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## Fleece Purchasing Guidelines

### Our Mission

Battenkill Fibers provides value-added, custom carding and spinning services for fiber farms and others, and manufactures yarn and fiber products for wholesale and retail markets. We produce artisan quality natural-colored and kettle-dyed yarn using traditional semi-worsted milling machinery.

We are committed to our customers and our community – we pay a fair price for fibers sourced from family-owned farms, we insure equitable evaluation of fiber quality, we offer diverse employment opportunities, and we make environmentally responsible choices in all aspects of our procurement, processing and distribution.

We embrace and respect the nature, history, and culture of our place on the land in the Upper Hudson Valley; and strive to sustain this rural heritage for future generations. We furnish access to local processing for farmers, unique materials for handcrafters, and authentic experiences for visitors to the region.

### Currently we are buying fleeces with the following qualities:

1. Alpaca and llama fleeces must be white, beige or light fawn in color. Sheep and Goat fleeces must be white in color.
2. The staple length must be between 3.0 and 6.0 inches in length (not stretched).
3. Fleeces must not be moldy.
4. Fleeces must not have moths.
5. Fleeces must be free of dung and other vegetation.
6. Fleeces must be sound (no fiber breakage).

*There should be no second cuts, head, neck, or belly fiber. Skirted fleeces are preferable and may be worth more.*

### What to Expect

Once you have read over the purchasing requirements, and you decide to proceed, our fleece buyer will be in touch with you as to the delivery or pick up arrangements of your fleece. Options include mailing, drop off at the mill, or, for lots over 100 lbs., pick-ups at your farm. You will be charged \$.50/mile for BVF to transport.

Before any fleece is purchased, BVF will **evaluate** it. Evaluation will occur either at your farm (for lots over 100 lbs.) or at the mill. Evaluations include, but are not limited to breed preference, staple length, vegetation load, strength and uniformity of fiber, crimp character, and softness. If you choose not to have your fleeces evaluated, BVF may offer to buy the fleece outright for \$1.00 per pound.

If, based upon evaluation, BVF decides to buy the fiber, an offer will be made to the seller. The seller has 14 days to agree. If an agreement is reached, BVF will pay 100% of money due within 14 days. All monies will be paid by check.

If the seller is refused, or the seller decides **not** to accept the offer, the seller will have 30 days, from the date of the offer to remove their fiber from the mill property. Arrangements can be made with the purchasing agent. If the fleeces are not picked up within 30 days, they will become the property of Battenkill Fibers.

- Based upon current figures from the USDA, the average price for the types of sheep wool typical in our area is \$.75-\$1.85 per pound; and using this as a guideline, Battenkill Fibers is generally paying between \$.85 and \$1.50/lb.
- Currently Battenkill Fibers is paying around \$3 per pound for alpaca and llama fiber. These prices are subject to change based upon the market.