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The Spinner's Book Of Fleece: A Breed-by-Breed Guide To Choosing And Spinning The Perfect Fiber For Every Purpose



Synopsis

The characteristics of fleece – its structure, grease content, and fiber diameter – vary widely depending on the breed of sheep the fleece comes from. In this comprehensive guide, Beth Smith profiles 21 types of fleece, from bouncy and pliant to lacy and lightweight. A sheep-by-sheep reference describes the best way to wash and spin each fleece into rich, soft yarn. You'll soon be confidently choosing the right fleece, spinning it to perfection, and enjoying the perfect yarn for your next fiber creation.

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Customer Reviews

Many years ago when I began spinning, I did so for a purpose: to learn to spin the yarn I needed to make the shawls I fell in love with during my stay in Russia. My love affair with the craft blossomed from that tiny seed into something much greater. And I began to wonder what fiber would make what yarn. My wonderment is echoed in the voices of so many other spinners, almost all of whom I have heard ask, “How do I spin this yarn?” or “What wool should I use to make this yarn?” or “What is the wool good for?” Beth Smith heard these very same questions for years in her breed study classes and decided to do something about it. She spent years sampling and developing *The Spinner's Book of Fleece* which answers these questions for 19 of the breeds spinners in North America have most readily available to them. Even better, Beth's book suggests what preparations will help us as spinners achieve the yarns we desire. Beth covers the different methods of preparing raw fiber, whether combed, carded, flicked or merely floofed, even

addressing questions on scouring and storing your fleeces. She describes the whys and hows of 2 and 3 ply yarns. She shows the yarns turned into sample swatches and describes her experiences making them, including what she did and didn't like. Beth even defies convention and talks about garments from meat breeds, or garments from "rug" breeds, two terms she dismisses because all the wools can be used in a myriad of ways. For those who do not want to use raw fleece as a start point, The Spinner's Book of Fleece also addresses the use of breed specific commercially prepared and/or indie dyed fibers!

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