



BY THE NUMBERS:

TODAY ON THE FARM:

29 chickens
23 alpacas
6 guardian dogs
3 rabbits
8 kid goats
23 adult goats
9 lambs
26 adult sheep
2 shop cats
1 house cat
3 house dogs
I'm pretty sure that's everybody....

ON OUR CALENDAR:

JAN. 21 — 10 TO 4

Beg. Wheel Spinning at
The Artist's Loft

FEB. 16-19—

Winter Fiber Retreat
at Camp Copass

MAR. 10—9:30-1:30

Dye Day at the Farm

MAR. 11—10 TO 4

Weave a Scarf at The
Artist's Loft

MAR. 17— 10 TO 1

Core Spinning Plus+++
at The Artist's Loft

NEWS FROM THE FANCY FIBERS FARM

DEC. 2011

Greetings!

When we sent out our last newsletter in August, we were all sweltering in the heat and worried about the drought.

Today, we're slogging through mud because it's finally started raining! We are grateful for the rain. Although it makes things messy for us and for the animals, we need much more of it to fill up our pond and the lakes everywhere! Rubber boots keep our feet dry, and we start calling the hallway in front of the back door our "mud room" so we feel better about the muddy floor, and we keep on going!

Temperatures are also quite a bit cooler, but moderate. I'll take 60's — even 50's — and sunshine any day of the week.

Life is supposed to slow down on the Farm during the winter months, but we're still waiting for that to happen. Maybe I'll at least get "caught up" on a few things.

Until next time, stay warm and dry, and think of us now and then, out here raising fiber animals.

Ken & Mary Berry



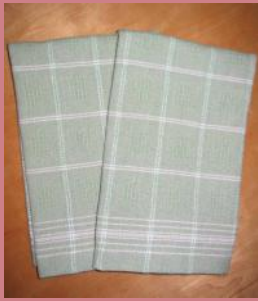
JACEY SPINS DALLAS!

There are still a few spots open in the [Jacey Boggs 2-day spinning workshop](#) on September 15th and 16th, 2012. Once the workshop is "full," I'll start a waiting list. You never know; things come up and plans change.

The cost of the workshop is \$225 or less, depending on what the expenses turn out to be. A NON-refundable \$25 deposit is required to hold your spot.

The workshop will take place at the Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center in Dallas. If you need to stay overnight, we have you covered with a special rate that includes a hot breakfast!

Hope you'll join us!



Knit
Crochet
Spin
Weave
Dye
Take a class
and do it all!

Always available
in the

Farm Store

- Jacquard Acid Dyes
- Wool
- Mohair—carded and curls
- Suri alpaca
- Silk

Almost always
available

- Fresh eggs
- Angora



Got fiber?

Somebody
took all of
mine!



2012 CSA Shares are available for purchase NOW. For more information, see our [Website](#).

The Farm Store: A New Look and New Inventory!

The Farm Store is in the process of going through a reorganization and small overhaul. That means that, at the moment, it's a mess!

But all our beautiful fiber and yarn is safely tucked away in bins. If you find yourself in need of something to spin or knit, give me a call and I'll be happy to send you something pretty!

Shareholders: I haven't forgotten about you! Good things are still coming your way, just later than expected.



We are also THRILLED to announce that FancyFibers has been accepted as a

Dealer for the Schacht Spindle Company!



Our initial inventory will lean heavily toward rigid heddle weaving. Look for lots of fun (and inexpensive) classes to be added to our line-up using the popular Schacht Cricket and Flip looms!

Keeping our animals safe and sound...

If you've never actually been to the Fancy Fibers Farm, then you haven't had the opportunity to meet our security force. While we sleep, they are working so that we do not have to worry about predators stealing or harming our animals. To date, we have never lost an animal to a predator. (Knock on wood.)

Keeping our animals safe and sound are six Great Pyrenees and Great Pyrenees mix Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGD's). This breed of dog, known in Europe and other parts of the world as the Pyrenean Mountain Dog, has been the shepherd's companion for centuries. They are keen workers, faithfully guarding the flocks no matter the weather or terrain. They have a beautiful white (or white and gray) coat that is insulating and weather resistant. They stand out in the cold or rain with a demeanor that suggests they are entirely

focused on the task at hand, and have no concern with their working conditions!

