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 BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
 Ithaca, New York  
 Newsletter #41 -- April, 1981  
 Edited by Jean Warholie  
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Ahhh -- SPRING!!! Hope you have a few bouquets of daffodils by now in your kitchen window, despite the frosts we've had unexpectedly these past few weeks. And that your asparagus is at least visible, if not a meal by now! Peas should be up (assuming they are IN!) and we should all be strolling dreamily about the yard now and then...

APRIL 25 Saturday Group Meeting. Car-pool from Eleanor May's (meet there at 8:00 a.m.) up to Joyce Scott's, and then on to the Fashion Show and Exhibit of Fibers '81 by the Rochester Weavers' Guild. It should be quite a day! And Doris Mamroe is going all out and providing a delicious lunch as well! Food for thought, body, and soul...

MAY 11 GUILD MEETING. Final preparations for WOOL DAY. Susan Westbrook will also show us her slides of Cyprus where she has been doing ethnographic work. The rest of the time we can spin and chit-chat. (How about a few contributions to the refreshments?) 10:00 a.m., Tin Can (Youth Bureau) near Stewart Park, as usual. (Continue spinning your flax?)

MAY 24 WOOL DAY (our 6th? 7th?). Please see pages 3-4. This is our BIG EVENT of the year and we hope that everyone can be there to participate. A poster is enclosed for you to post in your area -- if you received more than one with this newsletter, that is a gentle hint to post a few more! -- and spread the word to interested people. We hope you will volunteer for the post of your choice -- or you may find yourself volunteered! Hey, it's FUN, too, you know!!! Note that we will have a sheep-to-shawl contest too, although not with competing teams -- just a team that will give it a good, solid effort. If this sounds like your bag, please contact Chris Matijas (315/496-2243) and let her know!

MAY 30 Saturday Group Meeting. Usual meeting, 12 noon to 4 p.m., Room 530 in the Cornell Vet School Building. Bring a friend and your spinning wheel! Sandwich too -- coffee, tea provided.

JUNE 8 GUILD MEETING. Spinning for a Project. Details in the next newsletter.

ANYONE INTERESTED in going to The Mannings' Handweavers' Show on May 2nd, call Jean Currie immediately (564-9346). There is still space in the car.

IF YOU THOUGHT that spring would be rather peaceful and a good time to catch, you're probably finding out that you were wrong... You'll want to get out your calendar and make note of at least some of these events coming up!

- May 7 -- Cherry Valley Guild program, "Mohair Production" with Susan Manes. Call Susan at 315/655-8365, for directions to her house near Cazenovia.
- May 8,9 - Empire State Crafts Alliance Conference at the Rome Art and Community Center, Rome, N.Y. (Scott Severance, Director of RACC.) For more information, call Scott at 315/336-1040.
- May 12,13 - Ted Carson Workshop on spinning exotic fibers. Sponsored by the Cherry Valley Country Spinners. Fee plus materials. May be filled by now, or check with Sunny Bixby (315/337-7217). To be held near Cazenovia, N.Y. (?)
- May 13,14 - Ted Carson Workshop on spinning exotic fibers and color. Sponsored by the Thistledown Handspinners Guild, Norwich. Fee plus materials (cheap!). Places still available; call Jean Steiber immediately (607/334-3089) to sign up.
- May 16 -- Great Ithaca Cloth Market, sponsored by The Flying Geese, Ithaca. Masonic Temple in Ithaca. Hours in newspapers. If you are a textile junkie, this is YOUR DAY!!! (If you have laces, fabrics, etc. to donate, call Beth Mulholland at 273-4295.) [Note: this is a date change from May 9th.]

