

Maine Alpaca Association Meeting

January 8, 2006

Augusta Civic Center

Attendees:

Board members - Cindy Mingle, Cindy Lavan, Al Maloney, Marcia McDonald
Farm Members: Gay DeHart, Edna and Howard Carr, Nancy Williams, Pamela Drew, Raini Perry, Paula Ickeringill, Richard Porter, Leslie Bacon, Marty Moore, Pam and Don Scipione, Craig Wanggaard, Dawn Brooker, Kathy Belisle, Paul and Tammy Cheney, Pamela Harwood, Geri and Joe Gabriel, Lisa, Pat and Richard Houde.

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 AM by president Cindy Mingle. A sad announcement was made informing the group of the recent death of Bob Welles from Indian Ridge Alpaca Farm.

Secretary's Report

The report from the last meeting was accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Al Maloney provided a summary sheet of the past year and explained the line items. He will provide more detail upon request. Currently there is a balance of \$16,815 and last year's expenditures were \$7,836.

The report was accepted as read.

Committees

Web site and Marketing

Cindy Lavan stated the committee members are trying to motivate themselves for the New Year. There should be more promotion of the web site. The committee plans to place advertisements in publications due on new stands in the summer. Wild Fibers magazine is a Maine publication, but has national distributions. Another possible magazine would be the Alpaca magazine published by AOBA. There was some discussion about the need to push us into the national arena for marketing purposes. Cindy Lavan will investigate the discounts that would be available if MAA joins AOBA as an affiliate.

Education

Dawn Brooker spoke for the committee. She indicated that they had not had much response to the survey for the genetics seminar. She asked the group the following questions as many attending today had attended the seminar.

Q - Did you like the subject? A - Yes.

Q - Did you like the speaker? A - Yes.

Q - Would you be interested in an annual seminar? A - Yes.

Q - Did you feel you got what you paid for? A - Yes.

Any negative feedback?

-The speaker did not address breeding for color.

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Education – continued

-The seminar was quite expensive. Dawn addressed this concern stating the cost was due to the 2-day format. The committee felt that having this particular subject in one day would be overwhelming for those attending.

There was a suggestion that a different location might reduce the price of a future seminar. Also suggested was a 1-day seminar or more speakers.

The board of directors indicated that the profits realized from the seminar will go into the Education Fund for future seminars.

Dawn told the group that the next speaker they have contacted will speak about Livestock Guardian Dogs. He will be at the March or June meeting depending on his schedule.

The Education committee asked for suggestions of topics for upcoming talks or seminars.

- Birthing
- Invite LaRue Johnson back for a neonatal class
- Soil management
- Alpaca handling and restraint
- Invite Becky Smith again

Fiber Frolic

Al Maloney relayed a message from the planning committee that the Program Management chair is vacant. MAA had indicated that we should have greater involvement in this event and asked if anyone would be interested in filling the opening. Raini Perry volunteered.

Afghan Raffle for the Frolic

Pam Drew stated she has received 19 squares with the promise of more. She would like to have the afghan completed several weeks prior to the Frolic to sell tickets in advance. Tammy Cheney has volunteered to crochet the squares together.

There was much discussion on what else would be in the raffle. It was suggested that the afghan be given a value and then instead of a raffle have a silent auction. We could still have a regular raffle of maybe 10 items of general interest.

Vet Fund

Today the Board raised the cap from \$200 to \$300.

Al Maloney explained this is money available to any vet in Maine who has camelids in their practice. A MAA member must sponsor the vet who wishes to

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attend continuing education seminars for camelids. Currently, Matt Townsend and Tammy Doughty are going to a seminar at Amherst. Dr. Doughty will attend the NEOBA sponsored seminar and one at Ohio State University.

Cindy Mingle asked if there would be farms interested in Dr. Norm Evans new book. Several farms indicated they would like to purchase a copy. MAA will purchase a case of twenty, and have them available for sale to members and to donate them to vets in the state serving camelids. Information will be sent out when MAA has them in hand.

Maine Ag Show

Raini Perry told the group that the Maine Agriculture Trades Show is this coming Tuesday through Thursday at the Augusta Civic Center. Doors open at 9 all three days, closing at 5 Tuesday and Thursday and remaining open until 8 on Wednesday. She urged members to attend.

MAA was unable to secure a booth for this year, but we are on the list for next year.

Maine Farm Bureau

Raini Perry told the group a little about the Maine Farm Bureau. It is a state-wide organization which has a full time lobbyist at the capital looking out for the interests of Maine farmers. The Farm Bureau lobbied for the passage of the Livestock Guardian Dog bill that exempts our working dogs from local barking dog ordinances.

Membership in this organization is down, so much, that the annual dues were decreased this year to encourage membership. Raini distributed copies of an issue of the Maine Farmer newspaper, which is published by the Farm Bureau. She also had copies of pre-registration forms for the new Ag in the Classroom license plate. 2000 people must pre-register and agree to purchase the plate for their vehicle before this project can go forward. The additional \$20 annual fee will provide money for agricultural education in Maine schools.

New Business

Dawn Brooker asked the group if there would be interest if she were to offer a seminar on how to show your alpaca. There was significant interest from the members present.

Elections

Each candidate present told the group why they would like to guide the organizations a board member.

Cindy Mingle took nominations from the floor. Dawn Brooker nominated Leslie Bacon. Leslie accepted and was asked to speak as well.

A request came from the floor for Cindy to name those board members whose terms are not expiring at this point. They are Al Maloney, Cindy Lavan and Anita Cooper.

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Ballots were distributed, one per farm. Gay DeHart took completed ballots. Cindy Mingle will be emailing absentee ballots which will be returned by this coming Friday. Cindy will email the election results on Saturday.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 PM. There was a short break and the educational part of the program followed.