



8.1 Education and Judge Training Policy

This chair exists within the BAS to facilitate the education and training of members by organising courses for all aspects of the industry.

To date the main priority has been organising training courses to provide the BAS with its own certified show judges. In the future we hope to expand on the courses offered to cover other subjects – such as husbandry courses and fleece workshops, with the aim of generally raising the level of expertise within the membership.

Judge Training Courses

These are in three stages as follows:

Foundation Alpaca Assessment Course (formerly Level 1)

This is held over two days and aims to provide a good grounding in the evaluation of alpacas. Irrespective of whether you wish to undertake judging yourself it provides a good grounding in the assessment of alpacas. It covers such areas as:

- Basic alpaca anatomy, conformation balance and movement (theory and practical)
- Fleece characteristics (identifying positive and negative traits), show preparation
- Organising an alpaca show
- Practice judging fleeces and groups of alpacas
- Hands on alpacas and identification of positive and negative traits.

Once the Foundation Course is completed then **Level 2** can be taken. This is a more concentrated course, again run over two days but with more emphasis on the judging and placement of groups of animals.

If a satisfactory pass level is achieved in Level 2 the final **Level 3** can be taken. This again is a two-day course with those achieving the required standard becoming a certified BAS judge.

General and Husbandry Courses

Some members have no desire to attend a judge training course but want to expand their general husbandry knowledge or gain experience in a particular field such as vaccinating, worming, shearing or halter training. With this in mind members organise workshops in various parts of the country, often through the regional groups, to focus on a particular subject. The BAS is fully supportive of these local initiatives and is pleased to assist in sourcing experts to teach particular skills.

The BAS encourages the formation of regional self-help groups where people in any given area get together to share knowledge, expertise and possibly organise events and shows within their own locale. The resources and contacts of the Education Committee are available to such groups and it will try to accommodate any requests for expertise to attend, husbandry courses, fleece workshops, shows, etc.

As BAS is currently training people who want to become show judges, it always has a need for them to increase their expertise and gain first-hand experience. Should you be thinking of organising your own regional or inter-farm show with your regional group and want the services of an independent certified BAS judge, please contact the Office.