

ORGANIC FIBERS continued from page 2

100 percent organic cotton,” says Jill Vlahos, Patagonia’s environmental analysis manager.

“We’ve stuck with and it’s been very successful,” she said.

Nike, perhaps one of the largest companies committed to develop products made with organic cotton, also has a line of socks produced with organic cotton. While its sock group use only a 5-percent blend of organic cotton, that percentage is slated to increase.

There are several North Carolina manufacturers using organic cotton fiber to manufacturer socks as well as numerous yarn manufacturers working with organic cotton fiber.



Tamara Stenn produces socks made from alpaca.

Parkdale Mills in Gastonia, N.C., has been using organic cotton fiber to produce yarn since 1998, and is widely known and respected in the organic fiber industry. “They’ve been an amazing partner to work with,” Vlahos says of Parkdale.

Doug Woolweaver, who heads up product devel-

opment at Parkdale, says quality with organic cotton versus cotton produced with traditional farming methods isn’t an issue.

“With proper finishing, it (quality) becomes a non-issue,” Woolweaver says.

While Woolweaver sees organic cotton fibers as currently filling a niche market, he believes it is a growing trend.


OTA statistics support that view.



Matt Mole, owner of Vermont Organics, assists wool yarn manufacturers in the organic certification process.

U.S. manufacturers of organic fiber products saw their sales grow by an average of 22.7 percent, to \$85 million, in 2003, according to OTI’s 2004 Manufacturer Survey. Women’s clothing, representing 38 percent of total organic fiber consumer sales in 2003, is the fastest growing category, followed by infant’s clothing/diapers, sheets and towels, and child/teen clothing. Most sales took place in boutiques and specialty stores, followed by natural food independent grocery stores, the Internet and catalogs. Respondents anticipate

continued on page 12




Spinning open and ring spun organic cotton since 1998

As the premier manufacturer of spun yarns, Parkdale has always focused on three things:
Product Excellence, Innovative Technology and Fulfilling the needs of our Customers.

PARKDALE
 531 Cottonblossom Circle, Gastonia, N.C. 28054
 704-864-8761

Eileen Hallman, Ph. D. *Working with organics since 1992*



New World Textiles

Niche market analysis, employee training and other marketing assistance.

PO Box 1484 • BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC 28711
 828-669-1870 • EMAIL: COTTON@CHARKHA.BIZ

Snuggly Warm Organic Alpaca

A sure winner this holiday season! 100% pure alpaca fleece, hand spun, hand knit socks. Thick, soft and toasty warm. Machine washable!

Alpaca fiber is stronger than mohair, finer than cashmere, smoother than silk, softer than cotton, warmer than lambs wool.

Pamper your customers with quality, affordable adult / kids alpaca socks. Fair Trade certified. 100% organic. Free catalog. Wholesale.

1-866-KUSIKUY (587-4589), Fax: 802-254-8301, Brattleboro, VT

www.KUSIKUY.com

