

**Maine Alpaca Association
Members' Meeting
10 June 2017**

The meeting opened at 11:30 AM

Attendees: 8 Members

President: Anne Gobes gave the welcoming address. She introduced our guest speaker, Gary Anderson from the Maine Cooperative Extension Service. Gary was presenting Farm Biosecurity.

We then moved on to getting our lunch and sat down to listen to our speaker presentations.

Gary gave a brief description of what he has done in his career. He presented a slide show on how biosecurity plays a large part in our farm health.

- Infectious diseases cost producers production and profit
- How a preventive approach to herd health ensures a healthy farm
- Reduces the risk of the herd contracting or spreading diseases
- Build barriers to keep your herd healthy. Keep out dangerous organisms.
- Wear clean clothes and shoes. Disinfect shoes and clothes before entering barn.
- Use a disinfectant such as Novosan
- Ask your shearer to disinfect before entering barn.
- Clean equipment first, then disinfect.
- Bio-containment practices will help to limit the spread of infectious agents among animals.

Routes of transmission:

- Inhaled droplets
- Ingesting pathogens – fecal, urine
- Saliva
- Contaminated feed or water
- Physical contact
- Transfer from inanimate objects
- Insect transfer - *TICKS*

WASH HANDS!

- Air can be affected by a virus if you have a sick animal. Remove from general herd and isolate!

What can we do to secure our farms?

- Isolation – minimize exposure
- Resistance – vaccination
- Test new animals first before bringing into general herd
- Screen potential purchases
- Quarantine new animals – 1 month
- No shared fence line, equipment with new animals
- Do not use common equipment with new animals
- Sound nutrition
- Up to date vaccinations
- Judicious use of drugs
- Clean, sanitize
- Moldy food can kill!
- Disinfect clothes and shoes
- Restrict visitor access
- Provide disposable foot covering for any visitors
- Deliveries should also be monitored before entering area
- 1 gram of feces can have 10B virus cells or 100M salmonella cells
- Reduce exposure paths to diseases
- Monitor clean water and feed

The presentations will be available on the Maine Alpaca Website once Gary edits it for publication.

There were many questions asked and Gary provided the audience with much to think about for how we need to check on our farm practices.

Anne presented Pam Drew with a plaque to thank her for her many years of service to the Maine Alpaca Association.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.