



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

In this issue:

- Biosecurity
- Ag Bags
- Show Season Cancelled
- Fleece Processing
- Soil Moisture
- Alpaca Product
- Alpaca Games

Welcome to the VER e-Newsletter

Newsletters can be a great way to stay in touch by letting others know what you are doing during this times of physical distancing. We would love to hear from you with anything you would like to share -photos, stories, marketing your product or service, anything at all that is alpaca related in the Victorian Eastern Region.

2019/2020 Alpaca of the Year results to be announced shortly. Stay Tuned!



Create your own biosecurity kit

Farm Biosecurity

The Farm Biosecurity awareness campaign is a joint initiative of Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia .

Their goal is to help producers reduce the risks posed by diseases, pests and weeds to their crops and livestock. This site provides information about on-farm biosecurity measures, which help prevent both endemic and exotic diseases, pests and weeds from entering and becoming established on farms. It encourages producers to identify risks to their livestock, crops and plant products, and to minimise those risks through good practices.

Producers are encouraged to check their properties regularly and, if they see anything unusual, to call the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

On the Alpaca Farm Biosecurity page you will find the tools to implement the simple, everyday biosecurity practices to protect the health of your livestock, limit production losses and help maintain market access for Australia's alpaca producers.

Click here for link to [Farm Biosecurity](#)

Farm Biosecurity - www.farmbiosecurity.com.au

June, 2020



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

Do you have lots of alpaca feed bags stored in your shed?

AG BAGS is a project in response to the drought crisis affecting rural communities.

We are a voluntary group raising funds by making and selling shopping bags from donated feed sacks. The group has quickly grown into something very unique. Not just helping farmers, but helping the environment and celebrating the community of generosity between us.

The project is authorised to collect donations on behalf of Drought Angels, a charitable organisation providing support where needed.

So if you have bags to donate please contact Flora

Mobile: 0411 821 474

Email: bradleyflora26@gmail.com



Ag Bags:- to donate contact Flora on

0411 821 474 or bradleyflora26@gmail.com

VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

All ALACA SHOWS to be cancelled for the remainder of 2020

The AAA have recently announced that the National Alpaca Show scheduled in August has been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

In addition all independent alpaca shows in 2020 have also been cancelled. Agricultural Shows are exempt, if they choose to run.

Should the government policy change significantly, exemptions may be granted to shows later in the year.



However do keep an eye out for details on a “mega” fleece show to be held towards the end of the year.



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

Fleece production process:-

There are several steps involved to take shorn alpaca fibre in its raw form to transform it into finished product of purchasable and useable alpaca fleece.

1. CLASSING

Alpaca fibre needs to be sorted to meet the needs of its processors (classed). The main properties processors assess on are fibre diameter (micron), length and colour.

2. SCOURING

All natural fibres need to be scoured (washed). This removes dirt and grease from the fleeces. Alpaca fibre has a low grease content and will yield around 90% of its initial fleece weight after scouring.

3. CARDING

Once alpaca fleece is scoured, the individual fibres need to be aligned; this is known as carding. This process will also remove some of the unwanted vegetable matter.

4. TOP MAKING

The fibres go through a finishing alignment called gilling before being combed into a product known as 'top'. This top has the appearance of a loose rope without the twist.

5. SPINNING INTO YARN

Tops are fed into spinning machines to make yarn for knitting or weaving. This is the last process in the chain before the fabric is manufactured.

6. DYEING

An advantage of alpaca fibre is that the lighter colours are easily dyed to suit contemporary fashion. The natural colours of alpaca are manufactured directly into end products.



There are a number of businesses around Australia that buy and process alpaca fleece.

The VER website lists the fleece processes, fleece sellers, fleece buyers and fleece processors.

Go to

*[“Fleece production and processors”](#)
[section under Alpaca Resources.](#)*

*Photo courtesy
Fibre Naturally*



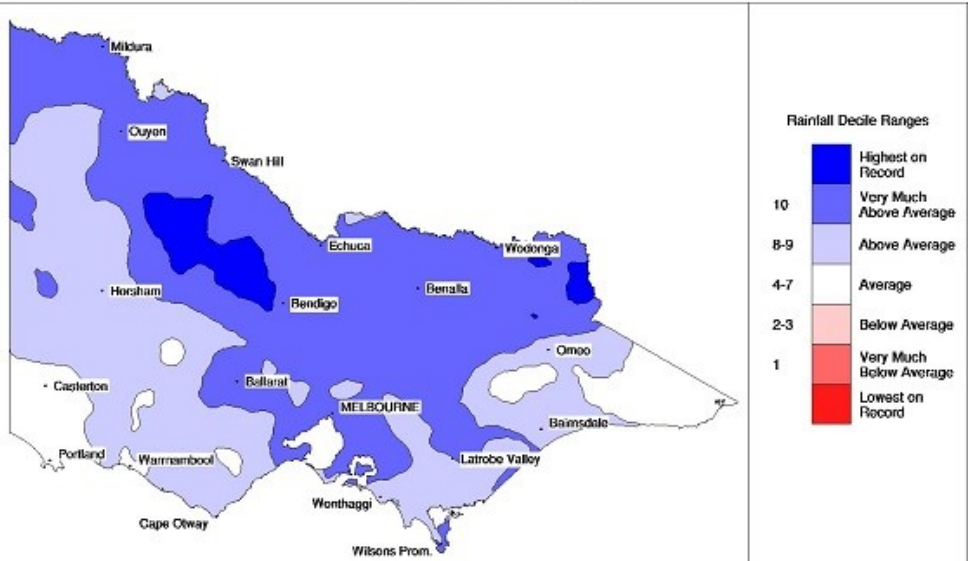
VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

