



Greetings!

Welcome to the first issue of **Chat with Rainbow** for 2018. I know....you've all been waiting with baited breath for my wise words of wisdom and probably wondered what has taken me so long. I have no idea. Seems like the time just got away from me. But now here I am.

Happy Summer to all of you. So far, this has been a very busy year here at the farm, and there's lots to tell all of you—so let's get started.

First, if any of you are wondering what you're even reading, you must be new to Chat with Rainbow. No matter. **Welcome!** Let me introduce myself. I am Rainbow—unofficial co-owner of Foggy Bottom Alpacas and until this year, a co-owner of Over the Rainbow Alpaca Ranch with Sara. She did name it after me—so it's only right that I called myself a co-owner. Don't you agree? Anyway, look left—that's me in the corner. I'm beautiful and perfect in every way. This is my newsletter for all of our friends and colleagues in the alpaca world. A bit of something for everyone. So read on, and enjoy. Next time you're in the neighborhood—stop by, get introduced to me and see my beautiful little girl, Skittles, who's growing up quickly with all of my other friends.

AlpacaU— 2018 Schedule

AlpacaU is the place to learn. Workshops, classes and fun activities offered by FBF. Here's what on the calendar so far for **2018**:

Mini-Series 1—Introduction to Alpacas, is geared toward new or slightly new owners. Our goal—help you get started on the right foot. This 2 day series was offered June 2 and 3. We had a great turnout—3 new families getting into the alpaca industry! How exciting. Welcome to those new farms! If there is interest, we will schedule a 2nd weekend for this Get Started class.

Mini-Series 2—Getting Started with Breeding Alpacas is all about being a breeding farm and will be held July 14-15. In this class, you'll learn about the key factors to consider when making breeding decisions:

- Which male to which female
- Characteristics to build upon:
 - Fleece
 - Conformation and size

And then we go on to

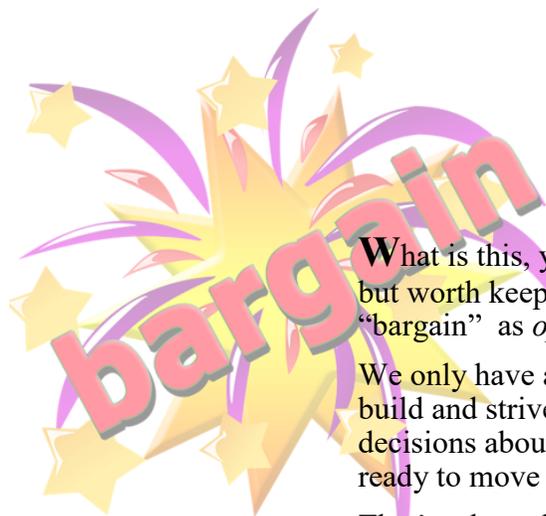
- Care of the pregnant female
- Birthing and care of the newborn cria
- Post-delivery female care
- Nursing dam nutrition

Get registered now—just call and we'll get your name on the list.

Mini-Series 3— Managing the Financial End of Your Business

We are excited to announce our newest 3rd series of AlpacaU. Sue Campbell, Owner of Wildflower Alpacas, has agreed to teach us all about managing your financial records for your farm. Sue is an accountant (how handy!) and owns her own farm and is Certified as a Quickbooks Expert. If you're planning on becoming a *business* or already are, then it's important to manage your business records correctly. Come join us as we all learn the right way from Sue. Mark the date: August 18, 2018 More info soon.

BARGAIN BUYS



What is this, you ask? Everyone likes a bargain. Not an everyday happening, but worth keeping your eye out for. Do not read “bargain” as low quality. Read “bargain” as *opportunity*.

We only have a certain amount of room in our barns, and as we continue to build and strive for herd improvement, we must make difficult but necessary decisions about which animals stay and which have played their role and are ready to move on and help other farms on their exciting journey.

That’s where the **Bargain Buys** come in. A way to make herd additions affordable for others, and a new home for the animal - a home we know will treat the animal right. And

the RIGHT herd addition at the RIGHT time for the RIGHT new owner.

July Bargain Buys

If you see something you like, act quickly.....when they’re gone, they’re gone!

Offering: **HERD BUILDER**

FBF Legacy of Prince Phillip. This almost 4-year old male is the son of the late HDF Prince Phillip. “Late” because Prince Phillip died 4 years ago, which was a great loss. Sara still talks about Prince Phillip. But now, there’s Legacy—with all of the same fine traits his dad had:

- Exceptional **fleece fineness**—Grade 1: 17.8micron and low CV @ 19% - **YIKES!**
- **WHITE fleece** - drives the best price in the textile market.
- **Extreme brightness**—even earning “best brightness” at MOPACA in 2015.
- **Good density.** Why does this matter? Buyers of fine fleece pay by the pound. The denser the fleece, the more it weighs. It’s easier to breed for fineness—HARD to get density.

Legs is a proven male —nice babies on the ground.

Easy handling; a bit of a screamer!

BARGAIN BUY PRICE? \$1000.00

Offering: **PROVEN FEMALE**

Marshmallow Delight. Looking for a *proven*, breeding female? Look no further. This 6 yr old girl offers extremely fine, white, consistent fleece for your herd. A bit about her:

- Grade 1 fleece at 5 years of age: 17.3 micron and holding - - **-WOWSER!**
- Conformationally correct, has good coverage head to toe, compact in size, sturdy
- Proven mom, good colostrum and milk supply. Past 2 babies have been smaller in size at birth, but healthy.
- Marshie is easy to handle, always first at the door for breakfast!
- Steady as she goes, easy to care for, strong constitution

BARGAIN BUY PRICE? \$500.00

EVENTS



Shear...Skirt...Show....Sell!

