

Mary-Jo Smith

BAS Alpaca Judge (certified 2010) & BAS Judge Tutor

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**Profile:**

I was raised in rural Northern Alberta, Canada. Upon graduating from St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia with a business degree in 2000 I moved to England and joined my Aunt Joy Whitehead at Bozedown Alpacas. Since entering the alpaca industry I have been driven to increase my knowledge and understanding of all things alpacas.

I have been involved in all aspects of the alpaca industry, attended many seminars and been part of many committees in helping to continue to develop the British industry. I enjoy a challenge and so have been involved in organising many large alpaca shows and seminars. (The British Alpaca Futurity, Alpaca Showtime, Alpaca Classic and most recently BAS National Show). I also spent two years as a board member for the British Alpaca Society.

I have played a large role in developing the Bozedown herd to the standard it is today. I have to travel to Peru, Australia and the United States to select alpacas from some of the top breeders in the world. Traveling to other countries has enabled me see how the UK herd is developing in comparison to the rest of the world and in the process I have assessed thousands of alpacas. At Bozedown Alpacas we have a high quality herd of both Suris and Huacayas and enjoy the challenge of improving year on year.

I am a firm believer in continuing education and with this ethos I attend all the education seminars and clinics that I can each year in relation to Judging and alpacas in general.

I have been qualified as an alpaca Judge in both fleece and halter since 2010 and I have had the pleasure of Judging halter and fleece shows throughout the UK (including the BAS National show three times), mainland Europe, Canada and Australia. I also have enjoyed being involved in the BAS judge training program and sharing my knowledge and experience teaching seminars.

I have a passion for alpacas and to continue to learn about these wonderful creatures.