

The Journal of RMLA



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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" x 2"	\$15	\$18
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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
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Two Page Spread	15" x 10"	\$200	\$300

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Dear Members,



Thank you all for the wonderful articles and photos submitted for this issue. What a variety we have for all of our readers, past events, upcoming events; the Ask the Vet column where we are given a great review of parasites, and a new use for that old standby WD40!

And, just in time for the 'get out and go' season, we have pulled an article from the RMLA archives on Wound Care, first published in the Journal in 1997. Dr. Callan at CSU has reviewed the information and provided a couple of updates.

The Newsletter Network is a great way for lama organizations across the country to share information. We receive frequent requests by other lama organizations to re-publish Journal articles. This is a huge compliment to all you who submit articles! We have included one article on training the Marty McGee Bennett way first published in the Michigan Lama Association newsletter. In the future we hope Marty will provide our members with additional articles on training. RMLA members, Charlie Hackbarth and Alexis McEwen (The Backcountry Llama) have also agreed to provide future articles on packing with llamas.

And will you just look at the RMLA Events Calendar on the back cover! Ron got real creative making room for this very long list. In addition to events, there are announcements throughout this issue on RMLA activities, including membership renewal, photos needed for the 2016 calendar, a silent auction for the Youth Awards Program, and a special celebration marking 25 years of RMLA's presence at the Estes Park Wool Market.

The entire Journal staff, Ron, Sonja and Marilyn and I, all enjoy our 'work' together to give you the best Journal that we can. Thank you for your continued support with your articles and advertisements!



RMLA PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Lougene Baird

So what do llamas have to do with the *New England Journal of Medicine*? Read on!

When you look at the list of RMLA sponsored events on the back page of this Journal, consider what each event represents and you will have a good appreciation for the excellent planning and work on the part of RMLA members.

What has become so interesting to me is the recognition that each event is so much larger than what the name implies.

Take, for instance, the Fiber Co-op events. More than the sale of fiber takes place! The members who staff the booth are also teaching about the beautiful fiber shorn from llamas, the type of fiber, its suited use, etc. They also share their knowledge about other uses for llamas. RMLA publications are placed for sale and the staff has invited others to join RMLA right there on the spot!

At last year's Annual Meeting, the request was made to double the size of the fiber booth space when available to better display the products, share the facts about fiber, RMLA publications and the organization in general. This serves to broaden the base of what the Fiber Co-op team is able to do and becomes a great educational tool in line with our Mission Statement.

The National Western Stock Show Llama Show is more than what its name implies. Thousands of visitors pass through the llama barns wanting to 'touch' a llama. Some pause a moment to watch the show in the coliseum and end up staying much longer. Many of these folks come into contact with llamas for the first time. Some become owners for the companionship, packing or fiber they offer their humans.

The Fairplay Llama Race is more than a race. Thousands of visitors from across the state and beyond are there for a weekend in

Fairplay. Llamas are omnipresent - the Fiber Co-op is at the Craft Fair.

After the "Race" is over early in the day, RMLA members are busy giving others hands-on experiences with llamas. In the afternoon, there is the annual Llama Rama which was founded by Dr. Kathleen Fitting and now sponsored by Rocky Mountain Rural Health. The idea behind this event is to generate awareness for the need of organ and tissue donation. Teams of medical professionals competing for fun and prizes show up from all across the US! Since the first year of this event, Park and Summit Counties CO have become #1 and #2 for organ and tissue donation in Colorado! The Fairplay Llama Rama was featured in the *New England Journal of Medicine* several years ago.

So while the name of an RMLA event may imply one thing, you can see how each becomes much more than a race, a show, or participation in a fiber market.

Thanks to all of you who are willing to roll up your sleeves and work - you are at the heart of all good things RMLA!

Lougene



Cover Photo Credit:

Camelidkids in Clay Center, Nebraska, January 10, 2015. Learning Wood Burning, Llama Education, and Team Building Skills. Photo by Geri Rutledge
See page 22 for the full story.



Ask The CSU VET Team — Parasites in Camelids - Part 1

By Stacey Byers, DVM, MS, DiplACVIM, Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

- Compiled by Kathy Stanko

It is time for a refresher discussion on parasites in camelids since the past year threw a lot of owners and animals for a loop and there are new camelid owners with questions. This is Part 1, an overview of parasites. Part 2 will appear in the Summer Issue.

Camelids can be infected with many different parasites and these include gastrointestinal (GI), external (ticks, mites, etc), and a cria. This is only a partial joke since many heavy lactation females can look like they have a parasite problem but their poorer body condition is just due to milk production. This first part of a two part article will be focusing on the GI parasites commonly affecting camelids, clinical signs of infection, and life cycle features that we can use for detection. Treatment and control strategies will be discussed in Part 2.

Why are we seeing more GI parasite problems in certain regions of the west? It is primarily due to the weather. Some areas have had significantly more rainfall or rain in normally dry times and winter has not helped in other areas since it has been warmer than normal rather than a long duration cold spell. These two factors – the moisture and temperatures – have favored the GI parasites. Environmental conditions have not been that harsh (hot and dry or frigid) to kill off the eggs in the pastures and pens. The eggs have always been around but were being inactivated by the weather conditions. The parasite eggs are shed in the feces of the animals in your herd.

The camelid dung pile is a great parasite control method compared to what owners have to do when keeping sheep and goats since they drop fecal pellets in random fashion. However the dung pile is not foolproof. Juveniles or other animals may not be that fastidious at using it if they are suffering from diarrhea and have the “urge to go now”. Also animals get feces on their feet, these can tracked around and lead to eggs being deposited in a variety of areas. Then we get a little water and warmth and voila, the parasites can complete their life cycle and become infectious.

Most of the time we see GI parasite problems in our juvenile camelids.

These juveniles are under more stress (psychological, immunological, physical, etc.) than adults, except for pregnant animals. The first time the animal is infected, their immune system is not prepared (naive) and it takes time for the immune cells to develop to fight the parasite (or bacteria, virus, etc.). This naiveté provides the parasites time to complete their life cycle leading to intestinal damage and cause the diarrhea, poor growth or weight loss, poor fiber, lethargy, etc. that we see. Older animals can have similar parasite problems because their immune system is not as robust as in younger adults. This is similar to the increased risk of influenza and pneumonia in elderly humans.

The severity of signs from GI parasites is usually dependent on the infectious dose the animal gets, therefore infection with a larger number of parasites results in more serious disease. Once the immune system has “seen” the parasites the first time, it is more prepared for the next exposure cycle and often can keep the infection in check without clinical signs developing. The duration of protection varies with types of parasites and time between exposures.

Additionally when we have years of low parasite loads on the pastures, the lack of continued low level immune stimulation can lead to a flare up of parasitism in any age camelid. The beneficial aspects of low level immune stimulation is one reason we no longer recommend routine, whole herd deworming when there are no signs of parasite infections or just small numbers of parasite detected on fecal examinations.

As a review there are several categories of GI parasites: nematodes, cestodes, and protozoa.

- ◆ Nematodes are sometimes called “worms”, and some of the more common ones found in camelids are *Haemonchus*, *Trichostrongylus*,

continued on page 7



Ask The CSU VET Team, continued

Nematodirus, and *Trichostrongylus* species. *Haemonchus* and *Trichostrongylus* are often lumped into the general category of “strongyles” since the eggs look identical.

- ◆ Cestodes are tapeworms and include *Taenia* and *Moniezia* species.
- ◆ The final category is the protozoa which includes coccidia (*Eimeria* species including *E. macusaniensis*), *Cryptosporidium*, and *Giardia*.

The GI parasites found in your particular region vary by environmental conditions, animal stocking density, previous biosecurity protocols a farm may have implemented, as well as other factors. All farms should assume to have coccidia, *Nematodirus*, and some version of strongyles. These may not show up in every fecal floatation performed, however they are too common and impossible to eradicate completely from the environment and the animals (more in Part 2).

The different GI parasites have some unique features we need to discuss in more detail.

- ◆ *Haemonchus* and *Trichostrongylus* – Under optimal conditions of high temperature and humidity, the eggs from these worms can mature to infective larvae stages in approximately one week. The larvae require moisture and grass or spilled hay to wiggle on to in order to live long enough to be consumed by an animal. Once ingested, the larvae require 2-4 weeks to mature to the egg-laying adult stage (prepatent period) and then we can detect the eggs on fecal examinations. Adult *Haemonchus* attach to the Compartment 3 (C3) mucosa and feed on blood.
- ◆ The signs of a severe infections are a reflection of this blood loss. The anemia from the blood loss shows as lethargy or exercise intolerance (e.g. lagging behind the group), increased respiratory rate and possible nostril flaring, increased heart rate, and pale mucous membranes and sclera. This can look like a *Mycoplasma haemolamae* infection. In “pure” *Haemonchus* infections, the host usually has well-formed feces because blood loss is the main problem, not impaired digestion. *Trichostrongylus* infections appear to have some

variable geographical differences in severity of infection and disease. For example, camelids in the northwest coastal areas of the US can have significant infections with this parasite.

