

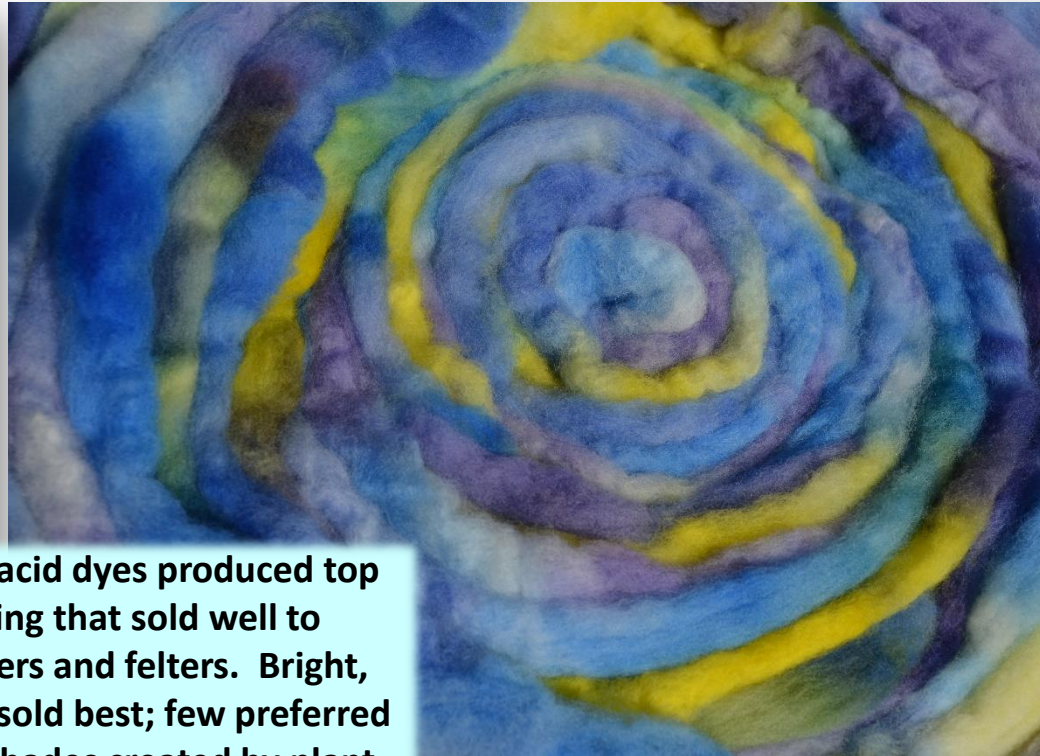


Photo courtesy of Dr. Bob Newhall of WSARE

Production of premium wool requires effort well beyond that of standard shepherding. Strategic genetics, sheep selection, nutrition, and coating improve fiber quality (upper left). Skilled shearing is essential (upper right). Year-round daily monitoring and caring, adaptive husbandry of the sheep is also crucial in producing high quality fleeces (lower left).



Wool products prototyped from my fine- and medium-wool sheep. Upper left: Premium raw fleeces about to be prepared for competitions. Right: Moorit natural-colored roving and semi-worsted 3 ply yarn. Lower left: Nine yarns were developed using natural colored and white fleeces. All are semi-worsted, Aran or light bulky weight, 3 ply.



Metal-free acid dyes produced top and roving that sold well to handspinners and felters. Bright, clear colors sold best; few preferred the muted shades created by plant-based dyes or acid overdyeing of natural gray top (lower right).





Chrome-tanned sheepskins and kits using acid-dyed roving sold well, but had larger negative environmental impacts than selling raw fleeces.





Photo courtesy Gretchen Wilson



Wool products were displayed at state fairs (upper left), fiber festivals (lower half), and at a fiber guild retreat where I was the featured speaker addressing production of sustainable fiber.





Displaying a diversity of finished items using wool from my flock helped generate interest and boost sales at fiber festivals.





Photo courtesy of Yvonne Hinman



Education and outreach activities included teaching fiber arts classes, introducing kids to sheep and sustainable shepherding, talking with people at fairs and fiber festivals, and more.

