

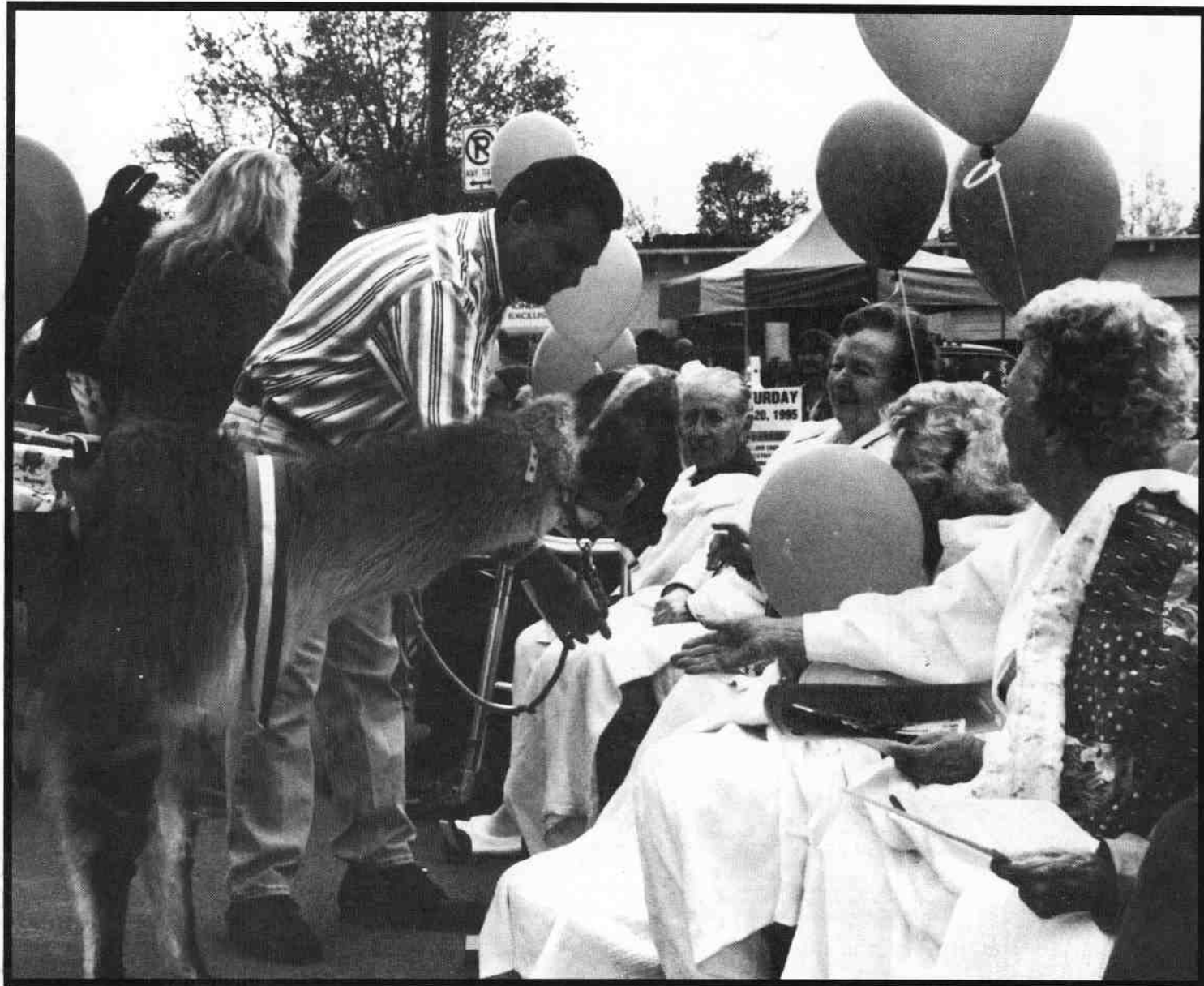
1995

RMLA



August

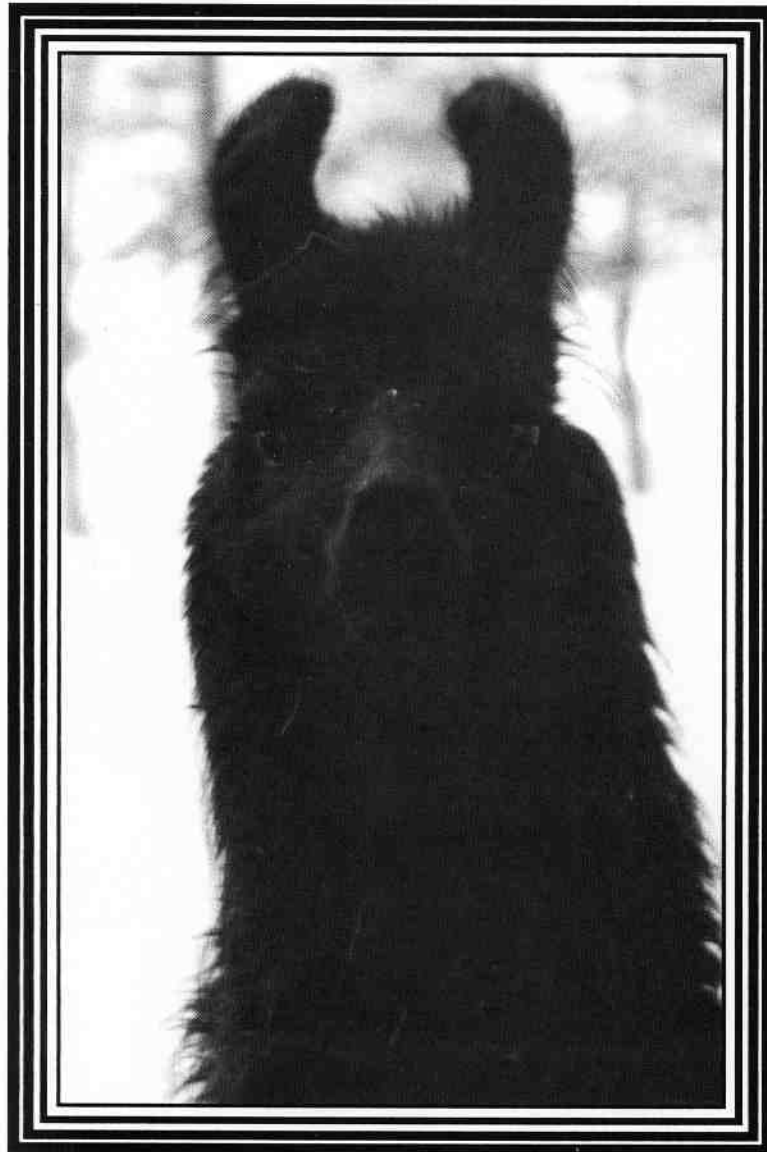
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### Caring for Llamas & 4-H

Dee Goodman  
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## Deadlines for the Newsletter

November Issue ..... October 1st

February Issue ..... January 1st

May Issue ..... April 1st

August Issue ..... July 1st

## Membership Information

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

**Adult Individual Membership: \$30.00** (One vote, newsletter, directory entry)

**Farm or Ranch Membership: \$50.00** (Couple or two individuals associated with one business; two votes, newsletter, directory entry)

**Junior Membership: \$10.00** (18 or under; no vote, receives newsletter and 75% reduction in conference/show fees; must have adult member sponsor.)

*For further information, please contact Judy Sealy*

**RMLA also provides an extensive lending library of books and videos to members.**

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*The information contained in this Newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Our readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant, or attorney with any questions concerning their animals or business operations. RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from a reader's failure to heed this caution.*

# Calendar of Events

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## **August 4 - 6: Llamafest at Fiberfest; Kalamazoo, Michigan**

The fifth annual LLAMAFEST includes workshops, demonstrations, shows and sales related to llamas and alpacas. The twelfth annual FIBERFEST (August 2 - 6) includes workshops, displays, shows and sales of most fiber animals. Contact Dar Snyder, 616-668-3089 or Leah Bird, 616-657-6379.

## **August 8: Boulder County ALSA Youth Show; Longmont, Colorado**

RMLA Sponsored Event: Boulder County Youth Show. Contact Mary Beth Hartsough, 303-785-2463.

## **August 11: DCF Summer Classic ALSA Youth Show; Castle Rock, Colorado**

RMLA Sponsored Event: Call Marie Hinds, 303-841-4889, or Lougene Baird, 303-866-1887, for registration material. See article on page 23.

## **August 19: Colorado State Fair ALSA Youth Show; Pueblo, Colorado**

RMLA Sponsored Event: Contact Chris Brown, 719-784-3220.

## **August 26: Nebraska State Fair Llama Show; Lincoln, Nebraska**

ALSA Approved Llama Show with Hank Kauffman as Judge. Registration is August 25th. For more information, call Harold Roper, 402-466-3997.

## **September 22 & 23: NM State Fair ALSA Llama & Alpaca Show; Albuquerque, NM**

RMLA Sponsored Event: Contact Edwina Barela, 505-265-1791. See article on page 23.

## **September 30 & October 1: RMLA Mini-Education Seminar; Taos, New Mexico**

The fabulous Wool Festival is held every year and we are adding the Seminar for this year. See article on page 7 and the insert by page 23. For more information, contact Lougene Baird, 303-688-1887.

## **September 30 & October 1: ALSA Western Regional Championship Show; Boise, ID**

The first Annual ALSA Western Championship Show in Boise, ID. See article on page 16.

## **October 14-15: Firecracker Fall Edition '95; Reno, Nevada**

Reno Livestock Events Center. 1995 Breeder's Futurity Show and Sale. Fall Classic Sale. For more information, please contact Dick or Pat Wickum, Firecracker, Inc., 21325 Finn Road, Sheridan OR 97378, 503-843-2765. FAX 503-843-3030. FIRECRACKER OFFICE: 800-876-8816.

## **October 20-22: The Northern Rockies Llama Classic; Bozeman, Montana**

Come to the Premium Llama Sale in the Rockies, at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, sponsored by Frontier Airlines. This long awaited auction offers an outstanding array of bred, weanling and yearling females as well as performance, trained, pack, and breeding quality males. For information about the sale and other related events, contact Jonathan Blacher, 5255 Jackson Creek Road, Bozeman, MT 59715.

## **October 21: RMLA Annual Business Meeting; Castle Rock, Colorado**

Come and enjoy discussions about the future of your organization. The meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn, 200 West Wolfensberger Road, Castle Rock, Colorado. 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

## **October 3-6: RMLA CONFERENCE '96; Longmont, Colorado**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Return to beautiful Longmont, Colorado. Enjoy a beautiful Autumn weekend at the foot of the Colorado Rockies (baseball not included!) and return to what hopefully will be the best RMLA Conference ever! See article on page 7.



# President's Message

by Reid Langerman

I would like to start off this letter by thanking all the RMLA members who have worked so hard this spring and summer organizing and running all the wonderful special lama events that RMLA was asked to sponsor. I was able to attend the Intermountain Llama Classic/RMLA Rendezvous, and the Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show. Both of these events were, despite the threat of bad weather, very well attended and were a tremendous success. At both of these events there were a large number of new llama owners and it is great to see the llama industry expanding. I would like to see many of these new owners organize similar events in their local areas. There is a need for much more public awareness about how wonderful our lamas are, and these events are the very best way to expose the public to our animals, while joining the local lama communities in a fun way. RMLA would be more than happy to sponsor many more events. It does not cost RMLA any more if we sponsor 10 events or 50. So, if you are thinking about putting on a lama event contact Bill Redwood, the Events Chair, for details.

About the Estes Park Wool Market.....this years event was probably the largest showing of lamas in the country. I do not have the exact figures, but there were approximately 320 llamas and about 150 alpacas. For a show of this size to run smoothly is a miracle, and a great deal of thanks needs to go out to Jo Riley, Lougene Baird, Phil Switzer, and a small army of other volunteers that gave their all to make this the premier lama gathering in the country.

At one of the last Board meetings the issue was brought up that we as a Board need to establish a five year plan for the direction of RMLA. I would like to share some of our ideas with the members and hopefully receive some comments on these thoughts.

We need to get out and sell RMLA. When RMLA started it was a small, personable organization. As the industry has grown over the years, so has RMLA.

## Camp Quality

By Judy Sealy • Grand Valley Llamas • Grand Junction, Colorado • 970-241-7921

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Charlie & Sandy Hackbarth, Sheri Popish and her sister Bobbie, Bob & Linda VanDoozer, Jane, John & Lisa Stout, Rhonda Perich, her daughter Megan and mom, Shirley and Danielle Berg for another successful day at Cedaredge. Four of the last five summers, RMLA llama owners

There are many members who would like RMLA to stay small and personable, but with a growing industry we see that in order to provide the lama owners with the benefits that this organization was founded on, we must also grow. RMLA has been a leader and must remain so. As our organization grows we need to place a lot of emphasis on getting members in specific regional areas to get together with other RMLA members to carry on the more personable aspect of RMLA. As one of our founding members said, "Go forward, we cannot sell lamas and stay small."

We also need to establish better communications between RMLA and all other lama organizations. This is essential so that duplication of projects is minimized. This will lead to more productivity.

We need to emphasize marketing. If we do not put our all into establishing a market for our animals, we will be faced with no buyers and our industry will not grow.

These are just a few of the Board's recommendations. If any of you have any other suggestions please let us know.

I want to remind everyone about the RMLA lending library. This is one of our greatest assets. Sharon Herbold is doing a wonderful job caring for it, but she does need your help. Lougene mentioned that she had visited Sharon and that the library shelves did not look very full. Sharon pointed out that it was because so much of the material was checked out. This is great that the library is being used that well. Please, if you check anything out of the library . . . return it promptly. There is probably a waiting list for it.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the business meeting October 21, 1995, at Comfort Inn in Castle Rock, Colorado. I hope all of you are having a great summer and enjoying your lamas to their fullest.