- ◆ *Nematodirus* – The parasite is a low egg shedder so the presence of multiple eggs on a fecal floatation indicates a significant infectious load. The eggs can remain dormant for over a year on a pasture and hatch into infective larvae when optimal weather conditions exist. Once ingested, it takes 2-3 weeks before we can detect the eggs in a fecal examination. Alpacas often show signs of mild-moderate abdominal pain (colic) with *Nematodirus* infections.
- ◆ *Trichuris* – This parasite is often called a “whipworm” because the adult form looks like a whip. *Trichuris* infections seem to have some variable geographical differences. The prepatent period is approximately unknown in camelids but 2 months in other ruminants. The eggs are very resistant to environmental degradation.
- ◆ Cestodes: *Taenia* and *Moniezia* – These are usually more of a concern for an owner than the animal as it can be disturbing to find small “grains of rice” attached to the rump or fiber of the animal. Most of the time tapeworms do not cause problems however significant infections can be pathologic and result in diarrhea and ill-thrift.
- ◆ Coccidia – There are multiple species of coccidia and all are host species specific so camelids cannot be infected by coccidia from cattle, chickens, etc. Coccidia are often found in fecal floats so treatment is only warranted if clinical signs are apparent or oocysts are seen in very high numbers. Diarrhea can be mild and due to maldigestion and malabsorption of nutrients with low infection loads, but can progress to an inflammatory condition with bloody diarrhea, mucosal shreds and fibrin in the feces with high infectious dosages. In severe infections, animals may strain to defecate and even develop a rectal prolapse from straining.

The oocysts require a minimum of 5 days to transition to the infectious stage and moist warm weather favors this faster time.

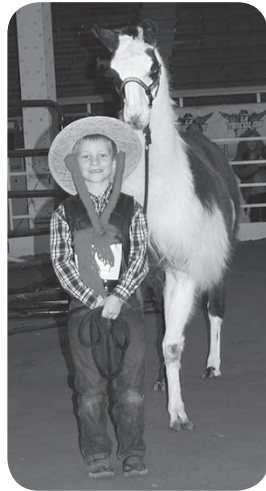
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NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW 2015

Judy Glaser - Rockwood Llamas - Kiowa, CO



It is hard to believe that January has come and GONE! As for me, being a new superintendent, it was an almost twelve month process making the anticipation intense! All in all, I was glad to do it and certainly couldn't have done the job without the following people. Sincere thanks and support go to Becky Leach, Roy Leach, Kurt Glaser, Lloyd Wamsley, Sonja Boeff, Jill and Rob Knuckles, Sue Johnson, Mary Wickman, Ann Bruhn, Carlos Mendoza, MaryBeth McCormick, Becky Zierer, Tom Cribley, Linda Ling, Barb Weadick, Coral Dillon, Edward Mullner, all the girls in



the Livestock office and Anthony for all the set up. Thanks to Phil Feiner for hanging in there, still, we did the performance classes in less than seven hours!

similar as in the past but we had a big increase in the Fiber classes. So great job and thank you!

Both the alpaca fleeces and the llama fleeces were



all together which made an impressive display across from the wool display. Everyone that is shearing in the next couple of months, send in a show fleece!



Congrats to Gayle Woodsum on receiving the 2015 Bobra Goldsmith Leadership award. Congrats to all the Grand and Reserve Grand Champions. It was fun giving out those awards!

Now to plan for 2016! Anyone wishing to send me ideas for different

Karen Kinyon, thank you for judging shorn llama and alpaca fleeces and llama walking fiber.

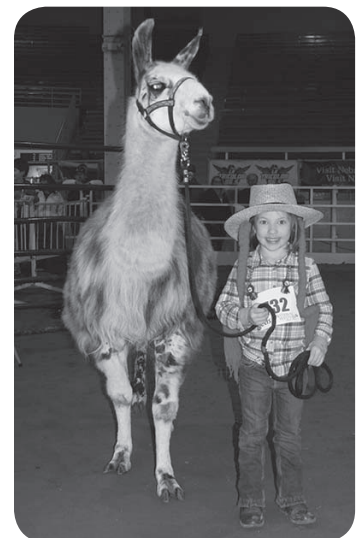
Thanks go to Bailey Volock of Royal B Embroidery for doing ALL the embroidery and helping in the creative process.

I know there were many more.....

The weather held somewhat, of course, until Sunday night. Everyone made it home and I breathed easier! The Performance and Halter numbers were

obstacles or ones they would like to see, please feel free! Also please think on ideas for displays/working displays for the public to see.

Regards to all of my llama family!



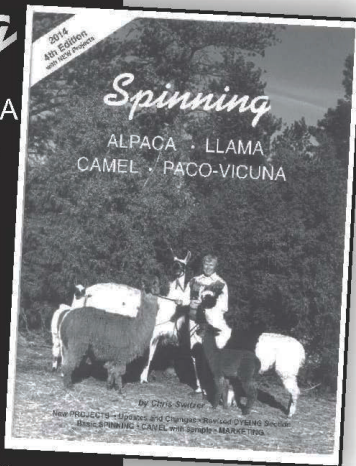
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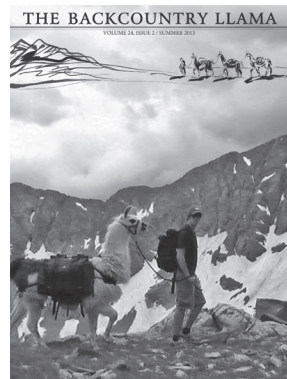
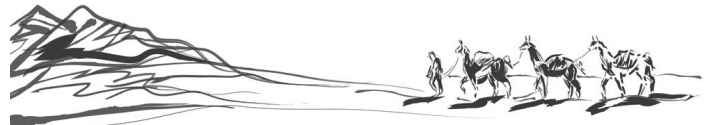
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Ask The CSU VET Team, continued

The oocysts are very hardy hanging out in cool, moist conditions. The prepatent period varies from about 2-5 weeks depending with the individual *Eimeria* species with *E. macusaniensis* having the longest prepatent period.

- ◆ Cryptosporidium – Oocysts are immediately infective once they pass out in the feces and the infectious dose is very low therefore infection occurs quite easily. The prepatent period is 3-7 days. Some species of Cryptosporidium can cause disease in animals and humans (zoonotic). The parasite is very difficult to eradicate from the environment so if it is on your premises, assume it is there to stay.
- ◆ Giardia – Often Giardia is an incidental finding on fecal examinations, but it can be the primary cause of diarrhea. We usually determine this when the diarrhea does not resolve with normal treatments. Infection typically occurs through contaminated water. Similar to

cryptosporidiosis, the infectious dose is quite small and significant fecal shedding occurs in affected animals. Once Giardia is found on a farm, it is assumed that all animals will be infected. The prepatent period is between 3-10 days, and cysts are immediately infective. Some strains of Giardia are also zoonotic.

General Clinical Features of GI Parasite Infections

- Poor or no weight gain, weight loss, poor hair coat
- Colic or intestinal inflammation (enteritis)
- Diarrhea may be profuse and lead to metabolic abnormalities.
- Blood in the feces
- Weakness, lethargy
- Anorexia due to cramping or weakness or just not feeling well.
- Swelling along the bottom of the jaw, chest area, scrotum, prepuce, or udder. The swelling (edema) develops as fluid (similar to water) accumulates into the more ventral subcutaneous tissues. This can occur with severe protein loss from damaged intestine.



A Human 'Being' Reinforcing By Marty McGee Bennett

In our westernized world camelids are expected to straddle the line between companion animals and livestock. It can be an uneasy combination for both human and animal. If your aim is to influence behavior by providing reinforcing consequences to those behaviors you like, then understanding what your animals want is a key part of the equation. Your definition of what might be desirable is irrelevant. Your animals will work - that is to perform behaviors - for something THEY want. The very first order of business is to figure out what camelids want. New camelid owners bring with them their previous animal experience which has often been with dogs and they mistakenly believe that the same reinforcing consequences are in effect.

Dogs commonly behave to receive human contact and attention with few exceptions; camelids do not. Camelids are motivated by having the freedom to move immediately away from any situation they perceive as threatening or frightening. As prey animals that rely on an ability to run, an escape route is paramount and restraint is abhorrent.

If you want to try reinforcing for calm behaviors by offering an escape route, try this. Choose an animal that is usually flighty and nervous. Put this animal, along with at least one more, into a catch pen (9 x 9 feet square is ideal). Enter the pen, turn and look at your designated camelid and immediately move to a position in the pen behind the camelid's eye, with your body angled away from the animal. As the animal moves, you move too. Maintain the same position behind the eye relative to the animal. Remember, to pay attention to how you are holding your shoulders. Facing your body toward the animal is the same as herding and will cause the animal to move and is very different than creating an escape route. What you will find as you continue to provide an escape route is that the camelid that had been rushing around the pen will become calmer - will slow down and ultimately stop. Giving an animal an escape route is reinforcing for calm behavior.

