

The Combined news from Amber Meadow & Breezy Manor Farms

January is the time for beginnings!

Remember to Buy Local



Wooly Knob Fiber Mill can offer quick turn around on fleece sent to them between now and mid -February.

The Fiber Event at Greencastle April 9th & 10th 2010

Coupon:

Free sample of roving, your choice, when you visit one of our farms!
Jan 15 – Feb 15, 2010

What is Wooly Friends? Donna Jo Copeland and Roxa Deaton have formed a fiber coop named Wooly Friends. They invite you to share their fiber, fun and friendship in a newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving our newsletter, just pull up a chair and enjoy reading. If you do not wish to receive it, just reply to this email asking to be removed from our distribution list.

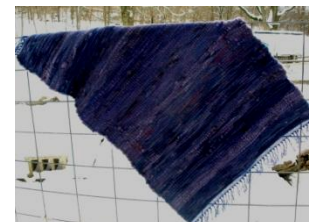
Our news:

Breezy Manor:



On Dec 28 Peaches blessed us with a litter of bunnies, Bently is the proud papa. And sadly, when the weather turned bitter, 2 other newly born litters froze to death. Farming is hills and dales, that's what keeps us going. And more bunnies are due at month's end. So I'm taking a corner of the bunny barn and building a nursery, insulated, well ventilated and a window to boot! Keep your fingers crossed!

From the looms: Roving rugs, or whatever! Dyed and blended Dorset and llama—absolutely heavenly! Currently I have blues/purple, reds, woodland greens, white with Scottish Blackface locks. Ok, I call them rugs but they're great for table runners, throws for your toes on the end of the bed, and ?? They're fun to weave as you never know how they will finish. The Dorset loom is busy with spaced warp scarves.



From the spinning wheels: A dear friend gave me a BFL/Wensleydale fleece for my birthday and I carded in some deeply green dyed mohair and blue Angelina.....wow! Am spinning one day, knitting the next and have 1/3 of the sweater done. It's a broken rib pattern so goes quickly. Another

wheel has some BFL/mohair/angora (aka Snowball, Sarah, Maggie) in natural white.....like angel hair!



Marvels of Nature: The snows have been beautiful to see, walk in, listen to. Reminds me of the line from Frost, "easy wind and downy flake". I try to take the sheep and goats for a walk on snowy afternoons, luring them along with apple treats. And there is a huge limb hanging from a giant maple tree outside my attic office window with a hummingbird nest hanging about halfway up. Haven't seen one of those in about 20 years. .

A treat for you:

Grandma Tucker's Applesauce & Red Devil Salad

1 large box red jello, any flavor

1 c. red hot cinnamon candies

4 c. applesauce

2 c. boiling water

Dissolve jello in boiling water, add red hots and stir till all are dissolved. Add applesauce and pour into glass dish or mold, refrigerate several hours or overnight. Great with breakfast, lunch or dinner!

The studio and shop at Breezy Manor are open Thursdays and Sundays, 10-6 and by appointment other days!

Amber Meadow: December of 2009 is history so let the 2010 fiber fun begin! Here at Amber Meadow the fleece is being washed and dyed for the next trip to Woolly Knob Mill coming up very soon. One that I am very excited about is named Cherry Coke. Stay tuned for a picture in next month's newsletter. When the snow arrived last week, all the barn critters reacted differently, true to their own personalities. The llamas and alpacas seemed to enjoy the snow on their backs, the goats stayed in the barn and the lambs ran and played in their pasture. Phillip, a Finn lamb, actually rolled in the snow like a puppy. Of course when I brought the camera, he thought I had cookies and came running for treats. Another Kodak Moment gone!



Have you tried dying a center pull ball? I started with a yarn blended from a RomeldalexTeeswater ewe, Suri Llama cria first clip and my own kid mohair (thank you Sugar Cube). This spun into lovely soft, silky chunky white 2-ply yarn which I wound loosely into a ball, then thoroughly wetted it and put it into a small pot with Joy, citric acid and vinegar for mordant. Next dye liquor from Jacquard Sapphire and Black was mixed and dribbled with a spoon onto exterior areas on the top of the ball and into the center. The ball was turned over and the process repeated. The ball was then mashed with a potato masher, the remaining dye poured into the pot and the dye process completed in the usual manner. The results were a real SURPRISE and are pictured here. The hat pattern is a Latisse that enhances the variegated yarn. The ball on the left shows the exterior and the right one is from the middle of the ball.



I can't wait to try something else *new*, like this very old recipe. Enjoy!

Scotch Pancakes:

2 cups cooked oatmeal

2 cups ground cooked meat

2 eggs

Salt and pepper to taste

2 tablespoons oil, melted shortening or drippings.

Combine oatmeal, meat, eggs and seasonings. Mix thoroughly. Fry cakes, using 1 tablespoon of mixture for each in small amount of oil. Serve hot. Serves 4 to 6.

Amber Meadow Farm store is open every Wednesday from 10am to 4 pm and by appointment. Classes are available as needed.

Wooly Friends Free Pattern from Donna Jo:

Seed Stitch Scarf: 100-120 yards of handspun, sportweight wool yarn (angora and/or mohair make a lovely halo), size 10 to 11 knitting needles. CO 14 to 16 st., knit 1, purl 1 in moss stitch. Next row, K the P stitches, P the K stitches until you're nearly out of yarn. BO. That's it!

....About Us....

Breezy Manor Farm

On the ancient and wee farm of Breezy Manor Donna Jo Copeland works as farmeress and fiber artist, just west of where her mother was born. At the knee of her great grandmother and with the gift of an ancestress, Donna Jo has made a life of fiber and farm. She has a select handspinner's flock of English Angora bunnies, angora goats, BFL, BL & Romney sheep, doing her own shearing, washing, dyeing, carding and spinning. In her old farmhouse on cherished looms and spinning wheels, she makes the textiles and yarns of her livelihood, always honoring those who have journeyed before on paths of farm and fiber. This magic is located east of Mooresville, IN and can be seen on her website, www.breezymanor.com

Amber Meadow Farm

Amber Meadow farm was a dream until Columbus Day 2006 when Rob & Roxa Deaton looked across 22 acres of blooming goldenrod and fell in love with rolling hills, streams and woods. Thus it was that we found ourselves with 5 Angora Goats, 3 guard llamas, 2 alpacas, 2 Tunis and 3 Finn sheep, 4 cats and 1 dog all living together in a barn in south western Shelby County. These wonderful fiber animals thank us for loving them by growing mounds of beautiful fleece that we wish to share with you. Visit us at www.ambermeadowfarm.com to meet them and learn more about our fiber farm and farm products.

