

The Fleece Factory of the Rockies
Northern Colorado's Premier Fiber Mill and Boutique

By Cheyenne Amen

After years of showing alpacas, creating alpaca products, breeding animals and building friendships, Pat Sharon and Rhonda decided to expand towards a new horizon in the fiber industry. For more than a year they joked around about starting a fiber mill and spent still another year looking into it to see if it could become a reality. Through hard work, dedication and a few classes such as the Certified Sorted System and Textile Basics Class, the Fleece Factory of the Rockies was born! Located just outside of LaSalle Colorado on the Sandwalker Ranch, it is just minutes off of I-76 or Highway 34 in Weld County.

Dedicated to helping ranchers of fiber animals create sustainability, these ladies strive to educate ranchers about the fiber their animal produces to get maximum production and minimal loss.

"Education is the key element to the success of our fiber mill." Says Rhonda , co-owner.

"Helping customers understand what they have and how it would be best used is the most gratifying part of our job. We get to see looks of relief and hear chatter of excitement when they decide what to do with this precious information!"

An incentive of using this service is that the skirting fee is waived for those checking in their fleeces for processing at the mill.

At check in time, fleeces will be inspected by one of the Certified Sorter Apprentices, Pat, Sharon or Rhonda, to help customers choose from a variety of services such as Certified Sorting and Grading. Not only does this service help with decisions in breeding programs but helps determine the best products to be made from each bag of fiber which maximizes profits for the owner.

Some specialty products and services offered are felted sheets, rug yarn, fiber dyeing and classes on wet and needle felting, rake loom knitting, spinning and traditional rug hooking just to name a few. They are currently working on developing new product such as home insulation batts, a line of clothing for hunters, and personalized saddle blankets.

There is a beautiful boutique located at the mill which is full of a variety of great finished products such as felted hats and baby gifts plus lots of artisan supplies like yarn and how-to-books. Also, a section of the boutique includes an intimate classroom area that has a very cozy feel for great one-on-one instruction.

So whether you just want something as simple as having your fleece washed or having fiber made into a beautiful skein of yarn, to having yourself take a "learn how to do it yourself " class to just needing a great gift, The Fleece Factory of the Rockies aims to please!

There is a special offer to those taking advantage of the Certified Sorting event in Denver on August 6-9th. The Fleece Factory is offering 10% off processing for those who check in their fleeces with them during the Regional Sort! Pat, Sharon and Rhonda thank you!

For further information please contact us at either email thefleecefactory@yahoo.com or by phone (970) 284-7711