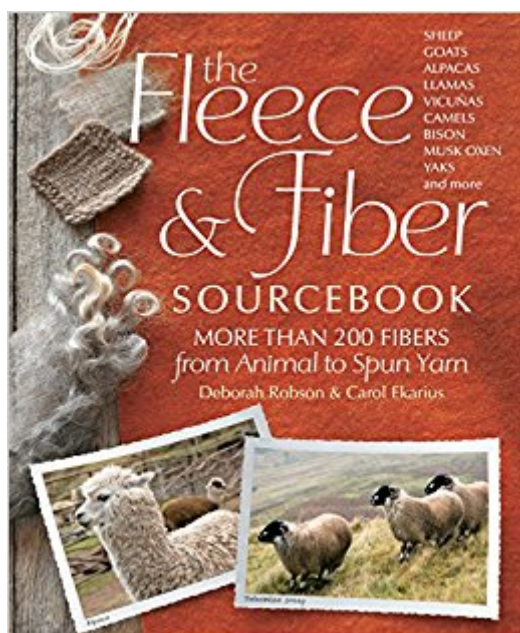


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# The Fleece & Fiber Sourcebook: More Than 200 Fibers, From Animal To Spun Yarn



## Synopsis

This one-of-a-kind encyclopedia shines a spotlight on more than 200 animals and their wondrous fleece. Profiling a worldwide array of fiber-producers that includes northern Africa's dromedary camel, the Navajo churro, and the Tasmanian merino, Carol Ekarius and Deborah Robson include photographs of each animal's fleece at every stage of the handcrafting process, from raw to cleaned, spun, and woven. The Fleece & Fiber Sourcebook is an artist's handbook, travel guide, and spinning enthusiast's ultimate reference source all in one.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Every once in a while there is a book that lives up to its hype. Only once in a blue moon are we lucky enough to get a book that surpasses all the stories that have led up to it. The Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook is a blue moon book. The spinning world has been buzzing about this book for years, and Deb Robson has been kind enough to share writing the process on her blog, but that still didn't prepare me for the completeness of the book. The sheer complexity of the subject made clear, useful and not just interesting, but fascinating. More than 200 animal fibers and breeds laid out and dissected by an animal expert and a spinning expert jump off of the page in concise prose that speaks to the history of the breed; fleece, fiber and lock characteristics; using the fiber in dyeing, spinning, knitting and weaving. The photography is crisp enough to count crimps and shows fiber as washed and unwashed; prepped and spun, and sometimes knit or woven. The authors manage to do all of this using 2-4 pages per breed. Spinners (and knitters) this is the book

you've been asking for: more photos and breeds than *In Sheep's Clothing* and more sheepy and animal goodness than *The Knitter's Book of Wool*. "A labor of sheepy love and a stellar book." (Library Journal) This is an excellent resource for fiber artists curious about different types of animal fibers and how best to use them. (Vogue Knitting) Two experts, one a farmer and livestock guru, the other a fiber magazine editor, join brains to produce this resource for yarn crafters. Far from drab and dreary, Robson and Ekarius enliven the pictures and descriptions of about 200 breeds of sheep, inserting critical information and fun facts. Well written and researched, a reference for all ages. Starred review (Craftzine) Not only is this a library essential for yarn users who take their wool, alpaca, llama, cashmere and yak seriously; it's also an important text for those involved in the husbandry of our four-legged fiber friends. If we want to preserve our heirloom fibers, we need to know their names. (Interweave Knits) A reference you'll return to again and again as you grow as a fiber artist. A comprehensive manual for the wool aficionado. Packed with photos and detailed fiber properties, it covers every breed of sheep you are likely to encounter and then some.

Carol Ekarius is the co-author of *The Fleece & Fiber Sourcebook*, *The Field Guide to Fleece*, and *Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep*, and she is the author of several books, including *Small-Scale Livestock Farming*, *Storey's Illustrated Guide to Poultry Breeds*, and *Storey's Illustrated Breed Guide to Sheep, Goats, Cattle, and Pigs*. She lives in the mountains of Colorado, where her four-legged and winged family keeps her busy. Deborah Robson is co-author of *The Fleece & Fiber Sourcebook* and *Knitting in the Old Way*. She is a former editor of both *Shuttle, Spindle & Dye* and *Spin-Off* magazine, and she is currently the editor and publisher of Nomad Press, which publishes books on traditional and ethnic knitting and spinning. Robson is also an artist, working in textiles, printmaking, and oils. She lives in Colorado with her daughter.