See you down the trail,  
Reid



# Outbreak of Vesicular Stomatitis Reported

by Ron Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, CO • 303-688-5445

In early June, 1995, an outbreak of *viral vesicular stomatitis* was reported in New Mexico. This outbreak has been confirmed in the Las Cruces, Silver City, and southern Albuquerque areas. Cattle are the prime affected species at this early stage. It appears the outbreak was first noticed only three or four days previous to Monday, the 5th. USDA set-up a field office set-up in the Las Cruces area and is monitoring the progress of the outbreaks.

The State of New Mexico has quarantined the affected area and canceled shows for animals. On June 19, when this article was being written, some 300 suspected cases in animals were being investigated and some cases in humans were also being evaluated. At this stage, the cattle industry is more affected than others, with ranchers unable to move cattle into Arizona from New Mexico, for example.

## Transmittal of disease:

Three principal methods of transmittal appear likely: insect vectors, mechanical transmission, and movement of animals from one location to another. Vesicular stomatitis likely is transmitted by any biting insect vector. With air currents particularly strong in the West, rapid spread of the disease must be considered a possibility as insects can be carried hundreds of miles a day by the winds. Therefore, cleanliness around animals, particularly dung piles, is of utmost importance in keeping down attractive lures to biting insects. Mechanical transmission would be characterized as follows: once introduced into a herd, the disease apparently moves from animal to animal by contact or exposure to saliva or fluid from ruptured lesions.

## Disease symptoms

The disease is characterized by lesions around any mucous membrane area of an animal: mouth, nose, hooves, anus, teats. Infection of the latter area is probably what causes the most extensive economic damage: mastitis in dairy cows and loss of milk production. The lesions, in their early stages, may appear as pus pockets or pimples and, if left untreated, form ulcerations on the mucous membrane surfaces. Slobbering, lameness, weight loss, or "blisters" are other visual indicators of this disease. The initial blister-like lesions swell, then break, causing painful raw tissue to be exposed. The pain usually causes animals to refuse to eat or drink, resulting in severe weight loss and, in dairy cows, a severe drop in milk production.

The death rate for vesicular stomatitis varies considerably within species. APHIS reports 5% to 10% of affected herds generally show clinical signs of the disease. Up to 80% of dairy cattle herds have become affected by vesicular stomatitis. If no secondary infections occur, then affected animals recover in about two weeks. The disease does not, according to APHIS, cause death.

## Lamas and vesicular stomatitis:

I contacted Dr. Donald Mattson at Oregon State University and discussed this with him. This leading lama virologist has had no experience with VVS and could find no literature concerning the subject during a computer search he undertook during our conversation. He said the disease is considered a reportable event in some states, not in others. We agreed to remain in contact about the situation. Dr. Mattson opined that lamas can be tested by blood serology to see if they have developed an immunity to VVS or been exposed to it. He also opined that VVS is not a life-threatening disease and should be clearable with treatment.

I have spoken with Dr. Dwayne Bolander, the State veterinarian in Colorado. He said he doesn't know if llamas are as susceptible as horses or cows (goats, pigs, and wildlife can contract VVS also). He emphasized the importance of insect control in preventing or minimizing exposure to VVS.

Apparently, Colorado State University had an outbreak of vesicular stomatitis in a cattle herd under its control. Llamas were present in the cattle herd and experienced no symptoms. This information was conveyed by Dr. LaRue Johnson of CSU.

## Potential concerns to lama owners:

Of concern to all lama owners is the possible misdiagnosis of viral vesicular stomatitis. Its symptoms appear to the uneducated eye similar to foot and mouth disease. Owners should be acutely aware of this possibility of misdiagnosis and address it as an item of concern. The clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis are also similar to those of swine vesicular disease, another foreign animal disease. The only way to tell these diseases apart is through laboratory testing.

Humans can contract vesicular stomatitis through improper sanitary methods when handling

Continued on page 31

## RMLA Education Seminar

### at the Taos Wool Festival

The Taos Wool Festival, which takes place this year the last weekend in September (Sept. 30 and Oct. 1), is well known among spinners, weavers and fiber enthusiasts as a premiere event. Now RMLA is included and will be offering information on llamas and alpacas and their fiber. Long time RMLA members, Chris and Phil Switzer, have featured alpacas at this wool festival for several years. The Wool Festival itself is free and open to the public. RMLA and New Mexico Llama Lovers will be offering free demonstrations on llama fiber related skills: shearing, carding, spinning and felting on Sunday, October 30. Other uses of llamas will also be demonstrated: general information about llamas and alpacas, packing llamas, and cart driving on Saturday and Sunday.

The Wool Festival has a Fashion Show on Saturday and Sunday from noon until 1:30 PM. Plan to bring your creations to share. To participate in the Fashion Show, sign up Saturday before 9:00 AM. The only cost for the fashion show is your labor of love in your creation.

Special workshops for the RMLA EDUCATION SEMINAR will be at the home of Kristina Wilson. Space is limited so sign up NOW. Registration is due by Friday, August 25. The following is a list of the events being offered.

1. Linda McNamara will give a four hour clinic on llama fiber. The cost is \$45 and includes a folder of handouts and your lunch.

2. Mary Summers will demonstrate grooming and offer hands-on practice with llamas. The cost is \$8 and includes a pint of Miracle Groom.
3. ALSA Alpaca and Llama Show Clinic with Jodi Sleeper, Instructor. Clinic will start at 9:00 a.m. at a conference site in Taos. Will break for lunch and conclude at Kristina Wilson's house from 1:00 to 2:00 for practice. Deadline for registration is September 15. Application is on the insert in the middle of the Newsletter. Cost is \$30.00 for ALSA members and \$60.00 for non-members which includes a membership and ALSA Handbook for 1995.
4. Llama Handling practice opportunity. Cost is \$5.
5. "Take a Hike With A Llama." No cost. Hike from 1/2 to 4 hours.

There will be a tour of the Taos Wool Mill at 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. *Other great reasons to be in Taos this weekend are:* Taos Art Festival, Feast Day at Taos Pueblo and an Arts and Craft Fair.

This should give you a clue? Since there are so many events going on in Taos this last weekend in September . . . reserve your accommodations immediately. For lodging information call 800-821-2437 or 800-776-1111.

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## Letter to the Editors:

Dear Editors:

It was with interest that I noted the change in contributing authors in your March Newsletter. I have always been impressed by the fact that all of your authors were RMLA members, but now you seemed to have reached out beyond that circle for new information.

I believe that, while always striving for input from the ranks of the RMLA membership, there are times when it is important to seek input from the outside in order to more fully inform your readers. It seems you have done this with great success in your March Newsletter, and I applaud you for your efforts. That you have sought information and input from outside the membership of the RMLA shows you have insight and concern for providing the most knowledgeable and

current information about llamas and alpacas to your readers. It seems that sometimes in the effort to obtain articles and information from within the ranks of the RMLA membership, it is easy to overlook that one of the most important aspects of your publication is keeping the members of the RMLA as informed as possible.

I am certain that, under your leadership as Editors of this Newsletter, the members of the RMLA can look forward to further expanding their horizons and their knowledge about llamas and alpacas. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Long, RMLA member  
Silver Creek Cockatoos, Park City, Utah

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## The Moral of the Story is:

# Don't Give Up on That Llama

By: Julie Messick • Lla Mariposa Llamas • Monte Vista, CO • 719-852-4852

Now that the Estes Park Wool Market Show has come to a close for another year, and we're all unpacking our down jackets, coffee mugs, shorts, sunscreen, and everything else we needed that weekend, I thought I would share with you a success story that may relate to an animal you own. My llama, Boone, received the Novice Performance Grand Champion award, much to my amazement.

I have had Boone about a year and a half now and when I got him he was basically a 6-year-old, 400 lb. mass of quivering Jello. I am the 4th owner that Boone has had. Other than the training received from his breeder, he really wasn't handled much by the successive owners. At his last home, he and El Guapo were attacked by dogs a number of times. The dogs killed a 6 month old sibling of theirs, and chased Boone and Guapo over the fence. I got a call at midnight one night that Boone, Guapo and another llama had been attacked again and were running loose around the countryside. I hooked up my trailer, loaded one of my llamas in hopes of luring these guys into the trailer, and drove around in the dark with the owners (an elderly couple) and the sheriff. The next morning they finally had to fly around the countryside in a plane to spot the 3 llamas. I went back out with my decoy llama, and once we had them loaded in my trailer, the owner said, "Take'em- I can't handle'em, just take them". I told him he would probably change his mind after he got some sleep, so I would just board them for a few days. He didn't change his mind, so I wrote him a check, and brought my new llamas home, wondering why I get myself into these things.

At the sight of our farm dogs, Boone and Guapo froze and started shaking until I thought they would fall over, and Picarro, the third llama, jumped the 5 foot solid board fence and headed down the road. I REALLY wondered why I got myself into these things! My catch pen has solid wooden sides, but I had to be really careful trying to halter these guys, because they would clear the walls every time if I didn't move really slowly.

I think what kept me going was the fact that, once I had them haltered and took them for a walk over my obstacle course (with our dogs tied up out of sight), they were willing, just extremely nervous and jumpy. I would much rather train a llama like that, than one who is calmer, but balks at everything.

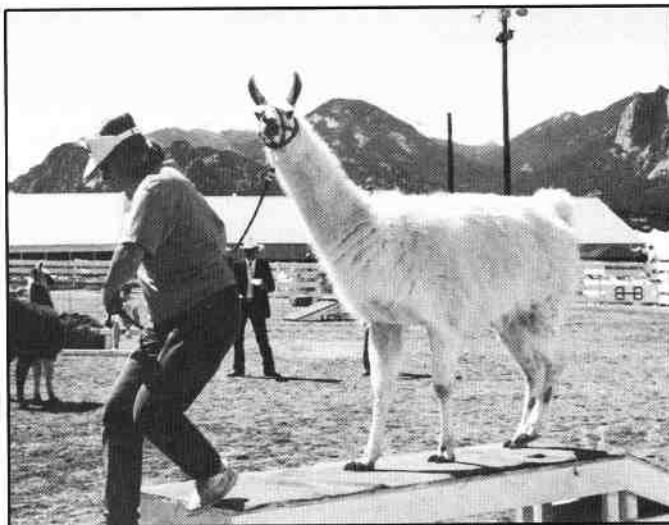
Since Boone is much bigger, stronger, and more nervous than Guapo, I handled him, and let my kids work with Guapo. Both llamas went on pack trips last

summer, but Boone had the most difficult time learning the routine. He leapt over streams (a big no-no with me), laid down, spooked at birds, etc. I usually don't like to string a llama like that with another one (I'd rather lead him, so I can control him better), but Boone seemed to do better strung behind Guapo than with a person leading him, so we did that. Its a good thing Guapo had his chest strap on; otherwise his saddle would have been peeled off backwards with all the jumping around Boone did back there.

In between trips to the mountains, there were sessions in the catch pen. I continue to handle Boone in a gentle, consistent manner. Gradually he has made improvements. I can now walk up, ask him to stand, and slip a halter on. He'll stand quietly for saddling. And when I took the llamas camping this spring and strung them together, I didn't hear myself muttering, (in a loving way, of course) "Boone, you meathead, settle down and pay attention," nearly as much as I used to.

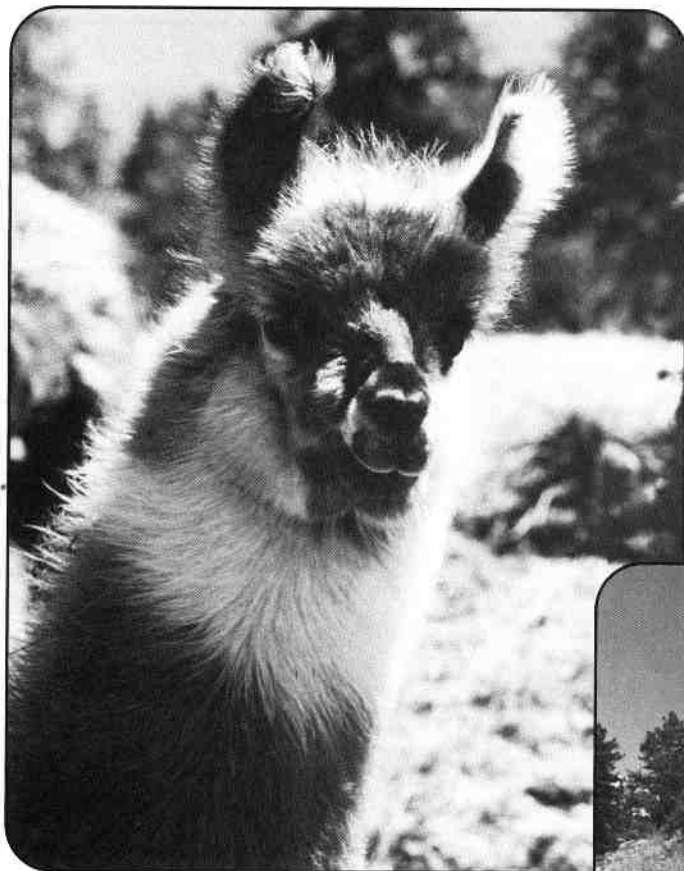
I was really pleased with how well Boone performed at Estes Park. But when we walked past the arena where the sheep dogs were doing a demo and slinking around, he threw his head up and started shaking again, but he didn't bolt. I realized that basic fear and bad memories are still there, but he now trusts me enough to work around it.

The moral of the story is: don't give up on your problem llamas. Keep slowly and gently building their trust in you, and they will reward you down the road. Llamas are incredible animals, if we just take the time to let the relationship develop.



