

EXPERT ALPACA SHEARING

Steve Blair

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ALPACA SHEARING AGREEMENT

Shearing Date: _____

*I look forward to working with you to shear your alpacas. Please look over this agreement to understand how the process will work and how you can help make it go smoothly for us and your alpacas. Feel encouraged to ask any questions you may have. **Steve, Jim and Chris***

CLIENT INFORMATION

Farm Name _____

Owner(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

FEES FOR SHEARING SERVICE

- **SHEARING** - Regular \$30 - rate for full shearing with top knot, tail dressing and toe nails
** Charges are higher for alpacas not sheared last year*
- **TEETH TRIM** - \$10
- **SHOW FLEECES** - \$5 extra - 5 Free
- **SET UP FEE** - \$50 - mileage (within 50 miles 1-way) and materials fee
- **LLAMA SHEARING** - \$40 (could increase depending on growth and animal temperament.)

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR - top knot and tail dressing; fleece samples for histograms; toe nail trimming and training; foot, bite and skin inspection; fleece quality and condition evaluation if desired; information resources for processing your fleece.

SHEARING

No. of alpacas _____ x \$30 = _____

TEETH TRIM

No. of alpacas _____ x \$10 = _____

SET UP FEE

= \$50.00

LLAMA SHEARING

No. of llamas _____ x \$40 = _____

TOTAL = _____

TIPS:

- Want to pre-clean your alpacas? Consider vacuuming rather than blowing them out. Blowing sends the dirt to the skin, thereby making the shearing end result less clean and less smooth. It also dulls the blades faster, slowing the process. Vacuum the blanket area, starting from the bottom and use a wooden dowel to gently lift the fleece as you clean.
- On a hot shearing day, try to keep your alpacas cool with shade and/or fans. Sweaty alpacas, especially finely fleeced crias can be very difficult to shear.
- If there are three people helping the shearer things go much smoother and everyone is more relaxed.
- Please do not let your alpacas go for over a year without being shorn.

PLEASE READ BACK

EXPERT ALPACA SHEARING

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

SHEARER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Equipment** - table or ground, shears (two plus hand pieces) and lead cord, combs and cutters, basic first aid equipment.
- **Training** - Basic overview of the day, safety and expectations of all; restraint system, take down and head holding
- **Shearing** - blanket, legs, top knot and tails, rough grading of fleece coming off the alpaca

CLIENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide at least two people to help, however three to four is optimal to make things go smoothly. *Please think it through in detail how you will organize your people and alpacas for shearing day so that the shearer is not waiting to start shearing or waiting in between each alpaca.*
- Your team will be responsible for:
 - Pre-cleaning the alpacas before shearing, as needed
 - Bringing the alpacas to the shearing area
 - Take down and restraint (instructions given)
 - Holding the alpaca down
 - Bagging fleeces - collecting fleece samples for histograms if desired
 - Staying relaxed and enjoying the event!

Proper Shearing area:

- Clean, firm surface on which to shear - 6x10 foot hard rubber stall mat is ideal. However, a canvas tarp we provide will work. For on the ground shearing, poles (fence posts, barn poles, etc.) that are secure and at least 10' apart to restrain animals.
- For table shearing, we need a clean area at least 10'x10' with easy access to animals and helpers.
- Shearing needs to be done under cover and out of hot sun or rain. Out of the wind, though a light breeze will be appreciated by all. Good lighting, especially for dark animals - we may need a dedicated person to hold a bright light. Good power close at hand. A garage often works well (a good reason to clean the garage once a year, too!)

Fleece collection and cleaning tools:

- Clear plastic bags (recommended: pre-labeled for fleece storage for each animal to be shorn).
- Pre-labeled baggies for fleece to be sent for histogram testing, if desired
- Brooms and/or shop-vac to keep the shearing area clean and to prevent color contamination

Alpacas

- Dry - if rain is possible keep alpacas in a WELL ventilated barn overnight
- The top line can be dried with a blow dryer in a pinch
- Rounded up and held close at hand to the shearing area for quick access
- Picked as clean as possible (if not a show-fleece, then they can be shop-vac'd)

Food and Lodging

- Food and lots of ice cold drinks are always welcome and will help us all
- Steve enjoys traveling so if you are willing to sponsor it, he will fly cheap to shear for you!

PAYMENT

Payment by check or cash acceptable. Payment is due on shearing day upon completion of services.

Shearer will exercise care and skill in shearing however client is ** solely responsible** for any injury or loss of alpacas being shorn under this agreement. Client is encouraged to secure proper insurance however the lack of insurance will not create any liability for the shearer in the unlikely event of injury or loss.

Shearer _____ Date _____

Client _____ Date _____

Farm _____