- May 21 -- Thistledown Handspinners Guild, Norwich, "A Stitch in Time" slide program on how to care for and repair antique quilts and coverlets.
- May 23 -- Lamb-to-Loom Workshop (Binghamton), "Painted Warps" with Cindy Fornari. Fee charged. For more information and to sign up: Mary Ann Lynch (607/797-4257). Space is limited.
- May 24 -- WOOL DAY (ours!), 12 to 4 p.m., Stewart Park Pavilion, Ithaca. (See you there!)
- May 29,30 - New York Sheep Sale, at the Cornell Livestock Pavilion, Ithaca.
- May 30 -- Wool Day at the Erie Canal Village at Rome, N.Y., sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Textile Arts Guild. (Free admission with your spinning wheel or textile tools!) All day. (Raindate: June 6th.) More info.: Mary Reynolds at 315/336-8276.
- June 5,6 - Ithaca Festival. All day, both days. We still need demonstrators to sign up for half days, both days. See Maria Steve at the May 11 meeting or at Wool Day.
- June 14 - Linen Project Spring Lectures (the first of two), sponsored by the DeWitt Historical Society, Ithaca. Martha Coons will discuss "Linen Textiles and the Impact of Technology" (19th century linen economy, attempts at mechanization, and the impact of cotton). Free. 3 p.m., The Clinton House.
- June 21 - Linen Project Spring Lectures (the second of two), DeWitt Historical Society. Ruth Kerr will talk about "Linen and Linen Weaves." You are invited to bring woven linen pieces for discussion; there will also be an exhibition of 19th century domestic linens opening at the DeWitt on June 14. Free. 3 p.m., Clinton House, Ithaca.

(List will be up-dated in the next newsletter...)

URGENT GET-WELL WISHES go out to Marjorie Ruth Ross who has been in the hospital recently and about whom we are all very worried. Miss Ross has many friends here and elsewhere. If you are a current or former student and have not received a letter from Jean Nowack or Jean Warholic concerning the tribute and exhibit planned for Miss Ross in August at the Upstate Craft Fair, please call Jean Warholic (607/539-7648, evenings) immediately.

And get-wells to Madaline Adkins who recently had a heart attack and is now, we hope, home and recuperating. We are all thinking of you both... Health is very precious.

ON A SOMEWHAT BRIGHTER NOTE, Suzie Price and her family are moving again and this time a little closer to us: RD #1, Monroe, New Hampshire. Her husband has a new job and if this seems to be a semi-permanent move, Suzie hopes to acquire a few sheep. Sam is huge and doing well. We hope Suzie will come this direction -- she says it is too far for once-a-month visits, but not too far for special events. And she wishes us a Happy Wool Day! Hope we see them before long... // Mary Ann Lynch, we are proud to learn, is working on her Certificate of Excellence in Spinning, from the Handweavers Guild of America. She would like to hear from anyone else in the area who is interested in the certificate also. AS a matter of fact, we will all be interested to hear from Mary Ann how it goes... // Lee Howard has returned to the fold of the Guild! She was awarded an Artist-in-Residence Award (\$\$\$) for 18 days' work and research by the State of Pennsylvania. She should be finishing up a marathon effort about now, and we hope to hear from her about it!! We trust it was a pleasure as well as an educational experience! // Suzy Hokanson and Cindy Madden should be enroute home about now from a fabulous (and until recently, unexpected) trip to England for a week! They were to have spent most of their time in the Manchester area, where they have relatives, but surely managed to go plenty of other places, knowing those two! (As Suzy said, seven days with 24 hours in each day!) That trip will be fun to hear about!!! // Kay Ross also returned recently from a trip to New Orleans, Louisiana. Information about an exhibit she attended is included elsewhere in this newsletter! She too had a good time...

MANY THANKS to Nancy Leahy for her felting program in March and to Dora Swart (and Ed) for the flax spinning program in April. We know you spent a lot of time and energy on those programs for us and we all got a LOT out of them!!! We appreciate the generous sharing of abilities and knowledge of those who give us programs -- and look forward to continuing with these skills!

1981 WOOL DAY (Sunday, May 24, from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Stewart Park Pavilion, Ithaca.)

We have our chairmen for heading up the various demonstrations, etc. and now need to fill in the blanks -- please decide where you want to be and call the chairman of your section or be prepared to be called! Map of the pavilion layout is on the reverse of this page. **THIS IS OUR BIG DAY OF THE YEAR** and we look forward to seeing everyone there!!!

