#### **Products/ Services/ Prices**

Natural Colored and Hand Dyed
Fiber Products
Kits: Spinning and Knitting
Community Supported
Agriculture (CSA) Agreements
Catnip - Feathers - Pot Woolies

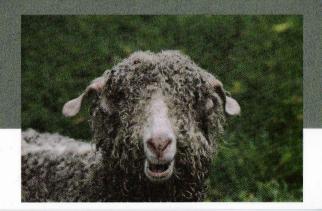
Fleeces: washed wool & mohair: \$1/oz., \$15/lb.

Roving/Batts/Felting Fiber: \$2/oz., \$8/4 oz., \$16/8 oz., \$30/lb.

Top: \$3.50/oz.,\$14/4 oz., \$21/8oz., \$37/lb.

Yarn: \$12 - \$30 based on skein weight

Core Spun rug yarn:\$75/2 lb. bump, makes a 2'x3' rug



## Yarn Production is Labor Intensive

It takes > an hour to hand spin an ounce of single ply lace/fingering weight yarn. Plying takes slightly less time, so a total of ~2 hours/oz for a 2 ply fingering/ sport weight yarn. Bulky yarns take more fiber but less time to spin.

Angora goats produce ~ 4 pounds of mohair in two shearings/year. Washing and discarding dirty/ poor quality portions of the fleece reduces the yield 20-25%. Carding to prepare the fiber for spinning results in the loss of another 20-30%.

Shetland sheep produce ~4 pounds in one shearing a year, and losses in washing are higher – about 30%.

It costs ~\$200/ year to keep a goat or sheep. This is just costs for feed, hay, vaccinations, shearing, etc. and does not include time spent feeding/ caring for the animals.

## Fiber Type Matters

The type of fiber used creates the properties of the yarn. ~25% of a fiber type is needed to impact the properties of the yarn. Match yarn content to the intended use of your project for best results.

Very soft wools (<25 micron) such as those from merino sheep are not very durable. Most "wool" yarns/ garments are made with plastics added (ienylon in sock yarns) to make them last longer.

Mohair (Angora goat fiber) was developed for the Turkish carpet industry and is one of the strongest natural fibers with a luster like silk. It dyes wonderfully.

Pilling in a fabric is the result of fibers in the yarn breaking due to wear or shorter fibers escaping from the spun yarn.

## **Dancing Waters Farm**

Fiber Art Hand Made in Hunterdon County, NJ



Mailing Address: POB 211 Annandale, NJ 08801

908-989-0393

mostlymohair@gmail.com



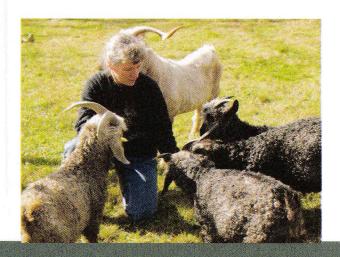
https://mohair-fiber.com

### About Dancing Waters Farm Home of Farm Fresh Fiber

I provide forever homes to heritage/ rare breed chickens, Angora goats & sheep. I'm also continuing the heritage of the small family farm which has become endangered in the USA.

You will "know your fiber" as fiber products include the name of the animal(s) that produced it as well as the type of fiber – you won't get that from a commercial yarn!

My products are all one of a kind, made of natural fibers, entirely USA produced in Hunterdon County NJ. Hand dyed by me, USA spun or carded using fiber from my animals or wool from small USA farms that care for their sheep the same way I do.



# Commercial vs Small Farm Yarn: 3 Major Differences....

Most commercial yarns are made in developing countries to reduce labor costs. There is only one US superwash wool facility and a handful of US spinning mills. Most of the world's supply of wool comes from Australia and is spun into yarn in China.

Commercial fiber flocks are huge and run by of large corporations with a focus on cost reduction and maximum profit at the expense of animals they do not directly touch. An animal is a living being and should always be treated responsibly. Decisions made from afar make it much easier to disregard the animal's quality of life. Commercial fiber animals are sold for slaughter after shearing since meat is their most lucrative value and their fiber is a byproduct.

Small family farmers live alongside their animals and can give them individual care as needed. My animals die of old age at ~15 years old vs animals in commercial flocks that live only several years.

## ...Fiber Quality, Animal Welfare, Environmental Impact

Small amounts of hay in yarn is a sign of high-quality fiber which has been minimally processed. Highly processed/ commercial fibers are treated with acids to burn out the hay which also weakens and coarsens the fibers.

Superwash wool is created by chemical treatment to remove the fiber scales which cause felting. This makes it machine washable but weakens the fiber and the process has environmental impacts. It also makes the yarn slippery and difficult to work with if you have arthritis.

Different breeds have different fiber characteristics, yet commercial yarns rarely disclose the fiber breed or their country of origin/source

Natural fibers (wool, mohair, cashmere, etc.) are expensive due to the labor required to produce them. That's why most commercial yarns are made from plastic (nylon, acrylic, etc.) sometimes with small amounts of natural fibers added.