Our dogs actually live with the livestock 24/7, as most working dogs do. They sleep most the day but are on alert and roaming the pastures at night. They work in teams of two. Often one runs along the fence line and the other stands with the flock.

We love each and every one of them, and have great respect for their abilities. Their lives are hard, and one can usually only expect 8-10 years of service from any livestock guardian dog. Once they "retire," they will become house dogs, if they choose to, and live out the balance of their lives in pampered comfort.

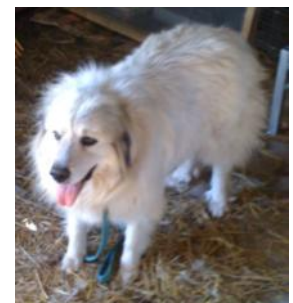
...
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Mudbud



Bear



Princess



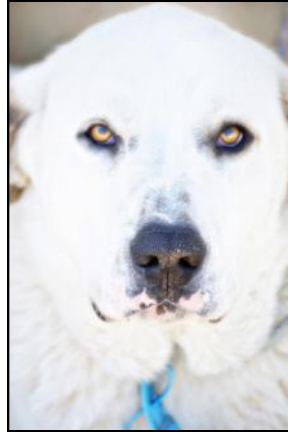
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Safe and Sound, continued



Lily

Lucy



Buddha
(Thanks [Jennifer Jurek](#) for the "glamour pic" of Buddha. I'm just in LOVE with it!)



Come find us at these Fiber Festivals in 2012 ...

March 30-April 1
[DFW Fiber Fest](#)
Grapevine, TX

October 6-7
[The Wool Festival](#)
At Taos, NM

November 9-11
[Kid 'N Ewe](#)
Boerne, TX

December 1-2
[Arkansas Fiber Extravaganza](#)
Hot Springs, AR



Did you know? We raise 5 different colors of sheep (gray, creamy white, and three distinct shades of brown), and 5 colors of goats (white, charcoal black, faded red, silver/gray and champagne blonde), 3 colors of alpacas (white, light/tan brown, dark/cinnamon brown), and two colors of rabbits (white and silver/gray). Shareholders **choose** their colors in the spring!

Looking forward to 2012...

I've given a lot of thought to where I want to go in 2012. The bottom line is **Slow Down and Simplify**. That doesn't mean that we're going to be doing any less, just that we're going to be doing simple things that are enjoyable and beautiful.

A good example is our new weaving equipment. Although I will continue to enjoy weaving on a multi-harness floor loom, I'm most excited about exploring what can be created on the new Cricket Looms and Flip Looms, both simple rigid heddle looms and part of our new inventory from Schacht. I'm excited about weaving scarves and spa cloths, and teaching others that weaving can be fun and fast and easy! Look for LOTS of opportunities to learn to weave, to the formation of a new Cricket Club, and even more weaving adventures in the second half of the year.

We are also streamlining operations at the Farm. No new animals in 2012 except ones that are born here (and even some of them may move on if they don't fit with our overall goals). We love the babies (and the lambs' wool and kid mohair!), and don't see a need for adding any additional adult animals next year.

We'll be travelling less and teaching more in 2012. As my friend [Suzanne Morgan](#) reminded me recently, it's good to "bloom where you are planted." Other than a few festivals and some educational trips (for my own fiber arts education), I'm staying at the Farm.

We remain an "open" farm (although we ask that you call first) and do hope you'll come visit. This is a very soothing and calming place to spend your time. You can't help but be happy petting the animals and breathing the fresh country air. Bring your needles or your wheel, and we'll sit awhile. It'll be good for both of us!



Fancy Fibers Farm

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www.fancyfibers.com

knit | weave | spin | dye



Fancy Fibers Farm is a family farm where Mary raises alpacas, goats, sheep, and rabbits for their beautiful fibers, and Ken raises pastured, cage-free chickens for fun and fresh eggs.

We invite you to become a part of our farm by visiting or working with us and our animals, through our Fiber & Yarn CSA, or by purchasing our products online, at craft and fiber festivals, or in our Farm Store.

Dye Days are now on *Second Saturdays!*

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

No dye day in July

August 11

September 8

Join us for our

Fall Festival Open

Farm Day Oct. 13

Follow us on these social networking sites:



Our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/fancyfibersfarm>



Our Ravelry group <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/fancy-fibers-farm>



On Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/fancyfibers/>

To find us in real life, search Google Maps for "Fancy Fibers Farm"

Google maps