**TEXTILE FIBERS OVERVIEW**

*ANIMAL FIBERS* - Animal Fibers include fur, hair, and secretions.

**Wool** is the fiber derived from the fur of animals of the Caprinae family, principallysheep but the hair of certain species of other mammals such as goats, alpacas, camels and rabbits may also be called wool.

**SILK** is a natural protein fiber which has been used in textile manufacture for at least 5,000 years. It is one of the oldest fibers known by humankind.

Silkworms, which are really caterpillars, are fed mulberry leaves, mulberry leaves, and only mulberry leaves. They never stop eating. That means feedings every four hours. After 35 days of eating, the silkworm spins a cocoon of silk. It creates nearly a mile of filament!

*PLANT FIBERS -* Plant Fibers include seed hairs, stem (or bast)

**Cotton** is a soft fiber that grows around the seeds of the *cotton* plant. *Cotton* fiber grows in the seed pod or boll of the *cotton* plant.

**Flax** is extracted from the skin of the stem of the flax plant.

**Jute** is extracted from the bark of the white jute plant

**Hemp** Raw hemp is one of the most valuable parts of the hemp plant. It is commonly called bast fiber, which refers to the fibers that grow on the outside of the plant's stalk. Bast fibers give the plant its strength and durability.

**Bamboo** is a natural textile made from the pulp of bamboo grass.