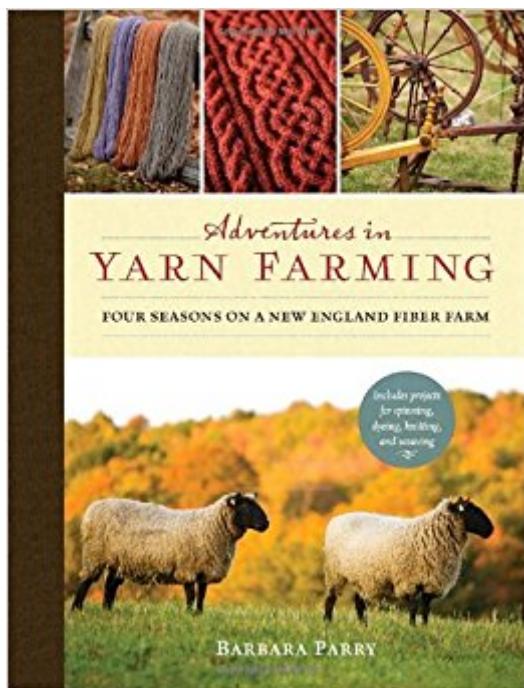


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# Adventures In Yarn Farming: Four Seasons On A New England Fiber Farm



## Synopsis

A knitting book focusing on the sheep-to-shawl process by a well-known knitter, shepherd, and artisanal yarn producer. Gain an insider's view on fiber farming and yarn craft, from sheep to skein, all told through the eyes of shepherd and textile artisan Barbara Parry. Follow her flock over the course of a year and discover all the facets of life with sheep: from shearing day and lambing season, to preparing fiber for yarn. Along the way you'll find projects for the fiber obsessed by top knitwear designers, essays on country life, and over 100 stunning photographs. With the growing locavore movement, the rising trend in sustainable farming, and the ever-increasing interest in crafting, this book is perfect for those who yearn for a closer connection to a rural lifestyle and who enjoy making things by hand.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*Starred Review\* Visually as well as informatively inviting, Barryâ™s story of her New England farm, particularly how she produces yarn for crafters, will absorb readers regardless of their previous interest in or even exposure to the nearly magical world of yarn preparation. Barry describes herself as a shepherdess and textile artisan, and those two sides of herself and her professional life are given outlets on her western Massachusetts âœfiber farmâ• as she raises sheep for their wool and assumes the hat of a crafter, using her own product for knitting and weaving projects. Her luscious book is a year-in-the-life-of presentation. She follows her farmâ™s processes and procedures from spring to summer to fall to winter, from shearing to awaiting new

lambs to making hay to lamb weaning to the final steps in the making of yarn. Sprinkled throughout her spirited and inspirational text are directions for knitting garments and accessories, including patterns by name knitwear designers. Photographic accompaniment to the text is more than simply support. The abundant and eye-catching photos rivet the reader's attention in their own right. Obviously, this is more than just a how-to, and the book should be see-also-referenced from the library's farming and agricultural section. --Brad Hooper

"Visually as well as informatively inviting, Barry's story of her New England farm, particularly how she produces yarn for crafters, will absorb readers regardless of their previous interest in or even exposure to the nearly magical world of yarn preparation." Booklist, starred review  
Many people dream of ditching it all and starting a farm in the country, but Barbara Parry actually did it. In 1997 she began building a flock of sheep that has since become the foundation of her thriving Western Massachusetts fiber farm. Here she offers a beautiful, vivid portrayal of the life she has chosen. Season by season, she presents a narrative that is dreamy yet concrete, inspiring yet informative, and, always, unblinkingly honest. A must-read for anyone who wants to better appreciate where their yarn comes from.  
"Clara Parkes' skillful hand and gentle heart are the perfect blend to capture the joys and heartaches of farming in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains."  
Linda Cortright, publisher of Wild Fibers magazine  
"Many of us wool enthusiasts daydream about someday owning a farm, raising sheep, harvesting yarn, and going back to the land. Follow Barbara Parry, a former English teacher who made this dream a reality, on a journey that teaches us all about the intangible gains of . . . taking the long road."  
"Jared Flood, knitwear designer and owner of Brooklyn Tweed  
In my very first years of sheep farming and the resulting shearing, spinning, and knitting that goes along with it, I found myself turning each page slowly, not wanting the education and camaraderie to end. But no matter where you find yourself on the spectrum, farmer, spinner, dyer, knitter, or weaver, you are sure to find inspiration, laughter, and joy in the farm tales that Barbara shares."  
Amanda Soule, author of The Rhythm of Family

