



Where trust and quality make a difference

The DOUBLE GOOD Digest

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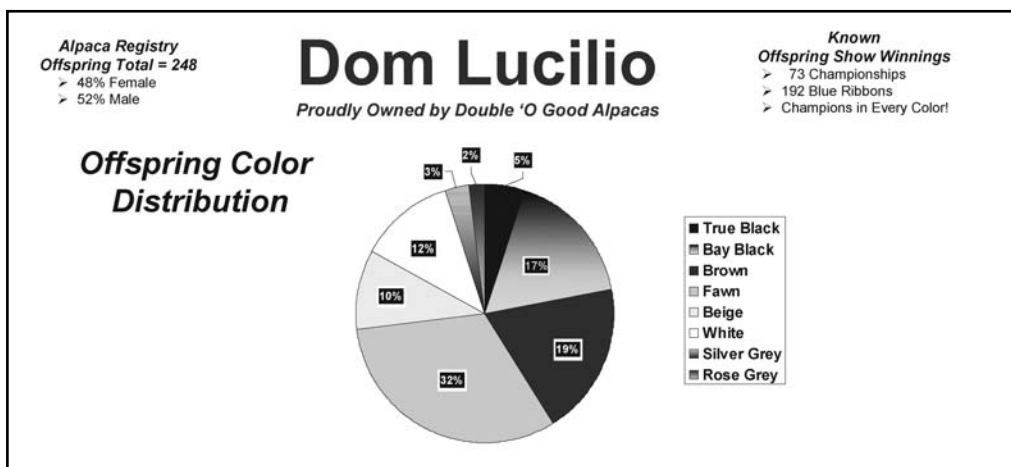
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Taking the Guesswork Out of Breeding Decisions

When an alpaca sire and dam breed, they not only pass along the genetics within their bloodlines, they pass along the breeding decision you made some 335 days earlier. Making good breeding decisions can be challenging. Let's say you want to hold fiber density or fineness, get a colored cria, increase your chances of having offspring that will do well in the show ring, pass along that good temperament, and produce generation after generation of quality production stock that sell easily and help return your investment. For discerning breeders, that can mean seeking out well-known herdsires or specific bloodlines. It can also mean hours of research to determine which herdsire might be the perfect match for your female to give you the offspring characteristics you seek. Even then, how much is reliably predictable and how much is an educated guess?

At Double "O" Good Alpacas, we have found a way to take some of the guesswork out of breeding decisions. For each of the studs in our Herdsire Hall of Fame, we have compiled comprehensive statistics from ARI, the Internet, and the owners of our herdsire's offspring. In addition to total registered offspring for each herdsire, we have tracked offspring color distribution and known offspring show winnings. Using statistics compiled from the Alpaca Registry database, we have charted offspring breeding outcomes when these males are bred to each of eight colors of dams.

With this information, we can help you select the best herdsire for your breedings. For instance, to date Dom Lucilio has sired 248 registered offspring, 73 of which were



Champions in all six solid color groups. Of the known show winners in his lineage, 192 were blue ribbon winners! When this fawn herdsire has been bred to bay black females, 75% of his cria have been bay black. When bred to rose grey females, 67% of the cria have been rose grey. So if you have a gorgeous rose grey foundation female and want a rose grey cria of show quality, Dom Lucilio's color outcome and known show record for halter and fiber make the offspring prediction clearer and your breeding selection based on fact, not guesswork.

It is worth your effort to track the offspring of your own herdsires. Ask your customers to inform you of winnings, and, if possible, of breeding outcomes for color and fiber characteristics. Many ribbon winners fade into the background without ever being counted. The more you know about the predictable outcomes and performance of your herdsire's

offspring, the easier it is to market his breeding services and sell his sons and daughters.

Making good breeding decisions is a cornerstone of your breeding program. Experience has taught us the long-term value of making those decisions with as much information and as little guesswork as possible. We are willing and eager to pass that knowledge on to you.

We always recommend to our prospects and customers that you buy the best quality animals and breed to the best herdsires you can. Diligent research is the first step in getting the best from outside breedings. By compiling statistics like these, we have already done the research legwork for you. Ask us for complete charts on any of our Hall of Fame herdsires. You'll soon realize the guesswork is gone and you can confidently let our breeding program give you the Breeders Edge.

To get your complete full-color Offspring Predictor Chart for Dom Lucilio, Royal Fawn, or any other of our Hall of Fame Herdsires, call the Double "O" Good Alpaca Farm office at 1-888-257-7792 today!

For more information on alpacas for sale, herd sires, and farm events please call us at 1-888-257-7792, email us at doubleopaca@erols.com, or visit our website at www.doubleogood.com.



ELK Titan's Clash
American Revolution

Happy is what we are about five of our herdsires being nominated for The Futurity Show to be held in April of 2008! The Double "O" Good Herdsire Hall of Fame males in the running for this prestigious event are Dom Lucilio, PPPeruvian Royal Fawn (co-owned with Maple Brook Alpacas), HDF Prince Phillip, ELK Hercules, and Snowmass Invincible (co-owned with Alpacas of Brookhollow Farm).

There's immeasurable satisfaction is seeing the first crias out of a male you knew had incredible herdsire potential. Titan's Clash now has babies on the ground, including this gorgeous daughter. Barbara says her fiber is so bright, you need sunglasses! Son of the famed Titan, this herdsire has proven that the proof is in the progeny. Come see for yourself!

THANK YOU to all bidders, buyers and consignors who attended our Fall Breeders Edge® Auction on September 21 and 22. It was a harvest of quality all around!

We are now live on Alpaca Nation! Check us out at www.alpacanation.com, then visit our farm website at www.doubleogood.com.



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*Want to take the guesswork
out of your breeding program?*

In this column, we share valuable tips to improve your knowledge about being an alpaca breeder and to clue you into some of the lessons we've learned since we began Double "O" Good Alpacas in 1993. Says Barbara, "Through my experience I have found an animal's worth is not determined solely by their show wins. We know of a beautiful male that championed the first time he showed, but unfortunately was infertile. None of his show quality characteristics could be passed on to offspring. So what determines a true Champion? I am a firm believer that, generally speaking, true Champions are determined by the quality and consistency of their progeny."

Offspring Predictor Charts, such as those we now provide for the herdsires in our Herdsire Hall of Fame, are one predictable indicator of show quality, color, and consistency in the progeny of our herdsires. Developing a tracking system such as this for your animals can help you breed for your next true Champion.

Ernie and Barbara