Julie with Boone



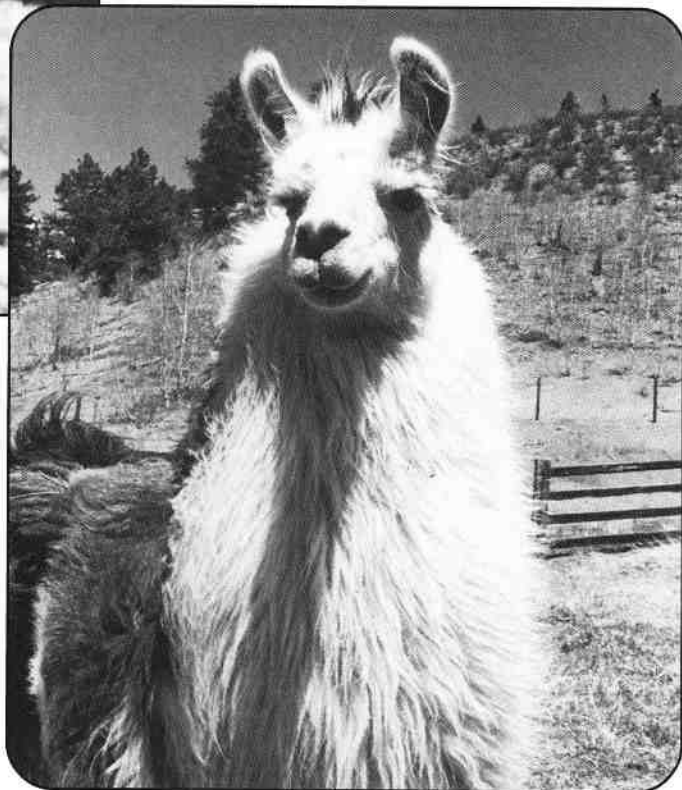


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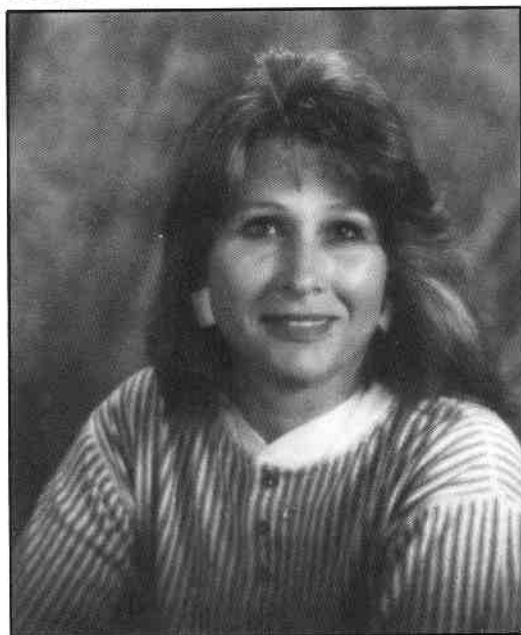
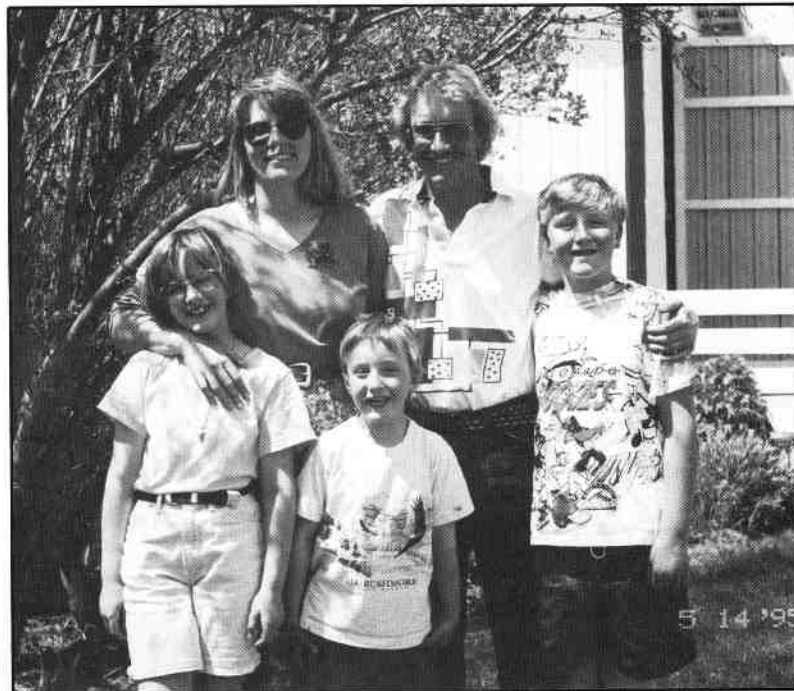


# RMLA Board Nomination: Secretary

by Julie Messick

Thank you for nominating me for the position of RMLA Secretary. This is a wonderful organization, and I will be proud to serve it. I feel RMLA is special because of its sponsored events, library, and the "family" feeling among the membership, and I will work hard to maintain those attributes.

My husband, Doug, and I live near Monte Vista, CO, and have 3 kids, 23 llamas, & 7 Angora goats. My main interest with llamas is raising and training packers, spinning and weaving the fiber. My kids and I enjoy participating in shows and demonstrating how versatile llamas are. I do the bookkeeping and secretarial work for a commercial guiding & outfitting business, as well as several other small businesses.



## President-Elect

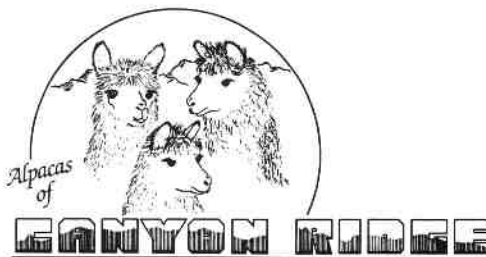
by Linda Kyriopoulos

My husband, Steve, and I have been involved with llamas since 1988. We maintain a herd of 30-40 llamas, breeding superb pack animals and having a lot of fun! We created the first llama 4-H club in Utah, and the Intermountain Llama Classic. We take the critters to schools, and donate llama books to their libraries. I'm always looking for creative marketing ideas. Presently, I am the Chairman of the RMLA Marketing Committee and the Secretary of the Utah Llama Association. Although prices have declined, I believe the market is growing. The RMLA is a strong organization dedicated to many causes, including preserving our "llama future." As President-Elect, I would like to help insure that we have a bright future.



**Harold & Sharon Herbold  
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# Candidacy for Vice President of RMLA

by Bob Riley

My wife, Jo, and I have owned llamas for 5 years. We live on 57 acres in the mountains 20 miles from Boulder, Colorado. Currently, we have 40 llamas and more on the way. Llamas have changed our lives forever and we are always eager to share our love of llamas with others. Llamas have allowed me to expand my love of hiking to longer hikes into the mountains. By the time you read this, I will have started hiking the Continental Divide Trail in Montana.

What I hope to bring to the RMLA Board is a willingness to work with fellow RMLA members and its Board to bring out the best in our organization. My background, from the first job held while still in college, has involved formulating business plans, then working as a team player to achieve those goals.

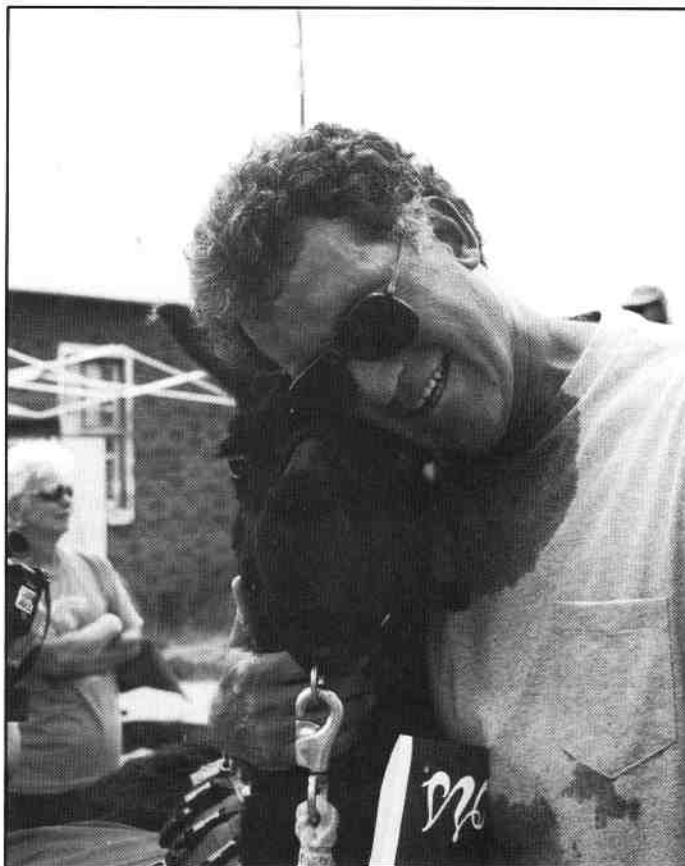
While on the Board of RMLA, I hope to play a part in creating a long-term plan of action. The direction I see for RMLA is to continue to do what we do best . . . events with people interacting with llamas. Our longer term goal should be to create more events and encourage more of our members to participate. In addition, I feel the general public, who may not at this time own a llama, should be invited to our events in the hopes that they, too, will be bitten by the llama love-

bug as so many of us have been.

My strengths do not flow from knowing all the answers to the challenges that may face our llama community in the coming years. But, I am open to new and fresh approaches to problems, have a willingness to listen to all points of view and hopefully, the good sense to recognize a good idea when I hear it. What this means to you is that as a Board member of RMLA, I need to hear your thoughts about where you think our organization should be going and you need to tell me what the really important issues are to you.

The challenge I see facing RMLA and it's members involves marketing of our llamas, deciding the unification of the llama/alpaca industry, and governmental restrictions, i.e., banning of llamas in the Canyonlands. Finding new uses for our llamas, like sheep guarding and creating a viable fiber industry, should be on our list of priorities.

I encourage each of our members to become involved in our wonderful organization, talk to the Board members, write articles for the Newsletter, volunteer to help with the events, and participate in all the RMLA activities.



WALK the wilderness and  
LLAMAS carry the load



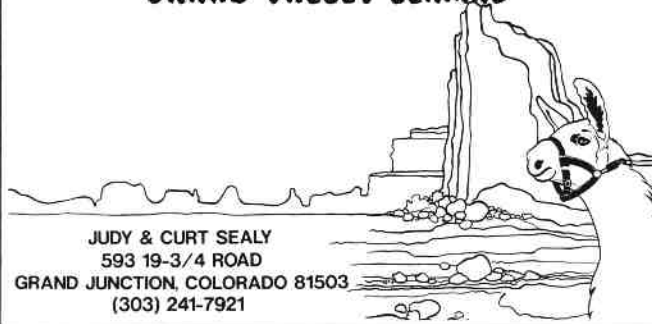
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(303) 241-7921

# Planning Your Alpaca Facility

by Antoinette Brewster • Lanark Llamas & Alpacas • Charlottesville, VA • 804-293-2887

Once you've gone through the selection process and decided to purchase alpacas, it's time to proceed to the next step of your strategy. The most important step is to determine how many alpacas you're going to purchase. This decision is crucial, so put plenty of thought into it. Then, when you think you know just how many animals you're going to buy, plan for at least half again that number. We started out with seven alpacas in 1989, and although our original concept was for 30 animals, we now have over 60 and are still increasing. Build to accommodate growth, and it will be infinitely more cost efficient than starting out with a barn that becomes too small as the herd increases. The alpaca industry is going to get bigger and better with each passing year, and you want to be prepared to grow right along with it.

## Organizing Your Space

In making plans for your barn, there are several factors to take into consideration. However, the climate in your area plays a significant role in designing your barn. In one region, there could be excessive heat or humidity to contend with, and in another, the winter may be very cold. One useful rule is to put the back of the barn against the direction where storms begin so the animals are protected from the winds that often accompany a storm. Another is to create a barn that has total cross ventilation that will help alleviate the summer heat. If you work with these factors in mind during the initial stages of construction, your animals will be more comfortable from the start.

During the summer months in particular, a steady flow of air must move through the building. I highly recommend sliding doors as the most effective way to control the ventilation. Our alpaca barn has three sides with sliding doors that open up. They can be pushed all the way open or just a little bit if the draft proves to be too much. We create complete cross ventilation by opening all our sliding doors and the tops of our split-stall doors. These doors, which are used widely in horse stalls, are great because you can open the top door to catch a breeze, but the animal can't go anywhere. I also recommend a two-story barn with high eaves. This not only produces a better air flow, but allows plenty of space for hay or wool storage.

In addition to your built-in accommodations for ventilation, there should be a series of industrial strength ventilating fans to help keep the air moving.

You probably won't find them in your local hardware store, for they are commercial fans for barn use. Decide where they will be most useful in maintaining a consistent air flow and create a place for the fans to be mounted. Be sure and put electrical outlets close to those locations, keeping in mind that you can never have too many outlets in the barn. Suction fans are also needed to pull the warm air out and leave room for those nice, cool breezes.

Air flow is not the only motion that requires consideration. The manner in which animals and people move through the barn space must be looked at as well. You should be able to get in and out of the barn without having to wade through a sea of animals. It's handy to have gate panels that can expand or reduce your space and create temporary pens to accommodate more animals if an entire paddock full of alpacas has to come into the barn. There should also be an indoor work space that is allocated for shearing, washing, grooming and general medical care, such as toenail clipping.

When people come through the barn, they want to touch the animals. Are the stalls accessible to visitors who want to have a complete hands-on alpaca experience? People need room to walk between the stalls without encountering hay bales or other farm paraphernalia, so wide walkways are needed. An ideal barn is spacious, and feels comfortable to visitors and potential buyers.

People and alpacas are not the only things to come through your barn. Passageways should be wide enough to handle farm machinery. Allow for plenty of room to maneuver equipment, such as trucks and tractors when they bring hay, deliver animals and such. In my estimation, the best machinery investment you can make is a fourwheeler. I personally use it for everything from carrying hay to cleaning and clearing the pastures.

Although you may not purchase a lot of machinery, fields must be fertilized and cut by someone, and their machines will be driven through your barns and paddocks. Allow for these considerations in the early stages of construction and you'll save yourself future headaches and possible costly reconstruction. In planning the machinery entrances, be sure to have at least two driveways that lead to the barn with plenty of room to turn around an extra-long animal trailer. The driveway at Lanark accommodates our 24-foot trailer.

