SURI FIBER CODE OF HARVESTING – A QUICK “CHEAT SHEET”

Several months prior to shearing day:

1. Line up your shearers and workers.
2. Check all equipment to ensure it is properly working.
3. Decide upon the area in which you will be shearing.

One week prior to shearing day:

1. Review your list of equipment and ensure all is in order.
2. Prepare labels for shearing bags.
3. Each animal should have at least two clear plastic shearing bags – one for neck and one for blanket. If you intend to use your belly, britch, and/or neck fiber, a third bag should be made available for that.
4. Make a list of all of your animals to be shorn, and organize the list into color categories, listing lightest color category first to darkest color category last. (ie: whites, lights, med. Fawn, dark fawn, etc).
5. Within each color category above, list your animals from finest to coarsest, or, if you don’t have that information, then from youngest to oldest.
6. Set up your holding pens.
7. Get halters and leads ready
8. Make a first pass at ridding your animals of vegetable matter.

One day prior to shearing day:

1. Clean the shearing area thoroughly to remove all hay, dust, dirt, and other items that could contaminate the fleece.
2. Clean your animals one more time to remove as much vegetable matter as possible. ONCE THE FLEECE IS OFF THE ANIMAL, IT IS TOO LATE TO REMOVE THE VEGETABLE MATTER!
3. Have your animals clearly marked with identifying tags so they can be readily pulled from their holding pens.
4. Set up the shearing area so it is ready when the shearer arrives the following day.
5. Have food and drink available for all workers.
6. Make sure your bags are ready, and your labels are filled out with name and color (fill in weight after the animal is shorn).
7. Print out the Suri Fiber Code of Harvesting and have it available in the event you need to reference anything!

Shearing Day:

1. Review job duties with each worker.
2. Relax and have fun! You’re all organized now and everything will run smoothly!