



YAK RAW FIBER EVALUATION (2017)

Evaluation scoring of individual yak's fiber is based on fleece characteristics present in the sample provided. Characteristics are expected to meet a level of standard to ensure quality fleece production for utilization. Fiber should include any harvested fiber which may include outer coat, mid coat and down. Fiber samples should include combing from the shoulder, mid-side and the rump. The sample should be an amount that fits in a quart size ziplock style bag and should be accompanied by entry tag showing farm name, animal ID#, birthdate of yak, year of fiber collection and payment of \$10.00 per animal payable to IYAK.

Fleece is evaluated on Fiber Diameter (fineness)/Trueness to Breed, Fiber Length, Fleece Uniformity, Fiber Differentiation and Style/Crimp. Total evaluation points available are 100. The higher the points earned, the more desirable the fiber harvest.

I. DIAMETER (Fineness)/Trueness to Breed (25 points)

A. Evaluation criteria is based on the fineness of the Down Fibers and Trueness to Breed for other fiber types.

1. Down fiber should be fine with an AFD (average fiber diameter) of less than 18 microns
2. Mid Type Guard Hair should exhibit noticeable difference from the down fiber and be of an AFD greater than 18 micron
3. Outer Coat is the most coarse and should be easily distinguished from Mid Type Guard Hair with an AFD greater than 50 micron

II. LENGTH (15 points)

A. Evaluation criteria is based on uniformity of length within each fiber type.

1. Down is measured in relaxed state and should be no less than 1 1/2 inches
2. Mid Type Guard Hair should be no less than 2 1/2 inches in length
3. Coarse Outer Coat should measure 5 inches or more

III. UNIFORMITY (20 points)

A. Evaluation criteria is based on the uniformity of the fiber presented in the sample.

1. Down fiber diameter should exhibit minimal variation in a given sampling and be consistent within the sample presented. The more uniform the down harvested from the animal, the more valuable the harvest.

IV. DIFFERENTIATION (25 points)

A. Evaluation is based upon ease in distinguishing fiber types as they relate to Trueness of Breed.

1. Mid Type and Coarse Guard Hair should be easily differentiated from down fibers.

V. STYLE (CRIMP) (15 points)

A. Evaluation is based on extent of the crimping throughout the down with higher value being given to fibers expressing staple formation and strong definition.

1. Individual fibers should exhibit noticeable crimp or curvature.