

# CONNECTION

## Winter 2021



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association  
Connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other

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In California's tradition as a pioneer of progress, Calpaca was the first, and the oldest, regional, alpaca association in the Northern Hemisphere. Past and current members of Calpaca have been leaders in the American alpaca industry since 1989.

Calpaca represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences. We host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public.

We invite you to join us!

Calpaca Membership meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the second month.

## Advertise in the Connection

### Calpaca Members:

Business Card: Free  
¼ Page Color Ad: \$15  
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## Affiliations

### Alpaca Owners Association (AOA)

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402-437-8488 Fax  
[AlpacaInfo.com](http://AlpacaInfo.com)

### Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

[AlpacaResearchFoundation.org](http://AlpacaResearchFoundation.org)

### International Lama Registry (ILR)

[LamaRegistry.com](http://LamaRegistry.com)

## Stay Connected!

### Calpaca Website

[calpaca.org](http://calpaca.org)

### Group Emails

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### Calpaca Facebook

[Facebook.com/groups/Calpaca](https://Facebook.com/groups/Calpaca)

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## To join or renew your Calpaca membership:

[calpaca.org/  
page/2572/join-calpaca](http://calpaca.org/page/2572/join-calpaca)

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Next Annual Membership Meeting ~ February 13, 2021

Virtual Meeting Hosted by the Calpaca Board of Directors

**“Have Your Alpacas Pay for Themselves: Herd Size Doesn’t Matter”**

# Message from the President

## So Long 2020... 2021, Here We Come!

There is no denying 2020 was a year like no other for our members and other alpaca enthusiasts. Fires, Covid-19, and the responses to the pandemic have impacted our businesses, our Calpaca events, and our lives. As we move into 2021, the cloud of the Covid pandemic is hanging over our collective heads, causing a lot of uncertainty. In the midst of all of this, your 2021 Calpaca Board of Directors—VP Steve Craig, Treasurer Jackie Jones, Secretary Megan Kukla, Director Membership Stacey Payne, and yours truly—is putting forth our best efforts and talents to serve the needs of our members, potential members, and our alpaca industry as we move into 2021. The following description of Calpaca’s mission and purpose has been added to our board agendas and is our point of reference as we make decisions affecting our organization and members:

*The California Alpaca Breeders Association (Calpaca) represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences, and host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public.*

We appreciate those members who took the time to complete the 2020 membership and Camelid Symposium surveys. These results will also be a point of reference and guide our decisions. The membership survey results are included in this publication.

## 2021 Membership Report

Membership dues are the primary source of operating income for Calpaca. Although we accept new members anytime during the year, for budgeting purposes we look at the membership information on January 31. That gives us a baseline for the funds we have available for expenses that go beyond the operating expenses. These extras include budgeting for events, donations for industry related studies, events, etc.

Total 2021 Member Revenue	\$5,740.00	Membership Type	Rate	Total Members
Total Calpaca Members 2021	70	New Member	\$50.00	6
		Farm Member	\$100.00	56
		Associate Member	\$30.00	8

## Welcome New 2021 Calpaca Members

Walter Beasley, All Valley Alpacas, Tehachapi, CA  
Lydia Bulgakov, Fair Oaks Farms LLC, Fair Oaks, CA  
Laura Duncan, Morongo Valley, CA  
Janine Patrick, Joyful Blessings Alpaca Ranch, Wildomar, CA  
Candace Van Hout, Fire Ball Alpacas, Caldwell, ID  
Carolyn Steinberg, Madera, CA

We appreciate those who renewed your Calpaca membership and welcome those who have joined us for the first time. Hopefully, in the not so distant future, we will be able to gather again in person. In the meantime, we will continue focusing on offering informative and educational quarterly membership meetings virtually. We are exploring ways to meet the interests and needs of new alpaca owners while supporting those members who have owned alpacas for many years.

Wishing you an invigorating and successful 2021,  
Dianna Jordan, 2021 Calpaca President

# This 'n' That

Congratulations to Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado!

From Suri Network: “We are excited to welcome Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of El Dorado, who has joined the SN Board of Trustees in mid-January due to Joy Conwell’s resignation for personal reasons. While we are happy to have Laurie join our team, we are sorry that Joy is leaving the Board. Joy has served Suri Network for many years as chair of the Product Development Committee and helping with the creation of the Suri Simply Stunning Brand. We want to thank Joy for her hard work and wish her the best in the future.”

## Keeping in Touch

Calpaca has three primary ways for members to send or receive information:

- Calpaca Facebook Page: [Calpaca-California Alpaca Association](#)
- Calpaca Website: [Calpaca.org](#)
- Email : [Info@CalpacaBoard.org](mailto:Info@CalpacaBoard.org) to send email to all Calpaca members or specifically to board members

## Next Issue! - **Taz’s Contraption!**

In 2017, when Marcus “Taz” Skildum had an alpaca go down on the ice and refuse to get up, he used a walker designed and built by his veterinarian. He has since used the sling walker on at least two other alpacas. As Taz wrote, “Don’t ever think a down alpaca is a goner. As long as you can get them back on their feet, there is hope.”

More about Taz’s Sling/Walker in next issue of the *Calpaca Connection!*



## In the News & On the Web

- [Alpacas, llamas may hold key to alternative COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Alpaca nanobodies neutralize SARS Co-V-2 in vitro](#)
- [Alpacas Get Loose, Roam Maryland Neighborhood](#)
- [South Texas llamas loved for their fuzziness and their fierceness in face of danger](#)

## Calpaca 2021 Events

Mar. 26-28	California Classic Alpaca Show <b>*CANCELED due to Covid*</b>	Merced, CA
Oct. 15-17	Gold Country Gathering	Nevada County Fairgrounds Grass Valley, CA

## Calpaca Quarterly Membership Meetings

Feb. 13	<i>Host:</i> <i>Where:</i> <i>Time:</i> <i>Topic:</i> <i>Speaker:</i>	<b>Calpaca Board of Directors</b> Virtual meeting 10:00 business meeting 11:30 education meeting Have Your Alpacas Pay for Themselves: Herd Size Doesn't Matter Julie Roy, alpaca owner since the fall of 2004, has 16+ years' experience teaching alpaca business and marketing education to new and established owners.
May 08	<i>Host:</i> <i>Where:</i> <i>Time:</i> <i>Topic:</i>	<b>Claudia &amp; Jerry Porter</b> Black Rock Mountain Alpacas & Fiber Mill, Fernley NV TBD Fiber Mills
Aug. 14	<i>Host:</i> <i>Where:</i> <i>Time:</i> <i>Topic:</i>	<b>Maureen Macedo</b> Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock CA TBD Agritourism
Nov. 13	<i>Host:</i> <i>Where:</i> <i>Time:</i> <i>Topic:</i>	OPEN TBD TBD TBD

### Newsletter: California Agritourism News

The California Agritourism News e-newsletter is written by Penny Leff, statewide agritourism coordinator for the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP). This e-mail newsletter is a chance for growers, agritourism operators, county staff, tourism professionals and everyone else involved in California agritourism to keep up with the latest information. Input and suggestions from readers are always welcome!



2020 Bruce Nelson Calpaca Volunteer of the Year Award  
CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Cline, C-Line Alpaca Ranch!

It is my great pleasure to announce that Linda Cline was awarded the Bruce Nelson Calpaca Volunteer of The Year award for 2020. The Calpaca member receiving this annual award is selected by the Calpaca Board of Directors in recognition of an individual who has exhibited a volunteer spirit through actions and commitment.

