



How much work goes into your farm and fiber production?

Between taking care of my 20+ Angora rabbits and processing all of the fiber myself, it is a full time job. Angora rabbits require quite a bit of care because of their long fur. The fiber processing, though, takes about 90% of my time.

How much fiber knowledge did you have before starting to raise your own fiber animals?

I had virtually no experience with raising Angora rabbits before I purchased my first trio. I had raised other types of rabbits over the years, but I had never seen an Angora rabbit in real life. It has been a joy to love and care for these beautiful animals.

What was the most valuable resource for you as you were getting started?

My most valuable resource as I was getting started was the wealth of information about Angora rabbits that was available on the internet.

If someone came to you and asked you for your best piece of advice about getting started in fiber farming, what would that be?

My best advice would be to research Angora rabbits thoroughly before purchasing your rabbits and equipment. Learn all you can about their care, nutrition needs, grooming and the tools you will need, and what type and size of cages they require. Also, try to find someone who has experience in raising Angora rabbits to help you along the way.

Paula is the real Fiber Queen. Her rabbits are one of the star attractions of the Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival each year in May. Please visit her website www.thefiberqueen.com for more information, her shop and a list of upcoming events.

Sarabeth Parido, is the Director of the Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival. She raises her own small flock of sheep in Clark County, Kentucky along with her husband and four sons. She spins and dyes her fiber into yarn and has taught knitting classes for 14 years. Sarabeth is passionate about Kentucky fiber and wants to see great things happen for Kentucky wool producers.

Paula Greene, The Fiber Queen

by Sarabeth Parido

Another stop on our Tales from the Trail tour, we are visiting with The Fiber Queen herself, Paula Greene Bowron. Located in the city of Lexington, Kentucky, Paula proves that you don't have to live on a farm to raise fiber! Paula is an established French and English Angora rabbit breeder and processes the fiber from her animals in her own home studio.

Are you originally from Kentucky?

I am originally from KY, and have lived here all of my life except for about 4 years.

What do you as a producer do with your fiber?

I process all of my Angora fiber in my home studio. After collecting the fiber, it is combed or carded, sometimes blended with other fibers such as silk, Alpaca, and sheep wool, and then made into batts for spinning into yarn, felting and for use in other fiber art applications. Sometimes, I dye the fiber before or after spinning into yarn. I sell my fiber in my Etsy store - 'The Fiber Queen', on Facebook, and at various fiber festivals, and I crochet and knit scarves, ear warmers, mitts, and make other items as well.



To join or travel the Kentucky Fiber Trail visit www.kentuckyfibertrail.com