



EXOTIC ANIMALS

Camelid Family

Llamas and alpacas are part of the camelid family, which is part of the Certartiodactyla. This includes the even toed ungulates, such as pigs, cows, deer, antelope, and also whales, which used to live on land. Llamas and alpacas are from South America. Both llamas and alpacas are used mostly for wool.

Llamas

Llamas are used as pack animals and can carry from a quarter to a third of their own body weight. They are useful in mountain areas and were used for this purpose in pre-Colombian societies. Many of the mountain ranges have land that is not suitable for trees or other uses. In such cases, there is an argument for the use of this land for wilderness or wool agriculture. Llama wool has more variety, with 15 different colours being produced: white, cream, black, several shades of brown, red, and grey.

Alpacas

Alpacas have short, soft fur and produce more wool than llamas. Alpaca wool contains no lanolin, so it can be used where allergies are problematic. Their wool is not as water-repellent as sheep wool.

Birds

Ostriches and emus are both grown for their meat and skin. Both grow relatively fast, but are susceptible to avian diseases and could be a source of zoonosis such as Avian Flu.



Ostrich

Originally from Africa, these birds are now farmed in many places including America, where one of the first farms was started in 1885 by Edwin Cawston (see photo on the left). Half his stock died, but the farm survived. The farm was also reliant on tourism.

Emu

Emus are also adaptable and are grown in many areas, China has a fair bit of emu production. It is necessary to build pens and housing for emus.

Related Videos & Websites

⇒ [Exotic Animal Hobby Farm in Texas, USA](#) ⇐

⇒ [Alpacas of Ireland](#) ⇐

Click Here to Access the ***“Exotic Animals”***
Complete the **Worksheet and Quiz** to Receive Your **WWOOF IE Certificate of Learning**.