



NMAB FIBER COMMITTEE MEETING

August 15, 2015

Attendees – Kathy Herman, David Hunter, Anne Stallcup, Tehani Hogan, Barbara Roybal, Jenny Rodriguez, Sue Mikulec and Pam Groff.

After a brief welcome, the meeting began with a Show and Tell where members showed examples of skills they bring to their alpaca business. Anne – dying of yarns as well as fleece. There was a discussion of different brands of dyes with pros and cons. Kathy- wet felting plus weaving. We saw a very inventive felted cat cave, a felted woman’s hat, and two woven scarves. Barbara- There was a very interesting discussion of how different applications of the same blended alpaca fleece produce products which look and feel differently. Sue- What many were waiting for, we saw a wet felted shawl made with a palm sander. Additionally, we were shown a very warm crocheted cape. Tehani- A discussion of her interest in alpaca genetics which she uses in making breeding decisions. David - On display was a 3-ring binder used to organize graded fleece samples. Pam - On display were 2 knitted shawls.

The business then continued to the on-going discussion of commercial fiber processing in the United States. Distributed to all attendees was a list of mills compiled by Stacie Chavez. Thanks to her in sharing this document. After a discussion, this committee has volunteered to update this list of 73 vendors. David has agreed to send a copy of the Excel spreadsheet to those members who volunteered to help with this task. Volunteers will make changes to this spread sheet while confirming the businesses are current. This project will be completed before the October general meeting. Our recommendation is that the list be added to the NMAB website under the “Resources” tab. Bill Herman has compiled a handy list of questions to ask prospective mills. These could be especially handy for the new breeder. It is our recommendation that this list of questions also be filed under the “Resources tab” along with the mill list.

After an impromptu discussion of the challenges of barn flies and possible solutions, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Groff