

MAA Minutes  
June 18, 2005  
Augusta Civic Center, Piscataquis Room  
Present:

Becky Smith, Nancy Durst, Leslie Bacon, Carole Bacon, Claudia Raessler, Lorraine Blowers, James Perry, Pamela Drew, Al Maloney, Nancy Williams, Cindy Mingle, Pamela Harwood, Marcia MacDonald, Cindy Lavan, Frank Gabriel, Geri Gabriel, Joe Gabriel, Peter and Theresa Morin, Paul and Tammy Cheney, Earlene Ingram, Kathy Belisle, Jan and Craig Wanggaard, Dawn Brooker, Linda and Alan Russo, Anita Cooper, Patricia Houde, Dinah Hardy.

Meeting called to order at 11:40 by Cindy Mingle.

I. Secretary's Report accepted.

II. Treasurer's Report

- A. The auction brought in \$3850.00 with additional money still coming in for a total of \$6510.00.
- B. The Vet Ed Fund balance is \$2854.00. The Raffle at the Fiber Frolic had 11 items and made \$850.00 for the fund. Al sold tickets by walking Zumi through the Frolic with a pack – very effective! It was agreed that fewer items with retail value indicated for next year. People were generally happy to donate to cause.
- C. Treasurer's Report accepted.

III. Committee Reports

A. Website/Marketing

1. Ad spots available on the website. Contact Al.
2. The snapshots have been a good and successful addition.
3. Farm locator good.
4. Website needs new input – ideas for effectiveness, perhaps a classified section?
5. Please link your farms to MAA website to help site gain more visibility on web.
6. The newsletter currently has about 1/2 dozen subscribers.

B. Education

1. Dorian Garrick will be scheduled to talk on genetics. His fee is \$800/day plus room and board. He recommends 2 separate sessions to prevent overload.
2. It was suggested that we begin in the afternoon after the November meeting, then continue on Sunday morning.
3. It was discussed and agreed that the November meeting would be a good one for the yearly NEAOBA rep to be present. This provides us with \$500.00 towards the meeting.
4. The committee will check into the possibility of NEAOBA sponsorship to get other breeders to Maine as well.
5. Bonnie will search out a location for the seminar.

C. MLLA/MAA Vet

1. Becky Smith, Raini Blowers, Dawn Brooker, and Hilary Ware make up this committee.
2. Tufts has been contacted regarding involving Maine in their vet training program. Barbara Perkins of Turner will be running the vet seminar end of April 2006. Becky Smith will work with Barb re: gelding, teeth, handling.

IV. MAA Brochures

- A. Thank you, Marcia for the brochure design and completion!
- B. Thank you, Laura Osgood for the wonderful logo!
- C. The auction covered the cost of printing 5000 brochures so members are encouraged to take + or – 50 without charge. There is a place for a label or stamp of your own farm’s contact information on the brochure.

#### V. Livestock Guard Dog Bill

- A. IT’S THE LAW! Working dogs are now exempt from local laws against barking.
- B. The dog must be on the property.
- C. The dog must be on “duty.”
- D. Thank you, Al, and Bob, and (**please provide names**).

#### VI. National Animal ID System

- A. A link to obtain the premises of the ID system will be sent out again via Yahoo in case anyone missed it the first time.
- B. All animals should be ID’ed (by microchip and what kind of?) by 1/2006.
- C. The tracking and implementation phases are not yet in place.
- D. Caroline Mixon in N.C. has up to date information about this national system.
- E. Owners/breeders can register with their State who will transfer information to the USDA.

#### VII. MAA Display

- A. Thank you, Jeff Erikson, for a great display!
- B. The display is currently being stored in Cindy Mingle’s barn.
- C. It is available to members for use and/or storage. Contact Cindy.

#### VIII. ME Open Farm Days

- A. ME Open Farm Days is scheduled for 7/24/2005.
- B. Registration deadline was in March in order to be advertised by the State for the event.
- C. Those participating are encouraged to spread MAA brochures.

#### IX. Schedule of local summer fairs

- A. Getrealgetmaine.org website
- B. Some events listed on the MAA website

#### X. New Business

##### A. Maine Fiber Arts

1. MFA has procured a grant to put out farm and studio map for 2006-2007 from the Department of Tourism. The first meeting to work on this project is this Friday, June 24, (time?). The first step is to solicit further needed funding in order to begin this project.
2. Participation in the listing will be with a fee and an agreement to be open to the public 3 weekends in August 2006.
3. The best way to get info is to become a member of MFA.

##### B. Auction

1. Thank you, Cindy Lavan!
2. The auction bidders from CO & KY as well as ME.
3. One item won by a participant from out of state. The rest of the items were won by people instate.
4. 2 of the 6 offered breedings sold. All other items sold.

5. For advertising, getalpaca did 3 blast e-mails per person to the ABA membership and recent leads. There wasn't time for print ads.
6. Cindy advises that we start planning now for Jun/Feb/Mar of 2006, which is the best time frame for an auction.

#### C. Raffle

1. It was suggested that MAA make a yearly item as a community like the quilt this year and pre-promote it for the Fiber Frolic in order to build expectation.
2. Thank you to Pam Drew for volunteering to head up this effort.

#### D. Coastal Classic Silent Auction

1. Thank you, Claudia Raessler for volunteering to head the Silent Auction this year.
2. It was agreed that the gift certificate seemed a great choice for an auction item.
3. A retail value should be provided and displayed at the auction along with contributor information, which would make referrals by Classic participants possible in the future.

#### E. MAA Vet Fund

1. It was suggested that the ME Vet Association be contacted to encourage new and existing vets to start working on camelids. Also suggested were the Association of Camelid Vets and MLLA vets.
2. Sponsorship from the fund is \$200 per vet per event and currently requires solicitation by a MAA member.
3. There was discussion regarding whether the fund should be opened up to MLLA vets and/or to new vets who do not yet have a MAA member to sponsor them. The question was how do we promote the growth in number of vets as well as in the knowledge of the already existing camelid vets.
4. Claudia suggested the possibility of setting up the Vet fund as a trust so that contributions to the fund would become a charitable tax deduction. An accountant would need to be consulted to determine the set up with the most benefit to MAA and the fund itself.
5. A flyer with information regarding camelid vets in Maine was distributed.

#### F. Farm Bureau

1. Farm Bureau has changed its use of insurance companies from Farm Family to Country Way. This was due to Farm Family no longer requiring its clients to be Farm Bureau members. Country Way does require membership in order to participate in their farm insurance programs.
2. It was suggested that MAA might be large enough to collaborate as a group for liability farm insurance. We probably would not be able to qualify for group health insurance at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Guest Speaker: Becky Smith discussed Aberrant Behavior Syndrome (ABS)