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MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Alpaca News You Can Use



It's Right Around the Corner!

Mark it on the calendar, April 22-25th! Why? It's the biggest weekend on the alpaca calendar, The Premier Alpaca Event, the MAPACA Alpaca Jubilee 2010 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA. Hopefully you have already made plans to be an exhibitor at the event. But if for one reason or another you have not, we would still love to have you stop by and take in the whole experience. Everyone is 100% welcome and encouraged to come!

What will be happening at the Event? So much that it is amazing! A full day Marty McGee Bennett alpaca handling seminar on April 22, and many more educational opportunities by top speakers throughout the weekend as well. There will also be "Dinner with Dr. Norm Evans", a MAPACA Member favorite, and the Annual MAPACA Membership Meeting will be held at Noon on Saturday.

We've added many new and exciting things this year! We will have the "Crimp and Curl Cafe" where lots of activities will take place throughout the entire show. In addition to sipping your favorite beverage and catching up with friends, you can admire the winning Spin-Off entries, buy last-minute raffle tickets for your chance to win a top herdsire breeding and one of two amazing female alpacas in the Pre-Show Raffle, try your luck in winning any of the wonderful Raffle and Silent auction donations, and spend some time placing your bid for champion herdsire breedings in the Herdsire Auction. It is worth mentioning here that this year's Herdsire Auction will be conducted via the internet. Whether you are in the building using one of the many Cafe computers, using your own computer and free Wi-Fi connection at your stall, or sitting at home in front of your computer (in case you just couldn't make the show), just log on to www.bidmapaca.org to preview the champion herdsires and place your winning bid.

In addition to being able to bid online for herdsire breedings, this year we are upping the ante! We are holding the first annual Battle of the Mid-Atlantic Herdsire All-Stars! The Champion herdsires that generously donate their talents in this year's Jubilee herdsire auction will be competing for TOP HONORS and BRAGGING RIGHTS too!

The title of Suri and Huacaya Herdsire of the Year will be awarded based on points received through the herdsire services auction, votes by farms attending the Jubilee, and awards received by the herdsire (if present) and his offspring in this year's Jubilee halter and fleece shows.

Of course, the Jubilee also features an AOBA Certified Halter and fleece show, where you can get your hands on tons of ribbon winners to learn what the judges are looking for in their selections. This can be one of the biggest alpaca educations of your life. Of course the biggest reason to come to the show, is that there is no better way to catch up with your old friends, meet new ones, shop for that Herdsire you would like to breed to, or even better, add that special new alpaca to your herd.

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox the registration deadlines will long be passed, but if you make the last minute decision to join us in Harrisburg with alpacas or you want to enter fleeces in the fleece show please contact us and we will see if we can get you in the show. Also we will accept Raffle and Silent Auction donations even at the door so the chance to donate something interesting and unique to your organization will continue. The donations are only limited by your imagination.

We hope to see you in Harrisburg and of course you can always find all of the details on the MAPACA website. www.mapaca.org

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Table of Contents

Mapaca Jubilee It's Right Around the Corner! Page 1

President's Message Page 2

MAPACA Year End Income & Expense Report Page 3

Seeking Energetic Individuals Who Want to Contribute to Our Industry Page 4

Pre-Show Raffle Page 6
By Kim Conrad

Does Your Alpaca Quarantine Work? Page 8
By Dr. Norman Evans

Q&A for New Breeders Page 10
By Helen & Jim Humphreys

Failing to Plan is a Plan to Fail..... Page 12
By Alan Clark, RPh

A Family Learns Together ... Page 16
By Ian Falcone

Connecting with Your Alpaca Roots..... Page 18
By Ken Hibbits

President's Message

These are busy times for MAPACA, as I am sure they are for everyone...especially since many of us just finished shoveling out a path to our barns! Of course, MAPACA is almost ready for Jubilee and as I write this the registrations still keep rolling in. Even before the show I feel I must send a huge thank you to all the registrants, sponsors, and volunteers that help with this event! We truly could not pull off this show without you!! The 2010 Jubilee, with all your help, should prove to be a truly memorable one!!

In addition to the Jubilee we are involved in many other activities. Many of you attended the Winter Membership Meeting in February. Dr. LaRue Johnson spent a full day mesmerizing over 35 (there was even a waiting list) New Bolton veterinary students with his lecture and hands on reproductive work. The students were thrilled and many walked away with a keen interest in pursuing camelids as a part of their vet profession. We couldn't have asked for more than that! Dr. Johnson also presented an interesting and informative lecture on Sunday. I believe everyone walked away with having learned something new. Thanks go to Sarah Donohoe, Membership Chair,

for coordinating the events and to Terri Kinka, BOD member, for arranging to have Dr. Johnson with us.

Of course I am sure things won't slow down anytime soon. Ken Clark, Vice President, is gearing up the Nominating Committee to prepare for the Fall Board of Director's election and plans some website changes in the near future. Alan Clark is soliciting help with the Long Range Planning Committee, new BOD member Chris Reachard is focusing his creative efforts in a



Dr. LaRue Johnson

needed area of interest – Fiber, Kim Conrad is finalizing the amazingly successful Pre-Show Raffle, Terri Kinka continues with Treasurer and Education activities even after the Jubilee, and Randy Strong serves as Membership Liaison and follows up with all the Sponsors he garnered for the Jubilee. These Board members work hard for you and for the industry and I wanted to share a small amount of the activities they are currently undertaking. You can read more about some of these activities in this issue.

But, first and foremost, we value our membership. We do what we do for you. And, given that, we welcome your ideas and thoughts of what we might do better! Please feel free to share both the good and whatever opportunities we may be missing with any or all of us at bod@mapaca.org.

Warm regards,
Kristie Smoker



MAPACA Year End Income & Expense Report

The year 2009 was as challenging economically for MAPACA as it was for many individuals and businesses around the country.

The MAPACA Jubilee in 2009 can be counted as being a huge success in terms of providing cutting edge education opportunities, excellent competition, and an overall good time. However, the show was not a financial success.

As you can see on the following 2009 Income and Expense Report, the MAPACA organization had a total loss of \$61,892.97

The reason for the loss is largely due to the Jubilee's up front expense commitments, the generous 20% stall discount for MAPACA members, and top educational opportunities provided for attendees. In addition, fewer stalls sold, animals registered, and lower sponsorship dollars contributed to a financial loss. The Jubilee is the largest financial venture of the organization and its finances in 2009 impacted our financial standing for the year.

It is important to note, however, that the MAPACA organization has strived to stay true to its Mission. We contributed over \$42,000 to alpaca related causes and offered nationally known industry educators at membership meetings, such as Dr. Steve Purdy, Dr. Pat Long, and in the Fall, a panel of fiber mills for an interesting Question and Answer session.

In addition, there are exciting, innovative plans to turn that financial position around for 2010. The Pre-Show Raffle is a huge success and will be great money-maker this year. In addition, there is a great effort and critical thinking in planning for financial and show success in 2010 which is on course to reduce and possibly eliminate the economic loss from the 2009 Jubilee.

The Board continues to appreciate the support of the members, and the enthusiastic suggestions by members to help make the 2010 Jubilee and the MAPACA organization a success.

Board Members

President
Kristie Smoker

Vice President
Ken Clark

Treasurer
Terri Kinka

Secretary
Kim Conrad

Member At Large
Randy Strong

Member At Large
Alan Clark

Member At Large
Chris Reachard

MAPACA Year End Income & Expense Report 2009

Income:

Jubilee Income	\$ 291,734.41
Membership Dues	\$ 30,500.00
Newsletter Advertising	\$ 13,216.25

Total Income for 2009 **\$ 335,450.66**

Expenses:

Jubilee Expenses	\$ 338,625.43
Membership Meetings	\$ 10,614.35
Newsletter	\$ 15,767.79
Website	\$ 3,474.88
Grants & Contributions*	\$ 11,000.00
Professional Fees (Accounting)	\$ 4,051.25
General Liability Insurance	\$ 1,637.50
Other Administrative Expense**	\$ 4,563.99

Total Expenses for 2009 **\$ 389,735.19**

Net Operating Income for 2009 \$ (54,284.53)

Other Income Interest \$ 993.33

Other Expense: 501C5 expenses as it relates to Non-Profit Status \$ (8,601.77)

Total Net Loss \$ 61,892.97

*) An additional donation of \$30,291 that was not recorded as income was made to the Cornell University Meningeal Worm Project from the proceeds of the 2009 Jubilee Herdsire Auction, Silent Auction and Raffle.

