

YARINGA ALPACA MIX

Not all alpacas will need additional feeding. If you have plenty of good quality pasture available, you may not need to supplement.

“Yaringa” is a property where it is difficult to establish high quality pasture. Our rainfall is approximately 19 inches in a good year, and our soil is mainly sand. All our animals get free access to dry rolls of oaten hay all year round.

It is important to realize that where a young animal is thin, it will not grow out properly. This is why we place great importance on the feeding of our lactating females and our weaners. We are currently hard feeding all our lactating females, our weaners, the “run on” boys in our show team and a small group of dry (non-lactating) females who do not hold weight well.

We do not hard feed our stud males and the bulk of our dry females as they are doing well on oaten hay and will get too fat if we hard feed them. There are some months each year where these mobs get a small amount of Lucerne hay.

Our late pregnant females get Lucerne hay each day – we do not hard feed them until they have had their cria, as if they get too fat the birthing process will be harder for them.

If you have some animals which are very greedy it may work better to put out double quantity every second day to ensure everyone gets their share.

The most important thing is to ensure that you run your hands over your animals on a regular basis (say monthly) to feel their condition as their fleece will hide quite a lot. If your animals feel thin, they need more feed – if they feel really fat, they may need a little less feed. The “body score” chart put out by the AAA is very useful – aim to have your animals between “2” and “3” on this chart. This chart is found at:

www.alpaca.asn.au/docs/about/info/4bodycondition.pdf

Always remember, it is extremely important that you introduce new feed gradually, and mix grain well with chaff to avoid animals becoming sick.

BUCKET MIX

2 kg chaff (part Lucerne, part oaten)

1.5 kg whole oats

1.5 kg crushed lupins (or whole if your animals will eat them)

When feeding out crushed grain of any kind it is important to ensure it has been crushed recently as the longer it has been crushed for, the less food value it will have.

RATE FOR FEEDING OUT PER DAY

1 bucket per 5 lactating females

1 bucket per 10 “run-on” boys

1 bucket per 10-15 weaners – judge this by how quickly they eat this food.