

Four alpacas, 16 blue ribbons for Gunnamatta

"What a great way to finish off the Autumn Show season." This was the reaction of Running Stream alpaca breeder Sue Maynard of Gunnamatta Stud Alpacas following her success at the Hawkesbury Agriculture Show where her medium fawn adult male, Gunnamatta Catalyst, was awarded Supreme Champion.

"The show team really did us proud," Ms Maynard said.

"In total we attended five shows and managed to get 16 firsts, three seconds, three reserve champions and five champions in addition to the big one."

Not a bad result given that the show team comprised only four alpacas and that at one of the shows only three animals were present.

The team comprised various colours, including light fawn, medium fawn and grey.

"Given the colours involved, our results were particularly gratifying," Ms Maynard said.

"We've been focusing on producing coloured alpacas and it's fairly uncommon for such animals to be awarded Championship ribbons, let alone Supreme Champion," Sue said.

The team, along with a number of other young alpacas, have now been shorn in an attempt to have their fleeces presentable for the National Alpaca Show to be held in Tamworth in October.

"This was a hard decision, given that the weather is a bit uncertain, but we need to give the team the best opportunity to continue their success.

"We tend to find that super-fine fleeces are difficult to keep well presented once they get to over a year's growth."



Gunnamatta Catalyst with judge Karen Caldwell and handler John Hay.