



# Your EAA September Newsletter

September 2020

**CANCELLED**

We are sad to announce that the **Showtacular** has been cancelled for this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and necessary health restrictions.

Empire Alpaca Assoc. will be host a fleece show later this year and NEOBA will be hosting a **halter show at the Big E Nov. 13-15**. Please check the [NEOBA website](#) for registration information and details which will be available soon.

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

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

**Connect with us  
on Facebook!**

EAA Facebook



## Members!

Please be SURE that you've updated your FREE

[Openherd website!](#) We will be using THAT information for our Member Spotlight on our [Facebook page](#). Member farms will be chosen at random.

If you need help with your Openherd account - here's the contact information for [Openherd](#).

## Getting your farm listed on the EAA website

EAA participates in the [Openherd Affiliate Program](#), which allows you to use Openherd's system to upload and manage your farm information, sales lists, and other pages FREE of charge and your information will be automatically synced to your profile on the EAA website.

To get your farm listed:

--simply **create a free account on Openherd** (scroll down the page for the free option).

--activate by going to "My Farm" in your Openherd account and click "Edit My Farm Page".

--once you have clicked "Create Farm Profile" you're done

--send an **email to the Empire board** at to let us know you are have created your Openherd farm profile.

We will add you to the membership list.



## 14th Annual National Alpaca Farm Days September 26 – 27, 2020

### *Is Your Farm Participating?*

We'd love to know if your farm is participating and how you're planning to move forward with this given the COVID restrictions. We can all learn from each other on how best to promote our businesses during this time. Please post on the [EAA Facebook page](#) to promote & share your plans so others may learn how to handle the health restrictions. Below are some guidelines which may change.

#### **Per NYS - all NYS areas are in Phase 4**

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/travel-large-gatherings-and-quarantines>

**Be SURE to check out the Low Risk Outdoor Arts and Entertainment guidelines here:**

<https://forward.ny.gov/phase-four-industries>

#### **Social Gatherings:**

Are only permitted if 50 or fewer people are in attendance in Phase Four regions.

Masks & Face Coverings: Individuals must wear face coverings when they are

in a public and are: within six feet of distance from other individuals; or in a situation or setting where they are unable to maintain six feet of distance from other individuals; or in a public or private transportation carrier or for-hire vehicle.

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## For you, our Members!

### Membership benefit:

**2 options- Member - \$80 or Associate Member- \$40**

### Members benefits:

- \*Member seminar discounts
- \*Farm and farm events listed on EAA website (the free openherd site required)
- \*Voting rights & ability to run for board
- \*Participation in EAA store at shows & events
- \*Free fecal sample testing sponsored by Merk Labs
- \*Participation with Fiber Project with discount pricing
- \*FREE eblast options thru EAA constant contact (rules apply)
- \*Inclusion in member farm search via zip code for folks to find your farm
- \*EAA newsletter & eblasts
- \*Free listing on EAA website as an associate member (free openherd site required)

### Associate Member Benefits

- \*EAA newsletter and eblasts to keep you updated
- \*List farm events on website
- \*Free fecal sample testing sponsored by Merk Labs
- \*Participation in EAA Fiber Project with discount pricing
- \*Inclusion in member farm search via zip code for folks to find your farm

[Visit our website](#)

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## Halter training tips and hacks from EAA board member Karen Clark of Log Cabin Alpacas

**Karen Clark shared this with us during the Winter Symposium but now is a great time to revisit it!**

### A couple points to ponder-

None of us are getting any younger, and fighting with a headstrong cria is not my idea of having fun.

Think about it, why would you want to wait until your cria is 60-75 pounds at 4-6 months old to start halter training. They are bigger, stronger, and much more independent.

You could be working with a 3-4 week old cria that weighs 15-25 pounds. If halter training fails, it is not the fault of the cria, but the fault of the trainer. Too often halter training is rushed due to an upcoming show, bad weather, or just waiting too long.

### **STEP 1** Get a perfect fit of the halter-

Adapting the halter to fit may take a bit of “MacGyver” ingenuity.

If the halter fits correctly the cria will not be bothered by wearing it.

Duck tape will be your friend.

We use the small thin show halters, easier to bend and fold to get a good fit.

Thin halters work especially well for smaller cria with little snouts.

