

## 2024-2025 VFAG Sheep Breed Study Workshop Series Information Sheet

In this study we will procure 9 raw fleeces for sheep breeds not readily available in Alaska. These fleeces are primarily procured from small farms in England and Scotland. Many of the fleeces are from rare, conservation, and heritage breeds. The goal of the workshop series is to increase Guild member's knowledge of sheep breeds, to study different fleeces and their characteristics, compare fleeces from different sheep breeds and perhaps discover your new favorite, to learn more about processing raw fleece, and to build a shared enthusiasm for fiber arts.

At each Guild meeting from September 2024 through May 2025 the 'fleece of the month' will be distributed at the meeting to participants based on your chosen subscription plan. Also, any remaining fleece(s) from previous month(s) will be available for purchase while supplies last.

There are two purchasing options available: **annual subscription and month to month**. Both the annual and monthly options include 3 plans: Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C. Each plan specifies the amount of fiber included and cost. Here's how it works:

**Annual Subscription:** Participants pay an up-front one-time annualized fee for all 9 months based on the plan you choose (Plan A, B, or C). Annual subscribers are first in line to receive their fleece at the monthly meetings. If you miss a meeting, your fleece is set aside for you and other arrangements to get you the fleece can be made.

**Month to Month:** Participants pay the fee for that month for the plan of their choice based on availability and as supplies last. Monthly folks do not need to sign up ahead of time but can pay at the meeting if they choose to participate, pay as you go concept.

Any remaining fleece(s) from a previous month will be brought to the Guild meeting and will be available for anyone to purchase as supplies last, first come first served. The price will be posted at the meeting.

The plans are broken out by fleece weight options and subscription cost. There are different weights of fleece available based on the total weight of each individual fleece procured (different sheep breeds produce different fleece weights). For each month that fleece is listed along with three weight options and a corresponding subscription cost. The first weight option/cost is Plan A, the second is Plan B, and the third is Plan C. If there is no third option, Plan B and C are the same (this is the case for small fleeces). Please see the Sheep Breed Study – Plans handout for details.

Payment can be made via the Valley Fiber Art website, Events page at <https://valleyfiberarts.org/whats-happening/>. Just click on the Sheep Breed Study link. Payments can also be made at the Guild meetings via cash, check, or card when the square is available. Alternative arrangements can be made by contacting the Workshop Coordinator at [retreatdiva@gmail.com](mailto:retreatdiva@gmail.com).

This is shaping up to be a fun and educational experience for our members. As you go through this process jot down your thoughts and we will share together during our guild meetings as we work collectively to learn more about sheep breeds in the broader world around us.