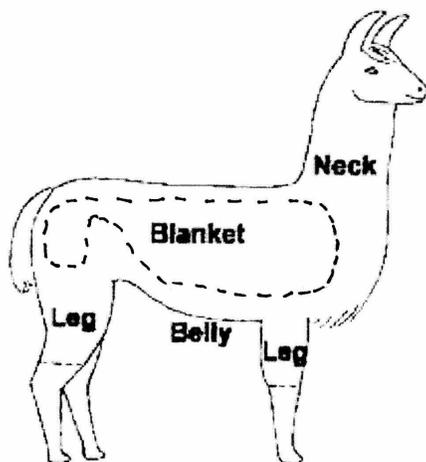


# Making FLEECE FABULOUS at the 2020 Gathering



## 2020 Gathering of Friends and Champions & Sale

June 26, 2020 at 7:00pm CST  
Iowa Equestrian Center - Cedar Rapids, Iowa



### Shearing Season

The temperatures are rising and that means many of you are gearing up to shear your herd. Please consider showing off the fabulous fiber produced by you llamas at the 2020 Gathering of Friends and Champions. The ILR National Show offers several shorn fleece classes for you to get involved in. **Don't know where to start? Don't worry!**

First, you need to make sure your llama is clean. Using a blower to eliminate dust and debris is a great start. If it's possible,

try to blow, brush and wash your llama's blanket area before shearing. This will not only help your fleece give it's cleanest, best look to the judge, it will also help save wear and tear on your blades! Just make sure your llama is fully dry before shearing.

The judge will be looking for the softest, most uniform fleece from your llama. For these reasons you do not want to include the neck, leg or belly fiber. Try to

focus on taking fiber from the blanket, as shown in the image above. Want to leave the hips on for Halter classes? No problem! Just include the prime/blanket fiber from the areas you already planned on shearing for show. When making cuts with your shears, try not to go over the same place on their body twice. This will create a "second cut", which are significantly shorter pieces of fiber that will mix with your nice, long, consistent fleece. If some second cuts get in your bag, no big deal. We'll skirt them out later. Try to store your fleece in a breathable material like a pillowcase until you're ready for the next step!

### \*~ Skirting Party ~\*

Ok, you've got your beautiful fleece bagged up. Now what? Let the skirting process begin! Skirting is the process of removing "junk" wool, stains, second cuts and vegetable matter (VM) from the fleece prior to processing it, offering it for sale or showing it!

This step in the process can be incredibly intimidating for someone new to showing or processing fiber. The Gathering Committee recognizes that a lack of education and experience is a huge barrier for most exhibitors to feel comfortable entering the shorn fleece competition. This is why we are going to

be throwing a full blown **skirting party** on Thursday night at 5:00 pm (CST). Our fleece judge, Cindy Ruckman, will be reviewing the fleece scorecards with easy-to-understand definitions and answer questions exhibitors might have about the judging process. Then Cindy will be demonstrating how to skirt a fleece for processing and for show.

The Gathering Committee will be providing 6 skirting tables and several experienced volunteers to help you skirt your fleece for competition. **That's right, shear your llama, bag it up and you can skirt it with a professional on Thursday night before submitting it to the show to be judged!** (Fleeces must be signed up to compete by deadline of 6/5/20.)

Want to learn how to skirt, but not compete? That's ok! Bring a fleece from home or just jump in with someone else. What a great opportunity to make friends!

It is required that fleeces be shown in clear plastic bags. **Don't worry!** We'll be providing these to you free of charge at the skirting party.



### Who is invited?

The **Skirting Party** is open to all! The class is set up to help inform everyone from the beginning 4-H member to the retired breeder and everyone in between. There is **no cost** to attend! The **Skirting Party** is one of the many things we are

offering in our schedule to try to make the **2020 Gathering of Friends and**

**Champions** the best yet!

## Youth Fleece Classes

The **2020 Gathering of Friends and Champions** offers several classes for just youth! Junior, Intermediates and Seniors can enter **Youth Shorn Fleece** to compete in their own age division. The first place from each age division will then go head to head for the prestigious Youth Shorn Fleece Best in Show title!

Make sure that you review the ILR-SD Guidelines regarding competition rules and appropriate entry tag information. Remember, youth must take a part in the shearing of the fleece they are competing with.

Youth can also enter in **Youth Finished Products!** These products will compete for the exciting "People's Choice" award announced on Friday evening during the sale! (Pictured is the winning People's Choice Fiber Product, created by Evan Mattrisch, a talented young fiber artist from Wisconsin!)



## People's Choice Finished Product!

At the 2020 Gathering of Friends and Champions, we offer a **People's Choice Competition** where spectators choose their favorite fleece product.

**Denise and Jason Fehrenbach** of [Fehrenbach Farms](#) are sponsoring a Fiber Basket which will be awarded to the winner! Start creating now and enter the Gathering by June 5th for your chance to win!

## Moving Forward Together #weareILR

### 2020 Current Sponsors

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Westerham Farm, Virginia

If you're interested in sponsoring the 2020 Gathering the form can be found below.

[Sponsorship Form](#)

We are striving to make the 2020 Gathering extraordinary! Mark your calendar now for this memorable event June 26th - 28th and continue to make The Gathering the "Go To" event of your llama year. Check out our website at [www.ilrsdthegathering.com](http://www.ilrsdthegathering.com) for regular updates.

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