SOIL MOISTURE

Soil moisture data from across the state has been summarised and is available from Agricultural Victoria. Eastern Victoria had a tremendous autumn break. For a closer look at how the rains impacted your place, click here [Agricultural Victoria Soil Moisture](#)

Victorian Rainfall Deciles April 2020
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Pacca Product Promotion

Alpaca product available in the Victorian Eastern Region:

Auravale Alpacas - providing luxurious, reversible pure Australian alpaca blankets made by the finest Italian craftsmen.

Annkea Alpacas - participate in a Premium collection of Alpaca fibre providing a range of luxuriously soft and dye free Knitwear in nature's timeless colours.

For further information on these products and more,

visit the [VER Regional Website](#)



Annkea
Alpaca
Knitwear



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

Pacca Product Promotion, cont'd

Joma Alpacas - have had a small on farm shop for several years, we were often at local markets.

We have a small selection of pashminas, scarves, gloves, bed throws & beanies.

All products will be discounted, as time has come to call it a day, our property is now on the market.

For further information on these products and more, visit the [VER Regional Website](#)

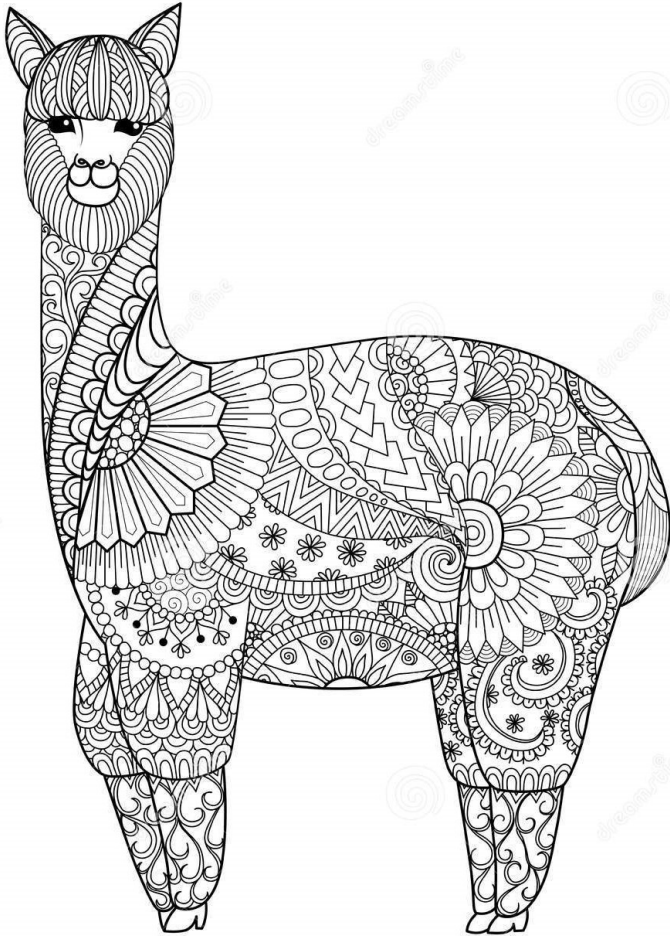




VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

Thanks Lalirra Alpacas for some great ideas on things to include in the games section of our eNewsletter.



