

Agriculture Adventures for Families

Since we don't have a natural furry coat to keep us warm, we depend upon a variety of resources to provide our clothing during the cold winter months. Alpaca, sheep, and goats are just a few of the many animals who share their fiber with us. Livestock, in turn, depend on farmers to support their health during the winter months including nutritious feed, water and shelter. For a close-up look at sheep, visit <https://bit.ly/356LAJJSHEEP>.



Fiber to Keep Warm?

Are you curious about the materials used to make your favorite sweater? You probably won't find many details on the garment label. Sheep are the most prevalent producers of wool, though it also comes from rabbits, goats and alpacas. Here are some commonly used types of wool:



Alpaca fiber is considered luxury material because it is soft and fine. It is popular for spinning and knitting, and is also used for hair on dolls and figurines.

Cashmere goat wool is extremely soft and tends to be expensive because the combing and shearing of Cashmere goats is very time consuming.

Dorset sheep produce very white fleece that is strong and free from dark fiber. Dorsets are the No. 1 white-faced breed in the United States.



Merino sheep wool is the finest and softest of all sheep wool. It is used in intense cold-weather applications for its breathability, temperature regulation and moisture control. It is also used for felting of purses, bowls, slippers and scarves.

Montadale sheep produce fleece popular with hand spinners that is used for sweaters, socks, scarves, hats and needle felting.

Source: <https://www.iffbpartners.com/family/wool-comes-from-many-animal-breeds/>

How Does Livestock Keep Warm?

Cows



In the winter, cows' thick skin and hair is a natural insulator that protects them from the bitter cold. Their hairy coat grows longer and thicker in the winter. When it snows, the hair catches the snow and forms a layer over the cow. This creates an air pocket between the snow and the cow's skin, which is then warmed by the cow's natural body temperature of 102 degrees.



Sheep

Sheep will often handle cold temperatures better than goats, so long as they have their wool coats. If they have been sheared recently, sheep will be more at risk for cold stress. As temperatures drop, ruminants will eat more, and their feed will have to be adjusted to make up for the loss in energy.

Water should be one of the first items to check during the winter months and should be checked twice daily.



Horses

Their winter coat has longer and coarser hairs than their summer coat, and they use them to keep themselves warm by fluffing them up to trap heat. The individual hairs stand up rather than lying flat against the skin, which traps warm air close to the body and insulates them from the cold. Horses naturally spend winter days roaming outside and are equipped to stay warm when temperatures are cold, but that doesn't mean he will not benefit from a carefully chosen blanket.



Source: <https://equimed.com/news/general/how-your-horse-stays-warm-in-cold-weather>

Fiber	Source of Fabric	Product/Uses
Wool	Wool is shorn from Sheep	Seaters, pants, coats, mittens, hats
Cotton	Fiber surrounding the seed of the cotton plant	Jeans, T-shirts, sheets, underwear
Polyester	Petroleum	All kind of clothing and household goods
Nylon	Petroleum	Exercise/sports clothing, nylons
Linen	Fiber from the stem of the flax plant	All kinds of clothing and household goods
Acrylic	Petroleum	Sweaters, shirts, and other clothing items
Silk	Filaments which silkworms spin to make their cocoons	Evening wear, ties, undergarments, bed linens

Source: https://cdn.agclassroom.org/media/uploads/2016/07/25/answer_key.pdf

February Word Search

Clothing
Cold
Cotton
Cow
Fabric
Fiber
Fleece
Hat

Horse
Knitting
Mittens
Ruminants
Sheep
Sweater
Warm
Wool

C O L D E M S C M N E N V D B
M I N S E H I C T G H Z T J W
N R R Z E C Z T H W E G A A R
G O A E J M E G T P P C H L U
H E P W D Y Q E Q E S O K O M
R E T A E W S I L V N W T O I
C D C P J H R G K F Z S P W N
C V F W J R N K Q W T A W W A
W O M C H I V T B P C T G F N
F W T W H S C V V X N G A G T
K N I T T I N G A M U B W U S
N R O F O T T T W M R T K M N
P L V O W N R E B I F T B S J
C A H H B H Q W C P E F W C X
B R E P K H F O A M G O H P S

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

Complete the Word Search puzzle for your chance to win! Winners will be contacted by mail.

Mail to: Cook Co. Farm Bureau

Ag Adventures Word Search

6438 Joliet Rd

Countryside, IL 60525

Fax to: 708-579-6056

Email to: FBcooperator@gmail.com

Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2020 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies.
Good luck!

Last Month's Word Search Winner Is..

Jennifer Rifis-Meng

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Membership #: _____

(Membership # is located on front of paper)

If you were to win, check your preference:

___ Beggar's Pizza GC ___ HRI GC ___ 3 Movie Tix

(If a choice is not made, movie tickets will be sent)

Deadline is the 20th of each month.