

Exporting Alpaca from New Zealand

This is a timely update from the AANZ National Council to its members and the global alpaca community to dispel any misinformation currently circulating in relation to Alpaca Exports from New Zealand.

The AANZ, Export Working Group (EWG) and private individuals have all been working alongside our Government Department – the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), to enable the way forward for future exports from NZ. Our relationship with MPI is strong, and collectively we are making excellent progress towards resuming alpaca exports.

Recently a shipment of alpacas was exported from NZ to the UK. This is a first in post covid times. These alpacas travelled not on a freight plane but a passenger aircraft on a route which only required one stop (as opposed to three stops in previous freight type exports). This significantly shortens the time the animals are in their travel crate. NZ's most experienced air freight livestock forwarders were used and have transported many types of livestock including many alpaca for more than 35 years. They have done so without incident. Animal welfare is a priority for the AANZ, this export company and MPI.

Livestock cannot travel without contingencies in place for aircraft problems which includes on call vets should they be required.

We are one of a handful of countries who are allowed to export directly into many foreign countries because of our disease-free status. This is why MPI are adamant and focused on protecting this status as this affects many exports from NZ, not just alpacas.

Most countries have Q Fever the other zoonotic disease which are able to transmit to humans and other species. NZ does not have Q fever and wish to keep it this way.

This is what makes New Zealand a desirable location from which other countries want to import the wealth of international genetics we have available. We need to jealously guard that biosecurity reputation too.

With New Zealand being in this strong position and with our strict biosecurity program, it gives us the ability to run a cost effective 42-day quarantine.

Freight is still our biggest hurdle. We are continuing to explore options around smaller but more frequent shipments as we think this is more suitable to our NZ alpaca industry and our customer requirements.

The NZ Alpaca industry is committed to keeping our export corridors open, and continually building relationships both with MPI and their foreign counterparts.

Imports of Alpaca into New Zealand

A different arm of MPI deal with imports into New Zealand, and the AANZ were invited to provide a submission and were involved in consultations around imports from Australia.

Unfortunately, Australia have not identified or developed a reliable Q-Fever test yet and until MPI have confidence in such testing, they will not be prepared to put the rest of the New Zealand biosecurity at risk by opening the borders to the import of Alpaca from Australia.