***) Bank Service Charges, Election, Sponsorships, Conference Calls, etc.)

New to the Board



Chris Reachard
C and C Alpaca Factory
Fiber Chairperson/BOD Liason,
and Member at Large

I am truly excited to be serving The MaPaca membership as Fiber committee Chairperson and as a Member at Large. I look forward to serving as a Liaison between the BOD and the membership on any and all fiber related issues. I am also committed to setting up a scholarship program for our youth who want to enter the design industry. I feel that the youth are the future of the alpaca industry and it is our responsibility to help in their education.

I am also excited to be working on the fleece show, spin off, skein and fiber arts side of the Jubilee. I will do my best to find and bring in highly regarded speakers for the Jubilee as well as our membership meetings. I would like to also add a new component to the Jubilee show for 2011 and that is a fleece to shawl competition. I feel as Fiber committee chair it is my responsibility to help educate our membership as well as the general public on the benefits of this wonderful fleece that the alpacas produce for us.

To reach me for questions or to volunteer for the fiber committee please contact me at 609-752-7894 or chrisreachard@yahoo.com

2010-2011 MAPACA Board of Directors Nominations

SEEKING ENERGETIC INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR INDUSTRY

The snow is just attempting to leave, the 2010 Show Season is “Springing” into gear and most of us are working on cleaning the trailer, registering for shows and deciding which one of those crias will be the next Champion . . . and by the way, maybe we need to halter train them as well? One of the things on each Alpaca Owners list should be, “What can I do to help our industry sustain and move forward?” I bet that each and every one of us has said at least once that an idea would have been better if the person that came up with it had thought of it in a particular way. Ideas are what make our industry thrive. Acting on those ideas works towards making our industry sustainable and one that we can look forward to passing on to the next generation.

If you are an energetic individual with great ideas and looking for a way to give back to the Alpaca Community, I urge you to consider running for the Board Of Directors. Each director position is a two-year term and there are 7 directors on the board. The board consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 members at large. We hold monthly telecom meetings and usually meet in person an additional 3 times per year at the General Membership meetings.

This year we are looking for 6 nominees as there will be 3 director positions open. Don’t feel if you’re new to the industry or your farm’s not that large you shouldn’t run. It is crucial that breeders of all sizes and interest levels be involved. It is often thought that the Jubilee is the only function of MAPACA. Through the MAPACA website and the initiatives link, you can see some of the myriad of interesting topics your board is now working on. Once someone

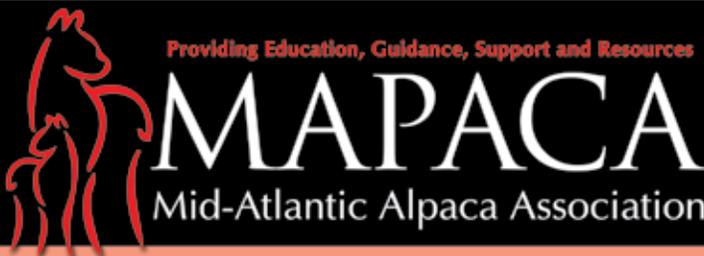
has served on the Board you realize there are many other issues that are addressed and worked on in the course of each year. One of the joyful fruits of the board’s labor is the days spent at the Jubilee seeing how all the hard work and ideas come together and the happy faces of the exhibitors and our fellow MAPACA Members.

If you have an interest in being part of this year’s ballot please email your interest to the board at bod@mapaca.org. In addition, we are also looking for a Nominating Committee Chair for this Year’s Elections. This individual will be contacting perspective candidates and working with the board to put together this list of nominated individuals. So hurry, don’t be late. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
MAPACA Board

This Year’s Schedule:

- **Close Nominations - July 31**
- **Candidate Bios/Photos – Aug 15**
- **Bios/Photos to American Livestock for mailing – Aug 21**
- **Mailed to membership – Sept 1**
- **Last Postmark – Sept 18**
- **Must Receive at Accountant – Sept 25**
- **Results from Accountant to board – Sept 30**
- **Call Winners to confirm – Oct 1-3**
- **Announce winners to membership Oct 5 or 6 by eblast**



New Members

Renee & Rick Ritenour
Alpaca Palace

Rob & Jeanine Tindall
Golden Star Farm LLC

Marie Bartosh
ME 2 Alpacas

Pete & Shirley Jones
Silver Ley Farm, LLC

Kim Caruso
Antietam Alpaca Company

Shannon & Dane Stocker
Humming Herd Alpacas LLC

Kevin & Tammi Halpin
My Poppy’s Alpacas

Carol Hunsberger
Sunnybrook Alpacas

Kathie Langen
Black Creek Farms

Jeffery Horvath
HummingValley Alpacas

Harmon & Jill Myers
Myers Flock & Fiber Farm

Kimberly Lewis & Wendy Witmer
Triangle Farms

Jerry & Shirley Yoder
Cider Press Acres

Lucia Crawford
Inter-American Trading Inc

Richard, Tammy, Ryan, Rayann &
Rachel Eaves
Railroad Express Alpacas

Robin Ayars
Wild & Wooly Farm, LLC

Leda Blumberg & Steve Cole
Faraway Farm Alpacas

Stephan Thompson
Kinkora Farm Alpacas

Jack & Linda Santa
Santa’s Alpaca Farm

Andrew Beiler, Jr.
Zephyr Alpaca Farm

Wanda & Christopher Golden
Golden Criations Alpaca Ranch

Braxton Sponsler
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Ooo-La-La.

FRONT PAGE: INTRODUCTORY FEE \$1,200

Look for full Peruvian MFI's Front Page crias this spring. This champion bay black has soft, very dense fleece with well-defined tight crimp rarely seen in black alpacas. Given his lineage, it's no surprise. His sire is MFI Peruvian Jericho; his dam, Peruvian Falzah. Take advantage of his low \$1,200 introductory breeding fee *(and ask us about discounts)*. Call 410.635.8079.

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Pre-Show Raffle

Kim Conrad | MAPACA Board of Directors Secretary

Paso Ligero Alpacas, East Berlin, PA

We started with an idea not only to give our members and Jubilee participants a little fun and excitement, but also to help ensure the Jubilee is financially successful this year. And so far, several farm owners have had the fun of getting a surprise phone call telling them they won one great prize or another. In fact, they're still excited and even buying extra tickets, because the best prizes of all are still to be drawn at the show. And everyone who bought tickets, even having won a pre-show prize, is still in the running to be drawn for one of the big ones.

We've sent out enough email blasts to members and show participants that we hope everyone reading this has in fact heard about the exciting 2010 Jubilee Pre-Show Raffle. It started back in January with a BIG initial prize drawing – one Emerald Sponsorship for the 2010 Jubilee show and all the perks that come with it. The owners of the winning farm were pretty excited... and a bit nervous about having won. Scott Johnson and Cindy Orwan of Starry Night Alpacas in Lewisberry, PA, had their ticket drawn. They're new to showing, so the Emerald Sponsorship prize has turned out to be an opportunity for them to jump in to showing with both feet – or should we say at least four alpaca feet?

Other big prizes drawn so far include a

lifetime membership to MAPACA, which Fred and Roni Fogelman of Racheal Farms in Dover, PA, won; a full-page, color ad in the MAPACA Jubilee newsletter, won by Cheri Seiler of Good Time Ridge Alpaca Farm in Augusta, WV; and a free stall at the 2010 Jubilee, won by Loris Blandford of Misty Meadow Alpacas in Frankford, DE.

