



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

Australian Alpaca Fleece Limited

Newsletter – January 2006

THE SEASON SO FAR-

Since the 1st of July this year 17,318kg of fleece has been classed. This has consisted of the following quantities from each region. (Please note this does not include fleece to be classed, we have received large consignments from NSW Central Coast & Hunter region, Southern NSW and WA that are yet to be classed)

NSW Central region – 293kg
NSW Sydney, Coast & Highlands –
NSW Central Coast & Hunter –
NSW Hawkesbury/ Blue Mountains – 1055kg
NSW Southern – 2194kg
Victoria Central - 2647kg
Victorian Eastern – 3687kg
Victorian Western – 481kg
Western Australian Central – 1987kg
Western Australian Southern – 124kg
South Australia – 3002kg
Tasmania – 518kg
Queensland –
Southern Queensland & Northern NSW -
62kg
Other/No region – 1265kg

In store as of the 20/1/06 there is 4,626kg of fleece to be classed. Thank you to those who responded to our calls to send available fleece in before Christmas.

We are aware many people across the country have had to delay shearing due to inclement weather – we urge those that have recently shorn to send their fleece in to AAFL as soon as practically possible.

FLEECE SALES -

Recently there has been considerable interest and opportunities in the sales and marketing of Alpaca fibre.

Our first container of Huacaya fleece has gone to Peru where we are in the process of making tops and products out of Australian Alpaca fleece. This will enable us to expand

the Australian Alpaca Logo both locally and internationally.

There will be further details of these new developments being released in upcoming national publications.

FLEECE TYPES NEEDED -

There is considerable demand for White and light fawn H2 & H3 A/B lengths –

We are struggling to meet demand and require all available fleece to be sent to AAFL as soon as possible.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, demand for these types is on going and there is a constant problem of demand far outstripping supply.

H8 Hairy pieces –

We hope by now all growers are aware that AAFL is now paying for this fibre and that all available fibre in this category is being sent to Sunshine.

Please remember that there are large monthly orders for H8 Hairy pieces so a constant supply is needed.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter AAFL is in need of fleece in all colours and qualities.

FLEECE PREPARATION -

We would like to remind everyone that all fleece sent to AAFL needs to be pre-sorted. It is very important that fleeces are skirted properly and all fibre is presented as described in the "Points to Watch" leaflet (available from the AAFL website). Fleeces that have not been skirted and sorted are very time consuming to class.

Because of the unevenness in micron of most Alpaca fleeces, many need to be split into at least 2 categories, if a fleece is not skirted properly it reduces the time available

to split the fleece resulting in reduced return for the grower and lines of fibre with large micron variations and high co-efficient of variation (CV's).

It is also in the interest of growers to skirt the fleeces properly - If coarse/hairy skirtings are mixed with good fleece it is very hard to separate. It is impossible to remove each coarse fibre individually from fleece that has been contaminated - This can result in fleece having to be downgraded.

For further information of fleece preparation please look at the services page on the AAFL website.

COLOURED FIBRES -

As the products being made from Australian Alpaca improve and aimed at the higher end of the market, processors requirements are becoming more specific.

One of the major problems in fibre processing whether it Alpaca, wool or mohair is coloured fibres in white fleece. We have found that there is a considerable amount of otherwise white Alpacas that contain individual brown fibres throughout the fleeces.

These brown fibres are a major problem - as any fleece with these fibres must be put in light fawn, reducing the amount of white fibre available for processing. We have found that these brown fibres are generally quite broad and are possibly medullated fibres. It is very important that growers are aware of these fibres if breeding for a white herd.

REGIONAL NEWS -

Hawkesbury-Blue Mountain region are planning fleece collection days on Sundays 5 February and 5 March 2006 at Hawkesbury Showground.

Matt Ridley - President

Central Western NSW

Our Regional collection date is Tuesday 31 January 2006. I have no idea how much fleece will be collected until I get to Orange

and have it pressed, but by the number of telephone calls I am receiving I would say that it will be more than last year. Great news is that a lot of breeders are "*cleaning out their sheds*". As soon as I have the total number of bales and the total weight I will inform AAFL.

Kate Bailey – Secretary & FLO

Victorian Eastern Region

A fleece collection day was held for members living in the northern part of the Victorian Eastern Region. The day was held at Richard & Barbara Watsons property – Alpine Alpacas on Sunday 22nd January. Approximately 7 Bales of fleece will be pressed and sent to AAFL

Our region has 7 fleece collection points (not including AAFL); the details are in our newsletter. For more information you can contact our regional FLO – Rudy Balde on 03-5968 3305 or by sending him an email – jannariealpacas@bigpond.com

Victorian Central Region

At our last meeting on January 17th we are happy to say that Rob Wadlow-Evans has volunteered to take on the position as FLO as we have not had a FLO for some time. Rob Wadlow-Evans lives in the Ballarat area and is very keen to learn, Rob can be contacted on 5341-3980 if you need to or tanybryn@netconnect.com.au

The only drop off point we still have is at Geoff Brennan, Australian Alpacas, "Paroo" 1040 Northern Highway, Bylands Vic 3762 Fleece can be dropped off at Geoff's at anytime as long as people phone first.

Vivienne Grigg - Secretary VCR

Matthew McAninly is off to the UK via the States. Matthew will be managing an alpaca farm in the east of England.

Good luck Matt and all the best for your future - Stella

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS-

Please submit information you would like to share in this newsletter to:

Stella Butler – info@anembopark.com.au

Clearly identify in the subject header reference to – AAFL newsletter, so that your submission is not mistaken for virus or scam email.