

Rumpelstiltskin

Spinning suri fibre into gold

Newsletter September 2012

What is the Rumpelstiltskin Project?

Rumpelstiltskin is the name of the project developed to take the next step with processing suri fibre in New Zealand. It will take the valuable information learnt from the Surissimo fabric trial and produce a suri product from the commercial processing options available to us today.

Rumpelstiltskin is primarily Thistledown Suri Stud and Surico Alpaca, but will involve all suri breeders in New Zealand who want to take part by attending industry information days and by supplying fibre.

The first stage of the project is classing the NZ suri clip and securing the fibre that meets the specifications for the project. We will be purchasing suitable fibre for the project. There are classing and baling days planned for the North Island on 10th and 11th of November. A South Island day will follow on the 1st and 2nd of December.

The next stage will be processing, from scouring through to finished product. The completed product will be used for promoting suri and any profits will be used for continuing this research.

Finally, the Rumpelstiltskin Project will develop a preferential buyer model that breeders aspire to be producing for and can use as a marketing tool. All New Zealand suri growers will have the opportunity to be part of this to lead the industry forward.

Sustainable Farming Fund Grant

Rumpelstiltskin is very pleased to announce that we have received a small grant from the Sustainable Farming Fund to help with the project.

A big focus of the grant is to do with education and industry involvement, so the whole NZ suri industry will be getting the benefit of this.



email alpacas@surico.co.nz or thistledown@clear.net.nz



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Shearing season

With the next shearing season nearly upon us here are some quick tips to help you maximize the value of your fleeces...

Take your midside samples and get them tested before shearing. That way you know which fleeces you want to concentrate on and in what order.

Organise enough help on the day so you can concentrate on collecting, sorting and labeling your fleeces properly. If you are short on helpers make an agreement with another alpaca breeder close by to help you and in return help them with their shearing.



Sort your herd before shearing so you can shear the best quality first. This cuts down on contamination. For example shear all whites first, best to worst, clean shearing area thoroughly, then move onto fawns... If you are concentrating on black you might want to start with the best blacks first.

Clean as many contaminants out of the fleece before shearing as possible.

Make sure you have suitable bags to store each fleece in. We recommend paper bags with a large opening. These allow you to put the whole fleece into the bag without disturbing it too much – making it much easier to finish skirting and classing later.

Put the blanket in one bag and the neck in another. Keep separate and label with an ID of the animal, neck or blanket and the **date**. Legs and belly can be combined in a seconds bin.

Skirt as well as you can quickly on the floor before bagging. Remove any daggs or seconds.

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Store fleeces in a dry clean area until classing and baling.

After shearing have a think about what worked well and what you need to change for next year to make shearing even better. Write it down.

Classing and baling days

The first step in the Rumpelstiltskin Project is to source as much of the fibre required as we can from New Zealand growers and breeders. We thought that while looking for the right fibre for our project it is a great opportunity to pool suri fibre of all classes to help others get projects off the ground – hence NZ first Suri fibre classing and baling days.

North Island – 10th & 11th November, Rotorua.

South Island - 1 and 2 December, Canterbury.

The aim will be to class all fleeces and produce pooled bales of fibre in each class, along with giving you training and experience in classing your fleeces.

The weekend will be run in 4 sessions Saturday AM, Saturday PM, Sunday AM, & Sunday PM. You can attend the whole weekend if you like or just one session.

Each session will start with a simple introduction then we will start classing the individual fleeces. You can choose to take your fleece away with you or leave it with the pooled bale. The weight and class of any fibre you leave will be recorded for any future payments.

Pooled bales will be available for sale, or in some cases donated to start-up projects or enterprises. This will be a great way to encourage business start ups and future markets for our fibre.

If you have a project in mind, let us know and we can make sure the right class is included.

Contact us to express your interest in attending or what is involved with hosting a day at your farm.

email alpacas@surico.co.nz or thistledown@clear.net.nz



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Want to be involved?

The first step is to let us know! Email or phone us at...

Surico ph 07 3322 362 email alpacas@surico.co.nz

Thistledown ph 03 304 7448 email thistledown@clear.net.nz

You can also pass this newsletter on to friends and clients that you know have an interest in suri.

The next step is to sign up for the skirting baling day nearest you and bring along your suri fleeces.

We'll be keeping you all up to date with what is happening with the Rumpelstiltskin Project and hope that all New Zealand suri breeders will be able to use this project and information to help them promote suri and the NZ suri industry.

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