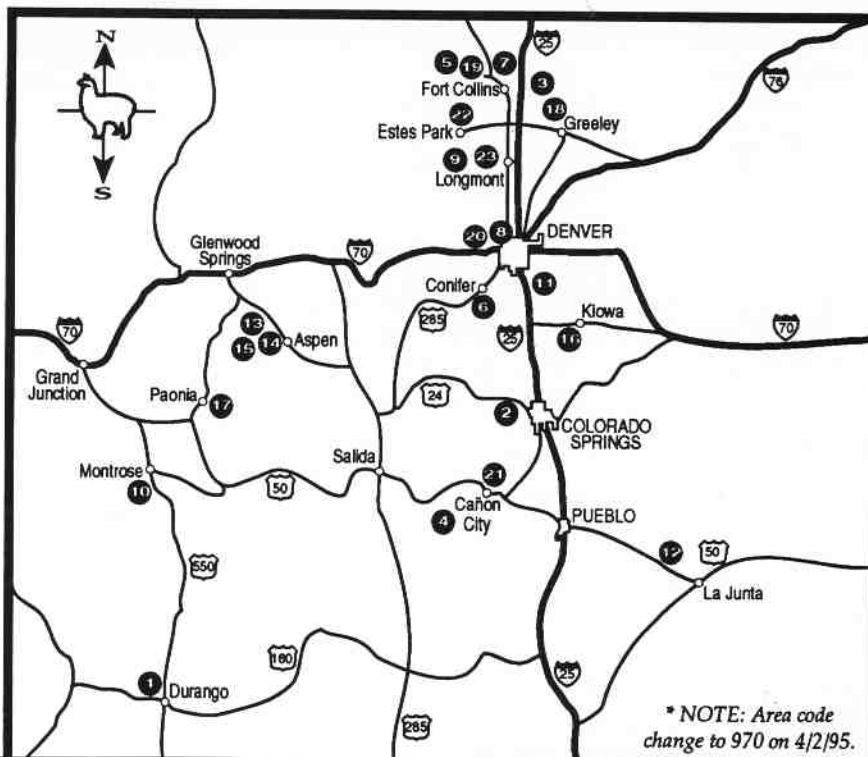
*Continued on page 44*



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\* NOTE: Area code change to 970 on 4/2/95.

# My Favorite Hike with a Llama

by Stephen Long - Silver Creek Cockatoos, Park City, Utah - 801-647-3671

Distance: ..... Amethyst Lake, 7 miles

Starting Point: ..... Christmas Meadows Campground

Elevation: ..... 8,800 feet at Christmas Meadows  
10,000 feet at Amethyst Lake

Time Required: ..... One day each way

Season: ..... Mid-June through September

Difficulty: ..... Moderate for hikers & llamas

Special Features: ..... Abundant wildlife, excellent  
fishing, easy trailer access,  
..... excellent grazing for llamas

Topographic maps: ..... Christmas Meadows  
7.5 minute quad

One of the advantages of living in Utah is the close proximity of many excellent areas for hiking. One of the best areas is in the Uinta Mountains. The Uintas, located about fifty miles east of Salt Lake City, offer many opportunities for hiking within the Wasatch National Forest and the High Uintas Primitive Area.

I have found one trail to be particularly enjoyable. This is the Stillwater Drainage Trail leading up to Amethyst Basin, located on the northwestern side of the Uintas. This trail offers outstanding mountain scenery, abundant fishing opportunities, and the opportunity for seeing much of Utah's wildlife, including deer, moose, and a large assortment of birdlife. The trail to Amethyst Basin is depicted on the USGS Christmas Meadows 7.5 minute Topographic map.

To find the trailhead, travel about fifteen miles north of Mirror Lake on State Highway 150, or about thirty three miles south of Evanston, Wyoming, if you are coming from the north. Turn east on the Christmas Meadows access road, and follow this road about four and one half miles to the campground and trailhead. There is ample parking and a turn-around for trailers at the trail head.

Here the trail begins at 8,800 feet, and is fairly level for about the first two and one half miles. You will be hiking along the Stillwater River as it winds its way through several meadows. Keep a close watch along the edge of the trees and you might see some of the many moose that inhabit this area. My llamas always seem to see the moose first, so I watch them as well. This section of the trail passes through several marshy areas where "corduroy" trails and bridges have been constructed. This helps to protect the fragile meadow environment, but can also be a challenge to llamas who have never encountered this type of obstacle before. There are also several stream crossings, with many muddy areas which can be interesting if your llama doesn't like soft or muddy ground.

At the two and one half mile point, the Amethyst Basin trail branches off to the left, and begins a steep climb up Ostler Fork. This is the only real strenuous part of this trail. The trail gains approximately 1000 feet over the next mile, and then begins leveling out as you continue toward Amethyst Lake. Again, you will pass through stands of pine, interspersed with alpine meadows, many of which show signs of habitation by deer and moose.

After about seven miles of hiking, you will arrive at Amethyst Lake, which is set in a high alpine cirque, with rocky slopes surrounding the lake on two sides. There are many places to camp nearby, with several open meadows available for grazing your llamas. I prefer camping near the stream which flows out of Amethyst Lake, as it allows for more privacy at camp, and reduces impact on the campsites nearer to the lake, which already experience heavy use on the weekends. You might find that some of the meadows are somewhat marshy, especially following the wet spring and early summer we have experienced in Utah this year. However, there are still many places to picket your llamas where they should find ample opportunities for grazing. Don't forget your fishing gear, as this lake is full of trout, and the fishing is excellent throughout the summer.

Overall, the Stillwater Drainage offers many opportunities for a variety of hiking experiences. Setting a base camp at Christmas Meadows Campground and day hiking the various trails could keep you busy for several hikes and would be another way of enjoying this area. While I have never taken llamas up the other branches, I have hiked them and have found the trails to be of easy to moderate difficulty for people. If you have any questions concerning this area, the Rangers of the Evanston Ranger District are very helpful (801-642-6662), especially since they use llamas as pack stock themselves!





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# ALSA Regional Championship Shows

The first two ALSA Eastern Regional Championship Shows have been well received and very successful. Last year's show had over 200 entries from 16 states representing 13 qualifying shows. The ALSA Regional Show Committee and Board of Directors have expanded the Regional Championship Show program to include the entire country.

The third annual ALSA Eastern Regional Championship Show is scheduled for November 18-19, 1995 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus, Ohio. All ALSA shows east of the Mississippi River are qualifiers for the Eastern Regional Championship Show. The show is hosted by the Ohio River Valley Llama Association and the Superintendents are Jack and Donna Moore. They can be reached at 614-743-1092 for more information.

The first ALSA Western Regional Championship Show is scheduled for Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 1995 in Boise, Idaho. Two RMLA sponsored Llama Shows, the Intermountain Llama Classic and the New Mexico State Fair, will always be qualifiers for the Western Regional. The one exception is the 1995 National Western Stock Show that was held in Denver, Colorado. Just for this year, all qualifiers from that show will attend the Western Regional Championship Show in Boise. If there is an ALSA show next year at the Stock Show, the qualifiers from that Show in 1996 will be invited to the Central Regional Show in Oklahoma in March. The Western Regional is hosted by the Western Idaho Llama Association and Carroll Burtzoff, 208-884-0408, is the Superintendent. All 1995 ALSA shows west of a line formed by the eastern borders of Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and Montana are qualifiers for the Western Regional Championship Show.

The Central Region, which includes all the ALSA shows west of the Mississippi River and east of a line formed by the eastern borders of Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana, will hold the first ALSA Central Regional Championship Show on March 23-24, 1996 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show, the Boulder County Fair Youth Show, the Colorado State Fair Llama Show, and the Douglas County Llama Classic Youth Show are all qualifiers for the Central Regional. (See the map on page 17 for location of all qualifying shows for each Regional Show.) This Championship Show will replace what was the Southern Shootout. The show will be hosted by the Oklahoma Llama Association with Carol Ann Tallmon and Bob and Monte Houseman, 405-341-8509 as Superintendents. All ALSA

shows from April 1, 1995 to March 22, 1996 in the Central Region will be qualifiers for the March, 1996 Championship Show.

## **To qualify for entry in a regional Championship Show a llama must have been named:**

1. ALSA Grand or Reserve Champion at any ALSA show in the respective region with at least 8 entries in the division.
2. First place in an approved class of at least 3 entries.
3. Second place in an approved class of at least 8 entries.
4. Third place in an approved class of at least 12 entries.

## **Youth can qualify in the Youth Division of any regional qualifying show by placing:**

1. First in an approved youth class with at least 3 entries.
2. Second in an approved youth class with at least 6 entries.
3. Third in an approved youth class with at least 9 entries.

There must be a minimum of 8 entries in the ALSA approved Youth Division for the Youth Show to be a qualifier for a regional championship show. In the Youth Division the youth qualifies where in the Open Division discussed above, the animal must qualify.

Each qualifying llama or youth will receive an invitation from the ALSA office to participate in their respective ALSA Regional Championship Show. One must be an ALSA member to show in an ALSA Regional Championship Show.

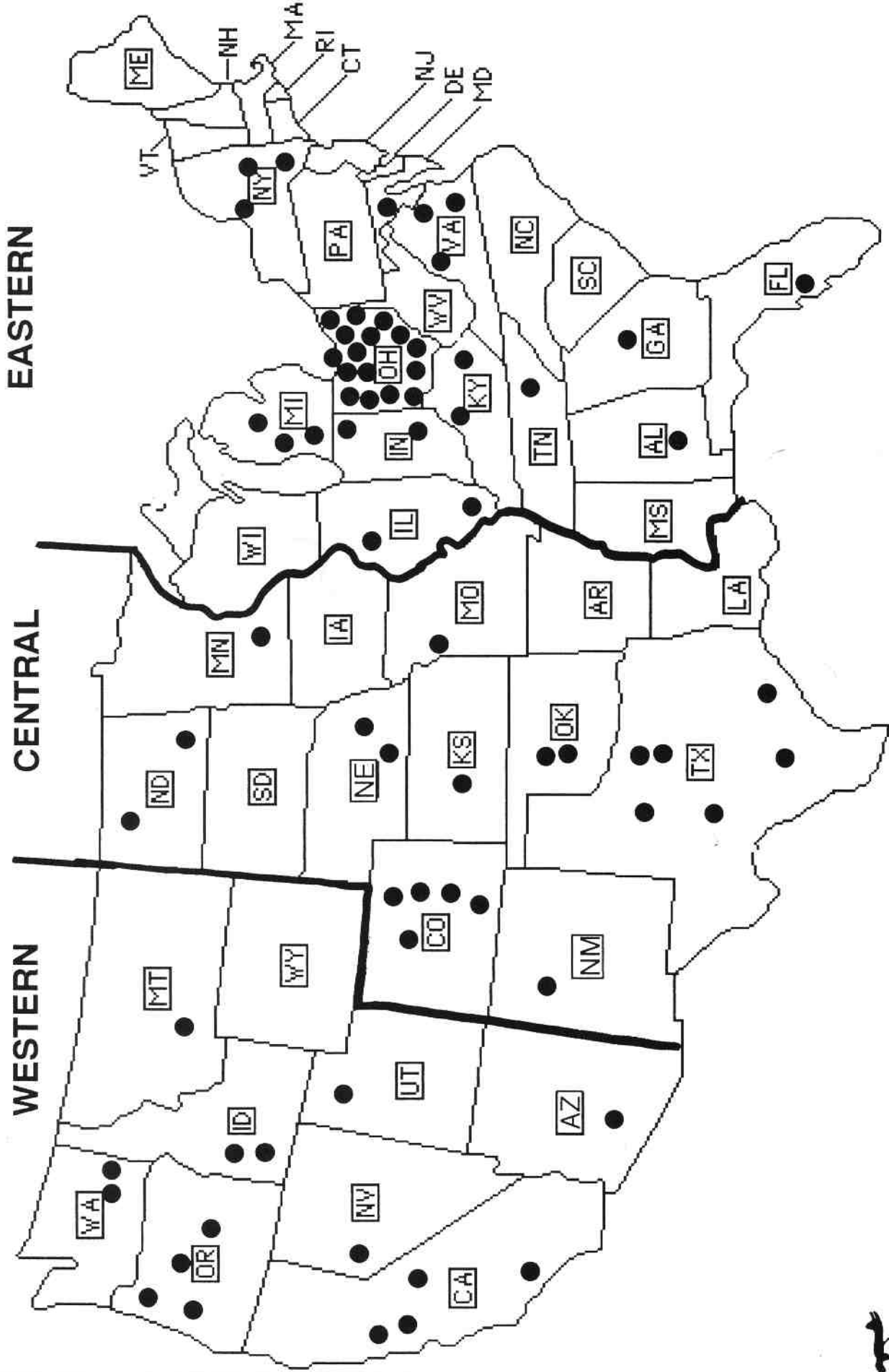
The map included with this article shows the 1995 scheduled shows in each of the 3 regions being used as qualifying shows for the respective ALSA Regional Championship Shows.

Plans are being discussed to consider an ALSA National Championship Show by the end of 1997 with the high place llamas and/or youth in the regional shows participating in the ALSA National Championship Show.

For more information, please contact Jo Riley at the ALSA office, 303-823-0659, or Hank Kauffman, ALSA National/Regional Show Committee Chair, 614-967-7777.

**Continued on page 17**

3 Shows in British Columbia, 1 Show in Alberta



1995 ALSA SHOWS

## Are Progesterone Tests Always Reliable?

by Ron Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, CO • 303-688-5445

We now have had experience with two females for whom progesterone testing could have given us misleading results. Perhaps others have had the same experience, or suddenly had a cria delivered unexpectedly, for the same reasons.

Last summer, a fine older girl jumped a fence and fell on landing. We were concerned with her well-being and that of her unborn baby. So, she was tested at eight months pregnant with a lab report coming back 1.1 ng/ml and the lab analysis saying "values greater than 2.0 are consistent with pregnancy,

	<b>morning</b>	<b>evening</b>
Day 1	1.0 ng/ml	2.0 ng/ml

A month later than expected (we believe due to the heat stress last year), the girl delivered a boy cria.