Midwest Alpaca Fleece Show, brought to the region by Foggy Bottom Alpacas. Last year we had 74 fleeces entered! This year, at the 3rd Annual Fleece Show, we're aiming for 75! That will put our region's show at a Level 2—very hard milestone to reach! We encourage everyone to enter at least 1 fleece into the show. WHY you ask? Lots of reasons:

- ◆ A **low-cost** way to market (think sell) your fleece to the public (there is a big market for fleece out there). Much less expensive than entering in a halter show.
- ◆ Our region needs a way for alpacas to strut their stuff. Ribbons are nice to get. And alpaca owners want to see ribbons on their fleece. But even if you don't get a ribbon, **you get very useful information from the judge about your fleece.** *You can never know too much about your fleece.*
- ◆ This show is (will be) AOA Certified. That's important to buyers.
- ◆ Fleeces will be judged by Wade Gease, Senior AOA Certified Halter and Fleece judge. This is no slouchy show!

So, start thinking about which fleeces you want to enter, and talk to any of us—Barb, Sara or Mark.

Here's an added plus: If you need help skirting the fleece to get ready for the show, let us know. We are planning a free event—SKIRTING YOUR FLEECE.

So come on everybody...this is important for our industry. Find out more and get all of your paperwork to register at www.midwestfff.com. **PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR:** October 5, 2018.

and then....

Join us after the judging on October 6 for a Saturday (and maybe Sunday) Clinic with Wade. Several short topics—all designed to help you in your Alpaca venture. How about:

- Reading Histograms;
- Next steps—Where to go from where you are.
- Scrutinizing a winning fleece—why did it win?

Some work yet to do to finalize the topics—but those of you who know Wade know it'll be a fun day. More info to come.

and Last But Not Least....

Thank you to all of you who visited during our Spring Pen Sale. Great to meet new people and see friends we haven't seen in a while.

A HUGE thank you to those of you who found just the right animal(s) to start, or add, to your herd. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of your journey.

We announced our intent to enter all who spent at least a total of \$1500 at the Spring Pen Sale into a drawing for a Proven Female, bred:

Congratulations!

Bit-O-Honey has found a new home with **YaYa's Alpaca Farm**
located in Garden City, MO.



FOGGY BOTTOM
ALPACAS

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***Dedicated to Quality** Founded in 2008, Foggy Bottom is built on three fundamental areas of focus: 1) Ensuring herd management practices to achieve demonstrated levels of herd health by undergoing extensive hands on training in herd health and management, breeding, neonatal care, conformation and fleece analysis, 2) Promoting a wide range of products created from all qualities of fleece, and 3) Actively participating in initiatives to sustain a viable alpaca industry in the United States. This location is home to over 80 huacayas, including a few very carefully selected herdsires from some of the best lineages in the country. Rounding out the herd are many champion foundation females. The 20-30 new cria annually are living proof of Foggy Bottom Farms' commitment to continually improve the quality of each generation of animals. This commitment is further demonstrated by our continuous pursuit of learning and our interest in sharing our knowledge with clients.*

***Excellence in Agisting** Through the full time, hands on management of the herd and facilities the farm is proud to have established itself as a proven partner and mentor to new farms across the state, and as a preferred home to alpaca owners needing long-term agisting. Foggy Bottom is honored to be a solution to farm owners who have selected us to care for their animals on a daily basis*

Our Motto: Apples don't fall far from the tree. Pick a good tree!

Classifieds

Got something to sell? See something you need? This is the place. List your stuff here. Nothing too big or too small. To list items, call Sara (651-503-1350) or Mark at 651-503-1298 or email sara@foggybottomalpacas.com. We'll get the word out for you!

Looking for something? Let us know and we'll search for you.

Message from the Farm

Summer is a very busy time for our farm, much like yours, we are sure. Still waiting on 20 babies to be born (seems like every birth is taking it's merry old time), taking good care of the 6 we have on the ground right now, mixed with breedings, spit checking, tours, daily chores and periodic vet visits, we realized we need to set some structure to our day.

So, we're going to set aside Monday—Friday each week from 1:00 pm—4:00 pm just for you. If you want to come for a visit, see your new cria, check out your mom—in- waiting, arrange for a breeding, chat...whatever, feel free to give us a call and we'll get you on the schedule. Of course, if this time frame doesn't work—we'll work with your availability. Our goal—get chores and everything on our schedule done each day by noon so we can devote the rest of the day to you. Sometimes the best of intentions are thrown to the wind when a baby is born, but we can work around that fun event.

We have several events scheduled for weekends, so Saturdays are a bit more crunched. Still—we will do our best to accommodate your needs on Saturday afternoon as well. That leaves Sunday—our day of rest!

Foggy Bottom strives to provide the best service possible to everyone. We haven't always been able to do that, we know. If we've missed the mark with you, please accept our apologies and tell us how we can do better. We appreciate your honest and candid feedback and will be asking for it soon, in an anonymous survey. Please watch for the survey in your email and tell us what we need to know.

Thanks from all of us. Happy 4th. Stay safe.

Sara, Barb and Mark