiplano*.

Interested in supporting Fiber Fusion and promoting your business at the same time? Take a look at our [sponsorship opportunities](#) on the website to see what's being offered.

Questions, comments, or just want to be kept in the loop? We encourage you to connect with us on Facebook and on Ravelry!

Check out the website www.fiberfusion.net for info on classes, vending, or sponsorship opportunities and lots more! Want to get involved? Join us at the Skagit Food Coop on Mount Vernon at noon on May 28 or visit the volunteer page on the website to sign up to help. We need you!

NSAA is pleased to announce an exciting educational opportunity! Mark your calendars for

Saturday, August 17, 2013

Color Genetics and EPDs for Alpaca Breeders

Industry expert, Dr. Andy Merriwether, PhD will teach this interesting 6 hour class.

Join us as we learn more about the fascinating world of color and EPD's (Estimated Progeny Differences) in camelids. It will follow-up on the class taught in 2011 and will bring new info to the table with the discussion of EPD's. Bring your ARI certificates and questions!

Visit the website for more information and to register for this informative class!

<http://www.northsoundalpacas.org/news--events.html>



Annual NSAA Summer Social



Sunday, July 21

[NSAA's Summer Social](#) and Potluck will be held at [Crimping River Fiber Mill](#), Camano Island WA on Sunday, July 21.

If past summer social's are any indicator, there will be wonderful food and lots of fun socializing. You will be able to see a fiber processing mill and we will be voting on new candidates for NSAA's Board of Directors. Members and non members welcome.

We hope to see you there!

Calendar

May 16 - 19 - [AOBA Nationals](#), Denver, CO

May 25 - [Barley Fooder Feeding Class](#), Paca Pride Guest Ranch, Granite Falls

May 24 - 26 - [Fiber in the Forest](#), Eugene OR

May 28 - [Team Fiber Fusion meeting](#), May 28, 12:00 pm
Skagit Valley Food Co-op, 202 S 1st Street, Mount Vernon
(upstairs meeting room)

June 1-2 - [Mother Earth News Fair](#), Puyallup

June 17 - 23 - [NW Weavers Conference](#), Bellingham
Classes, workshops, vendors, etc.

June 21 - 23 - [Black Sheep Gathering](#), Eugene, OR

July 21 - [Annual NSAA Summer Social](#), [Crimping River Mill](#), Camano Island

August 17 - [Color Genetics & EPD Seminar](#) with Dr. Andy Merriwether
The Farmhouse Restaurant hosted by NSAA.

October 12 - 13, [Alpaca Mania](#), Eugene, OR

October 19 & 20 - [Fiber Fusion Northwest](#), Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe

Bookmarks Available Now!

Attractive, Informative & Useful

Fiber Fusion Northwest 2013 Bookmarks Available Now!

- Display a stack in your farm store
- Pass out to farm visitors
- Deliver a supply to your local yarn shop
- Drop off a bundle at your favorite farm supply store
- Share some with your library
- Give to family & friends
- Leave some at the local craft store during your next visit
- Bring some to your Vet's office



Get your supply by contacting leeanna@pronkinpastures.com, phone 360-678-0481.

Help promote your show!

Sell Your Raw Fiber



Changes are underway! For some time, NSAA has had a 'Fiber Marketplace' page on the website - an area where NSAA members could market their raw fiber.

We are noticing that the Fiber Fusion website is getting more traffic from a variety of sources, so in hopes of better exposure for you, we have moved the Fiber Marketplace page and all its listings from the NSAA website to the Fiber Fusion website.

The listing service is still free to NSAA members, and all the same rules apply. The only thing different is the increased traffic that the FF site generates and the fact that other fiber producers can list raw fiber on the site, too.

Check it out - and list your fiber for sale!

<http://www.fiberfusion.net/fiber-marketplace.html>

WSU Ag news

This month's [WSU Whatcom Agricultural newsletter](#) includes articles that may interest you!

1. Selecting Barley for Feed, Food & Malt Production in WW
2. WW Farmer Tour of Peru, South America



NSAA welcomes newsletter article submissions, educational workshop suggestions, and your comments or feedback.

[Contact NSAA by email](#)