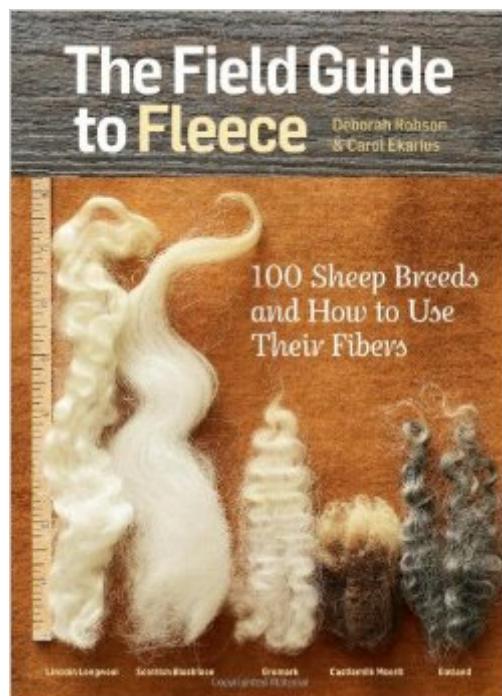


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# The Field Guide To Fleece: 100 Sheep Breeds & How To Use Their Fibers



## Synopsis

With this compact portable reference in hand, crafters can quickly and easily look up any of 100 different sheep breeds, the characteristics of their fleece, and the kinds of projects for which their fleece is best suited. Each breed profile includes a photograph of the animal and information about its origin and conservation status, as well as the weight, staple length, fiber diameter, and natural colors of its fleece. This is a great primer for beginners, and a handy guide for anyone who loves working with fleece.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brilliant! A well done field guide to fleece is just what I needed to carry with me to all the sheep and wool festivals this autumn. I am fairly new to spinning and having this guide to refer to now will help me muddle through all the fleeces at the festivals and the planned road trips to different Vermont farms in search of wool. Each of the 100 breeds gets two pages with very well done color photographs on every page. The first has the name of the breed, a description of the fiber, effects of dyes used on the fiber (for example under Delaine Merino it says, "White fleeces dye well, yielding clear color.") photo of the sheep then on the right side is a photo of the wool and information on origin, fleece weights, staple lengths, colors and a place for you to put field notes. It is truly like having a mini version of the Fleece and Fiber Source Book in a pocket edition. BRAVO! The authors should be gleaming with joy over the results of publishing this book. I wish you every success with it - well done!

This book is organized alphabetically rather than by breed types as Robson and Ekarius's Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook is. I love the usefulness of this much more portable book. Of course, it covers only 100 sheep breeds, so there is that drawback. And there wasn't space to give a full page to handspun, knitted, and woven versions of the fleece. But the photos of cleaned locks remain as well as much of the description that's in the Sourcebook. Bottom line, I've found a new traveling companion on my fiber fair trips! Knitted caps off to the authors!!!

This perfect smaller sized guide might first appear to be a shrunken down version of the fleece and fiber source book by the same author, but it really is a new resource. The information is presented as an alphabetical, condensed ( but not dumbed down or sparse) reference for those who knit, weave and spin. It is the perfect way to present the information one might need at the ready when selecting a fleece out in the "field". The book itself is sturdy, with quality full color photography throughout.

In *The Field Guide to Fleece: 100 Sheep Breeds and How to Use Their Fibers*, authors Deborah Robson and Carol Ekarius give in depth reviews of a variety of wools, discussing the amount of crimp, natural area of the breed, breeding changes throughout history, and what the wool is best used for, along with dye effects, fiber diameters and staple lengths, as well as fleece weight and natural colors. If you are looking to expand your knowledge base in spinning from a variety of sheep, for different effects, this would be a great and handy resource to have with you. The Kindle version, even in black and white, was easy to read and the pictures were clear. The book itself is about 7x5 inches for the cover and only about half an inch thick, for over 200 pages, that's a great size, easy to slip into your spinning bag for retreats or spindling in the park and the inevitable questions from passersby as to what type of sheep you are spinning. Or, maybe that's just me? ;) The pictures are lovely in this one too! I love the various backgrounds and seeing the sheep up close and personal. It was a new experience for me. I have yet to handle a sheep's fleece, but when I do, I will be sure to look it up in this book. I gave this book 5/5 stars because I strongly think every spinner should own it at some point in the spinning career. You should get to know the sheep and wools very well, and this book will take you a long ways down that path. My copy of this book was provided by the publisher, Storey Publishing, LLC, through the NetGalley Reviewer Program for free. That said I was under no obligation to give any kind of review, glowing or otherwise.

I have a Kindle and purchased this while waiting for the main book by these authors arrived. Although the Field Guide is undoubtedly useful and would be good to have in my bag at any fiber show, it feels very awkward on the Kindle. This is certainly a book that is better to have to flip through at a moment's notice -- not awkwardly access the chapters through Kindle menu. However, if you have one of those fancy touch-screen Kindles, you'd probably be fine! As with the other volume by Carol Ekarius, this book's content is fantastically informative and well-researched.

Almost all of the breeds I was looking for are in this book. It is small but packed with useful information, lovely photos and color, and good shots of the fleece structure. A nice little book to keep by the spinning wheel or take with you to those fiber festivals to quickly check to see if that lovely fleece you're looking at will behave the way you hope for your lovely next to the skin cowl, or if it really is a bit too itchy or sturdy and might be better for rugs.

Great little resource book. I loaded it onto my Kindle Fire for easy reference. Has good photographs and descriptions of a hundred breeds of sheep (although in some instances, such as with Dorsets, the author will write up descriptions of the various types of Dorsets). You get a little info on the breed's origins, characteristics of the wool, whether or not it tends to felt, how well it takes dye, some basic preparation recommendations (whether to comb or card the fleece) and what projects the wool is well suited for--such as whether a particular wool would be better for a sturdy blanket or outer sweater, or a next-to-the-skin scarf or baby item. I really liked that an example of a lock from each breed is photographed next to a ruler so you can see its length and how much crimp it has. I've used it at my fiber suppliers when they had a new kind of wool and I wanted to know more about it before buying some.

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