PLAN TO ARRIVE about 10:30 a.m., so you are in place and ready by noon. Check in at the Guild Sales Table if you forget where you will be on the map. We can always use help in setting up, unloading, getting displays together, etc. -- please pitch in! Stout relations and macho teenagers are genuinely appreciated moving those big picnic tables (and they are heaviest at the end of the day!).

BRING WITH YOU, in addition to whatever you need for your particular demonstration, a comfortable chair (otherwise, you get part of a picnic bench); thermos of hot coffee or whatever (nothing is provided), sandwich, etc.; dress suitably for the weather (we have had anywhere from freezing to 85° weather in the past, and there is usually a stiff, cool breeze off the lake - fair warning!). Items for display should be tagged (include your name+address in case people want to order from you) and taken to the display area. Sales table items are welcome -- Guild skims 10% of price. Fleeces go to fleece area -- Guild skims 10% of asked price.

SECURITY has not been a problem in the past, but keep an eye on your things. Pocket-books, etc. should be stashed in a safe place. Help us watch two areas in particular -- sales table and display area -- by spelling the watchers when you stretch and take a break.

DEMONSTRATING IS FUN and none of us should feel stuck doing any one thing. Speak up and ask for help if you need a break or suddenly are inundated with people (such as in the learn-to-spin area). If you have a slack period, take a minute to stretch and walk around, and help someone else if they need it. We should have a good, interested crowd for this, especially if it is a warm day, and let's make it a good time for ALL concerned...

Coordinators: Maria Steve and Linda Olds.

Set-up, clean-up: Maria Steve (chrn) + J. Warholic and anyone else willing to help! (HELP!)

Publicity: Jean Warholic, Maria Steve (chrn) + S. Hokanson, C. White.

Exhibits/displays: Suzy Hokanson (chrn), J. Warholic + ???

Demonstrations: Linda Olds, Kay Ross (chrn) (We need volunteers for the following.)

Sorting a fleece	Spinning on a drop-spindle
Teasing	Knitting, crocheting, weaving with handspun
Spinning various fibers	Natural dyeing
Spinning on diff. wheels	

Fleece Sales: Jean Currie (chrn) + ?????? (Fleeces should be tagged with owner's name and address, and price per pound desired [including Guild's 10%]. Persons having unsold fleeces of good quality and cleanliness are encouraged to bring them. Shorn Wool Documents will be provided.)

Sheep-to-Shawl: Chris Matijas (chrn) + ??? (This will not be a contest as such, but an active demonstration involving a team. Rules and directions are available from Chris and this should be good experience for us!)

Guild Sales Table: Maria Steve (chrn) + Nancy Morey + ???

Do-It-Yourself Corner: Marion Dean (chrn) + ??? (This is a popular spot during our Wool Day, and busy -- we really need helping hands here. Guild provides drop spindles and fleece; you provide the enthusiasm and instruction!)

Resource Table: Jean Warholic (chrn) + ??? (Bulletinboard provided for spinners, shops or whomever to advertise spinning-related items for sale or swap. Fiber information. Promotional material from Wool Board, other guilds, etc. A "free for the taking" or "take notes" type of table. Not manned by anyone unless someone wants to.)

EXPECT TO BE CALLED to participate in this (unless you call someone first!). But look forward to a nice day too!!! See you there...



DEMONSTRATORS' PARKING



LAKE

60'

FLEECE SALES TABLES  
(also sorting fleeces)

FLEECEES

Weavers

DISPLAYS

DISPLAYS

Dyers (if not outside)

(Dyers outside if weather permitting)

Spinning

Knitting, Different Great  
crocheting wheels wheels

SHEEP-TO-SHAWL DEMONS.

Drop  
spindles

Carding

Teasing

GUILD SALES TABLE

20'

DO-IT-YOURSELF CORNER

(Extra tables and benches)

20'

SOURCE TABLE

20'

20'

STEWART PARK PAVILION  
(1981 Wool Day Layout)

Only running water is in restrooms or outside pump.  
No hotplates are to be plugged in.

