



Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA)



**AOBA Cottage Fleece Competition
2012 AOBA National Show
May 19-22, 2011**

New for 2012!

Cottage Fleece Competition in the AOBA Show System

The AOBA Show System's new Cottage Fleece competition offers exhibitors the opportunity to show their fleeces in an innovative way that: 1) provides the exhibitor with a Fleece Scorecard judged by an AOBA Certified Fleece Judge and 2) provides the exhibitor with a spun skein from that same fleece that has been judged and scored in the Spin-Off by a Spin-Off Judge.

This competition is an excellent opportunity to show those fleeces that may not quite fit into the regular Fleece Show since there is less emphasis on scoring for overall weight and uniformity of color, but even fleeces that would be competitive in the regular Fleece Show can be entered. The Cottage Fleece competition can be offered at any show that is also holding a Handcrafter's Spin-Off competition. There are many exhibitors who elect to submit the mandatory two-ounce samples to enter multiple Handcrafter's Spin-Off competitions. This will reduce the remaining prime blanket weight of that fleece and may make it an unlikely or less competitive candidate for entry into a traditional Fleece Show. Since the Cottage Fleece competition places minimal value on overall fleece weight, these exhibitors now have an additional venue to highlight these fleeces, even after they have been sorted for other types of competitions. The Cottage Fleece competition may also be ideal for those fleeces that have been shown multiple times, are from older alpacas that still retain excellent fineness but do not have associated high fleece weights, or are from alpacas whose fleeces can be processed into beautiful end-use products but may individually lack overall weight or may not be of uniform color.

How does it work?

You first will take two ounces of the selected blanket and enter it into a specific Handcrafter's Spin-Off competition. Each Spin-Off remains a stand-alone competition and each entry will be judged, scored and placed regardless of the Cottage Fleece competition. When you enter the Spin-Off, you will be asked to indicate if you will be entering the Cottage fleece competition. (Your answer is not binding! This is to gauge interest and potential participation in the Cottage competition.) Remember: You must enter the SAME fleece in the Spin-Off and Cottage Fleece at a show that offers the Cottage Fleece competition.

The next step for any Cottage Fleece entry occurs once registration opens for the remainder of the show. You will see online where you will enter your halter entries, fleece entries and cottage entries. If you attempt to enter the Cottage Fleece competition but did not enter the Spin-Off, this option will not be permitted. You will only be able to enter the Cottage Fleece or regular Fleece Show – not both with that fleece. You can certainly enter the Cottage Fleece competition and the regular Fleece Show if you have two different fleeces to enter, providing that all rules pertaining to entry in each are met.



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Once all Spin-Off entries have been judged and final scores are tallied, the Show/ Fleece Superintendent will request the Spin-Off scores from the Spin-Off Coordinator for those entries that have also been entered into the Cottage Fleece competition. Using that Spin-Off score, the Superintendent will then calculate the “Spinning Score” points for the Cottage (25% of the total Cottage Fleece score) Fleece entry.

During the Cottage Fleece judging at the show, the Fleece Judge will judge the Cottage entries separate from the regular Fleece Show entries – these are separate competitions and results are not combined. The Cottage Fleece competition has its own unique Cottage Fleece Scorecard. Placements and awards are also completely separate from the regular Fleece Show.

Exhibitors have the opportunity to compete and place twice – in the Spin-Off and Cottage Fleece– with the same fleece. This is a great opportunity for those fleeces that fit best in the Cottage industry, the fleeces that fiber artisans love!