

WARATAH ALPACA
FIBRE
CO-OPERATIVE LTD



MANUAL

2nd Edition – May 2022

WARATAH ALPACA FIBRE CO-OPERATIVE LTD

Fleece Manual

This manual is intended to be read in conjunction with the *AAA Australian Alpaca Fleece Industry Shearing Shed and Pre-classing Code of Practice* and the *Alpaca Fleece Classing Code of Practice*.

This manual is a recommended ideal practice for the supply of alpaca fibre to the Waratah Alpaca Fibre Co-Operative by growers. The aim of this manual is to provide guidelines to growers on preparing your fleeces for submission to the Co-op for sale.

Preparation prior to shearing and thorough skirting will ultimately provide you, as a grower, with the best financial returns.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The primary objectives of the Waratah Alpaca Fibre Co-Operative Ltd (the Co-op) are:

- The sale of Australian Alpaca Fibre
- Development of new markets for Australian Alpaca Fibre for the ultimate profit return to members
- Working collaboratively for success as a collective of members and growers

Although the Co-op has been established primarily for its members, it is committed to the development of the Australian Alpaca industry, supporting sustainable production and growth of herd numbers.

The Co-op will accept all alpaca fleece delivered to the Depot near Mittagong by any grower of alpaca fleece.

Members and non-members should deliver fleeces individually bagged and with a Fleece Card completed for each bag.

The extent to which these guidelines are followed together with the resulting quality of delivered fleece will influence the price paid by the Co-op to the grower.

Members receive a higher price than non-members. Growers will receive payment within 30 days of fleece being sold to a buyer. Both members and non-members are strongly encouraged to mid-side test all fleece before shearing.

Detailed guidelines and helpful hints on skirting fleeces is available on the *Detailed Guidelines For Fleece Preparation* Download.

2. MICRON LINES

The Co-op classes fleece into the following micron lines:

- Sheer Ultra (SU) less than 17 micron ($<16.6\mu$)
- Ultrafine (UF) 17 – 18 micron ($16.6 - 18.5\mu$)
- Superfine (SF) 19 – 20 micron ($18.6 - 20.5\mu$)
- Fine (F) 21 – 24 micron ($20.6 - 24.5\mu$)
- Medium (M) 25 – 28 micron ($24.6 - 28.5\mu$)
- Strong (S) 29 – 36 micron ($28.6 - 36.5\mu$)
- Extra Strong (XS) greater than 36 micron ($>36.5\mu$)

3. COLOUR LINES

The Co-op classes fleece into the following colour lines:

- White (WT) – white or off white with no contaminating colour
- Light Fawn (LF) – light fawn and white/off white with odd fawn/brown fibres
- Fawn (FN) – medium fawn
- Brown (BR) – dark fawn, light/medium/dark brown
- Rose Grey (RG) – light/medium/dark rose grey

- Grey (GY) – light/medium/dark grey
- Black (BK) – brown/blue black

4. SHEARING & PREPARATION

Every effort should be made during shearing to avoid cross-contamination of colours, coarse fibres, vegetable matter and stained fleece.

Any odd coloured spots or patches should be removed at shearing and not included in the bagged fleece.

Fleece delivered to the Co-op should be adequately skirted and free of colour contamination and vegetable matter. Failure to do this may result in skirting charges being deducted from payments to the grower.

Detailed Guidelines for Shearing Skirting and Pre-Classing are available for downloading on the website.

5. BAGGING FLEECE

Growers are requested to bag individual fleeces ideally in clear plastic bags.

These bags should NOT BE LABELLED – but SHOULD contain a Fleece Card to identify the name of the grower.

This is to allow the plastic bags to be recycled – reducing not only costs to the Co-op for disposal but lessening the impact on landfill and the environment.

The Fleece Card should contain – Stud Name and if available, Micron, Colour, Staple Length, Saddle/Pieces. A template, is available on the web site for download.

6. MARKET REQUIREMENTS

The Co-op will post and call for specific market requirements via

- Direct Email to Members
- Web Site, and
- Facebook page

7. DELIVERY OF FLEECE

Fleece can be delivered to the depot throughout the year on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10:00AM and 12:00 Noon and between 1:00PM and 6:00PM; Saturdays by arrangement with Mick Williams; Sundays after 5:00pm. Please contact Mick (0407 407 618) to coordinate delivery dates and times.

All saddle fleeces are required to be individually bagged in clear plastic bags (preferably fleece bags). Neck fleece and good pieces of different lengths (50-70, 70-110mm, 110-140mm) should also be individually bagged and included within the bag containing the saddle fleece. (DO NOT LABEL BAGS – BUT USE THE FLEECE CARD).

When more than 10 bags of saddle fleece **of any one type (Huacaya or Suri)** and colour are being delivered should be included within either a separate bale bag (wool pack) or a similar strong bag. Failure to do so may result in sorting charges being deducted from payments to the grower. Skirtings from all fleeces of the **same colour** can be bagged together – ie LONG HAIRY, SHORT HAIRY

Growers should also include a Consignment Sheet containing bank details for payment to grower at the time of delivery. This form is available for download on the website.

For more information, please contact the Co-Op:

Email: bob@waratahalpacafibre.com.au