

The Journal of RMLA

RMLA 

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



In This Edition

RMLA Board & Committees.....	3
Editors' Corner	4
President's Letter	5
Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award.....	6
New Members.....	6
Bluetongue Disease	8
RMLA Events Calendar.....	11
The 2014 National Western Stock Show	12
Learning About the Incas & Llamas	14
Fiber Mill 101	16
Operation Never Forgotten:	
Llamas & Warriors	20
Fairplay Pack Llama Event.....	22
New Rescue Committee Chair	23
Where Are They Now?	24
RMLA Fiber Co-op Schedule.....	26
Ask The CSU VET Team	27
Letters from Members	33
The RMLA Talent Network.....	34
Lama Fun - Colorado State Fair	35
Why I Volunteer.....	36
Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show	38
RMLA Fiber Co-Op 2013 Year End Report.....	39
How to Back Up	41
Navigating the Hazards of Llama Rescue.....	43
Llamas Share the Love	44
Rescue: Facing the Problem	45
Advertisers' Index	40
Classified Ads.....	37
Journal Advertising Rates, Specifications and Deadlines	4

Ask The CSU VET Team - Nutrition, Page 27

Call me for a free Farm & Ranch Survey

(281) 250-2000



Brent L. Holt, CLU, ChFC
Farm & Ranch Specialist
Brent.Holt@cfbmic.com

Real service. Real people.



Auto • Home • Life

AP-NP-38

Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company
Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS

-- Board of Directors --

President

Lougene Baird
Post Office Box 385403
Waikoloa, HI 96738
808-747-5023
lougenebaird@
hawaiiantel.net

Vice President

Linda Hayes
60 Meadow View Lane
Glenwood Spgs, CO 81601
970-379-4576
llamas@skybeam.com

Secretary

Ann Bruhn
P.O. Box 746 Victor, CO
80860
719-689-2122
afbruhn11@gmail.com

Treasurer

Brent Holt
4047 Bear Canyon Cir.
Sedalia CO 80135
281-250-2000
Brent.Holt@cfbmic.com

-- Committee Chairpersons --

Bookstore

Jan Adamcyk
303-621-2960
adamcyk@earthlink.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

Bylaws

Lougene Baird
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiantel.net
Liaison Linda Hayes

Calendar

Dick Williams & Pat Bradstreet
406-826-2201
bellama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Lougene Baird

e-Communications:

Liaison Lougene Baird

Facebook:

Brianna Cozzetto
719-371-4839
brianna0215@yahoo.com

Website & E-mail:

Ron Hinds
303-646-1320
web@rmla.com

Education

(open)

Events/Marketing

Mary Wickman
719-687-1423 Cell: 719-651-8871
mwickman1@gmail.com
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Fiber

Cheryl Juntilla & Jill Knuckles
970-640-8028 970-487-0223
cajwdj@aol.com
talltailamas@bigplanet.com
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Finance

Marilyn Arnold
303-841-5126
arnold.marilyn@ymail.com.
Liaison Brent Holt

Journal

Co-Editors:
Content-**Kathy Stanko**
Layout-**Ron Hinds**
rmlaeditor@gmail.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

*Journal
info is
on page 4.*

Library

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bellama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Membership

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bellama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Brent Holt

Nominations & Elections

Maggie Merrill Brown
970-667-7227
designer95@bluelinesite.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Publication Coordinator

Lougene Baird
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiantel.net

Rescue

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay
406-580-5954
llamas@yellowstonesafari.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Youth and 4-H

Brianna Cozzetto
719-371-4839
brianna0215@yahoo.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

The Journal is a quarterly publication of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association ("RMLA"). The RMLA Journal Committee and the Board of Directors reserve the right to select and edit all articles and advertisements submitted.

Reproduction of articles herein is subject to written permission being obtained from individual authors. Lama newsletter exchange editors may reproduce articles as long as such permission from the author is obtained and the author and RMLA are given credit for the original work.

The information in The Journal is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant or attorney regarding any questions concerning their animals or business operations.

RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from readers' failure to heed this caution. The views expressed by the authors of articles are not necessarily those of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc., its officers, directors or members.

Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
Winter	November 20	December 20

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horz.	7.5" x 2"	\$24	\$36
1/4 Page Vert.	3.5" x 4.5"	\$24	\$36
1/3 Page Horiz.	7.5" x 3"	\$35	\$48
1/3 Page Vert.	2.5" x 10"	\$35	\$48
Half Page	7.5" x 5"	\$48	\$72
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$78	\$117
Back Cover	7.5" x 7.5"	\$60	\$90
Inside Cover Front or Back	7.5" x 10"	\$96	\$144
Two Page Spread	15" x 10"	\$200	\$300

- **Classified Ads**—Member \$10 for up to 50 words
Non-Member \$25 for up to 50 words. Ads must be related to the Camelid industry.
- 25 cents for each word over 50 for both Member and Non-Member.

- Ad rates are quoted per issue. Lock in the current rate by purchasing the same ad for four consecutive issues and receive a bonus of a 10% discount.
- **For ads that require scanning:** Mail ad copy to RMLA-Ron Hinds-5704 Canyon Trail, Elizabeth, CO 80107-7814 include a check payable to AlpacaGraphics for \$5.00 for each scan.
- For ad design, contact Ron Hinds at ad-design@rmla.com or 303-646-1320.
- We suggest ads be submitted in black and white/grayscale at 300dpi.
- Ads must be submitted via email in MS Word, jpeg, tiff or PDF files to RMLAEditor@gmail.com.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR Payment:** Send your check (payable to RMLA) along with a copy of the ad (for clarity) to:
RMLA Journal Co-Editor – Kathy Stanko
6778 Kannah Creek Rd.
Whitewater, CO 81527-9605
You can reach Kathy at 970-256-7716 or via the email addresses below.
- **Email text and/or graphics content to:** RMLAEditor@gmail.com
- Payment and ad copy must be received prior to submission deadline. See the chart above for dates.

Journal Staff:

Content - Kathy Stanko
 Layout and Design - Ron Hinds } Co-Editors
 Email - RMLAEditor@gmail.com
 Proof Reader-Marilyn Arnold
 Ad & Article Writer/Solicitor-Sue Grimm

Hello Members

The mission statement of the RMLA is "to educate the members and the public as to the breeding, raising, care



and use of llamas and alpacas." The mission statement was essential on the application to become a non-profit organization. The IRS granted non-profit status because of the mission statement. Consistently abiding by the mission statement assures that RMLA continues as a non-profit organization.

As just one 'arm', so to speak, of the RMLA, the Journal must consistently and predominately be an educational tool. As we know, education comes in many forms. Reports from vets and members on animal health concerns are just one form. Animal and handler training workshops are another. Taking a lama to a school, a nursing home, or a parade offers countless ways our animals interact with people to educate. Even a humorous poem, photo or poster displayed in a public gathering will educate many.

This is a long, round about way of getting to how content and photos submitted to the Journal are considered for inclusion. This is your editors' main focus.

Second in importance, we ask "is the writer respectful of other's opinions and ideas?" We welcome a broad range of ideas and conversations. Everyone has an idea, a thought, a way of expressing and we value all of them as long as respect to others is shown.

Regarding the photographs, we want them and we use them if the quality translates well to gray-scale. Remember, when you take those awesome photos, check what is in the background; sometimes a line, a fence post, a shadow or other obstruction/distraction turns a great photograph into a not so great photo. Ron and his computer can only do so much to improve a not-so-good photograph.

continued on page 35

RMLA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Lougene Baird



Are you ready for spring? You are all must certainly be looking forward to getting outside and working with your animals under more pleasant conditions. I have had lots of “burrrrrs” in emails from you. With the thaw comes the renewed anticipation of RMLA events and just getting out to festivals, parks and trails with your llamas.

As I have been thinking about all of you, I want to tell you how lucky RMLA is to have such a talented lineup of Committee Chairs. Something that is fairly new to RMLA is the idea of Committee Co-Chairs. We now have three committees that have independently decided to take the lead, so to say, with a co-chair. This is such a smart idea as two great minds are able to come up with some pretty good stuff!

As announced last fall, the Fiber Committee is now led by Co-Chairs Jill Knuckles and Cheryl Juntilla. Keeping up with events, inventory and organizing booth volunteers is important to those who consign their wares in the co-op booth. By sharing the leadership, both Jill

and Cheryl will have more time enjoy their volunteer work. We can all look forward to visiting the Fiber Co-op at an event this year.

The Calendar committee is another - Dick Williams is in charge of getting photos and ads and constructing the timeline and printer to have the 2015 Calendar available by the end of summer. Pat Bradshaw, retired Boeing Aircraft graphic designer, brings amazing layout and design talents to producing our calendar. By working as a team, the 2015 RMLA Calendar will be back for all to enjoy... and then some! Get your ads and llama photos in!

And the Journal! Wow! I am occasionally copied on emails bantered back and forth between Ron and Kathy. The energy that flows within that team is strong and the Journal shows it. The two work endlessly and with smiles to put their goals firmly in place to bring RMLA Members a beautiful publication. With this issue, we welcome back the larger Spring Edition.

A Liaison is in place for each committee. The Liaison is there

to bring ideas or issues to the Board, to double check with policy, and to help the committee in any way necessary. While working in an area each enjoy, all committees work diligently to follow the RMLA mission statement, “to educate the members and the public as to the breeding, raising, care and use of llamas and alpacas”. And it goes without saying, their love and care for the animals is in the forefront of their volunteering.

And for you, see what you can do to help on a committee. They are listed on page 3. Pick one that represents your particular interest. It really is fun to work side by side with a group of folks who share the same interest as you. Your combined efforts all contribute to a stronger RMLA and your enjoyment of this organization. We really enjoy seeing the energy and opportunities that have come out of RMLA Committees. Awesome and Thanks!

Lougene

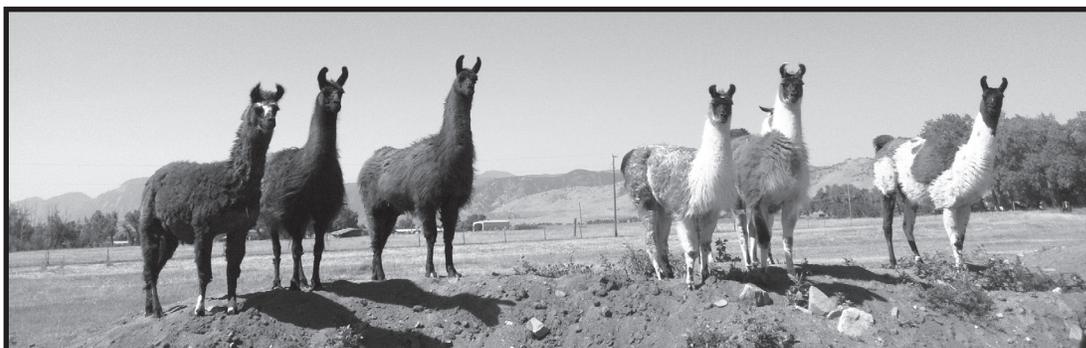


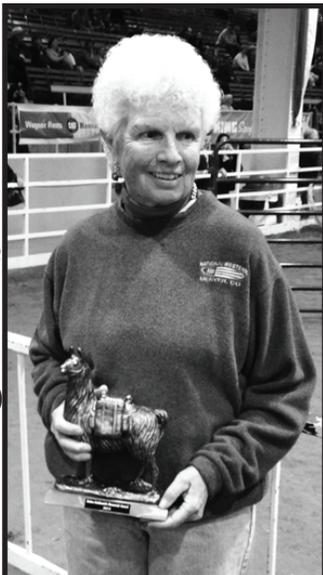
Photo courtesy
Mary Vavrina -
Rocky Mountain Llamas

JERRY DUNN RECEIVES 2014 BOBRA GOLDSMITH MEMORIAL AWARD

By Lougene Baird - Waikoloa, HI

COVER PHOTO

The recipient of the 2014 Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award is Jerry Dunn. This award was originated to honor Bobra and the many years of service she gave to RMLA and its membership. Annually, an RMLA person(s) who has demonstrated a similar passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpacas is recognized.



Jerry's passion in the show ring has always been performance. In fact, in everything she does, it is to always show all that a llama can do! Jerry organized the Jelly Bean classic in 1997. This fun performance event continued for 10+ years.

real focus is youth. She has opened her farm to kids so they could not only learn about good herdsmanship and running a farm but to help them grow into responsible adults.

Jerry continues to encourage that RMLA keep Youth at the heart of the membership. They are the future. And volunteers like Jerry are our heart. Thank you, Jerry, and congratulations!

Bobra Goldsmith was Jerry's mentor and Jerry is most deserving of this award. Jerry is one of the founding members of RMLA and became a Life Member when the opportunity arose. She began serving as a Board Member in 1995. After taking a short time off the Board, she returned a couple years later. She served on the Board in a variety of capacities until 2013.

Simultaneously she ran other events (e.g., fall hikes) and training sessions (e.g. cart driving). Several years ago, she started the Pack Animal Halter competition at the Estes Park Wool Market. She continues to head up this event.

While so many of us know Jerry as Chair of the Events Committee, her strength and



NEW RMLA MEMBERS SINCE THE WINTER JOURNAL

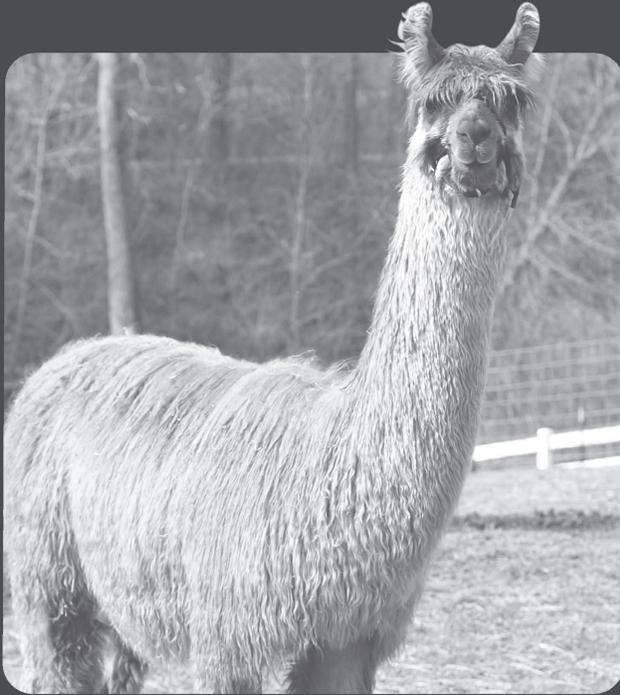
Kris Hill – Colorado Springs, CO
Valerie Young – Colorado Springs, CO
Julie Komarow & Randy Robertson – Covington, WA
Carlos Mendoza – Erie, CO (returning)
Craig & Alexa Metrick – Golden, CO
Rachael Klingenberg – Colorado Springs, CO
Terryl & Betty Hollman – Turpin, OK

Thank you!

