

TEXTILES AND APPAREL NEWSLETTER

Contents

Announcing

Make It With Wool Winners 1

Engaging Youth

Textile Happenings Fall '01 2

Enhancing Safety

Pesticide Residues in House
Dust from Farmers'
Homes 2

Concerning Consumers

Washable Suede 3

Browsing Web Sites

Exposure Risks Related to
Treated Wood 3

The EPA Chemical Registry
System 3

Gathering Resources

Latest from LivingSoft 4

Supporting Industry

Apparel Industry Outreach
News 4

Announcing

Make It With Wool Winners

JEAN BONHOTAL, 4-H Volunteer, Oswego County

The New York State Make it Yourself with Wool Contest was held October 13, 2001, at the Cicero/North Syracuse High School, Cicero, NY. Winners, named in three divisions, will represent NY in the national contest scheduled for January 2002 in San Antonio, Texas. They were:

Juniors, ages 13-16

1. Andrea Kelchlin
2. Alison Thiemann

Seniors, ages 17-24

1. Sean Murphy

Adults, age 25 years and older

1. Lynette Le Van

Congratulations to all who participated! In addition, a special thanks is extended to those who helped organize, publicize, or judge the event and to all who presented workshops and donated prizes.

Next year's contest will introduce a new category "Made for Others." For more information on the 2002 contest contact Jean Bonhotal, jfb40@tcenet.net or Ann Kelchlin, Kelchb@yahoo.com

ENGAGING YOUTH

Textile/Apparel Happenings Fall '01

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

New York State Fair

Thanks and congratulations to the following counties/contacts for engaging State Fair visitors in these TXA activities.

In-Touch Science

Columbia - Kristi LaFountain
Steuben - Kimberly Randall
Washington - David Shippee
Lewis - Dawn Miller
Jefferson - Donna Alberry

Simple Gifts

Rockland - Ann Marie Palefsky
Monroe - Tara Lynn Defendorf
Cayuga - Linda Lunkenheimer
Herkimer - JoAnn Richards

Fabric/Flight Connection

Ontario - Diane Hazen
Essex/Albany/Schenectady - Mary Fairley
Delaware - Kathy Sherwood

Saratoga County Fiber Tour

Paula Schafer reports that a successful Saratoga County Fiber Tour was held on October 7. Seven Saratoga farms showcased llamas, alpacas, sheep and angora goats. Visitors learned about these animals and their textile fibers through hands-on experiences such as shearing and spinning.

Simple Gifts

Simple Gifts was offered at the 2001 Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum, October 11-14 in Warwick, Rhode Island.

In-Touch Science

Beth Davis, Tatiana Stanton, and Charlotte Coffman will lead a statewide In-Touch Science training for Arkansas 4-H, November 19-20.

Oswego Goes to Toronto and Keeps On Going

Priscilla VanGorder organized a fall trip for 80 travelers to the Toronto Creative Sewing and Needlework Festival. In addition to the festival, they visited the Bata Shoe Museum and the garment district. She returned home in time for the 4-H Textile Weekend where 42 participants combined nutrition and textile skills. Youth stitched a roll basket insert, a casserole carrier, and dinner napkins, and then used these household items for the evening meal they prepared. November 17 is CloverBud Day in Oswego County when youngsters will make tote bags and December finds the adult 4-H making a quilt sampler.

Note: If your county sponsors a textile/apparel program or event that you think would interest others, please send it to cwc4@cornell.edu. The next deadline for the TXA News is January 11, 2002 for the February issue.

ENHANCING SAFETY

Measurement of Selected Pesticide Residues in House Dust from Farmers' Homes in Central New York State*

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

The Departments of Textiles & Apparel and Design and Environmental Analysis analyzed the levels of 18 pesticides in house dust samples in 10 farmers' homes. Dust samples were collected twice from each home with a one-week interval. Samples were collected in three ways: by placing filter paper in petri dishes set in living rooms (settled dust), by wiping smooth surfaces with a moist filter paper (surface dust), and by vacuuming floor carpets and rugs (carpet dust). The dust was analyzed for 18 pesticides commonly used in central New York: alachlor, atrazine, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos, diazinon, dicamba, malathion, mecoprop, methamidophos, methyl parathion, metolachlor, pendimethalin, picloram, resmethrin, tetramethrin, triflurain, 2,4-D acid, and 2,4-D butyl ester.