So it sounds like the big prizes probably are already gone, right? Nope! The biggest and best prizes are still to be drawn at the show. What's bigger than an Emerald Sponsorship (that is a \$2,500-value prize, by the way)? How about a breeding to a champion-level suri or huacaya herdsire? If that's not big enough, how would you like to win a top-notch, pregnant female alpaca? Because we're giving away two of each – a huacaya and a suri breeding, and a huacaya and a suri pregnant female. No kidding!

What's the catch? Well, there really is no catch. We had four very generous farms donate these four grand and second place prizes – Ernest and Barbara Kellogg of Double "O" Good Alpacas and Diane and Leon Rosenberg of Meadowgate Farm Alpacas donated the pregnant females; Dale and Debbie Zulli of Alpacaholic Acres and Dennis Balbac and Monica Kline of A Suri Farm donated the breedings. Well, we guess there is one thing you'd call a "catch." Or two. First, you have to buy a ticket! You can't

win if you don't play the game. Second, for the two pregnant females to be drawn as grand prizes, we need to sell at least 500 tickets.

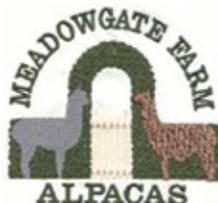
So where are we in this run to the big drawings at the show? The breedings are being drawn no matter what. But we are, as of the writing of this article, nearly half way to the 500 tickets. Only 270 to go. And to top it all off, it only costs \$20 per ticket to get into this game. In fact, there is an even better deal – a sort of baker's half-dozen. It is only \$100 for six tickets. So to get a six-in-500 chance to win a pregnant female alpaca valued at well over \$10,000, it only costs you \$100. That is a fairly good gamble as gambles go. So why are we not at that 500-ticket goal yet? We have NO IDEA!!!

It's simple to play. Just go to www.mapaca.org/pages/OnlineStore/, pull out your credit card and buy tickets right online while you sip your morning coffee and dream about maybe that new female and soon-to-be cria bouncing around your pastures. The detailed list of prizes and raffle rules, along with links to photos and descriptions of the donated herdsires and females, are at www.mapaca.org/pages/jubileeshow/raffle.html. Thank you to every single person who has supported us and bought tickets to date. And good luck to you all!

**Last Chance to Purchase Pre-Show Raffle Tickets -
Now Online (www.mapaca.org/pages/OnlineStore/)
and through Saturday, April 23 at the Jubilee!**

Thank you to our Raffle Donors:

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Breedings



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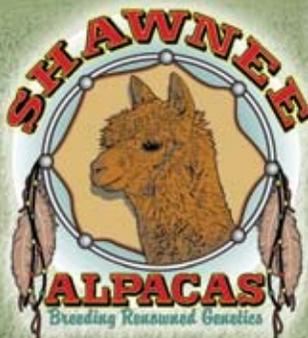
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DOES YOUR ALPACA QUARANTINE WORK?

By Dr. Norman Evans

Quarantine is defined as voluntary or compulsory isolation, typically to contain the spread of something considered dangerous, often but not always disease. **Is quarantine necessary in the alpaca industry?** Yes, in my opinion. We are concerned with West Nile, BVDV, “The Snots,” Show Diarrhea and who knows what is in the future pipeline. We need to understand what conditions quarantine and bio-security protects against. It is my opinion that quarantine definitely prevents the spread and contamination of internal and external parasites. (worms, coccidia, lice, mange, ringworm) Common sense tells us that direct contact with sick animals, people, sharing eating or drinking utensils will increase the likelihood of transmission and infection with certain infectious bacterial pathogens. Quarantine may or may not be effective in controlling viral spread. It appears to me that some breeders may not understand possible modes of transmission of some parasites and infectious agents.

What are we trying to prevent and what are the **sources of contamination**? We can get environmental contamination from feces; bedding; water; feed; rodents; birds; insects; deer; dogs; as well as other animals. Visitors; new herd additions; males, females, or crias coming in or out for breeding as well as alpacas returning from shows or sales. We must realize that the sources of contamination are body fluids; uterine fluids from breeding as well as urine. Lice, mange mites, and ringworm can cause skin infections. Buckets, feeders, stall walls, handlers, veterinarians, shearers, trailers, and vehicles can all be sources of spread and contamination.

What conditions do alpacas contact that we are trying to quarantine? Rabies can be spread by any animal thru saliva. Leptosporosis is spread by deer, cattle, foxes, raccoon, rats, opossums and drainage. Salmonella and Staph infections are spread by birds, mammals, and reptiles while crypto and giardia can be spread by any species. **Insects** like deer ticks can spread Lyme disease. Pasture mites are the intermediate host for tapeworms. Mosquitoes spread West Nile Virus from birds. Mosquitoes, biting flies, and ticks can transmit Mycoplasma (EPE). Fecal contamination results in the spread of intestinal **bacteria** like salmonella and E. coli. **Viruses** such as BVD, Rotavirus, and corona virus are spread thru fecal as well as other vectors. Again, **protozoa** such as coccidia, giardia, and cryptosporosis as well as all intestinal parasites are spread thru fecal contamination.

Depending on the above issue that you hope to prevent or control, how is your quarantine set up? How long do you quarantine? What do you check the animals for that are quarantined and how often? Where is your quarantine area located in relation to your non-quarantined animals? Under what circumstances do you use your quarantine area? Do you go from your quarantine area to your other alpacas with the same shoes and clothes after touching the quarantine animals and their utensils? Do you go thru a foot bath? Do you wear gloves? Do you use quarantine after a show or do they go back to the herd? These are questions to consider when determining what you expect to accomplish by quarantine.

I feel that quarantine mainly helps to accomplish parasite control which is certainly major as most of our drugs that kill worms or coccidia are only partially effective at best. If checking for worm eggs or small Eimeria sp. coccidia. I would recommend 2 negative fecal checks.

Consider one exam on arrival and another at day 14. If we find E. Mac coccidia where the incubation period is 40-43 days, then I recommend a fecal every 10 days thru 45 days. This could result in at least a 6 week or longer quarantine. That is why many breeding farms insist on 2 negative fecals prior to accepting females for breeding.

Quarantine location is extremely important. I often witness a quarantine area just across the drive way from the other alpacas. Could flies and misquotes transmit bacteria or viruses across this distance? Can the wind and dust transmit bacteria and viruses this distance? The swine industry has proven that the wind can spread active virus particles up to 20 miles. What about sneezing, coughing and the airborne particles that land in the water, grass, or are inhaled? Do you or your dogs or other vectors walk across the drive from one pen to the next? I certainly do not know all of the vectors for bacterial or viral disease transmission but I realize that it is difficult to build a barrier to prevent airborne transmission. Certainly the prevention of nose to nose contact is important which quarantine accomplishes.

Most bacterial and viral conditions in alpacas are contracted any time a large number of alpacas are commingled in the same area. (shows, sales, university clinics, etc.) It is my opinion that stress along with unflushed water systems at some show arenas as well as the ventilation fans are factors in the spread of certain pathogens responsible for some diarrheas as well as respiratory conditions. Sometimes walking on bedding at shows may be the source for alpacas and humans taking pathogens back home to apparently healthy animals that have little immunity or protection. It is my belief that many breeders that have been at an alpaca show all weekend and probably touched many animals arrive home tired, likely unload in their quarantine area and walk straight thru to check their “at home animals” with the same clothes and shoes that they wore at the show or sale. While they may not have touched the “at home alpacas”, it would not be uncommon to feed hay and walk in front of a fan which could disseminate airborne pathogens from the show or sale off the caretakers clothing or shoes.

My point is that we need to be aware of possible modes of parasite and disease transmission. Know your animals and observe their normal and abnormal behavior. Alpacas are extremely stoic and are often very sick before they show clinical signs. If there is question, take their temperature, take their heart beat, and observe their respiration. It is not uncommon for a fecal flotation that was negative prior to the stress of transport or a show to be very positive 5 days after stress. It can be important with some vague sicknesses (colds, snots, diarrheas) to determine if the problem is viral, bacterial, and parasitic or a combination of all. We can usually treat an alpaca with a parasite or bacterial issue but only support an animal with a virus. The veterinarian can often pull blood for a chemistry panel and CBC (complete blood count) as well as a fecal flotation and get an indication if bacterial, viral, or parasitic before the condition affects the whole herd.

