



# Gooseberry Crafts

May 2010

Volume 1, Issue 4

## Alpaca, did you know?

**We look forward to seeing you at our booth at these upcoming shows & festivals.**

**June 11,12 & 13 (T)  
Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival**

Location: Lane Place Antebellum Mansion  
Crawfordsville, IN  
Friday; 11 am – 9pm  
Saturday; 10am – 9pm  
Sunday; 10am – 5pm

**June 24,25,& 26 (T)  
Event: London Strawberry Festival**

Downtown Streets  
London, OH  
Thurs. 12pm – 10pm  
Friday 12pm – 11pm  
Saturday 9am – 11pm

**(T) = applied for not confirmed**

For updated info regarding events, please go to our website:

[www.gooseberrycrafts.com](http://www.gooseberrycrafts.com)

At Gooseberry Crafts we want to do our part to help conserve our planet. If you would like to help too by eliminating your paper newsletter, please forward your e-mail address to: [gooseberrycrafts@yahoo.com](mailto:gooseberrycrafts@yahoo.com) Please reference "Newsletter" in the subject line so your e-mail doesn't end up in the spam folder.

Alpaca fiber is seven times warmer than wool! Thanks to the microscopic pockets within the fibers that trap air.

Many people who are "allergic" to wool are very comfortable wearing alpaca fiber. This is because the scales on the outside of the alpaca fiber are much smaller than scales on wool fiber. Alpaca fiber contains no lanolin so those who are sensitive to the substance wear alpaca comfortably.

Alpaca is generally blended with other fibers, especially wool and mohair to add elas-

ticity, luster and durability. Silk also adds luster; and cotton blended with the alpaca makes the alpaca less warm, thereby more of an all-season yarn.

Shorn every year each alpaca will produce a fleece that weighs between 4 & 8 pounds.

Alpaca is a protein fiber, and moths love to eat protein fibers! It is very important to keep your alpaca garments clean to preserve your garment(s).

Alpaca was virtually unknown beyond the Andes until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. 98% of the world's alpaca population lives in South America. Until 1984 it was illegal to export alpacas from South America.

There are two distinct breeds of alpaca; Suri whose hair hangs down from their bodies in dreadlock style waves, and Huacaya whose hair sticks straight out from their bodies.



### Mexican Cheese Dip

3 cups plain lowfat yogurt  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt  
1 medium red sweet pepper, diced  
2 cups frozen whole kernel corn, thawed  
Tortilla chips or crackers

1 cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained  
1 small tomato, seeded and chopped  
2 tablespoons canned diced green chilies  
2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend  
1/4 cup snipped fresh cilantro  
Fresh cilantro sprigs

Directions:  
Cook time: 30 minutes Chill overnight

1. Line a yogurt strainer, sieve, or a small colander with three layers of 100% cotton cheesecloth or a clean paper coffee filter. Suspend lined strainer, sieve, or colander over a bowl. Spoon in yogurt. Cover with plastic wrap and chill overnight.
2. Remove yogurt cheese from strainer; discard liquid. Transfer to medium bowl. Stir in garlic, cumin and salt. Fold in sweet pepper, corn, black beans, tomato, green chilies, 1 1/2 cups of the cheese and the cilantro.
3. Spoon into crock or spread on a platter. Top with remaining cheese and cilantro sprigs.
4. Serve with tortilla chips or crackers. Makes 4 cups dip.



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Postage

**517-423-8952**

**[www.gooseberrycrafts.com](http://www.gooseberrycrafts.com)**

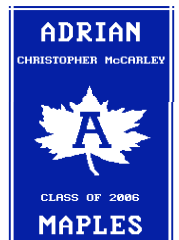
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# Graduation Special !!

Senior year is a big time for your student. Decisions made during this time could have an affect for the rest of their lives. Colleges to visit, senior pictures to be taken and of course, planning that all important graduation party. Of course at the party, you want to present them with that perfect gift. Cross that item off your to do list, we have the answer!! Our personalized afghans make the perfect graduation gift. They're a great way to show off achievements or interests and best of all, they're one of a kind.



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**Personalization includes:**  
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Hurry, Offer Expires 05/20/2010