

Qualicum Bay Fibre Works

Quality Processing of Your Quality Fibre

- ❖ All Fibres: Wool, Alpaca, Llama, Mohair, Blends
- ❖ Washing, Picking, Carding into roving or batts, Pindrafting, Spinning
- ❖ The fibre you send in is the fibre you will get back - Guaranteed

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Mill hours: Friday - Tuesday, closed Wednesday and Thursday

If you wish to visit the mill, please make arrangements ahead of time, and I will send directions.

Price List (effective June 1, 2011):

Washing - due in advance

Wool \$ 3.50/lb;

Alpaca and mohair \$ 4.50/lb

QBFW will accept pre-washed fleeces, but reserves the right to re-wash, at the regular charge, if the fleece is not considered clean enough. The customer will be notified if this is necessary.

A note on old fleeces: The grease on fleeces that have been stored for a long time hardens and becomes extremely difficult to scour out. This may also happen if fleeces are allowed to cool in a hot water wash before all the grease has been washed out. Such fleeces are also more prone to felting, and may need to be picked before washing to prevent this, and to open up the fleece so that the soap can penetrate more freely. These fleeces will be charged at the mohair/alpaca rate.

Mohair and Suri alpaca may also need to be picked prior to washing, to separate and open the locks in order to allow the cleaning solution to penetrate. Mohair is picked mechanically, Suri by hand. Therefore, a picking charge will be added to such fleeces if necessary (see below). *This picking does not remove all vegetation.*

NOTE: A fleece that comes in with evidence of active moth infestation will be discarded immediately.

All other prices are charged at finished weight.

Payment for services other than washing are payable when the services are completed.

Picking

\$2.00/lb

Picking opens up a washed fleece and separates the fibres, making the fleece easier to prepare. If the fleece will be carded at QBFW, it is usually not necessary, but if you will be preparing your own fleece after washing, it will make it easier to card. Picking can also rescue a fleece that is slightly cotted.

Carding

Wool or wool blends - batts or roving: \$ 6.50/lb.

Alpaca & mohair: \$ 7.50/lb

Suri alpaca: \$ 8.50/lb

Some alpaca and mohair behave quite well on the carder – some don't. Adding 10% wool to more slippery fibres improves the handling characteristics tremendously, and is generally unnoticeable in the final product, which can still be labeled "100%" or "pure". If you give permission to add wool *as needed for processing* (see the box on the order form), the wool rate will apply, and wool will only be added if necessary to get the rovings to hold together.

Pin-drafting

\$ 11.00/lb (includes carding)

\$ 4.50/lb (from QBFW roving)

\$ 7.50/lb (from other roving)

Pin-blending/pin-drafting for knitting

\$ 14.00/lb (includes carding)

\$ 7.00/lb (from QBFW roving)

\$ 9.50 (from other roving)

Pin-drafting combs and attenuates the fibres in a roving, and packs it neatly in coils for easy spinning. One pass is standard for pin drafting – blending requires 3 or more passes. A standard blend on the pindrafter is 3 passes, which will result in a streaky blend, with the individual components still distinguishable.

If you want a homogenous blend, the carder is a better choice, unless the blending fibre is silk, which will form noils if carded. If you want a homogenous blend on the pin-drafter, please let me know in advance (it will cost more).

Pin-drafting for knitting usually requires 2 passes, and results in a roving thin enough to be knit without spinning – usually using a 4-8mm needle. This is not possible with all fibres – the staple length needs to be at least 3 inches, and longer is better, especially with the more slippery fibres.

Spinning

Includes carding & pin-drafting and winding the finished yarn on to a cone

Singles \$26/lb

2-ply - fingering/light DK weight \$30/lb

3-ply - DK-worsted weight \$29

4-ply - worsted weight - light chunky \$28

Payment for services other than washing are payable when the services are completed.

Fleece Preparation Tips

There is a saying used in statistics - GIGO. It means "Garbage in, Garbage out". I prefer to look at the flip side of that, i.e. QIQO - Quality in, Quality out. Quality fibre doesn't necessarily mean fine fibre - a Lincoln Longwool or Border Leicester produce a very coarse fleece, but it can still be a joy to process and spin. Avoid disappointment by keeping several things in mind when choosing a fleece to process:

❖ VEGETATION

There is no process used here at QBFW that will remove all bits of vegetation from a fleece. Much of it will come out during processing, but the more there is to start, the more will be in the finished product. Keep this in mind when selecting a fleece to be processed.

I cannot evaluate your relative tolerance for veggies - I have to operate on the assumption that if you send it to me you want it processed, and if there are more veggies in it than you like - *that's your problem*. While we will try to satisfy all customers there are things we cannot process.

Fleeces heavily contaminated by things such as wood chips and burrs cannot be put through the carder, since they can stick in the teeth and cause damage to the machine.

❖ SKIRTING

Washing is charged on the basis of weight in. If you remove any dags or unusable fibre before sending your fleece in you can avoid paying for washing fibre that has to be discarded.

❖ BLENDING FIBRES.

While we may have silk, alpaca, mohair or other fibres in stock, the availability of blending fibres other than wool is unpredictable - if you wish to have your fibre blended, it's best to procure your own.

Order Form

I am sending:

_____lbs Sheep / _____lbs Alpaca / _____lbs Llama / _____lbs Other _____

fleece to be processed.

(If you don't have an accurate scale, leave weight blank and I will weigh your fibre and notify you of the results.

Please: (check all that apply)

- Wash
- Pick
- Card into Roving
- Blend on carder with: _____
- Add wool as necessary for processing**
- Card into Batts
- Pindraft
- Pin-blend with:

- Spin (specify what you want the finished yarn to be)
- Singles
- 2-ply
- 3-ply
- 4-ply
- Please call or e-mail with an estimate before beginning work

Not sure what you want? Call or e-mail me and I will be happy to help you determine the best way to prepare your fibre!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

e-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return by:

- Bus
- Postal service
- Courier (Please Specify)

 Call when finished and I will pick up at:

All orders will be confirmed on receipt by e-mail or phone.

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