



Pacific Alpacas Newsletter 11-16
November 8th, 2016

Dear

Clarifications of 2016 Grading System

We've been fielding a few calls about the new grading system; hopefully the following answers most:

1. By "Shorts" (Grades PB10 to 30) we mean necks, bellies and legs (unless you, as grower, feel that a particular neck is good enough to be included with Blankets, in which case put them in the appropriate blankets bag.)
2. Skirting: Yes, we require fleeces to be skirted please.
3. Guard hair – we don't take it. Guard hair is Grade PX – Unusable. Our graders have been instructed that if there is too much guard hair in a bag, class the whole bag as PX, don't waste time sorting it – time is money and our fibre clients are not yet prepared to pay the real cost of excessive sorting.
4. Phages vs Collection Bags: If you have a lot of fibre of a particular grade please feel free to put it straight into phages without using bags. We are here to make things simpler and easier for you, not harder. Our drivers will have fadges in their vehicles and will replace any fadges you supply.

It is the goal of the new, simplified grading system to streamline the operation of the Pacific Alpacas Fibre Pool and thereby reduce costs and increase returns to growers. Our aim is to **MAXIMISE THE RETURN ON SELLING ALPACA FIBRE** for our growers; we cannot do that without your help, hence why we are facilitating the process and asking growers to 'pre-sort' their fibre to a greater extent than previously.

2017 Collection Schedule

We are preparing our collection schedule for 2017. To help us do that, if you plan to contribute to the pool this year can you please reply to info@pacificalpacas.com with the following information:

1. Yes / No you will be supplying fibre to the pool; and if so do you want:
 - a. Us to collect it from you.
 - b. To drop it off at Collection Point – (see attached table for your nearest Collection Point)
 - c. Other – please advise.
2. If Yes, your expected shearing date for this season?
3. How many huacaya are you shearing? How many suri? (so we can estimate fibre quantities per pickup run).
4. Yes / No you would be interested in being a Collection Point this season (see below about Collection Points).

1 Pigeon Rock Road, RD2, Cromwell 9384, New Zealand pacificalpacas.com

Once we have collated all this information we will be issuing our expected collection schedule for 2017. Providing the information, we need comes to us quickly enough (that's up to you sorry) then we plan to have this info to you by 18 November.

We will be phoning every grower in our database (currently more than 620!!!) over the coming 8 weeks unless we can get the necessary information from our emails to negate the need for this time consuming (and hence costly to the pool) process. So please, please help us out and tell us what we need to know (see below) via email if possible then we won't have to bother you on the phone.

To reiterate our policy; Pacific Alpacas will not collect next year's fibre before we have fully paid out for this year's.

Collection Points:

The attached table lists our confirmed Collection Points for 2017. Thank you very much to those growers who have offered to be Collection Points. Collection of the fibre is the most time consuming and costly part of this business, the more we can consolidate the number of pickup or collection points the more WE ALL WIN.

This list is changing as new growers confirm their willingness to help out in this manner so please scroll to the bottom of the Fibre Pool page on www.pacificalpacas.com to make sure you keep updated with any changes to our Collection Points.

What is involved in being a Collection Point? – Nothing other than:

- (a) providing a dry place for other growers to deliver their fibre to for storage until our driver calls to collect it; and
- (b) checking any bags/phages that are dropped off are clearly identified as to who's they are; and
- (c) ideally being available on the Scheduled Pickup Day to make sure our driver knows whose fibre is who's.

Most importantly; please note the **Scheduled Pickup Date**, the last column on this sheet. We will be updating this if and when things change and the up-to-date version of this table will always be available as a downloadable file in the Fibre Pool section of our website. If you plan to drop off your fibre to a Collection Point, please make sure it is there before the Scheduled Pickup Date.

Collection Bags:

Don't forget to contact us if you want some Fibre Collection Bags and we will get them out to you ASAP.

To date we have sent out 3,861 bags for the coming season; if this is anything to go on we can expect 2017 to be the best year ever for the Pacific Alpacas Fibre Pool.



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Our drivers will have Fibre Collection Bags with them when they call to pick up your fibre; the intent being that they will replace what they pick up but please don't hesitate to let them know if you think you will need more or less.

Please Note: The Fibre Collection Bags are printed BOTH SIDES. Please only add your details on ONE SIDE. As another efficiency measure we hope to reuse the bags and will send them out again with the used side crossed out once we empty them.

Thank you again for your support; we look forward to working with you in the future and helping ensure a fair and economic return to growers such as yourselves.

If you have any questions, please contact me on 021 640 707, or via email at info@pacificalpacos.com

Best regards,

Steve Crow

Attachments:

1. List of Collection Points

CHECKLIST – HOW YOU CAN HELP THE POOL:

Please hit reply to this email ASAP and let us know ...

1. Yes / No you will be supplying fibre to the pool; and if so do you want:
 - a. Us to collect it from you.
 - b. To drop it off at Collection Point – (see attached table for your nearest Collection Point)
 - c. Other – please advise.
 - d. If Yes, your expected shearing date for this season?
2. How many huacaya are you shearing? How many suri? (so we can estimate fibre quantities per pickup run and hence expected run schedule).
3. Yes / No you would be interested in being a Collection Point this season; especially if none of our existing Collection Points are near you. The less places our drivers have to call on to collect fibre the less the cost to the pool.