

up for judging, for sale or just for admiration. Continue on, and in the next three buildings, you'll find upward of 80 vendors from across the region selling tools of the trade. Many of these tools are, in themselves, gorgeous

BSG at a Glance

(ALL EVENTS FREE EXCEPT WORKSHOPS)

- Sheep, goats and rabbits show judging (begins Friday 9 am)
- Wool show judging (begins Friday 10 am)
- Some 30 full- and half-day workshops (begins Friday 8:30 am)
- Talks and demonstrations (begin Friday 9 am)
- Fiber arts judging and gallery (begins Friday 1 pm)
- Trade show (opens daily 9 am, closes 6 pm Friday, 5 Saturday and 4 Sunday)
- "Sheep to Shawl" contest (Friday 9 am-2 pm)
- Wool sale (begins Saturday 1:30 pm)
- Potluck (Saturday 5:30 pm)
- Spinner's Lead (Saturday 8 pm)

check www.blacksheepgathering.org for specifics or pick up a daily schedule inside the main entrance, Expo Hall building 2 at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Annie Dochnahl, a spinner and knitter, has been attending the Black Sheep Gathering for more than 10 years. She lives three blocks from the Fairgrounds.

Watching folks move through the isles and piles of brightly colored yarns, Janice Thompson swears she sees people having 'fibergasms.'

works of wooden art — from spinning wheels, to drop spindles, carding tools, and looms. Vendors tantalize with color as well — from natural dyes, to multicolored roving ready to be spun, to squishy yarns that call out to be fondled. You'll find knitting needles, pattern books, and fiber craft inspiration of every flavor. Be ready for the unexpected too, such as well endowed and anatomically correct felted maidens and gnomes, or yarns made of tofu, bamboo and corn.

Next up is the "Fiber Arts Gallery" displaying the finished products. Colorful sweaters, lace weight shawls, stunning rugs and more will highlight what talented spinners, knitters and weavers can create from black sheep goods. Near to the gallery, you'll find the workshops, demonstrations, and "show and tell."

This year, one of the demo highlights includes the "Fox Fiber Story" where founder Sally Fox will describe how she has been developing colored cotton without the use of dyes or pesticides at her Arizona ranch. Her blue, green and brown cottons have been purchased and used by clothing giants like Espirit, Levi Strauss and others. She was sued, however, by neighboring cotton farmers, because her colored cotton ostensibly contaminated the pure white neighboring plants.

The primary goal of BSG has always been, and continues to be, educating the public about natural colored sheep and the wool they produce. And while its name may suggest otherwise, white sheep and fleece are welcomed. No prize money is given for winners of any of the shows, and yet more than 600 sheep and goats from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana,

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