When it comes to working hands on with your llamas or alpacas, how do you react when your animal attempts to get away? Most people believe that the

best, if not only, way to deal with a fighting animal is to hold on tighter. Even if you could wrestle an alpaca or llama to a stand still without incident and without question every single time (unlikely), this approach does irreparable harm to any relationship of trust that you might like to create. Camelids handled this way tend to get harder to manage over time and there is an alternative. Using balancing techniques to help an animal stand still rather than using restraint is likewise reinforcing for calm behavior. An animal in balance (carrying his weight equally on all four feet) is more in control of his body and feels safer. Animals that run for a living do NOT want to fall down. When it comes to handling, in particular desensitization, the TTouch is a wonderful addition to the tool box. TTouch is safe AND pleasurable offering a double benefit. We can desensitize and provide positive reinforcement at the same time.

Placing animals in a small pen for purposes of management chores is a good alternative to physical restraint. The presence of the other animals is calming in and of itself and the additional bodies in a small space serve to keep the animal still making the balancing techniques I will describe easier. To balance an animal instead of holding him I use a very short



In this photo I am offering the light fawn alpaca an escape route.

checking technique that I call preempting.

Whether the animal is on a lead rope, your arms around the animal's neck or you are holding the halter, balancing is accomplished

by using early small checks and releases. As soon

as you feel the very beginning of any movement from the animal, respond by stopping the movement quickly, and immediately release the tension in your hands or arms without letting the animal go.

continued on next page

A Human 'Being' Reinforcing, continued

Because you are acting when the movement first begins, it will be a smaller movement without momentum and therefore a more manageable movement. Because you are stopping the animal's attempt to escape quickly AND releasing your hold, the animal will respond to your release by relaxing. In this way you are reinforcing calm behavior. Preempting movement is a technique that requires practice. It requires that you "listen" with your body and feel the early indications that an animal is getting ready to move. Preempting movement is easier to do in a confined area such as a catch pen, or if your animal is on a lead, in a small paddock or lane way. Once you become proficient with the technique, you can make it work in more challenging circumstances.

Watch for future articles in The Journal from Marty McGee Bennett. Or contact her at www.camelidynamics.com




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Indexing content of past Journals & Newsletters

Quite a few of the old Newsletters and Journals have been scanned and will be available to membership in the near future. In order to use this resource, an index of articles, etc. must be created that allows members to search for relevant articles, etc.

Many of the Journals/Newsletters are already scanned and are online. If you can help read and index these into even a spreadsheet, send a note to rmlaeditor@gmail.com. Your help will make this valuable information available for the future of RMLA....

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F.E. Baxter, SW Llama Rescue, Inc.

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TRAINING TO LEAD IN A P A C K STRING

by Charlie Hackbarth - Mt. Sopris Llamas - www.SoprisUnlimited.com

The following assumes that your llamas are lead trained, have done some obstacle work, and feel comfortable wearing the pack.

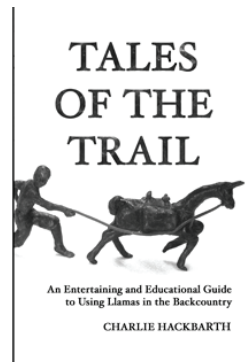
- Start with two llamas.
- Hook the lead rope of the trailing llama to the halter of the front llama with a tie that can be disconnected quickly or use a panic snap (a snap that releases instantly when the handler pulls on the snap's sleeve). The rope should be long enough so the trailing llama is not right on the tail of the front llama (eight feet, plus extra to tie a quick release knot if you aren't using a panic snap), but not so long that the trailing llama can step over it.
- Begin leading. When you feel comfortable, go through a slalom course. Then take them through other obstacles. Allow the trailing llama to catch up before going over any jumps. The halter-to-halter method will give you better access and more control over the trailing llama. If the llama balks, you can take the lead to relieve the pressure on the front llama. If you have any trouble with the trailing llama, pull the panic snap or quick release knot and take his lead.
- After you feel comfortable with the llamas, switch them around.
- Repeat the process.
- If you have more than two llamas that you want to string, take another pair and repeat the process.
- Now you are ready to tie the trailing llama to the lead llama's saddle. Always use a chest strap on the front llama when stringing from a saddle, or you will strip the saddle off his rear. Attach a pack string loop (a loop with a panic snap on one end) to the lead llama's rear saddle horn. Tie a knot about 1½ feet from the end of a ½-inch by 8½-foot lead rope. You can adjust the distance between llamas by moving this knot, but I find that a 6½-foot distance between llamas is just about right. Connect the rope to the panic snap coming from the saddle. The knot will keep the rope from slipping through. Snap the lead to the halter of



your trailing llama. Repeat earlier steps.

- Practice with your string and keep them in line and on the trail. Some llamas like to lead and some like to trail. In time you will figure out the order that works best.

Excerpt published with permission from Tales of the Trail: An Entertaining and Educational Guide to Using Llamas in the Backcountry by Charlie Hackbarth



Work has started on the 2016 RMLA Calendar!

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. Please include the name of the photographer so we can credit the photo to them – also a location if appropriate.

If you want to see a calendar for 2016 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 card and check (to RMLA) to the above address or email the card and forward your check.



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Harley and the Gum Weed

By Jerry Dunn
Bear Track Farm

Many of us enthusiastic llama hikers along the Front Range in Colorado have encountered the different kinds of plants with thistle heads. It has always been a challenge to try and remove the thistles from the coats of llamas.

In the corner of my back pasture, Harley found a collection of tasty grasses by extending his long neck through the fence to find a big batch of gum weed plants. He returned to the barn for breakfast and to our dismay his neck was filled with about 30 thistle heads from the gum weed patch. Dalyn Tetermore, my student llama helper, and I took on the challenge of trying to remove the gooey vegetation. In the past we have tried using a slicker brush to remove thistles, a very painful process for the llama, I



I dug out the WD40 and began spraying each thistle separately while Dalyn gingerly used a metal comb to pull away each thistle. Painless and quick! After the thistles were removed, we used a little soap and water to remove the excess WD40 on Harley's neck fiber.

Harley's vegetation adventure was not over. Within the next few days, Harley stuck his head into the burdock plants on the other side of the fence, which has really nasty thistle heads. Harley returned with

huge clumps of about 20 thistles on his neck. Again we used the WD40 with much success.

Gum weed, *Grindelia squarrosa*, is found along dry trails and open grasslands. The flowers are a bright




might add. We tried spraying the thistle with a variety of liquid conditioners and nothing seemed to work smoothly. Key word: smoothly!



yellow and the thistle head is purplish with soft spikes that are gooey. Burdock, *Arctium lappa*, has very hard thistle heads and are not friendly at all. Both of these plants frequent the same areas.

Since the thistle encounters, Harley has been snacking on cattail grasses near the open space trails and drinking water from our rain bird sprinkler heads. He seems to be continuously looking for interesting things to do.

So now added to our tools with special uses, we can add WD40 with the duct tape in our "go to" box. 



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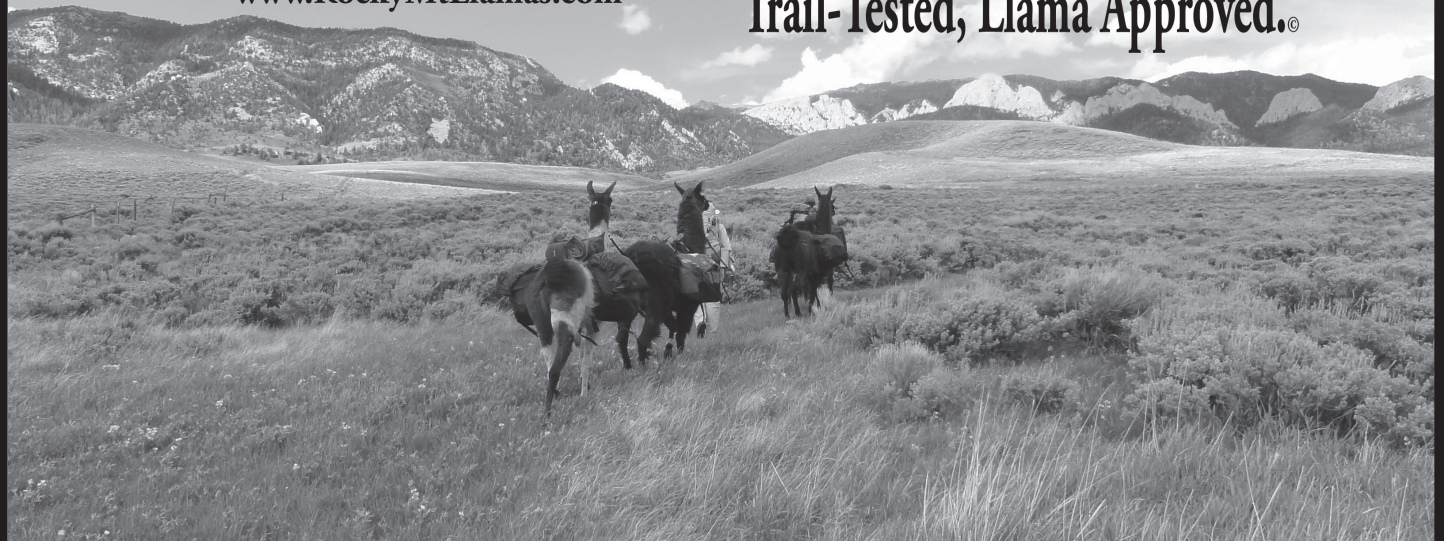
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Noteworthy From Afar

The University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine hosts the Camelid Symposium each winter. UC DAVIS vet school faculty, staff and students are happy to bring this level of camelid education to the faculty of all veterinary medical teaching hospitals, camelid vets and camelid owners. Whether you are in your first year or your 20th year, the 3 seminar tracks (Basic Care, Advanced Care, Veterinarian) offer something for everyone.