Whenever Linda is asked if she will help out, no matter what it is, **she responds with a smile and “How can I help?” Linda’s willingness** to help and her can-do attitude are part of what led to her receiving this award.

For the past several years, Linda has volunteered to serve as the Calpaca membership chair. The board recognizes the dedication, enthusiasm and taking care of all the details involved in the responsibilities.

Linda also serves as the election chair. The 2020 election brought challenges and adjustments. Under a very tight timeline, the election process was moved from the historic practice of mailing ballots to the membership to online voting. Linda adapted to the adjustments needed by the chair to stay within the guidelines of the bylaws without missing a step.

Linda is a volunteer extraordinaire. Although the membership chair job was more behind the scenes, Linda has been front and center during the Calpaca shows for several years. Event managers relax knowing she is serving as the critical recorder during shows. She has the system down to a science and makes it look effortless. It is not effortless.

Thank you, Linda, for all you have done to serve Calpaca.

## To Submit Advertising & Articles:

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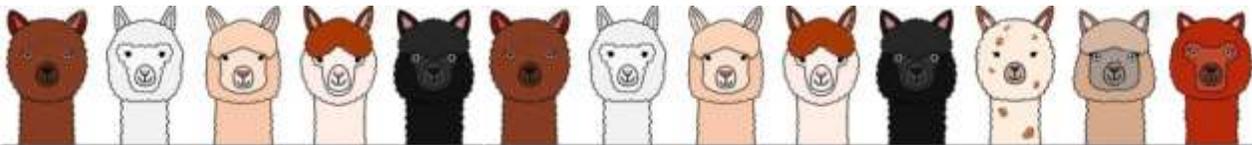
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"Calpaca" with info in the memo line  
Identifying what you are paying for

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5055 Messing Road  
Valley Springs, CA 95252

*Connection* deadlines are firm with few exceptions. Submission deadlines allow for newsletter publication one week prior to each quarterly Calpaca Membership meeting. Both advertising copy and articles must be received by the deadline, or they will not be published until the following issue. Payments for advertising must be received by Calpaca Treasurer Jackie Jones within seven days of submitting the ad via email or, if payment is mailed, included with disk containing the advertising copy.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submissions Due</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
Winter 2021	Jan. 16, 2020	Feb. 06, 2021	Feb. 13, 2021
Spring 2021	Apr. 10, 2021	May 01, 2021	May 08, 2021
Summer 2021	July 17, 2021	Aug. 07, 2021	Aug. 14, 2021
Autumn 2021	Oct. 16, 2021	Nov. 06, 2021	Nov. 13, 2021



## Contribute to the *Calpaca Connection*!

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of editing a newsletter is coming up with articles and ideas that are **current, relevant, interesting and beneficial for our members**. I like to write... I could fill each issue with my own stuff; but that's not why I'm here. To create a truly valuable resource for Calpaca members, we need Calpaca members to contribute.

- You have ideas all the time, right? This is a great place to explore and express them.
- **Have you solved a problem at your place or with your animals? I'm betting lots of us would like to know how you handled the challenge.**
- Do you get calls or emails asking your advice on fiber, herd management, breeding, and other aspects of living this lifestyle? **Harness your responses, and let's share them!**
- **What other ideas or suggestions do you have to make this the best publication possible? I'd love to add regular columns, tips'n'tricks, pictures, anything you are interested in that will also interest your**

# Llamas Reduce Anxiety During the Pandemic

by Morgan Barba, Chair—RMLA Youth Committee

Originally printed in the Winter 2020 issue of *The Journal of RMLA*. Used with author's permission.

The bonds between animals and humans are powerful. I did not personally realize how powerful this bond was until the COVID-19 pandemic when we were told to be safer at home, and I was given more of a chance to be outside with my llamas. It would have been easy to be negative, upset, and angry about the current circumstance. Instead, I tried to redirect that negative energy into something positive. Owning animals of any kind has been scientifically proven to reduce depression, anxiety, stress, and loneliness while still providing unconditional love and joy. My llamas have been a great source of motivation; they get me outside and walking around with them, increasing my level of physical fitness.



Not only that, but studies have shown that playing with animals, such as llamas, reduces stress-related hormones after only five minutes! Playing with an animal increases our serotonin and dopamine levels, which helps calm and relax the nervous system. Whenever I begin to feel stressed or overwhelmed, I immediately go outside to see my llamas because hugging them makes me feel instantly relaxed. Running them through obstacles or even walking them down the street brings me joy, and I tend to laugh much more when I am with them.

Through this challenging time, I have always felt needed by my llamas, which has mental health benefits. Caring for another living thing gives me a sense of purpose and meaning. I always know that my animals will need me to water and feed them, which is why I always make it a priority to plan 30 to 45 minutes out of my day to go out and care for my animals. I have found this time invaluable during the pandemic, as I am doing all remote learning and need to leave my computer for a little while. That time from my workspace is a chance for me to unwind and regroup myself be-

fore heading to my next class.

Finally, my llamas give me a chance to focus on being in the moment versus concentrating on everything else in my life. There have been plenty of cancellations and disappointments during 2020, which I sometimes get caught up in when I feel my lowest. However, when I am with my llamas, I am no longer worried about what happened yesterday or what might even happen tomorrow.

I can say that one of the more positive traits IU have gained during the pandemic is mindfulness. Mindfulness is defined as the psychological process of bringing one's attention to the present moment. Spending time with my llamas has increased my mindfulness as I am less worried about what the future may hold or what curveball may be thrown next, and more about what is bringing me happiness at that moment.

In conclusion, it is extremely easy to become caught up in the negatives of 2020 and COVID-19. I have certainly shed some tears over my non-traditional senior year or the cancellation of the 2021 National Western Stock Show. Then I remember that I always have access to one of the biggest joys in my life right in my backyard... my llamas.



My llamas have greatly improved my mental health these past few months and have even helped me become a better person. Remember, when you can only think of the negatives, remember that one positive thing that brings you the most joy!

## Why Does My Llama or Alpaca Lie Down Instead of Walking on the Lead?

by Marty McGee Bennett, [CAMELIDynamics.com](http://CAMELIDynamics.com)

When done appropriately, I think that teaching young llamas and alpacas to lead is one of the easiest and most fun aspects of camelid training and handling. Unlike giving injections, oral worming or trimming toenails, taking your animal out for a walk can be enjoyable for your animal as well as for you. The techniques described below can be used to retrain older animals or ones that have not been handled.

If I am having trouble with a skill that other people think is easy, I remind myself, *“Anything thing is easy... if you know how to do it!”*

Teaching a llama or an alpaca to walk nicely on a lead *is* easy provided that you have an understanding of how to avoid the pitfalls *and* that you have a proper set-up. This article focuses on one very common problem: the llama or alpaca lies down when you are training him to lead. The most important thing to understand and believe is that if your camelid lies down in the middle of a lead-training lesson, *you* have made a mistake. You are the teacher: it is your responsibility to convey what you want in a way that works. If the animal doesn't understand, it is not his fault. When I am training, I make mistakes. Mistakes are the way that I learn what *to do*.

