

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 (ie-
nylon 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



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About Dancing Waters Farm Home of Farm Fresh Fiber

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

...Fiber Quality, Animal Welfare, Environmental Impact

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.



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.

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.