Dr. Stacey Byers and Dr. Tim Holt, both from the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, attended and gave several presentations each on camelid health issue. About this year's symposium, Dr. Byers says "I saw the RMLA



UC DAVIS
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information at the UC Davis Camelid Symposium. This was one of the best camelid symposiums

I've been at. I really liked the 3 tracks and basic vs. advanced owner tracks. There are a lot of new owners and potential owners out there."

Colorado State University
VETERINARY
TEACHING HOSPITAL

All of this is good news to RMLA members. Thank you to the RMLA Board of Directors for supporting this Symposium and spreading the word about the llamas, the RMLA Journal, and membership in RMLA.

The 33rd Annual RMLA Saturday July 25, 2015

I can see many ways that our everyday lives are similar to spending time in the wilderness. There are trails branching off in all directions along our journey that will lead us up and over that next horizon. We can choose to just stand in that place our entire lives never going anywhere while deciding which trail is best or you can simply pick one that looks inviting and begin moving forward. Back in July, 1999, I decided to take the path to Fairplay without giving it much thought; with this decision my life changed forever.

After 33 years this event has no plans of crossing the finish line anytime in the near future. The popularity of the annual Fairplay Llama Race/Walk with the public is nothing short of amazing. The ability of the spectators and participants alike interacting with the llamas on the streets of this small mountain town all without corrals, fences, or stalls creates an environment like no other festival or event anywhere else.

After 11 years of putting the race together and my 16th year volunteering at this event, I have seen a young man's hair slowly turn to gray while watching the llama industry change before my eyes. Within time everything changes, but in the case of Fairplay it only becomes bigger with each passing year.

For the past decade I have pretty much tackled the coordination of this entire weekend (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) by myself. But as my energy level slowly begins to head south and gives way to a good nap in the afternoon, I need to ask our RMLA members to step up and lend me a hand NOW.



What Is the Fairplay Race?

My main goal since day one has been to replicate what it might be like if you were out on the trail with a pack llama while in the safety of a controlled setting where help is nearby should you get into trouble while out on the course.

Race day registration begins at 9:00 AM on Front Street and the races begin at 11:00 AM. You can pre-register by going to RMLA.com, click on the events page, then print the registration form under the Fairplay Llama Race.

We run three different heats on race day, beginning at 11 AM and usually ending around 1:30 PM.

- The first and oldest is the Pack Llama Race where all llamas must have saddle, panniers, and 30 pounds of gear. The object of this heat is to make it through the course and to the finish line as quickly as possible.
- Our second heat of the day is the Lama Rama. This event is sponsored by Rocky Mountain Rural Health. This wacky race is run by medical professionals who dress up in costumes. Each team of four participants, dressed in costumes with a medical theme, runs with a single llama. The main goal of this event is to generate awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation.
- Our third heat of the day is the Public Walk of the three mile course when folks can take an enjoyable stroll with a llama and just get a feel for the wonderful world of llamas at a slower pace. This heat is where we also need the most llamas.



Contact: Info:

Gary Carlton
Comanche Creek
Llamas
P.O. Box 27
Strasburg CO 80136
303.503.1324
llama@jmhfarm.com

Winners

2014 Pack Llama Race

Men's division

1. Ryan Haight time: 31.44
2. Tanner Kemp time: 31.54
3. Jerrod Cooper time: 34.13

Women's division

1. Amy NordHagen time: 45.46
2. Aurora Eddington time: 45.48
3. Molly Erdle time: 46.01

Top Three Llamas

1. Leo, Corral Creek Llamas
2. Tal, Lightning Ridge Llamas
3. Lucky, Corral Creek Llamas

Continued, see "the Race" on page 18

Fairplay Llama Race/Walk

By Gary Carlton

Where Do You Fit In?

Gary Carlton is getting old...like many of us! He cannot organize and run the Fairplay Llama Races by himself any more. Below is the when, where and what of volunteer needs. Contact Gary at llama@jmhfarm.com or 303-503-1324 to let him know how you can help..

Prior to July 23, 2015 Need help generating new sources of prizes from outside of Fairplay between now and July. Perhaps one or two RMLA members could help out with that.

Thursday, July 23, 2015 Two volunteers needed to sort T-shirts and to get prizes from the local merchants. About 4 hours time in just a fantastic environment.

Friday, July 24, 2015

1. Friday Gopher for Gary. Noon to 4:00 PM. Just be by his side to help tie up loose ends on Friday, so Gary does not have to be in 3 places at once.
2. 4 volunteers to setup the 3 race courses, plus the Lunacy course. Begin about 11:00 AM. End: when done. The components of the courses are designed and all the obstacles will be at Fairplay. Talk to Gary for more information and maybe even add some new ideas.
3. 2 volunteers for the afternoon to gather items from Fairplay merchants needed for race day. These items are all available in Fairplay. Will take about 3 hours beginning about 1:00 PM. Gary will provide you a list of where to go.
4. Find Dale Fitting, local business owner, to get ice cream coupons for the Llama Lunacy.
5. Move 6 tables and chairs from the basement of the Hand Hotel to the Llama Camp for dinner. Additionally, snag a table and a few chairs for registration on race day.
6. FOOD! Now that we have your attention! Need at least 2 volunteers to be in charge of bringing the potluck main course for volunteers and campers which begins about 6:00 PM. Usually there are about 35 folks to feed. Filled! *Thank you Vicky Foster & Gail.*



30 llamas for the Llama Rama. Filled! *Thank You Sally & Jeff Rucker, Stage Stop Llamas*
70 llamas for the Llama Walk

7. MORE FOOD! An additional 2 or 3 volunteers to help set up the pot luck, prepare food, get tables and chairs in place. The potluck dinner is held at 6:00 PM. All the tables and chairs will be up at the camp
8. 1 or 2 volunteers (full and happy!) to get participants registered for the races on Saturday, 5:00 and 7:30 PM. We generally have about 35 to 40 participants register in camp on Friday evening. You will need to collect money and give out numbers/tickets.
9. Llamas needed.
30 – 40 for the Llama Pack Race

Saturday, July 25, 2015 Race Day

10. Saturday Gopher for Gary. Just be by his side to help do whatever is needed. Times: 9:30 to Noon.
11. Race Day Registration Table: 3 or 4 volunteers who can remain calm and organized under the pressure of getting 100 + people registered during the 9:00 to 11:00 AM time slot before the 11:00 AM starting time. You will need to collect money and give out numbers/tickets.
12. 1 volunteer needed to watch HWY 9 from 11 AM to Noon. This is to keep participants on the sidewalk and away from traffic. Filled! *Thank you Ron Hinds & Elizabeth Cline.*
13. 2 volunteers to watch the gates on both sides of the ghost town. Times 11 AM to about 1:30 PM. The race goes right through the middle of it and we do not want

Continued, see "volunteers" on page 18

The Llama Lunacy Course for the children is free and opens around noon. Each child who walks our gentle PR llama through the small obstacle course receives a ribbon and a coupon for an ice cream cone at the Silver Scoop Creamery.

Ranches who provided Llamas and Alpacas in 2014 were; Stage Stop Llamas, Rock N M Llamas and Alpacas, Comanche Creek Llamas, Lightning Ridge Llamas, Clearwater Llamas, 2-Bit-2 Llamas, Split Rock Ranch Llamas, Stargazer Llamas, Gail Davidson, WB Farm Llamas, and Petra who provided a PR llama for the Lunacy Course.

Volunteers: Jeff & Sally Rucker, Vicky Foster, Ann Bruhn, Gail Davidson, Steve Jenkins, Kevin & Robin Kaltenbaugh, Mary Wickman, Wyatt Mayo, and Ron Hinds & Elizabeth Cline.

Thank you to the local merchants who donated prizes: Calamity’s Cabin, Java Moose, South Park Pottery, Hand Hotel, The Salt Licking Goat Co, and the Silver Scoop Creamery.

This year instead of watching someone else head down that trail and off over the horizon please join us in Fairplay for the 33rd Annual Pack Llama Race. It could just change your life forever. For information, suggestions, or to volunteer contact:

Gary Carlton
Comanche Creek Llamas
P.O. Box 27 - Strasburg CO 80136
303.503.1324
llama@jmhfarm.com



spectators who have not paid to enter the ghost town during the race.