It is no good to just try random ideas and hope one works; i.e., the “throw all the spaghetti at the wall, and hope some of it sticks” approach. I evaluate each step of the process as I go, and make an educated choice about what will work in any giv-



This is a nice light connection on the lead. A wand out front helps the animal to understand not to go past the handler.

en situation. Animals are not all cookie cutter versions of each other. There is no way to work with an animal and not make a miscalculation now and again. Making a mistake is not the problem; repeating the same mistake over and over *is* the problem. Repeating the same mistake teaches the animal to do what you *don't* want him to do.

Understand why your animal student dropped to the ground instead of walking, and you are three-quarters of the way to “That was easy!” Camelids that lie down on the lead have a reason for choosing that behavior. Labeling the animal as stubborn, stupid or obstinate only reduces your chances of fixing the problem.

Listed below are a number of possible reasons, and more than one reason may apply:

- The animal is overwhelmed and frightened.
- The halter doesn't fit.
- The animal does not know what you want.
- You are being heavy-handed.
- Your set up is not good enough and does not provide limits.
- You are standing too close to the animal.

Let's look at each of these possible miscalculations in more detail, along with the solutions.

### **The animal is overwhelmed and frightened, and lying down feels safer than standing up.**

Getting small is a coping strategy for camelids. They don't all use it, and some have more of a hair trigger "kush" button than others; but in my experience, in a stressful situation, it means the same thing. The animal doesn't know what else to do, and it feels safer to get small.

It is similar to a child putting his or her head down on the desk when they don't understand the material, and the teacher is not noticing the signs of confusion and/or fear. Teaching animals that are too young, either mentally or physically, to lead is probably the biggest reason for this problem. An eight- to ten-month old animal will learn to lead twice as fast as a four- to six-month old animal. Here is a partial laundry list of what will cause "overwhelm": lessons that are overly long, do not include any breaks, are too

frequent; or teaching in a location away from other animals.

### **The halter doesn't fit, and lying down seems safer than moving.**

It is not possible to overstate the importance of proper halter fit, particularly in the early stages of teaching an animal to lead. I have written many articles on



Make sure your halter fits. This halter fits well up on the nose bone and will stay there no matter what.

halter fit; it is not a simple subject. For purposes of this short article, the most important aspect of halter fit is that there is plenty of room in the nose band for comfort, and that the crown piece (the part that goes behind the ears) has plenty of "take up"—meaning that you can snug up the crown piece, and the halter noseband will slide well up on the nose bone and rest quite closely to the eye, *and* that it will



This halter doesn't FIT! It is too far forward; and when you use it to ask your animal to step forward, it can slip off the bone and onto soft cartilage. At that point, if your animal begins to buck around, you are in for a panic situation.

stay there no matter what! If the nose band slides forward and off the bone onto soft cartilage, it will compress the cartilage and compromise the airway, creating

panic. One very likely response to panic is to lie down or more dramatically, rear or leap up and crash to the ground.

**The animal doesn't know what you want because you haven't taught him what a signal on the halter means.**

Education—not brute force—is much easier and with less blow-back. Most people don't teach an alpaca or llama the meaning of a signal. When I train an alpaca or a llama to lead, I give a very specific signal on the lead—a squeeze release signal that shifts the animal's weight forward. When the animal takes a step, I drop the connection, marking the moment of the step and indicating that taking a step was the desired behavior. I call this "turning on the light bulb," and I teach this inside a catch pen after the animal is comfortable in a halter, but *before* I take him out of the catch pen into a larger area.



**You are being heavy-handed on the lead.**

Unlike every other barnyard animal, llamas and alpacas have tiny heads on the end of a long stalk, offering anyone with control of the head an extraordinary amount of power. It is very scary! Putting a lot of pressure on the head only pulls the head forward, lowering the neck. Pull harder, and the animal widens his stance and grows roots. Pull harder still, and the animal will simply pull back, balancing backwards on the anchor that you are handily providing. Keep pulling, and "down she goes!"

Pulling steadily on a lead—essentially making the animal uncomfortable and then "rewarding" with a release—is much slower than teaching a signal to come forward. The animal must engage in the process of elimination to figure out how to make you stop pulling—lying down also provides a release in pressure, but is hardly the behavior you are after. Once you teach your animal to lie down as a way of relieving the pressure you apply to the head, you are in big trouble. This particular learned behavior is a tough one to retrain.



Pulling steadily will cause the animal to pull back and eventually lie down.

**Your set-up does not provide limits, and the shape of the training area doesn't provide options for influencing behavior.**

Leave the confines of a catch pen and walk out into a square area, and you have no way to influence where your animal goes *except* to hold steadily on the lead. Hold steadily on the lead, and many animals respond by bucking and rearing, followed by collapsing on the ground in a heap. Instead, work in a catch pen that adjoins a long, narrow aisleway, and



Teaching the first few lessons in a long narrow aisleway is the best way to help your animal figure out what you actually want from the whole leading thing.

you can stop an end-run simply by stepping in the animal's way. Additionally, the shape of the pen adds clarity to the process and says visually to the animal, "Follow me and stay behind."

**You are standing too close to the animal, triggering the learned behavior to run away in the opposite direction.**

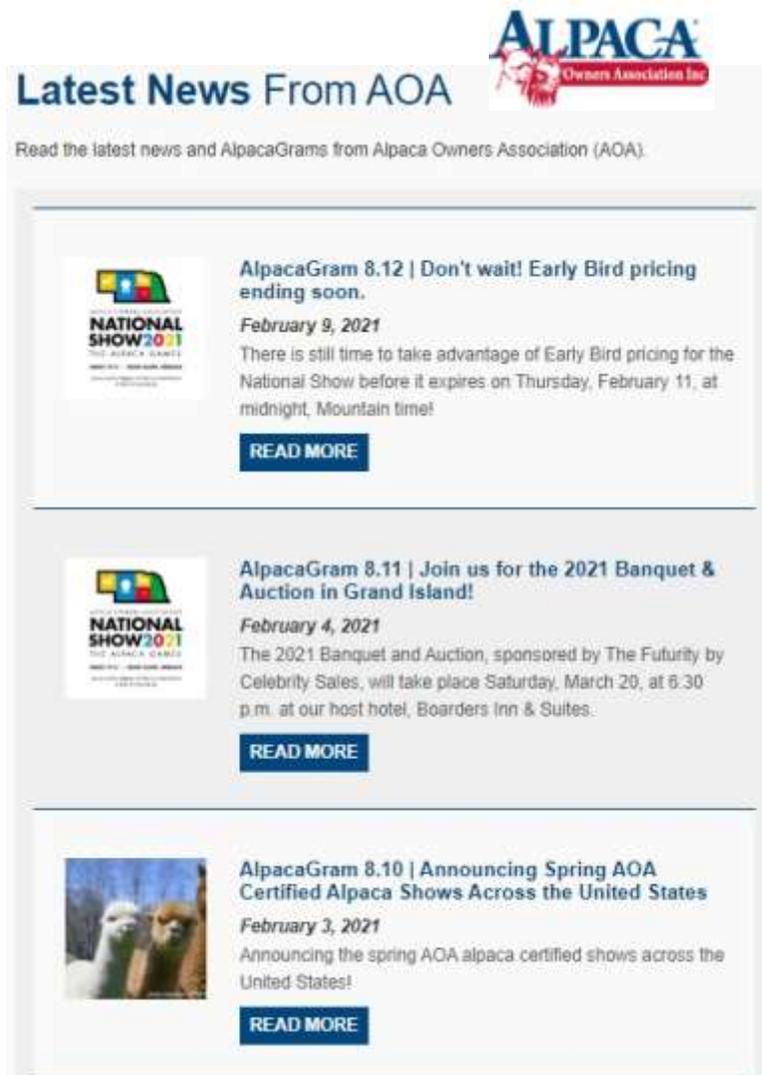
If you are among the many people who rely on trapping your llama or alpaca in a corner to catch him, consider how this affects the animal's behavior when learning to lead. In all previous situations, your approach signals to the animal to move away in the opposite direction from your approach. When you hook a lead to him and stand near him in a large area, his natural inclination is to run in the opposite direction, *not* to go with you. If you want your camelid to feel comfortable trying a new behavior such as moving toward you, your best bet is to be well away from him. (I also advocate not using a corner for catching, but that is another topic.) Use a long lead in a long, narrow aisleway, use a light connection, stay well away from the animal, and remember to BREATHE!

