

**Dawn**

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**From:** "Anita Cooper" <choiceviewfarm@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <mainealpaca@yahoogroups.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 2004 6:25 PM  
**Subject:** [MaineAlpaca] November 2004 Minutes

Membership Meeting

November 13, 2004, 11:00 a.m.

Maple Hill Farm B&B

Hallowell, ME

Present: **Androscoggin Acres Alpacas**, Jeff Erikson, and Maureen Libby; **Alpacas @ Choice View Farm**, Anita Cooper, **Blissful Alpacas**, David and Judy Bliss; **Colonial Thyme Alpacas**, Wendy Eaton; Karen and Brian Cr! amer; **Fiber Fields Alpaca Farm**, Dawn Brooker; **Half Horse Farm**, Paul and Tammy Cheney (and daughter); **Lakeside Alpaca Farm**, Frank and Geri Gabriel; **Longwoods Alpaca Farm**, Pam Harwood; **Maine s Bellemont Farm**, Chuck Howe; **Midcoast Fiber Mill**, Joe Gabriel; **Mountain Brook Farm**, Cindy Mingle; **NEWAIM Farm**, Al Maloney; **Pamelamas**, Pam Drew; **Raini Ridge Farm**, Lorraine Blowers; **Sugarloaf Alpaca Farm**, Brian Toomey; **Sunshine Alpacas**, Shawn Malloy; **Farm in the Meadow**, Jan and Craig Wanggaard;

Lunch served at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order by Dawn Brooker at 11:55 a.m. and a quorum attendance was determined.

### **Old Business**

1. **Secretary s Minutes:** August meeting minutes accepted
2. **Treasurer s Report:**
  - a. Five (5) new members joined since the last meeting. There are now around 50 farm/business memberships.
  - b. The auction at NECC made \$1,325.00, increasing the Vet Education Fund to a total of \$2,104.50. Members are encouraged to research opportunities for their vets regarding camelid education/training and then soliciting the board on their vet s behalf for a \$200.00 award from this fund.

c. Treasurer's report was accepted.

### 3. Committee Reports

- a. *Education Committee*: Members are reminded that committee members include Bonnie Callery, Martha Butcher, Abby Fitzgerald, and Carol Bacon. The speaker at the January meeting will be a member of the Department of Agriculture regarding possible marketing liaisons. There has been no committee meeting since the last membership meeting. A list of future topics is under consideration and members are encouraged to contact members with ideas of topics and/or speakers as they arise.
- b. *Festival Committee*: Members volunteering include Morelia Candia, Leslie Bacon, and Anita Cooper. There has been no formal meeting of this committee since its formation. Discussion during the membership meeting indicated an interest in developing a stronger identity and working integration with the Fiber Frolic as the one major focal event of the year. Jeff Erickson volunteered to establish a MAA booth with a variety of information and auction items and tickets. The possibility of a mock alpaca show as part of the Frolic was also presented. Volunteers are needed to facilitate the booth and event planning for the Fiber Frolic. All members should think about how they could offer some of their time before, during, and/or after the event.
- c. *Marketing Committee*: Members include Al Maloney, Skip Taylor, and Claudia Ressaeler. Raini Blowers will join the Marketing committee to fill the absence of Gay DeHart. There has been no committee meeting since the last membership meeting. Claudia was looking for a graphic artist to provide a look and feel concept. There is currently \$351.00 available in the budget for color scheme/logo development, but it was felt this was probably not enough. The membership concurred that the committee should develop a proposal, seek several bids to gain a realistic understanding of financial needs, then present information to the membership at the January meeting.
- d. *Website Committee*: There has been no committee meeting since the last membership meeting since no one has taken charge to get things rolling. Dawn requested Wendy to chair the committee and to work from the outline that was presented at an earlier meeting as a beginning point and branch off from there (attached). Dawn also suggested the committee members to contact individual MAA members to write an article about a specific topic. There will always be a need for more small pictures (of structures, set ups, fencing, shows not just alpacas) and informational articles about getting set up and options to consider. An interest was expressed to have a more visual and less verbal site. Members should remember that the website is a marketing medium that should capture the viewer's interest and help direct them to your own websites. Send all ideas, articles, pictures, etc. to the committee.
- e. *SMART*: The Steering Committee of the State Animal Rescue Team has approved the name of SMART for State of Maine Animal Rescue Team and that they will be developing plans on a county by county basis. A questionnaire will be distributed to all members regarding their current access to equipment and manpower/assistance so that we can begin to develop an availability map and steps for implementation. MLLA will be contacted regarding their interest in joining with us in the development of this plan. Pam Harwood and Frank Gabriel have volunteered to assist Anita Cooper in this committee.

