



## Phase 2 of the Chain of Custody Pilot commences

After securing a total of 90 tonnes of raw fibre from certified Herder Organisations, Phase 1 of the CoC Pilot is now complete. The scouring and dehairing of SFA certified fibre has begun, with the first dehaired fibre packed and ready for shipment to Italy and the UK for further processing and manufacturing. Now that we are entering into the realm of international transactions, we have shifted to electronic receipts to document sales of certified fibre from one supply chain company to another. We are maintaining close contact with our participating members to provide support in implementing the traceability system and identify challenges as they arise. Our brand members are now entering the exciting stage of product development and exploring how they can best promote the first, fully traceable SFA certified cashmere making it to the shelves.

Over the next few weeks we will conduct a preliminary review of Phase 1, evaluating the entire process of producer registration, fibre handling, contract arrangements, documentation of sales and transport to processing plants. Feedback will be sought from participating herders, traders and processors, along with our fantastic staff in Mongolia, who have been instrumental to the pilot's success so far. Results from this review and initial feedback from Phase 2 will be presented to the Chain of Custody Working Group in September.

***A limited amount of certified fibre is still available from SFA Member processors – please contact us for more information.***

## SFA MONTHLY BULLETIN SUMMER 2020



We are delighted to welcome our new member, Khatant International - a Mongolian-based processing plant.

### Public Consultation

The public consultation on the our joint SFA x ICCAW Animal Welfare Code of Practice for China is now open. Please find details in the Resources section of our new website.

### Mongolian fibre makes the cut

Initial indications of fibre quality, from tests carried out in Mongolia and the UK, have proved that Mongolian fibre can reach the exacting standards of the international luxury sector.

The fibres have been from the Khenti, Arkhangai and Bayan Khongor regions.

## Covid-19 Action Plan

We have developed a Covid-19 Action Plan for Mongolia to respond to the impacts of the pandemic and help prepare the cashmere sector for future shocks. The detailed action plan has been drawn up based on the Covid-19 Working Group's six findings, which included reducing herder's reliance on cashmere, improving the quality of Mongolian cashmere and developing a virtual training academy to support teaching in sustainable practices.

All of the points in the Action Plan respond to the two core goals of:

- ❖ Reducing the economic vulnerability of Mongolian herding communities
- ❖ Building capacity for responsible fibre production

The ambitious plan will rely on a range of partners coming together to identify opportunities for financial and delivery support. So the SFA will now approach potential partners to discuss joint implementation of the activities we have identified as being most critical to an effective response to the impacts of Covid-19.

## Processors presented with SFA Certificate of Accreditation

**KhanBogd Cashmere** and **Uguuj Shim** were presented with their accreditation certificates as the first processing plants to achieve silver and bronze respectively in the Clean Fibre Processing Code of Practice. **Monital Cashmere** will be presented with their certificate of accreditation next week, having achieved bronze in their assessment, which was completed this week.

The accreditations were achieved following a sustained period of close cooperation between each of the plants and the Mongolian office during self-assessments and subsequent independent assessments. The code of practice covers health and safety and business administration, in addition to the actual fibre processing, so an open working relationship was imperative for a successful auditing process. Throughout the entire assurance process, Uguuj Shim, KhanBogd, and Monital proved themselves to be cooperative, responsive and highly committed to their sustainability goals.



Khanbogd Cashmere



Uguuj Shim



## Surge in interest from herders

The Mongolian Office has received a recent wave of enquiries from herding organizations wanting to become SFA accredited. By September we expect the number to reach 35, this has the potential to double the current number of SFA accredited herding organisations.

A new approach in accreditation is being planned. There will be online training for herders, followed by support at the self-assessment stage, from the Agricultural Office at Soum level, who have always been supportive of the SFA's work.



## HERDING LIFE

### Weather Watch

Flash floods impacting large areas of Mongolia have resulted in fatalities and destruction. Heavy rainfall and flooding was especially bad in Khentii, Khuvsgul, Dornod, Arkhangai, Dornogobi provinces where river levels have increased by 50-80cm. Forecasts warn of more heavy rain, floods, hails, and strong winds. Temperatures are now up to 30°C in most areas.

### Naadam Festival

For the first time in its 800-year history, the Naadam festival with its "three manly skills" of horsemanship, wrestling and archery was held without a public audience and was instead streamed online to avoid risking the spread of coronavirus. So far Mongolia has 200 reported cases of coronavirus, all were imported and none have resulted in death.

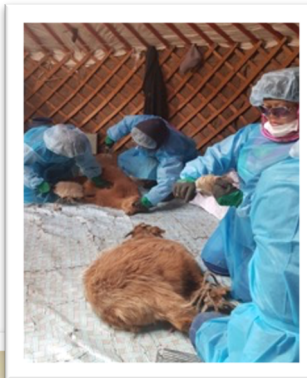
## Work Programme Updates

### J.Crew's Women's Empowerment

In preparation for the delivery of J.Crew's Women's Empowerment Programme, which includes fibre sorting training, trainers were given theory and practical training sessions. In total 40 women were trained, 8 trainers were at the initial event in Tuv and they each trained another group of 5-7 women. The training, that the herders receive, will be supported by a text book that has already been distributed to 1000 households.

The training covered:

- Fibre sorting and packaging
- Fibre storage
- Fibre transactions
- Infectious diseases affecting the quality of cashmere



### Johnstons of Elgin's Young Herder

We are developing an online portal for the Johnstons of Elgin Young Herder Programme. The online portal will be in addition to the classroom course, which has been put on hold till September. The platform will teach the next generation of herders about their environment, its wildlife and the importance of sustainability through online lessons, set challenges and social media engagement.