Youth Members

Aubryne Cozzetto – Pueblo, CO
Josh de Yoanna – Golden, CO
Tim Sereda – Vermillion, SD
Elyzabeth Winter – Grafton, NE
Kaitlyn Winter – Grafton, NE
Whitney Winter – Grafton, NE

Breaking news: Mike & Kate Blackburn of Antelope Alpacas, LLC in Elizabeth, CO have upgraded their annual membership to a Life Membership! Thank you, Mike & Kate



exploring
new ideas



premium
products
uniquely
formulated

perfecting
animal
nutrition



We know you take them seriously, which is why we keep working to help you meet your goals for breeding, growth and fiber.

For almost a quarter of a century now, we've partnered with zoo and veterinary professionals and conducted extensive research to improve the nutrition of the most unique animals around the globe. Our products are proven to support the health, longevity and fiber production of alpacas.



Sign up for our newsletter today at MAZURI.COM/RMLA14 and be the first to learn about:

- Latest Product Information
 - Product Promotions
 - Tradeshows & Events



Mazuri[®]
A World of Good Nutrition

Bluetongue Disease in Camelids

By Scott Noga

Rattlesnake Ridge Ranch

Pasco, WA

[Editors' Note: For those of you who are signed on to the Llama Chat List, you probably read about the outbreak of Bluetongue Disease in Washington & Montana this Fall. One of our members wrote to the Ask the Vet Column with concerns about this outbreak. We were all set to send this question to CSUVTH when we saw the link to all of Scott Noga's research. Scott and Gayle Noga lost several llamas to Bluetongue Disease this past Fall. So, with their permission, we have included just a portion of his article. Scott's intention is to help us understand this disease in camelids and be aware of the symptoms. Please go to www.RattlesnakeRidgeRanch.com and click on Llama Care for the full article, including references and the farm report. And, our thanks to Scott & Gayle for keeping us informed.]

What is Bluetongue Disease?

Bluetongue disease (BT) is a non-contagious, infectious viral hemorrhagic disease affecting primarily domestic and wild ruminants and camelids.

BT can be found just about anywhere in the US. In warmer southerly states the disease is a continual threat but is seasonal in northern climates, typically appearing later in the warm season the further north one gets; late summer and early fall in the most northerly states. It subsides during the winter as adult midges cannot survive in the cold.

The survival of the disease past the winter season is due either to midges that survive the winter in a dormant state or seasonal expansion from warmer climates.

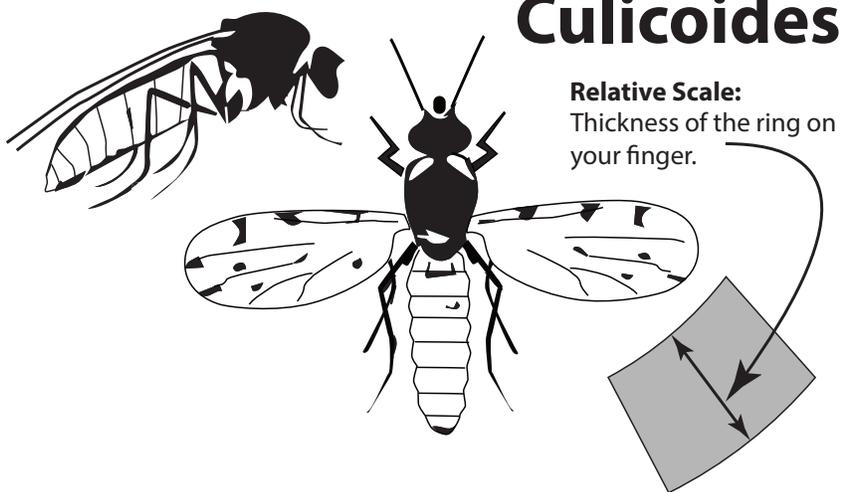
Distribution in 2007

It is caused by the Bluetongue virus (BTV), of which there are officially 26 identified serotypes, fifteen of which have been found in the USA, predominantly in the south and four of those appear in the western states. Ten of the fifteen found in the USA appeared after 1997 as the serotypes have expanded their distribution.

The virulence of BTV varies quite markedly; even strains with matching serotypes have variable virulence. The disease is considered non-contagious in that it cannot be transmitted between animals through casual contact, saliva, etc., but instead requires inoculation. The primary vector is blood sucking insects capable

prior to engorgement. (They are smaller than the 'D' on a dime!) In camelids they typically get into the ears where they reside for hours feeding on blood safe from harm. Other hairless or nearly hairless areas are also vulnerable but exposed areas are not quite as attractive to the flies.

When these flies appear in an area they often do so in large numbers, spreading virus rapidly. Llamas typically flick their ears at the faint sound of these flies, and once in the ears can be very irritating and the llamas may be seen rubbing their heads on objects or the ground occasionally in a vain attempt at re-



of transporting the virus. The primary reservoir of virus in the USA is cattle.

How does Bluetongue Virus Spread?

BTV is typically transmitted by biting midges of the genus *Culicoides*. These flies are small, sometimes referred to as gnats or no-see-ums, only 2-3mm in size

lie. A swipe of a finger or thumb inside their ear canal may come out bloody, and you may see the flies trying to escape.

What are the Effects of Bluetongue Disease?

Bluetongue disease is so named because infected animals occa-

continued on next page...

- Repellents containing DEET (diethyltoluamide) provide only limited protection. Note: Some camelids have been observed to exhibit adverse reaction to DEET. Its use is not advised.
- We have tried a fly mask for llamas (custom made), but the llamas that wore it didn't like to have it on despite the relief it provided from the midges and each managed to eventually rub it off. Contact us for details if you are interested in trying this method.

Conclusion

No single defensive strategy can be relied upon to prevent infection from BTV. All reasonable measures need to be taken to control Culicoides breeding areas, trap adult flies with modern traps, and diligently apply topical synthetic pyrethroid fly repellents throughout BTV season each year.

Even in areas that often see outbreaks of this disease, veterinarians may actually rarely see it and hence may not recognize it when seen. Many animals, cattle particularly, don't show clear symp-

toms, usually just reproductive and productive, which vets are not called in for and can be easily dismissed. When other animals such as goats or camelids are found dead of mysterious causes, it's too late to call the vet so they don't get contacted. Necropsies are rarely performed. The disease can spread silently and veterinarians can underestimate the risk.



Looking For Information About....

Abdomen/Stomach	Eye/Study	ECG parameters	Hydrocortisone/Effects	Parasite
Angular Limb (Knock Knee)		Emergency/Alert	Hypothermia	Poison (Toxins)
Anthrax		Environmental/Impact	Insulin/Epinephrine	Rabies
Behavior/Handling		EPI New Name	Johne's/Disease	Reproduction
Body Score		Epinephrine and Insulin	Kidney Problem	Research
Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD)		Feed/Problem	Lameness/Research	SNOTS, The
Brain Sizes		First/Aid	Liver/Disease	Stomach/Abdomen
BSE/MadCow		FMD	Mad Cow/"BSE"	Toxoplasmosis/Cats
Cats&Toxoplasmosis		Foot	Male/Reproduction	Vaccination/Clostridial
Clostridial/Vaccination		Forages	Mycoplasma haemolamae (EPI)	Vesicular/Stomatitis(VS)
CPR - Heart Stop		Glucose/Tolerance	Minerals	Water
Deafness		Handling/Behavior	Necropsy/Post Mortem	West Nile Virus
Dental Health		Hay/Tests	Neonatology/(New Born)	Whip Worm
Drug/(Injections)/Reaction		Health/Topics/Access	Nitrate & Nitrite Poisoning	
Drug/Usage/Info		Heat/Stress	Nutrition	
Dystocia		High Altitude Sickness	Overdue Pregnancies	

....head to RMLA.com go to menu item 'Resources' and select 'Health'.

*Much of what you see there was compiled by the previous webmaster, Barb Hance.
Thanks Barb.*

RMLA Events Calendar

If you have an RMLA event you would like listed, please contact Mary Wickman, Events Coordinator, mwickman1@gmail.com or check out the information on the website under the Events tab.

March

22 Llamas and Friends in the Park, Wheat Ridge, CO
Jerry Dunn Beartrak@q.net or 303-277-1129

April

26 Fiber Seminar with Karen Kinyon, Erie, CO
Carlos Mendoza carlosm@rmi.net or 303-619-5553

May

3 Stars and Stripes Llama and Alpaca Show, Waco, NE
Jim Rutledge buckshollow@wildblue.net or 402-366-9304
Catherine Steele thecsteele@gmail.com

17 & 18 Grand Mesa & Kokopelli Llama Classics, Grand Junction, CO
Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com or 970-434-6092

June

6 - 7 Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show, Estes Park, CO
Jill Knuckles talltailllamas@bigplanet.com or
970-487-0223

20 - 21 2014 Llama Camp, Waco, NE
Catherine Steele thecsteele@gmail.com or 402-366-9304
Geri Rutledge buckshollow@wildblue.net

July

26 Fairplay Pack Llama Race, Fairplay, CO
Gary Carlton gary@jmhfarm.com or 303-503-1324

September

27 Looking for the Gold Llama Hike, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, CO
Jerry Dunn Beartrak@q.net or 303-277-1129

RMLA Fiber Co-op Schedule

The Estes Park Wool Market on June 6 - 8

Fairplay Burro Days Craft Show on July 26 and 27

Salida Fiber Festival on Sept. 5 - 7

Sneffels Fiber Festival in Ridgway, CO, on Sept. 27 - 28

Taos Wool Market on October 4 -5.

*For more on the
Fiber Co-op, see
pages 26 & 39.*

THE 2014 NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

By Stephen Quackenbush - Bar-Q-Diamond Ranch - Castle Rock, CO

Once again in January, area llama exhibitors made their way to downtown Denver and the Hall of Education at the National Western Stock Show grounds to prepare for this year's show. There were 10 farms/ranches represented this year with about 50 llamas. This year's participation was about the same as last year. Overall it was a fun 3 days and I hope everyone had a great time. As it has been for the past few years, the Llama show was the first weekend of Stock Show, so everyone could arrive at a leisurely pace before the show officially opened on Saturday. While the weather was nice in Denver, one of our exhibitors, the Knuckles, couldn't make the show as snow had closed Vail pass for most of the day on Friday and prevented them from getting to Denver.

Saturday was very crowded this year and it started with an Afternoon with a Llama and Alpaca. It was so packed with visitors in the show ring that

it was difficult to get around. Once again this has proven to be an extremely popular event and draws a lot of public who look forward to getting up close with a llama or alpaca. But it doesn't stop there as throughout the show, there's plenty of visitors checking out the llamas

adults alike) get up close and personal with our wonderful and docile animals. The show went on without a hitch and the ALSA scoring was sent into ALSA at the end of January.



in the stall area. And this is the one show where we get many spectators in the stands during the events.

This is one of our favorite shows as it is always great to greet the public and help educate them about llamas. It is always a treat to see hesitant children (and

By the time you receive this Journal, they should be posted on the ALSA website. Our personal news is that this will be our last Stock Show as superintendent. Unfortunately, my wife Shari and I will be relocating to Texas this summer, so I've stepped down as show

Continued on next page

superintendent. Judy Glaser has volunteered to organize and run the show starting in 2015. Look to hear from her as she takes over the reins. I know she will make a great superintendent. I'd ask everyone to please support and help her as you've done for me in the past. I can't say enough how I appreciate the help and support we've received from the volunteers and sponsors over the past three years. Without everyone's help this show could not have happened and only your support will ensure the show continues.

This year, as in the previous two years, we received sponsorships from a number of companies and ranches, including RMLA, Heiniger Shearing and Rocky Mountain Llamas. The monetary support was paid out in show premiums with some earmarked for specific classes, as requested. Additionally, we

held a Raffle for Stall Fees. And once again Heiniger Shearing donated a complete set of shears (\$425 value), which were won by Warren Lockwood. I want to once again thank our sponsors for all of their support of the llama show this year.

Before the performance classes started on Saturday, we had the Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award. This year's award was won by Jerry Dunn. This award is presented each year at NWSS to the RMLA person or persons who have demonstrated a passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpacas through a variety of activities, which may include writing articles, hosting workshops, speaking at conferences, and participating in organized llama/alpaca events. Congratulations to Jerry Dunn for being this year's award recipient and especially for all of the work you do with youth.

Thank you to the Wambolts and Boeffs for contributing pictures for this article.

In looking towards the future, this was the 31st year of the Llama Show at NWSS. As with other shows in the camelid community, we've seen growth and decline. In order to ensure that we continue this show at the NWSS in Denver, we need more participation. Please put this show on your calendar for next year and make this an annual event. Next year's show will be the 32nd Year at NWSS and will be held January 8-11, 2015.

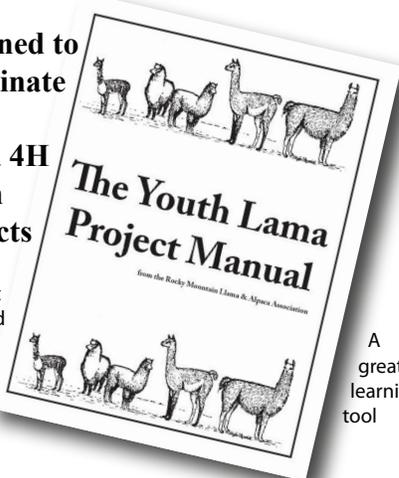
Finally I want to thank all of the participants who attended this year's show as well as the sponsors and volunteers that made this show a success. Thank you all for your support. We will miss you all. Steve & Shari Quackenbush.