There are many different approaches to lead training. I feel most comfortable with techniques that educate rather than dominate. I feel energized and personally satisfied when I can start young animals on a lead and watch the light of understanding come on in their eyes. Loyalty to a technique that isn't working will only teach your animal behavior that you don't

want. Pay attention to what works and modify your approach. The result will be a more efficient training session and one that is more fun and less frustrating for both you and your animal student.

*Happy Handling!*

Check out Marty's website at CAMELIDynamics.com—online and in-person classes, alpaca tack, books, training tools and an invaluable Guild you can join!



**ALPACA**  
Owners Association Inc.

## Latest News From AOA

Read the latest news and AlpacaGrams from Alpaca Owners Association (AOA).



**AlpacaGram 8.12 | Don't wait! Early Bird pricing ending soon.**  
*February 9, 2021*  
There is still time to take advantage of Early Bird pricing for the National Show before it expires on Thursday, February 11, at midnight, Mountain time!  
[READ MORE](#)



**AlpacaGram 8.11 | Join us for the 2021 Banquet & Auction in Grand Island!**  
*February 4, 2021*  
The 2021 Banquet and Auction, sponsored by The Futurity by Celebrity Sales, will take place Saturday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. at our host hotel, Boarders Inn & Suites.  
[READ MORE](#)



**AlpacaGram 8.10 | Announcing Spring AOA Certified Alpaca Shows Across the United States**  
*February 3, 2021*  
Announcing the spring AOA alpaca certified shows across the United States!  
[READ MORE](#)

## Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

The next pages contain the results from the membership survey sent to all members of Calpaca in 2020. You have likely already received an email with the results, dated 02.10.2021, from Calpaca President Dianna Jordan. Although there were only about 40% responses to the survey, we were nonetheless able to get valuable direction and insights from the results.

As a reminder, here is the message introducing the purpose of the survey and the intended use for the results:

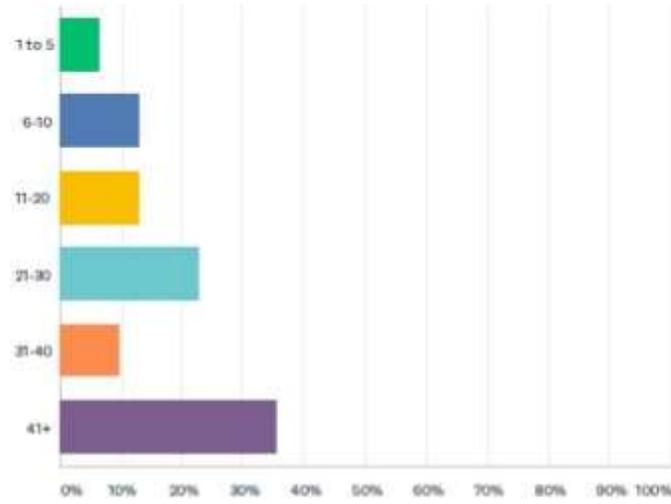
*“There is no denying 2020 has been a year like no other for our members and other alpaca enthusiasts. Fires, Covid-19, and the responses to the pandemic have impacted our businesses, our Calpaca events, and our lives. January is when your new BOD meets to create a strategic plan for the current year. Planning for 2021 is going to be a challenge.*

*By completing this survey you are providing insights and input that are extremely important for the BOD to consider as we create a strategic plan that supports you, other alpaca enthusiasts, and our alpaca community.”*

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q3 How many alpacas do you own (including partnerships)?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

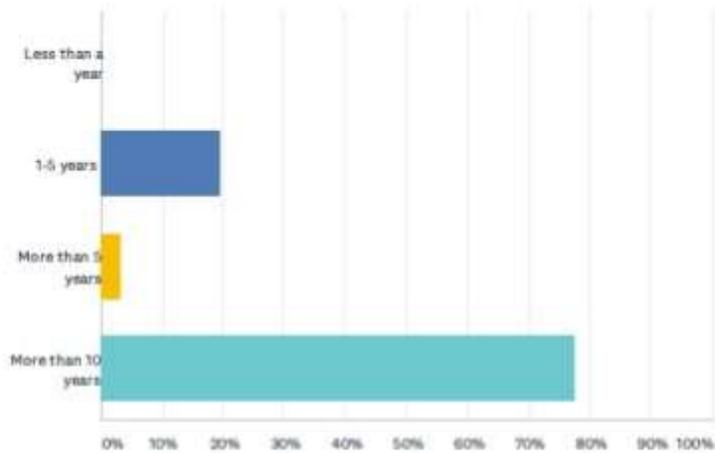


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 to 5	6.45% 2
6-10	12.90% 4
11-20	12.90% 4
21-30	22.58% 7
31-40	9.68% 3
41+	35.48% 11
Total Respondents: 31	

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

## Q2 How many years have you owned alpacas/llamas?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

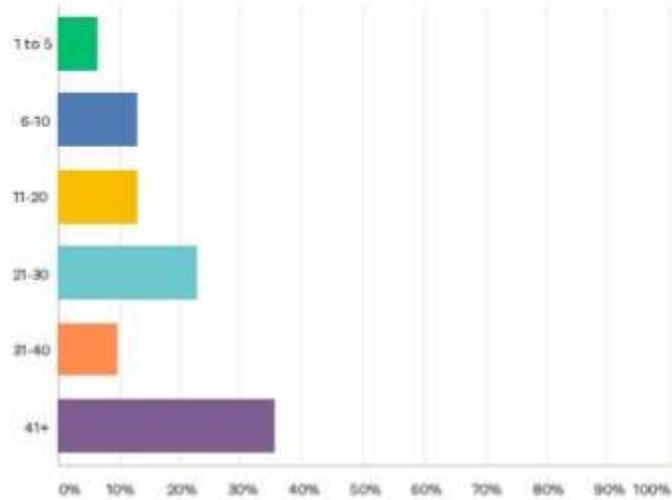


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than a year	0.00%	0
1-5 years	19.35%	6
More than 5 years	3.23%	1
More than 10 years	77.42%	24
Total Respondents: 31		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q3 How many alpacas do you own (including partnerships)?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

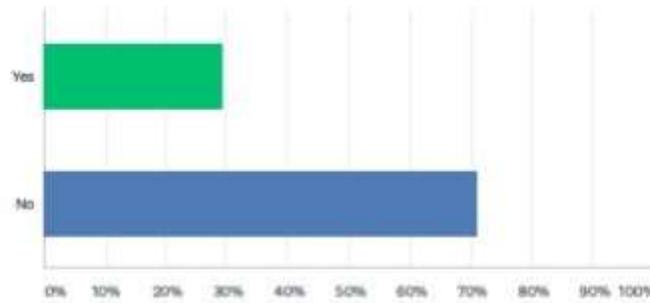


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 to 5	5.48% 2
6-10	12.90% 4
11-20	12.90% 4
21-30	22.58% 7
31-40	9.68% 3
41+	35.48% 11
Total Respondents: 31	

