

A Non-Exhaustive List of Sheep Breeds Raised for Fiber in Vermont

Babydoll Southdown
Bluefaced Leicester
Border Leicester
California Red
Cheviot
Clun Forest
Columbia
Coopworth
Cormo
Corriedale
Cotswold
CVM/Romeldale
Dorset
East Friesian
Finnsheep
Gotland
Horned Dorset
Icelandic
Jacob
Lincoln
Merino
Montadale
Navajo Churro
North Country
Polworth
Rambouillet
Romney
Shetland
Suffolk
Teeswater
Tunis
Valais Blacknose
Wensleydale

Other animals raised for fiber:

Angora goats, Cashmere goats,
llama, alpaca, rabbit



Why choose natural fiber yarn?

- Sheep, goats, camelids and rabbits produce fiber consistently over their lifespan. Animal fiber is a renewable resource because animals are shorn or brushed to harvest the fiber, not killed.
- Natural fibers “breathe” as they insulate.
- Wool is fire resistant and maintains its ability to warm a body even when wet.
- Garments made from natural fibers are biodegradable and can be composted.
- Fabric made from quality, natural fibers are more durable than cheap synthetics.
- Wearing clothing made from natural fiber helps cut down on plastic microfiber pollution.
- Natural fiber production typically requires less energy and fewer chemicals than the production of synthetics, meaning it has a lower carbon footprint.
- Purchasing breed specific yarns helps maintain biodiversity.

Why shop local?

Buying local yarn and fiber supports connected businesses like veterinary practices, feed and farm supply stores, shearers, building supply companies, seed suppliers, accountants, markets, mills and yarn stores. Farms and related local businesses create and maintain the unique character of Vermont communities, keep dollars local, and support non-profits at a greater percentage rate than nationally owned companies. Shopping locally also reduces the negative environmental impact of shipping and transporting goods over long distances.

Vermont yarn rocks your socks! Check out locally dyed yarns.

How to support local yarn producers?

- Buy yarns produced and dyed in Vermont at local yarn stores.
- Visit a farm or farmers market.
- Visit a mill.
- Join a local fiber CSA (community supported agriculture).
- Attend a fiber festival, county or agricultural fair.
- Learn more about yarn production, sheep breed characteristics, natural dyes and more.
- Visit the Vermont Sheep and Goat Association website for more information.