

Calpaca Nov 7, 2009 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Hosted by Rick and Pam Brady, Oak Valley Alpaca, Valley Springs, CA

Membership Meeting Started at 10:30am

Approximately 40 people in attendance

Bonnie welcomed everyone to the last CALPCA meeting for 2009. She thanked Rick and Pam for having us at their ranch and remarked how clean and neat everything is in their barn! Pam collected all the ballots

First Time attendees were Randy and Janice Bass of Moonlight Alpacas who live close to Valley Springs and have just joined CALPACA. Dean Lawson of Damocles Farms specializing in Suri's and has been a CALPACA member for quite awhile. We also had some folks who came to find out more about alpacas

Secretaries Report:

1. Approve minutes from Aug 8th, 2009 meeting that are posted on Web.
There was a motion and second to approve the minutes as posted. Motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report:

1. Status of Calpaca Funds
All of the CALPACA bank accounts are up and running and all signature cards have been turned in. Now they are all at the same bank for better oversight, to make the accounting much easier for our annual tax report. Credit card charges are finally all complete from the California Classic. The process was very tedious and we appreciate that Jack has kept us up to date. The endowment account is near \$30,000 in funds and the total from all bank accounts is running about a \$50,000 balance year over year.

Membership Report:

1. Membership Status
Lin Murray sent a report on membership status. We now have 218 members of which 180 are farm members and 38 are associate members. The Board made a decision to give a complimentary membership to the students who received our UC Davis Scholarships to facilitate keeping them interested in alpacas and to help us stay connected with them.

Committee/Event Updates

1. Feedback from Alpaca Fiber Fair at Lambtown in Dixon October 3rd
Joyce Judy, Dale Davis and Bruce Nelson provided a report on the Lambtown event as they were the event managers. Joyce talked about how the fleece judging process worked at this show. It was different than a typical show because the general public was able to walk up and ask questions of the judge about the judging process. The big demand seemed to be the public's interest in what the cost would be for purchasing a raw fleece, and the interest in actually purchasing the fleece at the event. The Lambtown Committee is considering moving the event to Labor day in 2010. At the male sale area some of the feedback indicated a lot of interest by the general public in the animals and it was an opportunity to educate them about alpacas. The

opportunity for the future would be to do a better job of letting the public know that there were animals for sale ... 11 males of 40 at the event sold. In comparing the event to one of our typical halter shows there were lots more of the general public in attendance. There was also a bigger contingent of Four-H kids there as well. Lambtown had always been the last weekend of July and this was the first time it had been held in October. It is an event that started because of lamb and sheep products, but it has grown to include other different types of fiber as well.

This was the second year we had a CALPACA booth at the event. Joan Clappier did an Alpacas 101 seminar. Lambtown had asked us to be at the event, and because the date was later this year, we were able to have a bigger animal presence than at the end of July. No plans have been made for us for getting involved with Lambtown next year. Dale commented that this was a wonderful opportunity for us to get in touch with lamb breeders at one place, making it a potential for new industry breeders. There had been some concern regarding the low prices that were given for some of the male fiber boys. These concerns will be addressed and used in consideration of future events. Suggestion was also made to make an appearance at the Mayfair-Dixon show in May.

2. UC Davis Camelid Symposium Jan 16-17, 2010

Joan Clappier reminded everyone about the upcoming symposium. The website is up and running and registration forms are available and can be accessed from the CALPACA Home page. The early bird price is \$135 per person. This is the best value in the nation to learn from industry experts about the care and upkeep of camelids. This is a week later in the year than last. We have acquired a top teaching veterinarian, David Anderson, formerly of Ohio State to provide expert advice for our Vet track and Jane Vaughan is coming from Australia to talk about ET and AI in Camelids, a key person in the industry. Pam Walker is the Vet for Alpaca Jacks and has outstanding field experience. The panel of speakers is outstanding. There are only 250 openings for people to attend, so the slots will fill up quickly. It is important to get your information in soon.

3. CA Classic Apr 23-25, 2010

The Classic is going to be at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds in 2010. The effort will be to get the show to a Level IV show. Amy Bliss Miller and Sara Jane McClendon will be the judges and one will do Females and one Males. The show is looking for volunteers for the show with some of the key positions to be Show Program and CALPACA booth management. They would be the coordinators of those positions. As always there will be lots of available positions throughout the show in a wide variety of positions. The spinoff entries will be cut off in late January so they can be completed. Joyce would like to have someone mentor with her to become the spin off manager. Joyce and Dianna need a person to shadow and take over the managing of the California classic for 2011. This year will be the time for the person to learn the position. Bonnie thanked Joyce and Dianna for their contributions to the show.