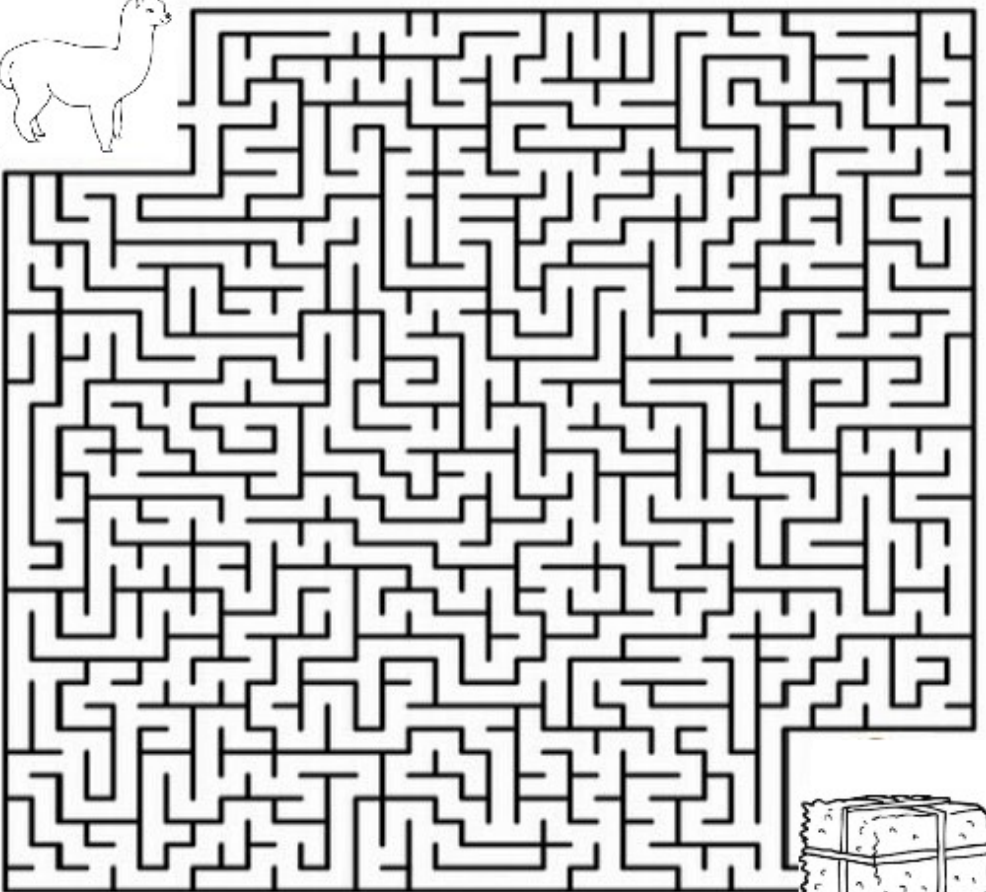
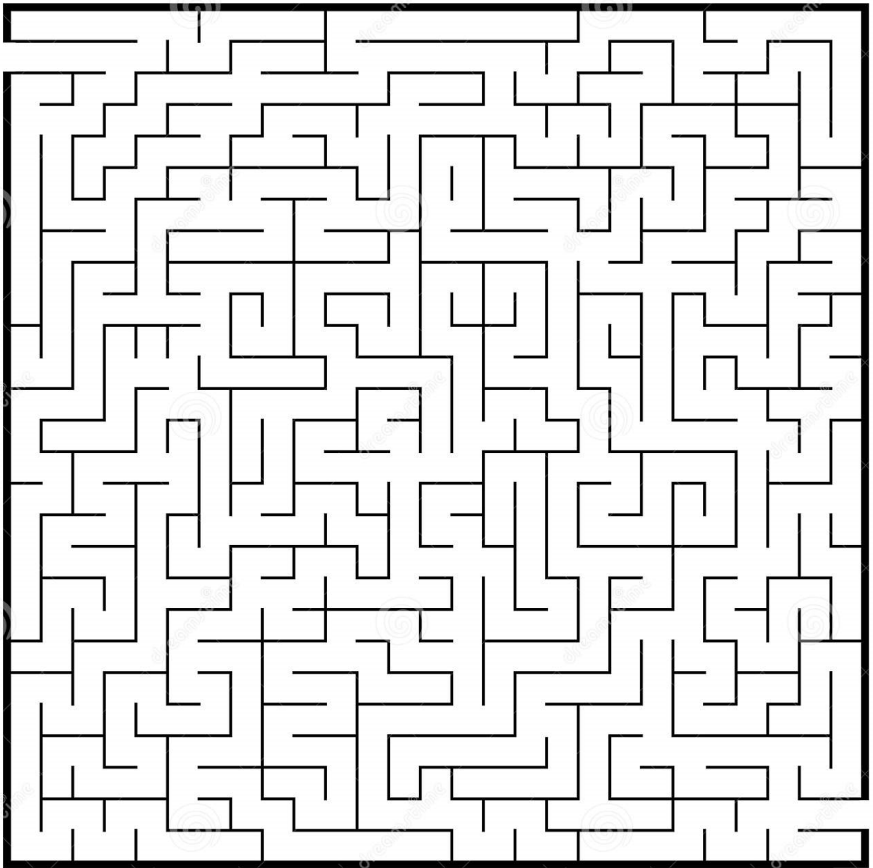
May 10th, 2020



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter



Please send any proposed content to Lynda Holdsworth via the VER Secretary or directly to queries@auravalealpacos.com.au