



# New England Alpaca Fiber Pool Inc.

## **FIBER COLLECTION GUIDE**

### *How to Participate in NEAFP's Fiber Collections*

NEAFP holds fiber collections throughout the year at many alpaca shows to help farms minimize the cost of getting their raw fiber into the manufacturing chain. Lowered costs mean higher profit margins! Our goal is to make the fiber collection process as easy and straight forward as possible. Use this guide to guarantee your fleece is submitted correctly.

### **Preparing and Packaging your Fleece**

#### **All alpaca fiber submitted to NEAFP must be clean:**

- Free of Vegetable Matter and other Farm Yard Debris
- Moth, Insect, and Mold Free
- Dry
- Excessive Guard Hair, Arm Pit hair, and Short Cuts (Under 1.5") should be skirted out.
- Check out our [Fiber Harvesting Guide](#) for an in depth view on how to get the most usable fleece from this year's shearing.

#### **Fiber should be separated into the three basics grades, as it comes off the animal, as well as by color:**

- Identify the grade of each bag with a black permanent marker (1, 2, 3 etc).
- Small bags of individual fleeces/grades should be combined into large plastic bags. Contractor Bags, Yard Waste Bags, and 55 Gallon Drum Liners work best.
- Bags do not need to be boxed.
- Each large plastic bag submitted must contain a copy of your **Fiber Bank Deposit Slip** and any other pertinent identification.
- NEAFP does not require fleece to be submitted sorted. All presorted fleece will be re-sorted so save yourself the additional cost.

## Identifying your Farm's Fiber Submission

To ensure all your farm's fiber ends up in your account quickly and accurately it must contain the proper identification. This is crucial and the most important detail in submitting fleece in one of our fiber collections!

Each large bag of fiber submitted must contain a **Fiber Bank Deposit Slip**.

- To obtain deposit slips for your farm, Register for a Fiber Bank Account on our website: <http://fiberbank.neafp.com> .
- Once you receive an email with your Fiber Bank Account information, login and Select "Create Deposit Slip".
- List the TOTAL Weights of each grade submitted.
- Select "Print" and make a copy of the deposit slip for each large bag of fiber you are submitting.
- Each large bag of fiber submitted MUST contain a Fiber Bank Deposit Slip to ensure it ends up in the correct Fiber Bank Account!

Now that your fiber is prepped, packaged, and properly labeled it is ready to be dropped off at one of our fiber collections. Swing by our vendor booth during regular show hours to coordinate a convenient time to drop your fleece directly at our trailer.

## Fiber Bank Deposit Confirmation

Once your fiber has been dropped off and hauled back to our mill in Fall River, Massachusetts our trained sorters will begin working through the submitted fleece. NEAFP's goal is to have all correctly submitted fleece checked into your Fiber Bank Account in about 6 to 8 weeks after the fiber collection.

*Note: Depending on the show, how much fiber we collect, and how many collections we are running during that part of the year this time frame might be extended as our sorters get backed up.*

Once your fiber has been sorted through and checked into your Fiber Bank Account, we will email you a Fiber Bank Deposit confirmation containing:

- Date fiber was entered into your Fiber Bank Account.
- Total weights of each grade entered into your account.
- All Sorters Notes:
  - ◆ We will provide feedback on the fleece along with any details on fiber upgraded/downgraded.
  - ◆ This information will help you increase your usable annual fiber harvest as well as better prepare it for future submissions.

## **Time Sensitive Order?**

Need to order finished products to re-sell before your fiber is sorted through after a collection?

Not a problem! Place your order on our website and let us know in "*Customer Notes*" at checkout that your fiber was submitted and is in the queue to be sorted. Please include Fiber Bank Account Name and the Fiber Collection you attended.

We will release your order ahead of your fleece and make a note in your Fiber Bank Account.