



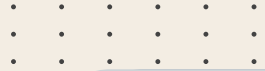
# ALPACA:

# The Fiber of YOUR Future

**Student Design Scholarship Competition**  
Sponsored by Alpaca Owners Association, Inc.



# What Makes **Alpacas** Eco-Friendly Animals?



Because they lack upper teeth, alpacas “cut” the grass with their bottom teeth and upper palate. This vegetation cutting encourages the plant’s growth.

Alpacas’ pellet-like droppings are PH balanced, and an excellent natural, slow-release, low odor fertilizer. This rich fertilizer is perfect for growing fruits and vegetables.

Alpacas have soft padded feet instead of hooves and can leave even the most delicate terrain undamaged.

No chemicals are employed either during feeding or during the industrial production of alpaca fleece into fiber.



# What are the Benefits of **Alpaca** Fiber?

**Alpaca fiber is a natural, renewable resource.**

**Alpaca fiber is proven to be fire resistant.**

**All harvested fiber can be turned into product.**

**Alpaca has no natural lanolin, making cleaning a more gentle process.**

**The fiber is moisture wicking and draws wetness away from the skin.**



# What are the Benefits of **Alpaca** Fiber?

Alpaca fiber has a low scale structure preventing prickle.

There is a high tensile strength, but strength doesn't diminish as it becomes finer.

It contains microscopic air pockets creating lightweight garments with high insulation values.

The fiber contains natural antibacterial properties with 70% reduction of odor causing bacteria.

The fiber can be washed at lower temperatures without harsh chemicals.



# HUACAYA

# SURI

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- Huacaya alpacas represent a majority of the alpaca population.

- Huacaya fiber has loft and is well-suited for knitted and crocheted products as well as woven applications.

- Huacaya fiber also felts easily.

- Huacaya fiber has “brightness.”

**Expert  
fiber  
producers**

- Suri Alpacas represent a small, but growing, portion of the alpaca population.

- Suri alpacas have fleece that hangs down in pencil locks that look like dreadlocks.

- Suri fiber is straight and heavier by volume.

- Because of its lack of loft and “memory”, suri fiber is best used in applications where drape is desired.

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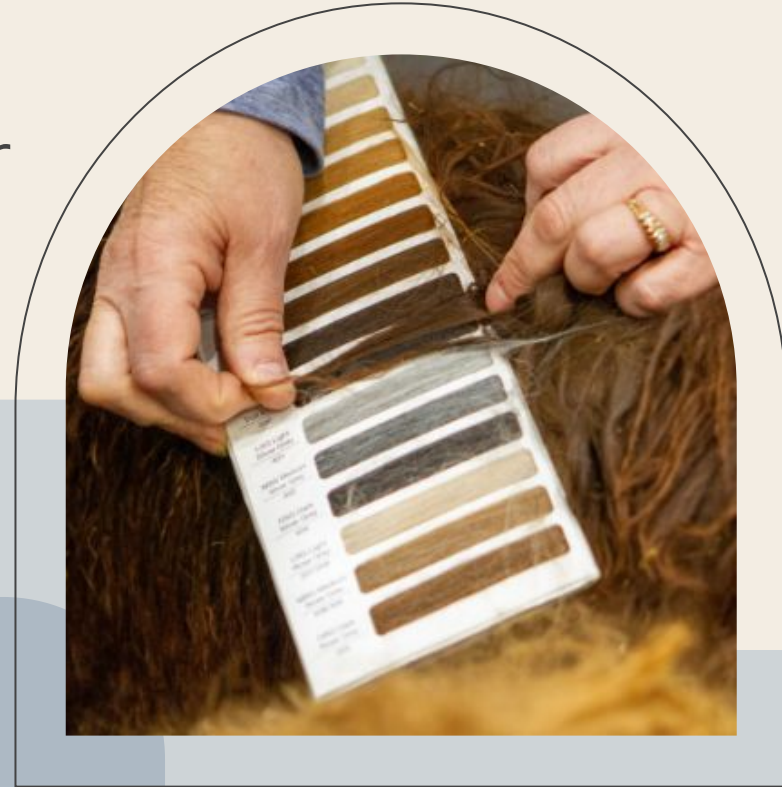




# The Wide Variety of Colors of **Alpaca** Fiber

Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. recognizes 16 official colors:

- White
- Beige
- Fawn - light, medium, dark
- Brown - light, medium, dark
- Bay Black
- True Black
- Silver Grey - light, medium, dark
- Rose Grey - light, medium, dark



# Micron **Relationships** to End Use

- 18-20: Underwear, high fashion fabric, suiting
- 20-23: Fine to medium knit-wear, men's suiting, lightweight worsteds, hand knitting yarn
- 23-26: Woven outerwear, machine and hand knitted yarns
- 24-29: Socks, fine felting, and heavy woven outerwear
- 30+: Interior textiles, carpets, and industrial felting

## **Classification of Microns:**

- Royal Baby < 20 Microns
- Baby 20-22.29 Microns
- Super Fine 23-26.9 Microns
- Adult 27-31.9 Microns
- Strong > 32 Microns

