

Alpaca Ontario is pleased to invite you to take part in the

Mary-Ann English Spin-Off Competition

Let your prized fleeces unfold their story through the hands of accomplished spinners

How the spin-off works...

- You submit **50g** of your best fleeces (skirted but not washed) by **FEBRUARY 1, 2017**.
- We ask master Spinners to prepare, spin and knit a sample of the yarn created from your fibre.
- They are asked to score your fleeces on the following:
 - ❖ Impression, ease of preparation for spinning, ease of spinning
 - Fineness & Handle
 - Uniformity of micron & length
 - Brightness Absence of guard hair
 - Cleanliness and absence of second cuts
 - Lock structure
 - Staple length
 - Soundness & Tip damage
 - Matting & Cotting
 - ❖ Spun skein
 - Hand & Loft
- The results of the competition will be revealed and ribbons awarded at the **ALPACA ONTARIO SPRING SHOW**, taking place at the **Royal Canadian Riding Academy** in Newmarket, Ontario on **April 28 & 30, 2017**

Categories...

- Fleeces are categorized based on **AGE**:
 - 1-Juvenile – 6 months- under 14 months, first fleece
 - 2-Yearling – Second growth fleece
 - 3-Intermediate– Third growth fleece
 - 4-Mature– Fourth growth fleece
 - 5-Senior – Fifth growth fleece and up
- and **COLOUR**:
 - W - White
 - L - Cream, light fawn
 - F - Medium and Dark Fawn
 - Br - all Browns
 - Bl - Bay Black, Black
 - G – Silver and Rose Grey
 - M – Multi (displaying 2 or more distinct colours in fleece sample)
- Please note colours with less than four entries/class may be combined by fleece growth. The spin-off project co-ordinator will make final determination of class divisions and entry colours.

Prizes ...

- Ribbons for 1st through 3rd place plus there is a ribbon for top score in each colour category
- Scoring and comments will be included with the sample created with your fleece.

How to enter ...

- Fill out the entry form (available on the AO Website)
- Prepare 50g of prime blanket fleece (skirted but not washed) and put in a “zip-lock” bag.
 - Staple length must be at least 3” long and no longer than 6.5”.
 - Don’t card, comb or otherwise change the structure of the staples.
 - Be sure to handpick to remove vegetative matter and other debris.
- Take a photo of the animal(s) that produced the fleece(s)
- Complete the Spin-off Bag Tag and place it inside the bag.
- Attach a copy of the CLAA registration for each entry.
- Calculate fees: ENTRY FEE IS \$25.00 PER SAMPLE (to cover the costs of the Spinners)
- Include a cheque payable to ALPACA ONTARIO with your entries.
- Don’t write on the ziplock bag.

Other important notes ...

- Fibre sample will be judged by the entry number assigned by us only. No exhibitor information will be visible to the judges.
- You will have 1 point deducted for every 10g fibre weight over 50g.
- Samples will be disqualified if your staple length does not fall within our specifications.
- Samples will be disqualified if they show signs of parasitic infestation.
- Unsound fibre may be unsuitable for spinning and may be disqualified at the spinner’s discretion.
- Any disqualification of a sample will be recorded on the scorecard and the judge’s worksheet.
- Entries will be available for pickup at the AO show on Sunday, April 30, 2017 after 3pm.
- IF YOU WANT YOUR SAMPLES RETURNED TO YOU and won’t be able to pick them up at the AO show, you will need to include shipping in your entry. The price is included on the form.

Spinners / judges ...

- The entries are prepared and judged by accomplished graduates of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Certificate program and/or spinners with extensive experience in the fibre arts.

The Spin-off competition serves the purpose of showing the potential of the fleece while considering its attributes and condition for ease of preparation and spinning.