

UMA News

Upper Midwest Alpacas



July, 2016
Volume 1, Issue 2

Mark your Calendars for Summer Meeting

Before we know it, our Summer Meeting, scheduled for August 6, 2016 meeting will be upon us, which will again be held at the Dakota County Library, Wescott Branch, at 12:15 pm. The library is located at 1340 Wescott Road, Eagan, MN. 651-450-2900

Please plan to join us. There's lots to talk about.

Teri Quamme , President

Treasurer's Report

UMA's financial situation is solid: Current, we have only two ongoing expenses:

- ✓ Constant Contact, now \$45, which allows us to send email blasts and other communications efficiently and without the concern of emails landing in spam, and
- ✓ Web hosting through Open Herd @ \$229/yr.

Currently, the checkbook balance as of 7/20/16: \$2483.88

- ✓ Recent expenses:
 - \$144.27 (for printing and mailing of Spring Newsletter)
 - \$45.00 for monthly Constant Contact fees

UMA Member News

Welcome to New Members: UMA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

KKR Alpacas, owned by new UMA member Amy Ites. KKR is located in Mankato, MN.

Be a Preferred Vendor for UMA members: UMA offers a page for "Preferred Vendors" – for those that offer UMA members discounted goods or services. This can be non-alpaca oriented. Current examples are: printing & insurance companies. Everyone wins....business for the vendor benefit to the UMA member.

Get the news out: If you have an item of interest for the membership, please submit it to any BOD member for inclusion in the newsletter. Deadlines for submission are: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1.

Seeking New Board Members: Soon, UMA will be seeking new board members for the next 2 year term, replacing the expiring terms for Teri Quamme and Barb Bender. We encourage you to consider participating on the board, and taking an active role in the future of UMA. Nominations and voting will take place November – December with new members effective 2017.

Events

Past UMA Events

On March 12th UMA sponsored a comprehensive **Parasitology Seminar and Wet Lab** in Rochester, MN. Sue and Dave Dripps of AlpacaShare, hosted this event and Dr. Donald Bliss of Mid-America Ag. Research conducted the thought provoking class and wet lab. Dr. Bliss and his organization do thousands of fecal tests annually for all types of livestock, including alpacas and llamas. Submission forms and complete details can be found on their website: www.midamericaagresearch.net. More than twenty attendees learned to identify common Camelid GI parasites, tracked their life cycles, and learned about the damage they do to our alpacas. Dr. Bliss explained resistance to commonly used de-wormers and the reasons why they have become resistant as well as ways to prevent overuse of the same de-wormers.

During the wet lab portion, we were encouraged to run fecals with equipment provided by Dr. Bliss and other attendees. We learned the Modified Wisconsin Sugar Fecal Worm Egg Flotation Method with fairly simple equipment that can be used on our own farms. Results were viewed and discussed at length.

Though attendees may never choose to buy equipment and run fecals themselves, the knowledge we gained will help us manage our herd health much more efficiently and prevent wide-scale problems over time.

Dr. David Shaut of Value Diagnostics sponsored us by donating two complete Fecal Testing Kits, one for a door prize, and one for the host farm. Paula and Dan Simon won the door prize and the Dripps decided to re-donate their kit to UMA. We will use it at a later date for another door prize – value \$150.

Dr. Bliss was very generous with his time, equipment, and expertise. He is highly approachable and willingly shares his knowledge. The Dripps provided a fantastic lunch and beautiful facility for this event. Thank you to all sponsors and attending parties.

Upcoming Member Events

TAKE ADVANTAGE, PARTICIPATE and HELP THE MIDWEST INDUSTRY GROW

Consider participating in the **Midwest Farm & Fiber Festival** on October 22 at the Isanti County Fairgrounds in Cambridge, MN. This festival is sponsored by UMA members Foggy Bottom Farms and Over the Rainbow Alpaca Ranch.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY FARM to:

- ✓ Introduce your farm to the public
- ✓ further your farm's name recognition
- ✓ sell your products

Not sure you have enough product? Team up with another farm. This is a low cost business opportunity for all of our farms. And a great opportunity to showcase your fiber and fiber related products to the public. For more information and vendor registration see www.midwestfff.com or call 651-503-1350.

SHEAR..SKIRT...SHOW...SELL

Coinciding with the Midwest Fiber Festival is the **Midwest Alpaca Fleece Show**. We are excited to have the only fleece show in the Midwest this year right in our back yard. This show is AOA certified with Wade Gease judging. There is NO reason not to enter at least one fleece per farm. Even if it doesn't earn a ribbon, it's a great way to get feedback directly from an AOA judge, learn more about your fleeces and your breeding programs.

The show sponsors have kept the entrance fees as low as we've ever seen. AOA requires a minimum of 36 fleece entries to maintain the AOA certification. Why is AOA certification important? Many farms seeking new alpacas, male or female, will recognize the value of AOA fleece show awards as an added measure of fleece (and therefore animal) quality.

Farms entering fleeces can choose to sell their fleeces at the Farm and Fiber Festival. Register your fleeces now: www.midwestfff.com or all 651-503-1350

Fleece submission for AFCNA: Any members in Southern MN interested in working together to ship fleece to AFCNA? Save \$ with shipping.
Contact Kirby Bakken @ bakkenkl@gmail.com

UPPER MIDWEST ALPACAS
Current Board of Directors


President - Teri Quamme	taquam@msn.com
Vice President - Connie Bodeker	bbfai@hughes.net
Secretary – Brian Osterman	brian@suriserenadealpacas.com
Treasurer - Barb Bender	barb@foggybottomfarms.net
Member at Large – Susie Hansen	casadehansen7@gmail.com

Complete contact information is available on the website:
www.uppermidwestalpacas.com

Emergency Readiness for Alpaca Owners

We should all have some sort of plan in case of an emergency. As the saying goes “better safe than sorry “ First, make yourself aware of the potential disasters that are more prevalent in your area. Whether it is flooding, tornadoes or fires, you should have a plan to either evacuate your animals or shelter them.

Let’s look at barn fires: Prevention is the goal:

- ✓ Avoid parking tractors, mowers, etc. In order near the barn. The heat from the engine or sparks from backfires, could start a flame.
- ✓ Check wiring regularly. Rodents can cause damage to the wires which can become hazardous.
- ✓ DO NOT smoke in or around the barn.
- ✓ Make sure that hay is dry before storing. Hay that is still moist, could spontaneously combust.
- ✓ ALWAYS keep your address posted in a visible place so it can be given to a 911 operator.
- ✓ Keep 1 or 2 fire extinguishers in the barn.

If you can shelter them elsewhere, start evacuating from the front to the back to avoid (hopefully) a stampede. If you have to let them go, steer them so they cannot return to the barn. This decision will have to be based on the type of disaster, not just fires.

- ✓ Make sure that each alpaca has some sort of identification. Whether it is microchip or neck tag.
- ✓ If you don’t have enough trailers to move animals, have a list of people to call and help. Have this list set before you need it so it is okay with everyone.
- ✓ Have an emergency kit ready to go. If any medication is needed, have it ready or accessible to take with quickly. Also try to have papers that show identification of animals that you can take with you.

Hopefully this will be a helpful guide and reminder. When faced with any sort of emergency, we sometimes panic and thinking is not clear. So being prepared ahead of time will benefit everyone.