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q4 Do you have, or know of, children who are interested in learning more about alpacas/llamas?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

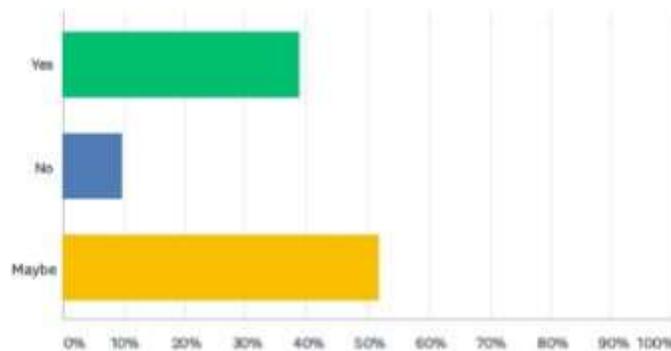


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	29.03%	9
No	70.97%	22
Total Respondents: 31		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

**Q6 NEW EVENT:** The first annual Calpaca Community Event. The afternoon of January 16, 2021 your BOD is gathering (virtually) for the 2021 Calpaca Strategic Planning meeting. At this meeting the BOD will review Calpaca financials, set a budget for Calpaca, plan events, discuss membership needs and Calpaca challenges and opportunities in 2021, and more. That morning, prior to the Strategic Planning meeting, the BOD will be hosting (virtually) a Calpaca Community event open to current (2021) and 2020 Calpaca members. THE PURPOSE of this Calpaca community event is to involve Calpaca members in the 2021 planning process. The information presented to attendees will include a review of the financials, a schedule of 2021 events, challenges and opportunities, and a Q & A session. The tentative time (to be confirmed) is 10:00am, January 16, 2021. Are you interested in attending this event?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

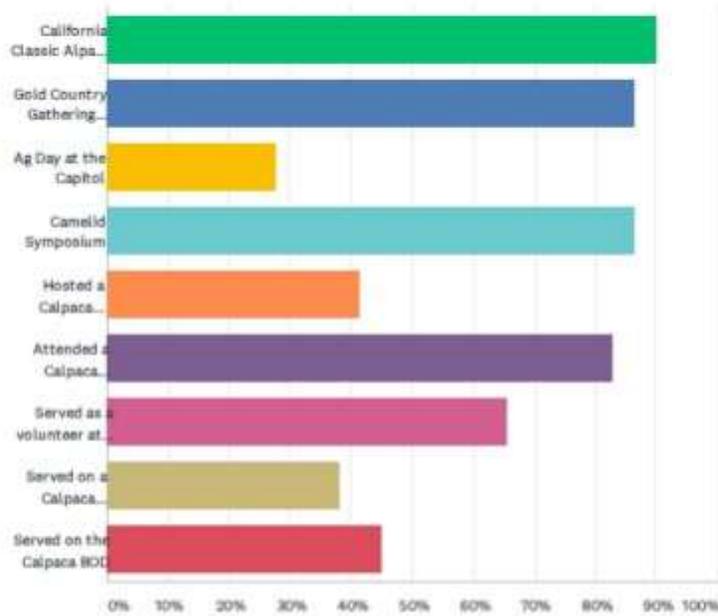


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.71%	12
No	9.68%	3
Maybe	51.61%	16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31</b>

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q7 What Calpaca events/activities have you participated in? Check all that apply.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 2

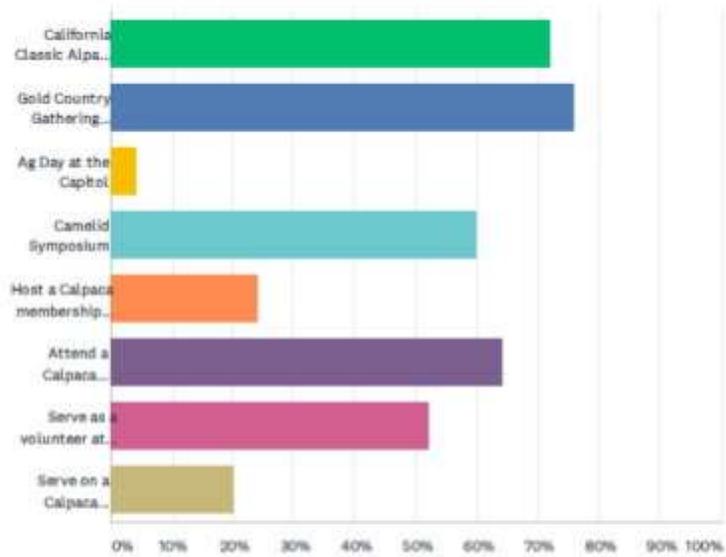


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
California Classic Alpaca Show	89.66%	26
Gold Country Gathering Alpaca Show	86.21%	25
Ag Day at the Capitol	27.59%	8
Camelid Symposium	86.21%	25
Hosted a Calpaca membership meeting	41.38%	12
Attended a Calpaca membership meeting	82.76%	24
Served as a volunteer at a Calpaca event	65.52%	19
Served on a Calpaca committee	37.93%	11
Served on the Calpaca BOD	44.83%	13
Total Respondents: 29		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q8 In 2021, what Calpaca events/activities are you most likely to participate in? Check all that apply.

Answered: 25 Skipped: 6

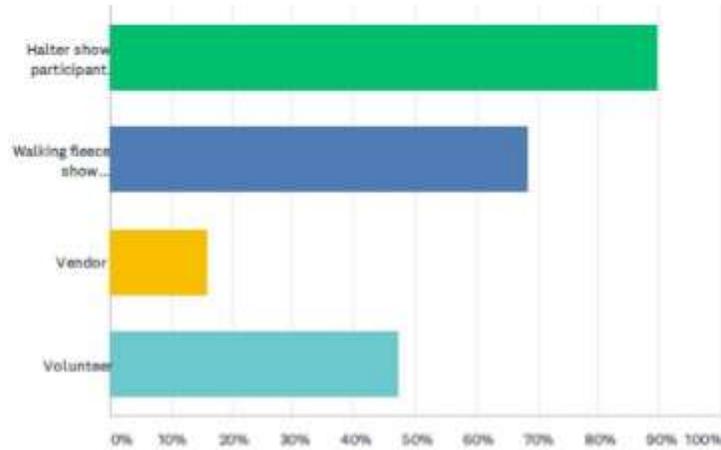


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
California Classic Alpaca Show	72.00% 18
Gold Country Gathering Alpaca Show	76.00% 19
Ag Day at the Capitol	4.00% 1
Camelid Symposium	60.00% 15
Host a Calpaca membership meeting	24.00% 6
Attend a Calpaca membership meeting ...virtual and/or in person	64.00% 16
Serve as a volunteer at a Calpaca event	52.00% 13
Serve on a Calpaca committee	20.00% 5
Total Respondents: 25	

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q9 If the California Classic is held in March, 2021 (subject to possible pandemic restrictions) would you plan to attend as a (check all that apply):