We put a halter on our cria at 2-3 weeks old. The cria wears the halter only when we are in the barn doing chores.

Put the altered halter on at the start of chores and take off when you finish. Of course, the cria will run to their momma and nurse. Eureka, the cria has learned that they can still nurse with this thing on their face!

### **STEP 2** Set up the training area.

Area should be open and away from other alpacas.

Be sure there is nothing they can get hurt on.,

### **STEP 3**

Materials: Carabiner clip; bull nose ring or solid pole; bicycle inner tube

Hook cria up to bicycle tube and let them pull on the tube. The cria will relate pulling with the tube and not with you. Do this for 3 days in a row.

Then try walking your cria on a lead.

If the cria starts to pull or just be stubborn, stop and put them back on the tube.

Let the cria decide where they want to go at first. Leave slack on the lead.

Always give your cria some lovin' when you take them off the halter.

**Questions?** Contact Karen Clark at [Log Cabin Alpacas](mailto:Log Cabin Alpacas) email:

[Logcabinalpacas@tds.net](mailto:Logcabinalpacas@tds.net)



Halter Fit



Walking with a friend helps



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## ~~FOCUS ON YOUTH ~~

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We'd love to feature other alpaca related youth projects & groups!  
Please send article & photos to [Sarah Lamanna](#)

[Join/Renew Membership Here](#)



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## Fiber Project Update

Theresa Jewel, fiber committee chair reports :

Blankets & seconds are still needed- see info. below.

**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 fleece show later this year with the first few hours of shopping exclusively for **donating** members.

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**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

**Donate skirted blankets and 2nds that are use-able**

(free from vegetation, mold, urine, poo, foreign materials etc)

- New inventory showcases at fleece show planned for later this year
- 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.](#)

or use this [half page fill-able form](#)

**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**

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**Some EAA socks, insoles & some yarn are still available**  
**Contact Theresa Jewell (see above)**

[Join/Renew Membership Here](#)

## MORE tips and hacks from EAA board member Karen Clark of Log Cabin Alpacas

Inside house- premie



Graduated to Barn



During Cold Weather



A bottle baby can be exhausting! Why not teach your cria to be a self nurser. I have been helping farms with their bottle babies for several years. It all began when I got a call from a friend with an 8 pound premie. After spending a couple long nights bottling this tiny cria, I decided there had to be a better way. After tweaking and adjusting my brainstorm, I found a process that works.

The hardest part is getting your cria to take the bottle. If the cria is not nursing very well, stand over top of the hold them between your knees, this makes it easier to have their head up to nurse. This resembles nursing on mom. I cup my hand under the nipple and the bottom of their chin. It is not unusual for them to fight the bottle. Once they are nursing it is time to get them to become self nursers.

**See the picture for the setup I use.**

The bottle holder I got at Tractor Supply, I hook it to a fence or screw a board to wall. I bottle needs to be a slight angle, and at a level where the cria has to raise their head up a little to drink. You will need to raise the bottle as the cria grows.

In the cold weather I put a USB hand warmer inside an alpaca sock and put bottle inside sock. I always start out measuring formula to make I can tell how much they are drinking. I do this by marking on bottle with 2 ounce marks. I put 2 ounces in bottle and mark it, continue until I get to top of bottle. I use a multi-species milk replacer, like Ultra 24. Because it is a dry milk replacer, you do not need to worry about milk spoiling.

To start with, move cria up to bottle. Once you put bottle up, do not move the position- except to raise up. Help the cria get on the nipple, they may pull away, just put them back on. You can also start by holding the bottle in or next to the bottle holder. I put two Velcro straps on bottle holder to lock bottle in place.

(Velcro straps like to hold computer wires)

It takes time, do not get frustrated, they may fight you, just keep trying. The bottle is all your cria knows, so be patient. Leave the bottle up all day and put a new one up for the night. The cria will begin to nurse on their own, just like on their momma. The cria may lick around on the bottom of bottle or wall, this is normal behavior for a nursing cria, just like on a nursing momma.

**Questions?** Contact Karen Clark at [Log Cabin Alpacas](mailto:LogCabinAlpacas@tds.net) email:  
[Logcabinalpacas@tds.net](mailto:Logcabinalpacas@tds.net)

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[Renew Membership Here](#)

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[Empire Alpaca Association](#)

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