- 14. 6 volunteers needed to work all three river crossings, two or more volunteers per crossing. You will stay at your designated crossing for the races. Times: 11:00 AM to about 1:30 PM. Duties include helping participants who are entering the river; helping participants and llamas who are in the river; making sure no one takes a short cut or gets off course. Make sure everyone has a big smile as they leave the river. The river crossings are where the biggest laughs and best action on the course occurs.
- 15. 2 or 3 volunteers needed to move around the course and watch participants at key points along the course and make sure everyone is doing ok and keep them on the right path. Times 11:00 AM to about 1:30 PM
- 16. Timing crew: Two or three people needed to do race timing. This involves writing the runners’ times down as they cross the finish line and then adding everything up for ribbon placement and handing out prizes. Times: 11 AM – 1:30 PM. Gary has the stop watch.
- 17. Need 2-3 volunteers for the Llama Lunacy Course for Kids. Time: Noon until 1:30 right next to the Finish Line. Volunteer needed to bring lunacy obstacles for the course. One volunteer needed to walk the children through the course. We also need one really gentle PR Llama as a Llama lunacy co-star to walk the course with the kids.
- 18. Lunch (i.e., FOOD Again). All Volunteers will be fed lunch after the races at the patio of the Silver Scoop Creamery compliments of Dale & Dr. Kathy Fitting from Rocky Mountain Rural Health and the Town of Fairplay.



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Dates are filling fast. Will consider a drive out of state. Llamas must be halter and lead trained. Call for more details.

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What is a Ccara Llama ?



Al Ellis - Highline Trail Llamas

The old adage "A picture is worth a thousand words" certainly holds true here. Not only does this photo of a Ccara llama and "his" llamero captured by Martin Chambi from Cusco, Peru, circa 1940 provide a perfect visual description of a Ccara Llama, it also encapsulates the mission statement of the North American Ccara Association (NACA): To seek out, preserve, perpetuate and promote the best specimens of the working llama-the Ccara.

The label "Ccara" is one of the native South American words or versions of spelling that was used to describe this animal, specifically llamas that were developed through selective breeding over the course of thousands of years for their ability to transport freight over long distances in rugged terrain and at high altitudes. Today many llama packers still utilize and cherish that same tough, high endurance athlete, strong physically and strong mentally, the Ccara Llama. Even if they all are not needed for their full capacity, they deserve to be admired and preserved.

Unfortunately over the last 30 years or so, their numbers have continued to dwindle and many of the best representatives of the breed have an alarming concentration of common ancestors. This presents a formidable challenge for those engaged in breeding Ccara Llamas who believe the gene pool should be expanded rather than continuing to shrink. A group of breeders concerned about the problem recognized the need for a registry to aid in the search for diverse genetics and banded together to form the North American Ccara Association (NACA). A full description and explanation of the characteristics of an

animal eligible for entry into the registry can be found on the website listed below

The North American Ccara Association is pleased to announce they will be holding a Ccara Llama screening and informational event open to the public in Sedalia, Colorado on April 11 and 12. This will be a RMLA sanctioned event and we will have the honor of featuring Dr. Tim Holt, DVM, CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, presenting his clinic on alternative pain therapies for camelids. If you have an injured or

arthritic camelid, "be there"!

Almost continual workshops on defining a Ccara Llama using actual screenings will be interspaced with forums and talks, including how to show at halter, height and weight studies, and llama care beyond hay, water and shelter.

Admission is free to

all of the demonstrations and clinics. Anyone wishing to have their llamas screened in to the NACA registry will need to make a reservation; normal fees for entry into the registry will apply. Llamas eligible for entry must be at least 2 ½ years of age and registered with the ILR. The application must be accompanied with a copy of the ILR registration page and that page must have good photos showing the llama at maturity.

Visit the NACA website for screening criteria and fee schedule, and further information regarding the itinerary. <http://www.ccarallama.com>. Contact: Nancy Hester, Latitude Llamas for screening registrations: 530 223-4569 or latitudellamas@aol.com

General information contacts: Al Ellis, Highline Trail Llamas, 307 537-3310, hilntrllamas@wyoming.com or Linda Hayes, Llama Linda Ranch, 970 379-4576, llamas@skybeam.com



See details on next page



If you own or are interested in Ccara Llamas, mark your Calendars for April 11 and 12, 2015



North American Ccara Association Presents Llama screening & informational event Sedalia, Colorado

Ccara screening throughout both days.

(Reservations necessary for screening your llama, see below)

Educational event open to the public starting at 8:00 AM both days (Free)

- **Dr. Tim Holt:** Alternative pain therapies for camelids
- **Al Ellis:** Llama care beyond hay, water and shelter
- **Linda Hayes:** Showing to win at halter
- **Bob Schimpf:** Height and weight growth studies of the healthy llama
- Workshops on defining a Ccara Llama
- Schedule and other seminars and demonstrations will be posted on NACA website

<http://www.CcaraLlama.com>
FREE



Screening Reservations:

Nancy Hester, Latitude Llamas 530 223-4569 latitudellamas@aol.com

Information: Al Ellis, Highline Trail Llamas 307 537-3310 hilntrllamas@wyoming.com

Information: Larry Lewellyn, Foothill Llamas 303 870-7341 fhllamas@aol.com

Location:

2805 and 2741 Oakland Dr. Sedalia CO

Map at: <http://goo.gl/215r2E>

25TH ANNIVERSARY RMLA EVENT OF THE ESTES PARK WOOL MARKET JUNE 12, 13, & 14, 2015

BY GERI RUTLEDGE AND JILL KNUCKLES



Save the dates and make plans to attend the 25th Anniversary Celebration of llamas and alpacas at the Estes Park Wool Market. Yes, we have been showing llamas and alpacas in performance and halter for 25 years! Yes, we have been educating the general public, breeders and camelid owners about llamas for 25 years. And yes, we have been educating about the production, processing and use of llama and alpaca fiber at the Estes Park Wool Market for 25 years! What an accomplishment.

Jill Knuckles is, again, the Superintendent and busy planning the show. Cheryl Juntilla will be the RMLA Fiber Booth manager for this year's event. Geri Rutledge is building a committee to get members involved with planning a special event

Saturday evening to celebrate these 25 years. We are planning a weekend of history, fun and education to cover the 25 years RMLA members have participated in the Estes Park Wool Market. We are looking for pictures, stories, memories, anything you would like to contribute.

If you would like to be involved in planning events for this weekend, please contact Geri Rutledge at 402-366-9304 or buckshollow@wildblue.net or Jill Knuckles at 970-487-0223 or talltaillamas@bigplanet.com to add your name to the committee. This will consist of phone conferences to build the plan, and then execute the activities at the EPWM. We are just three months away from a great event, so please volunteer.



NEW RMLA Members

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

Megan & Ben Hill, Larkspur, CO

Jenny & Rick Mansheim,

Ft. Madison, IA

Alexis McEwen, Chatfield, CO

(Youth Member)

Lloyd & Kristy Wamsley, Wiggins, CO

Additional information, farm name, phone, address, etc. can be found on the website under **MEMBERS**.

Before youth members under the age of 18 are listed, they require a signed release from parent or legal guardian. You can find a link for further instructions and that form at the top of the members page on the website. *Thank you*

Lothlorien Llamas

Dick & Jeanne Williams

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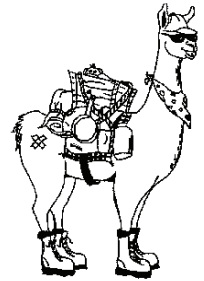
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Letter to Editor

Gary Carlton's article in the last journal really touched me. I too am at that stage of life where I'm looking back at all the wonderful llama related memories. How lucky we are to have these creatures in our lives. And the friendships that have come with them are precious.

Llama Linda Hayes

January 11, 2015

MICROCHIP ANYONE?



A llama owner called to report that the Larimer County Fair (Colorado) is requiring all llamas to be micro chipped. So how many of you micro chip your alpacas and llamas? If so what type of chip and reader do you use? Where do you implant the chip? Have you ever had problems with these microchips?

Please e-mail your comments and responses to Linda Hayes, llamas@skybeam.com. Your comments will be included in a future article for the Journal. *Thank you.*

Camelidkids Winter Wonderland

by Geri Rutledge 4H Leader/Mentor - Waco, NE



What do you do when it's too cold out to mess with the animals? You round up all the kids for an indoor party. Each year the Camelidkids gather after the Holidays for a fun learning event. This year's event was held on January 10th in Clay Center, Nebraska. This year they learned Wood Burning, Llama Education, and Team Building Skills.

The idea began at the Nebraska State Fair where one of the attractions was Lumberjacks who performed 4 competitions a day. In one of the events they used a hand saw to cut a 2 inch circle off a 13 inch round log. We found a couple dozen of these wood circles thrown behind the stage each day. Some of the circles became stepping stones during the fair, as the torrential rains this year made everything muddy. The rest of the circles were "repurposed" by our 4H kids on this wood burning project.

