

Camelids – part 4





THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

WARNING

This material has been reproduced and communicated to you by or on behalf of the University of Melbourne in accordance with section 113P of the Copyright Act 1968 (Act).

The material in this communication may be subject to copyright under the Act.

Any further reproduction or communication of this material by you may be the subject of copyright protection under the Act.

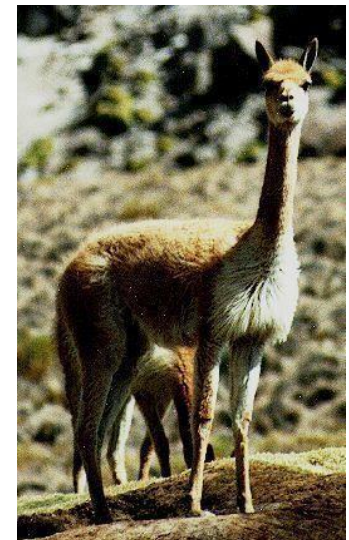
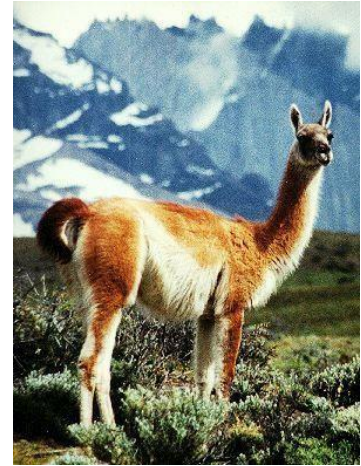
Do not remove this notice

What are camelids?

- Camels
 - *Camelus dromedarius* (single hump) - Dromedary
 - *Camelus bactrianus* (double hump) – Bactrian
 - Llamas (*Lama glama*)
 - Guanaco (*Lama guanacoe*)
 - Vicuna (*Vicugna vicugna*)
 - Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
- } South American

South American Camelids

- By far the most common SAC in Australia is the Alpaca
- The Vicuna and Guanaco are only present in zoos (in Australia) with the majority of the worldwide population of these animals still in South America (in the Andes – Bolivia, Chile, Peru etc)
- Only 350,000 Vicuna (as of 2018)
- Approx 1 million Guanaco



Llama

- Predominantly used as a pack animal in South America
- Also fibre production (poorer quality than alpaca)
- Guard animal (weigh up to 150kg)
- Meat
- In Australia, usually kept as pet or occasionally for home spinning fibre (jumper production)
- Small numbers

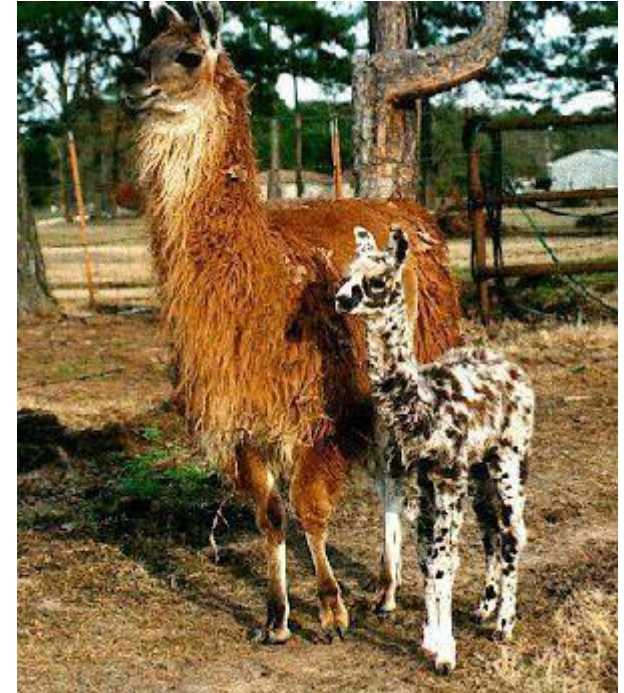


Image: Janice Murphy, Wamba Llamas,
Texarkana, TX

Alpaca

- South American Camelid
- Always domesticated
- Selected for quality of fleece
- Significantly smaller than the Llama, they weigh up to 70 kg (not much more than your average sheep)
- Live 15 to 20 years (longer than a sheep)
- Gestation length – 335 days (approximately)