Answered: 19 Skipped: 12

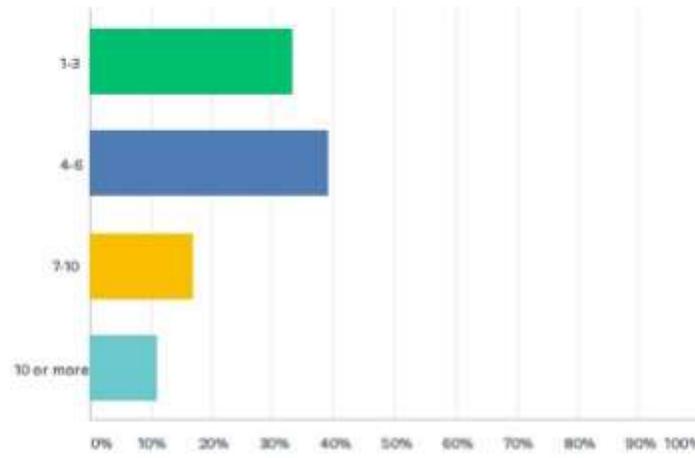


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Halter show participant.	89.47%	17
Walking fleece show participant.	68.42%	13
Vendor	15.79%	3
Volunteer	47.37%	9
Total Respondents: 19		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

**Q10 FOR IMMEDIATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING PURPOSES, If you plan to attend the California Classic in 2021 approximately how many alpacas will you bring?**

Answered: 18 Skipped: 13

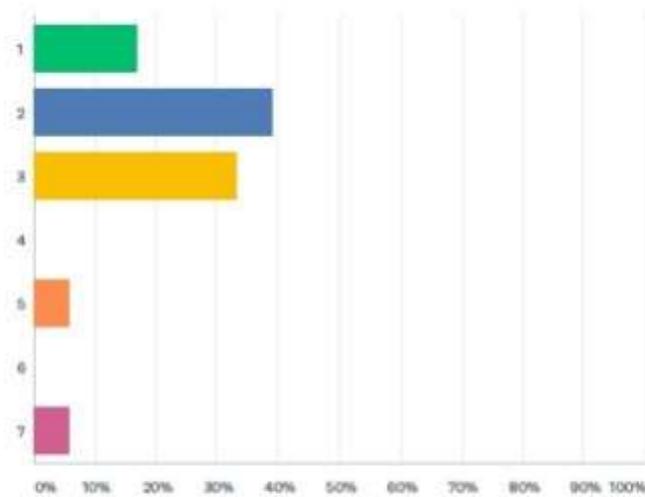


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-3	33.33%	6
4-6	38.89%	7
7-10	16.67%	3
10 or more	11.11%	2
Total Respondents: 18		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

**Q11 FOR IMMEDIATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING PURPOSES, If you attend the California Classic in 2021 approximately how many stalls will you reserve? Please include display stalls.**

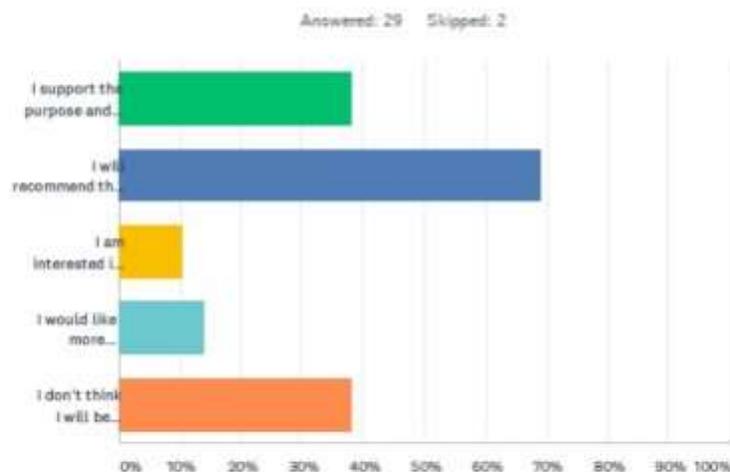
Answered: 18 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	16.67%	3
2	38.89%	7
3	33.33%	6
4	0.00%	0
5	5.56%	1
6	0.00%	0
7	5.56%	1
<b>Total Respondents: 18</b>		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q12 The Camelid Symposium is Calpaca's annual education event and planning is taking place now. The 2021 Camelid Symposium will be a one-day event scheduled for June 12, 2021 and will be held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland, CA. Based on the results of the survey sent to the 2020 symposium attendees, the consensus is that in 2021 the participants are wanting topics centered on information to support new alpaca owners....basically, the basics. The focus of this educational event will be providing information for new/inexperienced alpaca owners seeking the basics of alpaca health, breeding, nutrition, etc. Registration fee: striving for \$75 or less Speakers and presenters: to stay within the scope of the focus, and keep costs down, the presenters will be selected from local Subject Matter Experts (SME). Experienced Calpaca members will be invited to present and/or participate in the presentations, Q&A, and/or round table discussions. This provides our Calpaca members the opportunity to be an integral part of the event. Based on this brief overview please respond to the following. Your responses will assist the symposium and BOD in determining if we move forward with plans for a 2021 Symposium. Choose as many responses as apply.



# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

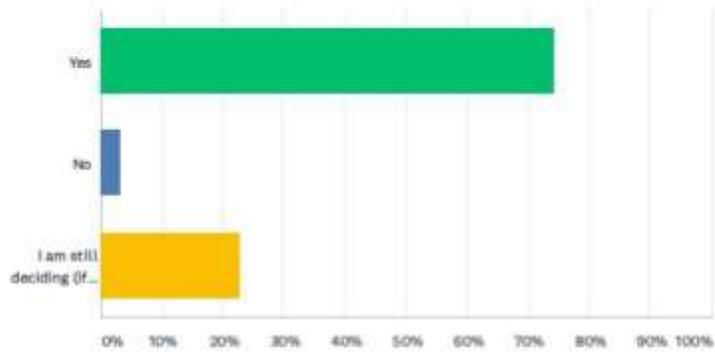
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I support the purpose and objectives of this event and plan to attend.	37.93%	11
I will recommend this event to my clients and other alpaca enthusiasts.	68.97%	20
I am interested in being a presenter or round table discussion leader. If you are interested please let us know, in the comments section below, what basic topics you would like to speak to or be part of.	10.34%	3
I would like more information before I commit to this event.	13.79%	4
I don't think I will be attending this event.	37.93%	11
Total Respondents: 29		

13 / 16

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q13 Do you intend to renew your Calpaca membership in 2021?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

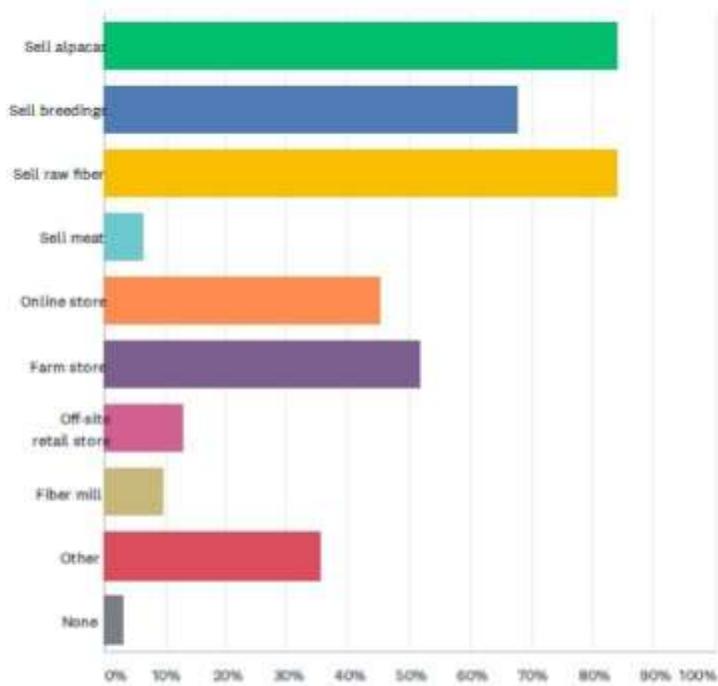


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	74.19% 23
No	3.23% 1
I am still deciding (if you are undecided please add the reason why in the comment section)	22.58% 7
TOTAL	31

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q14 What alpaca business services do you offer? Check all that apply.

