

TEXTILES AND APPAREL NEWSLETTER

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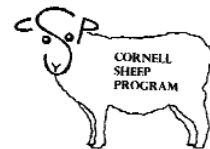
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ANNOUNCING

A Cornell Solution to NY Winters

With snow banks high and temperatures low, the timing couldn't be better. The Animal Science Department has introduced a red-and-white blanket woven from the wool of Cornell sheep.

Raw wool from Cornell Dorset and Finn sheep breeds and their crosses was sent to MacAusland's Woolen Mill to be washed, carded, spun, dyed, and woven into blankets. Each 60" x 90" blanket has red stripes on a natural white background. Each carries its own serial number printed on the Cornell Sheep Program logo label and each comes with a certificate of authenticity.



The price per blanket is \$78.70 + \$6.30 tax. Money generated from this effort will help support the Cornell Sheep Program and the alumni scholarship fund of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

To learn more, go to <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/sheep/> and click on CSP blankets sale.

To purchase a blanket or for additional information, contact: Gloria Smith, 127 Morrison Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4801. Telephone: 607-255-7712, Fax: 607-255-9829, Email: gss9@cornell.edu

Cornell Design League Fashion Show Update

Saturday April 15, 2000

Ramin Room, in the Field House

Two shows - 4pm and 8pm

Tickets will be \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door.

Contact: Rita Choy, rpc8@cornell.edu for tickets.

Note: Tickets are not printed yet, but requests will be kept on file.

Engaging Youth

TXA Youth Program Retreat, May 11-13

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Imagine it. Three days of total immersion in hands-on activities related to textiles (actually, we cram it into 2 days and a few hours)! Designed for 4-H Clothing Volunteers, Key Clothing Leaders, and Extension Educators, this inservice is guaranteed to be both educational and fun. The dates are May 11, 3PM to May 13, 5PM.

Part I takes place at Casowasco Conference Center, Moravia, NY. Participants will learn to organize a Key Clothing Leader program, teach youth to make sound clothing decisions, and engage youth in community service projects. They will build sewing and knitting skills, explore the chemistry of indigo dyeing, and try some exciting group activities.

Part II moves to the Computer-Aided Design laboratory on campus. Kaaren Hoback, LivingSoft representative, will instruct the group in the use of DressShop, a computer pattern-making program.

Registration forms will be sent to association offices in early March, 2000. Cost is \$100/person for the entire retreat and includes two night's lodging at Casowasco, six meals, and all workshop materials. Participants may also register for only Part I or Part II for \$75.

Reminder: Submit your favorite idea for recycling garments or textiles. Things that young people can do are preferred. These instructions and patterns will be compiled and distributed at the retreat.

Science Connections Conference

Science Connections is scheduled for March 22-24, 2000, on Cornell campus. Co-sponsored by the 4-H Science & Technology Committee, CCE, and the NYS 4-H Foundation, it aims to equip adults to engage youth in science. It features day-long focus tracks, panel presentations, keynote speakers, and hands-on workshops. **Registration Deadline is February 18.**

Registration materials were mailed to every CCE county office. If you need a hard or electronic copy, contact Paula Smith, Tel: 607-255-3196, E-mail: pjs15@cornell.edu.

Concerning Consumers

Labels on Feather and Down Products

CHARLOTTE COFFMAN

Down jackets on sale!

Stay warm this winter with a cozy down comforter!

The advertisements are enticing, but do consumers know what they really mean? Not always. Many consumers expect products advertised as "down" to be filled with down feathers and nothing else. In fact, products labeled as "down" can be expected to have about 70-75% down.

The Federal Trade Commission Act states that advertising must be truthful and non-deceptive, and that advertisers must have evidence to back up their claims. All states also have consumer protection laws and some deal specifically with feather and down products.

The three important factors in labeling feather and down products are content, species, and cleanliness. If the label reads "pure down," "all down," or "100% down" it must contain only down feathers. Any other description allows the product to contain some amount of waterfowl or landfowl feathers, random fibers, or feather residues.

Consumer Guide

- Check percent down. The lower the percentage of down, the more prickly and uncomfortable the bedding or clothing.
- Note the "fill power." The higher the number the more warmth you get for less weight. Fill power ranges from 500 to 800. Anything above 650 can be too warm for use in a heated home.
- Examine the outer shell. If cotton, the thread count should be at least 200 to prevent the down from migrating out.
- Check construction. Top and bottom should be securely stitched together to separate the comforter into small compartments. Baffle-box construction allows down to loft more.

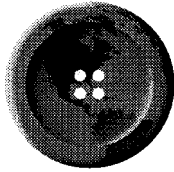
Resources

1. Federal Trade Commission Website.
<<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/buspubs/down.htm>>
2. How to Buy a Comforter, The Christian Science Monitor, October 27, 1999.

