

Gotland Wool



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Gotland sheep grow long curls known for their silkiness and luster. Their unique wool characteristics differ from other sheep breeds, as it has no crimp. Gotland wool provides endless possibilities for the textile industry and fiber artists. Traditionally, Gotland sheep are raised for their pelts in Sweden and Denmark. However, the gray simple elegance of Gotland wool makes it a lovely choice for knitting, weaving, or felting.

This gallery features Gotland wool and pelts being used for home products, crafts, and clothing.

gotland-wool.com

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Gotland Wool

No-Waste, Multi-Purpose Breed

An important part of raising Gotland sheep as a no-waste, multi-purpose breed is learning how to manage the flock for optimal wool growth and quality.

Below is a shearing schedule and wool handling guidelines for a farm in the Pacific Northwest. (Management may differ depending on what region you live in.)

Sheep are shorn twice a year, in the spring, either before or after lambing, and in the late summer/fall depending on breeding plans.

The fall shearing produces the highest quality fleeces, as the sheep have been on pasture leaving little to no vegetable matter (VM). Lamb fleeces get sheared at that time as well and have beautiful silky curls prized by hand spinners.

Spring fleeces include fleeces of sheep that have spent more time at the barn eating hay, hence more VM. These fleeces need to be heavily skirted. They can have a winter undercoat and the curls will typically be shorter than their summer growth.

Sorting Fleeces

1. **Handspinner fleeces**- These fleeces will be sold to handspinners or craft makers and are free of VM with beautiful long silky and well defined 3 dimensional curls. There are many applications for these fleeces: spun into yarn, felted into beautiful products featuring Gotland curls, washed and made into roving for spinning or other felted projects.
2. **Mill Processing into Yarn**- Fleeces sent to the mill for processing into yarn or roving might be shorter or have a bit of cross fiber. These are the fleeces that are free from VM and are appropriate for knitting and hand spinning.
3. **Durable Coarse Wool**- Leg wool and coarse wool will go to the mill to be processed into sheets of felt, rug weaving yarn. They can also make good roving/batting.
4. **Skirtings**- This wool is sorted out at shearing and again during skirting. This wool can be used as garden mulch, to insulate bee hives or other projects, or processed into wool pellets, and for all other wool needs that don't require clean wool.

HANDMADE WITH

Gotland Wool

Knitting

Gotland wool, known for its lovely shine and curl, knits into a lustrous fabric with a silky handle and lovely drape.

It lends itself nicely to projects such as, shawls, vests, cowls, and sweaters.

When knit, Gotland wool forms a soft halo adding warmth to the knitted garment.



Gotland yarn

Mills in the United States have difficulty processing Gotland wool into yarn unless a fine wool or silk is blended with it. The high luster and lack of crimp is a challenge for mill equipment. However, when blended with another wool, the result is stunning.



Luster

This warm sweater was knit with 100% Gotland yarn and has a beautiful Celtic Knot detail at the neckline. Best of all, it shows the luster of Gotland wool.



Shades of Gray

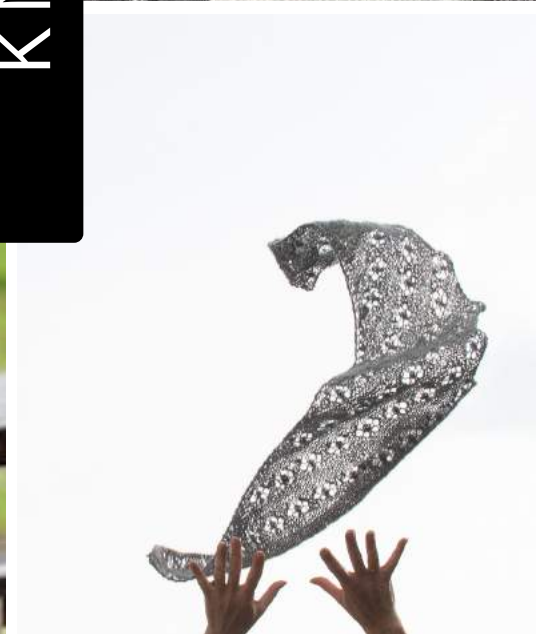
A simple shawl done in garter stitch showcases different shades of Gotland wool. For the timid or beginning knitter, it offers a project that seems within their comfort zone.



Gottand Wool



KNITTED



HANDMADE WITH

Gotland Wool

Weaving

The long staple length of Gotland wool make it a wonderful choice for weaving.

Home Accessories

Gotland wool is wonderful for handwoven home accessories such as pillow covers, blankets, and wraps.



A wrap woven on a Rigid Heddle loom with hand processed and spun wool makes for a simple and satisfying project when created with wool from your own flock.



Handwoven rugs

Rugs are easily woven on a floor loom using core spun yarn. They can be done with or without dyed yarns added and are popular at Fiber Events.





Gottand Wool



WOVEN



HANDMADE WITH

Gotland Wool

Felting

Gotland wool felts quite easily into a firm fabric. Its durable qualities make it perfect for felting tote bags, vessels, and rugs.



Eco friendly accessories

Long fibers in Gotland wool make it a durable choice for heavily used felted items and accessories such as purses and totes.



Felting with curls

The lustrous soft gray curls provide endless embellishment opportunities on felted items. Above, a wet felted merino wool bolero is embellished with lamb curls.



Farm store projects

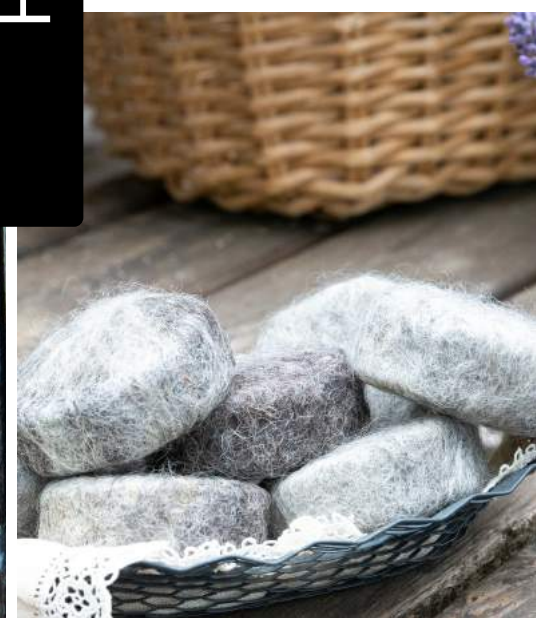
Coasters, table runners, scarves, trivets, shoe liners, felted soaps, and dryer balls are all beginner friendly felted items which add value to your wool and provide an income stream.



Gottand Wool



FELTED



HANDMADE WITH

Gotland Wool

Pelts

Gotland pelts may be processed with either short or long fiber. They are silky to the touch with lustrous curls. They provide a warm covering for the back of a chair or as a rug.



Upholstry & Pillows

Pelts provide a luxurious covering for pillows, chairs, ottomans, and stools.



Clothing

Pelts may be used to make vests, jackets, boas, wristers, and hats.





Gottand Wool



PELTS



Gotland Wool Resources



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Members of GSBANA have access to an extensive learning library which includes the following and many more resources:

- Evaluating Gotland Curls
- Evaluating Gotland Color
- Skirting a Gotland Lamb Fleece
- Discovering Gotland Wool

These resources are provided by members of GSBANA to further educate and inform Gotland sheep breeders.

gotland-wool.com