



ILR-SD Fleece Committee Statement re: Annualized Weight

The ILR-SD Fleece Committee made the decision to base the scoring system for llama fleece judging upon commercial standards, rather than those for hand spinners and crafters in the hobby market. While the ILR-SD Fleece committee wishes to be responsive to the membership, we strongly feel the current scoring system needs to stand as presented in the ILR-SD Guidebook and current scoring cards/system.

After careful review of the literature for llama, alpaca, and mohair producing goats related to breed specific fleece evaluation and judging, as well as literature from the textile industry, the fleece ILR-SD committee continues to support the concept of annualized fleece weight as an important area of evaluation in judging shorn llama fleece. With a potential score of 10 (10%) out of 100 points, annualized weight stresses the importance of production of fleece by the llama. This standard is well within the standards set by other breeds for fleece judging.

Additionally, while production is of very great importance in terms of valuing the fleece, fineness, hand, and luster are of greater commercial importance and will continue to be tie breakers. Annualized weight will be recommended as the tie breaker, but as a fourth option. The fleece committee recognizes that geographic location may potentially affect fleece weight, as will diet, reproductive history, stress, age at shearing time, health, etc. However, these same factors will also affect other fleece characteristics.

The ILR-SD Fleece committee appreciates input from exhibitors and llama owners related to annualized weight. The input related to annualized weight has emphasized to the fleece committee the need to continue educational efforts for the llama community at large.