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0

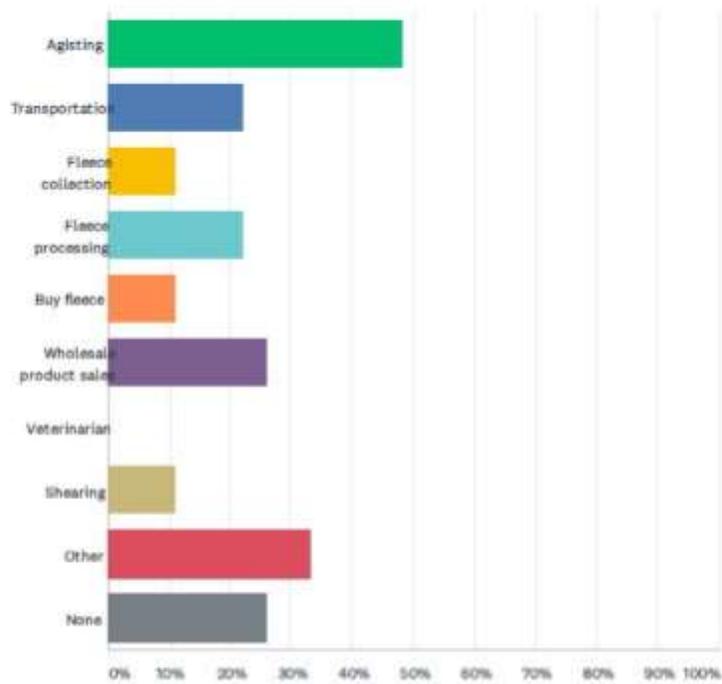


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sell alpacas	83.87%	26
Sell breedings	67.74%	21
Sell raw fiber	83.87%	26
Sell meat	6.45%	2
Online store	45.16%	14
Farm store	51.61%	16
Off-site retail store	12.90%	4
Fiber mill	9.68%	3
Other	35.48%	11
None	3.23%	1
Total Respondents: 31		

# Special Section: Calpaca 2020 Membership Survey

Q15 What services do you provide? Check all that apply.

Answered: 27 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agisting	48.15%	13
Transportation	22.22%	6
Fleece collection	11.11%	3
Fleece processing	22.22%	6
Buy fleece	11.11%	3
Wholesale product sales	25.93%	7
Veterinarian	0.00%	0
Shearing	11.11%	3
Other	33.33%	9
None	25.93%	7
Total Respondents: 27		



## Members Helping Members

[AlpacaGram 7.66, 09/10/2020](#)

Natural disasters are unfortunately taking place around the country that are impacting AOA members including hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes.

If you or your family are affected, fill out the [AOA Members Helping Members Form](#) so we can get the word out. Do you need a place to board animals, trailers to evacuate your animals, need a place to stay, supplies, etc? We want to share your needs with the alpaca community to help you.

If you are able to help members who are in need, you, too, can fill out the [AOA Members Helping Members Form](#). Please provide the details of the assistance you can provide: board animals, transport animals, supplies, etc. We will attempt to connect those in need with those able to help.

### **Below are some pointers from members in the trenches now:**

- Register all your alpacas and keep the AOA database updated with the animals current microchip or ear tag IDs. This allows AOA to direct finders to the alpaca owners right away.
- If your animal has no chip, leave identifiers on them, something around their neck or even spray paint. Some animals have had to be set loose and there has to be a quick and easy way to tell where they belong when found or if they get mixed up in possible chaos.
- Alpaca owners should have a care form with the alpacas they evacuate as people at the evacuation centers may know nothing about alpacas.
- Post forms around the farm in case you need to evacuate and leave your animals. Law enforcement will be sent to feed the animals and need to know how many animals in each barn, what kind, and how to feed, etc.
- It is important to evacuate before it is dire, once an evacuation order is given, nobody will be permitted to come help.
- Have a plan no matter how remote the idea of a disaster seems. Have a 5 minute plan, 1/2 hour plan, and 2 hour plan.
- Check with local affiliates to see if they have an emergency plan and a list of people who can help transport or keep alpacas.
- Utilize social media, it is the quickest way to reach out and let other locals know you need help or can help.

### **Additional resources and information on disaster preparedness:**

- [Disaster Preparedness](#) on Alpaca Academy
- [AlpacaGram 7.46](#) — a must read message from GIRCom on how to prepare for a disaster along with a list of resources.

We have members wanting to help however possible, so please let us know what may be needed.

# Calpaca Member Classified Ads

## Agisting

**Menagerie Hill Ranch** is a full service, family ranch offering **agisting, consulting, sales, support and alpaca fiber products**. Our agisting service includes quality feed and water, routine husbandry, vaccinations and other care. Alpacas on a long-term agisting plan receive free shearing. Owners are welcome to visit any time, and we will help you learn how to care for your alpacas. Veterinary care, breeding, training and other services are extra. Standard rate is \$3.25 per day. We are located in the English Hills area of Vacaville, close to Hwy 505.

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners | [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) | 707.290.7915

## Farms / Ranches

**Macedo's Mini Acre**, Turlock California - Suri and Huacaya breeding program focused on performance (obstacle, pack and public relations) as well as fiber. Classes also offered in spinning, felting and fleece preparation.

[macedosminiacre@gmail.com](mailto:macedosminiacre@gmail.com) | Larry 209-648-2338 - Maureen 209-648-2384

## Herdsires

Not **ONE**, not **TWO**, but **THREE** Get of Sire blue ribbons. The proof is in his progeny! **OVA Kiernan of St Andrews** (#30528987) has sired 61 registered cria over the past eight years. Five were registered in 2018, and more are expected in 2019 and 2020. Yep, he is still working. Check him out at [www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/119141/ova-kiernan-of-st-andrews](http://www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/119141/ova-kiernan-of-st-andrews), and then give us a call at 530-744-7474.

Jack and Dianna Jordan | [www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com](http://www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com).

**Suri:** Jar Jar Binks, Sir Baronoff son and Pericles, as Greystone son.

**Huacaya:** Accoyo Milagro (appaloosa), RR Brubeck (roan), Sundance Kid (light fawn, has sired harlequin greys). Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock, California.

[macedosminiacre@gmail.com](mailto:macedosminiacre@gmail.com) | Larry 209-648-2338 | Maureen 209-648-2384

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?** At the 2013 California Classic show, two up-and-coming herdsires were featured in the Herdsire Auction. Little did we know then that six years later, we would be proud co-owners of them.

**OVA Kiernan of St. Andrews** went on to garner a total of **3 FIRST PLACE GET OF SIRE** and **3 CHAMPION/RESERVE banners**. **101A El Jefe's Moro** earned **1 FIRST PLACE GET OF SIRE** and **3 CHAMPION/RESERVE banners**.

