

ALPACA SELECTION INDEXES

ALPACA indexes

An index can be used to assist breeders to select animals for their breeding objective and production system. An index is simply a summary of the performance of an animal for a number of traits in the breeder's objective.

Three standard ALPACA indexes have been developed:

Index	Description of the genetic direction of the index [#]
1. Fibre Plus (3.5%):	Increased fleece weight is the major direction while fibre diameter will be at least maintained at its current level.
2. Fibre Value (7%):	Equal emphasis on increasing fleece weight and reducing fibre diameter.
3. Fibre Quality (14%):	Reduced fibre diameter is the major direction while fleece weight will be at least maintained at its current level.

The **default index** used in reports will be the **Fibre Quality Index** unless breeders have specified one of the other indexes.

[#] Apart from fleece weight and fibre diameter, all indexes will at least maintain staple strength (through selection pressure on cv of diameter) and apply small upward pressure on body weight where weights are recorded.

Commercial ALPACA production (of the future)

Production levels assumed in the breeding objective				
200 breeding females (7 ages) + 50 adult wethers (3 ages)				
	Yearling	Hogget/Tui	Adult female	Adult wether
Fibre diameter (μ)	20	22	25	25
Fleece weight (kg)	2.0	2.7	3.0	3.5
Body weight (kg)	50	60	70	70
Sale value (\$)	90	-	90	50
Clean scoured yield 85% (Annual) Reproduction rate 70% (first parity 50%) Fibre values: Weight 1500 c/kg clean - adults Diameter (yearling fibre premium over adult fibre) Fibre Plus + 262 c/micron/kg clean Fibre Value + 525 c/micron/kg clean Fibre Quality + 1050 c/micron/kg clean				