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Suri Growers,

It's that time of year when we come out with our annual update and progress report, and we're proud to say that the last twelve months have seen a number of great firsts! Here are some of the achievements:

- We launched our saltrivermills.com retail store. While we still love to sell wholesale, we recognized that buying habits are changing, and we need to offer sales both to stores and directly to consumers. We're excited about it, so check it out!
- We got more traction selling our "blank" yarns to indi-dyers and farm stores. We sell on a "no-name" basis so that the stores or dyers can create a final product and put their own name on the yarn. We hope to do more of that in 2019!
- We began collaboration with a mill in Italy that is going to have our Suri spun and woven into fabric! This has been a long time coming and we can't wait to see the results!
- We ramped up our fiber sales for the rug project and had enough this year - 8,000 lbs - to fill an ocean-going shipping container. Hats off to Deb Christner of Akuna Matada Suri Alpacas for acting as a U.S. distributor and selling the heck out of the rugs!
- We continued our relationship with the industrial felter, selling over 1,500 lbs of "shorts".
- We saw three different published designers use our yarns for new patterns:
 - Brooke Nico - Almark Shrug - in her book *Simply Shetland Lace*
 - Hannah Thiessen - Chocolate Challah Pullover - in the book *Coffee House Knits*
 - Françoise Danoy of Aroha Knits - Tumanako Pullover - can be purchased on Ravelry

We are making great strides with getting the word out about Suri, and we hope you will consider selling some or all of your fiber to us in 2019. We'll put it to use and make you proud!

"The demand for Suri is growing, and we need breeders to hone their breeding programs."

If you're a knitter and want inspiration, like our Salt River Mills Facebook page!

[Like Salt River Mills](#)



Photo and design courtesy of Deb Christner, Akuna Matada Suri Alpacas



Let's Talk Moths

Every year, someone sends us moths. Not on purpose, we're sure, but nonetheless, they send 'em. Thankfully, we are always on the lookout and have a strict policy of all incoming and graded fiber staying in sealed, 2ml bags until we are ready to grade. This results in a "zero tolerance" policy – if moths come in, they stay contained until we can safely remove the contaminated fiber from the building.

As we would really love to never see them again, we would like to share with you what to look for before you box your fiber for us, and how to store your fiber to avoid them:

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

1. The first photo on the upper right shows a larvae sac. On first glance, these sacs can look like bird droppings – whitish grey in color. However, they are always about the same length – ¼" in length or so - and rectangular in size. It is the larvae, once out of these sacs, that do damage to the fiber, not the adults. If you see even one of these in a bag, please do not send that bag!
2. Moths can eat through thin plastic! The second photo shows two holes where moths have eaten through and escaped! The holes are generally about 1/8" in diameter. Inspect your bags before sending – if you see a similar hole, that's the end, pitch the fiber – there may be more in that bag!
3. The third photo on this page shows moth dander in the lower left quadrant – warning, warning, moths have visited! If you see this, please do not send the bag.

HOW TO PREVENT MOTHS

1. Clothing moths hate light, they love dark. Keep your fiber stored in an area that sees some sort of light on a regular basis.
2. Clothing moths hate noise and activity. If you can store your fiber where there is human activity on a regular basis, that's awesome.
3. Moths need air, so one of the best things to do is to suck or push the air out of your bags and tie them tightly.



4. Consider thicker bags – we use 2 ml bags on everything at the warehouse. Anything thinner and they can eat their way out.

PRICES FOR 2018

Grade (all colors) Noodled	Price/lb
1 < 20 microns	\$14.00
2 20-22.9	\$12.00
3 23-25.9	\$ 8.00
4 26-28.9	\$ 6.00
5&6 =>29.0	\$ 1.50
Scrap	\$ 0.50

Non-noodled fleeces, deduct \$3.00/lb for Grades 1-4 and \$0.50/lb for Grades 5&6.

Contact Us

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Bringing Suri to the Textile world



What's Going On At The Warehouse?

We held our second grading event at our warehouse in St Louis, MO in October and two more short grading events in February. 60 farms sent in fiber, and we now think we have this fiber grading activity down! The first event was held over nine days with three groups of four graders per group. A huge thank you to Cheryl Gehly, Mary Lou Clingan, Deb Christner, Beth Sheets, Deb Wellinghoff, Charlotte Rovenko, Carol Haff, Megan Kukla, and Laurel Shouplin! We were able to work through about 6,300 lbs at the first event. For the second set of events we had a number of these graders come back, and we cranked through another 6,855 lbs.

For 2019, we are expanding our use of the warehouse for training. We have long envisioned this building to be more than just a storage and grading facility. We want to be the premier location for Suri fiber education, as well. The building has a show room, offices, and a large area for additional activities beyond grading.

As such, we are excited to announce that the SGC group will hold a beginner and advanced set of grading classes on October 11-14. The class dates have been planned around our grading event so that students can learn by day, but also come into the grading area to observe the actual grading event and practice their skills on Suri! Given that Suri is such a rare fiber, many graders have a hard time getting enough practice under their belts to certify for Suri. We hope to change that and make our fiber easily accessible.

We are also hoping to arrange a judges training event at the warehouse in the later part of the year or early next year. Again, it has always been a challenge to get enough Suri fleeces for judges to train with, but given our central location and ample fleece, we hope to turn that around!

So, help us out, be a part of the collaboration, and send in fiber!

Why Noodle?

It's simple:

- You get paid more
- Your clip gets preference in grading
- You get your money faster

If you noodle your fleeces this year, mark on the boxes you ship to us "noodled" and you'll get all the perks.

Noodling is easier for the grader
Noodling gives us a better sort
Noodling allows us to provide you with a better report on your fleece.

Noodling – Just do it!

Noodling Tips

Visit this link to see how to best noodle your fleeces:

[Noodling Tips and Suggestions](#)

If you are unable to open this link, follow these instructions:

- Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
- Type in Noodling Tips and Suggestions in the search box
- Click Search
- Select the video with this title

Happy shearing season everyone, send us your fleece!!