Her daughter just recently tested, at about 45 days into her first pregnancy, 0.2 ng/ml with a blood sample drawn early in the morning. Despite field action (spitting off and refusal to submit), such a test would tend to indicate a retained corpus luteum or resorption. Before having her ultrasounded, we had the same series of samplings done. She came back

1.5 to 2.0 considered inconclusive of pregnancy in camelids." We have always drawn our blood samples in the early morning, and this sample was drawn consistent with that procedure.

Our vet suggested that before subjecting the girl to ultrasounding or palpation to determine the baby's status, we run a series of progesterone tests. We traditionally have taken samples in the morning, so we tested for two days in the morning and then 12 hours later in the evening. The results were:

	<b>morning</b>	<b>evening</b>
Day 2	1.0 ng/ml	2.4 ng/ml

in the morning test at less than 1.0 ng/ml and in the evening at better than 2.0 ng/ml. She also, in field testing, ended up not only spitting off the stud but chasing him around the pasture. There were 7 females tested the first time, this females and anohte came back negative on pregnancy. The second time, the same 7 were tested and the other female came back negative. The same lab was used both times.

Continued on page 42

## Reply to the Article on Progesterone

by Robert K. Lantz PhD. • Rocky Mountain Instrumental Laboratories • Ft. Collins, CO

I have read the letter to the editor from Ron Baird of Plum Valley Llamas, in which he described some rather odd progesterone test results. Although I am certain that he was careful to collect the samples, store them properly, and send them to a laboratory promptly, I am quite concerned about the possible meaning of the results.

Our laboratory developed the progesterone test for llamas over 15 years ago, and has run the assay continuously ever since. In this time period, we have not found any evidence that progesterone concentrations vary sharply over a 12-hour span. Without knowing which laboratory did the testing referred to by Mr. Baird, we have no way of knowing how the tests were performed, but we have found that it is possible for a laboratory to do the testing inaccurately.

Professor LaRue Johnson, of Colorado State University, did an experiment several years ago in which he sought to test the several laboratories performing progesterone tests. In the experiment, he sent five sets of duplicate samples to each of the labo-

raries (10 samples total). The laboratories did not know which sample were duplicates.

The initial objective of Dr. Johnson's work was to identify which laboratories could obtain consistent results on the duplicate samples. That is, which laboratories could agree with themselves. The second objective was to determine which laboratories obtained results which were in agreement with known values for the serum sample.

Distressingly, only two laboratories were able to agree with themselves and with the known results. Those two were Colorado State University Veterinary Laboratory and Rocky Mountain Instrumental Laboratories.

Based on this information, any definite interpretation of Mr. Baird's test results should be undertaken cautiously. There is a strong possibility that the testing could have been in error. Until these results can be duplicated, they should not be relied upon.

More information on the subject  
continued on page 19



# How to Choose a Laboratory

by Robert K. Lantz PhD. • Rocky Mountain Instrumental Laboratories • Ft. Collins, CO

It is well recognized among laboratory scientists that it is easy to obtain a test result. What is difficult is to obtain the **correct** result. The only way for anyone, even a laboratory scientist, to determine whether a laboratory is likely to give good quality results is to check for the following:

1. Is the laboratory inspected by a recognized state or Federal agency, such as the State Department of Health, US Department of Health and Human Services, or the US Food and Drug Administration?
2. Does the laboratory include both standard samples and quality control samples with each batch of tests? The laboratory also must participate in an outside proficiency testing program. These requirements do increase the cost of testing, but they are absolutely essential for good quality testing. They are required of all laboratories inspected by the agencies listed above.
3. Is the laboratory directed by doctoral level (Ph.D. or equivalent) scientific personnel? This is required by any of the recognized certifying agencies listed above.

4. Does the laboratory have real-world experience with the kind of testing which you need? That is, an excellent veterinary laboratory may not do pollution testing very well, and the very best human hospital laboratory may not give good results on llama, horse, or cattle blood.

It's easy to do an informal check on a laboratory's accuracy. As a test, collect a blood sample, separate the serum from the clot, and place half of the serum in each of two vials. Label the vials with different animal names, and send them on the same day to your laboratory. For progesterone, the results should be within 0.3 ng/mL of each other for a pregnant female (high progesterone). If the sample is from a non-pregnant female, both should be 0.1 ng/mL or less. That is, the results should be very close.

If these identical samples do not produce results which are essentially identical, then there is no way to determine which result, if either, is correct. The results of any given sample may not be reliable. Interpretation of these lab results, or differences between results, may therefore be misleading.



# Llama Pregnancy Testing

by Robert K. Lantz PhD. • Rocky Mountain Instrumental Laboratories • Ft. Collins, CO

Unlike humans and most other farm animals, llamas seldom ovulate until they have been bred. Therefore, they are referred to as "Induced ovulators." Copulation, whether fertile or not, will cause an ovarian follicle to rupture, sending an unfertilized ovum into the fallopian tubes, and leaving behind a structure which grows into a "corpus luteum" (Latin for "yellow body") in the ovary. The corpus luteum (CL) produces the steroid hormone "progesterone" which aids in the implantation and maintenance of the fertilized embryo. The corpus luteum will remain active until the last few weeks of gestation. However, if the ovum is not fertilized and implanted in the uterine wall, the CL will be reabsorbed into the ovary and the production of progesterone will stop naturally about 14 days after breeding.

The llama pregnancy test is based upon the progesterone concentration change associated with the presence or absence of a functional CL. Whole blood or serum (1mL) should be drawn 19 days or more post breeding. If the progesterone concentra-

tion is more than 1.5 ng/mL (nanograms per milliliter), the llama is pregnant. Because the fetus cannot survive if the progesterone concentration is too low, a concentration of less than 1.0 ng/mL generally means that the llama is not pregnant or soon will be not pregnant. A few (1 in 2000) llamas do carry to term with progesterone concentrations of 0.5 to 1.0 ng/mL. Note also that the progesterone concentration may drop to less than 0.1ng/mL for the last few weeks of gestation. In general, however, progesterone concentrations between 0.3 and 1.3 ng/mL are rare in normal female llamas except during the formation and/or lysis of a corpus luteum. Geldings, and females who are sexually immature or who lack ovaries, also exhibit progesterone concentrations of 0.3-1.6 ng/ml. This is why a gelding identified to us as a female may be found to be "pregnant." Some animals with uterine infections also show such intermediate progesterone concentrations. Pathologically retained CL, which result in similar intermediate progesterone con-



## Llama Pregnancy Testing (cont.)

centrations in other species, are quite rare in llamas.

One common cause of unsuccessful breedings is a residual progesterone concentration of greater than 0.3 ng/ml on the day of breeding. In this case, a sample drawn just prior to breeding will show whether an animal is ready to ovulate. A sample drawn 5-7 days post breeding will tell whether a functional CL has formed following ovulation. Samples drawn 21,

45, 80, 120, 180, and 240 days post breeding will tell whether the llama is pregnant and is continuing to maintain the pregnancy.

Serum or whole blood samples (1 mL or more) should be sent by First Class mail. Results are available the morning after the samples are received.



## Llama Progesterone Testing Schedule

by Robert K. Lantz PhD. • Rocky Mountain Instrumental Laboratories • Ft. Collins, CO

Useful information may be obtained from blood (serum) samples drawn from female llamas at the times listed below. Not all of the collection times need to be used for all animals at all breedings, but samples should be collected several times during gestation so that fetal/embryonic loss may be detected early, and the animal rebred. Certain of the early sample times are used primarily to detect animals which are in need of veterinary reproductive care. All sample times are stated in "days after breeding."

Because llamas are induced ovulators, and are not cyclic, prostaglandin F2a cannot be used to bring a llama "into heat," as one might with a cow or mare. Although llama pregnancy is corpus luteum (CL) dependent earlier in gestation, the progesterone concentration in the last four weeks of gestation may become quite low, even so low as that found in non-pregnant llamas. This is another reason for testing llamas throughout gestation, as a low progesterone late in gestation may be difficult to interpret if we do not have results from earlier testing. The testing schedule below is the minimum that we use with our own animals and is intended to maximize reproductive efficiency. We have used this schedule for approximately ten years and have found it to be cost-effective and not at all troublesome.

**0 DAYS:** A sample drawn at this time will tell whether a corpus luteum (CL) or other progesterone source already is present. The progesterone concentration must be 0.1 ng/mL or less, since a CL will prevent ovulation which normally results from copulation. Geldings, immature females, and females without ovaries commonly have serum progesterone concentrations which are in the range of 0.3 to 1.6 ng/mL.

**6 DAYS:** The progesterone concentration will be greater than 1.3 ng/mL if the llama has ovulated

and formed a functional corpus luteum. However, such a progesterone concentration, at this time, does not mean that she is pregnant, or even fertile. If the progesterone concentration is 0.7 ng/mL or less, she has not formed a useful CL and is not likely to become pregnant from this breeding. If a llama cannot form a functional CL, she will not be able to conceive. Several other endocrine (hormone) tests may then be useful for fertility evaluation.

**20 DAYS: FIRST PREGNANCY TEST** If the serum progesterone concentration is more than 1.5 ng/mL, the llama has a functional CL and may be considered to be pregnant at this time. However, this does not mean that she will necessarily give birth to a live offspring ten months later. A few llamas (1 in 2000) carry to term even though the progesterone concentration never rises above 1.0 ng/mL. Progesterone concentrations in the range 0.5 to 1.3 ng/mL are associated with increased risk of embryonic and fetal death.

**45 DAYS: SECOND PREGNANCY TEST** Because embryonic death is quite common in mammals during the period 20-45 days post fertilization, the second pregnancy test should be collected about seven weeks post breeding. Again, a positive pregnancy test at seven weeks means only that she is pregnant **at that time.**

**80+ DAYS: LATE PREGNANCY TESTS** Test samples should be drawn at 80, 120, 180 and 240 days post breeding. This will limit the time that an animal is falsely assumed to be pregnant and is effectively out of production. Such aggressive herd management, in close association with your veterinarian, is the best way to improve herd production and profitability. Every day that a llama is out of production costs the owner \$10-20, depending upon the average value of the offspring.



# HEARTLAND ALPACA FESTIVAL

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**LIVING HISTORY FARMS**  
**DES MOINES, IOWA**

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# Utah Llama Folks

by Linda Kyriopoulos

Lots of things have been happening in Utah this Spring! In April, there were two auctions held. The Gold Rush was in Salt Lake City and the Golden Spike Classic was in Ogden the following week. Both events were well advertised and well done, and the promoters are to be congratulated on their efforts and professionalism. Unfortunately, they have no control over the market. Prices were fairly low compared to recent years, although not much different than many of the regional sales that have been held over the last year. Both sales were similar in the wide variety of llamas to choose from, although the second sale had about twice as many consigned. I have noticed many new buyers finally "jumping in" since prices have become more reasonable.

The Utah Llama Association and the RMLA sponsored the 4th Annual Intermountain Llama Classic in Logan, Utah, on Memorial Day Weekend. As usual, we had lots of fun! We appreciate Howard Kerstetter taking the time to explain show techniques while he judged. Many of us just muddle through never realizing simple errors we make. We'll all im-

prove for the next show! We also had many volunteers who need to be thanked. Daryl Wood and I were co-show superintendents. Daryl comes up with the best obstacles! Mary Beth Hartsough took time out of her busy schedule to be our Apprentice Judge, which sure helped move things along a little quicker! Sandy Brauer was our ring steward, and my kids (Andrea, Ted, and Ty) were the ribbon presenters. Steve Kyriopoulos was our colorful fund-raiser auctioneer, with Rick Brauer as ringman. Others jumped in and helped wherever they were needed, such as Robin and Jane Hunt and Mary Bedingfieldsmith. Scott Smith took many wonderful photos, as did Jim Osmun. Lars and Janet Bergeson and kids had a food concession for a 4-H fund-raiser, but gave away sandwiches free of charge as long as the makings lasted! I'm sure I've missed someone, but they aren't any less appreciated, it's just my memory is worn out! It's everyone working together that makes a successful event, and the Intermountain Llama Classic was no exception! Thanks to everyone who helped or participated! See you next year!

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## ***New Mexico Llama Lovers***

New Mexico Llama Lovers enjoyed Jan and Grady Day's Daydream Llama Farm for the May meeting. As reported by Steve Komadina, "It was a day which included snow, hail, rain, wind, and sun. If you didn't like the weather, you didn't have to wait long for the next system to move through. Vets Linda Contos and John Heidrich reported on the current national meeting they had attended for vets treating Camelids.

An important event in which NM Llama Lovers participated in the Albuquerque area was the Sandia Mountain Days on July 22 and 23. Llamas, alpacas and their friends were at the base of the Sandia Ski Area to greet people, to show what llamas and alpacas can do and to win the hearts of new llama lovers. The Forest Service looks forward to having the llamas and alpacas each year as one of their main attractions. One year llamas were used by the Forest Service in a TV infommercial for the event. We usually get the llamas on TV.

Vesicular Stomatitis (VVS) is in New Mexico (not something to brag about), but here is what the news is: The viral infection appears to have almost run its course in southern New Mexico. However, as of the end of June, the Rio Grande Valley from near Socorro to Bernalillo for ten miles on each side of the river is quarantined for horses, cattle and swine. It is not known why swine are included since no swine have come down with VVS in this outbreak. Research by Ron Baird and Reid Langerman produced information that no record exists of llamas being infected with VVS. During an outbreak in 1985, CSU had llamas and cattle pastured together. The cattle contracted VVS, the llamas did not. Humans are also able to contract VVS. The New Mexico State Veterinarian does not expect the quarantine to be necessary for more than a month or so. The NM State Fair is going on as planned. The incubation period is eight to ten days. An animal cannot spread the virus thirty days after the blisters have cleared.

