

The Combined news from Amber Meadow, Breezy Manor Farm, Dor Galen & Knits 4 Ewe Farms
July.....when butterflies gently glide, baby birds sing and the air is heavy with nectar

Remember to Buy Local

Woolly Friends proudly announces that we carry **Cushing Dyes**.
Just contact breezymanor@aol.com or amber.meadow@yahoo.com to order.

The **Indiana State Fair** runs from August 6th to 22nd this year. Be sure to check out our yarn, rovings and textiles in the Sheep Barn's Wool Room! Baaaaaa

Donna Jo is organizing a Woolly Friends Style Show Aug 10th & 13th 11:00am in the Our Land Pavilion. Guess who will be modeling!

Come see us and our Indiana Wool Products!

Woolly Knob Fiber Mill Specializing

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by Jamie & Matt

La Otto, Indiana

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Our news: Welcome Dave and Lorraine Haxton from Dor Galen!!!!!!

Dor Galen is a small farm in Dover, Indiana. We're about half way between Lebanon and Crawfordsville, and about 5 miles south of Thorntown. Our name comes from the Elvish language of J.R.R. Tolkien's Silmarillion - it means "the green land (or acres)". And while we don't have a pig named Arnold, we do have a sheep named Pig!

Our flock was established in 2003 for handspinners – we initially focused on Scottish Blackface sheep whose fiber is very easy to work, with a long staple and incredible durability. However, it's not the softest of wools – putting a Blackie woolen blanket over a baby would be more torture than comfort!

In 2006 we acquired several Horned Domet ewes, planning on breeding for a buyer of meat sheep. Before we could get a matching ram, the deal collapsed, and our Blackie Ram got in with the new ewes. The result was intriguing, to say the least. Various combinations were tried until we arrived at what we consider to be a new breed – one with considerable hybrid vigor and very desirable traits.

Dor Galen sheep are smaller (like the Blackies) but with a meaty, square body shape (like the Dorsets). The fleece has the staple length and durability of the Blackface fiber and is consequently easy to work, but is considerably softer and springier. All the sheep are horned, and the horn shape is pretty obviously from the Blackie side of the line.

The fleece has been remarkably well received by hand spinners, and has sold out every time we've offered it for sale. Next spring will see the second generation of our Dor Galen flock, and we'll be adding some more genetic diversity from new Blackie/Dorset crosses along the way. We should be ready to sell breeding stock by the spring of 2012.

We have another flock of various breeds as well – we concentrate on raising the finest fleece sheep we can manage. But over the long run, our future is with the breed developing as we watch, and we're very excited about the future.

Breezy Manor:

Fiber animals are amazing creatures. They bring much joy, love, trust and amazement as well as periods of why am I doing this?.....Breezy Manor abounds in amazement.

The picture of Cupcake, my Blue Face Leicester ram, and Finnegan, 5 month old English Angora buck, is posed but there is a story behind the smiles. I was needing a new English Angora buck and found one up near Cleveland, OH. A fellow bunny breeder from southern Indiana said he would transport for me if I met him at a truck stop in Seymour. That's how my little blue Finnegan came to me. He was small for his age and needed extra attention so I let him have time in the playpens outside next to the ram pen. But being small, he could whiz thru the wire. I couldn't find him and was freaking out, when I asked Cupcake if he had seen him.....and Cup turned his head toward the west fence. There was this little ball of blue wool.....I called Finnegan and he acknowledged me but wouldn't come over, so Cupcake began herding him toward the gate.....and got him over to where I could grab him. Finnegan is now a bit bigger so instead of going thru the wire fence, he burrows under.....and still finds Cup. Yesterday he was sitting underneath Cup, quite content. Cup hung his head thru the gate and groaned about this damn rabbit! I got Finnegan out and asked Cup, with the help of a goodie treat, if he would mind a photo session.



My old high school is having a big alumni bash and has put together an art show of MHS Alumni Artists' works. I have 2 pieces hanging. The "ouch" part was listing your year.....

