

Nunoa Project Work in the Southern Andes in 2025



The southern altiplano where we work

Our veterinary teams spent 2 weeks in January and August working with alpaca farmers in the southern Andes in 2025 as we have for several years. The teams consist of two experienced veterinarians and up to six veterinarians and students who are interested in international agriculture. The high altitude work is very challenging and very rewarding. We respond to problems identified by individual farmers and evaluate their herds' nutritional and reproductive status. We also provide training in herd health practices and breeding animal selection, in particular for males.



Team members perform an ultrasound pregnancy exam for Nunoa farmers.

In 2025 we worked in Nunoa, Pucara, and Chohata. Teams stay in local accommodations and make day trips to individual farms by truck, taxi, or on foot. Some herds have 20 animals while others have 200. The types of problems we identify include low cria production, poor animal body condition, external (mange and ticks) and internal (intestinal) parasites, pneumonia and diarrhea, cria deaths, and abortions. Our work emphasizes practical solutions and efficient management practices. We have been donating cria coats manufactured in Lima to farmers over the last 2 years. These coats add a layer of waterproof warmth to protect newborns and young crias. In August we brought 600 animal identification ear tags to Nunoa and installed about 400 of them during animal evaluations. These allow farmers to track production of individual animals and within families. They can be used to identify both problem males and females in herds. Since farm family income is based primarily on fiber sales, cria production rate and growth, and herd nutritional and reproductive status is critical to success for the families. Our goal has been to establish ongoing relationships with farmers and also to expand to new farmers requesting assistance. We have been able to improve overall herd health and increase pregnancy rates to 70 to 100%, primarily by selecting good males and not overloading them with too many females. A female to male ratio of 25 to 30 to 1 has proven to be optimal for maximal birth rate.



A cria wearing one of our donated coats gets protection from rain, snow, and cold.



One of our international veterinary teams with Nunoa farmers





A herd waits for evaluation by our team



Llamas and alpacas are frequently pastured together

Our work helping Peruvian farmers is financed by private donations. If you are interested in supporting it please contact our president Dr. Steve Purdy at nunoavet@gmail.com.

Tax deductible contributions can be made by mail or through our website at www.nunoaproject.org. Thank you for your support!