



## ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

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### **EDITORIAL**

#### **FUTURISTIC FASHION - CLOTHES MADE FROM COMPUTERISED FABRICS**

Clothes that change their colour and shape depending on the wearer's movement are being developed by researchers at a Canadian university.

The project - dubbed Karma Chameleon - involves weaving electronic fabric into clothes in a way that allows the storage of energy from the body.

Uses for the technology include a dress that "changes itself" and a shirt which can charge a mobile phone. However, it could be decades before the clothes are available to buy.

"We won't see such garments in stores for another 20 or 30 years, but the practical and creative possibilities are exciting," said Professor Joanna Berzowska, of the Department of Design and Computation Arts at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

"Our goal is to create garments that can transform in complex and surprising ways - far beyond reversible jackets, or shirts that change colour in response to heat."

Many researchers around the world are looking at smart fabrics in various shapes and forms. In the military, British soldiers' uniforms could soon use electrically conducting yarn woven directly into the clothing, replacing cumbersome batteries and cabling.

Other innovations include the possibility of clothes which are able to warm the wearer - opening up the chance of wearing Hawaiian shirts and shorts in the winter months.

Although the garments designed by Berzowska and team are still years from being made available, prototype designs have been developed to show the concepts in action.

One other suggested use is as a performance device - where the state and shape of the fabric is controlled by someone other than the wearer.

Berzowska's ideas were presented at a conference dedicated to smart fabric innovation held in San Francisco, USA in April.



## CAMELID CLIPS



*East Anglia Alpaca Mill's production facilities*

Alpaca breeders in the United Kingdom have a recently-established commission spinning mill at their disposal where they can have their animals' hair transformed into yarn.

East Anglia Alpaca Mill ([www.eastangliaalpacamill.co.uk](http://www.eastangliaalpacamill.co.uk)), situated in Beighton, Norfolk, is owned and operated by Chris and Emma Taylor and offers a fibre to yarn service using a semi-worsted system. As breeders of alpacas themselves with a herd of 57 head, they were well aware of the difficulties in getting their small fibre production converted into yarn by large scale traditional spinning mills.

These difficulties included minimum weights of at least 20 kgs per colour and quality, poor production yields and long leadtimes.

They decided to build their own spinning mill and modify its plant to specialise in the processing of alpaca.

The result is a bespoke semi-worsted system combining careful processing of alpaca fibre through its opening, scouring, carding, gilling, spinning, twisting and winding processes with time built-in to allow the fibre to "relax" and keep its unique properties through to the finished product.

The minimum weight requirement for customers at East Anglia Alpaca Mill is one fleece (of at least 1.75 kgs) and a personalised production programme to accompany its conversion into yarn.



*Yarns spun by East Anglia Alpaca Mill which combine alpaca's natural colours*



### **A tale of model aeroplanes, helicopters, noise, alpacas....and the law:**

Earlier this year Sally Anne Mitchell, a 62-year old farmer's widow, objected to the St Neot's Model Flying Club's plans to move to land near her home in Great Paxton, England.

Mrs Mitchell launched legal action in an attempt to block the project, saying the toy aeroplanes would be too noisy, spoil her plans to breed a herd of alpacas and interfere with friends visiting in their helicopters.

The club, which has about 50 members aged between 10 and 70, had tried to find a new location because its former base a few miles away was too close to a planned wind farm site and rent was unaffordable.

Amid objections from locals, Huntingdonshire Bor-

ough Council rejected the club's planning application to the Great Paxton site in February 2011.

The club appealed and, in November the same year, a Government planning inspector overturned the decision and granted permission with new noise and flying conditions.

High Court judge, Mr Justice King, finally rejected Mrs Mitchell's complaints that the model aircraft would harm her views and cause noise disturbance.

Sitting in London, he said, "It is impossible to identify a reviewable error of law or irrationality in the inspector's reasoning."

Trevor Polfrey, the club's secretary, was pleased with the decision and there are no recorded comments from Mrs Mitchell.



*Chinchilla fur could soon be being produced in Corani, Puno.*

In contrast to other areas of Peru where confrontation tends to be a way of life between local inhabitants and mining companies, the community of Corani in the District of Carabaya in the Region of Puno has signed an agreement with the Bear Creek silver mining company to develop entrepreneurial opportunities in an area where extreme poverty prevails.

The Mayor of Corani, Edmundo Caceres, and Bear Creek's Public Relations Manager, Andres Franco, have announced a series of projects to benefit the

inhabitants of the town which is located at 4,800 metres above sea level (15,750 feet).

Two of the projects are natural fibre-related and involve improving the farming of the area's established alpaca herds and the introduction of chinchilla breeding with animals imported from Brazil.

Initially, Edmundo Caceres presented these initiatives to Peru's Ministry of Agriculture but never received an answer and so was delighted when Bear Creek stepped-in with its offer of support and financing.

"99% of our inhabitants are alpaca farmers but live on the breadline," he said. "The reality of life in Corani is hard with an average monthly family income of just over US\$ 50.00 which gives us a ranking of 1,832 out of the total 1,838 districts in Peru. As a consequence, 83% of our children have nutritional deficiencies and 92% of our adolescents suffer from chronic malnutrition."

"This agreement with Bear Creek gives us a great opportunity to improve the quality of our alpaca herds, develop new businesses and leave poverty and malnutrition behind."

Among the commitments that Bear Creek has signed-up for includes an environmental impact study for Corani and an annual economic support of US\$ 1.5 million starting immediately.

Peru's alpaca and sheep farmers in the country's Moquegua Region have been issued with veterinary kits by the agricultural entity, Agro Rural.

In anticipation of the onset of a winter that has been forecast to be one of the coldest for some time Edgar del Carpio, Agro Rural's director for the region, said, "We have distributed 575 kits to the farmers located higher than 3,500 metres above sea level (11,500 feet). Initially, we covered the districts of Chojata, Lloque, Ubinas, Puquina, Ichuña, Matalaque and Yunga. Later, we completed the distribution in Cuchumbaya, San Cristobal and Carumas. Basically, these kits contain antibiotics to help the farmers ward off the effects of respiratory ailments in their herds."



*The Region of Moquegua's high altitude alpacas should be better protected medically this winter.*

## IAA ALPACA MONTHLY NEW BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly News Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

Please submit to the Editor:  
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