Sickness during and after alpaca shows is common. It has been my observation for years that diarrhea surfaces during or 2 to 5 days after many shows. Everyone has an opinion of a potential cause. When we as veterinarians do not know the infectious agent, we often call it a virus. Well it could be Rotavirus, corona virus, adenovirus, or possibly many

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other viruses. We often never diagnose the true cause and just blame it on the feed. This paper has addressed some of the possibilities of why we quarantine. For your consideration I would share some pointers that may make your quarantine more effective.

Quarantine Pointers for your Consideration:

- Establish quarantine the maximum distance from your base herd.
- Prevailing winds should blow away from the herd
Use a footbath of Bleach (1 part bleach to 10 parts water); TEK-TROL by Bio-Tek industries; ONE STROKE ENVIRON by Steris Corp as well as products used by dairies and swine operations. These products also work for mats and trailers
- Have 2 negative fecals and vaccinations current 3 weeks prior to any alpaca show
- Maximize the alpaca's immune system thru strong nutrition for the alpaca's age, size, and use. That does not mean 5 different feed additives. Use a professionally formulated alpaca supplement and immune stimulants are there without additives. Some breeders create imbalances meaning well. Administering consecutive days of Priobios is an example of creating vitamin toxicity.
- Carry one day of water to alpaca shows until the water system gets flushed
- Provide an equine electrolyte water source all year around
- At shows offer the same amount of hay and supplement but divide into 3-4 small feedings
- Cover lush grass bedding in pens at shows if your alpacas are not accustomed to lush grass. (Causes diarrhea)

- Do not pen alpacas with strangers. They are already out of their comfort zone.
- Pasture, hay, and water changes are major stresses. Think of your own digestive upsets.
- Minimize stress by not scheduling 3 to 4 shows or transports on back to back weekends
- Separate stress events: Do not vaccinate, deworm, halter train, and wean in the same week and then show that weekend
- Be aware of current diarrhea causes: coccidia; worms; corona virus; Rotavirus; mucous or beta E.coli that are enterotoxin producers; new hay, pasture or water; rubber water hoses that lay in the sun.
- Be aware of respiratory causes: "Snots" (The vet may culture Para influenza virus, adenovirus, Hemophilus sp.; Pasteurella sp.; Klebsellia sp. and Pseudomonas sp. bacteria among others. Be very aware that these pathogens can all affect the unborn fetus and result in an abortion or stillborn. Allergies and weather changes may also be factors especially during long transports.
- Consider drive by breedings
- "Our goal is to prevent sickness and death loss. Animals like people will die. Please make something constructive out of an alpaca's death by having a laboratory necropsy done rather than pointing at a cause that we are not sure of as it may have herd health significance."

Successful quarantine requires an understanding of your purpose; requires a plan, time and management. The rewards can be happy healthy alpacas, happy owners and lower vet bills!



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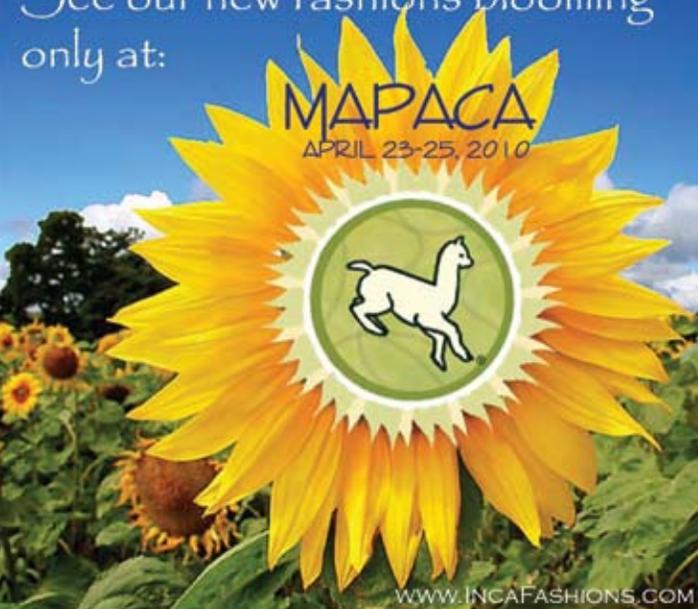
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Q&A for New Breeders

By: Helen & Jim Humphreys of Silvercloud Farm

Q: We have a female who does not appear to be producing enough milk to support her cria. Would you recommend continuing to breed her?

A: In our experience, having to supplement a cria is not always easy or a successful endeavor, so it's important to determine why and if you can improve your dam's milk production. The most practical place to start is a physical examination. Examine all four teats, make sure they are anatomically correct and functioning and there's no evidence of mastitis. Next I would assess her overall body condition. If she is very thin, her inability to produce enough milk could be directly related to the nutrition she's received during her pregnancy. As a rule of thumb, our breeding females have access to high quality pasture and hay both of which have been tested and determined to be within the nutritional requirements for alpacas. On the other side of coin if she is really overweight, this too could have and adverse effect on her ability to produce milk. Next I would recommend a thorough review of her history. Is this an isolated incident or do all of her crias require supplementation? Was her Dam a poor milker? If there's a history of poor milking in her family lines and/or this is an ongoing problem with every cria, I would seriously consider removing her from your breeding program especially since this is a heritable trait. Age is another factor to consider. If this older female who has never had issues in the past, it might just be time to retire her from the breeding program. If she's a maiden, it might just a take a little more time for milk to come in. Many Breeders have had great success adding Dr. Pollard's lactation stimulation herbs and that's certainly

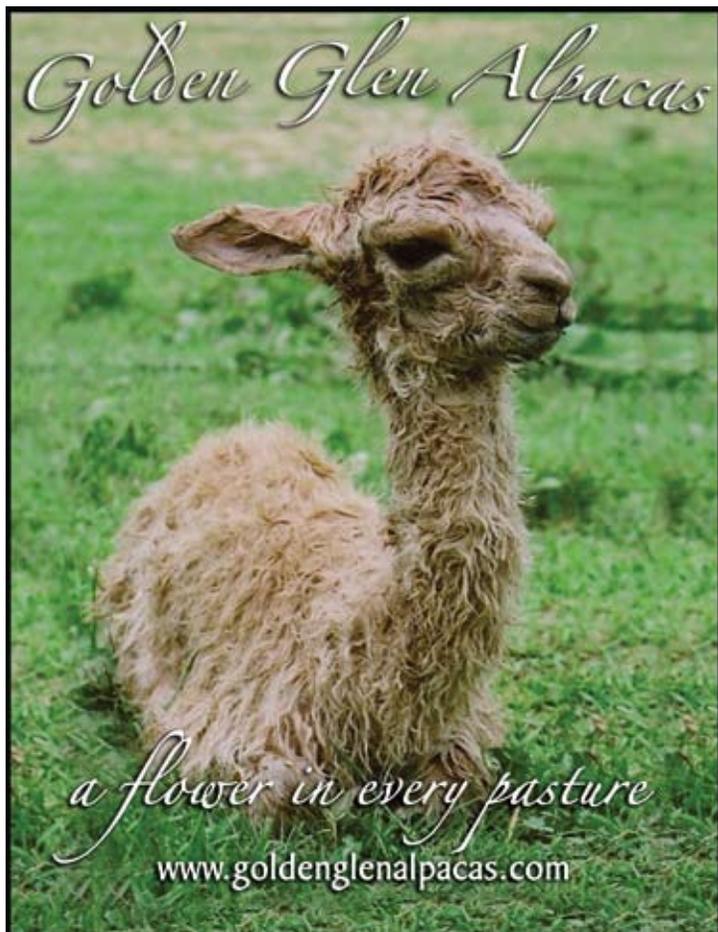
something to try before making a decision to remove the female from the breeding program.

Q: We are having our very first crias this spring. What do you recommend we have on hand?

