



ALPACA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Conducted by Cameron Holt I.S.F.

ALPACA APPRAISAL AND SELECTION (2days)

WHAT TO SELECT FOR

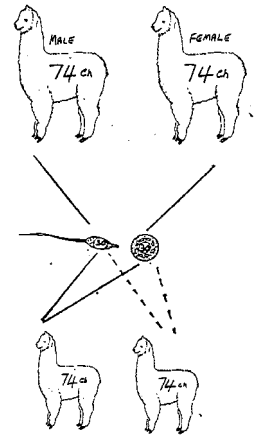
This topic will be a general discussion encouraging students to think about what they are actually breeding for.

STUD STRUCTURES

A brief insight into the wool industry and how their stud system is structured so as to give the students an understanding of how this system will work within the alpaca industry.

GENETICS

Students will receive a basic understanding of genetics discussing a number of theories that are present in the alpaca industry. Suri cross breeding will also be discussed within these parameters.



BREEDING SYSTEMS

An insight is given into the various breeding systems and their benefits to the alpaca industry, e.g. line breeding, out breeding etc.

PRACTICAL EVALUATION

Various components of the animal structure will be discussed under this area.

ANIMAL ASSESSMENT

This is a major component of the program where the conformation of both huacaya and suri is discussed.

Confirmation will cover the desired features for the head, body and rear. Major defects will also be addressed. Students will also be shown how to identify the correct gait of the alpaca as well as having an understanding of body scoring.

Desirable and undesirable traits in the fleece are a major component of this program. If required, general characteristics of the fleece are also discussed. Students will be shown a procedure for evaluating their alpacas.



PRACTICAL – there is a major practical component for this program.

BREED DEVELOPMENT



(photo 1)

In photo 1 the 1988 Australian Huacaya import shows an abundance of guard hair throughout the entire fleece.

(photo 2)

In photo 2 another 1988 import (Huacaya), alpaca with poor conformation (note the bone structure). Lack of overall coverage is also noticed.



(photo 3)

Photo 3 and 4 shows gains made to the Huacaya in the mid 90s.

(photo 4, Mecklem)



(photo 5, Condon)

Photos 5 and 6 show the top of the range on our standards today.

(photo 6, Mecklem)