Newly revised Youth Lama Project Manual

Designed to
coordinate
with
Lama 4H
Youth
Projects

Excellent
as a hand
out to
visitors
to your
farm



A
great
learning
tool

\$6.00 includes postage www.RMLA.com
Click on Publications to get yours!

Country lifestyle. Country style insurance.



(281) 250-2000
cfbinsurance.com

Brent L. Holt, CLU, ChFC
Farm & Ranch Specialist
Brent.Holt@cfbmic.com



Real service. Real people.

Learning About the Incas & Llamas

By Linda Hayes - Llama Linda Ranch - Glenwood Springs, CO

When the 6th grade Social Studies class studied the Incan Indians, they also learned about llamas. I was asked to bring a couple of llamas to Carbondale Middle School for some hands-on teaching. The llamas & I were dressed in authentic Incan costumes.

I took an adult llama and a cria. Each child was given a chance to feed the adult



llama and to touch both. I explained how useful llamas were to the Inca. The kids learned the correlation between the Inca's use of the llama and the North American Indian's use of the buffalo. They also were taught some general information about llamas in the U.S.

Of course, the cria was a major hit with the kids. The



whole class voted on what to call her. Fluffy was the winning name with Oreo a close second.



The teachers were amazed at how gentle the llamas were and asked for a return visit next year. Each student wrote a thank you note that detailed what they learned. Most remembered that their wool was used to make clothes. Others picked up on the fact that you should never walk behind a large animal or that some llamas will adopt another llama's baby.

It was a good learning experience for the class and a fun day for me.



A FIBER SEMINAR AT RANCHO LINDA VISTA

==== Can llama fleece production actually offset your hay bill? ====

APRIL 26, 2014

Instructor: Karen Kinyon

Host: Carlos Mendoza

8:30 AM-5 PM

Complimentary Coffee &

Catered Lunch



Join Karen Kinyon for a discussion of

- the basics of llama fiber
- evaluation of fiber in the pasture
- fleece preparation for showing & processing
- financial considerations & marketing
- fiber mill or hand spinner
- where to learn to weave, spin & knit

Garment and design demonstration and a free drawing for llama fiber products made by some of the country's best artists including Sugar River Llamas • Pine Haven Llamas • Kurth Valley Fiber Mill •

Pacific NW Llama Fiber Cooperative • and others.

Happy Hour at 4 PM Provided by Rancho Linda Vista

Registration Fee: \$20

Registration: 303 619 5553 (deadline April 22)

carlosm@rmi.net

www.RanchoLindaVista.net (map)

7411 Aggregate Blvd., Erie, CO 80516

■ Fiber Mill 101 ■

by James Firor
Fire Mountain Fiber
Hotchkiss, Colorado

Have you ever wondered how fiber from your llama or alpaca is turned into usable finished products? The beginning stages of fiber processing are all similar, but the spinning stage, and the preparation for spinning, is differentiated into several different processes. For this lesson, I will start at the beginning and describe how fiber is processed at our mill. We process all kinds of fiber, from alpaca to yak, including buffalo, dog, and we once processed highland cow fiber. The following description focuses on how we process camelid fiber.

After shearing your llama or alpaca, you send us a bag of fiber. We hope that you have spent a little time first skirting your fleece, removing tags from the rear end, large sticks, burrs, bits of baling twine, wire, and any other large foreign objects, but we go over it again before washing. We use washing machines with the agitators removed to prevent accidental felting. Washing at our mill is done with laundry detergent and lots of very hot solar-heated water, 180° for greasy sheep wool, and 140° for llama, alpaca, and goat fiber. The fiber is

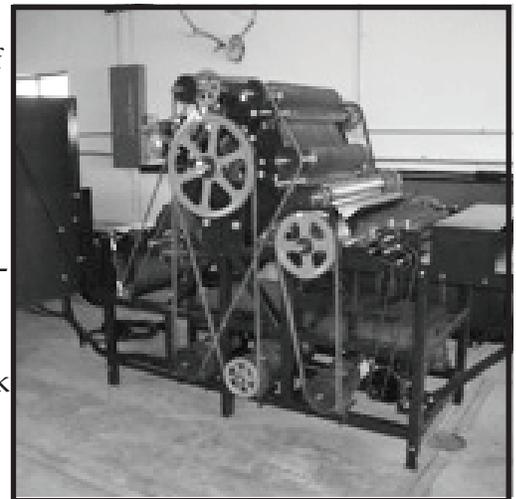
soaked for at least 30 minutes without agitating. Most fiber is washed and rinsed at least twice.

After washing, the fiber is air dried and then run through the picker. This separates the locks and fluffs the fiber into “cloud.” Depending on the fiber, the next step could be to proceed to the carder to make roving or batts, but with dual coat fibers such as alpaca or llama, a dehairing machine, also called a “fiber separator,” is typically the next step. Dehairing removes the coarser guard hair. The added benefit of dehairing is that the process removes vegetable matter as well. In my opinion, very few alpaca fleeces need to be dehaired, but nearly all that I have seen could benefit from the vegetation removal. Even the rougher llama fleeces can be made wonderfully soft and clean by dehairing. The fiber coming out of the dehairing process is also called cloud.

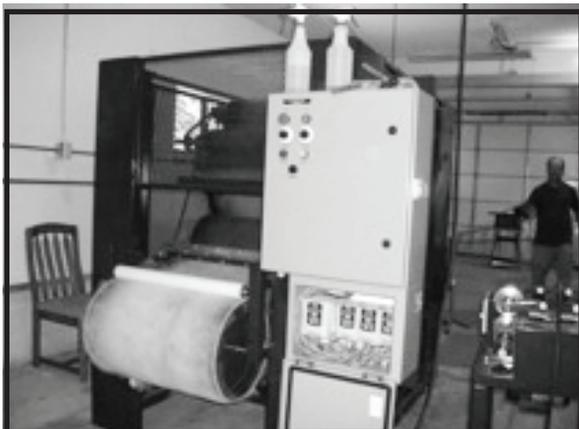


After picking and dehairing, if appropriate, the fiber is then carded. The carding machine is the heart of any fiber mill. Our carder consists of twenty rolls of various sizes, covered with tiny, very pointed teeth. The “main”, or central roll, is 26 inches in diameter. It is surrounded by 19 smaller rolls, which serve to evenly feed the fiber to the main roll and then separate and align the individual fibers.

Depending on the desired product, the carded fiber exits the carder either through the ‘roving deck’ or onto the ‘batt drum’. Batts are sheets of carded fiber of varying thickness. Roving is a continuous strip of carded fiber. (Our roving is typically a fairly thick strip, but we can also make a thinner “pencil roving” by feeding less fiber into the carder.)



Carding Machine



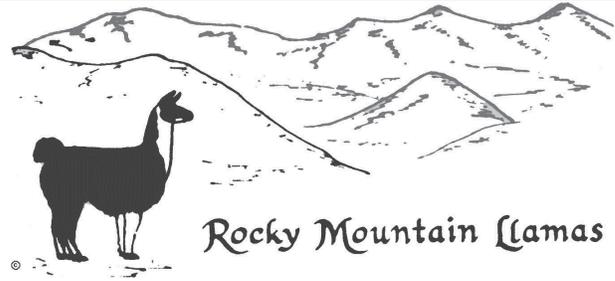
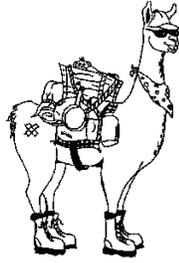
Carder with Batt Drum

Whether roving or batts, once the fiber is carded, it can be a final product provided to handspinners, felters, and other fiber artists, or it can proceed down the production line to become needlefelt, in the case of batts, or yarn in the case of roving.

continued on page 18

Lothlorien Llamas

Dick & Jeanne Williams
 P.O. Box 1070
 Plains, MT 59859
 (406)826-2201
 bcllama@blackfoot.net
 Packing & Raising Llamas
 Since 1983



Rocky Mountain Llamas

www.rockymtllamas.com

303-530-5575

Niwot, Colorado

Timberline & Ollie Llama Pack Systems

Halters, Leads, Packing Supplies

Books, DVDs, and more

All Our Gear is Trail-Tested, Llama-Approved

New! Home-Grown
 Spinning Fibers From



Left Hand
 Wool Company

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR YOUR AD!

Members support *The Journal* - advertising works for marketing, name and logo recognition. Reminds folks about your location, what state and town you live in or near.

"Hey, we know someone who lives in Plains, Montana. I saw their ad in The Journal"

See page 4 to get a little recognition.

"Hey, I remember seeing a Llama ad in The Journal who lives here in Niwot, Colorado."



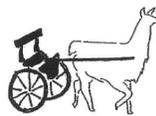
Jerry Dunn
 Bear Track Farm
 Llama Training Center
 303-277-1129 beartrak@q.com



PACK'EM



STACK'EM



DRIVE'EM

"I know someone who lives in Golden, Colorado. I saw their business card ad in The RMLA Journal"



Photo from Kathy Stan-ko's sister & brother-in-law from Oregon Gardens in Silverton, OR

Our needfelting machine consists of a bank of several hundred slightly barbed needles. A table on the incoming side allows the batt to be laid out in preparation for feeding into the machine, and pairs of rubber rollers on either side of the array of needles feed the batt through. As the needles move up and down through the fiber, the barbs grab a few fibers and push them through the batt, “stitching” the batt into a more compact layer of fiber. With each pass through the machine, the batt becomes denser, stronger, and thinner. One or two passes makes what we call “prefelt,” a soft felt suitable for quilt batts and as material for felt artists. Overlaying two batts with the fibers running perpendicular to each other, and making several passes through the machine makes a strong “garment grade” felt that can be cut, sewn, to make clothing, bags, etc.



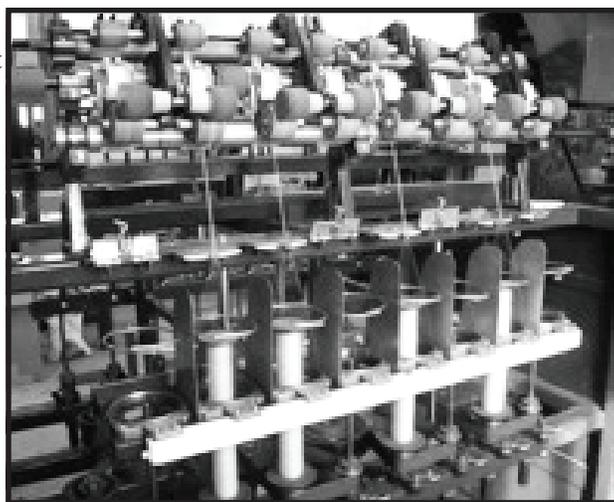
Carder with Roving Deck



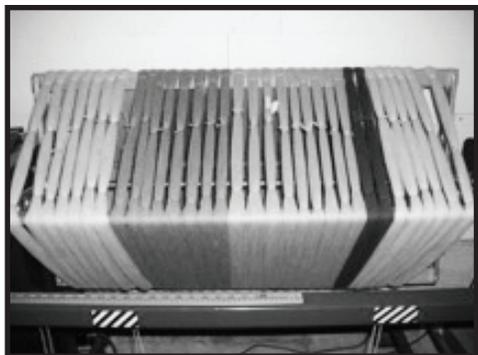
Roving going into the Pin Drafter

If the fiber is roving destined for spinning yarn, an additional step, called pin drafting, is necessary before spinning. Other mills might use a different machine, called a drawframe, to achieve a similar result. The pin drafter employs about 60 very sharp metal combs that move on a track to comb the fiber in the roving, aligning the fibers to produce a strand called sliver. Sliver is similar to “combed top,” but unlike top, sliver can contain fibers of different lengths. Three to five strands of roving are fed simultaneously into the pin drafter, producing a single sliver about 25% of the thickness of the fed rovings. Most fibers are passed through the pin drafter once more to produce a spinnable sliver.

After drafting, the fiber is ready to spin. Our spinning frame has eight spinning heads on one side and eight plying heads on the other. The spinning side, which makes single-ply yarn, consists of a series of horizontal metal rolls, and eight vertically-oriented spindles that turn clockwise. Thickness and degree of twist in the yarn is controlled by varying the speed of the rolls. Other adjustments are used to compensate for the incredible variation in fibers. As the single-ply yarn is spun, it is collected on wooden bobbins. The single-ply may be the final product, but if a plied yarn is desired, the bobbins are moved to the plying side of the spinning frame. The plying side serves to combine strands of single-ply to make yarn with two, three, four, or more plies.



Spinning Frame Spinning Singles



Skeins of Alpaca Yarn on Skein Winder

That’s pretty much it. All that’s left is to wind the finished yarn onto skeins of the desired length, twist the skeins into tidy bundles, and ship them back to you, the fiber producer. So now you know much more than you ever wanted to about how a fiber mill works. For those intrepid individuals who managed to read this all the way to the end, the final exam is cancelled, and you get an A in Fiber Mill 101.



Join us for a Fabulous Llama Weekend in the
Colorado Rockies at the
Estes Park Wool Market

June 7 and 8, 2014

At the Fairgrounds at Stanley Park in Estes Park, Colorado

~~ New This Year for the Llama Show ~~
*Full Double Halter, Performance
and Youth Show, including Alpaca
Performance.*

**We will continue to offer a Full Fleece Show with a
wide variety of specialty fiber classes. Take part in our
Jackpot classes and Leaping Llama. Get ready for
LOTS and LOTS of FUN !!!!**

**Take time to enjoy All of the Activities at the Wool Festival
– Fiber Arts Classes, Vendor Barn and More !!!
RMLA Fiber Booth Consignors – Don't forget the RMLA
Fiber Booth will be a vendor in the Vendor Barn.**

Estes Park

To make sure you are on the
mailing list, please contact
Jill Knuckles at
talltaillamas@bigplanet.com
or call 970-487-0223.

For more information visit
www.estes.org/woolmarket

**Wool
MARKET**

OPERATION NEVER FORGOTTEN: LLAMAS & WARRIORS AS HIKING COMPANIONS

by Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay - Yellowstone Llamas - Bozeman, MT.

