



# Your EAA Summer Newsletter

August 2020

**SAVE THE DATE:**

October 22nd -25th for the Showtacular  
Yes, it's still on - for now but see the president's message.

**Connect with us on Facebook!**

EAA Facebook

Committee chairs & members, please send newsletter submissions for inclusion/consideration to [Sarah Lamanna claddaghfarms@gmail.com](mailto:SarahLamanna@claddaghfarms@gmail.com)

- **Deadline is the 15th of each month**

**Membership  
Renewal!** With  
the Covid 19  
Pandemic EAA  
has extended its  
renewal deadline  
to July 31st.  
**Click here to  
Join/Renew!**

**For you, our Members!**

## A Note from your President

Greetings Empire Alpaca members:

A thank you first goes out to everyone who has renewed their membership for the 2020/2021 renewal. Without your support EAA would not be what it is today. Second Thank you to Sarah Lamanna for her hard work on these newsletters-it is very appreciated.



With Covid 19 so many things in our lives have changed-and most are not for the better. Please know that EAA is here to help you any way we can-from helping locate a shearer to cria shear those crias to locating

meds that are running on short supply or hay that looks like it will be hard to come by-if we can help you we certainly will! Please feel free to reach out to any BOD member or [email the BOD](mailto:eaabod@empirealpacaassociation.com) at [eaabod@empirealpacaassociation.com](mailto:eaabod@empirealpacaassociation.com)

Your BOD and Showtacular BOD has been meeting regularly trying to decipher what the new regulations that are changing daily means for our fall show. **As of right now the planning has been put on hold until September 1st, 2020 allowing for measures that our Governor has put into place to work and allow NYS to open back up without the quarantine.** On the BOD meeting September 1, 2020 we will make a decision to move forward with the show or to cancel. **On Sept 2nd**, the BOD will then send out an eblast & post on our Facebook page letting the members know the decision. The last thing we want is to plan a show and at the last minute have to pull the plug. We thank you in advance for your patience.

**On a Sad Note:**

EAA lost a valuable member-Pat Hamilton from Virginia Breeze Alpaca farm in Virginia passed away after a battle with cancer. Pat Hamilton was a very generous soul who was always donating her time and herdsires to help not only EAA but also PAOBA, MAPACA, VAOBA and AOA. Pat leaves behind her partner of over 20 years Pat Rice and several animals that reside in NYS.

We, the EAA BOD, welcome your thoughts and ideas on your association. *Please*, if you have any ideas on how to improve or something you think could help us we hope you will reach out to us-we value your opinion.

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**The Nominating Committee, headed by Bill Bundy, is still accepting candidates for the two open board seats. If you or someone you know, would like to run for a seat, please email Bill**

[Join/Renew Membership Here](#)

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**At least for now ,,,**

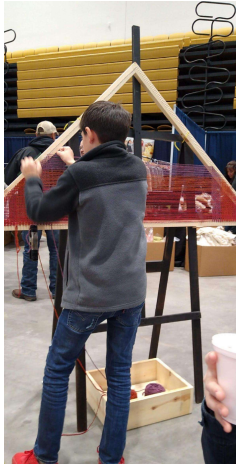


Continue to SAVE the DATES for the Showtacular  
**Oct 22-25 2020.**  
Empire, NEOBA & MAPACA

all the same weekend! Given how quickly things can change due to COVID, we're still planning on the show but...that can change. We'll email & post Sept 2nd.

Keep an eye out Sept 1st for an email & Facebook page as well!

## ~~FOCUS ON YOUTH ~~



A Medina FFA student weaving on a 5' triangle loom at the 2019 Showtacular.



Jack Masse, a Medina FFA officer, speaks with NYS representatives in Albany.

The Medina High School Ag Education Department and the Medina FFA raise alpacas and llamas on campus as part of their fiber-based program. Students have the opportunity to not only experience the fiber industry, but also take an active role in its entirety. *(They also have raised or currently raise angora rabbits, Pygora goats, and sheep for comparison purposes.)*

At Medina, students are responsible, under the instruction of Todd Eick, for raising the animals, harvesting fiber, creating products, marketing, and ultimately selling their handmade products. As a member of EAA, Mr. Eick uses their resources to further develop the program and educate his students. Students participate in leadership events promoting alpaca fiber and participate at markets throughout the summer. At markets, they often take animals with them to better explain to customers about the alpacas, and can visually educate the difference between llamas. They have also participated in the annual "Showtacular" where students set up an educational display showcasing their production of various products and help to educate the general public; they are looking forward to being part of this fall's event again!