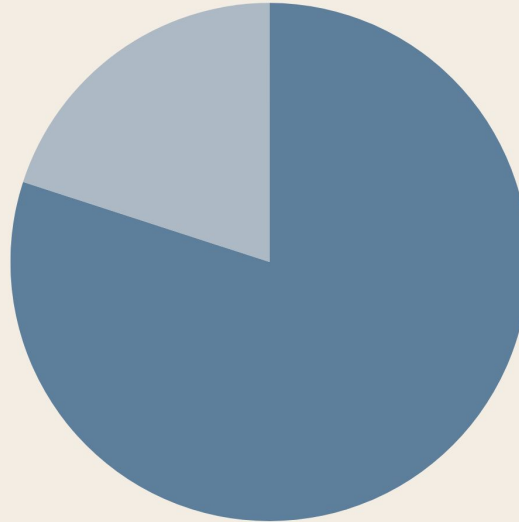
**Products created with a very uniform micron will produce a more pleasing handle than their micron size indicates.**



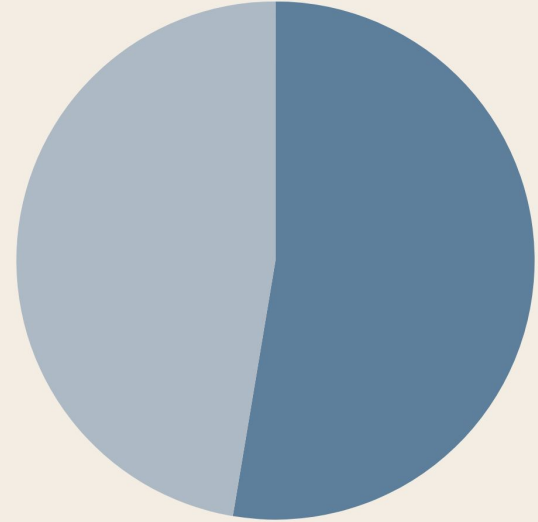
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# Industry Considerations for **Alpaca** Fiber

Alpaca Fiber



Wool



**Alpaca fiber produces a high yield of clean fiber after processing.**

■ Percentage of clean fiber yielded



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# Industry Considerations for **Alpaca** Fiber



**Alpaca fiber is easy to dye or over-dye using animal protein type dyes or natural dyes with mordants.**

**Alpaca fiber blends well with other natural fibers such as cotton, silk, bamboo, mohair, and wool.**



# Eligibility **and** Format

- Participation is open to all students of college-level design in North America.
- No garment construction is necessary.
- Entry requires a presentation board, swatches, a one-page essay, and a 60-second compilation video for promotional use.
- No entry fee required.



Elahe Saeidi,  
2014

Katherine Matos-Gonzalez,  
2018



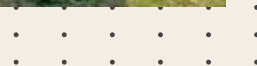
# Eligibility **and** Format

The intent of the competition is to promote the incorporation of alpaca fiber into creative and marketable fashion & textile designs.

The entry should reflect the influence of the current design trends specified in the rules and regulations for the competition and utilize **at least 50% alpaca fiber** in the design.



Yarn, roving, and fabric swatches are available to instructors on request.



# Scholarship and Awards

Fashion Design & Textile Design will be judged as two separate categories, each with its own winners.

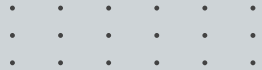
**1st Place - \$1,000**

**2nd Place - \$750**

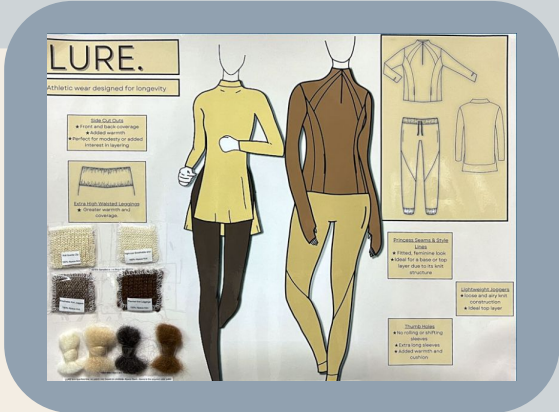
**3rd Place - \$500**



# 2023 Competition **Winners** - *Fashion*



**Teegan Farrell**  
 Kansas State University (KS)  
 First Place Fashion



**Kelly Padulese-Czyzewski**  
 Thomas Jefferson University (PA)  
 Third Place Fashion



**Kelsi Manley**  
 North Carolina State University (NC)  
 Second Place Fashion



# 2023 Competition **Winners** - *Textiles*



**Kayla Reilly**  
Fashion Institute of Technology (NY)  
First Place Textiles



**Christina Dixon**  
Thomas Jefferson University (PA)  
Third Place Textiles



# Turn **Alpaca** Into Functional **Fashion**



**Sydney Lenox**, 2018  
Kansas State University (KS)



**Aaron Simon**, 2015  
Kansas State University (KS)



**Megan Gregory**, 2019  
Savannah College of Art & Design (GA)





# Turn **Alpaca** Into Functional **Textiles**



**Sarah Freeman, 2019**  
Savannah College of Art &  
Design (GA)



**Chang Liu, 2019**  
Kent State University (OH)



**Hannah Beckett, 2018**  
Jefferson Philadelphia University (PA)

# Turn **Alpaca** Into Functional **Textiles**



**Nicole Rusick, 2017**  
Harper College (IL)



**Megan Dunn, 2019**  
Kent State University (OH)



**Emily Arlington, 2015**  
Fashion Institute of  
Technology (NY)



We hope to see **YOU** as a winner ...  
of the 2024 AOA Student Design ...  
Competition! ...