

Alpaca Biosecurity – animal movements

Presented at the HBM regional meeting 7/2/10

New animals on the property

Animals can carry diseases and pests without necessarily showing signs straight away, so it is important to manage the introduction of new animals carefully to avoid transference to the rest of your stock. Manage agistment and returning stock in a similar fashion.

- *always request records of the stock's health status*
- buy stock from a trusted source and inspect them before you purchase
- be aware of cleaning and hygiene practices of transport provider
- inspect stock on arrival to make sure they are healthy and in the same condition as when you purchased
- isolate new stock for a period of 10 days to allow any signs of disease to emerge

Moving animals off the property

If your animals are showing signs of disease, don't spread it further.

- ensure animals are fit for travel before loading (*be aware of new alpaca transport regulations*)
- keep a record of where stock have been and where they went
- supply an NVD or stock health statement
- seek advice from your vet on the best way to confirm livestock health
- be aware of cleaning and hygiene practices of transport provider

Taking animals to shows/sales

Your stock can be exposed to disease by mixing with other animals or contact with pens, vehicles and equipment.

- only take healthy animals
- do not share equipment, and if you must, clean and disinfect prior to use
- if possible, feed and water your livestock separately
- ensure pens and housing areas are properly cleaned before allowing your stock to enter
- regularly inspect your stock for any signs of disease whilst at the show/sale
- be aware of cleaning and hygiene practices of transport provider
- seek advice from your vet on the best way to confirm livestock health
- isolate returning stock for 10 days to allow anything they may have picked up to show signs and avoid transference to your other stock

Fencing

Broken or missing fences can allow your stock to mix with neighbours' stock or wild animals, heightening the risks of disease transference.

- inspect all yard and perimeter fences regularly to ensure their integrity
- maintain buffer distances, and where possible use double fencing between neighbouring properties
- Work with your neighbours to solve any boundary fencing issues

Source: modified from Animal Health Australia product movement recommendation

<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/secure-your-farm/product-movement.cfm>

<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au>