## ***New Mexico State Fair***

***September 22 & 23, 1995***

Please note there is now an alpaca halter show approved by ALSA. In addition to Full Fleece Halter Classes there will also be Shorn Halter Classes for Alpacas. New Mexico has lots of new alpacas and alpaca breeders. Alpacas will also participate in the llama obstacle classes, but will be judged on their own merits. The New Mexico State Fair Llama Show has very inexpensive halter classes, stall fees, and performance classes. Premiums are paid for performance classes. The weather is usually very comfortable. The New Mexico State Fair is rated as one of the top five state fairs in the country in terms of fun and enjoyment. There is also much to see and do. Plan to visit

Indian Village and Spanish Village as well as the rodeo and horse racing. New Mexico Llama Lovers, along with RMLA, hosts the Llama Show. Emphasis is on camaraderie and fun. A welcome cocktail party at the Fair Grounds Friday night after set up and a group dinner at a New Mexican restaurant on Saturday night is planned. So....Come one and Come Allpacas and join llamas and friends at the New Mexico State Fair this fall. Stay for the Taos Wool Festival the next weekend and New Mexico Llama Lovers will help you find a comfortable abode for your llamas while you enjoy the land of enchantment.

## ***DCF Summer Classic ALSA Youth Show***

***Another wonderful RMLA event***

Youth are invited to join the fun in Castle Rock during Douglas County Fair time. Check in time is 8:30 AM. Exhibitors will have a meeting with ALSA Judge Bobra Goldsmith at 10:00. SHOWTIME starts at 10:30 with all Showmanship Classes. After lunch, we start with Costume Classes at 1:30 and then follow with Obstacle and Public Relations.

This is a full stand alone ALSA Youth Show.

By request, we have added sub-junior classes.

Call Marie Hinds, 303-841-4889 or Lougene Baird, 303-688-5445 to request a registration form. Total entry fee for all events is \$7.50 per animal. Covered stalls will be available for \$10.

We hope to see lots of RMLA Youth at this show.

# Marketing

by Linda Kyriopoulos • Sterling Springs Ranch • Mt. Sterling, UT • 801-245-3529

## Simple Rules in Marketing when selling your llama at an auction:

1. Make sure your catalog photo is complimentary of your llama. Some prefer a full body shot and others prefer a head shot, either is fine. But photos where we only see half the llama are not as good. They need to be well groomed for the photo; first impressions are important. Make sure you are not photographing a dark llama in front of a dark background, or a white llama in front of a light background; the llama will probably be almost invisible when reproduced in the catalog.
2. Consign on time. If you consign late and miss the deadline for the catalog, you have wasted your consignment fee. Think of that fee as advertising money. Many people mull over sale catalogs for hours before going to an auction.
3. Have your llamas at the sale at the designated check-in time. The hours or days prior to the actual auction are critical in marketing your llama. Buyers spend hours looking at the sale llamas and making purchase decisions. If you
4. don't show up until sale time, don't expect to get much attention when your animal hits the ring.
5. Be available for questions. If a prospective buyer can't get answers to questions they may have about your llama, they'll move on to another one.
6. Make sure your llama leads well. Buyers are skeptical about llamas which have to be dragged through the sale ring.
7. Give lots of information about your llama to the announcer. This is your last chance for a sales pitch! Remember to smile in the sale ring.
8. Last but definitely not least! Follow up on the sale. Talk cordially with the new owner, answer more questions, provide health and breeding information, make a new friend! Thank them for buying your llama. This is where you start marketing for future sales!



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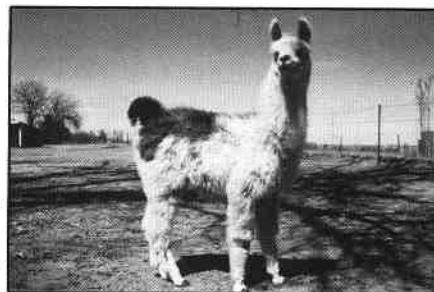
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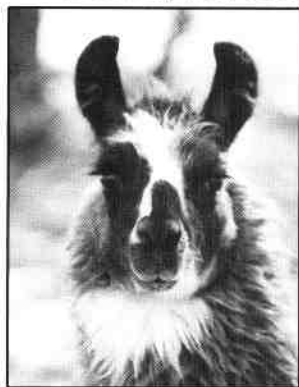


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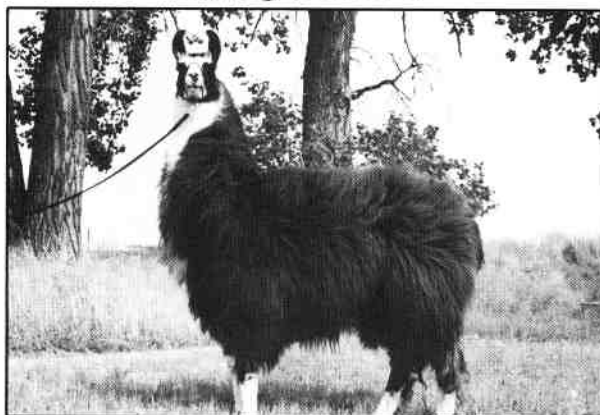


Why do we show? We've been asked many times. Certainly for the fun and camaraderie. Plus, as serious breeders, we realize we can't just say we've got quality llamas - we must show you as a prospective purchaser that we give solid value for the price. Since 1984, we have been working to build a successful breeding program that offers our customers an outstanding product at a fair price. Whether you're a new llama owner or a veteran, we would be happy to help you choose a quality addition to your farm. Whatever your needs - from young or bred females to stud prospect or pet/pack male - we can meet the demand, with a llama that is not only sound and functional, but also beautiful. Come visit with us soon to see the variety of fine llamas available. Stud service offered to either of our outstanding herd sires (both multi-champions!). Live birth guarantee. Multiple breeding discount, 50% discount for champion females.



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# RMLA Pack Festival

by Dee Goodman • XI Llamas • Akron, CO • 970-345-2927

We were finally on the road. After doing all the last minute jobs (in our case, last hour jobs) we were heading for the 9th Annual RMLA Pack Llama Festival. 2 kids, 4 llamas, and lots of stuff. Of course, if you know us, we were running just a little late .... would you believe "just late"...well, maybe a lot of late. But we were at least on the road. 5 hours later we reached the parking lot. This year's festival had moved around. First it was going to be at Grand Mesa, just east of Grand Junction, but a permit was not available for the area. The next site chosen was on the Colorado Trail off of Kenosha Pass. But... there was too much snow! So, Jack White, the organizer of this year's festival found a great place close to McCoy, CO. Where is McCoy? I had no idea! I just followed the signs Jack had put up. After all this we were ready to load the llamas and start hiking up... Just because we were a day late... no problem. Just because we were getting ready to begin hiking at 7:00 p.m. ... no problem. Just because Jack ran out of trail marking tapes and began using duct tape . . . no problems. We did great hiking at first. David had a llama, Karla had 3 llamas, and I had Thomas ... 35 lb Thomas ... unhappy Thomas...on my back, and then, we got lost. In fact, on the opposite edge of the ravine we were supposed to climb. Soon Jack came to our rescue! Thank goodness. Karla had made a fluorescent orange rain fly! After bushwhacking and hiking up we made it to camp.

The next morning we got to finally see how great a location we'd hiked to! No Snow! Soon, everyone crawled out of their tents and were ready to start the day. And what a day it was.

First, the kid's events. I thought I would fit in real well. Shucks, missed the height requirements by 4 feet and 30 or so years. I was able to participate in one kid's event, though. Thomas was on my shoulders and the race that HE was in was to carry water in a cup over some obstacles. I was a part of the obstacle for Thomas as I carried him on my back while he held the cup of water. Needless to say, I got very wet! But this didn't dampen my spirits.

Then it was time for lunch and the adult races. First, the obstacle course ... with Jack's famous duct tape flagging the course. This time I knew what to look for. Fun course ... but next time, Jack, no mud please! My white shoes will never be the same again. Next came the Pack a llama contest. This included everything but the kitchen sink. No, it was there, also. With everyone "encouraging" the participants along, it was a great experience and fun time. The last event for that afternoon's physical activities was the 1 K "Walk." If this was a walk, I hate to see what a run would have been like! Another much needed break and then time for the biggest event, the camp cook-off. Lots of great food including cheesecake! What a full day... in more ways than you think.

The next day we had a nice hike back down. What a great weekend...great weather- and lots of fun. A special thank you to Jack and Nancy White for hosting the event this year. You guys thought of everything. This was our first festival, and it won't be our last. We hope to see more RMLA members next year at the 10th Annual RMLA Pack Festival . . . Don't forget your kitchen sink!



We are going to have a blast in Taos . . . see you there!

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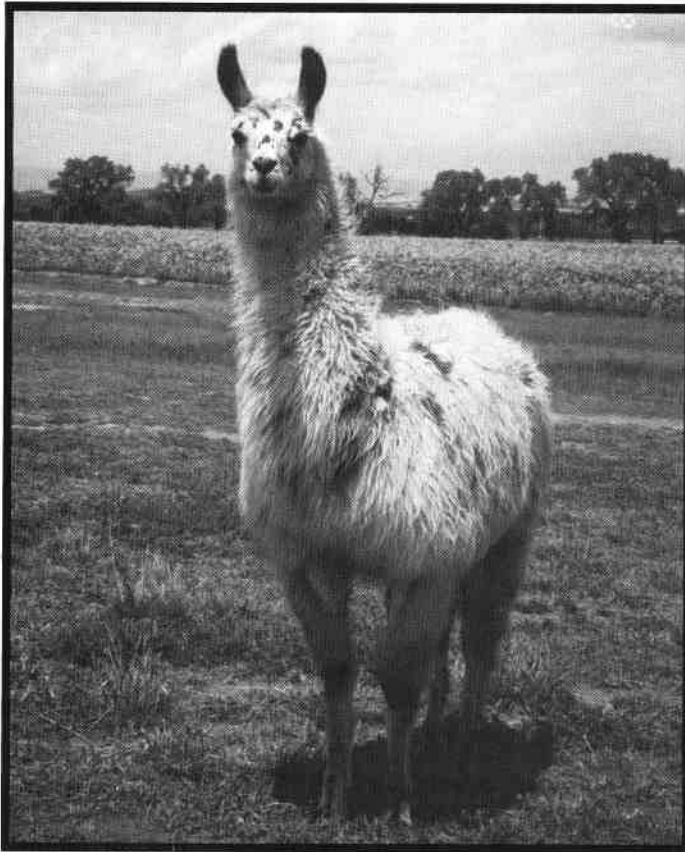
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\*1995 National Western Stock Show Medium Wool

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\*1995 Estes Park Wool Market Medium Wool

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719/687-5797

Thanks again, John and Sharon. Your llamas are just **GRAND!**



# RMLA Sponsors Fiber Grading Workshops

*Members have opportunities to learn from two experts*

by Sharon Beacham • Pheasant Hill Farm • Boulder, CO • 303-666-9437

**Sandy Mubarak**  
**Fiber Grading Workshop**  
**Estes Park Wool Market**  
**June 10, 1995**

"I'm inspired." "This is so encouraging." "I can't wait to get home and put these ideas to use." These were typical comments from the 22 participants who had already spent the day involved with the Llama Show. Most of the group stayed an extra hour, asking questions, grading llama fleeces and examining a multitude of fiber samples. The instructor, Sandy Mubarak, from Poway, California, successfully operates a llama fiber business, A Vested Interest. She's developed electric spinning and felting machines, and conducts fiber workshops to assist others in their marketing efforts.

The group learned that there's a use for every llama's fiber. Understanding the influence of environment, pasture and feed management, nutrition and stress makes it possible to improve non genetic factors.

Sandy taught how to evaluate the type, condition and best use of a llama's fiber. "Lock structures, crimp, and handle" became understandable terms. She explained how excessive grooming damages a fleece. It's best not to disturb the "architecture" of the fiber and only remove the "crust" of dirt and debris shortly before shearing.

Sorting, labeling and bagging the fleece as it comes off each animal is important. Sandy shared the best methods she'd found for storage, but recommended processing and using a fleece within a year of being sheared.

Llama fiber is a quality product. This workshop provided the knowledge and inspiration needed to harvest and market it. One's imagination is the only limitation to its use.

**Linda McNamara**  
**Fiber Grading Workshop**  
**RMLA Education Seminar**  
**Taos Wool Festival**  
**September 30, 1995**



If you missed the Fiber Grading Workshop at Estes Park, here's a second chance. Linda McNamara, of Hillsboro, Oregon, is currently serving on the ILA's Wool Research and Development Committee. She's a co-owner of Llama Yarns of Oregon, started in 1993, the only commercial producer of llama yarn in the United States. Linda has presented workshops in every part of the country, based on over 20 years of fiber experience.

This will be a relaxed, "hands-on" workshop. The \$45 fee includes lunch and handouts. In four hours, she'll cover:

- Management Practices for Better Fiber Production
- Grooming and Shearing
- Preparing for a Fleece Show or Sale
- Judging Llama Fiber
- Marketing Your Fiber

You'll evaluate llama fleeces, have ample opportunity to ask questions and add your notes to the written materials provided. To insure individual attention, participation is limited to 20 persons.

Evaluating your lamas' fiber is the first step in producing a usable product. RMLA is planning a llama fiber booth at the Estes Park Wool Market in 1996. It will be an opportunity for you to display and sell your llama fiber and products. Get started now! Registration for the Linda McNamara Workshop closes August 25. Your registration confirmation will include directions to the Workshop and lunch details. (The Estes Park workshop group is encouraged to attend; reinforce what you learned from a slightly different perspective.)

"...we heartily recommend Linda's expertise for any group wishing to learn more..... Dale Graham, Llama Association of the Mid-Atlantic States.

"Linda not only has the fiber knowledge, she has the wonderful gift of the way she presents it!," Maggie Schuler, Bauernheim Llamas, Eastsound, Washington.



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# *Canyonlands Llama Ban Continues - A call for action*

*by the International Llama Association Packing Committee*

**“Horses, mules and burros are the only animals considered pack and saddle stock. Llamas ... are prohibited (from Canyonlands National Park) by Superintendent’s Directive due to the possibility of disease transmission to native animals, especially desert bighorn sheep.”** *Canyonlands National Park Backcountry Management Plan, January, 1995 (just released May, 1995)*

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In spite of efforts by the ILA packing committee, chaired by Scott Woodruff, and communications from Colorado State University veterinarians, Park Superintendent Walter Dabney has continued to ban llamas from Canyonlands National Park, purporting that they pose a risk of transmitting Johne’s Disease to desert bighorn sheep. To make the situation worse, the Backcountry Management Plan issued by Superintendent Dabney’s office does not mention the specific reference to Johne’s Disease (*mycobacterium para-tuberculosis*) and gives the appearance that llamas are a general disease threat to wildlife.