A: In our experience the most important items to have on hand are frozen camelid plasma and/or frozen llama or alpaca colostrum. If the cria is unable to nurse or the dam does not have adequate milk these items need to be administered as soon as possible. A day or two delays can have serious impact on the crias ability to thrive and survive. We would strongly recommend having: Betadine, Nolvasan, and mineral oil in your cria kit. These are the items we have used the most over the years. Other useful items include: a thermometer, bulb syringes, lubricating gel, plastic Sleeves and gloves, a feeding tube, a feeding syringe and a cria coat.

Q: We have an orphan cria. What and how much supplementation is required?

A: Goat's milk seems to most closely resemble camelid milk. If it's not readily available we've had good results using whole cow's milk with a little added live culture yogurt. In our experience crias require 13-18% of their body weight for growth and gain and need to be fed every 4-6 hours. We strongly recommend the cria remain with their herd mates and with a little luck they may bond with another female or learn how to sneak feedings from other nurse dams. Over the years we've been amazed at how industrious some of the crias can become even those whose mothers have had plenty of milk!



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Failing to Plan is a Plan to Fail

Constructing a Roadmap for the Future Success of the North American Alpaca Farmer

By Alan Clark, RPh | Finca Alta Vista, LLC | Long-Range Planning Committee Chairperson

Henry Kissinger once said, "If you don't know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere." Aside from the obvious reasons that MAPACA should construct a Long-Range Plan to establish relevance and give guidance, there has never been a more critical time in the history of the North American Alpaca Livestock Industry for us to devote serious thought to where we are heading as an organization. For the most part, the North American alpaca business model to date has consisted primarily of (1) purchasing female breeding stock, (2) breeding those females to the males we feel are best suited to improve said females and (3) submitting the resulting offspring to our show system for professional assessment and to garner awards that will establish the value of these alpacas. These offspring are either retained in the breeder's own program or offered for sale to those farms that are at stage (1), and the process repeats itself. There is general and widespread consensus that this "seed stock" model in the U.S. has greatly improved the quality of alpacas that currently occupy our North American pastures.

But as farmers of fiber-producing livestock, it seems that our industry is on "every road to nowhere." We can't all continue to be seed stock alpaca farms and continue to push to the back burner a comprehensive plan to develop our industry to its full fiber-to-fashion potential. There continues to be noble attempts by individuals and organizations to develop the fiber end product in North America, but fiber production as a business model has yet to show any promise as a viable and profitable venture for North America alpaca owners and breeders en masse.

The North American alpaca industry is no longer in its youthful stages. It is time that we clearly define the role of regional trade associations like MAPACA. MAPACA can only remain relevant if it addresses the needs and concerns of its membership and assists member farms in reaching their goals. The prime goal, in my opinion, is a simple one: Any person who wants to raise alpacas, and who is armed with the knowledge and tools to succeed, should have a clear path to

profitability, all the while enjoying the unique aspects that this wonderful livestock breed contributes to quality of life. This goal should be reachable regardless of which path the farm chooses . . . seed stock breeder, multiplier farm or fiber/end product producer.

As an industry we have done a fantastic job of creating the knowledge base and tools we need to produce healthy, quality alpacas. What we lack now is the politically unbiased leadership that is needed to take us to the next level. By assembling a group of creative and imaginative representatives from all aspects of the alpaca industry, we can define what a vibrant North American alpaca industry should look like. Organizations like MAPACA can be the catalysts for change in our journey to establish this vibrant comprehensive business model.

If you would like to participate in constructing the Long Range Plan for MAPACA, please contact me by email at alan@fincaaltavista.com. A critical component of the construction of this plan will be a membership survey, so I encourage everyone to participate candidly in this process during the next few months.

Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere.

Carl Sagan



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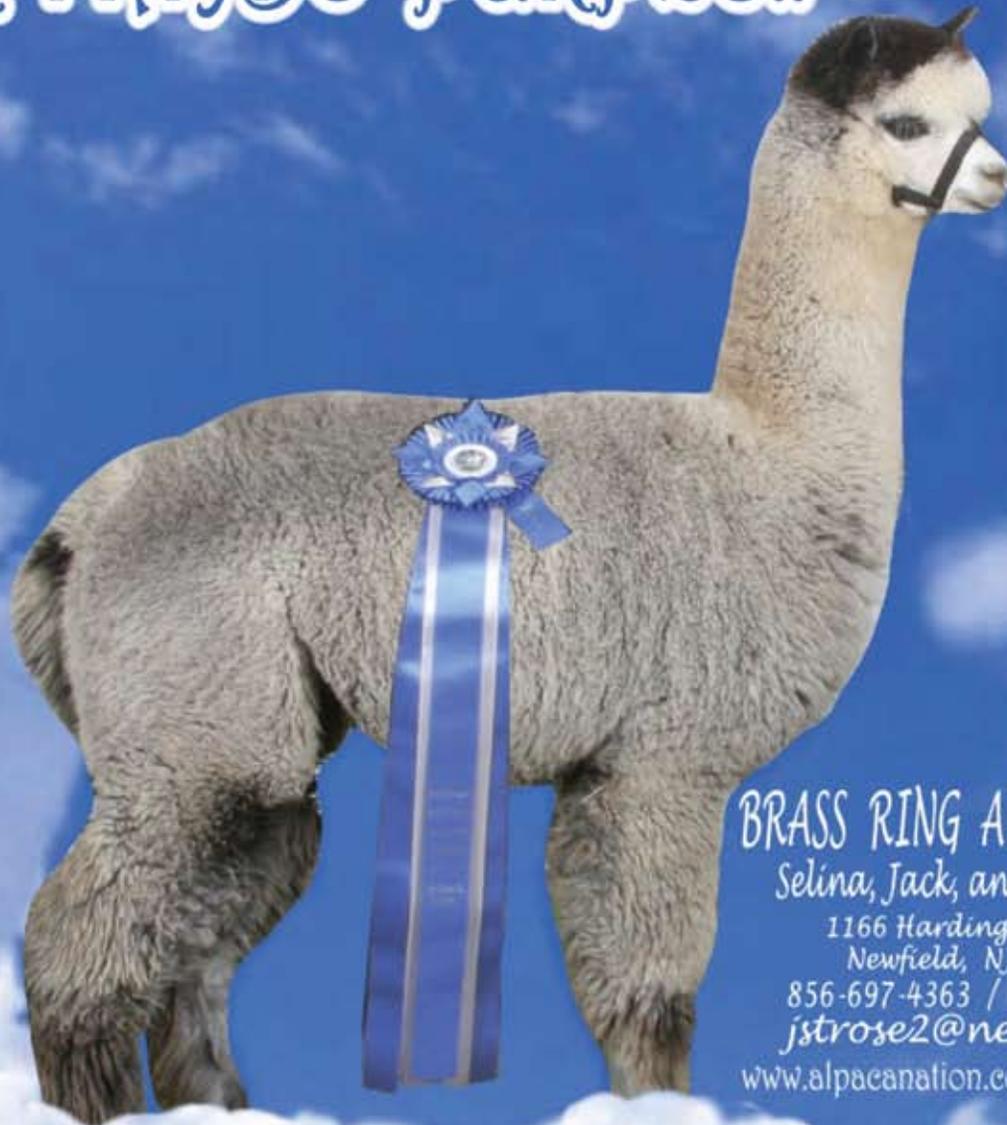
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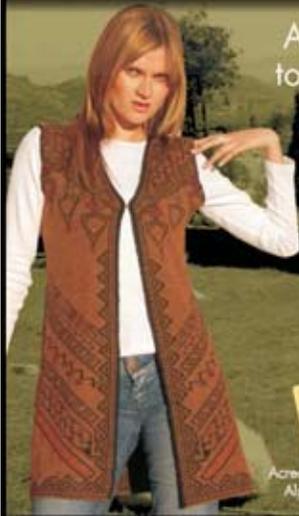
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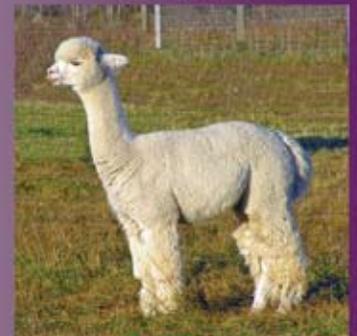
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LA Eros, ARI 30421493, MF, multiple Champion, with second year fleece AFD 17.6, SD 3.56, CV 20.16 just starting his breeding career.

