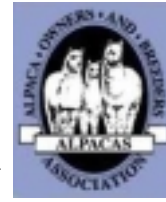




NEW ENGLAND ALPACA FEST 2006

MAY 13TH & 14TH, 2006

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL
HOPKINTON STATE FAIRGROUNDS
CONTOOCOOK, NH
Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-4pm



The New England Alpaca Festival (NEAF) is a gathering of members of the New England Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (NEAOBA) and was originated as a means of exposing folks interested in alpacas to a large number of breeders in one location. It also provides them the opportunity to interact with alpacas, and makes a variety of educational opportunities available to both potential and existing breeders. At one point a stand-alone affair, NEAF has in recent years been held in conjunction with the New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival (NHS&WF), which has allowed NEAOBA members a chance to showcase and sell their alpaca wares, and has increased exposure of fiber enthusiasts to the luxury and versatility of alpaca.

In addition to all of that, this year NEAF is happy to introduce the New England Hands On Fleece Off™ alpaca fleece show/sale, which is pending certification from the national Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association. The alpaca fleeces will be displayed alongside the fleeces of sheep and other fiber species at the NHS&WF in a comprehensive array of fiber diversity. New England alpacas boast some of the finest fleeces in the country and we are excited for this opportunity to exhibit our quality.

Whether you interested in learning more about raising and breeding alpacas, or are a fiber enthusiast interested in purchasing alpaca yarn, roving, or raw fleeces, the New England Alpaca Festival has something for you. Attend our seminars, hosted by experienced breeders and fiber artists, and come away with a wealth of knowledge about alpacas and what part they might play in your life. Indulge yourself with some alpaca yarns for knitting or fibers for spinning and teach your hands what luxury really is. Or just spend some time observing these enchanting creatures who captivate so many with their soulful eyes and expressive hums. We look forward to meeting you!

Saturday, May 13, 2006

10 am – 10:30 am: Skirting Alpaca Fleeces for Show – View a demonstration of how to correctly skirt an alpaca fleece in preparation for entering it into a fleece competition. Find out what categories the judges consider and which categories carry the most weight in scoring. After the fleece has been skirted, you will learn how the fleece is correctly rolled and displayed in its bag for judging.

11 am – noon: Alpaca Breeders Panel – Hear four alpaca breeders from across New England talk about their experiences in starting up and running their alpaca farms. Breeders will discuss what they like the best about their lives with alpacas, what challenges they have faced, and the discoveries that have most surprised them along the way. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

1 pm – 3pm: Handspinning Alpaca - Learn about the animals that produce this luxurious fiber and how to prepare and spin it to obtain a yarn of optimal quality and loft. We will be working with commercially prepared rovings. Pre-registration is required, as well as at least an intermediate level of spinning. Bring your own wheel. Registration details coming soon.

Sunday, May 14, 2006

10 am – 10:30 am: Skirting Alpaca Fleeces for Show – View a demonstration of how to correctly skirt an alpaca fleece in preparation for entering it into a fleece competition. Find out what categories the judges consider and which categories carry the most weight in scoring. After the fleece has been skirted, you will learn how the fleece is correctly rolled and displayed in its bag for judging.

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