The youth learned the safety involved with hand held sanders and the wood burning tools. They learned the difference in sand papers and how rough or smooth the grit makes the wood different textures. They learned to go with the grain, and how to hold the circles to get the edges. They each sanded their own piece, and then headed to the next station to trace a design and use the wood burning tool. As you can see in the photo, the llama/alpaca theme was pretty consistent in the group. What we found was our kids who usually had limited attention spans were able to glue themselves to the project and really put effort into their designs, showing lots of details. Thanks to our dads for teaching this part.

Then the group was able to play Bingo, using squares that were identified by llama parts. The only way to cover your square was to know the llama answers. The younger kids huddled with the older kids hoping they knew some of the answers.

Next we broke into teams for a trivia competition. A balloon was earned for each correct answer. Once the questions were done, they moved into the big open area and had to keep their balloons in the air. If they touched the ground, that person was then out of the game. Thanks to Catherine Steele for the games.

The end of the day brought a gift exchange. Each person brought a gift, and then we drew numbers to see who picked first and went in order. The catch to

the game was "you can steal a gift" that somebody has already opened instead of picking a new gift. Some of the boys were not impressed when they got nail polish or

perfumes, and some of the younger kids were thrilled when they got chocolate or other candies. So adults and kids had fun with each other and Colin (age 5) was happy the girls make up was "stolen" from him and his next gift was goldfish snacks!. His Mom wasn't real happy when her McDonald's gift card was chosen by another, but just like competition, everyone had fun.

Thanks to RMLA for sponsoring our event. We had 10 YAP members (Youth Award Program) present, so they are on their way to gaining points for the year. Thanks to the Winter Family for providing lunch and the Camelidkid Parents for getting the group together in the middle of winter.



Don't forget to get your renewal in

to the Membership Committee! In order to be listed in the Membership Directory

your renewal must be received by April 15th! (Join) or renew – either online at www.rmla.com - click on **JOIN - RENEW** or download/fill out the membership form and send with dues to:

Committee c/o Dick Williams - P.O. Box 1070 - Plains, MT 59859

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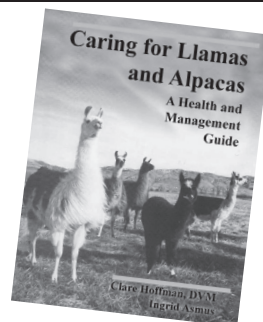
Silent Auction for the Youth Program

By Brianna Cozzetto

The RMLA Youth Program has been given the go ahead to hold another silent auction this year during the Estes Park Wool Market. This was our biggest fundraising event last year and aided in the purchase of buckles for the high point winners. If you would like to donate items to the youth silent auction, please bring your Treasures to the grandstand on Saturday morning between 7 & 8 AM. Thanks so much for your support of the future of RMLA. If you have any questions, please contact me at brianna0215@yahoo.com.

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Introduction: Know Your Limits

Raising llamas demands a general knowledge of wound care. When faced with an injured llama, a medical expert may not always be available to treat and/or offer advice on care - as often you are out on the trail or live in a rural area where a veterinarian is not readily available. Knowing and performing proper wound first aid could mean the difference between life and death or determine between a temporary and a permanent disability.

You can prepare for such an emergency by reading about wound care, preparing a first aid kit (see insert) and obtaining training from your veterinarian. If you are not adequately knowledgeable, or do not feel comfortable performing wound first aid, you should **NOT** attempt haphazard first aid treatments. You must assess your knowledge and capability limits. You must know what to do and what not to do, as you could easily cause further injury to the llama if your first aid is not done correctly and carefully.

Causes of Wounds

Care should be taken to make sure that the stable, pen, or pasture area is free from potential wound-causing hazards, such as sharp edges on a barn, protruding nails, or trash and debris. However, even with immaculate living areas, llamas may still get hurt. Llamas are intelligent and careful enough that they do not get wounded very often. When they do, most wounds are not serious. However, when llamas are confined, grouped, trailered, or out on the trail, injuries may occur.

Causes of wounds vary, but a fence, tree branch, or a nail sticking out of a board could result in a wound. Sometimes, llamas can injure each other, especially when intact males are housed together. Fighting males can inflict serious wounds upon each other if they have sharp fighting teeth. These battles can result in shredded ears and infected/abscessed leg and testicular wounds. Baby llamas are also more prone to wounds, as they do not know where environmental obstacles, such as fences and trees, are located and their "brakes" are not yet

fine-tuned for quick stops. When playing or being chased, a youngster may tumble over an obstacle or run into a fence resulting in an accidental injury.

Pack llamas venturing out on a trail meet all sorts of obstacles that usually do not cause any problems, but potentially could cause an accident. For example, when crossing a stream, sharp rocks could cut the llama's foot or leg. Tree branches encountered on the trail are often implicated for wounds. A wild animal may also bite and injure (or unfortunately kill) a llama on the trail or at home in a rural setting. Lastly, even well-meaning people could accidentally cause a wound. For example, when trying to perform procedures such as trimming toenails, a slip of a sharp object could cut the llama. (Although quicked toenails tend to bleed, they are rarely serious.) A tight-fitting halter, or a halter left on a llama that gets caught on an object such as a branch or fence post, or a poor fitting pack could result in an injury.

Abrasions & Bruises

Wounds are generally classified according to their depth as closed or open wounds. Closed wounds, which are less serious, are wounds that do not penetrate through the entire skin layer. An abrasion or scrape is an example of a closed wound. Abrasions are rarely serious and do not bleed very much. Although abrasions are not emergencies, they may be painful to the llama, causing the llama be sensitive to touch in the area of the abrasion.

In addition, even the most minor abrasion could result in an infection. Normal intact skin is quite a formidable barrier to microorganism entry into the body but any disruption of this barrier offers an entry porthole for the numerous microorganisms on and around the animal. Due to this infection potential, the llama should be checked to make sure it is current on clostridia vaccinations. Also, your veterinarian should be consulted regarding the need for antibiotics.

Since treatment for abrasions involves preventing infection and offering the llama

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Wound Care, continued

soothing relief, abrasions are fairly simple to care for and heal quickly. Gentle rinsing of the abrasion with warm saline removes dirt and debris. (Saline is a sterile mild salt water solution.) This should be followed by application of an ointment to decrease the likelihood of infection, to keep the skin supple and prevent cracking. Povidone-iodine or Nitrofurazone ointment works very well on abrasions. (Triple Antibiotic Ointment is preferred today, R.C. Callan, DVM, CSUVTH). The abrasion will then form a solid scab which is nature's own perfect bandage. This protects the newly repaired skin as it heals. When the skin is healed, the scab will fall off.

Bruises do not cut through the skin and thus constitute another type of closed wound. These are often caused by a fall, kick, or a poor fitting pack. Although the skin is intact, underlying tissues such as muscle and blood vessels may be crushed or torn. Usually the only signs these bruised llamas exhibit are pain in the area of the bruise, some heat and swelling due to the inflamed tissues. Wound care includes application

of cold packs if the bruise is recent (within the first day) to minimize swelling. Subsequent bruise care (after 24 hours) may include application of warm packs to increase circulation which promotes removal of the accumulated fluid out of the area. Consult with your veterinarian if your llama is acting painful for recommendations on pain relief.

Occasionally a bruised area may result in a leaking blood vessel causing a pocket of blood accumulation called a hematoma. A seroma which is a pocket of serum, (i.e., the liquid portion of the blood without the red blood cells), can also occur. Seromas look and feel like water balloons underneath the skin. First aid would include initial cold packs and subsequent warm packs as described above. This treatment usually remedies small fluid accumulations. However, if the seroma or hematoma continues to enlarge or is large to start with, a veterinarian usually needs to surgically drain it. If left untreated, a large pocket of blood or serum can result in a blemish

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and offer a great environment for microorganisms to flourish.

Lacerations

Lacerations or cuts are classified as open wounds and are more serious. These injuries penetrate the entire skin layer to expose the tissue below. They are often painful, can tear large blood vessels and may damage underlying tissues. Lacerations also provide a large opening for microorganism entry, thus increasing the chance of infection complications.

The initial first aid for lacerations is to stop excessive bleeding. Most of the time when you notice a laceration on your llama, it has already ceased bleeding. Luckily, most wounds do not bleed very much and those that do, ooze blood slowly. However, occasionally it is possible for a large blood vessel to be cut or torn and result in significant bleeding. With severe bleeding (steady drip or more), first aid should be used to stop the bleeding. Application of direct pressure to the bleeding area is the best way to stop bleeding. This can be done by firmly holding a wound dressing such as gauze, cotton, or a cloth with your hand directly over the bleeding area.

Cold pressure, such as a cold wash cloth, would work even better, as the cold helps to shrink the blood vessels. As blood clots form within the cloth, do not remove the cloth or the bleeding will resume. Instead, if blood soaks through the entire dressing, add additional layers of dressing and continue direct hand pressure. On the legs, a bandage can be used to hold on the layers of dressing. Do not remove the bandage until a veterinarian arrives, or else it will restart bleeding. Although the bandage should apply some pressure to stop the bleeding, it is not a tourniquet and should not be so tight so as to cut off all blood supply to the leg! A tourniquet is rarely needed, is quite dangerous, and should only be used for severe and life threatening bleeding that cannot be controlled by any other means. If the decision is made to use a tourniquet, you risk losing the limb in order to save the animal's life.

