As Deb Tewell steps into her new role as site coordinator, I am going to take over coordinating the demonstrations during the festival. Deb has created a wonderful program that I hope to continue. I am passionate about the fiber traditions of the American West, particularly the three states that the Taos Wool Festival focuses on and where I have spent the majority of my life. I was born in Texas, educated in Colorado, and I live in New Mexico. I work full-time as a weaving teacher and have nearly 20 years experience in the yarn craft industry. If you would like to learn a little bit more about me and my background you can visit my website.

Building on what Deb has already done, I would like to emphasize the areas that make this region unique, further educating potential customers and creating advocates for our part of the yarn universe. Many of the topics folks have offered in the past already fit into some of these topics.

Following is a rough outline of the topics that can be covered during the festival that focus on our regional specialties. This is not an exhaustive list, but gives you an idea of some thematic topics. I'm open to other ideas.

**Topics to cover:**

- The Fiber of New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas
- Producers Panel: Challenges and Joys of Raising Animals in the Southwest
- Fiber Processing: What it Takes to Make a Great Yarn
- Spinning on a Navajo Spindle/Lap Spinning
- Spinning on a Great Wheel
- Dyes: Cochineal, Indigo, and Acid
- Navajo Weaving
- Rio Grande Weaving
- Colcha Embroidery
- A Survey of Felting from Needle to Pelt

Please let me know if you are interested in providing a demonstration, know someone who would make a good presenter, or have an idea for additional topics. If you have any questions, feel free to reach me at worker@yarnworker.com.

Best,

Liz Gipson

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Yarnworker School of Weaving