



Fiber Sorting for Maximum Profit

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- What is fiber sorting?
- Is sorting a new concept?
- Textile Benefits of Sorting
- If we are to compete globally...
- Fiber Market
- Let's see what the possibilities are
- Grading is all Eyes not Hands!
- Fiber Grades
(Range of 3 microns)
 - Grade 1 Ultra Fine
 - Grade 2 Superfine
 - Grade 3 Fine
 - Grade 4 Medium
 - Grade 5 Intermediate
 - Grade 6 Robust
- < 20 microns
- 20 – 22.9 microns
- 23 – 25.9 microns
- 26 – 28.9 microns
- 29 – 32.0 microns
- 32.1 – 35 microns



- Processing Methods
 - Woolen Processing
 - Short fibers
 - 1.5 – 3.75 inches
 - Fibers have random arrangement
 - Soft, Lofty yarn
 - Bulky, lightweight knitted garments
 - Some woven items
 - 6 -8 crimps / inch
 - Worsted Processing
 - Long Fibers
 - 3.75 – 6 inches
 - Fibers are aligned in one direction
 - Tightly spun
 - Woven fabrics
 - Increased tensile strength
 - Decreased handle
 - 3-6 crimps/ inch
- Crimp Style / Type
- Sorting is Essential to Producing a Quality Product!
- Why sort at shearing and not at a regional site?
 - “Producers must shear their animals in sections and either learn to grade their fiber as it comes off the animal or belong to an association that will grade for them. It is virtually impossible to grade fiber when it arrives at the mill in whole fleeces.” Texas A&M/Canadian Study
 - Findings as a result of a study between Texas A & M and Custom Woolen Mills.
- Overview of the Sorting Process
- Basic Color Groups for Sorting
- Jobs during Shearing/Sorting



- Shearing day is the producers responsibility
- Clean your pastures not your alpacas
- Sorting Area Set Up
- Sorting Advantages for the Producer

Lunch break

- Medulated Fiber
- The effect of medulation
- Suggested Uses for different Grades
- Alpaca Fiber Attributes
- Using Sorting Information to help with breeding decisions
- Using the Sort Record for Marketing
- The story of CoCo continues
- Using your sort record to market your herdsires
- Sorting can Pay for itself!
- Product Development and Testing

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www.fibersorting.com

National Alpaca Fiber Cooperatives:

AFCNA www.afcna.com

NAAFP www.naafp.us

Fiber Testing

Yocom-McCall Testing Labs

www.ymccoll.com

Natural Fibre Testing Laboratory

relvestad@oldscollge.ca

[Tx rugs contact information](#)

Ingrid's Custom Handmade Rugs

http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~llama/ingrid/fleece_prep.html