In llamas as well as humans, shock can occur with many different medical problems but it frequently is a serious sequel to rapid loss

of large amounts of blood. When in this critical state, shock is a means of trying to live by shutting down non essential bodily functions, thus attempting to maintain and preserve important organs such as the heart and brain. During shock, blood flow decreases to skin, mucous membranes and muscle. Therefore the llama's skin (especially over legs, face and ears) and mucous membranes (such as gums, tongue, inner lining of eyelid, and vagina) are pale to blue in color and feel cool to the touch due to the decreased warm blood flow. Another sign of shock indicating circulation failure is a prolonged capillary refill time of more than 2 seconds. This can be checked by blanching the tiny blood vessels or capillaries under the gums with finger or thumb pressure. When removing the pressure, the area will be blanched, but pink color should normally return in less than 2 seconds. If it takes longer, it is a sign of poor blood circulation to the area and shock. Additional signs of shock are weakness, a rapid and weak pulse which may be felt on the side of the face or inner thigh, and irregular breathing patterns.

Shock is an emergency situation and must be treated by a veterinarian, but until a veterinarian is available, life saving first aid will help.

1. Stop bleeding as described above.
2. Assist respiration if it isn't adequate. If the llama is down, it is easier for the llama to breathe if lying on its chest rather than its side. You can help prop the llama by putting a hay bale along its side for support.
3. Don't unnecessarily move, restrain or stress the llama. Excessive stress can be fatal. The llama should be kept comfortable and warm.
4. Don't give the llama any tranquilizers or sedatives to "make it feel better", as many medications are very harmful if given to an animal in shock.
5. Fluid replacement will be the mainstay of the veterinarian's treatment of shock for your llama, as so much blood may have been lost. The fluid given by your veterinarian may be blood or other sterile electrolyte solutions which are injected directly into the veins. If the shock is not severe, the fluids may be given via other

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routes. Fluids are not absorbed very well from the stomach if given orally during shock.

However, if your veterinarian isn't available and your llama is in dire straits, this may be the only life saving alternative of fluid replacement that you are qualified to administer. In this situation, slowly give small amounts of warm water or warm water with electrolytes (Power Burst®, Gatorade®, Lifeguard®) frequently (e.g. 1/2 cup every 15 minutes to the adult llama). Only give oral fluids if the llama is conscious, does not have trouble swallowing the fluids and is not regurgitating.

Open Wounds That Require Suturing

Depending on the location, amount of tissue damage and degree of contamination, fresh wounds that penetrate through the entire skin layer can be sutured. Wound care until the veterinarian can arrive to suture the wound should be aimed at minimizing further contamination. The majority of traumatic wounds are contaminated and overzealous first aid often causes further contamination resulting in a wound that cannot be sutured, heals slowly or becomes infected. Many antiseptic powders and wound ointments can actually increase wound contamination and cause further tissue irritation.

The best first aid for the wound until it can be seen by your veterinarian is simply protection by applying a large clean dressing (gauze, cotton, cloth, diaper) to cover the area. It can be held, taped or bandaged in place. This cover will prevent further contamination with feed material, bedding, dirt and hair until a veterinarian determines that the wound does require suturing; it can be cleaned easily and won't be covered in sticky ointments and abrasive powders. Your veterinarian will advise you of specific wound care following examination and/or suturing of the wound.

Open Wounds Not Amenable To Suturing

If a wound is an older wound, has a significant amount of contamination, or has a lot of dead tissue, it cannot be sutured initially. Depending on the wound, it should heal as an open wound or may be amenable to closure with

sutures at some later date. Even if these wounds appear to be small and minor, it is important that you have a veterinarian examine them. Some wounds, such as puncture wounds, look innocuous from the surface and yet have a great deal of damage under the skin and are extremely prone to infection. In addition, wounds caused by foreign bodies, such as wood, glass, porcupine quills, may still have part or all of the foreign body present in the wound. Wounds that are close to or penetrate certain areas of the body such as the eye, joints, or genitals are often more serious than they appear. Wounds may also have devitalized (dead) tissue that need to be debrided or removed by your veterinarian to allow appropriate healing. The necessity of antibiotic usage and vaccination boosters can be discussed with your veterinarian at the time of the examination.

Until an older wound can be seen by your veterinarian for treatment and advice, some basic wound care would be in order. Before beginning your first aid of the wound, make sure that the llama is properly restrained, as you don't want a struggle to result in another wound to your llama or one to you. Once it's restrained, the wound should be cleaned in such a manner that you do not cause further contamination. The surrounding hairs that are long enough to dangle into the wound should be clipped. Protect and cover the wound as you are cutting the hairs, as you don't want them to fall into the wound. A saline-moistened gauze or a water soluble substance such as K-Y Jelly® covering the wound works well for protection. After clipping, the surrounding area can be cleaned and examined.

Next, you should clean the actual wound, as bacteria, soil, and other debris directly irritate the wound, increase the likelihood of infection, and thus delay wound healing. You must clean these wounds **very** gently or else you could cause further damage and irritation to the tissues. Do not apply any substance directly to a wound that you wouldn't be willing to put into your own eyeball! Do not use any caustic substances. (Beware, as many of these caustic substances are commonly sold as "miracle" wound care products.) Sterile saline is mild and excellent for cleaning wounds. If saline is not available, tap water will suffice. The saline can be applied to a

continued on next page

Wound Care, continued

clean gauze pad and then the wound is cleaned from the center to the periphery, so as not to carry contaminants back into the wound. Once a pad is used on the peripheral regions, do not reuse that pad. Use a fresh one with each washing.

In dirty wounds where this method would prove to be very slow, lavage or wound irrigation is an excellent way to clean debris thoroughly and quickly from the wound. Lavage should be done with saline or water if saline is not available. A large syringe or a spray bottle will work to irrigate the wound, but thorough lavage is achieved by using a Water Pik® at its lower setting and spray the wound until it's clean. When the wound appears "water-logged" or slightly grayish in color, you have lavaged the wound sufficiently.

Antiseptic products are commonly used to clean wounds. They should be mild enough so as not to damage tissue and yet strong enough to aid in decreasing bacteria numbers. Chlorhexidine Diacetate Solution (Nolvasan®) at about .05% or less dilution or Povidone-Iodine Solution (Betadine®) at .1-.2% seems to work well at killing bacteria with minimal tissue damage. Antiseptics can be mixed with saline or water and used along with lavage or gauze cleaning pads.

Soaps are generally too harsh for wounds. However, occasionally surgical scrubs such as Povidone-Iodine Scrub (Betadine® Scrub) are used even though they are mildly toxic to wounds because of their antiseptic abilities and the soapy/foaming action which eases contaminant removal from very dirty wounds. If soaps or scrubs are used, make sure to follow the scrub with a very thorough rinse.

Although hydrogen peroxide is commonly used because of its foaming action, it is not a very effective antiseptic and can be toxic and damaging to the tissue and therefore is not recommended. Likewise, other harsh chemicals such as alcohol should not be used on wounds. Consult with your veterinarian if you choose to use other antiseptics not mentioned in this article regarding their safety and effectiveness.

After the wound has been cleaned, it may be amenable to further protection with a bandage. Obviously only some areas of the llama can be bandaged. Leg wounds are often bandaged which provides some immobilization of the wound, as

movement delays healing by physically disrupting newly formed tissues. In addition, bandages help to decrease further contamination and swelling. Bandages also hasten wound healing by slightly increasing the temperature of the wound and surrounding tissues.

Initially an adherent dressing such as gauze is useful to absorb drainage and dead tissue from the wound. If after an examination by your veterinarian, it is decided to continue bandaging the wound, you would likely switch to a non-adherent dressing such as Telfa® pads. The bandage is then changed whenever it feels damp or becomes malodorous. After removing the old bandage, wash the wound as described above and apply a new bandage. Initially this care may be needed daily and subsequently, as healing progresses, it may be every 4-5 days.

If an area is not amenable to a bandage, and you continue to provide wound care after consultation with your veterinarian, the wound must be cleaned regularly. Any drainage from the wound should be cleaned from surrounding tissue, as the drainage *is* irritating to normal skin. This drainage clean-up is easier if you apply jelly such as Vaseline® around the wound so that the discharge does not stick to the skin. The llama should be kept in a reasonably clean area, as bedding, dirt and insects can complicate healing. If the insects are particularly bad, you can apply repellent around the wound, but if you put repellent directly on a wound, it will delay wound healing.

Finally, to help achieve quick and thorough wound healing, the llama must be in good overall health. The llama will use extra nutrients to heal damaged tissue and must have an adequate diet. Malnourished and parasite-laden llamas will have poor wound healing capabilities. Older, weak or ill llamas, as well as llamas receiving some long-term medications such as corticosteroids will have less than ideal healing. Keep the llama well fed, healthy, in a clean environment, and the healing will be maximal. Report any bad odors, discolorations, flaps of loose tissue, swelling, or discharges from wounds to your veterinarian. With your vigilant care and advice from your veterinarian, even the worst looking wound can heal with good results,

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Gayle Woodsum Receives 2015 Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award

Gayle Woodsum was presented with the Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award at the 2015 National Western Stock Show. This award originated to honor Bobra and the many years of service she gave to RMLA and its membership. The award is presented annually to the RMLA member who has demonstrated a similar passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpacas.



