

TO: THE MEDIA

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

**GRAND OPENING FOR U.S. COMMERCIAL DEHAIRING
SERVICES CELEBRATED WITH FIBER TRIALS IN
SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY**

Homedale, ID – Every great journey begins with an idea! And, some journeys are destined to never end! Natural Fiber Producers cooperative, developed in 2007, was built on the foundation of profitability and sustainability for U.S. natural fiber producers. That founding idea became a unique cooperative model and provided the stepping-stone for a bigger idea. The Dehairing Project, NFP’s dream-turned journey, began early in 2014 and has reached a milestone this week.



Join Us
Sponsor ❖ Raffle ❖ Silent Auction

Be a part of this historic event as NFP Celebrates the Return of Commercial Dehairing to the U.S.

WHEN: Sept. 17 & 18, 2015
WHERE: Springfield, KY

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:
Bison \$500, Cashmere \$350, Camelid \$200, Angora \$125, Wool \$50
One raffle ticket is included per level.
Additional raffle tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

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Since its arrival in the U.S. in August, the machine has undergone the necessary reassembling transitions under the watchful eye of Gregorio Scarpini, the technician from Cormatex, the Italian manufacturer of this commercial dehairing machine. With assembly and installation near completion, the machine is about to start up and initial calibration and testing commence. The now almost 100 feet of equipment will soon face a most historical time frame. NFP’s Dehairing Project Manager, Carrie

Hull, arrived in Kentucky this week, joining Gregorio and the crew of US Natural Fibers (operators of the machine), in perfect time to oversee the initial dehairing process. The first commercial batch of fiber, American Bison or Buffalo fiber from Buffalo Gold and Buffalo Wool Co. of Texas has already begun scouring (washing) at the US Natural Fiber facility in preparation for dehairing.

With the fiber and textile industry on the cusp of resurgence, exciting newsworthy events began to unfold this past week. A unique opportunity to participate in “Dehairing Fiber Trials” was presented by Hull to North American fiber producers. At least a dozen producers from Alaska

to Maine and including Canada have shipped their precious fiber to Kentucky for inclusion in the trials. These fibers include Musk Ox (qiviut), Yak, Cashmere, Angora Goat (Mohair), Llama, Suri and Huacaya alpaca, and Angora rabbit. The “Fiber Trials” facilitate the collection of processing data, set the standard for each type of fiber, and show case the capabilities of this amazing machine. One of only 4 machines in the world, the NFP Dehairing machine is the only machine of its type that processes a wide variety of natural fibers. With “Fiber Trials” and buffalo fiber preparation, it promises to be a very busy time in the days before the Grand Opening, but the timing of the data collection is superb.

The 2-day “Bison and Bourbon” Grand Opening event at the US Natural Fiber facility in Springfield, Kentucky begins on Thursday, September 17 at 10:30 a.m. with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The program includes speakers from the Springfield community, the fiber industry, and Natural Fiber Producers as well as a media presentation of the Dehairing Project journey. Following the ceremony, light refreshments including a Popcorn Bar will accompany displays, fiber sorting & grading demonstrations, tours of the facility and vendor booths continuing throughout the afternoon. A Happy Hour highlighting a local winery as well as Bourbon tasting begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner featuring Bison Sliders at 6pm. Fiber Trial results, raffles, door prizes and an amazing array of natural fiber products and information accompany the dinner program and festivities. Tours and displays continue from 9am-noon on Friday as well. The Grand Opening event unveiling the NFP Dehairing Machine at US Natural Fibers is textile history in the making. Be sure to attend.

Call Diane at the Natural Fiber Producers Office at 208-337-3371 to learn more about this exciting event and how you can be a part of it. Information, raffle tickets, and payment arrangements are also available on the website at www.naturalfiberproducers.com.

Natural Fiber Producers’ mission and journey has far reaching effects on the US. It will continue to create jobs, inspire the textile industry, and pass into spaces, unknown at this time. Truly, the effect that the dehairing machine will have not only on the industry, but also on state, national, and global economics promises to be powerful. As the missing piece of the textile puzzle in the United States, access to this machine and the service it provides will be a game-changer for the textile, manufacturing, fashion and design marketplaces.

Join us! Come and see the before and after effects that will inevitably be available to you in future retail marketplaces around the country.

About Natural Fiber Producers

[Natural Fiber Producers](http://www.naturalfiberproducers.com) (NFP) is an agricultural cooperative, advancing the opportunity for sustainability and enhanced profitability for its fiber-producing owners. Founded in 2007, **Natural Fiber Producers** is proud to report that all their products are processed here in the U.S. from fiber grown in the U.S. and Canada. Products are marketed to members and retailers at wholesale cost with those profits being returned to the members. Member access to commercial processing through value added products provides profit margins between \$14-61 per pound, and increases the volume of US-grown natural fibers entering the pipeline. In 2012, the organization opened its membership to include producers of llama, sheep, angora, cashmere, yak, buffalo, and qiviut. Now, the reintroduction of dehairing services to the US revitalizes the textile industry and builds momentum for Green and Natural Products.

About U.S. Natural Fibers

[US Natural Fibers, LLC](#) (USNF) was established to empower small producers and entrepreneurs involved in the natural fiber industry by providing cost-effective essential processing and product development services. They are in the business of transforming raw natural fibers into fine finished products. Although specializing in alpaca and mohair fibers, **US Natural Fibers** also works with llama, bison, yak, and cashmere fibers. Their mission is to “provide creative processing solutions for fiber farmers, artisans, and commercial customers in their quest to make the finest natural fiber products available on the market.”