The key results were:

- Multiple pesticides can be detected in house dust.
- Of the 18 targeted pesticides 16 were detected in at least one dust sample, and 12 were found in at least half of the homes.
- Atrazine was the most frequently detected pesticide in settled dust and surface dust and was detected in carpet dust for both visits for 7 of the 10 houses.
- Higher atrazine levels for settled and surface dust suggest that a primary route of entry for atrazine is through airborne dust.
- The presence of some pesticides in carpet dust that were not found in settled and surface dust indicates that carpets retain pesticide residues over time.

Additional studies are under way to elicit further information on this topic and to include homes of non-farmers.

*Summary of article by A. Lemley, A. Hedge, S.K. Obendorf, S. Hong, J. Kim, T. Muss, and C. Varner, Cornell University



Leather clothing has been made from the skin of alligators, antelope, cattle, crocodiles, deer, elk, frogs, goats, horses, kangaroos, lizards, pigs, seals, sharks, sheep, snakes, and wallabies.

— Fairchild's Dictionary of Fashion, Second Edition, NY, NY. 1998.

CONCERNING CONSUMERS

Washable Suede

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Pick up a clothing catalog and chances are good that you will see garments made from *washable suede*. "Sure," you mumble to yourself, "and they're giving away fashionable clothes that will clean themselves and last forever." Although your skepticism is understandable, this news is for real.

A new technology allows animal skins to be washed without losing shape, flexibility, or color. Pig split or cowhide is coated with an enzyme and then pre-washed. This process strengthens the material to withstand the rigors of the washing machine. Although this technology has been in use for at least three years, its products are only now becoming widely available to consumers.

In fact, washable suede is one of the hottest fashion statements for this fall and winter. I found washable suede pants, shirts, gloves, and jackets in ten different mail order catalogs and an internet search turned up more than 300 entries.

One reason for its popularity is the current emphasis on luxury fabrics and classic styles. Leather products have always carried an air of prestige and quality. Another reason is the anticipated savings when the garment can be cleaned at home. Special dry cleaning charges for suede can run as high as \$50 per cleaning.

Looking great for less has tremendous consumer appeal, but some wonder whether washable suede is truly *washable*. Others question whether its durability can equal that of non-washable leathers. To begin answering those questions, Consumer Reports compared three brands of jackets (Brandon Thomas, Eddie Bauer, and Jessica Holbrook).

Three jackets of each brand were washed and dried according to the care label instructions. Interestingly, the care instructions differed.

| Brand | Wash | Temp | Dry |
|------------------|---------|------|-------|
| Brandon Thomas | Hand | Warm | Hang |
| Eddie Bauer | Machine | Cold | Hang |
| Jessica Holbrook | Machine | Cold | Dryer |

After five washings, each of the nine jackets was compared to the appropriate new one. Some color loss was observed along stress points such as buttonholes and the center front. Two of the Eddie Bauer jackets became stiffer and rougher. The best performer was the Brandon Thomas brand sold by Nordstrom's with little color loss and good retention of its soft hand. This limited test is not conclusive, but it does point out some of the problems with washable suede. It is also worth remembering that non-washable suede that has been drycleaned may also show minor changes in appearance.

Perhaps the main lesson to be learned (or remembered) is to **carefully read the fiber content and care labels**. Consumers must be clear at the time of purchase whether they are buying traditional suede leather that must be drycleaned, faux suede that

may be washable, or washable suede leather. And even if the suede can be washed, be aware that the care instructions may differ garment to garment.

Resources:

Leather Apparel Association.
<http://www.leatherassociation.com/faq.html>

Washing Suede Clothing, Money Works.
http://www.fox2detroit.com/dynamic/images/stories/money/wash_suede.html

Washable Suede Leathers, Technology Offers from TBSE
<http://www.techno-preneur.net/timeis/technology/sctechFeb-March/entre12.html>

Washing Instructions, Skotts Suede.
<http://www.skotts.qc.ca/skins.html>

BROWSING WEB SITES

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Exposure Risks Related to Treated Wood

<www.epa.gov/pesticides/citizens/1file.htm>

The Environmental Protection Agency's new Web site provides background information on chromated copper arsenate (CCA), a chemical mixture consisting of arsenic, chromium, and copper, which is registered for wood preservative uses. This Web site provides a variety of EPA's consumer resource documents, recent press releases, and relevant links. Examples include:

- Commonly-asked questions about CCA's uses as a wood preservative;
- Information for consumers and builders on minimizing risk when working with CCA-treated wood;
- Information on EPA's health and environmental safety review of CCA, including children's exposure from playground equipment; and,
- Industry and Federal efforts to increase awareness about safer use and handling of CCA-treated wood.