The notion that llamas spread disease to wildlife negatively impacts every llama enthusiast. It slanders the image of the llama as an environmentally friendly pack animal and has potential for a negative economic effect on breeders. The llama community can not accept this situation or the Park Service’s reasoning and must continue to oppose this ban.

If you have not yet written a letter to the Park Service opposing the ban, please do so immediately. Points to be made include 1) There are no known cases of llamas transmitting Johne’s Disease to any other animal, even a llama. 2) Glacier

National Park officials reviewed the information available on the possibility of llamas transmitting Johne’s Disease to wildlife and finding that the risk was “not significant,” continued to allow llamas on park trails. 3) C.S.U. veterinarians Drs. Frank Garry, David Getzy, Terry Spraker and LaRue Johnson, have thoroughly reviewed the medical information available and have stated in a letter that was sent in early May to Superintendent Dabney that “. . . it is inappropriate to view llamas as posing a substantial threat as a vector specifically for Johne’s disease transmission to wildlife species.”

*Letters should be sent to:*

**John Cook, Regional Director  
Rocky Mountain Region, N.P.S.  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, CO 80228**

Please send a copy to the ILA office and don’t hesitate to contact Scott Woodruff, Packing Committee Chairperson or ILA Board Member Stanlynn Daugherty with any questions you may have. Additional support documentation (including copies of letters from C.S.U. staff) is available from the ILA office for anyone interested.

***Editors’s Note: Please take the time to write a letter. Even if you don’t pack this is important to you. It reflects badly on all llamas. Send a copy to the Newsletter and I will try to print parts of all letters. This is so important to the core of RMLA. Let’s all pitch in and put these lovely bureaucrats in their place!***



June 19, 1995

John Cook  
Regional Director  
Rocky Mountain Region, N.P.S.  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear National Park Service personnel and associates,

On this historic day of emancipation, I find myself writing another letter to governmental powers regarding the use of llamas on PUBLIC LANDS.

In the May, 1995 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association publication, my attention was riveted on what I thought was a dead issue regarding the safe use of llamas as pack/saddle stock in our country. As I understood it, the ban on llamas is based on a pale presumption that llamas carry and spread Johne's disease to Bighorn sheep and other indigenous wildlife. The FACTS DO NOT SUPPORT this supposition. The release of such press to the general public as well as among related agencies that have not studied the research is irresponsible at best. At this point, there are many unspoken assumptions from those that instigated this "briefing" as well as those of us trying to bridge a communications gap between the equine/ungulate population and the camelid/toed population.

I have used llamas as preferred pack stock since 1986 and have operated a commercial llama packing business since 1989. My experience with llamas as safe, low impact, gentle and healthy animals is positive. The freedom to WALK wild places with a gentle, manageable pack animal for all ages is both needed and welcomed. This promotes a closer inspection of the environment as one WALKS through the dry, nature-tortured and exquisite country of canyons, pinon pine, sand, cactus and sparse water.

I ask that the Southeast Utah Group (1) retract the ban on llama, use, (2) retract the "Briefing Papers" (3) Write a new and accurate briefing which includes an apology to the llama community and those that enjoy the pleasures of walking the magnificent country free of a backpack, llama in tow (4) acknowledge the fact that llamas and their handlers are a well established user group of our PUBLIC LANDS.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Kate Booty Doyle

Copies to: Hon. Robert Bennett, ILA, Hon. Orrin Hatch, Hon. Bill Orton, Hon. Jim Hanse, Jim Webb, Supervisor of Rio Grande N.F.

## ***Vesicular Stomatitis (cont.)***

infected animals. APHIS believes the prevalence of the disease in humans may be underreported due to its misdiagnosis or being undetected. In humans, the disease causes an acute influenza-like illness with symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches, and general malaise.

### **Prevention and recommendations:**

Good sanitary and quarantine practices seem to generally contain the infection until it disappears of its own accord. Avoid congregating animals in areas where the disease has occurred. Keep dung piles cleaned up and control insects.

*Continued on page 32*

## Put a new spin on your fiber

### with the RMLA Library!

by Kristin Baird • Plum Valley Llamas • Sedalia, Colorado • 303-688-5445

At the end of September, the annual Taos Wool Festival will take place. This is an event for fiber enthusiasts as well as people who do not know a lot about fiber. Either way, the RMLA Library has several items that will interest anyone who is interested in fiber!

A NEW video has arrived in the RMLA Library! It is *Step by Step Shearing: for Alpacas and Llamas* featuring Ted Chepolis. Starting off with a basic pre-shearing grooming, this video moves right on to an extensive section on shearing equipment. Shown in this video are several kinds of electric shears and combs, as well as different kinds of hand shears. Mr. Chepolis also shows how to maintain your shearing equipment for a quick and painless cutting of fiber. Many styles of shearing can be seen on this video, from the standing up method to the tying-up-and-laying-down method. There are also several tips on how to sort and classify the shorn fiber, and how to market it into a final product.

A great book to read if you are interested in turning your fiber into a business is *Turning Your Wool Into a Cottage Industry* by Paula Simmons. While this book is based on how to process sheep wool and profit from it, the fundamental steps and considerations can be applied to llama and alpaca fiber. The ideas included in this book range from preparing and selling raw or washed fiber, carding for sales to spinners and weavers, creating unique products to sell, to business and merchandising tips. A book for the soon-to-be fiber entrepreneurs.

For an introduction to weaving, read *Fibre Facts* by Bette Hochberg. She explains the difference between many kinds of natural and manufactured fibers, and what kind of fiber to use in certain projects, whether spinning, weaving, or knitting. Chemical compositions and physical structures area also briefly but well explained. Also included are brief sections having to do everything from chemical reactions to moth resistance. *Fibre Facts* has a lot to offer in a little package!

The RMLA Library offers several informative folders on fiber, including a National Geographic article, growing and processing llama and alpaca fiber, and shearing tips. These are good if you would like a brief overview of how to grow and harvest fiber.

Another video on fiber is *The Wonderful World of Llama Wool* with Marty McGee. If you have never sheared a llama, this is a great beginner's video. Ms. McGee shows how to groom your llama before shearing, and which tools to use if you want to collect fiber during grooming. She also goes over the basic qualities of fiber from grading it to what tensile strength is. Ms. McGee shows how to shear your llama without a restraint chute, and then how to clean, sort, and store the fiber. Her method for washing the shorn fiber is wonderfully easy, and you can use it for washing your wool sweaters, too! This video shows some simple methods for carding and spinning the fiber.

Enjoy the rest of summer, and have a great time at the Taos Wool Festival!



## Vesicular Stomatitis (cont.)

### Addendum: as of July 10, 1995

I spoke today with a llama owner whose animal has been diagnosed as having VVS. The experience is educational for all of us.

The affected animal lives in a clean, well-pastured area with a horse. Horses in the vicinity - several miles in any direction - have been diagnosed with VVS.

**Day 1:** the owner noticed a fly on a cut on one of the llama's upper lips. Inspection of the inner mouth revealed "crusty" edges on upper lips.

**Day 2:** there were opaque blisters about the size of dimes on the upper and lower frontal gums.

**Day 3:** the blisters had broken open. The llama refused favorite treats of llama pellets and small

pieces of carrots. A swab test of the blisters proved positive for VVS.

**Day 4:** the animal resumed eating pellets and cut-up carrots. After the initial blisters broke, lesions were noticed further back in the mouth and on the gums.

**Day 8:** the first blisters disappeared.

The only symptoms this llama experienced were in the mouth. No lameness was apparent (the animal was running around during the period of blisters and eager to go for a walk.); no blisters were found on any other mucous membrane surfaces.

For current information, call 800-410-2067, Ext. 3171; Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## Vice President-Elect's Letter

by Cheryl McCutcheon

It was wonderful to see so many RMLA members in Logan, Utah, and Estes Park, Colorado, at two ALSA shows. Great team work sure brings together wonderful events.

And speaking of wonderful events . . . the plans are being laid for the RMLA CONFERENCE '96. We have discovered that the wonderful group who put together the Conference in 1994 are again interested in helping RMLA with the next conference. We reviewed the comments from the last conference and over 90% of the attendees reported they would love to return to Longmont, Colorado, for another confer-

ence. The Raintree Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Longmont has these dates available for us . . . Thursday, October 3 through Sunday October 6, 1996.

We need to know if there is any other specific group of RMLA members that is interested in hosting Conference 1996. If so, please contact me as soon as you are able.

Regardless, let's all mark our Calendar for these dates: October 3 - 6, 1995 and all plan to see each other at "RMLA CONFERENCE 1996."



### *A Supersized Thanks to all Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show Volunteers*

What a wonderful show! What wonderful animals! Could this wonderful event have happened without you . . . NOT!

Tom and Sandi Hardilek: *Registration*

Judy Sealy: *Class Corrections*

Donna Browne: *Hospitality Chair*

Lucy Westernberg  
Mary Anderson  
Yvonne McCullough  
Sharon Herbold  
Lori Garthwaite  
Lila West

Cheryl McCutcheon: *Obstacle Course Chair*

David McCutcheon  
Judy Cox-Sample  
Dixie Minear

Steve & Kathy London: *Gate Keeper Chair*

Scott Everhart  
Pat Militzer  
Reid Langerman  
Mary Summers  
Margaret Nies  
Dan Gould  
Willow Kauffman  
Russ Logan

Kevin McCullough: *Ring Steward*

Laura Evans: *Runner*

Betsy Bell: *Announcer*

Judy Sealy: *Assistant Announcer*

Mary Chodil: *Clerk Chair*  
Fran Cramer  
Kim Hartsough

Heather Hartsough: *Awards presenter*

Marie Hinds: *Photography*

Rose Mary Zeschin: *Arena Readiness Chair*  
Debby Rothwell  
Cliff Harding

Jim Osmun: *RMLA Booth Chair*

Judy Cox-Sample: *ALSA Display*

Sharon Beacham: *Private Treaty Sale*  
Rick Taylor

Julie Messick: *Show Mailer Production*

Elizabeth Simpson: *Sponsors*

Baird/Riley: *Obstacle Construction Team Chair*

Ron Baird  
Bob Riley  
Brad Riley  
Bart Anderson  
Jerry Dunn and Kids  
Joe Hartsough  
Mary Beth Hartsough  
John Beacham  
Alaine Byers  
Dale Pettigrew

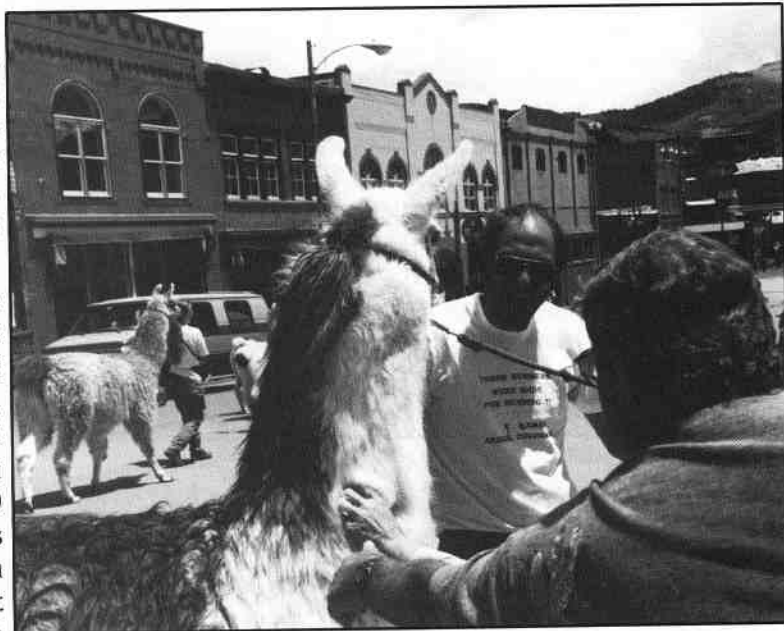


# The Red Light Run

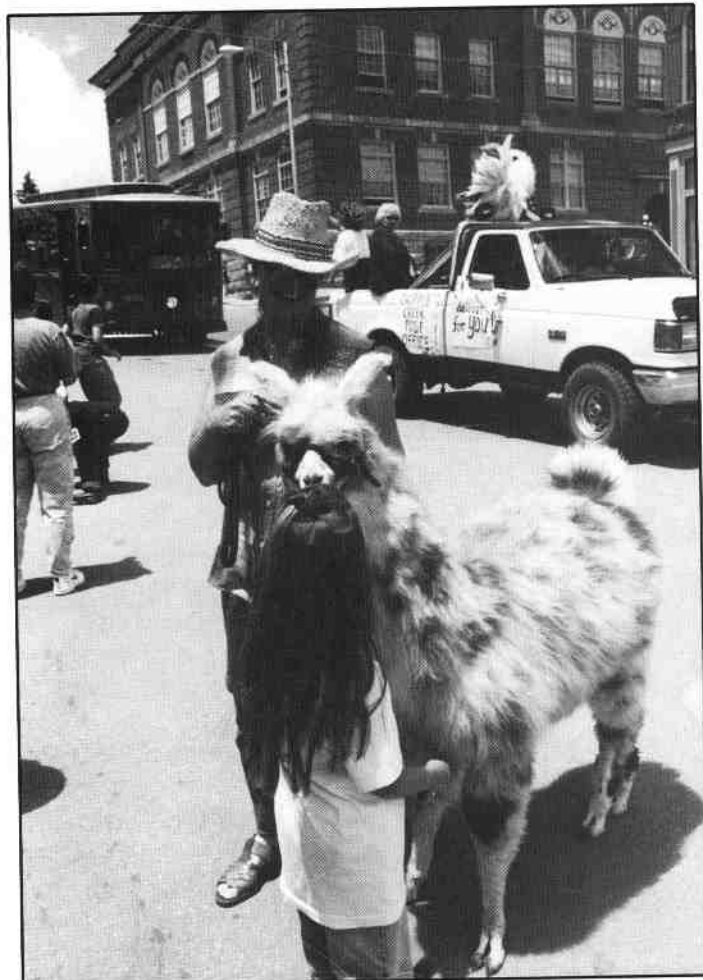
by Dee Goodman • XI Llamas • Akron, CO • 303.345.2927

It may not be the Olympic Games. It may not be the New York Marathon. It is not like the Bolder Boulder. But at 10,000', it feels like it. What is it? The Cripple Creek Red Light Llama Race. What is the Red Light Run? Darn hard! At least for us flatlanders. But one other thing it is, (besides free) it's fun!