Through grants, fundraising, and sales of products, the FFA Chapter has been able to acquire several different types of equipment that students are able to learn on, animals to improve genetics, and yarn from EAA. They have also bought raw material to make their own handling equipment, skirting tables, and looms.

Students learn everything from nutrition and fecal exams to general husbandry practices to processing fiber to finished products. They can also choose to focus on any part of the process and further develop skills in that area.

Students at Medina have the opportunity to experience a working process from the very beginning (they have begun their breeding program) to the very end. The Medina FFA fiber-based program (primarily alpaca) is slowly growing and being recognized throughout the

community. In the future, they hope to have animals to show and want to be able to offer agri-tourism as another means of raising funds and educating the public.

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We'd like to feature other alpaca related youth groups  
please send article & photos to [Sarah Lamanna](#)

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## Fiber Project Update

Theresa Jewel, fiber committee chair reports :

Blankets, seconds??

**Autumn Mist Fiber Mill** and **Rosehaven Fiber Mill** are working together on the 2020 Fiber Project. For those interested in donating fiber to the fiber project please [contact any board member](#) or [Theresa Jewell](#). Fiber can be dropped off at any [BOD farm](#). The 2020 yarn will be debuted at 2020 Showtacular with the first 24 hours of shopping exclusively for **donating** members.

**Please consider donating to the Empire Fiber Project.**

**To participate** in the Fiber Project for 2020:

1. You need to be a current EAA member in good standing;
  2. Complete the Fiber Donation Form (below) and place in each bag of fiber
- New inventory showcases at The Showtacular in October , Syracuse, New York.
  - The Empire Project currently has in stock: socks, yarn, insoles, roving, and rug yarn.
  - If you have a resale certificate and are tax exempt, we will require that information.

[Complete this fiber collection form for each bag donated.](#)

**To Purchase Products:**

An **EAA donating member** is able to purchase **at cost** with no minimum.  
**EAA non-donating member** can purchase **wholesale** with no minimum.

Non EAA members can purchase at retail with no minimum.

For more information regarding the Empire Fiber Project contact :  
Email Theresa Jewell Stoney Meadows Alpaca Farm  
Call or Text 585-750-9332  
[jherzog1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jherzog1@rochester.rr.com)

Use this Fiber Form in Each Donated Bag

Some EAA socks are still available  
Contact Theresa Jewell (see above)

Join/Renew Membership Here



## Fiber Testing

SGS in New Zealand purchased the Yocom-McColl fiber testing equipment and business. They are now doing the fiber testing for the EPD program.

Fleece Testing is the testing of samples from individual animals for breeding selection purposes. Tests available include Micron (average diameter), Staple length and strength, length-diameter profile, and yield, with simple online payment by credit card.

<https://onlineservices.sgs.com/nz/alpaca-fleece-flock-testing/AFTLFT>

### Key benefits

Independent Sampling and Testing:

1. Provides certainty in quality and quantity for both the buyer and seller.
2. Gives valuable information on how to process the fiber efficiently for the processor.
3. Allows wool users to direct the fiber into the products for which it is best suited.

### How to understand your test results

**Yield** - Determining the amount of clean fiber

**Mean fiber diameter**-The average fineness of the fiber (fiber thickness), which is a primary determinant of fiber value

**Fiber curvature**- Relates to bulk, compressibility, and crimp and is cited as an influence on processing

**Fiber diameter distribution**-Information about aspects of the diameter distribution may affect assessments of comfort and processing performance

**Diameter-length profile**- Measuring the average diameter at increments along the length of fiber staples may be important for managing sheep flocks and, in the future, may assist in predicting processing performance

**Length and Strength**-Provides data for estimating the processed length of tops produced from the fiber

## Follow these easy steps to get your sample tested!

1. Request testing required and receive information on sampling procedures and sample sizes required
2. Pay testing fees by credit card
3. Post samples for testing to SGS in New Zealand
4. Testing performed
5. Electronic reports are generated and sent direct to your email or faxed on request

### Prices:

**Yocom-McColl EPD** \$9.50 USD

**Micron & Length by OFDA 2000** \$7.70 USD

**Yocom-McColl micron by OFDA 100** \$9.50 USD

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[Empire Alpaca Association](#)

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