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News Update from Flagstaff Alpacas - Spring 2011

Hello everyone. A much easier winter for our alpacas - plenty of feed and the short, sharp cold spells should 'wack' many of the parasites in their larvae and egg phase. Only bug we saw was coccidia - a few older alpacas had a burden as did a few cria but all recovered post treatment. Alpacas look much healthier this spring than last year so we will be shearing earlier!

Shearing Options: Andrew Sykes will not be shearing this year. But Nigel Wood and his partner will be shearing through Otago and Southland from mid-November. He has been provided with contact details of breeders from around the area so expect a call mid-November. Contact details: 03-2313112, cell 0274-681903 e-mail: Nigel.Wood@agresearch.co.nz. A good chance to get your shearing done before Christmas!

Our own herd will be shorn as normal by James in mid-December 2011. James is fast at his work and very personable with his shearing - and does an excellent job including legs and teeth. James did over 180 alpaca for us last year, the main mob done in two days!

Alpaca EXPO, Tauranga, and AANZ Conference, Nelson: The Conference in Nelson was a cosy affair and allowed delegates to interact and develop a number of themes introduced by some new and some familiar speakers - details in the latest (Winter 2011) AANZ Alpaca Magazine. Although we will not be at EXPO 2011 the alpaca duvets were selected for the Innovation Alpaca display. Sounds like an EXPO we should not have missed with over 450 alpaca entries!!! Great support up north!

Yarns - we have expanded our yarn range over the last year with 2-ply, boucle, aran 10-ply and alpaca-blends to suit the demands of various buyers large and small. There is no doubt alpaca has a much improved profile and trends are always changing; this year the most popular alpaca yarn has been our boucle in both natural and hand-dyed.

It remains important to maintain the quality of yarn in the market place so please be very critical of your own yarns if you think they don't make the grade - check for consistency though the yarn and that the yarn is not over-spun - this will lead to bias in a garment if present and is easily tested for.

Craft Fairs: We have plans to attend a spectrum of craft fairs around Otago and Southland. We will be at the Southern Field Days in Waimumu, Gore in February 2012. Check our Diary page for other shows and events.

Alpaca Stud Services: We attach details of all our studs. We have included some options on value young stud males for sale that may suit your needs (EBay, Luke and Lexus). For established males we believe they are more realistically priced in the current economic conditions; focus continues to be fleece production and commercial value of that fleece from these males. We offer heavily discounting package and leasing options as well. More details and pictures on our website. And come visit to check their cria - the real test of a male!

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Vets: Our vet, Donald Murray at Murray Vets - is expanding. New offices and a new vet have expanded the practise so two good reasons to refer to Murrays Vets if you do have a problem. As discussed previously the only stress this last winter was small amounts of coccidian - it can cause rapid wasting and not treated by common parasite control products.

Farmstay Accommodation at the "Paca Pad": A quick mention of our Farmstay cabin - it comfortably accommodates 6 people - 1 king, 1 double and 2 single bed. - and a spare mattress and cot! If you have guest visiting Dunedin the 'Pad' does have near full facilities - heat pump, bathroom with shower kitchenette (microwave, toaster, slow-cook, kettle and full cutlery), and the large spa just outside! And alpacas will be strolling the paddocks outside the 'Paca Pad' - the unit is available as a farmstay or, simply, an accommodation option close to Dunedin.

Flagstaff Alpacas - For Sale? Those sharp-eyed amongst you will see we have had our farm for sale. We hope to sell our main property and farmstay, and build on the land next door. We have been very busy with our alpaca products and sourcing fleece to support them has been time consuming. In the ideal world, any buyer of the main farm would take a bulk group of alpacas. We could concentrate on sourcing fleece suited to our product range by attending shearing of large alpaca mobs so that we can help sort fleece as it is shorn. As that timing is also a very busy time around both an alpaca farm and amongst the pre-Christmas craft fairs and Shows a sale of some of the mob would help that plan. We do have a number of alpaca stock packages and individual alpacas for sale - check our website or visit for details.

Website Facilities: Our website shopping cart feature allowing secure payment. The shopping cart facility offers all of our own alpaca products and some designs and themed yarns working with Doe Arnot. Check our voucher options for those supplying fleece later in our newsletter.

We have upgraded our website, and added a full-suite alpaca on-line 'shopping cart' facility. We get the updates, secure payment facilities and support from 'The Logic Studio', Dunedin. They support the AANZ Stud Alpaca Auction for the Annual AANZ Conference. If you are looking for a new website or thinking of running your own on-line sales facility give Ian a call: ian@logicstudio.co.nz or 03-470 1323. Very reasonable pricing too!

Feed and Farm Contractors: Small plug for our local contractors. Graeme and Pete Marshall have been doing our baleage and hay over the last season. They are based in both Middlemarch and on the Taeiri ... and own a small herd of alpacas too! Very friendly guys who try hard to get the job done on-time!

