

We use the Team J&W Shearing Table for the safety and the least amount of strain on the owners and alpacas. We use Heiniger electric shears with a shearing comb lifter for safety and Fiskar hand shears to touch up. We have been shearing our own animals for a few years and started offering this service to other farms last year. We have many options to choose from and offer discounts as well as mobile services.

2008 RATES

Cut Options Available:

\$20 Barrel Cut	- Blanket Only
\$25 Lion Cut	- Blanket, Neck and Upper Thighs
\$30 Clean Cut	- Complete Body Nude (leaves top knot & tail)
\$35 Show Cut	- Smoothing, Tapering of legs, Top Knot & Tail
\$40 Special Request	- Special Cuts or Patterns

- Cria Shearing Available.

\$8 DISCOUNT	- Cria between 3-6 months
\$5 DISCOUNT	- Weanling between 7-12 months

Travel Costs:

\$50 Set-up fee	- Within 30 miles of FFF
\$.30/mile Travel Cost	- Added outside 30 miles, up to 100 miles from FFF

- Extended Travel Options Available.

Other Options Available:

\$5	Toenails	- While on table
\$10	Dust Blowing	- Cleaning out debris from fleece
\$3	Drop Off Charge	- Per Day - Per Alpaca.
\$5	Photography	- Before and After Shearing (e-mailed directly to you)
\$2	Fiber Bags Each	- Special Air-Flow, Easy Travel with Handle.

Shearing At FFF Provides

- Alpaca Size Option - Recorded Weight, Height and Ground clearance.
- Fiber weight options - Animal Name, Date and Weight Added to Bag.
- Bagging options - Free 3 Clear Plastic Fiber Bags Provided per Alpaca.
- Results provided - Recorded print-out of services and results provided.
- Histogram Sample - Your Alpacas Sample in bag properly marked.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Shearing day is the **big day** of the year for alpaca owners, it is the day you harvest what your alpacas have given to you. With some preparation it will go smoothly and efficiently; and not be too stressful for the alpacas (or the people). I am not the fastest shearer out there, in fact I run close to 30 minutes on complete or show cuts. I don't judge my job on the time spent, however I do my best to minimize time for less stress on the alpaca. I have never had a helper who cuts toenails, or does the

clean up trimmings, I have always helped turning the alpaca and cleaning and caring for the tools I use during shearing, as well as cleaning up after the alpaca itself if it's nervous and has accidents. So when you think about it, 30 minutes is pretty good considering all I do. So if you haven't learned yet how to help, or provide some of that care yourself you have an idea of the time it will take me. If you are ready to be hands on and jump in there together we can complete the job MUCH faster I am sure. I will always use caution in shearing your animals. Shearing equipment can be dangerous, I will always do my best to minimize stress, nicks, cuts and other unpleasant experiences. I will conduct myself in a professional manner and do my best to make shearing a pleasant experience for everyone involved.

1) **Shearing Area**- We will need a dry, flat, shaded area of at least 12 feet square. Power outlet or cords run for power to the area. Conditions don't always have to be ideal but please let us know in advance what you can provide. The shears are electric and draw quite a bit of power, so try not to plug me in to a circuit with an air-conditioner, refrigerator or other heavy electrical consumers.

2) **Animal cleanliness**- Your animals should be as clean as you can make them. This will increase the value of your shorn fleece. It is best to plan ahead, clean your field not your alpaca! Providing them with a clean field weeks before shearing will do wonders! Commonly, alpacas are cleaned by using a high-speed blower, a quick 5 min. blow of each animal will do wonders. Also, to rid the fleece of the dirty tips on each lock a quick comb out with a slicker brush will do the trick. Alpacas must be clean and DRY prior to shearing. I will help you clean an alpaca for an extra charge, but I will NOT shear a wet animal!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Show fleeces should not be cleaned or blown in any way, other than to carefully hand pick large pieces of debris. You need to tell me which fleeces are for showing before hand as they are sheared differently. You should also have on hand the corresponding number of old sheets to carefully wrap and protect your show fleece until you can skirt it later.

