



Alpaca Exports International

Alpaca Care & Maintenance of your herd

A comprehensive Maintenance service is also offered by Coolawarra which includes annual visits to your farm, shearing, inoculating, drenching, sire servicing if applicable, training and advice however these are basic hints for caring for your Alpacas to help understand and enjoy your alpacas:

Please note that the following information is intended as a guide only. You will need to work with your own vet and agricultural department to establish just what is right for your Alpaca as soil and climatic conditions differ from place to place.

VACCINATIONS

Annually, adult Alpacas are vaccinated with Tas Vax (5 in 1) dose as instructions for sheep. Females should be vaccinated at joining and at 2 - 3 weeks prior to unpacking, with one booster in between. This vaccination protects the cria until approximately 8 - 10 weeks. Crias are first vaccinated at 8 weeks with a second shot 4 - 6 weeks later and thereafter every 12 months. In 1995/1996 we vaccinated with Tasvax at 6 monthly intervals but to date have had no reason to go back to that programme.

Tas Vax protects against Pulpy Kidney, Black Disease, Tetanus, Blackleg and Malignant Oedema. It is available from your vet or rural produce store, and directions for use are clearly marked. Please read these carefully.

DRENCHING FOR PARASITES

Presently we are reviewing our drench programme and any drenching is carried out only after taking faecal egg counts to assess whether the stock carry a worm burden. The faecal sample is dropped into the local vet and sent to a specialist lab. The results determine your drench regime. Drenching requirements may vary according to your area, so liaise with your local vet and work out your own programme. Your local ag dept is also equipped with worm test kits and these work extremely well.

At Coolawarra, we tended to alternate with Ivermectin/Cydectin or a new drench which has had excellent results call Zolvex, used with another broad spectrum in order to overcome the likelihood of drench resistance. Paddock rotation has been our most effective method of worm prevention. Weaners, just off their dams are highly susceptible and we recommended weighing weekly to ensure weight gain. Any weight loss may be worm related and will knock them over pretty quickly if not faecal tested and treated accordingly immediately.