Between them, they have produced over **80 registered offspring**...many multiple show winners.

Call Dianna Jordan at 530-744-7474 to arrange a breeding to either of these proven herdsires.

## Calpaca Member Classified Ads, cont.

### Herdsires, cont.

**MHAR Blizzard by Justice** is a beautiful, bright white stud, with extremely uniform, dense, crimped fleece, full body coverage, and excellent bite/conformation. At 6 years of age, his fleece still has a lovely, soft, buttery feel!

At the 2014 Gold Country Gathering, judge Kathy Klay said "He's the total package!" when awarding him First Place (no CC), noting his soft crimp style and density. Most recently, his 3rd fleece spin-off entry won Judges Choice! And his 4<sup>th</sup> fleece spin-off entry won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the adult (D) class (of 8) at the 2017 AOA nationals, this in spite of being very dirty thanks to our very wet/muddy winter. His first crias are on the ground with more due next winter. We can't wait to see them all!

To date we haven't used him as much as we should because we've been focusing on the SG/black colors. But he's produced several lights/fawns; and now a gorgeous brown with amazing early crimp/bundling and density, plus staple length, brightness and handle that we'll definitely be showing! So we're focusing more on using Blizzard and hope you will too!

So through June 2020, his stud fee will be \$500 for CALPACA members, including 60 days agisting at Menagerie Hill Ranch in Vacaville for your girl. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at this special price!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners. [www.menageriehillranch.com](http://www.menageriehillranch.com) 707.290.7915

**Menagerie Hill Ranch** is pleased to offer the stud services of **RR Gun's Kit Carson (KC)**. With **17 Championships and 21 1<sup>st</sup> Place** wins, it's no wonder that more than **10 of his offspring are Color Champion** winners! KC took his first championship at 8 months of age. Since then, his fleece has maintained its length, fineness and uniformity, and he remains one of the best grey males in the country.

His kids still win big in the ring... including 2016 Gold Country Gathering KC son 4-Sights Crawford won RCC behind RR Dizzy Gillespie in Grey Male; KC daughter 4-Sight's Centerfold won CC, grey female; AND KC son RR Lancelot won Black CC. Centerfold also took CC at the 2016 ABI and the 2017 Futurity. And at the 2017 CA Classic, Lancelot won CC in both Halter and Walking Fleece. Most recently, MHAR Ebonni Carson won CC in Walking Fleece (Black) at the 2019 Gold Country Gathering!

Check KC and his cria out at:

<http://www.menageriehillranch.com/alpacas-for-sale/121347/rr-guns-kit-carson>

With gorgeous silver gray fleece, excellent conformation and a perfect bite, we believe Kit Carson can make a big impact on our breeding program and yours!

He normally summers in Utah and will be leaving around May 1. Until he departs, we're offering this spring special: Hosted breedings at a **reduced price of \$2,000, with drive-bys at \$1500**. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at a great price!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners | [menageriehillranch.com](http://menageriehillranch.com) | 707.290.7915

# Calpaca Member Business Cards



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 Somerset, CA 95684

ranch 530-642-8082  
 cell 650-355-4200  
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 www.alpacasofeldorado.com



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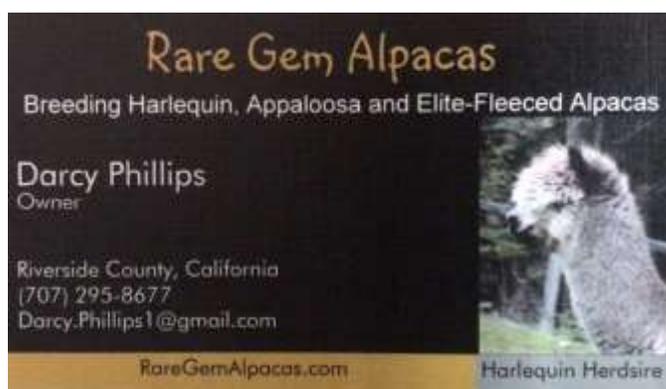
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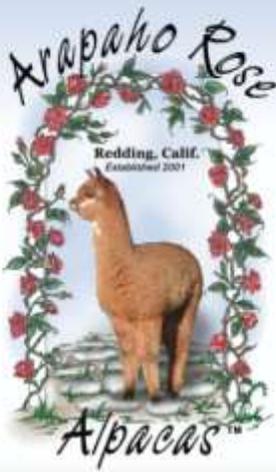
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# Alpaca Education At Your Fingertips

Do you know the AOA website contains a section called the Alpaca Academy? The Alpaca Academy provides education and information for the entire alpaca community. Topics range from the most common questions about alpacas and the industry to in-depth articles on alpaca EPDs, genetics, and breeding. Alpaca Academy also provides information on the latest alpacas research and links to additional resources.

The following pages contain examples of the various topics available for those wanting to know more about alpacas and the industry.

One of the common themes I have found in reading about what alpaca owners breeders would like is the desire for more education. Perhaps many don't know that many of their questions have already been addressed in the Alpaca Academy. Take a few minutes to review the topics on the right . If you would like to learn more about the Alpaca Academy just follow this link:

<http://www.alpacainfo.com/learn> and

## ALPACA ACADEMY



- [About Alpacas](#)
- [Alpaca Fiber](#)
- [Alpaca Registry](#)
- [Alpaca Research](#)
- [Alpaca Shows](#)
- [Alpacas as a Business](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Embryo Transfer](#)
- [EPDs](#)
- [Farm Management](#)
- [Genetics & Breeding](#)
- [Health & Husbandry](#)
- [Marketing](#)
- [Research Registered Alpacas](#)

### Video Topics Available From International Camelid Institute Include:

- How To Give an Injection
- Assessing Your Camelid Before You Call Your Veterinarian
- Removal of Fighting Teeth
- Proper Halter Fit For Camelids
- Passing A Stomach Tube in Camelids
- Obtaining a Blood Sample and preparing the DNA Blood Card
- Shearing for the Health of Your Animals
- Training Your Camelid to Halter and Lead

# Join Calpaca Today!

The California Alpaca Breeders Association (Calpaca) represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences, and host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public. We invite you to join us!

Calpaca Membership Meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the second month of each quarter.

## **Calpaca Farm Membership - \$100/year (\$50 first year)**

Benefits:

- Free marketing on Calpaca website (animals, fiber, store, services etc.)
- Complimentary listing of your Openherd website on Calpaca's website – check out <http://www.calpaca.org/alpaca-farms/>
- Educational quarterly Calpaca membership meetings
- Free advertising opportunity in the Connection newsletter
- Ability to link your Web site to a mobile device
- Ability to link your Web site to Facebook page
- Lobbying our State Legislature through– AG Day sponsorship
- Discounts at alpaca events
- Advertising opportunity to showcase your farm to over 3000 alpaca breeders
- Opportunity to run for a seat on the Calpaca Board of Directors and have a voice in the future
- Opportunity to host a Calpaca meeting and give your ranch and alpacas more exposure
- Two votes on Calpaca issues
- Connection newsletter that provides educational articles
- Listing in Membership Directory, hard copy
- Ability to send email marketing items to members offering your animals, products and services

## **Calpaca Associate Membership - \$30/year**

Benefits:

- Quarterly *Calpaca Connection* Newsletter
- Attend all Calpaca meetings and events

Join Online