PUBLIC PARKING

50'

40'

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS and renewing members! The membership up-date is enclosed (see the blue sheet). Please check your entry and make sure it is right (let Jean Warholic know if it isn't!). And then keep it by the telephone for future use... The next up-date will come out sometime probably in July.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE who knows how to do bobbin lace? We may have enough for a study group. Please call Jean Warholic (607/539-7648). We are also considering a lace (making and/or identification/conservation) workshop for this coming fall. Let Jean know if you are interested in that as well.

THE PAINTED WARPS workshop that the Lamb-to-Loom Guild is having with Cindy Fornari on May 23rd sounds good -- but you must register NOW! Fee is \$14.00 for guild members; \$19.00 for non-LL members (includes materials). Participants will learn how to apply dyes and how different applications give a variety of results. Many weft yarns and weave structures will be experimented with to see how they influence the painted areas. A discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of different paints and dyes (incl. their safety), as well as design concepts involved in painted warp will be presented. For registration: Sheril Green (607/785-5509) or Mary Ann Lynch. (You will need a table loom.) Workshop held all day, Northminister Presbyterian Church, Endwell, N.Y.

Gail Landowski (347-4209) who lives in the Etna area is doing shearing this year if you are in need of someone. She charges \$1.25 per head and up.

REPORT ON THE FLAX/LINEN PROJECT -- Gretchen Sachse. In January, I began work as historian-in-residence at the DeWitt Historical Society in Ithaca under a grant from the New York Historical Resources Center, the New York State Councils on the Arts and Humanities, and Cornell University. The grant affords the opportunity to examine the domestic production of flax and linen in 19th century Tompkins County, using primary source materials. It also provides funds to bring in two speakers this Spring to lecture on aspects of linen production. They will be Martha Coons (speaking on the impact of technology on linen) on June 14th and Ruth Kerr (speaking on the domestic production of linen and types of linen weaves) on June 21st. Both have wide experience in their subjects and should be most interesting to hear. At the same time, there will be an exhibit of domestic linens opening at the DeWitt Historical Society. As the year progresses, there will be further demonstrations of linen and flax processes and eventually a slide show.

Aside from arranging for speakers, I have been busy delving into a wide variety of sources in an attempt to put together a coherent picture of how and where flax was raised, who did the work, how it was processed, and what became of it. This has led me through census figures, letters, diaries, ledgers, old newspapers, obituaries, family bibles, Fair premium lists, and agricultural magazines and tracts of the last century. It has also led me into detailed examination of slightly more than 25 pieces of handspun, handwoven domestic linens from the collection of the DeWitt. The material seems almost endless and has opened many new avenues of research for me. I hope when it is all analyzed and pulled together to be able to present a truer picture of how linen was produced. Anyone who has information or pieces of linen you would like to share is urged to contact me at home (347-4396) or work (273-8284). This is a cooperative project and the more that is put into it, the more that will come out. *(Editor's note: we are accumulating a nice collection of information about flax from Gretchen. We'll make the July or August issue of the newsletter devoted to flax and linen production -- that should be fun!)*

THINKING OF THE SHEEP-TO-SHAWL CONTEST IDEA... Maria found a newspaper clipping that describes the sheep-to-shawl contest held at Lebanon, Pa., where it took the five members of the Fancy Flyers one hour and 23 minutes to shear the sheep, spin the wool, dye it, and weave the shawl. The 80-inch long, 20-1/2-inch wide blue shawl sold at auction for \$260. HMMMM. Doesn't that stir up some excitement?! That should at least give you a better idea of the work-time involved of a fast team... (See page 7 for what a really fast knitter could do!)

AD SECTION

FOR SALE: Black lambs from Lincoln, Border Leicester, and Romney breeding. From a spinner's flock. Gloria Scannell, RD #1, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 12156. (518/732-2916) 1/3

ANGORA RABBIT WOOL FOR SALE. Softer and warmer than sheep's wool! One ounce will make a baby's hat, 1-1/2 oz. will knit a pair of gloves. Colors available: white, fawn, and blue. \$2.50 per generous ounce. Very clean and without mats. Also selling Bartlett yarn: single ply (good for warps) and 2-ply. Takes natural dyes beautifully. \$10.00 per pound. Call Erica Rowe (863-3554) or see at Saturday Group meetings. 2/3