Yellowstone Summer 2011. The summer sun beats down on us on this early July morning in the parking lot. The trail sign reads "Daily Creek". Four and two-leggeds mill around the stock trailer, getting ready for the hike. At a closer look, some of the two-leggeds' limbs are not of flesh and blood, yet their owners wield them with confidence as they shoulder their day packs and pair up with their wooly hiking companions, finally ready to hit the trail. This seems to be an unusual endeavor and yet it has all the components for a fun day out in the natural wild: a trail that leads away from the road, the warmth of the summer sun on our skin, camaraderie, and therapists with banana-shaped ears!

Today's event is sponsored by Yellowstone Llamas and donated to "Operation Never Forgotten", an organization that supports war veterans and their families and organizes adventure programs for "Wounded



Warriors". Linda Kelly, founder and president, inspired us to donate a llama day trek. "I wanted to offer our veteran guests and their caretakers the opportunity to experience Yellowstone's off road areas. Yellowstone Llamas' donation made that possible!" she says. We are informed that this group of veterans deals with more or less severe PTSD.

The group starts to march. For the veterans who have most certainly been on many dangerous trails with horrific experiences and painful memories, today's hike affords the opportunity to relax, enjoy and let go. Most are remarkably agile and open with their state-of-the-art limb replacements. Others are rather hesitant and slow to smile. The llamas are eager, checking out their human companions and craning their long necks to look over their shoulders. I lead the way with 18-year old veteran llama "Amadeus".

After a few bends in the trail, the mood heightens as the road has disappeared from view. Arms wrap affectionately around llamas' necks when we stop to look around, take a drink from our water bottles, and listen to Ken's interpretations. It



continued on next page...

has long been shown that many animals have a special sense and ability to soothe the pain of abused or traumatized people. The llamas, sensing their important role, are at their best behavior and cooperate with the warriors. They lend gentle support to their handlers following in their footsteps, necks craned with attention and interest. "This is my buddy Domingo" beams BJ who lost a leg in Iraq, pointing at his llama companion. Domingo seems totally comfortable in his role.



We hike in earnest, the sun beating down on us. The group bonds, laughter erupts. We smile at each other – success! After a few miles of winding our way over rolling hills into the backcountry, we enter the woods and welcome the shade. To our relief, it is time for a picnic. Everybody relaxes on the porch of a backcountry ranger cabin. The llamas nibble on grass while we dig into the scrumptious pack lunches.

After sharing stories and learning



about each other's lives, we get ready to hit the trail again which proves to be blocked by enormous fallen trees. Now we can see our warriors in action: they forge ahead, spread out and scout for the best and safest way for people and animals through the maze. With their help and direction, we all finally make it safely over logs and through a



vicious jumble of branches sticking up every which way. It warms my heart to see how much concern the warriors show for the llamas making sure they don't

get hung up jumping logs and navigating brush. As we finally emerge, we feel accomplished and grateful for the group's concerted, efficient effort. "Teddy did really well. He knew exactly what to do", reports Bill proudly of his llama, hugging him. By now, the group has really loosened up, the sound of laughter rising to the summer

sky, the babble of eager conversation resonating through the woods. The forest and the mountains listen politely.

We finally, and regretfully, arrive at the end of the trail. Linda greets us in the parking lot. Many hands are there to help unsaddle and load the llamas into the trailer. Final photos show smiling people hugging llamas. Linda beams while trying to listen to all the excited comments at once. "There's something about nature and wild places that truly is the best therapy for those with invisible wounds. Our warrior guests with new physical adaptations were extremely proud of completing the Yellowstone hike, and happy to have made new llama friends. They all said that they'd do it again!" Many hands wave as we finally pull away.

It certainly was a remarkable day for all. As we pull away, I see Yellowstone's mountains and forests shrink in my rear view mirror. But I am not worried as we will be back to show more people the wonderful experience of hiking with llamas. Our boys, ever ready for a new adventure on backcountry trails, look forward to their next trek. And Yellowstone will be there, ready to dazzle, impress, soothe, heal.



Annual RMLA Fairplay Pack Llama Event

By Gary Carlton - Comanche Creek Llamas - Strasburg, CO

Now, all too soon it will be time to pull out the saddles & panniers and pack them into the trailer in preparation for another season of back country adventures with our llamas. Rising trout and tree line lakes are something I dream about all winter long. Wilderness trails give me something to focus on while I am fixing the trailer lights that never seem to work come springtime.

Along with the warming temperatures and summer adventures, the mountain festivals will welcome us back to their towns to show off our llamas and their abilities, while letting the public have another look at why we love our animals so much.

Over the course of the past thirty one years, the Fairplay llama race has evolved into a very large event that draws in people from all over the US for a chance to walk, run or jog through the three mile course with the same animal that many of us have come to take for granted over the years. Year after year it leaves me somewhat amazed and always smiling at the end of every race as folks explain to me about their excitement of being a part of this weekend and how much they look forward to making the annual trip to Fairplay.

As this event continues to grow, so does the need for more llamas to ensure that everyone who wants participate has the opportunity. This task keeps me both on my toes and on an endless search for more talent in Fairplay. I may have even knocked on your door in the past, and asked "Hey, what do you do with those llamas?"

We are going to introduce some new events in 2014 in an attempt to handle the ever growing thirst to be a race participant in Fairplay. The first will be Team Pack Racing to try and pair more people with one llama. (We inadvertently created this event last year the hour before the race!)

even taken notice that their boys were running with a little extra pep for a reason. Lots of folks



The Fairplay race winners from 2013 were:

Llamas:

1. Leo from Corral Creek Llamas, time: 27.20
2. Tal from Lightning Ridge Llamas, time: 31.26
3. Tony from Comanche Creek Llamas, time: 32.01

Men's division:

1. Skyler Ryan
2. Tanner Kemp
3. Ryan Nico

Women's division:

1. Amy Norhagen time: 35.76
2. Shannon Nico time: 36.18
3. Kaylie Prince time: 38.27

Team Pack Racing:

1. Ron Nesman, Kristen Adachi, Scott Nasman time: 39.45
2. Jenny Kasten, Scott Kasten time: 41.48
3. Adrienne Sadlak, Sara Armstrong time: 47.55



The second new event will be an Alpaca Race. We have had alpacas in the Fairplay race for several years, but I think it would be fun to showcase them in their own race. No saddles or panniers are required. And I feel it may be a good way for the public to view alpacas as more than just a fiber animal.

Third, I would like to add a Female Pack Race & Walk. While some have said that we "would have trouble mixing male and female animals", we have been doing it for the past five years with no problems. And a few handlers have

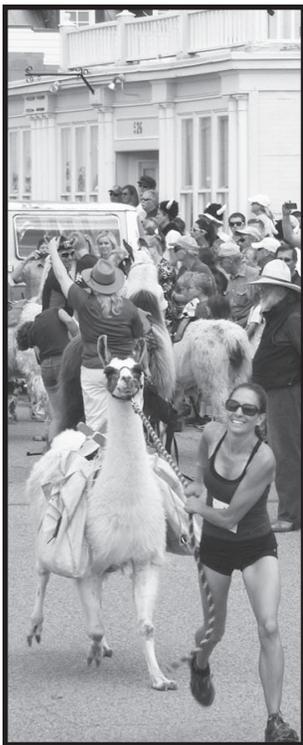
have started using female pack strings these days and I feel it is time for the public to take notice of the fact that there is no reason to leave them at home in the pen or pasture.

Please note: If I have not received enough interest in these new events by mid-June when I have to order ribbons, then they will be lumped into the two original events.

So don't miss this one of a kind chance to have a great day with your animals and friends. From Ila-

continued on next page

ma camp through the Burro races on Sunday, this weekend has a little something for everyone.. So



don't miss this one of a kind chance to have a great day with your animals and friends. From llama camp through the Burro races on Sunday, this weekend has a little something for everyone.

We would like to thank our ranches

who provided llamas and alpaca to make 2013 a success:

- **Stage Stop Llamas**
- **Rock-n-M Llamas & Alpacas**
- **Comanche Creek Llamas**
- **Corral Creek Llamas**
- **Stargazer Llamas**
- **Lightning Ridge Llamas**
- **Clearwater Llamas**
- **2 Bit 2 Llamas**
- **Marie Bernard**
- **Mary Wickman**

Hats off to our amazing group of volunteers:

- **Vicky Foster**
- **Ann Bruhn**
- **Patti Morgan**
- **Gail Davidson**
- **Mark Smith**
- **Arthur Mc Evoy**
- **Kevin Kaltenbaugh**
- **Jeff & Sally Rucker**
- **Vivian Johnson**
- **Marci Saska Agnew**
- **Steve & Angie Jankins**

- **Sara & Hannah Jenkins**
- **Mary Wickman.**

Finally, we want to send a huge 'Thank You' to the merchants who donated prizes in 2013:

- **Brown Burro Cafe**
- **Java Moose**
- **Calamity's Cabin**
- **South Park Pottery**
- **Hand Hotel**
- **Silver Scoop Creamery**

Please join us this year for the 32nd annual Fairplay Llama Race/Walk on Saturday July, 26th 2014. For more information, suggestions, or to volunteer contact Gary Carlton/ Comanche Creek Llamas at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com. See the RMLA Talent Network for more ways to help keep this event going.



Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay To Head RMLA Rescue Committee

By Linda Hayes - Board Liaison to Rescue

See page 45 too!

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay has owned, trained and packed with llamas since 1994. In the summer she runs a commercial llama trekking business in Yellowstone National Park. She presently has a group of 15 gelded males, 3 of which are retired and 1 is a rescue not suitable for packing. She hand-shears all her llamas and is a knitter.

Susi was involved with the MLAS rescue in January of 2011 and can tell some horror stories from that experience.

She adopted 4 llamas from there, 3 of whom are now Yellowstone packers. She also adopted a llama from Albuquerque and rescued 3 llamas running wild on a rancher's land near Livingston, MT. She was able to capture and place all 3 in loving homes. At one time she was the editor of Northern Rockies Llama Chapter, an organization that no longer exists.

Susi would like to have other RMLA members who are concerned with rescue join

her committee. She will be writing an article for each issue of the RMLA Journal. She would like information for that as well.

To get in touch with Susi, use the following links: llamas@yellowstonesafari.com www.yellowstonellamas.com www.yellowstonesafari.com or call her: 406-586-1155 (office) or 406-580-5954 (cell) She is on Facebook as "Susi Sinay" and Yellowstone Safari Company is on Facebook as well.



Where Are They Now?

By Lougene Baird - Waikoloa, HI



Bottom, L to R: Lloyd Wamsley, Tara Schwartz and Ben Riggs.

Top, L to R: Brianna Livengood, Deidre Baird, Tiffany Coffman, Chandra Schwartz, Halley Coffman and Adrienne Bergenfeld.

The above photo will remind us of a very dynamic group of RMLA Youth. They were always together at events and supporting each other regardless of where they got together. And they were a big hit at the 2000 ALSA National Grand Champion Show in their fashionable RMLA vests!

It took a little doing to gather up current information but well worth the effort. Thanks to Karen Schwartz for locating the best digital photo around. Over the next several issues we will be covering all of the Youth in the above photo from 2000. We will learn what they are each doing now and how lamas and lama folks helped them become who they are today. Enjoy!

Continued on next page

Lloyd Wamsley



Lloyd Wamsley is still around the llama community and may be seen at events a couple times of year helping Jerry Dunn with showing and the kids with whom she is currently working.

After graduation from high school, Lloyd studied Diesel Technology for two years and went on to work as a mechanic for more than ten years. He took

the plunge and started his own trucking company in 2010 and is working hard at making that succeed.

Lloyd married his high school sweetheart, Kristy, in 2004. They have settled into their home in Wiggins, CO with their two young children. Lane, their son, was born in 2011 and this January they welcomed daughter Amelia to their family.

Lloyd remembers his years as an RMLA Youth member as it was a great community of people to be a part of. He feels that RMLA worked hard to support Youth and members went out of their way to take care of Youth.

Lloyd commented that being a member of RMLA showed him how to be a helping part of a group of great people. They were great role models for the youth to look up to.

Brianna Cozzetto

Brianna grew up in Westcliffe, Colorado where she learned about llamas and began teaching kids younger than herself how to care for and enjoy their animals. After graduation from High School she attended Pueblo Community College and earned an Associate Degree in Nursing. She is currently employed in that field. She is enrolled in the Western Governors University and working on a Master's of Science in Nursing with an emphasis on Leadership and Management.

Brianna and AJ enjoy living in Pueblo, CO, with Aubrynne, their lovely young daughter. You may remember Aubrynne as the cover girl on the Winter 2013 Journal. Aubrynne is RMLA's youngest Youth member.

Brianna continues to be very active in RMLA as Chair of the Youth Committee where she has developed the new RMLA Youth Awards Program. Her



continued dedication to RMLA Youth makes the RMLA Youth program one of the best around.

About her younger days in RMLA, Brianna remembers all of the lifelong friendships she made by working with youth and llamas. RMLA activities and working with llamas helped her become a responsible adult.



2014 RMLA Fiber Booth Schedule

By Cheryl Juntilla and Jill Knuckles

We are looking forward to another exciting year for the RMLA Fiber Booth and want to again thank Patti Morgan for her many years of service. She will be a tough act to follow, but we will do our best to maintain the same level of quality and service that she provided.

One of our first goals is to make sure we have all of our paperwork in order with current Consignor Agreement Forms signed by all consignors. Another priority is to complete a detailed inventory of the contents of the trailer and let consignors know what we find so that they can update their own records and inventory forms. We will be contacting existing consignors directly and will be happy to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a consignor. Forms and information about the Booth are also available on the RMLA website.

The RMLA Board of Directors has approved five events for the Fiber Booth in 2014: The Estes Park Wool Market on June 6 - 8; the Fairplay Burro Days Craft Show on July 26 and 27; the Salida Fiber Festival on September 5 - 7; the Sneffels Fiber Festival in Ridgway, Colorado, on September 27 - 28; and the Taos Wool Market on October 4 -5.

The Booth is manned by volunteers and any help is welcome, regardless of whether you are a consignor. We can always use help

with setting up, tearing down and packing up the trailer. If you can help at any of the events approved for this year, or have questions about them, please feel free to contact either one of us. We are also open to ideas or suggestions for other events that might provide a good venue for showcasing llama and alpaca fiber and educating the public about the animals.

