



# Your monthly news & updates

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## President's Message

by Ken Clark

Hello Empire Members,

We have made it into a new year with all the possibilities for a great year before us. This winter had definitely been a challenging one as none of us have been sure if it's almost spring or we are heading back in to the ice age. Hopefully the end is in sight and warmer weather is just around the corner. Many things just around the corner are on the horizon for your organization:

1. The planning is in full swing for this year's show. Catch all the up to date news in the 2019 Showtacular section of your newsletter.
2. The fiber committee has many exciting ideas and offers for membership. Keep watch for new ways for your organization to help you have new products and opportunities for your fiber.
3. The marketing committee has been pulling out all the stops to make updates to your Empire website that will bring you valuable information and showcase what the Great Alpaca State of New York has to offer.
4. Education – the board is also working hard to bring you at least one and potentially two educational seminars this year. Stay tuned for more information.
5. On a final item, the Council of Agricultural Organizations, (CAO). You will find a very informational article about this New York State Organization that Empire has joined. Please read through the article and let us know if you have any questions or would like to be a part of working with the CAO. The opportunity to help form legislation in your state can not be more important.

Take care and we hope you have a wonderful Spring Show Season. We all look forward to seeing you at the shows.

As always, if anyone has any questions, suggestions or would like to join one of the new committees, please contact any board member or the board at [eaaboard@nyalpacas.com](mailto:eaaboard@nyalpacas.com)

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## 2019 Showtacular

by Joe Crocco

Showtacular 2019 – dates are Friday, November 8th and Saturday, November 9th. Planning is already in the works for this year's show. We are pleased to announce our scheduled Judges for the Empire Show are Diana Timmerman and Helen Testa for Halter Classes.

Sue Ives is the Showtacular Superintendent. Stephanie Glyptis will be judging for the Showtacular's Walking Fleece portion, with Judy Schroeder as Superintendent. Ken Clark and I have met with management at the NY State Fairgrounds to express our dissatisfaction and concerns from last year's show, pertaining to the sound system, or lack of, and the caterers service and offerings.

Management acknowledged our concerns and they are actively addressing the issues. We are optimistic for 2019! We are also looking at other venues to host our fun and entertaining Showtacular Dinner and Auction Event.



We are also in the final negotiating phase for hotel accommodations. Updates will be coming shortly.

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## Fiber Committee

by Karen Clark

Have you ever thought,

Now what do  
I do with all  
this fiber?



Don't just hide your fiber in the basement, put it to good use. Consider donating your fleece to the Empire Alpaca Association. Donated fiber will be made into products; such as socks, insoles, yarn, and roving. EAA members can buy products from our store at a discount without breaking the bank.

Become a member of EAA for as little as \$40, an Associate membership, and \$80 a Full membership.

For more information:

Call or text Theresa Jewel 585-750-9332 Stoney Meadows Alpacas

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## Marketing Committee Update

by Chuck Gerber

Your Board of Directors voted unanimously to hire a consultant to revamp our current website. Coincidentally this consultant is the editor of this newsletter. Janelle is an extremely knowledgeable and competent individual. The "big picture" goal of this endeavor is to attract eyeballs to our website and, at the same time, provide more value to you, our members!

To that end, the finished product will only be as good as the content that we can pull together. That is why we are asking you for submissions of your favorite farm pictures and some contact information for the people that you do business with for all your farm needs.

Specifically:

Who do you sell your fiber to?

What fiber mills do you use?

If you utilize meat, who does your processing?

Who do you use for tanning services?

Equipment retailers? Sheering services? Tax preparers and insurance providers?

Wholesale product suppliers?

Etc.???

Please submit your photos directly to: [ogorman.janelle@gmail.com](mailto:ogorman.janelle@gmail.com)

The contact information can be submitted to: [chuck@saratogaland.com](mailto:chuck@saratogaland.com)

We will be regularly monitoring our website periodically, but we "NEED" fresh pictures and new, relevant information submitted by "YOU" on an ongoing basis.

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## Council of Agricultural Organizations Lobby Day Update

by Jim Evans

Joe Crocco and I had the opportunity to attend the Council of Agricultural Organizations Lobby Day

on February 5th. It was a very informative day, there were 20 + members in attendance. We divided into 5 groups and we were able to visit 32 or more legislatures. We had 3 issues of discussion. NYS Budget Priorities, Expand the Farm Workforce Retention Credit, and Legislative Ban on Pesticide Products & Treated Seeds. I felt the most important issue is the pesticide ban and I'll explain. Senator Hoylman 27th District Manhattan, Senator Kaminsky Long Island, 9th District and Assemblyman Englebright District 4 Long Island, have introduced bills to the legislature to ban selective pesticides and seed coatings.



The CAO has voted unanimously to oppose these Bills for a number of reasons. Some of these pesticides are the only defense against certain pests, especially invasive species like the Spotted Lanternfly. Currently all pesticide products are reviewed and registered federally by the Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally NYS is one of only 2 States in the US that has an entity (Department of Environmental Conservation) that also extensively reviews pesticide products to determine no threat to water quality, wildlife and humans. Pesticides are a tool in the agricultural industries tool box, banning these pesticides will have a devastating impact on the economic viability of NYS Farmers.

The NY agricultural industry already has enough challenges without adding yet another hurdle. Without access to federal and state approved pesticides the industry in NY will not be competitive with other states, potentially causing more farms to move out of New York. Finally let's leave the approval of pesticides and pesticide products in the control of science and not in the hands of politician's, we have a working system of pesticide approval and registration in place.

Email or call your legislatures and tell them to oppose the following Bills:  
S.223 Hoylman, S.225 Hoylman, S.1074 Hoylman, S.2156/A.2477 Kaminsky/Englebright, and S.2002 Hoylman.

You can look these Bills up and find your legislature at [nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov)  
You can find out more about the Empire State CAO at [empirestatecao.info](http://empirestatecao.info)



*our mission*

Promoting, educating and supporting the alpaca breeders, owners, and enthusiasts of New York State.

**SHOWTACULAR** <sup>save the</sup> **DATE**  
NOVEMBER 7 - 10 **2019**

NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS  
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

For more information, visit: [www.showtacular.com](http://www.showtacular.com)



[www.empirealpacaassociation.com](http://www.empirealpacaassociation.com)

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