Supporting Industry

Apparel Industry Outreach Web Pages Get New Look

FRAN KOZEN



<http://www.human.cornell.edu/txa/extension/appind>

The Apparel Industry Outreach web pages for apparel and sewn products manufacturers in New York State have been revised and expanded to reflect developments within the program. A number of new publications and program resources are now available for apparel manufacturers. The pages move beyond an introduction to Apparel Industry Outreach to showcase those resources. The featured resources will be:

- Textiles and Apparel faculty, highlighting areas of expertise as they relate to apparel manufacturing, and linking to e-mail for each
- Publications of the Apparel Industry Outreach Program, including the new student internship guide, the Mass Customization interactive module, a description and ordering information for Fiber Facts and a new fact sheet, "Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing: Is CAD/CAM for You?"
- *Topstitch* newsletters, downloadable in their entirety
- Links to apparel and textile organizations, industry periodicals, and major industry research and development projects.
- A calendar of TXA seminars and industry meetings of interest to New York apparel manufacturers.

Take a look at the revised pages soon.

Exploring Fibers

Coming Your Way: Corterra

FRAN KOZEN

Watch out, nylon, polyester and spandex! A new synthetic fiber, polytrimethylene terephthalate (PTT), trade named Corterra by producer Shell Chemical Company, is coming! Corterra has been called the most significant new fiber since the introduction of nylon in the 1940s. What's all the fuss? Corterra has some really attractive properties. It combines the chemical resistance of polyester with the elastic recovery and resilience of nylon. It has sufficient elasticity to provide comfort stretch without the addition of spandex, has a natural soft feel, and drapes easily. Corterra can be printed and dyed in a full color spectrum, and it has excellent colorfastness. Corterra resists staining, and can be machine-washed and tumble dried. It generates little static.

For carpeting, Corterra's excellent crush resistance, static resistance, and colorfastness are important performance characteristics, but the most exciting feature of Corterra for carpets is the inherent stain resistance. Corterra has stain resistance equal to or superior to nylon carpets with additives, such as Stainmaster. It was particularly superior for difficult stains from Betadine and mustard.

PTT was identified as a potential textile fiber about the same time as nylon, but no cost-effective means of producing it was known. Shell Chemical scientists finally developed an innovative award winning process for low cost production during the 1990s, then began working with fiber, fabric and carpet manufacturers to bring the fiber to the market. The first Corterra clothing is now available in Japan, and it is expected to be available by the end of the year in the United States and Europe. Corterra carpets are also coming this year.

So, now that Tencel lyocell is becoming widely available, this is the next fiber to watch. Check hangtags and fiber content labels so you'll know if you are experiencing the benefits of Corterra!

Browsing Websites

FabricLink: The Educational Resource for Fabrics, Apparel, Home furnishings, and Care <http://www.FabricLink.com>

Whether you are baffled by textile terms such as Tencel and microfiber or looking for technical information on high-performance fibers, you will find something of interest on this website. FabricLink provides information about fibers and fabrics for apparel, home furnishings, high tech gear, and other textile products. While it is sponsored by a wide array of fiber and fabric manufacturers, it strives to present unbiased educational information. New material is added frequently. There are three main sections:

- The Consumer Guide contains handy references on fiber and fabric properties, care and wear of clothing, home furnishings and carpets, labeling, and shopping. It also offers consumer alerts, flammability and safety tips, and features on color forecasts, Halloween costumes, socks for sports, and ways to help the environment by recycling and reusing fabrics.
- The Fabric University is a basic fiber and fabrics, including production, characteristics, terms, care, producers and trademarks, with a special section on high performance fabrics, apparel and gear. It is designed to help consumers make informed purchase and care decisions of textile products.
- The Retailer's Forum offers retailers information for sourcing, manufacturing and selling of apparel, home fashions and other textile products. It consists of a fiber and fabric educational program, color trend information, references on producers, trademarks and fabric terms, and links to industry sites from designers to mills to government agencies.

You are certain to learn something from a few minutes spent on line. But if you did not find the answer to your particular question, you can e-mail it to one of the site's consultants.



According to the Color Marketing Group, blue is the most important color of the new decade, supported by neutrals of cool and warm gray, clay, taupe and pale brown.

—Sew News, January, 2000

Gathering Resources

Clothing for Special Needs

TXA often receives calls for information on adaptive clothing, garments designed for disability- or health-related situations. Although older resources such as the Cornell-produced *Clothing for People with Special Needs* (videotape) and *Clothing for Independence* (kit of adaptive clothing) provide practical ideas and sensible suggestions, recent resources are available that make use of newer fabrics.

Shelley Peterman Schwarz has published *Dressing Tips and Clothing Resources for Making Life Easier*. The cost is \$19.95 plus \$3 for shipping and handling. Order from the author at 9042 Aspen Grove Lane, Madison, WI 5317; Tel: 68-824-0402; Internet: <makinglifeeasier.com>.

Dressing for Independence, by Jean Pompell, is available from Wings Way Press, 20207 Windsong Dr., Surprise, AZ 85374, Tel: 888-989-0355. The cost is \$19.95.

Ruth Clark, who designs a line of adaptive clothing, maintains a website at <adaptiveclothing.org> that links to mail-order companies.

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