Patti Morgan and Geri Rutledge have volunteered to serve as co-managers for the Booth during the Estes Park Wool Market.



There will be many opportunities for RMLA members to be involved at Estes Park this year. In addition to having the Booth in its regular spot in the Vendor Barn, the Fairgrounds is providing a tent near the arena for llama displays and demonstrations. Even if you don't know much about fiber, it will be a great opportunity to talk to members of the public about llamas and alpacas. Anyone who has worked in the Fiber Booth will tell you that only about half the ques-

tions asked by the public relate directly to fiber and the other half are about the animals in general. What do they eat? Are they hard to take care of? How much room do they need? How much weight can a pack llama carry? So if you enjoy talking to people about llamas or alpacas, please consider spending some time in either the Booth or RMLA tent at the Estes Park Wool Market.

We will once again have a silent auction fundraiser at the Rocky Mountain Regional Championship and LOCC Fall Show in Castle Rock on Labor Day weekend to help cover Booth expenses. The generosity of the people who donate items to these auctions and the competitive bidding of the purchasers have really helped to keep the Booth operating in the black for the past several years. Donated items do not have to be fiber-related and can range from the sublime to the ridiculous.

We really appreciate everyone who helps to support the RMLA Fiber Booth. It is one of the few ways we have to educate the public about llamas and alpacas. It provides opportunities to promote RMLA and attract new members and gives existing members an outlet for displaying and selling their fiber and handcrafted items. It is truly one of RMLA's most valuable assets and we are committed to maintaining a quality Booth that will continue to make all RMLA members proud.



Ask The CSU VET Team

By Kathy Stanko & the Colorado State University Camelid Vets & Interns

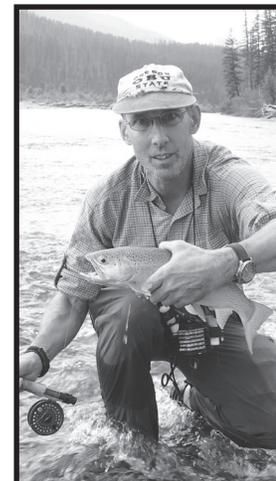
Hello Spring! In this installment of Ask the CSU Vet Team we are going to take a comprehensive look at feeding and health management. Thank you, Dr. Callan, for putting all of this together!

General Nutritional Recommendations

The two most fundamental nutritional requirements are energy and crude protein. While there are several ways to measure energy content of a feed, one of the most useful is Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN). TDN provides an overall estimate of the available energy density of the feed and is reported as a percentage; the higher the number, the higher the energy density of the feed. Crude protein is an assessment of the available

protein content of the feed and is also reported as a percentage with higher numbers indicating higher protein content. Maintenance energy and protein requirements are typically met by feeding grass hay with minimal additional supplementation.

Like other animals, llamas and alpacas require extra energy and protein intake during high production stages (growth, lactation, and late gestation) or high activity (packing). They may also need additional energy and protein during cold weather. The additional energy needed can be as much as 50% of their maintenance requirements when multiple factors are involved. The problem is that the total intake in camelids is limited to about 2% of their body weight per



Dr. Robert Callan DVM, MS, PhD

day because of slow gastric emptying. Thus, you must provide feeds with higher digestible energy (TDN) when faced with increased energy demands. See Table 1.

Grass hay does not have sufficient digestible energy (TDN) and crude protein to support many animals during times of high energy needs. Thus, substitution of alfalfa hay (high TDN and higher

Table 1: Camelid TDN and Protein requirements in Camelids for different stages of production based on 1.5-2.0% Body Weight (BW) dry matter intake per day.

FEEDING PLAN	PHYSIOLOGIC STATES	TDN	CRUDE PROTEIN
Sub-Maintenance	Obese Animals	40-50%	8-9%
Maintenance	Males > 1 year Breeding Females Pregnant Female 1-8 months	50-60%	8-10%
Moderate	Pregnant Female 9-11 months	50-70%	10-12%
High	Weanlings up to 1 ½ years Lactation up to 4 months	55-60% 60-70%	14-16% 12-14%

Adapted From: Van Saun R.J. Nutritional requirements and assessing nutritional status in camelids. Veterinary Clinics of North America, Food Animal Practice. 25 (2009) 265-279.

continued on page 28

protein), pelleted feeds, or other concentrates for some or all of the grass hay is often required to maintain weight during high production stages, cold weather periods, or for animals that are in poor body condition and need to gain weight. If you have a nutritional analysis of your grass hay, alfalfa hay, or other supplements, your veterinarian or nutritionist can work with you to identify how much of each feed is needed to meet the basic energy and crude protein requirements. The CSU VTH Livestock Medicine and Surgery service is happy to work with your veterinarian to provide this assessment for you.

Normal llamas and alpacas will consume 1.5% to 2% of their body weight in dry matter intake per day. For a typical adult llama (350 lb) this is about 5 to 7 lb and for a typical adult alpaca (150 lb), this is about 2.5 to 3.0 pounds of feed per day. Generally, at least ¾ of the total feed (by weight) should be fresh forage or hay and no more than ¼ should be llama/alpaca pellets or chow, concentrate or other supplement (grain mix, COB, etc.). While camelid pellets can be used at higher levels, this is not necessary and is often more costly than supplementing with a higher quality grass or alfalfa hay.

Mineral levels in fresh forages and hay are dependent on mineral availability in the soil and vary considerably by geographic location. Llama and alpaca chow or pellets and other pro-

cessed feeds can be used to supplement vitamins and minerals in the ration, but the levels in these supplements may not always meet total requirements, particularly for vitamin E.

Vitamin-Mineral supplements (vitamin-mineral salts) are often necessary to provide the optimal nutritional support. These supplements should be formulated for your particular area and feeds. For example, a vitamin-mineral supplement designed for the Pacific Northwest is not likely to be appropriately balanced for animals in the Rocky Mountain area. The best way to provide the most balanced supplement is perform a nutritional analysis of your hay and formulate a mineral mix to best complement that hay. Otherwise, work with your feed outlet and select a mineral that fits the average mineral content of hay from your area. General mineral guidelines for llamas and alpacas are provided in Table 2.

Dry hay generally does not contain sufficient vitamin E to support optimum levels in llamas and alpacas. This is particularly true in camelids that do not have regular access to fresh pasture forages. For animals on a predominantly dry forage diet, vitamin-mineral mixes should contain at least 5,000 to 10,000 IU Vitamin E per pound.

One of the problems with vitamin-mineral supplements is that they may have poor palatability and this will affect consumption. In fact, you may find that some

animals like the supplement but others do not. One way to improve consistency and overall consumption of your vitamin-mineral mix across all of your animals is to mix it with bran or raw wheat germ (wheat germ can be purchased in 50 lb bags). You can start with a 1:1 mix (by volume) and as the animals grow accustomed to the mix, you can move to 2 parts mineral mix and 1 part bran or wheat germ. You should still evaluate total mineral mix consumption and determine

Nutrient	Estimated Maintenance Requirement Range
PROTEIN	
Crude Protein (%DM)	See Table 1
ENERGY	
NDF (%DM)	30-60
ADF (%DM)	25-45
TDN (%DM)	See Table 1
MACROMINERALS	
Calcium (%DM)	0.2-1.5
Phosphorus (%DM)	0.1-0.6
Magnesium (%DM)	0.1-0.5
Potassium (%DM)	0.5-3.0
Sodium (%DM)	0.06-2.0
MICROMINERALS	
Iron (PPM)	30-100
Manganese (PPM)	20-100
Zinc (PPM)	20-50
Copper (PPM)	5-15
Molybdenum (PPM)	0.5-1.0
Selenium (PPM)	0.2-0.3
VITAMINS	
Vitamin E (IU/kg)	500-1000

continued on next page

Ask The CSU VET Team, *continued from page 28*

if the animals on average are consuming their recommended amount per day.

Hay Forage Analysis

A Hay Forage Analysis is the key information you need to formulate the best nutrition plan for your llamas and alpacas. Forage analysis provides the nutrient content of the hay that you are feeding to your animals. Forage nutrient content varies between seasons, locations, cuttings, and storage conditions. By knowing the nutrient content of the hay, you can better manage the nutrition of your animals for better health and productivity.

The most important aspect of collecting a hay sample for forage analysis is obtaining a representative sample of the entire lot of hay. This means randomly sampling several bales and obtaining a representative sample from each bale. While it is possible to simply grab some hay from several bales, this often results in a composite sample that is not representative of the hay because of over representing stems versus leaves. This is particularly true with alfalfa or alfalfa-mix hays. In addition, hand grab samples tend to collect forage from the exterior of the bale where the nutrient content of the forage may be affected by exposure to the environment (sun, rain).

Core Samples are the preferred method of sampling hay

for forage nutrient analysis. Quality hay core probes are made of a sturdy metal tube with a sharpened or serrated end to cut through the hay when obtaining the core. The length of the probe should be at least 14 inches and 18 to 24 inches is preferred. The probe diameter should be between 3/8 and 3/4 inches. This will provide about 1/2 pound of hay from 20 samples. The purpose is to collect a representative sample of stems and leaves.

... you must provide feeds with higher digestible energy (TDN) when faced with increased energy demands.

Follow these steps to obtain a quality sample of hay for forage analysis.

- Sample each "lot" or cutting of hay separately.
- Obtain core samples from at least 20 bales selected at random throughout the entire lot. If there are less than 20 bales, take multiple cores from all of the bales until you have 20 core samples.
- Collect core samples from the side of the bale that is most resistant to puncture. For square bales, sample from the small ends. For round bales, sample from the side.
- Drive the entire probe into each bale.

- Empty the core chamber into the collection canister (multi-bore probes) or into your collection bag (single-bore probes) between each bale.
- Collect the sample into a 1 quart Ziploc bag. Squeeze out the air and seal the bag.
- Label the bag accordingly.
- Send the sample to the lab the same day as collection or as soon as possible.

Hay core probes are available from multiple sources. Information on several quality hay core probes is available at the National Forage Testing Association website (<http://www.foragetesting.org/>). There are many laboratories across the country that perform forage nutrient analysis. The first way to ensure a quality analysis is to utilize a laboratory that is certified by The National Forage Testing Association (NFTA, <http://www.foragetesting.org/>). Certification means that this laboratory meets specific quality testing standards and demonstrates proficiency and accuracy for reporting percent dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). A list of certified labs can be obtained from the NFTA website.

There are two general methods typically used for forage nutrient analysis, **Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIR or NIRS)**, and **Wet Chemistry**. While NIR analysis is less expensive, this method is not considered as accurate as wet

continued on next page

chemistry. NIR may be suitable for determining basic nutrient analysis including DM, CP, ADF, and NDF; it is often not suitable for accurate determination of minerals.

What do the forage analysis results mean? The most basic forage nutrient analysis evaluates factors that help estimate intake, digestibility, available energy, and available protein in the forage. The results are generally reported on a dry matter basis so that forages can be appropriately compared independent of their moisture content. Additional tests can also be performed to determine mineral content and sometimes vitamin content of the forage.

- **Moisture:** The percent of the forage that is water. For hay, this generally runs between 5-15%. Moisture dilutes out the nutrient value of forage on an as fed basis.
- **Dry Matter (DM):** The percent of the forage that is not water. For hay, this is typically around 87-95%. Feeds with a lower DM require higher as fed intake to deliver the same amount of nutrients.
- **Crude Protein (CP):** An estimate of the protein content based on total nitrogen of the feed and reported as a percentage. A normal range in hay is 6 to 20% on a DM basis.
- **Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF):** Measure of the fiber in the feed consisting of hemicelluloses, cellulose, and lignin. These are the carbohydrates that make up the cell wall and structure of the plant material. NDF predicts voluntary intake. As NDF increases, there is more fiber to the forage which takes longer to digest and thus decreases voluntary intake. A normal range in hay is 30 to 60% on a DM basis.
- **Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF):** A measure of the cellulose and lignin

and leaves out the more digestible hemicelluloses. ADF is a predictor of digestibility of the hay. As ADF increases, digestibility decreases. A normal range in hay is 25 to 45% on a DM basis.

- **Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN):** TDN provides an overall estimate of the available energy density of the feed. It is the sum of the digestible protein, digestible NSC, digestible NDF, and 2.25 times the digestible fat.
- **Relative Feed Value (RFV):** A calculated ranking of the feed based on digestibility (ADF) and intake (NDF). The higher the RFV, the better the forage. RFV is primarily used for evaluating alfalfa hay for dairy cattle. It will routinely give a low value for grass hays and does not accurately reflect their feed value. This is because grass hays tend to have a higher NDF (limits total feed intake) than alfalfa but at the same time, they have a lower lignin concentration and thus their fiber is more digestible. What this does in the RFV calculation is under estimate feed intake and energy value of grass hay, thus under estimating the RFV relative to alfalfa hay.
- **Minerals:** Minerals are critical for the structure and function of tissues in the body. Too little (deficiency) or too much (toxicity) of these minerals can result in poor growth, production, or clinical disease. Mineral content of feed can vary greatly with geographic area. It is good to evaluate some of the important minerals in a feed sample to help select an appropriate supplementation to match with the hay that you are feeding. Minerals are typically reported as parts per million (ppm, mg/kg).

How can I use this information? The most important part of forage nutrient analysis is the energy and protein content of the hay. This can be used to help determine what production groups of animals will benefit most from this hay and what

production groups will need additional energy or protein supplementation. (See Table 1 above)

If your hay has a protein or TDN value below the recommendation for the production group, then you will want to either use different hay for that group of animals, or consider supplementing those animals with another high TDN or protein hay or supplement, or both. Feeding the proper hay to specific production groups to meet their dietary needs will help prevent both low and high body condition. It can also save you in feed costs so that you know what animals specifically need additional supplementation rather than always feeding these supplements to all animals. Work with your veterinarian or nutritionist to identify how much of each feed is needed to meet the basic energy and crude protein requirements. The CSU VTH Livestock Medicine and Surgery service can assist your veterinarian to provide this assessment for you.

