



**Flagstaff Alpacas**  
136 Three Mile Hill Road  
RD1  
Dunedin 9076

Tel/Fax: 03-476 7415  
Free: 0800-722270  
Mobile: 0274-722270  
e-mail: andy@flagstaffalpacas.co.nz

## News Update from Flagstaff Alpacas - Spring 2012

Hello everyone. Complex long winter with few frosts - one very hard one - and now a very slow start to summer. The cool October has seen slow grass recovery! Plenty of news items so please read on - and we badly want your alpaca fleece!

**Shearing Options:** 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 early-November. Contact details: 03-231 3112, cell 0274-681903 e-mail: nigel.wood@agresearch.co.nz. A good chance to get your shearing done before Christmas!

**Bruce Woollen Mill** - we are really pleased the old 'QualityYarns' Mill, Milton, reopened in May and is again employing 20 staff. We have already processed 500kgs of alpaca fleece at the Mill. We believe these first yarns are superior under the new owners although we also thought the general quality of alpaca fleece from the 2011 shearing was the best for many years - *well done everyone!*

We are pleased to be part of the Bruce Woollen Mill syndicate but ask interested alpaca breeders wishing to process their fleece to contact Lui Gundersen, the Plant Manager, direct on 03-417 7244, e-mail: lui.gundersen@brucewoollenmill.co.nz . Note the Mill continues to prefer to process larger batches of fleece so if you wish to process less than 150kgs in one batch you will need to discuss your requirements with Lui. Or sell the fleece to us; details follow!

**Yarns** - we have expanded our yarn range over the last two years with 2-ply, Aran 10-ply and alpaca sock blends. The current batch being processed is a series of 'marl' yarns (twisting together plies/strands of different coloured fleece) using black, brown, fawn and white plies. 8-Ply (DK) is the main yarn in production so three strands in a variety of colours - check our website for details.

**Alpaca Stud Services:** Details of all our stud males are on our website and latest fleece details are updated there. We have included options on young stud males for sale that may suit your needs (EBay, Luke and Lexus). Lexus and Enrico will be at EXPO 2013. 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 boys. We offer heavily discount packages and leasing options as well. And visit us to check their cria - the real test of a male's quality!

**Vets:** Our vet 'Murrays Vets' has new facilities. The new offices, staff and a new vet add to the expanded practise so several good reasons to refer to 'Murrays Vets' if you do have a problem (tel: 03-489 5540). This winters and springs 2012 health concerns were coccidia and vitamin B deficiency - both easily addressed - more details on our 'Alpaca News' page.

**Farmstay/Motel Accommodation at the 'Paca Pad':** A quick mention of our Farmstay cabin/motel unit - it comfortably accommodates 5 people - 6 at a squeeze - 1 king, 1 double and 2 single bed - and a spare mattress and cot! If you have guests visiting Dunedin the 'Pad' does have near full facilities, heat pump and a heated large spa just outside. An accommodation option close to Dunedin.

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**Alpaca World Conference and EXPO 2013.** New Zealand hosts the World Alpaca Conference and EXPO at Claudelands, Hamilton, in mid-September 2013. We look forward to showing our alpacas, fleece, alpaca yarns, duvets and scarves on the 'world stage'.

**Craft Fairs:** We have plans to attend a number of craft fairs around Otago and Southland. Check our 'Diary' web page for other shows and events, and we hope you can support them too! The new Stadium Market at Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin is popular ... every week on a Sunday!

**Alpaca Travels and Delivery Service:** We will be doing more 'alpaca travels' with the '*Alpacamobile*' large red Transit van through New Zealand if you are looking to transport alpacas?

**Fleece Sorting and Purchasing:** We are buying WHITE and LIGHT FAWN fleece for 2012 yarn production (yarn quality 19-26 micron) and now ALL COLOURS in shorts/belly/neck/leg/blanket for our alpaca duvets. Sorting and skirting is critical and best way is as the alpaca is being shorn; Our advice is to have the rousy place the freshly shorn blanket on your wool table and immediately - and savagely - skirt, sort and remove any primary/ guard hair areas on your BLANKET before storing.

**Pricing** - including GST (Otago and Southland) for the 2012 shorn fleece:

**19-26 Micron White & Light Fawn Skirted Blanket** (minimum staple length 8 cms, maximum 17.5 cms): Cash: \$12/kilogram. Voucher: \$15/kilogram. Minimum is 10kgs - each blanket individually bagged. Please minimise or remove all obvious veggie and 'alpaca dung' matter! Thanks ...

**Shorts (15 to 40 micron - 20mm length minimum) White and Light Fawn in one fadge, all other colours combined in another fadge** - shorts, neck, belly, legs, blankets ... nearly everything!

**Cash: \$4/kilogram** (no 'headline price' and then you find other admin and transport costs are deducted!). **Voucher: \$6/kilogram.** Minimum is 20kgs (in one fadge please)! MINIMAL or no hairy pieces! If you have over 100kgs in one fadge we will organise and pay for fleece collection. We need scale efficiency for fleece collection; collection at Shows suits '*purrfectly*'.

**Alpaca Duvets/Quilts:** We have continued production of alpaca duvets/quilts now using a blend of white/light fleece blended with all the other colours of alpaca fleece so we can now use ALL alpaca for the duvet. Requirement this year from our partners is **15 tonnes of fleece** ... ouch!. The duvets are now in H&J Smith, Arthur Barnett and other Department Stores - **check our prices** first though!

**Alpaca Sales:** We have plenty of quality alpacas and alpaca packages for sale, from our own herd and on behalf of clients. We appreciate prices are deflated and our prices reflect that, but we still want their fleece! **We need more land to lease** for our fleece herd ... make contact if you are interested?

**Website Facilities:** Our website '**shopping cart**' feature allows secure orders and payment. We get the updates, secure payment facilities and support from '**The Logic Studio**', Dunedin. They run the AANZ Stud Alpaca Auction for the World and National Alpaca Conferences. Needing a new website or your own on-line sales facility? Give **Ian Simpson** a call: [ian@logicstudio.co.nz](mailto:ian@logicstudio.co.nz) or 03-470 1323.

**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!

*'We take our alpacas and their wonderful fleece very seriously ... come visit and see!'*

*Vicki Cullen and Andy Nailard*

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