Alpaca

- Height – about 1 metre at the shoulder
- Different stages of development:
 - Tuis (Adolescents)
 - Hembras (Adult Females)
 - Machos (Adult Males)
 - Crias (babies) hence the term Cri-ation (comes from the Spanish), alternatively un-packing (alpaca)
- Birth is usually rapid and in the morning (probably as a result of previous environment)



Source: Terang and Mortlake vet clinic

Different types of alpaca

- Huacaya
 - Most common in Australia
 - Soft, fluffy looking animal (fleece has similar growth pattern to a Merino)
 - Pronounced wua'ki'ya
- Suri
 - Less common
 - Fleece has growth pattern more like a Leicester Sheep (long, pencil like locks)
 - Pronounced soo'ree



Photo: Columbia Mist Alpacas



Photo: John Kok

Alpaca - Worldwide

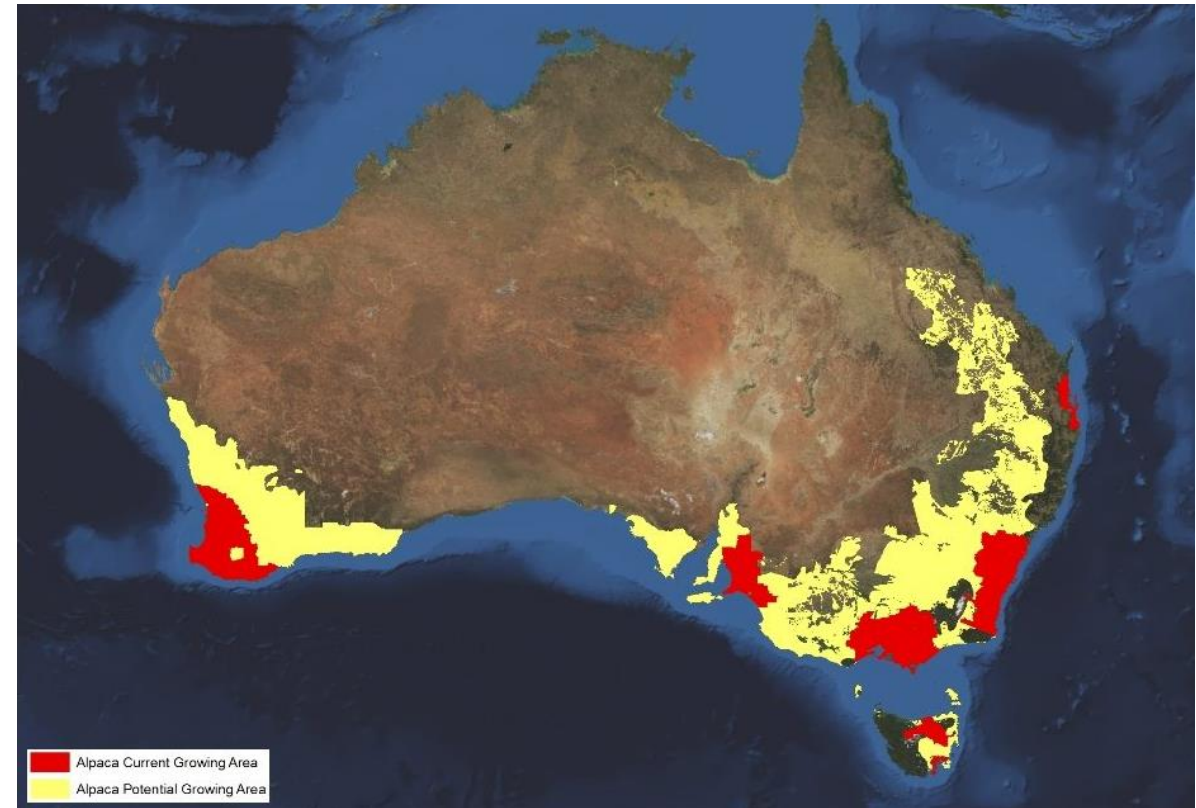
- Approx 3-4 million Worldwide
- 94% in Peru
- 80% Huacaya
- Export of fibre from Peru worth USD 147 million (2018)