The 2 star rating applies only to the Kindle version; the printed version deserves a 10! This is an outstanding piece of research and compilation of over 200 fiber producing animals whose fiber is available to the fiber arts community. The authors have provided descriptions, history and photos of the animals, and photos of the raw and cleaned fiber, colors, yarns, and knitted and woven swatches. Special note is made of breeds that are rare and endangered, allowing fiber users the opportunity to choose fiber and thus support the farmers who breed these animals. Potential uses of each fiber are also mentioned. All that's missing is the actual fiber sample, which is not doable in a work of this magnitude at a price anyone could afford. It's amazing that the authors were able to acquire samples of so many different fibers that they could work with and evaluate themselves. This

book is an essential reference for anyone using animal fibers for any purpose. Breeds and species represented cover most of the world, though some sheep and goats specific to some parts of Asia and Africa are not included. Better known fiber animals from the Americas and Europe are discussed and described. It's not likely that fiber from the animals omitted would be available to many spinners, knitters and weavers in Western countries. The photos in the book are superb, but unfortunately the photos in the Kindle edition are mostly low resolution and poor quality, especially the fiber and yarn photos. They're very small, and the labels on fiber and yarns in the Kindle version are not even readable in many cases, a real shame given the work that went into them and the valuable information they provide. Whoever did the conversion to Kindle format did a real disservice to the readers and to the authors in this regard, given the importance of the photographs to the content and quality of the work. Also, in the Kindle version main headers appear at the bottom of many right hand pages with the content under those headers on the following pages. This is sloppy formatting and spoils the presentation. Also, there are paragraphs that end in mid sentence, not to be completed until pages later when the reader has lost track of the context, and some photo identifying info without the photos, again leaving the reader to wonder what he/she is missing. There are text boxes in the print version that have lost their boxes in the Kindle version, and appear in line with other paragraphs, again totally out of context. For these reasons the Kindle version loses 3 stars in the rating. If I could rate the printed version separately from the Kindle version, I would happily raise the rating to 5 stars, or more if possible, because half of the important content, the photos, as well as the text formatting are so beautifully presented in the printed book. Given that the photo quality and text formatting is so compromised, the Kindle version is way overpriced. The printed book is worth every penny and should be in the library of every fiber user and fiber animal breeder!!! Wish List: another similar work covering insect and plant fibers, and engineered and synthetic fibers!

The Fleece & Fiber Sourcebook is a great read. It is beautifully illustrated and written in a manner which makes it easy to find the information you are looking for. I began hand spinning about two years ago on top and bottom whorls, in hopes of one day owning a spinning wheel. I never realized there were so many different breeds of sheep. In my quest to discover other types of fleece and fibers to spin, I have referenced this book time and time again in the short period of time that I have owned it. I have found that the fleece and fibers available for spinning are numerous. Aside from the much loved merino, you have the exotic camel, the woolly yak, the amazingly soft angora from rabbits and so much more. This book gives you the regions that the animals are from, their

characteristics, how they came to be there, the attributes of their fleece, what their fleece is best suited for, etc. From the novice spinner to the most advanced and knowledgeable spinner and in between, all will find this book an amazingly fact filled, informative and fun read. I recommend that if you are a spinner interested in learning about different fabulous fleece and fibers or looking to broaden your knowledge of the fleece and fibers you already work with, to get this book.

Oh my goodness do I love this book. I kept checking it out from the library over and over again. I have a small hobby-business called Shoehorn Farm where I take fiber from my friend's rescue farm and card, dye and spin it and sell batts, yarn, and etc-- Since she is a rescue farm, she has MANY types of sheep on her farm... and goats... and alpaca... and llama... And I love to know the characteristics of the fiber before I get started on something because it helps me to know what to do-- This book contains every imaginable breed in it-- from the most common sheep breeds, to rare alpaca breeds, to camel-- even to cat and dog fiber tips (though those are not by breed cuz-- lawdy, lawdy that would be a big book!) Anyway-- this book tells you about the breed, it's history, what it was bred for, characteristics of the fiber, special tips on dyeing, spinning, using yarn of the fiber-- and then-- the best part-- it shows these life size (or close to life size) pictures of the fiber raw (that means unwashed) and washed, and then spun into yarn-- and then also shows a small knit and woven sample. How cool is that? So-- if you are into natural fiber, sheep, spinning yarn-- this is for you. I know that's a small niche of an audience, but for the people in that audience, this book is AWESOME. I'm so glad my borrowing days are over-- I finally bought myself my own copy!

My go-to reference book for fibres and fibre animals! It does not replace the older Fleece and Fibres, but the two are wonderful compliments to each other. I have used this book to learn about the fibres I use, make decisions about how best to prepare and spin them, choose new fibres to try out, and (most fun of all), learn about the animals that produce all this wonderful fibre. I love the illustrations, which along with the discussion, truly give a sense of the characteristics of the fibres. I am learning how to tell breeds of sheep apart (I go to fairs and farms and field days to practice). More than worth the cost of the book. This is a beautiful encyclopedia.

Glad I purchased this one. I am a very experienced fiber artist/spinner. Favorite parts were the very detailed photos, precise fiber information, and enough history on breeds and anecdotal information to keep it interesting. Focuses mainly on sheep. Would have been nice to see a more expanded section on non sheep fibers, but the fact that other fibers were included at all is refreshing. Good lay

out, easy to reference specifics. VERY glad to see that the first half of the book was NOT taken up with spinning "how to's" like so many other books on fiber. Beginners and advanced spinners will find this book useful when designing yarn with specific characteristics for projects.

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