Hay: One comment - the hay from last season during the wet autumn around East Otago was generally poor quality - so don't expect it to last next season. However, baleage was superb quality - not much use to us alpaca farmers at a small scale but do watch the condition of last seasons hay.

Alpaca Travels and Delivery Service: We have been doing more 'alpaca travels' with the Alpacamobile to the North Island - and now seem to have more space coming south than used to be. If you are looking to move stock please ask for a quote and check our schedule. For example Dunedin-to-Christchurch is \$90+GST an alpaca. Dunedin-to-Auckland \$275+GST - larger loads discounted. We completed three runs to North Island in season 2010/11.

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QualityYarns NZ Limited: Andy has spent some time with Mike Barra and his staff working on new yarn options across the alpaca fleece range. There is a rumour circulating that QualityYarns NZ are struggling; I would comment they are seeking significant funding to buy-in new equipment from other closing processors around New Zealand and to modernise some of their processing, so there may be some crossed-wires out there? Getting fleece processed can be slow through QualityYarns but we see this as the issue of the small scale of alpaca processing compared to other larger clients of QualityYarns. For Flagstaff Alpacas they are certainly critical to our own 'local' product range and we are pleased new investment should secure QualityYarns in a very fickle industry!!

Fleece Sorting and Purchasing: We will be seeking WHITE and OFF WHITE fleece for 2011 production with payment schedules for both yarn quality (20-26 micron) and shorts/belly/neck/leg (but avoid the hairy pieces ... please) for our duvets (20-35 micron). CRITICALLY sorting is crucial and the best way is straight off the alpaca as the alpaca is being shorn. Our advice is to have the rousy place the blanket straight on-to your wool table and immediately - and savagely (we mean it!!!) - remove any primary and guard hair areas on your BLANKET into a separate small bag which is then stored in that separate tied bag but within with the large bag containing the pristine blanket. If in doubt remove a piece for later re-assessment.

For our pricing we expect each white or light fawn skirted blanket to be in separate bags, with any questionable skirted fleece in separate bags. All shorts (neck belly, legs) destined for duvets to be in one fadge with white and fawn combined.

Pricing - including GST (Otago and Southland ONLY) for the Spring 2011/Autumn 2012 shorn fleece:

21-26 Micron White & Light Fawn Skirted Blanket (minimum staple length 8 centimetres, maximum 18 cms): Cash: \$10/kilogram. Voucher: \$12.50/kilogram. Minimum is 10kgs - each blanket individually bagged. Please minimise or remove all obvious veggio and 'alpaca dung' matter! Thanks ...

Shorts (below 40 micron) White and Fawn combined - neck, belly, legs, blankets. Cash: \$4/kilogram. Voucher: \$6/kilogram. Minimum is 20kgs (in one fadge please)! NO hairy pieces!

Pricing valid until 29 February 2012 for spring 2011 fleece. All include GST and weights measured at Flagstaff Alpacas or our partner. We tend to have all our fleece with processors before the end of March. Our 'Voucher' scheme is for our products in alpaca so you can choose from duvets, yarns or other alpaca goodies with vouchers or a voucher/cash mix. Please make contact if you can supply!

Alpaca Duvets/Quilts: We have continued production of alpaca duvets/quilts using white and fawn alpaca fleece and thank breeders for supplying seconds, legs, belly and necks, as well as coarser full blankets - but NO hairy pieces!. Note we include all fawn fleece. Requirement this year is **10 tonnes of alpaca fleece** Honest! Customers continue to recognise the properties, thermal efficiency and branding of alpaca are distinctive in the marketplace, especially the hypoallergenic quality of alpaca fleece in the duvet.

Twitter @alpacaNZ : If you are not checking our web pages for our latest news and views we also have a 'following' on Twitter. **Our account: @alpacaNZ** . Join us ... please ... and tweet away!

Hope to see you at the Shows or visiting to see our cria, our alpaca products and yarns!
Vicki Cullen and Andy Nailard

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Flagstaff Alpacas STUD SERVICES Spring 2011/Autumn 2012

Our selection of males available for this season follows. Prices quoted are at Flagstaff Alpacas - agistment during mating and pregnancy confirmation is free. With the 'Alpacamobile' we can offer on-your-farm and mobile matings by agreement - small travel and service fee will apply. Competitive package and lease (at your farm) price options are available - for example four matings of the price of three gives a 25% discount on each mating. Please make contact for details for options and male delivery services.

Young Stud Males for Sale (see our website for details):

Lexus (1000203 - Solid Dark Brown). Sire: Avianna Farms ENRICO, Dam: Avianna Farms LARISSA. Great looking male with the density of fleece of his Sire. Won a number of classes. Fleece (Jan 2011 - third fleece): 20.8 micron, SD 4.3, CV 20.8, Curve 58, CF 96%.

EBay (1000215 - Solid Black). Sire: Tabourie BEN ELVIS, Dam: Cedar House MISS EBONY. Deep blue-black fleece. Stand-out male with soft-handling fleece. Fleece (Jan 2011 - third fleece): 21.3 micron, SD 4.8, CV 22, Curve 57, CF 94%.