Australian Alpaca industry

- Began in late 1980s with the import of animals from Chile
- In Australia, alpacas farmed mainly for fibre production, with small markets for meat and leather
- Alpacas thrive under similar conditions to merino sheep
- Alpacas considered 'green' as their soft feet cause minimal damage to fragile soils, they do not suffer from flystrike or require mulesing and have similar nutritional requirements to sheep

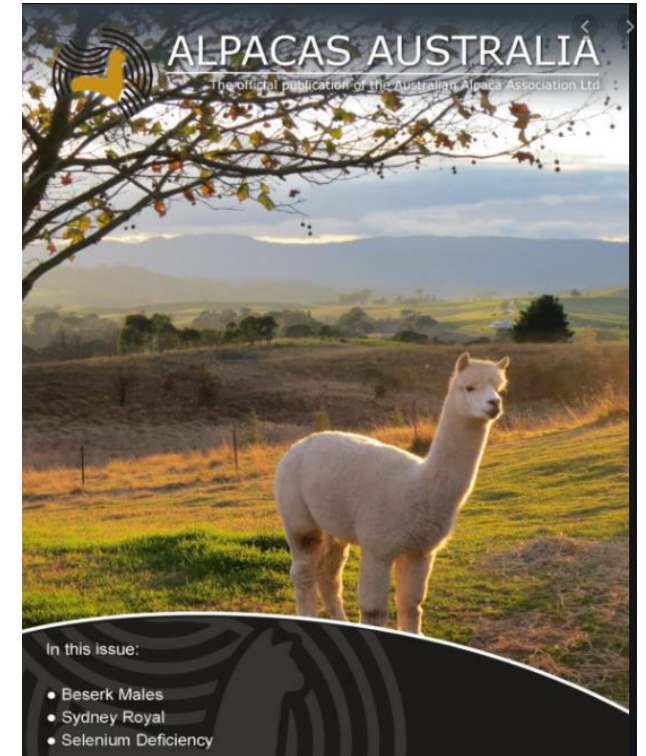
Current production and potential expansion





Australian Alpaca industry

- Speculative (still a growing industry)
- Still a relatively small industry (compared to sheep)
- Moderate risk
- In 2017, 2,300 registered breeders and 200,000 head
- Predicted to reach >1 million by 2021



www.alpaca.asn.au

What does an alpaca cost?

- Large variation in prices
 - Alpacas for sale listed on eAlpaca.com.au
- Males not wanted in the breeding process sometimes sold to sheep farmers to act as lamb protectors (against foxes and dogs) for as little as \$300
- Breeding females or males may command prices up to tens of thousand of dollars depending on their quality

TULAROSA BUCCANEER
HALF SHARE OFFERED IN THIS EXCEPTIONAL GREY SURI MALE



PRICE: \$9,000.00
IAR: 227078
Date of birth: 06/03/2016
Sex: Certified male
Type: Suri
Colour: Medium Grey

Brilliant show record as shown below, great stats persisting on his 3rd fleece, now working at Tularosa. Sired by the black import ILR SIERRA BONITA'S THE BACHELOR over CAMERA SHY, DAUGHTER OF IMPORTED GREY SURI, GRAY KNIGHT. He will bring density and character to the fleeces in your herd.