Also remember that energy needs increase during times of higher physical activity or cold temperatures (winter). So, hay that may be doing just fine during the summer months may not provide sufficient nutrition for an animal in the winter. After balancing your feeding for energy and protein, you can then take a look at providing optimum vitamins and minerals. If the hay is providing sufficient energy and protein levels, then

continued on next page

additional vitamins and minerals can be provided with a vitamin-mineral mix. Many of these are commercially available and you can utilize your hay nutrient analysis to determine what minerals may be most important in the supplement. Intake of mineral-vitamin mixes may not be consistent between animals due to palatability.

Body Condition Scoring

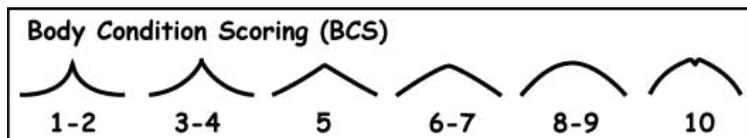
Body condition scoring is an excellent adjunct to body weight to help determine whether adequate energy requirements are

being met. A variety of systems have been described for determining the body condition score (BCS) for llamas and alpacas. A simple method is to evaluate the “fullness” of muscle and tissue mass along the lumbar vertebrae (back area just in front of the pelvis). It is important to actually palpate the tissues rather than just visually assess the animal because fleece can make the animal appear more conditioned than it is.

To evaluate an animal, place your hands along the sides of

the lumbar vertebrae and feel to see if the angle is flat (BCS = 5), dished in or concave (BCS < 5), or rounded out and convex (BCS > 5) (see figure below).

Optimal body condition is between 5 and 7. Animals with a BCS < 4 may be immunosuppressed and are more susceptible to infectious diseases. They require special feeding with more energy (higher TDN) to help regain optimal body condition. Animals with a BCS > 7 are prone to immunosuppression and additional infectious and metabolic diseases and may also have a higher risk of dystocia due to pelvic fat.



continued on next page

Cache La Poudre



MINERALS

Randy and Jody Sharp

To Order:

Call: 800-758-0825

Local-303-420-1659

OR

Online at www.CLPMinerals.com

Insure Your Llama and Alpacas' Health for Just Pennies per Day!

Cache la Poudre Minerals are free choice Vitamin and Mineral Supplements formulated specifically to balance your llama and alpacas' diet.

- ✓ Supplements do not add unnecessary calories or protein to the animals' diet.
- ✓ Tailored to meet different feeding situations.
- ✓ Palatable so the animals will consume them willingly.
- ✓ Safer than pellets, which may cause them to choke.

On the web at: www.CLPMinerals.com

Zinpro® 100 is also available.

Supplement #1

Diet consists of: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pasture; feeding grass hay. Supplement #1 contains a 2:1 calcium/phosphorus ratio and additional vitamin E.

Supplement #2

Diet consists of: Late or non-irrigated summer, fall or winter pasture; feeding alfalfa or grass hay low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and Vitamin E.

Owners of Arazmatazz Alpacas

Special Feeding Management Considerations

Minimizing the Impact of Cold Weather:

1. Provide shelter from the wind.
2. Provide a bedded area for the animals to lie down in. Straw bedding at least 6 inches deep will provide insulation and help protect them losing heat when cushed. You can also use the left over stems of the alfalfa fed to the animals for bedding.
3. Utilize llama/alpaca blankets for animals with a BCS<4 if possible. If an animal is blanketed, assess daily to ensure that the animal is not becoming too warm or developing sores associated with the blanket.

Additional Recommendations:

1. Evaluate the BCS of all animals to identify those animals with a BCS<4 or >7. Move these animals into separate pens for special feeding.
2. Feeding for animals with a BCS<4
 - α. Provide 2 separate feed bunk areas with at least 1 linear foot of space per animal in the pen.
 - β. Continue to feed your concentrate supplement as you are currently feeding.
 - χ. Initially, feed a high-quality grass hay in one feed bunk and a high-quality

alfalfa hay in the other bunk.

- δ. Weigh the amount of hay fed each day and weigh the amount of feed left over the next day. Calculate whether the animals are consuming at least 1.5 to 2% of their body weight of dry feed per head per day. For the alfalfa, remove the remaining stems (at least every two days) and use these to supplement the straw bedding (see above).
- ε. After the first week, reweigh the animals and see if they are gaining weight. If not, increase the proportion of alfalfa fed to the animals by 25%. Recheck again in another week and if they are still not gaining weight, feed only alfalfa hay.
- φ. Provide a free choice vitamin-mineral salt. This salt should have at least 5000 ppm Vitamin E. In order to increase palatability and thus increase the intake, you can mix the Vitamin-Mineral salt with raw wheat germ at a 1:1 ratio. Try to measure the intake of this mixture to know how much the animals are consuming.
- γ. Continue to body condition score the animals at least every two weeks. Once the animals reach a BCS of about 5, move them into the general maintenance pen unless

they are in a production status that will continue to require additional energy.

- η. You may also want to include animals with high energy needs (lactating or late pregnant) in this feeding group even though they are at a normal body condition. Monitor them closely to make sure they do not exceed a BCS of 7.
 - ι. If you do not see weight gain within 3-4 weeks, please seek further veterinary consultation.
3. Feeding for animals with a BCS>7
 - α. Provide access to low or average quality grass hay only. Feed only 1.5% body weight of hay per head per day.
 - β. Do not feed additional concentrate supplement.
 - χ. Provide a free choice Vitamin-Mineral salt as above.
 - δ. If the animals do not lose weight in 3-4 weeks, decrease the amount of grass hay fed on a daily basis by 10% every 2 weeks, or find a grass hay with a lower TDN. Continue to reduce this as needed.
 - ε. Continue to body condition score the animals at least every two weeks. Once the animals reach a BCS of about 6, move them into the general maintenance pen.



Protecting Farmers and Ranchers since 1950.



(281) 250-2000

cfbinsurance.com

Brent L. Holt, CLU, ChFC

Farm & Ranch Specialist

Brent.Holt@cfbmic.com

Real service. Real people.



Auto • Home • Life

FR-NP-09

Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company
Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS

Letters from Members

Hi Kathy and Ron!

I want to tell you both what a fine job you have done with the Fall and Winter 2013 Journals!

Having been editor of the Journal for a time in the early part of this century, I am well aware of the great amount of work, energy – and passion – that goes into preparation of the Journal. Obtaining articles, garnering advertising to cover the cost of printing the Journal, (which was a cast-in-stone policy back then) and then just putting it together is a tremendous task. The two of you are right on – keep up the great work.

In the early part of the 1990s, the Journal actually was published six times a year --- packed with advertisements and articles. Then because of lack of member contributed articles, it went to four issues a year. Importantly, you have hewed to the on-going RMLA By-laws mandate: to educate the members and the public as to the breeding, raising, care, and use of llamas and alpacas.

Thank you for a job well done!

Ron Baird

Life Member

Waikoloa, HI

February 6, 2014

THE RMLA TALENT NETWORK

Your talents need to be honored and admired.

Get into the Spirit.

Be special, join the Network!

Talents abound. Here are just a few of the ways you can use yours. You can jump in, support RMLA activities and its members with just the amount of time and energy that works for you – small projects, one-time only projects, on-going projects. The choice is yours. Take a look. New adventures abound.

Gary Carlton has been single-handedly organizing the Fairplay Llama Race for 10 years. Thank you, Gary! Now he needs additional folks to assist with planning, connecting with past sponsors and maybe even finding additional sponsors. This has been a great event for promoting the ‘wonder’ of llamas and it has grown every year. So jump in, offer your talent(s) and have a ton of fun. Contact Gary at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com

. The 2014 Fairplay Llama Race is July 26th.

The llamas participating in the Fairplay Llama Race are getting tired also. With the increased attendance and public participation over the last two years, many llamas have been doing double and even triple duty. Gary is looking for an additional 20-30 talented llamas for the 2014 Race. Contact Gary at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com

An additional 6-8 llamas are needed for the Leadville Trail 100 / Hope Pass race? This event is August 16-17, 2014. Contact Gary Carlton at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com to join the fun.

For the crazies out there: do you want to design a Llama Lunacy course for the kids at the 2014 Fairplay Llama Race? This requires a gentle llama and a few obstacles for the course, e.g. a few tires, some logs, maybe a bridge and fun, easy stuff like that. This project is just perfect for one of our members! Contact Gary at 303-503-1324 or gary@jmhfarm.com

. The 2014 Fairplay Llama Race is July 26th.

The Journal Staff still needs an Advertising Manager (or co-managers) now! Do you have the ‘gift of gab’ on the phone, on Facebook, e-mail? Do you like meeting new people? Do you like bragging about llamas and alpacas? Well then, jump in and join our team. Your talents will be greatly appreciated and rewarded. Contact Kathy & Ron at rmlaeditor@gmail.com

Lama Fun at the Colorado State Fair

By Brianna Cozzetto - Pueblo, CO

In 2013, over the span of 11 days, 476,966 people attended the Colorado State Fair held in Pueblo, CO. The llama/alpaca demonstration is usually 2 days with 2-3 demonstrations per day. Fair attendees come in and lead animals around a small obstacle course. Information on owning and handling camelids is given out and a display is on exhibit for the full 2 days.

I got my first llama in 1995 just one week after I completed the llama demonstration at the Colorado State Fair the week before. Literally hundreds of kids/adults walk the llamas through the obstacle course. I would make a bet that it is one of the best PR events for llamas/alpacas in the state

One of the most memorable moments came last year when a young man who was blind and delayed came with his mother and wanted to touch my llama. I wish I could fully describe the smile on his face and how he lit up when he felt the soft wool. I told him that he could walk the llama around the course. He gladly accepted. As I watched him walk the llama proudly around the ring, tears filled my eyes and I noticed the same effect on my family members standing close to me. I thought to myself at that moment "This is why we do this, this is why." I will never forget that young man and how he touched my heart and gave me inspiration to continue the Colorado State Fair as long as I am able.



Please come out and bring your llamas and alpacas for a week-end of education and memories. Tentative dates are August 31st & September 1st, 2014. Stalling is reasonable at \$25/stall and there are usually quite a few who are looking to buy llamas/alpacas. We will send out more information when it is available. If you have questions, please contact Brianna Cozzetto- brianna0215@yahoo.com



Editor's Corner. continued from page 3

Speaking of Ron, while I typically decide on content, Ron makes decisions on design and layout. Now these two areas do overlap and intersect; we seek each other's guidance if we have a question.

Ron also does his very best to keep us out of hot water with copyrights and permissions and the clarity of all images printed. Included in this menagerie, are the new Federal COPPA laws that protect the privacy of our youth, both on the internet and

on the printed page. We are learning about all of this and implementing procedures to comply.

Now, if either Ron or I have an issue we are uncertain about, we ask the RMLA Board for guidance. They are our safety net to ensure that we are within the bounds of the RMLA bylaws, the IRS rules, the history of our incredible organization, and the BIG Picture of the world.

And, you just thought putting the Journal together was about moving articles and photos and

ads around! But it is all fun. We continue to learn. We abide by the mission statement and all applicable regulations while striving to achieve balance in content and perspective. The Journal is your Journal; we are here to make it the best in the industry.

Kathy and Ron





For me, volunteering is all about the youth, alpacas, llamas and the principles of 4H (hand, heart, health & head). There is just nothing better than watching the new kid and the new llama or alpaca trying that jump for the first time: you know where the kid jumps really high and the animal walks right up to the jump, knocking it down. And they try again and again, and the kid is getting frustrated. You explain the “verbal commands.” Tell the llama to ‘jump’ because the llama doesn’t know what you mean when you don’t tell him what to do. The next round is followed by the kid stepping over, because they are now out of energy and they turn to the animal and yell “JUMP” and the little cria just jumps right over, not touching anything. The kid is amazed and the little cria has his tail up waiting for more. Watching the youth grow up, watching the animals go from amateur to professional is what it’s all about. Volunteering gives back what you put into it. For example, we have graduated several youth from our Camelid Kids group in Polk County. This year at the Nebraska State Fair, without any notice, some of these kids came back! Just to visit, and hang out with the old crowd.

They were the best help ever, taking the obstacles to arena, helping run the vendor booth, feed, water and then since they were there, they just began showing animals like they had been practicing all summer. It was great! Some kids that I had not seen for 4 years took our animals and went into performance classes. And the other people showing were wondering ‘where did all these older youth come from?’ Isn’t that Ginger? Who is that with Jumpin Estes? So the part about what you put into it, you get back. We were able to sit on the sidelines and just watch a show!! I’m not sure if it was more fun watching these older kids with the entire group or actually seeing how our animals look from the outside looking in. The other part of teaching the kids is the parents’ reaction. We know that as parents we are dumber than rocks in our kid’s eyes. And several parents have threatened to just pack a bag,

drop their kids off and say they will be back next year. So far I have always gotten a forwarding address! When these kids come to Llama Camp, spend 2 days bonding as a group, learning a new craft and getting to understand the entire training process, it’s just priceless. The scene goes like this: Parents come to pick up kids and ask so how did it go? And the parents don’t get to speak for the next 2 hours as the kids are just ramble about everything they did. And the next question from the parents? Can you do this again next month? The parents actually see the change in their kids: they are more confident, talk about all their new friends, and have just become experts in a matter of 2 days. That is the best part to watch. Sometimes the best things come in small packages. That can be volunteering – just for the fun of it.



CLASSIFIED ADS:

Blade Sharpening Services

We sharpen clipper blades, hand shears, scissors, & toenail nippers. For details, e-mail or call Paul or Karen Schwartz, ChanTar Llamas at chantar@fiberpipe.net or 307-672-5144.

We appreciate your business.

Fiber Processing

Fire Mountain Fiber mill in Hotchkiss, CO wants those bags of fiber stored in your basement, shed or even the living room! We have a dehairing machine! We can turn even coarse fleeces into soft roving, yarn or felt. Email firemountainfiber@tds.net or call 970-872-7746



SPINNING LLAMA AND ALPACA

By Chris Switzer

52 pages of helpful info: fiber ID, description, Suri, Paco-Vicuña, cleaning & collecting, washing, storing, micron testing, shearing, preparation, blending, dyeing, spinning, marketing & selling, plus 5 projects. 3rd edition. \$18 plus \$0.63 CO tax and \$2.50 shipping. (\$21.13 total)

Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Lane.,
Estes Park, CO 80517



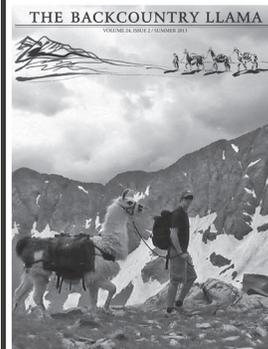
Ron Hinds and Elizabeth Cline
5704 Canyon Trail
Elizabeth, CO 80107
303-646-1320
Cell 303-999-6103

WHERE QUALITY, COLOR, AND
PERSONALITIES ARE BLENDED WITH
PRECISION.

