

ALPACA FIBRE: BASIC FARM SORTER AND CLASSER PROGRAMME

This project is a joint effort between
ALPACA ONTARIO
and
HALIBURTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
FLEMING COLLEGE

Course Description –

Alpaca Fibre: Basic Farm Sorting – Part 1

Pre-requisite to Alpaca Fibre: Classer Certification - Part 2

The success of the alpaca fibre industry relies on quality fibre preparation at shearing time. Fibre preparation is as essential to adding value to your product as is the shearing. Participants will develop a good understanding of the basic principles of proper skirting and sorting techniques, as well as a basic understanding of grading and processing essentials. This information will help guide the alpaca farmers as they value-add to their raw fibre for better profitability.

Certification: Participants will receive a certificate of participation issued by Haliburton School of the Arts. This is simply a certificate stating that the holder has participated in the two day workshop. The **Custom Farm Sorter Certificate** is available as an option* for candidates selecting to have their skills evaluated. To obtain this certificate, participants will submit 5 skirted fleeces for evaluation by a qualified classer. The two-day Basic Farm Sorting course is a pre-requisite for participation in the Classer Certification course.

Alpaca Fibre: Classer Certification - Part 2

A classer certification course will follow for those participants wishing to pursue their skill development. The course consists of a four-day in-depth program, including review of sorting practices, grading skill development, properties of alpaca fibre, appropriate blends, best end uses, batching fleeces for most profitable gains, and much more. Candidates may wish to improve their skills by participating in the four-day course which culminates in a written evaluation or may opt to participate in the Apprenticeship Programme for full Classer Certification.

Apprenticeship Program (optional*): For Classer Certification, candidates will skirt and sort a minimum 200 huacaya fleeces and 25 suri fleeces over the course of 2 years. Evaluations: 1) the candidate will submit 25 samples taken from huacaya fleeces and 5 from suri alpacas evaluated for prescribed characteristics; 2) the candidate will participate in 40 hours of grading and classing under the supervision of a qualified classer.

*Optional evaluations and apprenticeship portions are subject to an additional fee.

*This programme has been developed by the **Fibre Initiative Committee of Alpaca Ontario**, in cooperation with **Haliburton School of the Arts**, with the assistance and under the supervision of **Cathy Merkley, Certified Classer and AOBA Judge**.*