Alpaca fleece

- Australian Alpaca fleece Ltd
- Largest Aus alpaca fibre trader
- Fleece lots sold to processors in Aus, NZ and Incalpaca Peru



Fleece values

- Very difficult to find values cw sheep wool industry
- No prices published by AAFL

VALUATION OF GROWER FLEECE BY AAFL

To allot an overall fleece value the AAFL classer will decide which of four grades each submitted fleece fits into, based on the likely yields of at least five different grades of fibre including mixed grade clean pieces that will be separated during later detailed classing. These likely final yields have been determined from long experience. The four general grades used for Australian grower fleece valuation are:

X FINE	–	About two thirds of the fibre being less than 22 micron and very soft handle.
FINE	–	About half of the fibre being less than 22 micron.
MEDIUM	–	About half of the fibre being less than 25.5 micron.
ADULT	–	About two thirds of the fibre being between 25.5 and 32 micron.



Fleece values

- Private enterprise “Australian Alpaca Yarn” last updated their prices 2017

2017 prices

Current buying specifications & prices for WHITE and LIGHT FAWN fleeces are:

Micron	Comfort Factor	Price - If registered for GST	Price - If not registered for GST
Under 20	97+%	\$22.00	\$20.00
20 - 21.99	95+%	\$22.00	\$20.00
22 - 23.99	90+%	\$17.60	\$16.00
24 - 25.99	85+%	\$13.20	\$12.00
26 - 28	75+%	\$8.80	\$8.00

Current buying specifications & prices for COLOURED fleeces are:

Micron	Comfort Factor	Price - If registered for GST	Price - If not registered for GST
Under 20	97+%	\$11.00	\$10.00
20 - 21.99	95+%	\$11.00	\$10.00
22 - 23.99	90+%	\$8.80	\$8.00
24 - 25.99	85+%	\$6.60	\$6.00
26 - 28	75+%	\$4.40	\$4.00

