

Holmes County Folklife Fieldwork for Ohio State Arts Council
Performed by Michael and Carrie N. Kline, Talking Across the Lines, LLC
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Summary of Anne Brown Interview, January 8, 2009

Anne Brown of the Crawford District of Coshocton County owns and runs the Trinity Leather and Natural Fiber Mill. She, along with her husband Don and son Cody, raise horses, along with meat and wool sheep, as well as keeping a guard llama. They process fleeces for hand spinners around the country. Anne herself loves to spin and enjoys producing multi-textured, multi-colored skeins of wool. She knits hats and creates top of the line felted, colorful knitted handbags with bison or elk straps.

Anne's leatherwork is one of a kind. It has won awards in national horsemanship shows. She also tells proudly of working cowboys calling her from atop their horses to order a pair of chaps. These \$1,000 items will protect men on the range but still remain in good condition to hand down to younger generations. Anne primarily uses bison and elk hides for her leather art, purchased from western markets. She tries to learn about the person who will wear her chaps in order to create a piece of work that will suit him or her in weight and design. She loves to analyze the life lived by an animal when she receives a new hide, stretching it out and assessing the nature and location of its scars, from barbed wire, to bullet holes, to antler scratching.



Anne has a deep love for her art and the drive of an artist. She finds herself working well into the night or at any hour when Divine guidance and inspiration grace her. She could not live without being creative. She generally has at least one order, whether for moccasins lined with beaver fur, for hide and fur mittens, or larger garments. In the shearing season, Anne and Don are well occupied with processing the fleeces people send to their mill.

Anne considers herself a steward of the land, hers and the earth itself. She is a caring shepherd. She relishes chore time, even when she is in the midst of creating art. She goes outside and rubs her horse's neck, inhaling the aroma, or walks around with her sheep imbibing their nature. The animals are at the root of her work and the core of her existence.



Photos: Digital photos of the Brown's sheep, raw wool, knitted art, leather art, Anne modeling bags and chaps and Anne leaning over a hide