BREEDING - HEALTH - CARING
BOARDING - FIBER, AND ANSWERS

www.elZorroColorado.com
alpacas@elzorroc Colorado.com

THE BACKCOUNTRY LLAMA



Subscribe today to the publication written for the outdoor enthusiast who packs with camelids.

\$20 1 year (4 issues)
\$37.50 2 years (4 issues)
\$25 (US) 1 year to Canada
\$30 (US) 1 year outside continental US & CAN

visit www.thebackcountryllama.com
for more information

Exciting News... Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show

By Jill Knuckles - Show Superintendent - Tall Tail Ranch - Collbran, CO

The Estes Park Wool Market is just around the corner (June 7th & 8th) and I am very excited to share with you all of the "Great Happenings" with the Wool Market this year. I have enjoyed showing at the Wool Market for many years and appreciate all of the hard work Gayle Woodsum has put in as superintendent to continue making this an awesome and very important Llama Show. I hope that Gayle will have as much fun "showing" at Estes as I have over the years.

I am working with an awesome team of llama folks who are working very hard and coming up with new ideas for the Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show.

New for 2014...

- We will be having a Full Double Show including halter, performance, youth and alpaca performance.
- Our fleece show will offer walking fiber, shorn fleece and a variety of specialty fiber classes.

The **Flat Rate Open Llama Fee** and the **Flat Rate Youth Fee** will be offered once again to make the show very affordable!!!! The flat rate open llama fee lets you enter as many classes for each llama

at a flat rate, which includes both shows. For youth, the flat rate allows the youth to enter as many youth classes for one low rate, again covering both shows!!!!

The Estes Park Wool Market attracts spectators from all over the world. Thousands of people visit the Wool Market each year. Many of these folks are already

Estes Park

Wool MARKET

fiber enthusiasts and animal lovers, so this provides the perfect opportunity to "showcase" our llamas. Most of us began our "Love for Llamas" by wondering what it would be like to own a Llama. Well, here is our chance to share our Love for Llamas with others and show the world what they can do.

In addition to all of the excitement of the Llama Show, don't forget ALL that the Wool Market has to offer. The Wool Market staff strives to offer the most

captivating fiber classes for all of us to enjoy. A variety of classes beginning on Thursday, June 5 allows attendees to enjoy a one-day class or a combination of classes held both Thursday and Friday. Class list can be found on the Wool Market website at www.estes.org/woolmarket.

For all of our RMLA Fiber Booth Consignors, the Fiber Booth will be a Vendor in the Vendor Barn. So get your consignments in. The Town of Estes Park will open a brand new facility on the fairgrounds, which will house all of the talented vendors. How exciting for our RMLA Fiber Booth to be a part of the "Grand Opening".

I hope that you are as excited as I am to participate in the Estes Park Wool Market and Llama Show June 6th and 7th. This is truly an event that we can reach out and capture the interest of yet to be "Llama Owners". To make sure that you receive all of the information to come about the Wool Market Event, please contact me at talltaillamas@bigplanet.com or call me at 970-487-0223. If you want to volunteer, we can use all the help we can get... The more the merrier.



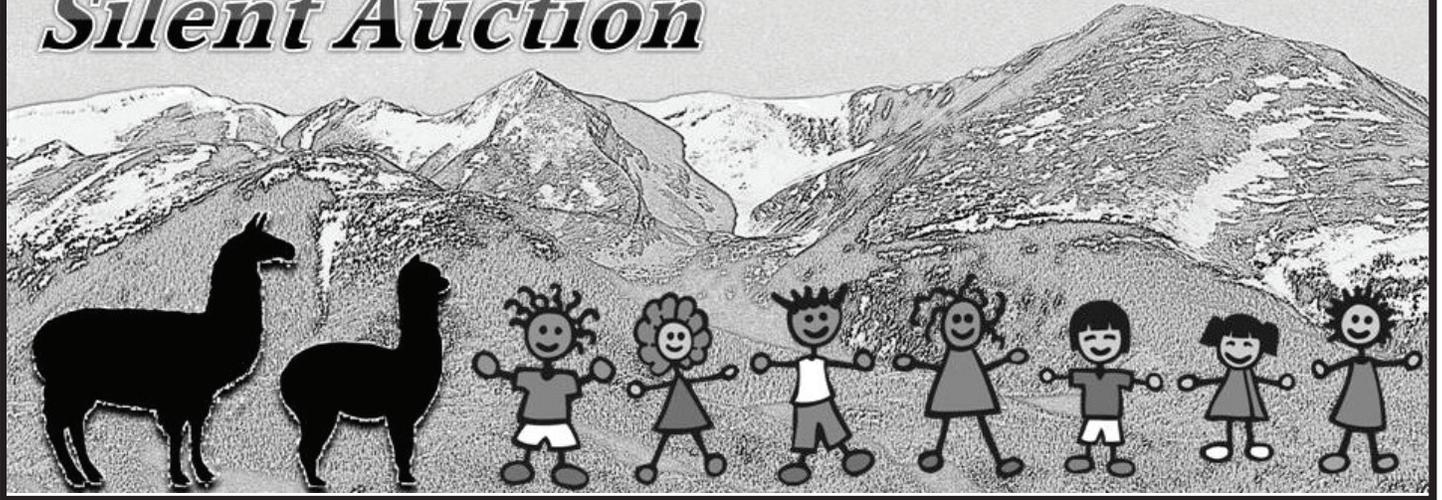
RMLA Youth Annual High Point Award

Estes Park Wool Market

Saturday, June 7th, 2014

100% of proceeds go to RMLA Youth
Donations graciously accepted! Contact
Brianna Cozzetto: brianna0215@yahoo.com

Silent Auction



RMLA Fiber Co-Op 2013 Year End Report

By Patti Morgan - Rock-N-M Llamas & Alpacas - Arkansas City, KS

2013 was a challenging year for the RMLA Co-op as crowds at most of the events were down, fuel was up, and we dealt with a stolen article. But we sold \$5,820 for our consignors, we educated the public about llamas, alpacas and their fiber usage, and we supported RMLA by selling a number of the Caring for Llamas & Alpacas book.

At present we have 21 active consignors. In 2013, we had 14 volunteers who helped set up, break down, and man the booth. Our fundraiser, the silent auction at Fall LOCC, was supported by 16 donors (not all Fiber Booth consignors) and 28 buyers.

Because of the great support of our consignors and the RMLA membership, we again operated in the plus column. The net profit for the Co-op for 2013 was \$228.

Thank you for your continued support for the past years. I am leaving the booth in the very capable hands of Cheryl Juntilla and Jill Knuckles. I will continue to support it as a consignor and a volunteer.

2015 RMLA Wall Calendar! ! !

Work Has Started.

We are in search of 13 photographs of llamas & alpacas in a variety of settings and activities, i.e. the show ring, packing, carting, as youngsters and other scenes. If you have a photo that you would like to share with others in the community, please forward it to the Calendar Committee at bcllama@blackfoot.net.

We will also consider prints sent to P.O. Box 1070, Plains, MT 59859.

In all cases, please include the name of the photographer so we can give credit. And send a location, if appropriate.

If you want to see a calendar for 2015, we must have photos to produce it!

There are 23 business card ad spaces available on a first come basis for \$20 each. You can mail a business card and check (to RMLA) to the above address or email the card and forward your check.

Advertisers in this issue:

2015 RMLA Wall Calendar	40
BackCounty Llama	37
Bear Track Farm	17
Blade Sharpening Services	37
Cache la Poudre Minerals.....	31
Caring for Llamas and Alpacas.....	48
Chris Switzer - Spinning Llama and Alpaca.....	37
el Zorro Colorado Alpacas.....	37
Estes Park Wool Market.....	19
Colorado Farm Bureau	2,13,33, 40
Fire Mountain Fiber Mill.....	37
Fiber Seminar-Rancho Linda Vista	15
Highline Trail Llamas.....	47
Lothlorien Llamas.....	17
Mazuri	7
Rocky Mountain Llamas	17
RMLA Youth High Point Award Silent Auction.....	39

You have livestock. We've got coverage.



(281) 250-2000

cfbinsurance.com

Brent L. Holt, CLU, ChFC

Farm & Ranch Specialist

Brent.Holt@cfbmic.com

Real service. Real people.



Auto • Home • Life

FR-NP-13

Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company
Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS

Showing in a Halter or Performance Class: Your Lama Needs to Know How to Back Up

By Linda Hayes • ALSA, ILR & AOBA Judge

Teaching your lama to back is a must if you expect to do your best in the show ring. Performance classes require extensive backing, but even in a halter class knowing how to back up can help you win.

Performance exhibitors are always asked to back and often the backing obstacle is complicated and challenging. By following the techniques described below, performance lamas will be able to earn all ten points given for the backing obstacles.

In the halter class, knowing how to back just a few steps allows the exhibitor to properly “square up” the lama to show off their best conformation. “Squaring up” your lama means that his weight is equally distributed on all four legs; that is he is balanced. A relaxed lama will stand this way naturally if his legs are correctly proportioned and angled.

In my last article I stressed how important it is to have your lama trust you and be relaxed in the ring. If he is pulling away from you, he will not show off his correct structure. If he does stand relaxed and balanced, leg deviations will not be as obvious. That being said, how do you get them to stand balanced? Again, it all starts with training at home. There are four steps to training. As the lama learns your commands, you will not need to use them all. He will react to more subtle voice or body movements.

1. Say the command - in this case “back”. Always use the same word and the same tone of voice.

2. Move into the lama’s personal space. The end goal is to have

your animal respond to your body movements or at least the movement coupled with a quiet voice command.

3. Use the lead to pull back on the halter. Do this gently. No jerking allowed. One of the main ways to punish a lama is to jerk on their heads. So use a soft hand.



4. Physically make the lama go where you want. In this case your first goal is just one step back.

I have seen people try to force the lama to back by stretching the lead rope across the lama’s neck and pushing on them. This is awkward and not very subtle. If you must put hands on, tickle them on the chest. When the chest moves back, the neck and head are sure to follow.

Your first goal is to get just one step taken backward. Once this is accomplished, give them a reward. Usually just a loose lead will do, but a bit of grain can also work. Sometimes they

need to be rewarded just for switching their weight back without any foot movement at all. Training is a matter of taking small steps to accomplish your end goal. If you give a verbal reward like “good boy”, use the same tone of voice and same words each time. Follow it with a physical reward such as the loose lead. In time, just the words will be all you need to use.

Now here is something that is very important. Don’t do all four things at once. Start by standing in front of the lama and saying “back”. Then pause for a moment. Follow that by moving into their space

and again pause. Next, put pressure on the lead and give the lama time to respond, i.e. pause. When that doesn’t get a response, use the tickle or push to the chest. Repeat this over and over, always including the pause between commands.

I’m sure the first time you do this the lama is thinking “This guy is nuts!” That’s why you pause after each command. You want the lama to have time to digest what is happening. Once he has taken a step back, give a reward. You are also teaching him that if he obeys your first command (voice) you won’t touch him, get in his space or pull on his face (halter). It won’t be

continued on next page

long before this soaks in. You can do a lot of damage to the training process if you forget and do them all at once or in the wrong order. Remember: voice, move, lead, and then touch.

After a while, you will find that the lama no longer needs to be touched and will back with just pressure on the lead. Once you get this far, work on increasing the number of steps taken. In the end, you want him to respond to slight movements of your body or quiet voice commands. In the performance classes, a lama that backs without pressure on the lead is sure to be a winner. In the halter class it makes life a lot easier.

It's important to keep your training sessions short. Ten minutes twice a

day is better than twenty all at once. It gives the lama time to think about what has happened. You have heard the term "Let's sleep on it"? I think lamas invented it because it seems to work well for them. You can spend all day trying to teach something that they simply refuse to do and then come back the next day and they do it like they knew how all their lives.

Okay, your lama now knows how to back. It's time to use this same training in the halter ring. With a relaxed responsive lama at the end of the lead, you would go through the following steps to make sure he is standing correctly.

1. Be in a position where you can ask the lama to take a step straight forward. Sometimes you have to get out of line and move up into position again to make this possible. It's allowed, just don't do it over and over.

2. Ask the lama to stop. A correct lama usually stops with the hind feet where you want them.

3. If his back feet are not positioned correctly, move him forward or backward until the rear feet are side by side with weight equally balanced. Remember always get the hind feet

placed before moving the front.

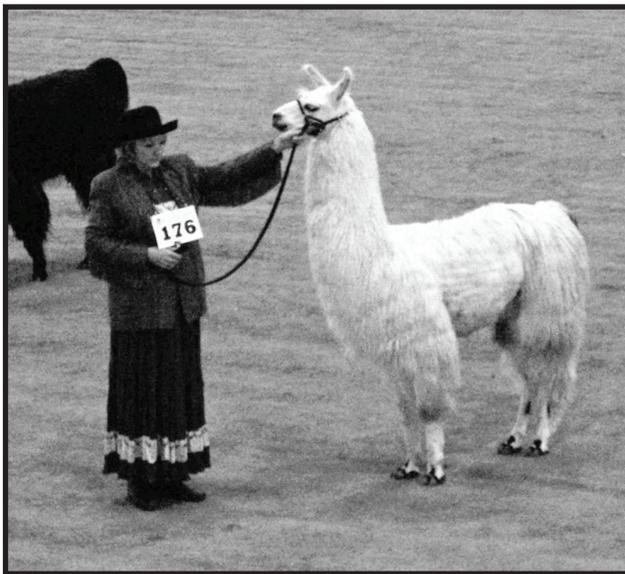
4. If the front feet are not in place, use your back up training to get the lama to move each front foot ever so slightly until it is where you want it. With practice you will see the lama

actually hold the foot in the air until your body language tells him to put it down.