<http://australionalpacayarn.com.au/fleece-prices/>

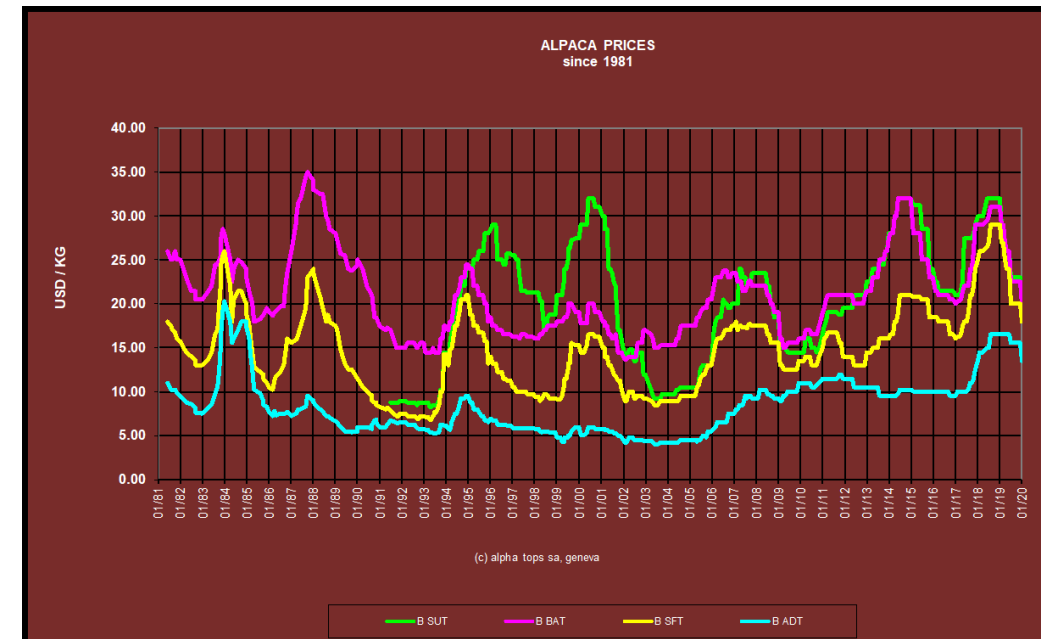
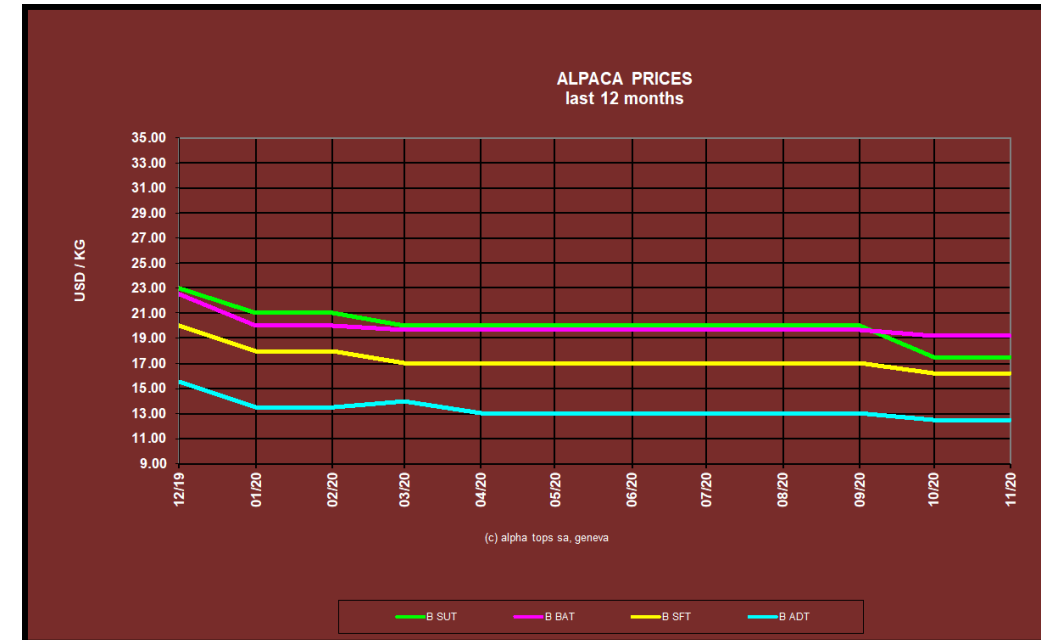
Fleece values - International

Prices paid by “Alphatops” – Geneva based textile company

Prices are in US\$/kg of **Tops**

Helpful interpretations (E&OE):


- B SUT – White Baby Suri Tops
- B BAT – White Baby Alpaca Tops
- B SFT – White Super Fine Tops
- B ADT – White Adult Tops



Meat production

- About 11,250,000 kgs of alpaca meat are produced in Peru annually (most is eaten on-farm rather than sold commercially)
- In Australia, meat production is currently small
- Alpaca meat has protein level of 21- 24%, low in cholesterol, 5.5-6.0%, and low in fat





Feature Restaurant

No one has been more of a flag bearer for Alpaca meat in Australia than Alejandro Saravia of Pastuso in Melbourne's CBD.

Alejandro brings his South American heritage to all aspects of his cooking. Having grown up with the strong flavours and variety of Peruvian cuisine, Alejandro finds inspiration in the fond memories of his grandmother's cooking to bring the essence of Peru to light through food.

[Check it Out](#)

So many ways to enjoy Alpaca.

Prime cuts are not the only way to enjoy the great taste of Alpaca. Prime Alpaca has developed a range of mince products like Kofta Sticks and hamburger patties that are lighting up pub menus around Australia as well as smallgoods, pate and even Asian steamed buns.



Pate



Salami



Jerky



Chorizo

<http://primealpaca.com.au/>



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

