



Taos Wool Festival Fleece Competition 2023

Saturday, October 7th

We welcome your entries to the 2023 fleece competition!

INCLUDING THE FLEECE SALE AT THE MAVWA WOOL FESTIVAL

Time of Sale: 2 PM to 4:30 PM (closing)

UPDATE FOR 2023: For the Fleece Show only the MAVWA Region has now been extended to include the Navajo Nation - i.e. those parts of AZ & UT

Instructions

Times:

Bring your entries to the Exhibit Hall Fleece Show area at the Festival between 8:30am and 10:30am on Saturday, October 7th. The Show will be open to the public from 11:00 AM for judging until closing at 4:30pm. We encourage you to come for the judging, which is a great opportunity to learn about the characteristics of a winning fleece for hand spinning.

Fleeces may be picked up by exhibitors once the judging for the entire show is complete, and must be picked up no later than 4:30pm on Saturday. **Any fleeces left after 4:30 will be a donation to the 2023 Silent Auction on Sunday - Thank you!** You must check out your fleece with the Fleece Competition staff prior to removing it from the show.

Entry Fees

- ★ MAVWA members (includes all immediate family members) are allowed up to 5 entries total between all Wool Festival competitions. More than 5 entries are \$5/entry.

You can join MAVWA before coming to the Wool Festival: [Click here to join MAVWA](#) online, or you can join at the Information Booth during the Festival

- ★ Non-Members: \$10 per entry/item per competition
- ★ No charge for 2023 MAVWA Wool Festival Vendors for the first 5 entries, \$5 per entry after that.

Prior to submitting an entry at the Fleece show, all entrants MUST visit the Information Booth, pay for their entry(s), and receive a payment ticket for the Fleece Competition.

Information Booth will open at 8:00 AM.

Fleece Sales

- In order to sell fleeces at the Wool Festival, you must have entered at least ONE fleece in the Fleece Competition.
- Owners/Sellers will handle their own fleece sales and can sell up to 15 fleeces.

Rules

Entries: An entry is one fleece. Fleeces must have been grown in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, or within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. Fleeces must have been shorn after October 2022 and represent 12 month's growth or less.

NOTE: Yearling fleeces will be allowed up to 16 month's growth.

Preparation of Fleeces: This show is intended for premium quality *hand-spinning* fleeces. Fleeces must be exhibited untied in a clear plastic bag.

Labeling: After receiving your payment ticket at the Information Booth, bring your fleeces to the Exhibit Hall Fleece Show area where you will fill out a label indicating:

- **Sheep:** white or colored, and type of fiber (fine, medium, coarse), breed, and age of animal, along with your name, address, phone and Vendor booth number if applicable.
- **Goat:** type of fiber (mohair, cashmere, or cashgora) and age of animal, along with your name, address, contact phone #, and Vendor booth number if applicable.
- **Alpaca:** age of animal, along with your name, address, contact phone # and Vendor booth number if applicable.

Personal identifying information will be hidden during judging. No farm/ranch business cards or labels indicating ownership are allowed to be displayed with the fleeces during judging.

Criteria for Judging: Fleeces will be judged for soundness, cleanliness, uniformity, and general character typical of high quality animal fiber. Again, this show is intended for premium quality hand-spinning fleeces. Please be aware that the criteria on which hand-spinning fleeces are judged are different than those on which fleeces would be judged for commercial spinning or for any other use.

Fiber Divisions and Classes are summarized in the table on the next page.

Please note:

If there are a sufficient number of entries, the wool classes may be further broken out by breed and/or age of the animal. Breed and age may be factored into the judge's scoring regardless of how the fleeces are grouped by class.

The heritage class includes all fleeces except Navajo-Churro (which has its own class) having a combination of hair or medulated fiber and wool. Examples of breed fleeces that may fit into this class are Karakul, Shetland, Jacob and some modern breeds derived from crosses of wool breeds and hair sheep (e.g., California Red Sheep).

The classes and grade/styles listed above are based on historical entries at the Fleece Competition. The Show Manager reserves the right: to combine classes if the number of entries in any individual class or grade/style is insufficient; to place entries in appropriate classes as necessary; or to sub-divide grades/styles if entries warrant.

Awards:

Awards will be presented as listed in the table, below, as entries warrant in each grade, style or class. The 2023 awards are based on historical entries and/or recommendations of past judges. The Show Manager reserves the right to re-allocate awards as appropriate if grades/styles or classes are combined or sub-divided as entries warrant.

The Fleece Competition emphasizes quality. A class or championship ribbon or a silver medallion will be awarded only when, based on the judge's experience, the quality of the fleece merits such an award. In other words, to merit a ribbon or medallion, a fleece must be comparable to the award-winning fleeces the judge has seen at comparable shows. If only one fleece is entered in a class it does not guarantee a blue ribbon, or a ribbon at all. You can rest assured that a fleece that earns a ribbon or award at the MAVWA Wool Festival would be a competitive entry at other regional fleece competitions!

The Myrtle and Roy Dow Best of Sheep Fleece, and the Silver Medallions for Best Overall Goat and Alpaca are only awarded to fleeces where the animal has been raised in the MAVWA are of Colorado, Texas, within the Navajo Nation, and New Mexico

If you have any questions regarding the Fleece Competition, contact Show Manager [Ric Rao](#)

Awards		Classes	Awards	Combined Classes	Awards
Sheep – white, Fine	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Sheep – White & Colored	Grand Champion Reserve Champion	Sheep	The Myrtle and Roy Dow Best of Sheep Fleece Silver Medallion
Sheep – white, Medium	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – white, Coarse	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Fine	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Medium	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Coarse	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – white, Heritage	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Sheep – Heritage & Navajo Churro	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Sheep – colored, Heritage	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – white, Navajo Churro	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Sheep – colored, Navajo Churro	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Fiber Goat – Mohair Kid	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Mohair	Grand Champion Reserve Champion	Goat	Silver Medallion
Fiber Goat – Mohair Yearling	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Fiber Goat – Mohair Adult	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Fiber Goat - Cashmere	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Other Fiber Goat	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Fiber Goat - Cashgora	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Alpaca - Cria	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Alpaca – Cria to Yearling	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Alpaca - Yearling	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				
Alpaca –Two Year Olds	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons	Alpaca – Two to Adult	Grand Champion Reserve Champion		
Alpaca - Adult	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd place ribbons				