

Goldyn Rae Alpacas

Elizabeth, CO

Choose your view.

SURI ALPACA TYPE

Ideal Alpaca = Best “Show Type” = Best “Fiber Type” = Correct Conformation = Strong Heritable Traits = Healthy Offspring = Abundant Fiber = **Best Cash and Breeding Value**

Heritability

Heritability is the strength of an alpaca’s genetic makeup as expressed in its physical appearance and offspring. **Genotype** refers to highly heritable genetic traits, where **Phenotype** refers to an expression of genetics in the form of physical appearance. The best heritability traits include:

- Fiber diameter
- Medullation (guard hair)
- Standard deviation
- Fleece weight
- Staple length

✓ **Select and Breed for Traits with...**

High Heritability Values!

Continuum of Improvement

Don’t settle for a **Continuum of Compromise** but strive to create a **Continuum of Improvement!** Identify traits with high heritability factors that will improve the genetic quality of your herd. Remember, the goal is to produce commercially valuable fiber.

The best determinants of fiber quality include:

- Fineness (diameter or micron count) \$\$\$
- Staple length
- Tensile strength
- Cleanliness
- Color and uniformity
- Absence of coarse guard hair

\$\$\$ Best Cash Value Characteristic!



UNIMPROVED

Asymmetrical, long or hooked ears
Chalky and lackluster fleece
Lack of organized locks
Lack of color uniformity
Lack of fiber fineness
High micron (large percent over 30)
Shear 2-3 pounds of fleece annually
May lack good conformation

IMPROVED

Full top knot and coverage to legs
More luster but lacks high gloss
More lock definition but lacks tight locks
Softer, more uniform fleece
Less guard hair than unimproved
Good balance, bone, and movement
Shear 4-6 pounds of fleece annually
Exhibits correct conformation

IDEAL

Perfect head
High luster
Solid, independent locks
Uniform fleece
Fine fleece
Dense fleece
Shear over 8 pounds fleece annually
Outstanding conformation

Source: Jude Anderson, Cheryl Gehly, Michael Safley, Amanda VandenBosch; *The Art & Science of Alpaca Judging*, 2012