

# Growing It in Michigan



*Michigan Fiber Industry Coalition*

# Members

- ▣ MI-Alpaca
- ▣ MI Llama association
- ▣ MI Sheep Breeders Association
- ▣ MI Rabbit Growers
- ▣ MI Angora Goat Growers
- ▣ MI Yak Association
- ▣ MDARD
- ▣ MEDC (MI Garment Industry Council)
- ▣ MSU Product Center
- ▣ MI Fiber Mills
- ▣ MI Yarn Shops
- ▣ Private Growers



# Mission

- Promote the growth and profitability of the family farm by developing a market for fleece and fiber production in Michigan.



# Vision

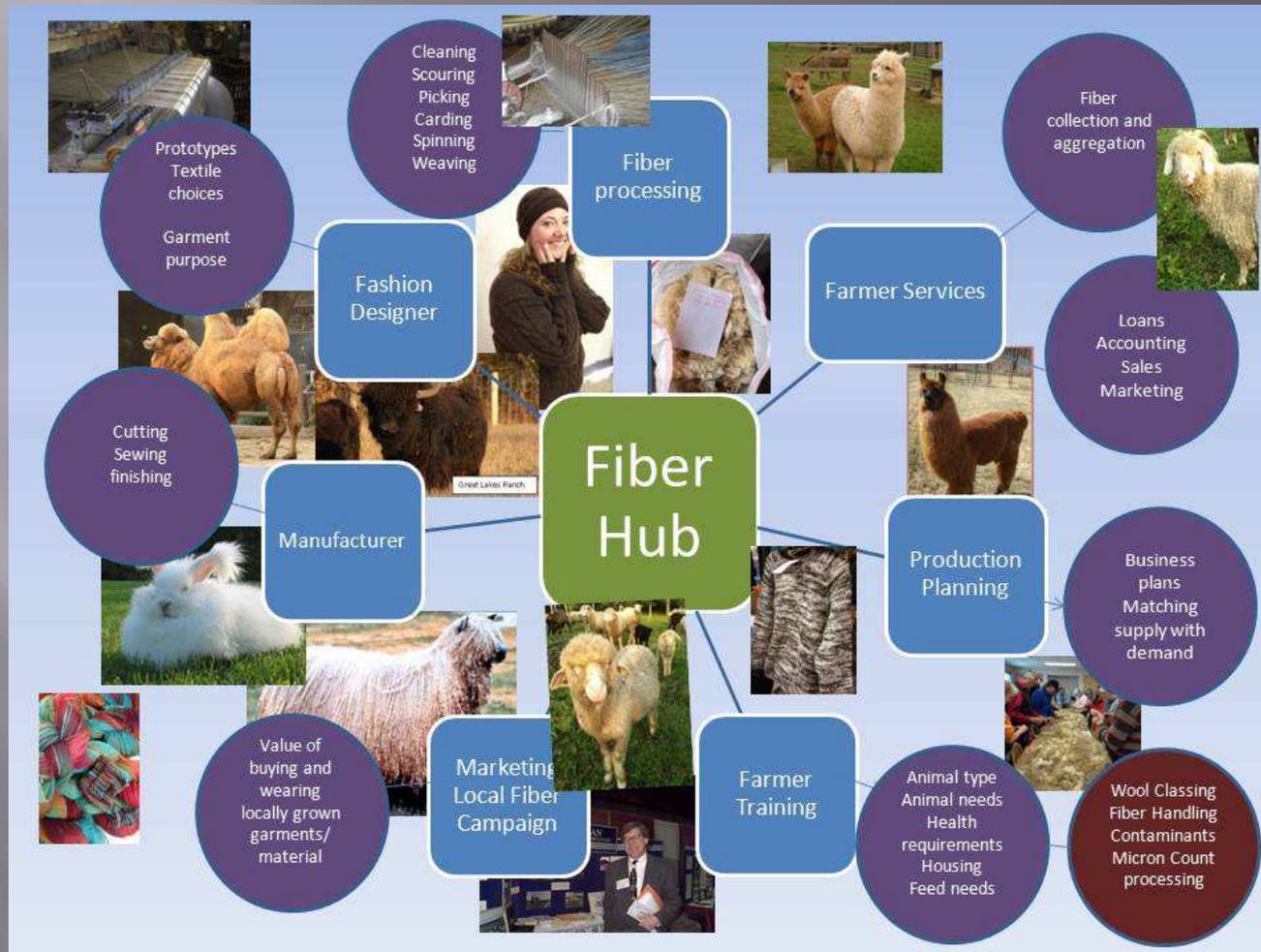
- ▣ Michigan becomes established as the fine fiber capitol of the U.S.