4. Marketing Committee Report

Dale Davis reported on the efforts of the marketing committee. The committee is there to help CALPACA members with their marketing efforts. There are two new brochures that are available: a Fiber Guide and 101's of Alpaca Care which will be available on the website soon. There are nearly 12 people on the committee and this large group of motivated folks is working very hard to put the material together. The Fiber brochure includes a list of all the mills in California and a flow chart of how to prepare the fleece for processing. The Alpaca Care brochure is aimed at new and potential alpaca owners. The committee will be focusing its next efforts at helping the CALPACA members do better marketing.

5. Legislative Activities

The Lieutenant Governor is now being moved to a congressman, and it seems that Abel Maldonado maybe the next Lieutenant Gov. The water issues seem to be taking up a lot of legislative focus. The state is withholding more money from people's paychecks. The State's fiscal position is very bad and not getting any better. It will be important in the near future to get all information about what the candidate's positions are. We need to support the candidates that have independent minded thinking and are willing to do the right thing.

Old/Unfinished Business

1. Calpaca Donation for Alpaca Industry Study at CSU

The CALPCA board made a donation on behalf of the membership to provide a good study about the alpaca industry. The study is being done at Colorado State University. AOBA and ARI as well as other affiliates are also getting involved in supporting the completion of the study.

2. Election Results

Elected to the 2010 board is Kay Rodriguez; Jack Jordan was reelected to a second term. Bonnie thanked Pam for all her hard work in coordinating the election. Past President Bruce Nelson acknowledged Bonnie Potter for the outstanding job she has done as the board president. The board positions for 2010 will be Tom Petersen President; Dennis Rabe Vice President; Kay Rodriguez Secretary; Jack Jordan Treasurer; Dale Davis Member at Large.

3. 2010 Meeting Locations

TBD and the information will be sent out once the decisions are made. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the second month of each quarter, except for November if it conflicts with Alpaca Fest West.

New Items/Additions

1. Calpaca Donation for Alpaca Fiber Symposium

Calpaca donated \$500 in support of the Alpaca Fiber Symposium because fiber is the future of our industry.

2. Alpaca Fiber Symposium Report

Dianna Jordan reported that the people at the fiber symposium were very enthused about the use of fiber in the industry. One of the key issues discussed was how to keep the youth involved in the industry. One of the risks is making sure the breeders own goals are in line with the industry goals. The entire industry only survives if the whole group organizes to accomplish common goals. The symposium only wants to

help educate the industry, not be another organization of the industry. Another question to consider was how much of a breeders revenue were they willing to give up in order to help the industry grow. On a more general basis for the processing industry it is important to minimize second cuts and to make sure the fleece is properly skirted.

3. SDC Calpaca Challenge

AOBA has an annual student design competition. We as CALPACA helped last year, and this year we again have made a contribution to help sponsor some students. We also had 26 individual members who each sponsored a student. There were also 9 ranches that donated material to the competition. We had the biggest commitment by any affiliate ever. Bonnie thanked the great generosity of our membership.

4. Feedback from Ballot Survey

There were 103 returned ballots.

a. Fall Show

64 people indicated they wanted a fall show, 24 said they did not want one and 15 chose to abstain from offering an opinion

b. Calpaca Activities

Most of the respondents asked to have CALPACA provide more help in marketing their alpacas. A few asked for more educational opportunities.

Announcements

- 1.) Joyce announced that Dale Davis had her vehicle to collect AFCNA fiber. If people can get the fleece to Derwydd by the Nov. 18th date it can be included.
- 2.) David and Brenda Barboza are having an upcoming Fiber use seminar on November 14th with a target on the crafts industry. They provided some brochures on their seminar and have it posted on their website.
- 3.) AFCNA elections are coming up in the spring with three positions available, and it is available to interested members to apply for nomination.
- 4.) The last Saturday in March is going to be Third Annual Herdsire Showcase at Dixon Fairgrounds. As in years past there will be lots of opportunities to set up breedings for 2010.
- 5.) Let Joan Clappier know of any events so they can be posted to the website as soon as you know about them.
- 6.) On the last weekend in February there will be a seminar at Eventyrgarrd's ranch with a Fiber Artist with a focus on what can be done with alpaca fiber.

After Lunch, the meeting continued with a presentation by David Barboza on how the use of EPD's can help to improve a rancher's breeding decisions.

The meeting concluded at about 3:30pm.

Next Meeting: **Feb 13, 2010**

Minutes submitted by Dennis Rabe, Secretary