I know this sounds nearly impossible to those of you who never show in obstacle classes, but as a performance judge, I can tell you, these animals are amazing and with trust and training you can get them to do almost anything. Just watch the kids in the performance classes at the next show you attend. Many have totally trained lamas.

Once all four feet are correctly placed, the lama will be balanced for visual

and hands on inspection. Your time and effort will have paid off. Even if you don't win the blue ribbon, you can bet that your peers and the judge will have noticed what a great showman you are and how well trained your animal is. That's not a bad feather to put in your cap.



ATTENTION ANNUAL MEMBERS

The membership year runs from April 1st to March 31st each year. In order for your listing to appear in the annual Membership Directory your renewal must be received by the end of March!

Please don't forget to renew - either online at www.rmla.com or by sending a written application and dues to

RMLA Membership
Committee

P.O. Box 1070
Plains, MT 59859

Navigating the Hazards of Llama Rescue

Field notes on a winter llama rescue in Northwest Colorado

by Gayle M. Woodsum

There's nothing simple about llama rescue. From the demand of skill and time to the financial burden, the list of challenges to be surmounted can often seem endless. Not to mention the emotional drain. The one I never understand is the politically based challenge that proposes llamas shouldn't be rescued. My love for animals, my years of enjoying camelid companionship simply precludes the notion that I should turn my back on the usually inconvenient, often demanding process of rescuing a llama or alpaca from a bad situation. My DNA just isn't wired that way.

So, when Deputy Gary Nichols of the Moffat County Sheriff's Office in Craig, Colorado contacted Southwest Llama Rescue in regard to five llamas living in a bad situation that were poised to be legally seized if they weren't surrendered voluntarily, and when every effort to find someone to pick them up and provide foster care failed, it became clear that the job was on me — I was just two hours away.

My llama assistant Laurel Snider and I met up with three

uniformed deputies, who escorted us to the llamas. It was a difficult spot, flanked on one side by a major state highway and on the other by a dead-end county road. We had to park my truck and 30-foot trailer on the county road, as there was no open driveway into the home or the barns and field beyond. The five of us walked several hundred



yards through deep snow, weaving through a flock of 100 or more domestic geese and an entire barnyard of trash and junk (lots of broken glass, boards with nails, rusting and sharp chunks of iron, broken buckets, etc.) to get to the llamas.



As I'd been told, the female (who only has half ears due to frostbite as a cria) and her nearly grown son were being kept in a tiny corral with attached shed — both of which were also full of rusting iron, broken glass, boards with nails sticking up. The three other intact males were in what looked like a 5-acre open field with iffy barbed wire fencing and no shelter.

Feed was down to a bale of hay, and there was no water anywhere, although the owner had assured Deputy Nichols that he'd been carrying unheated buckets of water to them from time to time. In spite of that significant lack of care, Laurel and I were pleased to discover that the llamas were well fed and in fact overweight. It's a rare find in a true rescue situation, and the law enforcement team led by Deputy Nichols were to thank for it. Time and again, across the country, law enforcement agencies fail to intervene in neglect or cruelty cases until animals have begun to die. In this case, the deputy in charge watched over the herd for months, working to create a trust-

continued on page 46

Llamas Share the Love



By Glenn & Kathy Stanko
Iron Horse Ranch
Whitewater, CO

On Valentine's weekend, with tremendous support from Grand Junction Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, we participated in a food drive for the Food Bank of the Rockies.



At this time of the year, the food banks are being stretched thin so we decided Share the Love.

Spiffed up in Valentine's attire, our two llamas, Caliente and Phoebe Snow, were a great hit sharing llama kisses with young and old alike! As people dropped off their donation of food, many said they came to the event just to see and touch a llama. And, with that the education began: How long do they

live? How many do you have? What is that noise they make? What do you do with their fiber? And surprisingly, just a very few: do they spit?

More than 500 pounds of food were donated in just a few hours time. According to the Food Bank of the Rockies, this equates to a little more than 400 meals!



Rescue:FACING THE PROBLEM

By Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay - Yellowstone Llamas - Bozeman, MT

It's a beautiful winter morning. The snow glistens and a gorgeous sunrise paints the big sky with orange streaks and swirls. The llamas' breath hangs like small clouds around their faces as they compete for position around the feeders. Apparently, the hay tastes good this morning. I watch the llamas with a smile on my face.

This morning, my life is almost perfect. But, of course, there is a price for everything. On a similar day two years ago, I drove through a snowstorm, hurrying away from the "Sanctuary from hell" in Northern Montana with my 4 rescued boys in the trailer. With every mile closer to home I hoped to leave the horror and the heartache behind, leave it back there where so many neglected animals suffered and died.

But it didn't work. The memories of the saddest four days I ever had to experience often come to call on perfect mornings like this. As I watch my rescued boys munch their hay contentedly among their friends, I know that the problem of unwanted animals still exists. Because when animals are treated as a commodity, there will be a surplus.

Let's face it: we have a problem. We created that problem. As an "industry" that raises animals for non-consumptive use, we are bound to end up with surplus and we have to deal one way or another with all of them. Because once born, these beings require us to

take care of them. How we do that varies from situation to situation, from ranch to ranch, from person to person. We have a broad range of camelid owners with differing goals, missions, business plans and personal circumstances. But one thing remains the same for all of us: we are dealing with and ultimately are responsible for living creatures, many of which are alive because of us!

All the llamas and alpacas alive in the US today are here because we either imported them from somewhere or bred them at home. No matter how we look at life in its many forms and no matter whether we agree or disagree on the details: we are ultimately responsible for their humane treatment.

I believe that fundamentally we all have good intentions. But what do we do with the animals that don't sell? What do we do when the market that wanted white llamas yesterday now wants multi-colored ones today? What do we do with the leftovers from the auction, the ones with crooked legs, straight ears, and dull wool? What if a husband, wife, or partner suddenly died and the other partner is unable to handle and manage a herd? We need a plan in place.

This is where the community of llama and alpaca owners and organizations such as the RMLA come into play. It is easier to solve a problem if the whole community is aware of it. With a problem out in the open, a situation presented before it becomes dire can more of-

ten than not be solved. It's no use to avoid the issue by not acknowledging



Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay & her favorite packer, Amadeus

it. It behooves us to be proactive, create a program and work on solutions that help these animals and their people.

I suspect that many of you have rescued llamas and alpacas in your herds. For this, I thank you. In the following issues of the RMLA Journal, I will present facts and numbers, statistics and stories, opinions and options: a forum for change, for solutions, for open communication and ideas on rescue, prevention and education. We welcome your participation!

**

In order to move forward into a better future for our animals, we have to learn from disasters like the MLAS. They happen for a reason. Many of the MLAS animals didn't make it. Some died in our arms. Most died unnoticed. They were hidden away from view. They were the sacrifice, the surplus. The llama and alpaca community has come a long way. But there is one thing we must not forget in our busy lives.

Compassion.

.....Let's start today.



ing relationship with an ignorant and incapable but not cruel owner, to achieve voluntary surrender before absolute disaster occurred.

Once we hiked our way to the llamas, we could see that their toenails were long and curled but not dangerously so. None of the llamas had ever been shorn.

Where the extreme neglect of these domesticated animals entirely dependent on human care made itself most clear, was that all the llamas were terrified of humans. They immediately began charging the fences when even just a couple of us entered the corral. Two of the intact males out in the field fought violently with each other when they weren't trying to flee from us. One of them sported an ear split in half, and soon after our arrival, a fair amount of blood was flowing from his mouth and nose.

We'd been told that the llamas hadn't been handled much, but watching them react with panic at the mere sight of us in their space did not bode well for what was about to unfold in order for us to get them rounded up and trailered. There was nothing to be done except to start the process. The three deputies escorting us were literal lifesavers. They did whatever I asked, serving as guides, protectors and ultimately handlers of petrified, untrained animals they knew nothing about.

We began with the mother and son pair. The female was frightened and threatened to scream whenever she was touched, but by going very slowly and steadily I was able to halter her. It was with great relief that we discovered she led beautifully. That

was the end of the halter trained llamas. The youngest male, son of the female, was more curious than afraid until catching actually began. I was able to get a halter on him, but the moment I tried to fasten it, he exploded and began throwing himself against the barn walls. We got those two loaded onto the trailer (after slogging our way back out to the road), by leading mom, eventually lifting her into the trailer, then gently guiding her son in after her. Conveniently, we loaded one of the intact males in at the same time as the son, because the three males went crazy when we left them and one of them jumped out of the field and followed us (after taking a freedom romp with the youngster).

It took a lot of soothing, care and time, but I did manage to get halters on the other two intact males (the ones trying to constantly kill each other) but neither were halter trained, much less trained to lead. We ended up moving them from the barns to the trailer out on the road by using two lead ropes on each llama (Laurel's brilliant idea), with a handler on each side, far enough away to be safe and give the llama breathing room but close enough to guide them. A third person walked behind each llama, gently guiding him forward. It worked quite well, all bucking, rearing and dropping to the ground aside. One of the llamas went most of the way on his knees. At the trailer, we loaded using the handlers up front, a light rope under the rump, and someone lifting front legs in. The trailer's movable dividers proved essential in being able to keep mom and son together and separate the two fighting males.

It was then a four hour trip up to Laramie for boarding while we get them gelded, fighting fangs and feet done, and start assessing what it's going to take to find these llamas good homes. The female will also need to be checked for pregnancy since she's been living with her ungelded son since birth two and a half years ago. We won't really know what the potential for this group is until the gelding has been done and the basic fear of humans is taken away. I have a hunch that with handling and without testosterone, the males will be calm animals with companion animal potential. But it will be a very big project to get them there. The female can go to a home with someone who has at least some experience handling frightened llamas and has a lot of love to give.

It was dark by the time Laurel and I managed to navigate the five llamas into individual shelters with large runs. Within minutes, they settled down to hay and limitless water coming from automatic waterers. For the first time that day, calm settled over the animals and us. For the first time in years, these animals have security, safety and contentment in their future.



A Postscript From The Editors

Wow, you guys out did yourselves this go around. The special, expanded Spring issue of the RMLA Journal is all of those things! Thanks to each one of you who submitted an article or bought advertising. We are on a roll!

Ron and Kathy

HIGHLINE TRAIL LLAMAS

Boulder, WY

307-537-3310

www.HighlineTrailLlamaSales.com

This should be you.

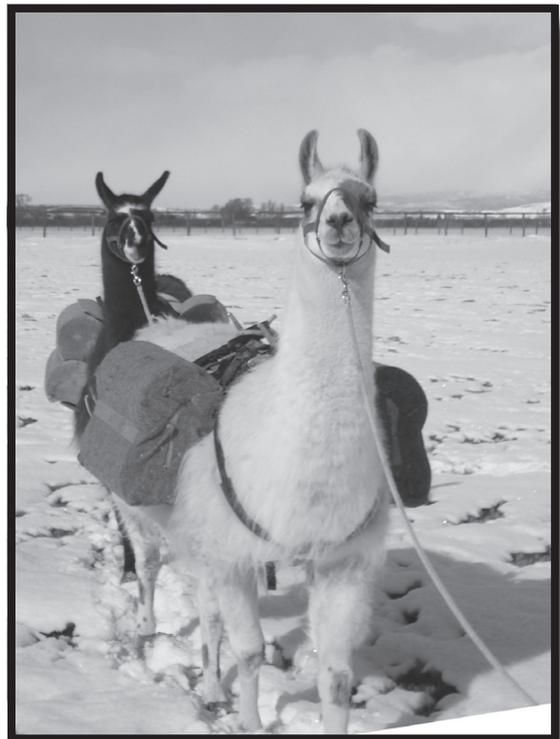


Chino and Sid

A pair of ready to go extreme packers with tons of experience. Perfect for a trouble free entry into the world of llama packing.



Wyoming Obsidian



Chino and Sid

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
P O Box 1070
Plains, MT 59859-1070



A Good Reference For An Experienced Breeder. An Excellent Gift For The New Owner!

Buying an Animal ♦ Restraint ♦ Traveling with your Animal ♦ Newborns
♦ Herd Health ♦ Wounds ♦ Mastitis ♦ Lumps ♦ Skin Disorders ♦ Lameness
♦ Nutrition ♦ Digestive Problems ♦ Respiratory Problems ♦ Down
Lama ♦ Poisonous Plants ♦ Reproduction and Birthing ♦ Giving Injections
♦ Teeth ♦ Passing Stomach Tubes ♦ Normal Llama and Alpaca Vitals

Only \$29.95 (plus \$6.00 postage and handling)

Make your check payable to RMLA for \$35.95

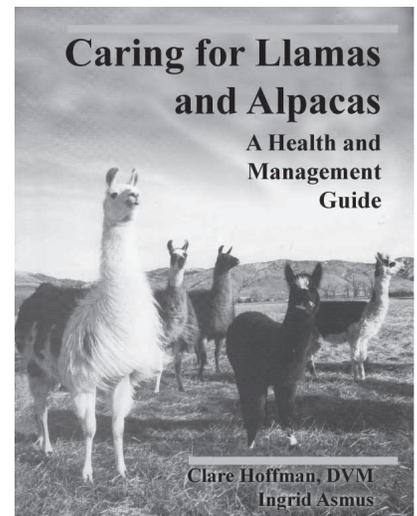
(Colorado residents please add \$1.17 sales tax = \$37.12)

Mail to:

RMLA Attn: Janice Adamcyk
39420 Olson Court
Kiowa, CO 80117-9604

Include your name, mailing address, phone number and \$35.95 (CO residents: \$37.12)

Non-US Mailings: Contact Jan Adamcyk at adamcyk@earthlink.net for postage amount.



THE STANDARD IN THE INDUSTRY

Caring For Llamas and Alpacas- A Health and Management Guide by Clare Hoffman, DVM and Ingrid Asmus. Now in its Third Edition, 172 pages—with many updated comments by the authors. Spiral Bound 8 ½" X 11" for easy reference in your barn. Larger type with over 60 detailed illustrations. An excellent gift for new owners of llamas and alpacas and serious visitors to your ranch.

Now order online at www.RMLA.com - click on Bookstore