- f. *MLLA/MAA*: This committee has not been able to meet. The immediate job at hand is to write a letter to voice the concerns of the lama community about the shortage of camelid vets in the state of Maine. Dawn Brooker will join Cindy Mingle, Raini Blowers, Marcia MacDonald and MLLA members on this committee.
- g. *Nominating Committee*: A nominating committee has been developed to develop a roster of board members to vote on at the January 2005 meeting. Members are Jeff Erikson, Frank Gabriel, and Pam Drew.! Board members wishing to serve another term will individually contact this committee. Any member wishing to be considered for a board position should also contact the committee members. The By-laws will be consulted to ensure that nominations are presented to the membership within an appropriate timeframe for consideration before the voting meeting. It was believed to be 30 days prior to the vote, but members will receive definitive dates when determined.

## New Business

1. **Animal ID System**: The USDA is developing what will be a mandatory standard system of numbering for farms and their animals. This is mostly in an effort to better track animal movement for disease control. Few specifics are available at this time. A copy of the announcement is attached to these minutes.
2. **NECC**: Results of the NECC show are now posted on their website, [www.neocoastalclassic.com](http://www.neocoastalclassic.com). Next year's show will be at Pinelands again, which everyone agreed was a wonderful venue for the show. Dawn and Cindy discussed the future of NECC at the Pineland location with Cindy Lavan directly after the show and she said there was room for expansion.
3. **Fiber Frolic**: Volunteers are needed to run the 2005 Fiber Frolic. The wonderful people who have taken care of developed the show thus far need a break and are looking for others to step forward to make this event a continuous success. Especially since members present felt it important to promote the alpaca presence at the Frolic, we are looking for everyone to find some way of contributing their time and efforts to this event. Currently, MAA members have volunteered to assist as follows: Raini Blowers will do paperwork/registrations/etc.; Brian Cramer has volunteered with the Site Superintendent committee; Al Maloney will provide Windsor Grounds coordination; Michelle DeLucia will head Publicity. Al and Cindy offered their services to help her and Geri will repeat her job of this year; Donna Ferrera will be Program Chair; Anita Cooper and Karen Cramer will work together with the volunteer committee. Dawn is our contact to Fiber Frolic..
4. **Maine Agriculture Trade Show**: This State Ag Show will be held in January at the August Civic Center. Deadline for participation is soon. It was presented that alpacas should become a more visible part of this show. Al and Wendy indicated their participation.
5. **Rescued Alpacas**: Raini Blowers and Brad Perry have purchased the three alpacas discussed in the Yahoo e-mails recently. They will be picked up by Al Maloney and quarantined on their farm until their vet can update shots and verify their well-being. A heartfelt thanks were extended to Raini and Brad for stepping in.
6. **Meeting Dates**: The next meeting will be Sunday, January 30, 2005 @ 11:00 at Maple Hill Farm and B&B. Saturday, March 19, 2005 will be the second meeting of the year. The two other meetings of 2005 will be determined at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28.

George Richardson provided useful tax and entity structure information.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Cooper, Secretary

Please send any corrections/additions to: [acooper@gwi.net](mailto:acooper@gwi.net)

Attachment I

**Recommended outline of website -**

Front page - introduction and links to pages within including the following. Photos and logo of MAA and contact information.

A. General Information and Press related information.

Rich format html and photos with downloadable information on specifics.

1. Fiber
2. General Husbandry.
3. Market
4. Lifestyle.
5. Downloadable pages of general information for press release in .pdf format.
6. Downloadable photos for press release format.

B. Members section only.

Information available to members only.

1. Downloadable minutes in .pdf.
2. Downloadable membership database in Excel.
3. General information on membership and up coming meetings, etc.

C. Membership application. Downloadable .pdf.

D. Library of articles - general

Collection of articles on specific topics added as needed and collected. May consider limiting # of articles available here with teasers to entice members to join to gain full access to library information.

