

# Fiber Guidelines for the Pacific Northwest Llama Fiber Cooperative, LLC

\*Because of the overwhelming job of sorting hundreds of pounds of llama fiber and low attendance at sorting events, we feel we must set some basic guidelines for accepting fiber.

**LENGTH:** Please DO NOT send any fiber that is shorter than 2 inches or longer than 6 inches. The mills WILL NOT accept it.

**DUST:** The CLEANER the llama is, the better! BLOWING OUT your llama(s) fiber before shearing makes a HUGE difference!

**TOO DIRTY:** Please REMOVE any large debris and/or foreign material. Pine cones, wire, rocks, dung tags, sticks, etc. Please DO NOT send us leg or belly fiber, it's either too short or heavily matted.

**OLD FIBER:** This could have moth damage, please check this prior to sending. Look for the presence of dust-like droppings in the bottom of the bag, as well as the presence of larval tubes, thin silken tubes under 1/2" in length with a thicker middle. See pictures at [www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/INSECT/05599.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/INSECT/05599.html)

If your llama(s) has lice infestation, severe dandruff or is heavily matted, please DO NOT send it to us. If the llama fiber is wet, lay it out to dry fully before bagging it up.

If you must store your fiber for any length of time, keep it dry and DO NOT use moth balls as they are toxic to breathe. Avoid storing your fiber for more than a

year before bringing it to the co-op.

**BAGS:** Please SHAKE OUT your llama fiber before putting in a CLEAR, PLASTIC bag to remove any 2<sup>nd</sup> cuts.

Please put each llama(s) fleece in a separate bag and LABEL with your name/farm name, as well as the year.

DO NOT close up the bags until the heat & moisture from the llama has left the fiber. If closed up immediately, the fiber can be damaged and breathing the molds can cause problems for the sorters.

Clear bags in several sizes can be reasonably purchased at Costco. We prefer clear bags for the visibility of the fiber when we sort and to discourage moths, as they prefer dark places.

**NOTE:** Up until now, we have given credit for all fiber as weighed in. After sorting hundreds of pounds of fiber and learning what the mills will/will not accept, we will begin to inspect all the fiber at time of delivery, in hopes to cut back on having to deal with the unusable fiber.

**WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR FIBER,**

*but do ask that you consider what you are sending in to the co-op. The quality of llama fiber that we ship to the various mills will reflect in the product we get back.*

*It benefits everyone involved!*

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions,  
please don't hesitate to email us at [info@llamafibercoop.com](mailto:info@llamafibercoop.com)