This time of year I'm busy judging county fairs and readying my entries for the State Fair. As nothing is finished yet, I shall tell that tale next month. Never enough time in my realm. Its been a bit hard to work on woollen goods with this lovely summer heat and humidity. But I am trying to store it up in my mind for the winds of winter.

Since winter will surely come, I was thinking about a Round Robin Scarf Project. Here is how I propose it work.....it will take groups of 5 people for each set of 5 scarves. Each person begins to knit a scarf, doing about 12 to 15 inches in wool yarn made in America or handspun of American wools. Any size yarn, pattern and needle. She then mails it off to the next person in her group who adds another 12 inches or so to the first part. Then mails it to the next. Everyone of the 5 gets to knit a section of the scarf and you all wind up with a unique scarf! We can do as many groups as people will sign up for.....so email me if you would like to join!

Now I'm back to woolling.....got to keep those looms happy!!!

Be sure to stop by the studio any Sunday or Thursday.....or let me know when you would like to come! Classes and fun are continuing.....a few days may be interrupted by volunteering at the State Fair.

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

Amber Meadow:

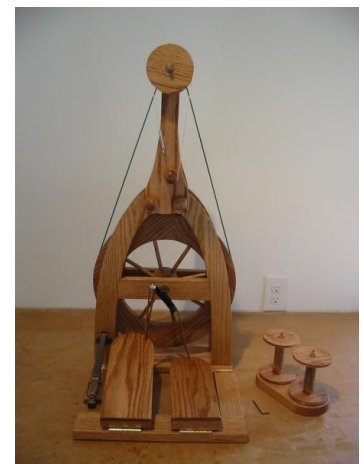
The Dog Days of summer are upon us and the fiber critters are suffering. We have fans in the ceiling, fans on the floor, automatic watering tanks with added apple cider vinegar and ice cubes, strawberry Jello water for the llamas and alpacas and Bounce Back water for the goats and sheep. Their stalls are misted down every two hours and some of them (Shokie, Call and Shadow) get in the mist and take a shower. They jostle each other like little kids in a sprinkler. Vinegar face washes help, too. All they need is a deck chair to complete the picture. No one is spoiled here, nope, no one! For Duncan's fans, he is growing very well and wants everyone to know that he plans to be the leader sheep by fall. No one has the energy to argue with him in this heat, either.

We will begin sponsoring a monthly fiber day on the second Wednesday of each month from 10am to 3pm. Bring your spinning, knitting, crocheting any fiber related project and join us with a sack lunch. So..mark your calendars for September 15th. Yes, I know that is the 3rd Wednesday of September but the 2nd was just after Labor Day so I cut us a little slack this time. October will start the 2nd Wednesday rotation.

As some of you know, we live in a space that is 15 x 60 so we are still downsizing. To that end, I am offering my folding craft table for sale at \$50. Local pick-up only, please. I have pictures and dimensions if interested. This is great for scrap-booking, sewing, quilting, skirting, just about anything that requires a large working space.

One-time introductory offer only. Bluebonnet's Fairy Thimble Spinning Wheel, 3 bobbins, two multi-sized whorls and a lazy kate for \$480.00 plus shipping. This new U.S. A. custom-made wheel is well-balanced and spins quietly. It is made in Texas from Texas red oak, and weighs less than 13 pounds. The maidens fold down and the treadles fold up making the wheel small to transport. Usual price is \$595.00 plus shipping.

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



The easiest way to find our farm is from I-65. At the Edinburgh/Flat Rock exit, turn east toward Flat Rock. Continue east past St George Lutheran Church (at 600 W) until you see the Southwestern School District sign just before 500 West. (500 W is currently not marked due to an impact last year). Turn left, north, onto 500 W and continue north to our driveway, also unmarked. The store is located in the barn at the end of the ½ mile long driveway. You can't see it from the road so we are working on a sign to guide you.

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, and 6 sheep (2 Tunis, 3 Finn and 1 North Country CheviotxBlue Face Leicester), 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.