Luke (141390 - Solid White) Sire: Blue Grass SOUTHERN WARRIOR, Dam: Flagstaff JUICY-LUCY. Consistent white fleece with density you expect from Southern Warrior cria. Fleece (Jan 2011 - fourth fleece): 21.1 micron, SD 4.0, CV 18.8, Curve 55, CF 98%.

Huacaya

Avianna Farms ENRICO (63533 - SMF - Nov 2002). Sire: Prestige Valentino (Sir Titus Salt), Dam: Illawarra Victoria (The Don/Auzengate). Fleece (Dec 08 - aged 6 years): Micron 25.8, SD 5.2, CV 20.1, CF 82%, Curve 40°. Recently AANZ National Reserve Veteran Champion at EXPO October 2010. Stud Fee: \$950+GST

Silverstream EVAKI (86940 - SW - Dec 2005). Back at Flagstaff Alpacas from December 2011. Champion Senior Male Auckland and Kumeu 2008. Sire: Windsong Valley Ice Man, Dam: Merungle Aurora (Peruvian Legend). Fleece (Aug 09 - aged 4 years): Micron 24.4, SD 4.8, CV 20, CF 89%. Stud Fee: \$1,200+GST

Blue Grass SOUTHERN WARRIOR (69601 - SLF - March 2003). Back at Flagstaff Alpacas from December 2011. Blue Grass Southern Warrior has impeccable genetics with Purumbete El Dorado, Purumbete Vanilla and Jolimont Conquistador in his background. Southern Warrior is the sire to Silverstream Infinity who won two supremes, four age group and two reserve championships from just six shows in 2010. We believe that put to fine, coloured and white females, Southern Warrior will produce excellent results. Fee: \$1,200+GST

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Ambersun TOLEDO (43549 - SDF - Feb 2001) Mature Champion AANZ Nationals 2005. Sire: Ambersun Auzengate. Fleece (Jan 11 - aged 10 years) - Micron: 25.4, SD: 5.9, CV: 23, curve 43°. Fleece (Jan 2010 - aged 9 years) - Micron: 25.9, SD: 5.9, CV: 21, CF: 82%. Fee: \$800+GST

Tabourie BEN ELVIS (68919 - SBlk - May 2003). 1st Senior Black Male Upper Clutha 2006. Sire: Coonawarra Elvis Presley (Highlander/Julius) Dam: Benleigh Briony. Fleece (Jan 2011): Micron: 24.8, SD: 6.2, CV: 24.9. Stud Fee: \$500+GST

Flagstaff SEA STALLION (57831 - SW - Jan 2003). Sire: AF Brutus (Hemingway) Dam: Pucara Sea Change (Pluro/Snowman). Fleece (Jan 2011 - aged 8 years) - Micron: 21.1, SD: 5.4 CV: 25 CF: 92% curve 59°. Fee: \$500 + GST

Hadstock MITCHAM (51793 - SW - May 2002). Intermediate Champion Canterbury 2004 and Senior Champion Manawatu 2005. Sire: Brigantine (Highlander/Maid of the Mist). Dam Adelyn Tranquillity(Inti/El Dorado). Shear weight 2005: 5.75kgs. Fleece (Jan 2011): Micron: 25.8, SD: 6.4, CV: 24.8. Stud Fee: \$400+GST

Pinjarra MONEY MASTER (97082 - SW - Dec 2004). Sire: Peruvian Snowmaster Dam: Pinjarra Money Penny (Ayaviri, Domino, El Dorado, Bathsheba). Fleece (Jan 2010 - aged 5 years): Micron: 24.7, SD: 4.7, CV: 20. Stud Fee: \$500+GST

Ambersun AMARETTO (49319 - SW - Nov 2001). Senior Champion AANZ Nationals 2004. Sire: Ambersun Auzengate Fleece (Nov 08 - aged 7 years) - Micron: 26.2, SD: 5.3, CV: 20.4, CF: 81%. Stud Fee: \$1,000+GST

Suri:

Hadstock NZ QUE CEE (84244 - SW - Feb 2005). Sire: CH Prince of Stars (Amador and Senator), Dam: Hadstock Te Kanawa (CH Raphael and Senator). Homozygous. Fleece (Jan 2010) - Micron: 31.2 SD: 7.7, CV: 25. Stud Fee: \$500+GST

Sherlin Chaka CASTEL (63146 - Dark Grey - Sep 2003) Sire: Peruvian Maximo. Fleece (Jan 2010) - Micron: 34, SD: 8.5, CV: 25. \$400+GST

For more detail check our website: www.flagstaffalpacas.co.nz or contact Andy
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Ownership Notes: Enrico jointly owned with Munloch Alpacos. Amaretto jointly owned with Windermere Alpacos. Toledo jointly owned with Valley of Peace Alpacos. Evaki multi-owned with Silverstream Alpacos and Silverhill Alpacos. Southern Warrior jointly owned with Silverstream Alpacos.

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