

# Alpacas vs Traditional Livestock

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Alpacas are the ideal livestock of choice for thousands of lifestyle-blocks, small farmers and commercial farms around New Zealand. If you thinking of having alpacas on your land have a look at the advantages alpacas have over other traditional livestock:



## Alpacas vs Sheep:

- Do not get footrot
- Do not get flystrike
- Do not need crutching/dagging
- Do not damage the ground with hooves
- Do not push through fences

## Alpacas are:

- Easy to herd from place to place - do not require herding dogs or lots of helpers. They can be guided by a length of rope/tape if necessary
- Easy on fences – no special fencing is required
- Easy care – require little in the way of basic maintenance
- Easy on the ground with soft padded feet

## Alpacas vs Cattle

- Do not require expensive yards/restraints
- Do not require large amounts of supplementary feed in winter
- Do not pug paddocks in winter with sharp hooves and excessive weight
- Do not require gallons of drinking water in Summer (alpacas drink very little)
- Do not require lush pasture and high protein foods
- Do not need electric fences to keep them confined
- Do not get bloat

## Alpacas are:

- Small enough to be handled easily - even by young or small people
- Able to thrive on poor quality pasture
- Not daunting for children and visitors
- Easy to transport

## Alpacas vs Goats

- Don't poo everywhere thus spreading worms in the pasture
- Don't require high health care maintenance to keep them free of parasites
- Are not prone to hypothermia
- Do not require shelters

## Alpacas are:

- Not escape artists – they don't challenge barriers or climb over fences
- Easy to herd – usually coming when called
- Toilet trained – they use communal poo piles keeping pasture clean
- Not smelly!

## Alpacas vs Horses & Ponies

- Don't need an expensive farrier to shoe or trim hooves every 6 weeks
- Don't require expensive specialist tack
- Don't require riding expertise
- Don't chew or lean on fences
- Don't require large amounts of expensive supplementary feed in winter

## Alpacas are:

- Light and gentle on pasture
- Easy to halter-train and lead
- Submissive by nature

## Alpacas vs Crops, Grapes, Olives etc

- Don't require specialist knowledge
- Don't require large areas of land to be productive
- Don't require a huge time commitment to keep them healthy
- Don't have a limited time frame in which to harvest (shear)
- Are unlikely to be affected by adverse weather conditions

## Alpacas are:

- Unaffected by birds and plant pests
- Can thrive on a huge range of forage types
- Not subject to a critical time range for shearing
- Are easy care and low maintenance
- Require a small time commitment to keep them healthy and well fed.