TOP QUALITY, HANDMADE ITEMS taken on consignment at "The Sunshine Shoppe," Danby School Building, Gunderman Road, Ithaca. Seasonal items wanted, 25% consignment, payment for sold items on 15th of each month. Bring in items during shop hours: Mon.+Wed., 7-9 p.m.; Tues.+Friday, 12-4 p.m.; Sat., 10-3; Sunday, 1-3 p.m. For more information, call Gay Huddle, at 607/273-6530. 1/3

THE TABBY SHOP HAS INFORMATION about Harrisville Design's new 40" loom. It's heavy enough for making rugs. \$480 plus shipping for the kit. For rag rug weavers and others: cutting paper, leather vinyl. And there's the new "revolutionary" OLFA ROTARY CUTTER at \$11.90 (including mat to cut on). Replacement blades, 2 for \$3.25. Cotton and linen yarns, reeds, heddles, shuttles, warping frames, etc. always available! Mon.-Thursday, 12 -5 p.m., 49 German Crossroad, Ithaca. (607/273-3308) \*3/3\*

SILK FOR SUMMER! Luxuriously beautiful white and tussah silk in combed and carded rovings. Also, books, cocoons, waste silk, "mawata" silk hankies, spindles, and a LOT more! Send \$3.50 for directions, information, and samples; price list only is free. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 8/9

WE ARE ALWAYS READY AND WILLING to help with all your fiber needs -- spinners, weavers, quilters, knitters, and rug hookers alike! Try the new little Louet "mini" wheel! Spinable fibers for all seasons and projects. New cotton yarns for inspiration: textured, or soft twist, and flat cotton chenille, and lots of new colors! And of course our usual good selection of books, Moshimer rug patterns, quilters' stencils and templates, leather thimbles, marking pens, notions. Knitting patterns and yarns. Dyes for any fiber. Come in and see us! THE HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP, Dryden, N.Y. (607/844-4381) Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. 1/3

BEGINNING SPINNING and natural dyeing workshops taught by Maria Steve, in June. Sign up at Wool Day, or by calling or writing: Maria Steve, RD #3 - Cold Spring Road, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886. (607/387-5559) Fee charged. 1/3

GUILD CARDING MACHINE and SPINNING WHEEL (Ashford) may be rented by the month for a small charge by members. Sign up by contacting: Marion Wikoff, 607/387-5410. And don't forget the good selection of books we have in our library, available at meetings... (BSHG ad)

*The Codfish lays 10,000 eggs;  
The homely chicken lays one.  
The Codfish never cackles  
To tell what she has done;  
And so we scorn the Codfish  
While the humble hen we prize--  
Which only goes to show you  
That it pays to advertise!*

AND THAT'S TRUE!!! If you have spinning-related items for sale or swap, our ads are the cheapest around and reach over 120 spinners in this area. Four-line ad is 50¢ for one run; or three runs for \$1.00. Payment with ad copy to: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648) Deadline: 2nd Monday of each month. Newsletter published ten times per year.

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LOST AND FOUND DEPT. Found after the felting program with Nancy Leahy, a red-handled pair of shears. Still have some cups/mugs left from sundry meetings. Please check the coffee-pot area at meetings if you find yourself missing things like these!



(Reprinted without permission, but with a good deal of admiration for the cartoonist, from The New Yorker. (Thanks to Jean Nowack for this gem!)

PRICING OUR HANDSPUN has always been a difficult decision among our Guild members. Back in 1978-79, we wrestled with this question -- not wanting to tell Guild spinners what to charge, but to give them a basis for charging what they needed to. We are reiterating the system below for your general information, but remember that these are prices of several years ago, your adoption of them (or any prices) are of course up to you, and the times they are a-changing... Singles, \$1.50 per ounce. Two-ply, \$2.00 per ounce. Three-ply, \$2.50 per ounce. (Etc.) Those are for wool -- and wool back then was more like 60¢/lb., remember? In this pricing system, we suggested that you allow appropriately more if the fiber were unusual or exotic. Add 50¢ per skein for dyeing. How does this all sound to you now? (Our handspun skeins to go on the table at Wool Day are priced according to this, by the way.) It may be worth our time to review this pricing system, or at least to talk about it again with the number of newer members we have now... Handspun yarns are not easy to sell in this area; prices have been a factor in the past. Are they now, or as much? Let's have some opinions on this! (We usually manage to!!)