This is a lovely book that has the story of a yarn farm in all its glory and seasons. It also includes patterns for knitting along with delicious recipes. The book is divided into seasons with each season having its share of dyeing, combing, spinning and weaving. While I had thought this book would have more patterns, the narrative is excellent and the reader learns what it's like to have a yarn farm.

This is a sweet, fast-reading book with lovely photos and a good introduction to the shepherding life. As a "yarn farmer" myself, I really would have enjoyed hearing more from the author about her day to day experiences with her flock. Still, it's a nice book for the armchair sheep enthusiast. I am more a yarn-maker than a knitter, so I can't speak to the quality of the patterns included in the book, but the projects (there are 8 knitting patterns included, plus a weaving project, a couple of spinning projects, a clutch of recipes and some tutorial information on dyeing), look lovely and appealing.

I LOVED reading this book! I too have a Yarn farm and was delighted at the tails from the shepherd! Barbara truly is an entertaining writer who has a pleasant use of words. I couldn't put it down, reading from cover to cover as if I was feasting on the most scrumptious dessert! I'm now searching for another real life farm(her) book that will entertain my senses!

I saw this book showcased on one of the many crafting shows I watch and knew right away I needed it in my library. I appreciate how Barbara incorporated the in's and out's of sheep farming with actual patterns for really pretty and usable projects. It's the perfect gift for that serious yarn crafter in your life. The author takes the reader through an entire year of what a sheep farmer must go through, carefully narrating the many aspects of being a sheep farmer. It's a dubious task indeed. I have a much greater appreciation for the farmers of our wool industry. I have an even greater appreciation for all the small farmers who don't make millions, but are in it for the love of the craft. I highly recommend this book.

I have not read this entire book yet, but I have to say that I have really, really enjoyed what I have read. I am a spinner, knitter and sometimes weaver and my husband and I raise llamas. I can appreciate her love of the animals and fiber and only wish that I had the opportunity to be a full time farmer and live even a small part of her joy in the life she has. My hat is off to Ms. Parry, her joy, her hard work and this wonderful book she has produced.

I decided long ago that I don't have the knitting gene so some may wonder why I would purchase a book about raising sheep for yarn. Good question... for this book is delightful for even those of us who do not knit. I love reading about how things are grown whether it is the food we eat or the yarn which was knitted into my favorite lavender sweater. And this book is the best I have ever read on that subject. The pictures alone would make it worth the read but the author shows a skill in writing

as well as yarn farming. I thoroughly enjoyed reading each chapter as we are taken through four seasons of what it is like to raise sheep, especially those whose wool will be used for fine quality yarn. From the birth of the baby lambs, to the sheering of the wool, to what it is like to be a part of a community of farmers and growers, to the challenges of keeping one's livestock warm in snow and ice... this book kept me interested from the start to the end. And if you happen to be a knitter or know one, well then the icing on the cake has to be the beautiful patterns that are given.

im so glad i bought this book! im not even done with it yet and had to write a review of how much i am enjoying it! I especially love all the great pictures that are included to help illustrate her stories. i am an avid yarnie and have been in awe of sheep and how yarn is created for awhile and this is a great book to help learn about what it takes throughout an entire year on the "yarn farm". the book even includes some patterns for cardigans, mittens, sweaters, etc. what isnt to like?! this book is beautiful from start to finish and a must have! it was well for the wait! :D

I bought two as Christmas gifts to my mother and a friend who are avid knitters/weavers/crochet people and appreciate all things yarn. They truly were touched by the books and found them beyond interesting for people who have never even worked with yarn.

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