

## **YOUNG JUDGING COMPETITIONS - INFORMATION FOR REGIONS**

This information package is intended for use by Regional Show Convenors with the purpose of generating interest and enthusiasm for the concept of Young Judging to be run at AAA Ltd shows or appropriate agricultural shows on a national basis.

By organising Young Judging classes at AAA Ltd shows we will provide a way to encourage young people to become actively involved in the industry, with a view to start training young judges to develop skills in judging alpacas and fleeces. It will also lay the groundwork for their education about alpaca selection should they choose to become involved as future alpaca herd owners.

Regional committees who may be aware of particular areas of interest within their regions (such as Agricultural High Schools) may wish to make contact with interested groups and ascertain if there is sufficient support for possible training sessions to take place for alpaca Young judging activities, co-ordinated through the AAA Ltd Alpaca Youth Education Committee. An accredited AAA Ltd Judge would be available to conduct regional one day workshops to coach and encourage potential Young Judges.

The framework for progression of young adults who are interested in Young Judging competitions is as follows:

Level 1 – Regional Shows. Open to any entrant between 15 years and under 25 years.

Level 2 – Royal Shows (State) Open to those who have placed first or second in an Alpaca Young Judging Competition at one or more Regional Shows.

Level 3 – RSA National Competitions \*\*Winners from any State Royal Shows are invited to participate in the Young Judging Competition at the RSA National event in that same calendar year.

Level 4 – National Alpaca Show\*\* Qualified State representatives are invited to compete in the AAA National Show. Competitors are selected by a points-based qualification process.

Young Judging Competitions will not necessarily be offered at every show. Regions are encouraged to target particular shows within the Region as suitable for the conduct of Young Judging.

Show Committees or Convenors need to make the decisions to conduct Young Judging at any given show considering the time it takes to conduct the event. It is ideal for smaller shows where there is plenty of time, or for two day shows. One of the following alternatives can be considered:

1. alpaca halter competition
2. fleece competition
3. alpaca halter and fleece competition.

Depending on the number of contestants, the event will take a minimum of 30 minutes to run for 1 - 3 contestants and possibly an extra 3 - 5 minutes for each contestant thereafter, up to about 5 – 6 contestants in total. If there are more than 8 competitors, then two groups will be needed to inspect the alpacas, which adds a further 10 – 15 minutes for animal inspections plus oral reasoning time for each additional person.

\*\* Depending on individual contestant's circumstances, Regions may like to consider "sponsoring" or providing some form of financial support to assist regional finalists to travel and compete in capital city Royal Shows or the National if appropriate.