



Selling Alpacas and the Alpaca Business

The North American Alpaca Federation
www.naalpaca.org

Can you make money raising alpacas?

- Yes.
- We raise them as breeding stock.
- We raise them for their fiber.

Are their additional benefits to raising alpacas?

- Alpacas are remarkably easy on the earth
 - Padded feet – don't tear up pasture
 - No upper teeth, but mandible – don't pull up grass by the roots like horses or cows
 - As ruminates, alpacas chew their cud and dissolve nutrients in multiple stomachs, they are efficient eaters.
 - You can raise 25 alpacas on 5 acres.
 - Alpacas don't need expensive horse fencing – often t-bar and light fencing systems work just fine

And there's more...

- Alpacas are defined by the US Department of Agriculture as livestock.
- As livestock, owner/breeders are often eligible for:
 - Agricultural zoning (as in a tax break),
 - Alpaca purchase price tax deductions
 - Breeding business tax deductions for expenses

Alpaca Fiber for Profit

- Alpaca fiber is one of the softest and finest and yet most durable fiber in the world
- As we have learned, alpaca fiber is 100% natural – no chemicals required to grow, no lanolin to wash with chemicals, eco-friendly fiber.
- As the American Green movement gathers steam, alpaca fiber is increasingly in demand. But it is rare.
- Rare often means expensive – like diamonds, like elegant quality. Rare.
- We alpaca owner/breeders are growing a national herd to create a supply. While there is a strong cottage industry demand for alpaca fiber, our aim is to introduce this fiber of the Gods to the mainstream American public.
- Imagine having baby clothes made from alpaca fiber? The softest fiber in the world next to the softest skin in the world.

How much fiber does each alpaca produce in a year?

- Alpacas are shorn once per year, usually in the spring or early summer.
- This allows them to be cooler during the hot summer months.
- An average alpaca fleece yields about 4 pounds of usable fiber per adult.

How much can you sell alpaca fiber for?

- Prices vary depending on the quality and color of fiber (Grey is very rare. White is most common).
- It is possible right now to make enough money on alpaca fiber to offset the costs of feeding the alpaca.

Who do you sell your alpaca fiber to?

- Hand spinners
- Yarn and fiber artist shops
- Weavers
- Knitters
- Crocheters
- Felters

Our market is mostly hand spinners and fiber artists right now, until we grow a larger herd and therefore have more fiber available for wider consumer demand.

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