

TWO RIVERS MILL



NIAG COMMUNITY SPIN 2026

ABOUT US

Two Rivers Mill is a small family-run worsted spinning mill operating in Coleraine specialising in making high quality yarns for knitting and weaving from the fleeces of huacaya and suri alpacas.

After 15 years operating (the past 2 in N Ireland) we remain the only small mill in UK and Ireland processing 100% alpaca yarns on the worsted system. We also make blended alpaca yarns where this improves the qualities of the finished products.

THE PROPOSAL

We propose running a specially arranged ‘**Community Spin**’ using alpaca fleeces only from small **NIAG** breeders.

We want a group of NI herds who would otherwise struggle individually to meet our minimum batch weight for their own production to have access to our facilities as part of a larger combined fleece lot.

The scheme is available for up to 10 alpaca breeders who each commit for processing 10 - 15kg of alpaca fibre (allowing for sorting waste) prepared to TRM specifications. Training in fleece preparation will be given and we aim to have 100kg of fleece to process.

We will combine all the fleeces into 3 or 4 blended colour batches and turn them into yarn (usually at 75 – 80% yield). A potential extension to the project would be turning some or all of the yarn into products if we can achieve favourable knitting or weaving costs.

A co-ordinator appointed from within the group will liaise with the mill for costs and contacts. Each participating herd will contribute to the processing costs in proportion to their fleece weight and will be credited with their proportion of the finished yarn, products or sales. Ideas and suggestions will be welcome as the project proceeds

We hope this collaboration will raise the profile of Northern Irish alpaca and open the possibility for further projects. If successful the process could become a regular collaborative project.

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PROJECT DETAILS

Timetable

- March 2026 - expressions of interest to **NIAG** or **TRM**
- April / May 2026 - interested parties attend **mill open day** for discussions and training
- Group appoints a **Project Co-ordinator** to collate costs and payments with **TRM**
- July 2026 - prepared fleeces delivered to the mill
- September 2026 - yarn finished by end of month
- Autumn 2026 - product manufacture

Costs

- Yarn production will be charged at the current 2026 rates for huacaya processing. (**£61/ kg** sorted fibre)
- **Deposit** of 30% (based on the processing rate and the sorted weight of fibre per contributor) will be payable on completion of fleece grading and selection via the single contact to confirm inclusion in the project.
- **Balance** of the fleece processing charges will be payable on completion of the yarn processing.
- All fibre and yarns will remain the property of TRM until such charges due are paid in full.

Fibre quality

- Huacaya and suri blanket fleeces of any colour from 2025 or 2026 shearing, skirted and presented to mill standard.
- **Staple length** : target average of **4" ± ½"** (**100mm ± 10mm**)
- Fineness : based on good handle : target AVD 20-24 micron.
No cria or ultra-fine (sub 18 micron) fleeces
- Presence of guard hair, excessive vegetation, moths or tenderness will disqualify fleeces from the project.