

FLEECE PREPARATION

Skirting

While we take every care to process your fleece to the highest standard, best results will be achieved if your fleece is well prepared before you send it to us. We recommend you skirt your fleece to remove as much course fibre, vegetable matter and dust as you can.

Moth/bug/rodent contaminated fleeces and those with excessive vegetable matter cannot be accepted and will be returned to you at your cost.

Fibre Loss

In relatively clean fleeces, you can expect a processing loss of 20-30% from the raw fleece weight. Greater losses are experienced when a fleece has a higher proportion of courser fibres and/or vegetable matter. Our fibre separator is designed to separate out longer, courser fibres. As a result, more consistent fleeces will experience less weight loss during processing.

Fibre Characteristics

Best results are achieved from fleeces with fibre diameter of 18-28 micron and a comfort factor in excess of 90%. Staple length should be between 80-150mm. Fleeces should be checked for tenderness.

Fleeces that do not meet these characteristics are likely to be rejected.

Cria fleeces

Brittleness, leading to fibre breakage, and therefore greater loss, can frequently be experienced in fleeces from cria that have not previously been shorn. We can process cria fleece but we require a minimum of 1000 grams per fleece. We recommend that cria fleeces are combined to make weight. Where possible, blend cria fleeces of similar micron and staple length.

Workshops

Workshops can be arranged to demonstrate the skirting processes and fleece characteristics to new alpaca owners.