SORRY TO HEAR that Weaving and Fiber News is no longer being published, due to illness in Ora Koch's family. We send Ora our best (and would love to see her at a meeting again some time soon!) and will miss the magazine...

Several clippings that Chris Matijas sent to us recently that might interest our members...

## New Marketing System Proposed For Lambs & Kid Goats

ALBANY, January 27--A marketing system new to New York State for the buying and selling of Easter "hothouse" lambs and "kid" goats is being organized by a committee of goat and lamb producers and the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, according to Commissioner J. Roger Barber.

The short, seasonal sale of these animals, largely going to a variety of Greek, Italian and other ethnic markets, has always been significant in the eastern and central sections of the

State as well as in New Jersey. To create an orderly system of placing New York State producers in touch with regional buyers and to stimulate prices paid to producers for the animals, a telephone auction system will be used. Hothouse lambs and kid goats are grown indoors and sold very young.

The tele-auction will involve the Virginia-based producer-owned Eastern Electronic Marketing Association (EEMA). The association has conducted

tele-auctions for a number of years and has recently branched into electronic, computerized auctions.

To introduce New York producers to the tele-auction concept, two informational meetings have been scheduled. The first will be Friday evening, March 6, at 7:30 at the Art and Home Center on the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The second will be held at 10:00 the following morning at Bouck Theater on the SUNY Cobleskill

college campus. Roy Meeks of the EEMA organization will attend both meetings.

Twenty-seven Central and Eastern New York counties are covered by the initial program but producers from any part of the state are invited to attend the meetings.

In the several weeks preceding Easter, the Department will assist in compiling a list of producers who wish to participate in the sale. Their animals will be described by weight and age because there are no Federal grading standards for animals of these types. Transfer of animals sold will be made at livestock auction facilities in Senett or Cobleskill.

Further information on the program or the meetings may be obtained Kathleen Hayes Harris at the State Department of Agriculture and Markets in Albany at (518) 457-2841.

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Let Them Know You Read COUNTRY FOLKS

## Wool Garments Vary In Quality

By Karen E. Kauffeld  
Of Cooperative Extension

One way to help keep home heating bills down is by relying on clothing to keep warm rather than turning up the thermostat. Often, shoppers think wool means warmth—but they should be aware that wool products can vary greatly in quality and thermal comfort.

The term "wool" does not necessarily indicate high quality.

The Federal Trade Commission defines three types of wool: wool or virgin wool, reprocessed wool, and reused wool. Generally speaking, reprocessed wool and reused wool are nearly always blended with a virgin wool in a fabric. When this is done the fabric must be labeled with the percentage of each type of wool used.

New or virgin wool is wool that has not been previously processed or used in any way before being

constructed into the finished product. Virgin or new wool can vary from a fine soft, springy product to a coarse, wiry one.

Reprocessed wool is made of scraps from tailor's cuttings and other unused sources and then is re-dyed and re-woven into another new fabric. Like virgin or new wool, the quality of reprocessed wool can vary tremendously. It will depend on the quality of the original wool the fabric is made from. It is difficult for the shopper to determine the quality of reprocessed wool, but if it feels soft and flexible and springs back virtually unwrinkled when squeezed, it should be quite satisfactory in terms of wearability.

Reused wool is a different matter altogether—it is made from used wool products. It usually isn't as good as other wool when

used in fabrics, as it has already had one lifetime of use. Reused wool may be less resilient than other types of wool, and because it is often made into felt rather than woven, it may be quite stiff.

Wool products are also available in a wide variety of fabrics which combine wool and reprocessed wool with synthetics. Virgin wool may be blended with nylon, acrylic, polyester, or a mix of these fibers to lower the price; reprocessed wool may be blended with a synthetic such as polyester or nylon to increase strength; some reused wool may be blended with new wool—the combinations are many.