# Goals

- ▣ Encourage and increase the number of small family farms interested in growing fiber animals
- ▣ Establish a fiber cooperative
- ▣ Establish a pilot project – Fiber Hub
- ▣ Increase awareness of available fiber products in Michigan



# Fiber Hub



# Activities

▣ 2012

- **Grant Applications** ✓
  - Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program
  - MDARD Value Added
  - USDA Value Added
- **Wool Handling School** ✓
- **Loom Purchasing Exercise** ✓
- **Survey of Michigan growers** ✓



# Activities



▣ 2013

## **Fleece to Fiber to Fashion Mixer** ✓

- ▣ May 14, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- ▣ Michigan Garment Industry Council
- ▣ Detroit Fashion Designers
- ▣ Michigan Fiber Industry Coalition

**Fiber Trail Open Houses - June 22 &  
December 7**



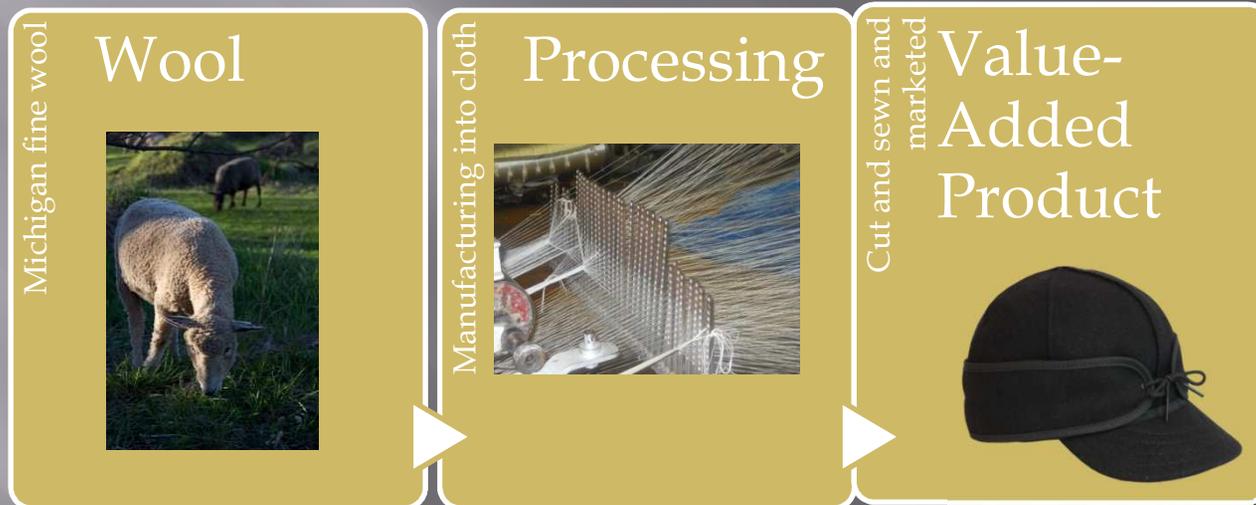
# What's Next?

- ▣ **Fiber Industry Summit**
  - Outreach to growers
  - Networking
  - Education opportunities
  - Industry standards



# What's the Future?

## ▣ Grown and Made in Michigan



# Questions



Yak calf born June 2013 at  
Great Lakes Ranch  
Maple City, MI