A Paca Fun's Agamemnon, ARI 30384330, Classic MSG, Champion, third year fleece 25.39, SD 4.51, CV 17.75, 100mm. He settled his first females Spring 2009.

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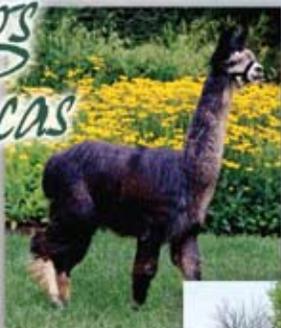
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A Family Learns Together

By Ian Falcone - Big Mount Alpacas

When my wife, Billie, and I purchased a 10 ½ acre farm 3 years ago, we knew we wanted to raise alpacas and open a store featuring alpaca products. What we did not know was that we will someday make some of those products ourselves.

One of our most pleasant surprises since moving to the farm was learning that a renowned hand weaving training center is just fifteen minutes away in East Berlin, Pa. The Manning's Hand Weaving School attracts people from around the world to seminars featuring the very talented Tom Knisely, his daughter Sara and school owner Carol Woolcock to name a few.

But many of their students are local kids, including our daughters Kasey, 11, and Devin, 10, who belong to the East Berlin 4H Fiber Club. Of all the kinds of 4H clubs Kasey and Devin might have found, they had the good luck to join one that will allow them to turn our alpacas' fleece into the socks, scarves, hats and sweaters our customers desire.

Already, the girls have learned the following skills, dying fleece with kool aid, drop spindling, knitting, kumihimo, and pearling. More advanced students make up The Bountiful Bobbins, a team of spinners and weavers who compete in several fleece to shawl competitions locally. They were a big hit when they demonstrated their skills at our Alpaca Farm Days event in the fall. They also finished in second place this year at the Pennsylvania

Farm Show Fleece to Shawl competition which is a wonderful accomplishment. Additionally the shawl they made was auctioned off for \$400 later that same day.

"If any kid has an opportunity to get into a 4H club, they should do it," Devin told me the other day.

Carol Woolcock and Kasey



But what about Mom and Dad, who are a little too old to qualify for membership? Well, Billie is learning spinning from a friend and is enrolled in a spinning class at The Manning's scheduled for March 30th. We intend to purchase a spinning wheel from The Manning's so all of us – including me, a guy who previously never so much as sewed a button on a shirt – can get into the act at home.



Tom Knisely and Devin

Hand weaving, like sewing, is practically a lost art in many communities. Who wants to go to the trouble of making what you can buy at the mall? Well, we have learned that all sorts of people do – once they realize how enjoyable and satisfying it can be.

If you can learn weaving in your community, why not give it a try? If you are not that fortunate, do not despair. We know some experts in East Berlin who would welcome you to a seminar.

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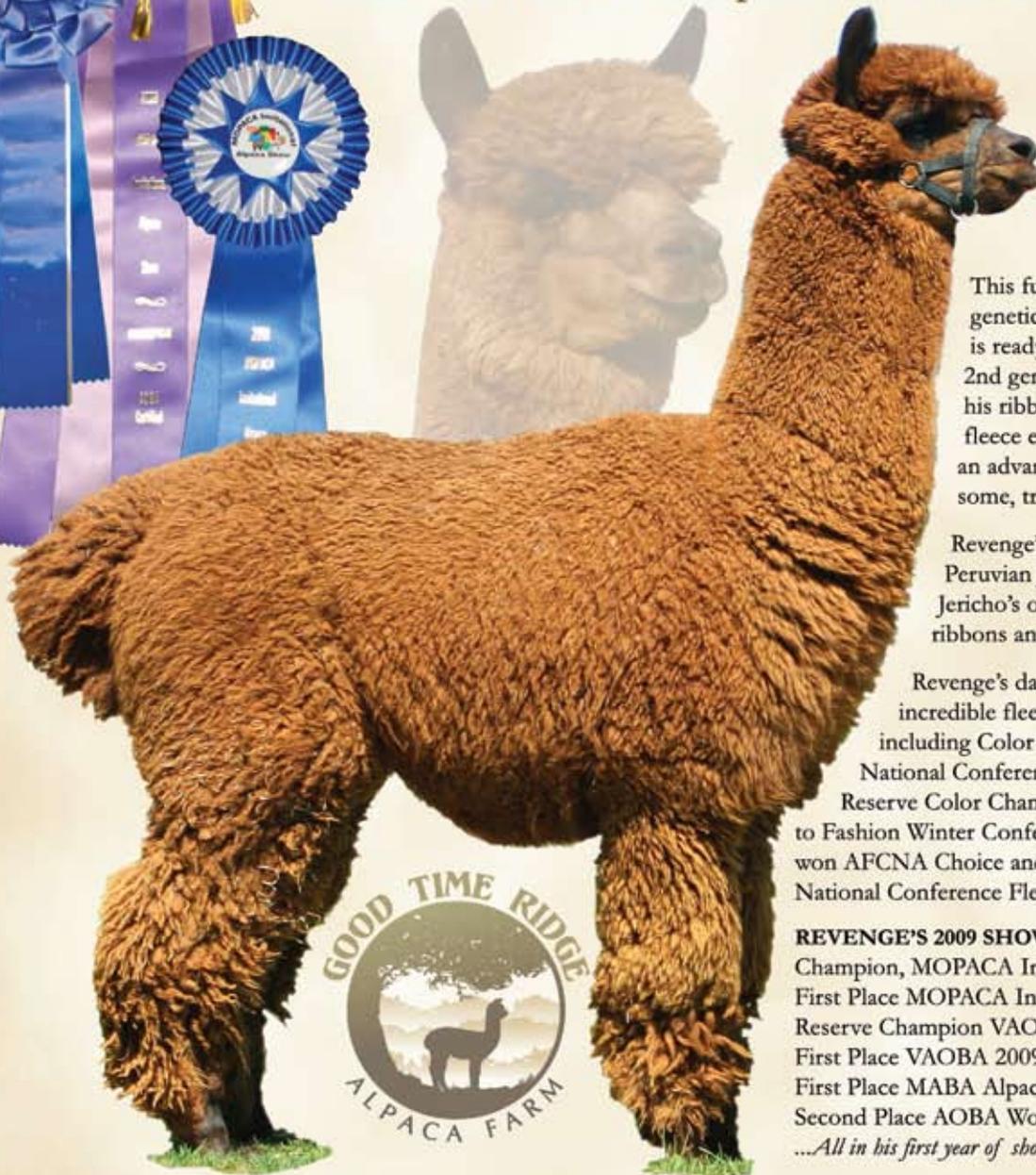
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Connecting With Your Alpaca Roots

By Ken Hibbits - Alpacas by the Sea

I love American alpacas. In fact, I love all alpacas. Yes, and like most of us I dream of them. Whether at work or in a car, I often easily drift into a pleasant daydream of beautiful alpacas grazing green meadows. Those green meadows lead to alpaca heaven. Yes, and they also lead to South America. Fortunately, these daydreams lead to action and we find ourselves compelled to learn more. We decide to connect with our alpaca roots.

Alpaca pedigrees and their origins in South America beckon us to journey far from America to see how alpacas really live in their true home. We also have the plea-

sure of meeting the fine people, who like us, love them and raise them too. We find how much alike we are in our fondness for alpacas. We are pleased to connect with them through language barriers and miles of dirt roads because we have this common bond. How magnificent the alpacas look along the roadside and we enjoy the ride!

We weave along the road to avoid the “real” potholes and the local cyclists scatter in all directions as we pass by. There are bicyclists all along the road for many miles. We see no other cars.

We begin to pass large groups of livestock. Surprisingly, sheep are everywhere too. We expected to see more alpacas. Up to now it has been the occasional small herd with one brightly attired female attendant always wearing the traditional hat of her village.