Gayle has always been very passionate regarding her love of llamas. She devotes countless hours of her time caring for, rescuing, educating, showing and enjoying these animals with others. Her enthusiasm is endless and she always strives to help anyone who is in need.



Gayle was superintendent of the Estes Park Llama Show for 10 years, was actively involved in the Montana Llama Sanctuary rescue and

was a senior level ALSA llama judge for 12 years.

She has organized educational events and clinics. She was editor of both the RMLA Journal and the ALSA Showring. She continues to promote llamas and their well being whenever she can.

Gayle presently resides in the North Park area of Colorado, where she cares for a herd of 78 llamas. About half are llamas rescued from abuse and neglect situations.

Wound Care, continued

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- 15 sterile Telfa® pads, 3"x4" or 4"x4"
- 1 pair bandage scissors
- 2 liters sterile Saline Solution
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- 1 quart Povidone-Iodine Solution (Betadine® Solution)
- 1 quart Povidone-Iodine Scrub (Betadine® Scrub)
- 1 large tube triple antibiotic ointment (RC Callan, DVM)
- 1 jar Vaseline®



A Wonderful Christmas Gift!

F.E. Baxter, grandmother, volunteer

Southwest Llama Rescue, Inc an all volunteer, 501(c)3 organization - Mountain Home, TX



rescue takes a great deal of people-power, behind the scenes work and education. This story is no different from the many rescues handled by Southwest Llama Rescue, but it has a wonderful outcome.

Silvia (not her real name) was obviously distraught by her tone on the phone call early one September morning. After listening to her story, it was obvious that she cared for the llamas but was just overwhelmed with life events (health, finances, broken fences, etc.). Eleven of her 16 llamas were outside her property onto a neighboring ranch. The neighbor had called Animal Control. Animal Control had threatened Silvia with fines if she did not contain her animals. In the meantime, Silvia's husband, an aged veteran, was in poor health in a nursing home plus Silvia herself had health challenges. She mentioned more than once that dying would be easier. I told her I would check with Animal Control to see what could be done about the complaints and fines and help all I could.

A few days later, after driving to her location, I met

with us to help Silvia and the loose llamas. Our small animal control is always full to the brim with dogs



and cats. They did not have facilities for many large animals and once the llamas were caught they would not be able to keep them or find them homes. Animal Control agreed to set up panels to catch the llamas,

manage the catching process, and then turn the animals over to SWLR, provided Silvia would sign the necessary surrender papers.

We continually assured Silvia that SWLR would not auction the animals but instead would care for them and find homes for them. I let her know that if she would surrender the animals to Animal Control, she would not be fined, and animal control would turn them over to SWLR. We met Silvia with the necessary papers, delivered hay and supplements for the llamas that were still on her property, arranged for a vet to geld the intact males, found someone to help repair fences,

sent messages to her sons to let them know she needed help. Another volunteer set up a meeting for Silvia

continued on next page



with the local animal control officials. They needed confirmation that Southwest Llama Rescue (SWLR) was a legitimate rescue organization in order to work

A Wonderful Christmas Gift, continued

with a VA counselor to help her understand what services might be available to her through the VA process.

It took gathering a number of fellow volunteers and friends to make many visits to her property with 4 wheel drive vehicles. Animal Control set up pens to catch the 11 loose llamas, many of which were very pregnant. It took two months to corral them and bring them to my place, usually 3 at a time. The remaining males that Silvia had on her property were corralled with help from SWLR volunteers and transported by arrangement with a local exotic animal transporter with a high clearance trailer.

That was the adrenaline “rescue” part of the story. Then came more time and hard work and help from friends and fellow SWLR volunteers with computer skills and the ability to raise money and find homes for the surrendered llamas.

Transport and some feed were paid by previous SWLR donations. Friends and fellow volunteers donated what additional funds were needed to transport or feed the llamas as they arrived.

My property needed to be modified by rearranging some of the portable fencing and containment areas plus the purchase of additional



supplies of hay and supplements for compromised llamas and vet care. It took two years of caring for the very untrained llamas, watching/helping with births that occurred at NIGHT in the middle of winter, separating and gelding the males, and caring for the new born crias with winter coats and supplements.

SWLR volunteers were continuously finding homes for the adult llamas that were ready, plus caring for the llamas that remained in foster care. This included lots of feed, supplements, medications, vet visits, training, toenail trimming, shearing, and transporting (sometimes long distance) to their new homes. Pictures were taken, added to websites and Facebook pages plus appeals were made for foster homes, permanent homes, and donations.

More hours of dedicated energy and time and talent than I thought possible were given to this herd and the remaining llamas on Silvia’s property. Just this Christmas week, the remaining two llamas went to their new home to be guards for goats on a ranch.

Thanks to all of you who made this rescue possible with your time, talent, and donations. You saved not only the llamas, but gave comfort and aid to Silvia. What a wonderful gift at Christmas.



A Postscript From The Journal Staff

Again, thank you everyone! This issue was a challenge, a good kind, to put together. We had an abundance of content and had to wrestle with what to include for this issue. But rest assured, if your article does not appear in this issue, you will see it in the Summer issue. The deadline for the Summer issue is May 20th.

We encourage you to consider advertising your lama-related-life in your Journal. Sonja, our Advertising Manager, is waiting to hear from you!

Thank you, the Journal Staff.

Marilyn, Sonja,
JOURNAL
STAFF
Ron, Kathy,



EVENTS CALENDAR BY MARY WICKMAN (EVENTS CHAIR)

Check out the RMLA website event calendar for more details on each event.

- **March 21, 2015 Llamas and Friends in the Park, Wheat Ridge Green Belt, Golden, CO** - Enjoy your llamas in the outdoors. Contact Jerry Dunn, beartrak@q.com or 303-277-1129.
 - **April 11, 2015 ABC's of Llamas with Kids, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO** - Activity workshop for kids (7-14 years) who are curious to learn about llamas. Contact Jerry Dunn, beartrak@q.com or 303-277-1129.
 - **April 11 & 12, 2015 North American Ccara Association Llama Screening & Informational Workshops & MORE (Free), Sedalia, CO** - Contact www.CcaraLlama.com for more information about Ccara llamas. Contact Al Ellis 307 537-3310 or hilntrllamas@wyoming.com for more information about the event.
 - **April 23, 2015 Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Control Training workshop, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO** - Participants will learn how to safely handle camelids in emergency situations. Contact Jerry Dunn, beartrak@q.com or 303-277-1129.
 - **April 24 & 25, 2015 Black Hills Fiber Art Festival, Rapid City, SD** - **
 - **April 25, 2015 Stars and Stripes, Waco, NE** - This is an adult and youth llama show. You will also learn techniques to work with your animals. This is a really fun and relaxed show. Always a lot of youth competitors. Contact Jim and Geri Rutledge at buckshollow@wildblue.net or 402-366-9304.
 - **May 16 & 17, 2015 Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classics, Mesa County Fairgrounds, Grand Junction, CO** - Hosted & sponsored by Grand Mesa Llama & Alpaca Club – ALSA Sanctioned. Contact Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com or 970-640-8028.
 - **June 12, 13 & 14, 2015 25th Anniversary RMLA Event of the Estes Park Wool Market, Estes Park, CO** Saturday evening event. - Contact Geri Rutledge at buckshollow@wildblue.net or 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltailllamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223.
 - **June 13 & 14, 2015 Estes Park Wool Market RMLA Fiber Co-op and Llama Show, Estes Park, CO** – RMLA Fiber Co-op: ** Llama Show: Contact is Jill Knuckles talltailllamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223
 - **June 26 & 27, 2015 Llama Camp, Waco, NE** - Contact Jim and Geri Rutledge at buckshollow@wildblue.net or 402-366-9304. This will be a full two days of craft projects, fiber arts, safety, showmanship, training games, and education. See articles in past RMLA Journals to see all the fun and education that happens at this annual event.
 - **July 24, 25 & 26, 2015 Fairplay Llama Race, Fairplay, CO** - Three llama races (Pack, Lama Rama & Public) plus the llama lunacy course for children. General public can borrow a llama for the race. Camp with the llamas in the national forest before and after the race. Contact Gary Carlton at llama@jhmfarm.com.
 - **July 25 & 26, 2015 Burro Days Craft Fair, Fairplay, CO** - **
 - **September 12 & 13, 2015 Salida Fiber Festival, Salida, CO** - **
 - **September 26 & 27, 2015 Sneffels Fiber Festival, Ridgeway, CO** **
 - **October 3 & 4, 2015 Taos Wool Festival, Taos, NM** - **
 - **October 10 & 11, 2015 Palisade Quilt & Fiber Festival, Palisade, CO** -**
- **Contact the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com or 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltailllamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223.