

National Fleece Photographic Identification Project.

I am writing to you on behalf of the AAA's Alpaca Fibre Development Group. One of the initiatives we are undertaking is the development of a "Fleece Atlas".

The atlas will contain photos of many different styles of fleece on different animals and a photo of the staple. The group, with industry consultation, will then identify which styles are most suited to specific applications within the fibre industry.

The aim of this atlas is to provide the breeder with a useful tool when assessing fleece types, either prior to purchase, or when making breeding decisions. It is not the aim of the Group or the Atlas to tell breeders what to breed but rather provide a tool to help identify the uses and the Group's opinion of grading for a particular fleece style. It is the Group's objective to develop some positive feeling towards the fleece industry by getting breeders involved in understanding the uses to which different fleece styles could be directed.

We would like the regional committees across Australia to email their members to see who would like to be involved in this project. We would like interested breeders to send us digital photographs of all types of fleeces.

At this stage a digital photograph (~1000 x 1000 pixels) of the fleece on the animal and then a photograph of the fleece staple are required. We would appreciate a light coloured type staple seen against a black background, or a dark coloured staple against a light background.

It would also be useful, in building the Atlas, if breeders could send to us a staple of the fleece they photographed.

This atlas will be a 'living document' that will evolve over time. We are sure it will be both a valuable educational tool and a breeding tool for the industry.

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