

Taos Wool Festival Fleece Show 2014

We welcome your entries to the 2014 Fleece Show! Laura Pierce will be making her second appearance as a judge for this great show. She got rave reviews when she judged in 2010. A native of Colorado, Laura has been working with fiber for over a decade. She lives in the foothills west of Denver with her husband and has two grown children. Laura has been the superintendent of the Fleece and Fiber Show at the Estes Park Wool Market since 2008 and was assistant superintendent from 2003-2007. She was superintendent for the Cashmere Goat Show at the Colorado State Fair from 2012-2013 and assistant from 2008-2011. In addition, she was superintendent for the Adams County Platte River Wool Show from 2006-2012. She has also been the judge for the 4-H Cashmere Goat Show at the Gunnison Cattlemen's Days in 2010 and 2011, and the judge for the 4-H Fiber Goat Show at the El Paso County Fair from 2010-2013. Laura is a 4-H leader and raised Corriedale sheep for a number of years. In her free time, Laura enjoys spinning, weaving and crocheting. She is a wonderful teacher, and will provide invaluable constructive feedback on all the fleeces entered in the 2014 fleece show.

Times: Bring your entries to the Fleece Show Tent at the Festival between 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM on Saturday, October 4. The Show will be open to the public from the 11 AM judging until closing at 5 PM. We encourage you to come for the judging, which is a great opportunity to learn about the characteristics of a winning fleece for handspinning. Fleeces may be picked up by exhibitors once the judging for the entire show is complete, and must be picked up by no later than 4:30 PM on Saturday. You must check out your fleece with the Fleece Show staff prior to removing it from the tent.

Fees: \$5 per fleece for everyone, including Wool Festival vendors.

Entries: An entry is one fleece. Fleeces must have been grown in Colorado, New Mexico, or Texas. Fleeces must have been shorn after the 2013 contest and represent 12 month's growth or less. Yearling fleeces will be allowed up to 16 month's growth.

Preparation of Fleeces: This show is intended for premium quality *handspinning* fleeces. Fleeces must be exhibited untied in a clear plastic bag.

Labeling: When you bring your fleeces to the Fleece Show tent, you will fill out a label indicating:

- Sheep: white or colored, and type of fiber (fine, medium, coarse, or specific heritage breed), breed, and age of animal, along with your name, address, phone and booth number if applicable.
- Goat: type of fiber (mohair, cashmere, or cashgora) and age of animal, along with your name, address, phone and booth number if applicable.
- Alpaca: age of animal, along with your name, address, phone and booth number if applicable.

Personal information will be hidden during judging. No farm/ranch business cards or labels indicating ownership will be displayed with the fleeces during judging.

Criteria for Judging: Fleeces will be judged for soundness, cleanliness, uniformity, and general character typical of high quality animal fiber. Again, this show is intended for premium quality

handspinning fleeces. Please be aware that the criteria on which handspinning fleeces are judged are different than those on which fleeces would be judged for commercial spinning or for any other use.

Fiber Divisions and Classes are summarized in the table that follows. Please note:

If there are a sufficient number of entries, the wool classes may be further broken out by breed and/or age of the animal. Breed and age may be factored into the judge's scoring regardless of how the fleeces are grouped by class.

The heritage class includes all fleeces having a combination of hair or medulated fiber and wool. Examples of breed fleeces that may fit into this class are Navajo-Churro, Karakul, Shetland, Jacob and some modern breeds derived from crosses of wool breeds and hair sheep (e.g., California Red Sheep).

The classes and grade/styles listed above are based on historical entries at the Fleece Show. The show manager reserves the right to combine classes if the number of entries in any individual class or grade/style is insufficient, to place entries in appropriate classes as necessary, and to sub-divide grades/styles if entries warrant.

Awards: Awards will be presented as listed in the table, below, as entries warrant in each grade, style or class. The 2014 awards are based on historical entries and/or recommendations of past judges. The show manager reserves the right to re-allocate awards as appropriate, if grades/styles or classes are combined or sub-divided as entries warrant.

The fleece show emphasizes quality. A class or championship ribbon or a silver medallion will be awarded only when, based on the judge's experience, the quality of the fleece merits such an award. In other words, to merit a ribbon or medallion, a fleece must be comparable to the award-winning fleeces the judge has seen at comparable shows. If only one fleece is entered in a class it does not guarantee a blue ribbon, or a ribbon at all. You can rest assured that a fleece that earns a ribbon or award at the Taos Wool Festival would be a competitive entry at other regional fleece competitions!

Grades/Styles	Awards	Classes	Awards	Combined Classes	Awards
Sheep – white, Fine	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Sheep – White & Colored	Grand Champion Reserve Champion	Sheep	Silver Medallion
Sheep – white, Medium	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – white, Coarse	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Fine	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Medium	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Coarse	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – white, Heritage	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Sheep - Heritage	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Sheep – colored, Heritage	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Fiber Goat – Mohair Kid	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Mohair	Grand Champion Reserve Champion	Goat	Silver Medallion
Fiber Goat – Mohair Yearling	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Fiber Goat – Mohair Adult	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Fiber Goat - Cashmere	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Other Fiber Goat	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Fiber Goat - Cashgora	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Alpaca - Cria	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Alpaca – Cria to Yearling	Grand Champion Reserve Champion	Alpaca	Silver Medallion
Alpaca - Yearling	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Alpaca –Two Year Olds	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Alpaca – Two to Adult	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Alpaca - Adult	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				

Fleece Sales: There will be no sales directly from the Fleece Show. Interested buyers will be directed to the exhibitor's booth. Exhibitors who do not have booths are not allowed to sell their fleece or indicate that they are for sale while on the show grounds.