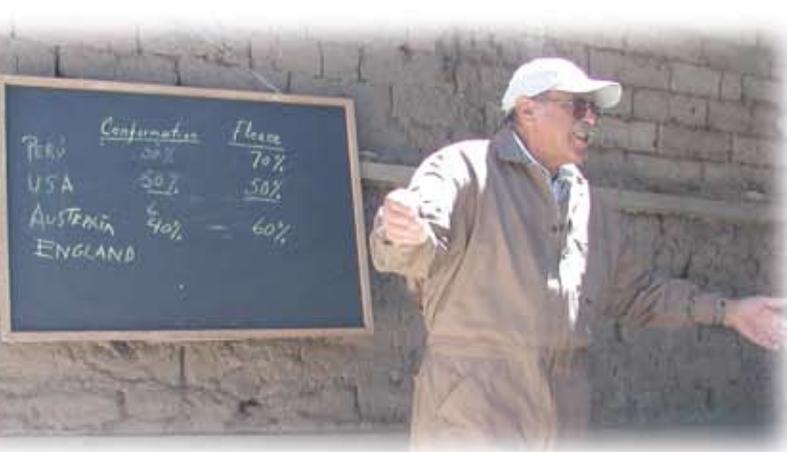
The landscape begins to change and we gain altitude. Large herds of camelids

now begin to appear in the meadow along the roadside. Alpacas and other livestock cohabitate and congregate only a few feet from the roadside. As always the sheep are the last to move aside. Soon hundreds of alpacas are everywhere grazing along side other types of stock on a wide expanse of bofadales grass. There is standing water and fresh green grass everywhere. Off in the distance we see the classic “Promiscuous Breeding” of a llama to an alpaca. We laugh and have a new appreciation for this llama’s “presence”.

Soon we are in the town Munani and upon arrival Mallkini is magical. It is silent. There are no airplanes in the sky. The only sounds are the winds and an occasional dog barking amidst the gurgling sounds of the water running from the spring by the kitchen. A female Vicuna and cria graze lazily alongside the barn below. They make a nice family postcard in the stone corral be-



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such a nice man. He embarrasses no one but we all quickly learn where we went wrong and try to improve with each new group of wonderful alpacas. In fact, we all get a little more confident as the lesson ensues.

“just passing through?” We are stunned at their beauty.

After about an hour’s ride up higher and over another ridge, we reach the Suri group. We arrive and are simply breathless but not purely from the 14,000 foot elevation. The beauty and color of these rare Suris is exciting. The luster drips off of these females. The ichu grass is long and “wheat like”. It blows in the wind on the steep slopes and mingles with their long silky locks.

Back at Mallkini, following a hearty dinner Dr. Sumar continues his

The Plantel Huacayas are also a sight to behold. The alpacas demonstrate great substance and balance and present a variety of color. They are enjoying the bofadales grass as Victoria bounces off her horse to get some photos.

low the main house.

There is a Training Class with Dr. Sumar the next day. We are thrilled and we all settle in for a nice dinner followed by a hearty discussion of everyone’s favorite topic: alpacas. Dr. Sumar holds court and we all enjoy our fireside chat with one of the world’s leading alpaca authorities.

In the morning following breakfast we head over to the Mallkini Breeding & Genetics Center and begin our tutorial. As we head out the door, the view from the Mallkini Mission is spectacular. The altiplano below is awash with colors of mauve, red, and green and pale purple in the distance.

We line up with note pads in hand as Dr. Sumar begins his discussion. The handlers bring groups of alpacas out and now we must put our training to the test, as we are asked to judge each group and Dr. Sumar tallies the score. Thank goodness he is

lesson and we all are able to ask frank questions. We love this lively interaction and his opinions and observations expand our knowledge base from this evening forward. It becomes a great fireside chat!

The next morning we reach the pass at approximately 14,000 feet and have a spectacular view of the upper ridge beyond the canyon via horseback. The alpacas at Mallkini are grouped into four main groups. There are two groups of “Plantel” alpacas and two groups of “Production” alpacas segregated by sex and breed type. The Suri and Huacayas are kept separate by long rides and all are managed by a small group of seven highland people.

The next stop is for the Plantel Machos. We had seen a few of them the day before but enjoyed getting another look up close. These alpacas are busy and are kept near the Mallkini Breeding & Genetics Center for that reason. The Machos are an incredible site!

These dreams of green meadows and beautiful alpacas are in fact a secret pleasure. This is a noble quest and indeed a worthy pursuit. Now, take the chance and make the journey to your own alpaca dream. With our fantastic ARI data base for research and our national herd depth there is a world to explore at home and abroad. We can also just walk out to our own pasture and enjoy the view. They are right outside your door. Alpacas are one of the world’s great gifts. Daydream if you will.

The first group we encounter is the Production Hembras. There are at located at about 14,000 feet, and the bofadales meadows they are feeding on are spectacular to behold. They stop and look at us as if to say



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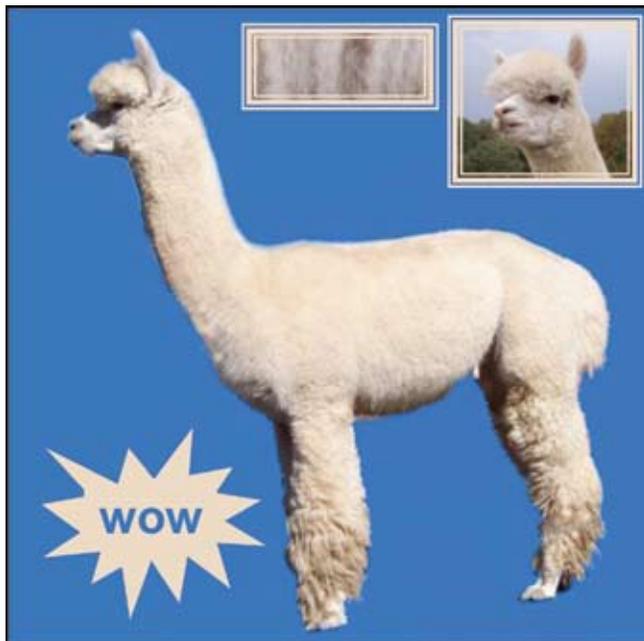
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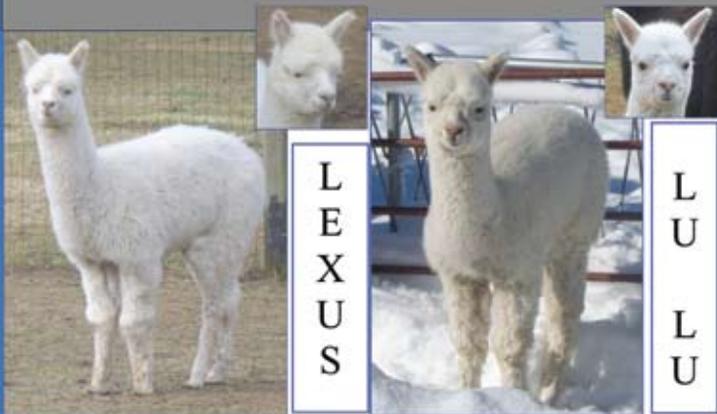
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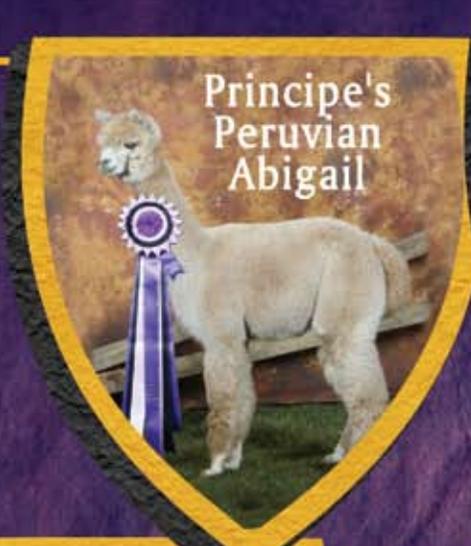
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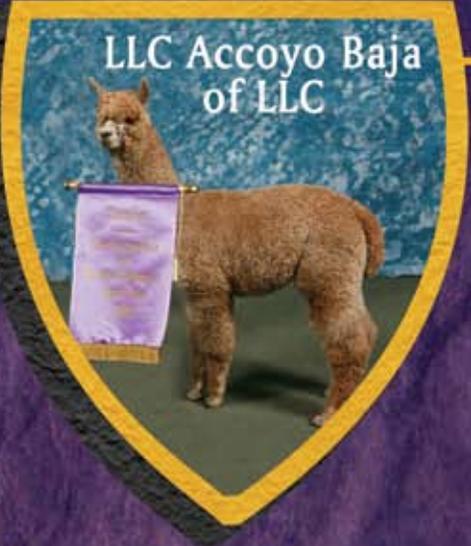
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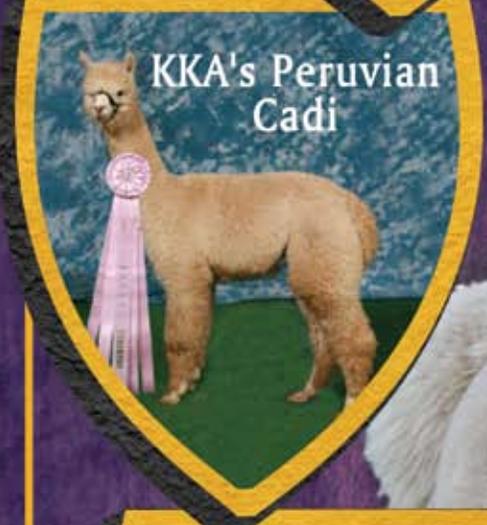