E. Marketplace - maybe a free newsletter format. Easy to do in html or in .pdf.

Fee based advertising for alpaca related materials.

1. Alpacas
2. Stud services.
3. Fiber related services.
4. Other services, etc.

F. Alpacas in the News -

Current news articles local to state and New England.

G. Links

Fiber, husbandry and industry related links.

H. Calendar of Events of known alpaca related events, etc. in Maine and possibly New

England area.

#### I. Vet Corner.

Contact information for vet and other state organizations, extension services. Possible articles by local vets, etc.

#### J. Learn more about MAA.

Who and what we are.

#### K. Getting started page.

Recommended step by step procedure from joining AOBA, NEAOBA and MAA to visiting farms, attending seminars, etc.

### Attachment II

#### **Camelid Working Group News Release**

##### **For Immediate Release**

##### **CWG Explains Animal ID System Numbers, Seeks Community Input**

Some confusion exists in the camelid community about the different identification numbers that will be used in implementing the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Members of the Camelid Working Group (CWG) represent most segments of the llama and alpaca community and are working with USDA to develop the camelid portion of NAIS. Your questions and input are welcome as we work to develop a sensible ID system for camelids.

**Premises ID:** This number is like an address. Each premises is a specific geographic location where livestock are located such as farms, ranches, auction sites, shows, veterinary clinics, transport vehicles, etc. and would be identified by a unique premises identification number. If you move to another home,

you get a new address, and similarly, the premises ID number is attached to the location rather than the owner and remains with the property if it is sold. This number is not part of the individual animal ID.

**Individual Animal ID:** Individual ID numbers are similar to a personal social security number for each animal. The Animal ID Number (AIN) will be unique for each animal and will be permanently attached to the animal by microchip, ear tag, etc. Each species working group will review options and determine in conjunction with USDA which kind of device will contain the individual AIN. These numbers (AIN) will be allocated by USDA to AIN managers or distributors. (These managers or distributors have not yet been determined for the camelid community.) The individual AIN will no longer be valid upon death of the animal.

**What about numbers in use in the camelid industry?** Llama and alpaca registries and show associations issue individual animal and owner numbers or codes. These numbers are not permanently attached to the animals, and though they are used to keep track of registration and show data, they are not necessarily going to be part of the NAIS but could be included as additional alternate means of identification.

Having a **Premises ID Number** will be necessary before you will be able to get **individual Animal ID Numbers**. The **Premises ID Number** will be obtained from your state and can ultimately be linked to an **individual Animal ID Number** through a USDA database if an animal trace back is necessary. For purposes of the NAIS it is anticipated animals will not need an **individual Animal ID Number** until they go into commerce or leave their home farm.

The Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) has issued a call for research proposals on various topics including camelid ID methods, the results of which could assist the CWG in its recommendations to USDA. Camelids need an identification device that remains on or in the animal and functional for approximately 15 to 20 years. Though a microchip implanted at the base of the left ear is most commonly used for individual camelid ID, limited scientific data are available regarding microchip loss, migration or loss of readability. Little scientific information is available on alternate sites of microchip implantation or alternate methods of identification in camelids. ARF is seeking proposals that will address those issues

and will also consider cost, safety and ease of application.

The objective of the NAIS is to enable animal health officials to track the location and movements of any individual animal within 48 hours of an animal disease outbreak. More detailed information is available on the following sites:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/nais/nais.html>

<http://usaip.info>

The CWG is seeking input from the camelid community regarding preference of camelid ID devices as well as other aspects of NAIS. Please contact any of the following members if you would like to ask questions or provide comments to the CWG.

Karen Conyngham at [72040.3361@compuserve.com](mailto:72040.3361@compuserve.com)

Dr. Julie Jarvinen at [jarvinen@iastate.edu](mailto:jarvinen@iastate.edu)

Sheila Fugina at [bsfugina@presenter.com](mailto:bsfugina@presenter.com)

Marsharee Wilcox at [mwilcox@stpaultravelers.com](mailto:mwilcox@stpaultravelers.com) or [evllamas@bellatlantic.net](mailto:evllamas@bellatlantic.net)

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- To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:  
[MaineAlpaca-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MaineAlpaca-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)
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