



Alpacas are induced ovulators, meaning that ovulation is triggered by copulation. After mating has occurred, ovulation typically occurs 24-30 hours later. Progesterone levels begin to rise after ovulation in both pregnant and non-pregnant females, with the first significant increase of progesterone typically occurring on Day 4. Progesterone will continue to increase in pregnant and non-pregnant females until Day 7. On Day 8 progesterone levels in non-pregnant females will begin to decline, returning day basal levels by day 11 or 12. In pregnant females, progesterone levels will continue to rise and will remain elevated throughout the pregnancy. Transient decreases in progesterone concentrations may occur in pregnant alpacas by Day 14 post-mating and between Days 18 and 28 post-mating. 2 weeks before parturition, progesterone concentrations will begin to decline, reaching lowest levels 24 hours before parturition.

The vast majority of fetal losses occur in the first 3 months of pregnancy. Low progesterone levels may indicate that the pregnancy has been lost.

You can test your alpaca's progesterone levels:

- At Day 8: to determine if the alpaca ovulated.
- Anytime during the pregnancy after Day 14: to indicate if the alpaca has adequate progesterone levels to maintain a pregnancy. Progesterone levels above 2 ng/ml indicate that the alpaca is pregnant.
- In the 11th month of gestation: to determine if the alpaca is going to give birth in the next 2 weeks.