Principe's Peruvian Abigail



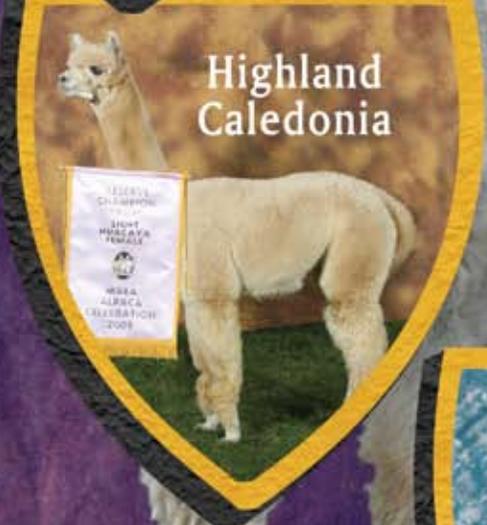
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Reasonable breeding fee with multiple breeding discounts.



KKA's Peruvian Cadi

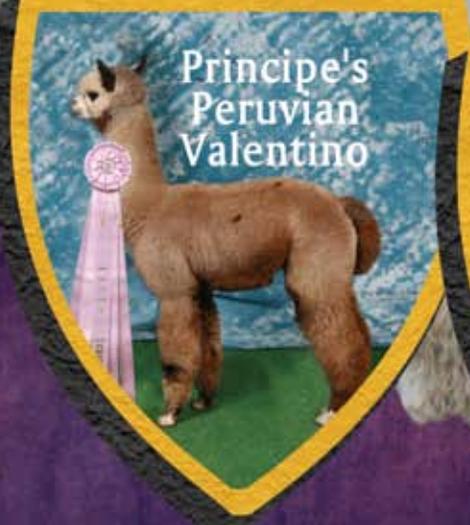
What do these Banner Winners have in common?



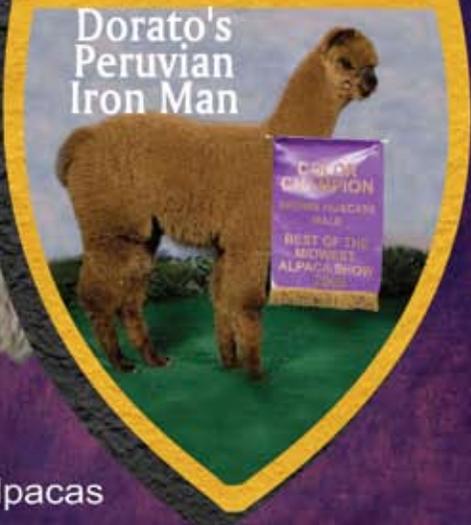
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Principe's Peruvian Valentino



Dorato's Peruvian Iron Man



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Mission Statement:

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association (MAPACA) is to provide education, guidance, support, and resources to help new and existing alpaca owners, breeders, and alpaca-related businesses to establish or grow their businesses and become successful in the alpaca industry.

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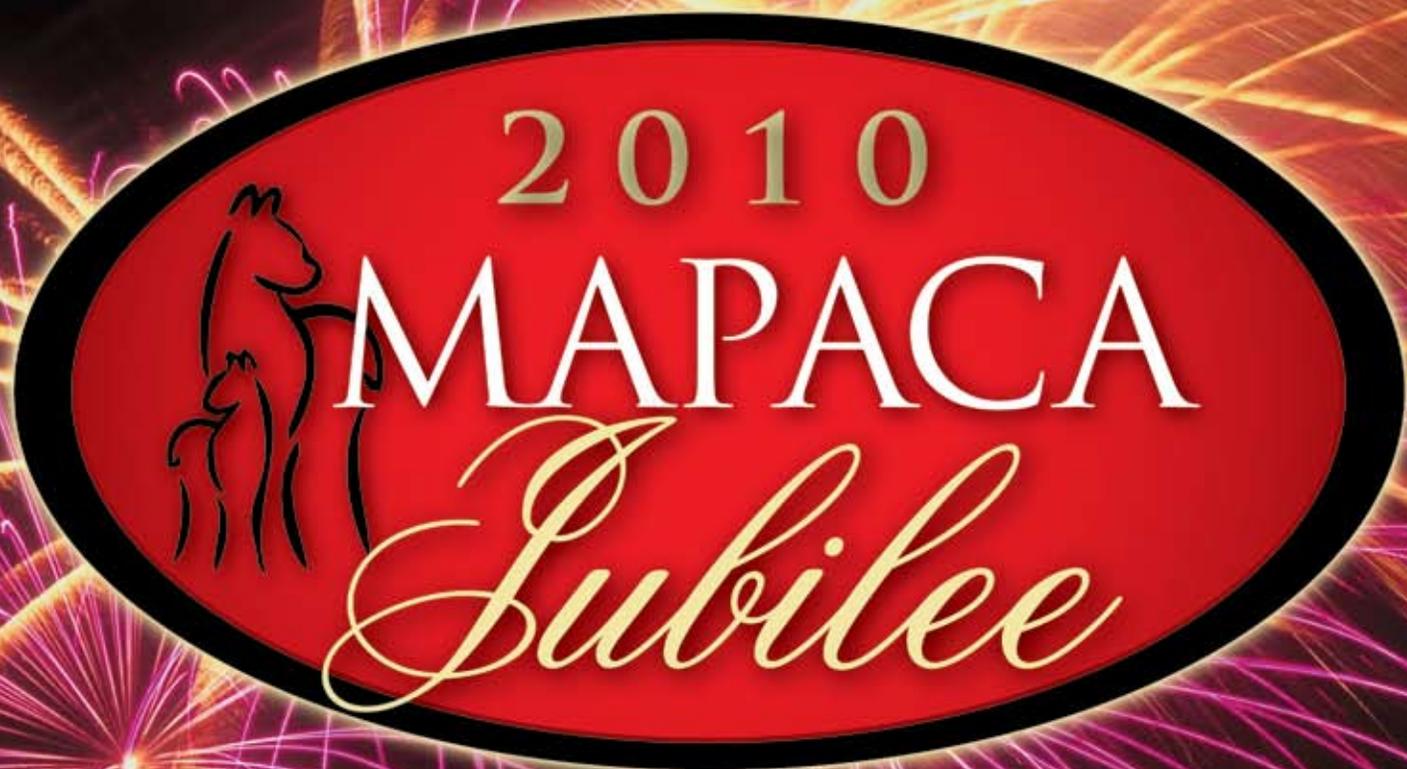
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