

Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition

It was such a treat to be able to judge the 2017 Canadian National Cashmere Fleece competition. Thank you so much for this privilege and to Heidi Krause and Lori Giesbrecht for their efforts to make this happen.

It has been a few years since I've had the opportunity to look at these fleeces, and I am very, very impressed with what the breeders have accomplished over this time. There were so many fleeces that would have once been considered the "dream" fleece. They have it all; fineness, length, volume, and crimp from end to end. Fleece after fleece I looked at, and either gasped or giggled with delight. It was astounding.

It also made it so very difficult to judge. The bar is really high now, and there are so many top fleeces in both young and older animals. These fleeces were all winners.....choosing one over the other was a daunting task. Coming from a breeding background, I tend to focus on fineness, length, style and down weight. That is a lot to breed for and continually improve on, but again, you guys have done it.

Differentiation was not a real issue with any of these fleeces, as the down was so fine. Some of the kid fleeces were not quite as strongly differentiated from the guard hair, but that will change on their second fleece as the guard hair coarsens.

Thank you to Heidi Krause for her help with organizing the fleeces and scribing for me. I tried to give some comments that might be helpful for each fleece, since I understand and respect the effort you have all gone to to submit your fleeces in support of this event. I hope my comments are of some use, and only wish I could have said more.

I wish you all continued success, and thank you again for the opportunity to handle the "best of the best"

Kind regards,
Diane Thompson
at Riversong