

Woolgathering FAQs

What is the difference between the June and September Woolgatherings?

Each retreat has a unique emphasis.

June is late Spring/early Summer in feel. It will be greener, warmer and there will be lambs on the farm. The concentration will be on natural dyeing.

September weather is typical of early Autumn. It will be cooler in temperature, colors will be warmer. The farm will be getting ready for Winter and the flock will be sheared.

June 3-6, 2010 / SPRING FIBER FROLIC

Natural Dyeing

Wheel Spinning: Beginning – fleece processing, how to spin your fleece.

Continuing Spinning: Spinning and blending with other fibers (including silk and local mohair), over-dyeing colored fiber, color blending, refining your spinning techniques.

Knitting: Beginning.

Continuing Knitting: Simple, Lacy Shawl/Kerchief project class.

Weaving – Optional Class: “Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom.”

Animal Husbandry: Spring and Summer Flock Management.

September 16 - 19, 2010 / FALL WOOL HARVEST

Shearing: skirting and sorting fleeces.

Wheel Spinning: beginning, working with your fleece, cleaning, carding and spinning.

Continuing Spinning: refining your spinning techniques, plying, intentional novelty spinning and working with other types of wool (local Rambollet, Targhee and some long wools).

Knitting: Beginning.

Continuing Knitting: Knitted accessory for Fall and Winter, (Hat, mittens, scarf) pattern TBA

Weaving – Optional class: “Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom.”

Animal Husbandry: Fall and Winter Flock Management.

Where will I stay?

We have reserved the “Bush House” in Cedarville. It is a large Victorian home with 4 bedrooms, a communal kitchen/dining and living room. Be sure to mention that you are with the Woolgathering when making your reservation. Call the Sunrise Motel at (530) 279-2161

Another place to stay is Surprise Valley Hot Springs: Rooms feature private hot tubs and some suites are available for groups. Please call (530) 279-2040 or toll free (877) 927-6426

Can I camp at the farm?

Yes, tent and RV camping is available. Bath facilities will be family style.

What will the weather be like?

Both June and September should be warm and sunny. The nights may be cool in the high desert, so bring a coat. (Here at 4600', we can get snow anytime of the year, so also toss in a hat, scarf, gloves and warm socks - just in case!)

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How long does it take to get to the Woolgathering?

The farm is approximately 3.5 hours from Reno, NV or Redding, CA. A detailed map and directions will be included in your registration packet.

Do I need to have a spinning wheel?

We provide spinning wheels for any spinners who don't have one. (Please let us know ahead if you need a wheel.)

Will I get a fleece?

Yes, and you will be processing (skirting, washing, teasing, carding) a portion of your Icelandic fleece during the Woolgathering and taking home the remainder.

What if I don't want to process the rest of my fleece after the Woolgathering?

There are small mills where you can send your fiber to be washed, prepared and spun for a fee. We will give you a list of these processors with your orientation packet.

Can I bring my spouse/mate/child?

No. The Woolgathering is a fiber retreat. All those involved should be active participants. If you need to have someone else to drive you to the Woolgathering, we may have space available at evening meals for an extra fee. Please contact us at least a month in advance to make arrangements.

Can I bring my dog or other pet?

No. You are visiting a working farm complete with herding dogs and livestock. Visiting animals can upset or injure the sheep or other farm animals. Please contact us if you need to bring a registered therapy dog to aid you.

What if I forget my knitting needles/yarn/stitch markers, etc?

Part of the Woolgathering will take place at Warner Mountain Weavers, which is a full-service "LYS" (local yarn shop). The store carries a huge selection of yarns, books and tools for knitting, crochet, weaving and spinning.

Do I need previous experience?

No, we are here to teach you everything.

Any questions call Warner Mountain Weavers at 530 279-2164