3) **Sorting Animals**- Sort your animals for shearing from light to dark when possible. Do not mix males and females, i.e. light to dark females then light to dark males. Prepare ahead! Know which animals are in which order and have them in a nearby pen for easy access at shearing time. Please count your alpacas before you contact me. As scheduling is done by how many you have, numbers of hours or days it will take to complete the job. If there are far fewer animals than quoted, I reserve the right to charge for the difference. If there are more than quoted, I will do my best, but many not have time to shear them all and you may have to reschedule the rest, resulting in additional charges.

4) **Helpers**- Helpers are always needed to restrain, load, unload or calm a stressed alpaca. Clean between shearing, sort fiber as it is removed. Retrieve tools or care products. Stabilizing during shearing, cutting toenails, or a number of other opportunities. Helpers are always welcome and needed, I even allow and encourage children to be involved. Although I can not allow younger children to have their hands on the alpaca during the actual shearing, they can do many other jobs always needing to be done. A minimum number of helpers needed for shearing would be two. The more animals needing to be shorn the more helpers needed. To provide the most relaxed environment with time to rest for people and alpacas. I can bring helpers along with me, if circumstances don't allow you to help, you just don't feel comfortable yet, or don't have the extra hands available. However this affects the

days available to you as I will have to work with their schedule too. Please let me know in advance so we can get it scheduled for you.

5) **Things You Will Need-**

a) **Shearing Area-** A clean floor or a heavy duty tarp for under the shearing table to catch fallen fiber.

b) **Large clear plastic bags** to hold the shorn fleece. You will need three bags for each animal. Blanket fiber in one bag, neck and upper leg in another, then a third bag for the trimmings, remains and contaminated fiber, This third bag can be used for several alpacas.

c) **Small zip lock sandwich bags-** These are for the small fiber sample you will likely want to send in to be tested (histogram). 1 per alpaca. Labeled with alpacas name, registration, breed, sex, DOB, sample location and date of shearing.

d) **Nail clippers-** This is a good time to clip nails if time allows. As I'm shearing, a very adept person can hop around the animal clipping nails as I shear. I can provide this service for an added fee.

e) **Permanent marker** to mark bags, tags or cards for each bag of fiber.

f) **Broom or blower** to clean after each shearing. Extra cleaning is needed between different colored animals.

g) **Towels** - for the nervous alpacas that have "accidents" during shearing...this will help keep your fleece clean.

6) **Shearing is strenuous business.** Please be prepared to work very hard, and have everything on hand and ready to be used. Have plenty of water available for everyone. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes you don't mind getting very dirty.

Each alpaca, as you know, has a different personality; and they will all approach being sheared with different attitudes. Most don't mind too much, some even seem to like it. Some definitely don't like it and will protest mightily. They will all be fine and secretly thankful at how good they feel once we are finished.

A word about pregnant animals- I would **not** recommend shearing a female who has just become pregnant. After holding the pregnancy two months or so I feel it is relatively safe to shear them. Alpacas that are due very near the shearing date can also be problematic. Heat stress is real and prolonged. Shearing them in my opinion is far less stress than the heat. We could do a 15 minute barrel cut or lion cut on them making for less stress. However as the owner it's your call to make.

I will do my best to be on time, unfortunately there are times that a delay cannot be avoided. We do run a small family farm ourselves and I am sure you can understand that. However in these circumstances I will call you as soon as possible.

As like most other shearers, I prefer to shear in my own environment. So I provide more for you and your alpacas when you bring them to my farm. However, I understand sometimes the stress of travel for yourself and animals outweighs this so we do come to your farm, however please be prepared for our arrival. Plan ahead,

have everything on hand and ready. Contact us with any questions, concerns or needs prior to the shearing date set. We completely understand and actually hope some of your animals sell for you, or new alpacas arrive, and can make adjustments as needed so please let us know of such changes as quickly as possible.