The blending of synthetics and wool helps reduce cost and adds strength and durability to the fabric. For instance, wool trousers or the new pleated skirts will keep their crease longer if the

wool is blended with a synthetic such as polyester or nylon.

The Wool Products Labeling Act, which has been in effect since 1941, requires that wool products be clearly marked with a tag, stamp, label, or other means, to give the fiber content of the product, the percentage of the fibers in the products if it is not 100 percent virgin wool, and the name or registered identification number of the manufacturer.

Virgin wool, may be identified by the use of the "Woolmark" insignia which indicates a quality fabric. Wool-rich products, quality products using wool blended with a synthetic, are marked with a "Woolblendmark" to alert the consumer. Products labeled with these trademarks must meet a certain level of quality before being permitted to use them.



THE ITHACA BUSINESS WOMEN'S EXCHANGE DIRECTORY is making progress. One free listing and/or one paid listing -- contact Jeannie Barnaba (272-2056) or Donna Vann (387-5390).

KAY ROSS took notes at the interesting Cajun exhibit she saw at the Cabildo Museum in New Orleans, La., recently. Cajuns were originally Acadians from French Canada who came south. The exhibit was an interesting mix of textiles, with a definite emphasis on cotton and most particularly, brown cotton! According to the exhibit information, brown cotton was preferred for color and because the seeds were easier to pick out by hand -- well-suited to a cottage industry. Seeds were handed down from mother to daughter. Some items in the exhibit had been dyed with indigo, madder, and "native" plant materials. Cotton rolags of white and brown cotton were called cotton "roulals" (Fr. for rolag or roll?). Trousseau's for each daughter were spun and woven by the mother traditionally, and were called "L' amor de Mama" (Mother's Love). A trousseau included a lifetime supply of linens: 12 bedspreads, 12 blankets, 6 sheets, 12 towels, 4 mattress covers (to be filled with straw, feathers [if rich], or usually moss that hangs from trees), 1 holster, and 2 pillow covers. All cotton. Kay also took note of some spinning wheels that appeared to be different from what we are used to seeing (one heavy one was a saxony, but had a spindle instead of a flyer unit), as well as several big barn-type looms.

Kay did copy down the words to a Cotton Jaune (song?) with us spinners in mind! Hope you can read it despite my spacing-squeeze...

Daughter: Marry me off, my little Mama/ I'm in a rush to set up housekeeping;  
I will be 15 soon/ I think that is a good age.  
Always turning, always spinning, spinning/ Is an occupation which  
bores me.

Verse: If you don't marry me off, Mama/ I will not spin.

Mother: Be quiet and stop your foolishness/ Don't talk of such things,  
And wait until you are 30/ You are still only a foolish girl.  
Chase, chase, my good child/ Chase away all these young suitors.

(Repeat verse.)

ACCORDING to another clipping sent in by Chris Matijas, sheep and lamb numbers in New York State as of January 1st totaled 69,000 head (up 6% from a year ago) and this is the second increase in sheep numbers in this state since 1957. There was an overall increase in the U.S. count as well (up 2%), the second increase on the national level since 1960. There were also increases in the price per head and inventory value of all sheep and lambs in New York State from last year. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 43,000 (up 2%). Lamb births were also on the increase per ewe (from an average of 1.19 per ewe to 1.21). BRAVOS to all our sheep people -- what would we do without YOU, beautiful wool, and delicious lamb!

AND SPEAKING OF BEAUTIFUL WOOL, Woody Lane is interested in compiling a list of people who would buy colored fleeces (to help organize a system at wool pools). Are you looking for particular colors, types of fleeces, quality, etc.? He'd like to know -- call him at his office (Animal Science, Cornell University) 607/256-4505 or home, 607/273-8407. (And we hope to see Woody at Wool Day!)

END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. Deadline for the next one: second Monday in May. Mailing date is (I hope) by May 30 when the Saturday Group meets. (If you didn't receive yours by then and need to know what is going on, please call Jean Currie at 607/564-9346.) My apologies profusely for the delays in getting this newsletter out and missing several important dates for you. The past two weeks have been very difficult.

*SEE YOU AT WOOL DAY, if not at the May 11 meeting -- what fun it will be!!!*