The EPA Chemical Registry System

<www.epa.gov/crs>

This Web site helps users quickly locate information about specific chemicals. The Chemical Registry System links directly to numerous databases in the World Health Organization, United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, National Safety Council, National Park Service, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, and other government and consumer agencies. By the end of this year, CRS will also include a database that tracks unpublished health and safety data submitted under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

GATHERING RESOURCES

Latest from LivingSoft

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

LivingSoft announces three new computer pattern-making programs:

- Dress Shop Pro - is designed for the professional sewer. It includes the 50-measurement (Dress Shop 4.0), 26-measurement (Dress Shop Lite), and 16-measurement (Casual Fit) options for women as well as measurement sets for men and children. Price is \$299.00
- Dress Shop Lite - offers Dress Shop 4.0 patterns in the Quick Fit method for individuals who are easy to fit. Patterns draft to either standard sizes or customized measurements. Price is \$149.00.
- Doll Shop - provides patterns and options of Dress Shop 4.0, properly scaled to doll's measurements. Introductory price is \$25.

For additional information, go online at
<<http://www.livingsoft.com/ds4/family.htm>>

Free updates of Dress Shop 4.0 are now available. Find updates at <<http://www.livingsoft.com/ds4/updates.htm>>.

Four add-on pattern sets will soon be released, including lingerie patterns. See details at
<<http://www.livingsoft.com/ds4/addons.htm>>.

Finally, if you act quickly you can take advantage of the New York Sew By Design Workshop, Manhattan Broadway Hotel, December 5-8, 2001. Instruction cost is \$195 for 4 days of designing and fabric shopping. Measuring services are \$80 additional. To register, call 800-626-1262 or visit this Web site
<<http://www.livingsoft.com/workshop.asp>>

SUPPORTING INDUSTRY

Apparel Industry Outreach News

FRAN KOZEN

A Program Work Team (PWT) called Entrepreneurship and Family Businesses has been approved for two years, through September 2004. Doug Ververs, Small Business Management Specialist from Oswego County, and Suzanne Loker, Professor, Textiles and Apparel Department head up the PWT. The objectives of the PWT are:

- To develop a web-based, virtual learning center for entrepreneurs and family businesses to provide access to research, educational materials, and technical assistance as well as to link to other sources of information.
- To develop research-based, entrepreneurship and family business materials and courses using on-line and publication formats under the umbrella of state, national, and land-grant initiatives including the Revitalization of Rural New York,

Quality communities, and USDA-ES National Design Team efforts in family businesses and rural retailing.

- To translate family business and entrepreneurship research into useful outreach tools such as self-assessment tools for prospective family business owners.
- To serve as a review team for pre-proposals for federal formula funds, evaluating relevancy and potential for significant impact.

Client assessment of potential as entrepreneurs and family business owners using the virtual learning center, new materials and programs, and research-based self-assessment tools will lead to increased economic security of households.

We would appreciate your input into the activities of the PWT. You could help us by evaluating the audience for entrepreneurship and small business materials in your counties, letting us know types of businesses and the approximate number. It would also be very helpful to know what programs and materials you would like to see on this subject. Expect an e-mail soon from the Entrepreneurship and Family Business Work Team asking for your suggestions and information.

EXTENSION FACULTY AND STAFF

| | Phone | E-mail |
|--|----------|---|
| Charlotte Coffman -Textiles and Apparel, Youth and Safety Issues | 255-2009 | cwc4@cornell.edu |
| Katie DiTella -Water Quality, Septic Systems, Home*A*Syst | 255-1943 | kld20@cornell.edu |
| Fran Kozen -Textiles and Apparel, Industry Outreach | 255-0465 | fhk2@cornell.edu |
| Ann Lemley -Department Chair, Water Quality, DEL | 255-3151 | atl2@cornell.edu |
| Suzanne Loker -Textiles and Apparel, Industry Outreach | 255-6204 | sl135@cornell.edu |
| Elizabeth Davis -Youth Programs, Workshop Coordinator | 255-3427 | ed55@cornell.edu |
| Paula Smith -TXA News Production Manager -TXA Loan Library | 255-3196 | pjs15@cornell.edu txa_extn-mailbox@cornell.edu |

Reference to commercial products and services is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended, nor endorsement implied.