This year, as in the past, the race was held during Donkey Derby Days in Cripple Creek, Colorado. Sally German-Rucker and Jeff Rucker once again headed up the event. The day began with a parade down (or should we say up and down) Bennett Avenue. Fun place to meet lots of people. Then, at 2:00 p.m. it's time for the race. The way it has always worked is simple. If you have a llama there, you run or walk with it. If you don't have a llama, someone will get you one. No packs, just go with your llamas through the



**Above: Dee Goodman stopping along the route to allow spectators to meet his llamas**



streets of Cripple Creek. In this year's race, there were 5 of us that owned llamas. The other 15 people borrowed llamas. And did they have a good time. Just give them the keys and let them go!

After the race there's always the obstacle course, first for the little kids and then the big kids. This year there were over 35 kids entered. The neat thing was every child there went through every obstacle.

This is a great RMLA event that more people should discover. It's free, it's fun, and it's a great place to market llamas. But best of all, it's a great place to show off our wonderful, fun animals . . . our llamas.

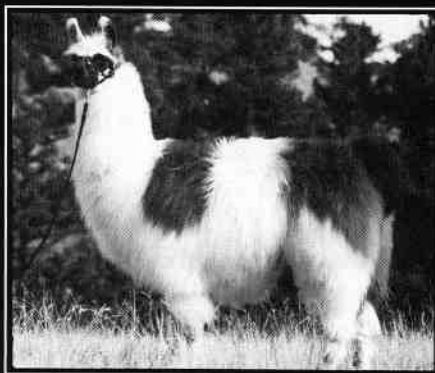
**Editor's Note:** Bob and I went to Cripple Creek this year along with Ron and Lougene Baird to see the race for the first time. We had a great time visiting the stores and eating the very inexpensive food in one of the gambling houses. This is just one of the RMLA events that would bring smiles to all members. Why don't you try it next year.

**Left: Sharon Deweese-Taylor stopping during the parade to share her llama with spectators.**



# MC Hammer = Star Maker

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**MC HAMMER**  
(LW The Ambassador X T.Y. Button)  
**8X Grand Champion**



**FANCY PANTS**  
(MC Hammer X Pedraza)  
**Grand Champion Heavy Wool Female**  
NWSS '94  
Bred by Mike & Dale Pettigrew  
Owned by David & Susan Tvrdy



**SHAMBA MILINDI**  
(MC Hammer X Makonde)  
**Champion Juvenile Heavy Wool Female**  
Estes Park Wool Market '94  
Bred by Dr. LaRue & Mary Johnson  
Owned by Bruce & Gay Ellis



**DANCES SMARTLY**  
(MC Hammer X Belle E. Dancer)  
**Reserve Grand Champion**  
Heavy Wool Female  
Estes Park Wool Market '94  
Bred by Joe & Mary Beth Hartsough

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# Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show

## LIGHT WOOL JUVENILE MALES

- 1 Rainbow's Llyon King, Dickman's Rain. Llamas
- 2 PPW Cosmo, Pikes Peak Woolies
- 3 PK Chicago, Silver Sage Llamas

## LIGHT WOOL TWO-YEAR-OLD MALES

- 1 Rocky Mtn. Buccaneer, Rocky Mtn. Llamas
- 2 Patches of Light, Little Dude Ranch

## LIGHT WOOL ADULT MALES

- 1 Rocky Mountain Taos, Lla Mariposa Llamas
- 2 Rocky Mountain Bounce, Rocky Mtn. Llamas
- 3 Rocky Mountain Quandry, Arapahoe Llamas

### Grand Champion

- Rocky Mtn. Buccaneer, Rocky Mtn. Llamas

### Reserve Champion

- Rainbow's Llyon King, Dickman's Rain. Llamas

## LIGHT WOOL JUVENILE FEMALES

- 1 Backcountry Cassandra, Backcountry Llamas
- 2 Oakley, Four M Llamas

## LIGHT WOOL YEARLING FEMALES

- 1 Rocky Mountain Spruce, Rocky Mtn. Llamas
- 2 Rainbow Iago, Dickman's Rainbow Llamas
- 3 High Bridge Elvira, High Bridge Ranch

### Grand Champion

- Rocky Mountain Spruce, Rocky Mtn. Llamas

### Reserve Champion

- Rainbow Iago, Dickman's Rainbow Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL JUVENILE MALES

- 1 Sunset Cisco Kid, Sunset Ridge Farm
- 2 GVC's Tchaikovsky, Lazy B Llamas
- 3 RPL Rocky Road, Rancho Poco Llama

## MEDIUM WOOL YEARLING MALES

- 1 Rocky Mountain Shimmer, Rocky Mtn. Llamas
- 2 P/M John Paul Too, P/M Llamas
- 3 Columbine's Samson Belle, Columbine Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL TWO-YEAR-OLD MALES

- 1 Nambe', Pikes Peak Llamas
- 2 Sunset Cadet, Twin Peaks Llama Farm
- 3 Columbine's White Magic, Columbine Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL ADULT MALES

- 1 G.L.L. Java, Llamarage
- 2 GDL Don Quixote, Wind's Teeth Llamas
- 3 The Bushwacker, J'n'L Llamas

### Grand Champion

- G.L.L. Java, Llamarage

### Reserve Champion

- Nambe', Pikes Peak Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL JUVENILE FEMALES

- 1 SSLR Navajo's Inka, Shining Star Ranch
- 2 Agatha Christie, Carousel Farms
- 3 Lazy "K" Uliana, Lazy "K" Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL YEARLING FEMALES

- 1 Mountain Rose Eureka, Mountain Rose Llamas
- 2 GDL Delilah, Great Divide Llamas
- 3 PVL Almond Joy, Plum Valley Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL TWO-YEAR-OLD FEMALES

- 1 Snow Belle of Shadow Ridge, Sha. Ridge Ranch
- 2 Rocky Mountain Finesse, Rocky Mtn. Llamas
- 3 Backcountry Misty, Backcountry Llamas

## MEDIUM WOOL ADULT FEMALES

- 1 Cololama's Calla Lily, Cololama Ranch
- 2 Lady Sweet Dreams, Escarpment Llamas
- 3 Bandara, Trout Creek Llamas

### Grand Champion

- SSLR Navajo's Inka, Shining Star Ranch

### Reserve Champion

- Mountain Rose Eureka, Mountain Rose Llamas

## HEAVY WOOL JUVENILE MALES

- 1 HLR Dominator, Harding Llama Ranch
- 2 Overland Trail's Aerosmith, Over. Trail Llamas
- 3 Sir Ace of Dark Shadow, C & M Llamas

## HEAVY WOOL YEARLING MALES

- 1 Overland Trail's Dire Straits, Over. Trail Llamas
- 2 Shades of Shadow Ridge. Tall Cat Llamas
- 3 Llamarage's Geronimo, Llamarage

## HEAVY WOOL TWO-YEAR-OLD MALES

- 1 Cogburn's Yogi Bear, Cogburn Llamas
- 2 Neon, Shining Star Ranch
- 3 Mingo, Quakey Brake Llamas

## HEAVY WOOL ADULT MALES

- 1 HBL Gulliver, World Class Farms
- 2 Peruvian Picacho, Boulder Ridge Ranch & Pheasant Hill Farm
- 3 East Fork Narcissus, Stage Stop Llamas

### Grand Champion

- HBL Gulliver, World Class Farms

### Reserve Champion

- Peruvian Picacho, Boulder Ridge Ranch & Pheasant Hill Farm

## HEAVY WOOL JUVENILE FEMALES

- 1 PPW My Girl, Pikes Peak Woolies
- 2 Overland Trail's Indigo Girl, Over. Trail Llamas
- 3 Sunday Solace, Llamarage

## HEAVY WOOL YEARLING FEMALES

- 1 Chantilly Ace, Silver Sage Llamas
- 2 Sweetheart's Margarita, Sweetheart Llama Ranch
- 3 PLR Corizzma, Price Llama Ranch

## HEAVY WOOL TWO-YEAR-OLD FEMALES

- 1 Sopris Carmen, Harding Llama Ranch
- 2 Zenita SBLR, Llamarage
- 3 Flossie O., Wind's Teeth Llamas



# Wool Market Llama Show (cont.)

## HEAVY WOOL ADULT FEMALES

- 1 PSL Kiva, Needle Rock Wools
- 2 SWL Poetry, Quakey Brake Llamas

### Grand Champion

PPW My Girl, Pikes Peak Woolies

### Reserve Champion

Chantilly Ace, Silver Sage Llamas

## NON-BREEDER ADULT

- 1 Red Feather, Debby Rothwell
- 2 New Shoes, Whispering Woods Ranch
- 3 Indian Peaks Chinook, Indian Peaks Ranch

### Grand Champion

Red Feather, Debby Rothwell

### Reserve Champion

New Shoes, Whispering Woods Ranch

## ADVANCED OBSTACLE

- 1 New Shoes, Whispering Woods Ranch
- 2 Tabernash, Plum Valley Llamas
- 3 Nicolo, Shining Star Ranch

## NOVICE OBSTACLE

- 1 Ayri's Matchless, Grubstake Llamas
- 2 El Guapo, Lla Mariposa Llamas
- 3 Sunset Cadet, Twin Peaks Llama Farm

## YOUTH INTERMEDIATE OBSTACLE

- 1 New Shoes, Holly Fleming
- 2 Lotus McGillicutty, Spring Lillie
- 3 Bespeckled, Gretchen Kauffman

## YOUTH JUNIOR OBSTACLE

- 1 Egg Nog, Ronnie Egnot
- 2 Backfire, Patrick Kutscher
- 3 Cheyenne Prince, Tiffany Price

## YOUTH SUB-JUNIOR OBSTACLE

- 1 Rocky Mountain Happy, Heidi Anderson
- 2 King Creole, Brittany Lillie
- 3 El Guapo, Christopher Messick

## YOUTH COSTUME

- 1 Egg Nog, Ronnie Egnot
- 2 Chasin' Rainbows, Dustin Dickman
- 3 PPW Cosmo, Alissa Veuthey

## PACK STRING

- 1 Rocky Mtn. Taos, Lla Mariposa Llamas
- 2 Midnight Express, Bear Track Farm
- 3 Cochise, Debby Rothwell

## PRODUCE OF DAM

- 1 Columbine's Madonna, Stage Stop Llamas

## GET OF SIRE

- 1 M C Hammer, Overland Trail Llamas
- 2 Mycah, Dickman's Rainbow Llamas
- 3 Catskills President, Golden Ridge Llamas, Inc.

## OVER-ALL GR. CHAM. HALTER - MALE

HBL Gulliver, World Class Farms

## OVER-ALL GR. CHAM. HALTER: FEMALE

PPW My Girl, Pikes Peak Woolies

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN RACE

- 1 Augustus, Price Llama Ranch
- 2 Little Dude, Little Dude Ranch
- 3 Fern's Mick Dundee, Limberlost Llamas

## ADVANCED PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 Tabernash, Plum Valley Llamas
- 2 New Shoes, Whispering Woods Ranch
- 3 Nicolo, Shining Star Ranch

## NOVICE PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 Rocky Mtn. Taos, Lla Mariposa Llamas
- 2 Backcountry Boone, Lla Mariposa Llamas
- 3 Rainbow Valley's Bonillo, Rainbow Valley Llamas

## YOUTH INTERMEDIATE P. R.

- 1 New Shoes, Holly Fleming
- 2 East Fork Narcissus, Katie German
- 3 Blanco Bart, Heidi Kauffman

## YOUTH JUNIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1 Tabernash, Diedre Baird
- 2 Cheyenne Prince, Tiffany Price
- 3 El Guapo, Cory Messick

## YOUTH INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP

- 1 New Shoes, Holly Fleming
- 2 East Fork Narcissus, Katie German
- 3 Heyokah, Myca Hurst-Bussanich

## YOUTH JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

- 1 Little Dude, Tiffany Price
- 2 PPW My Gir, Laura Coleman
- 3 King Creole, Summer Lillie

## YOUTH SUB-JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

- 1 Dominga, Kimberly Steadham
- 2 Cloud 9 Merlin, Ryan Swain
- 3 King Creole, Brittany Lillie

## ADVANCED PACK LLAMA

- 1 Tabernash, Plum Valley Llamas
- 2 Nicolo, Shining Star Ranch
- 3 Rocky Mtn. Taos, Lla Mariposa Llamas

## NOVICE PACK LLAMA

- 1 Backcountry Boone, Lla Mariposa Llamas
- 2 Midnight Express, Bear Track Farm
- 3 Ayri's Matchless, Grubstake Llamas

## YOUNG PACK LLAMA

- 1 Timberline's Fargo North, Timberline Llamas
- 2 Logan's Run, J 'n' L Llamas
- 3 Tintero, Bear Track Farm

## Spinner's Choice

- 1 Raven's Spotted Silk, Double K Diamond Llamas

# Estes Park Wool Market Alpaca Show

The fourth annual Estes Park Wool Market Alpaca Show was once again the largest Alpaca Show in North America. Participation was at an all-time high with 134 entries and the competition was tight in all the categories. Virginia Christensen's judging and Jack Johnson's announcing kept the event fair and interesting. The event that received the most par-

years Estes Park Wool Market Agility Sweepstakes even bigger and more exciting.

The halter classes and other performance classes were also exciting events with many of the 9,000 + visitors to the Estes Park Wool Market enjoying the show. Commemorative Alpaca coins containing an ounce of pure silver were given as prizes. Three coins to first place, two to second place and one to third place in each class. Like the performance classes, ribbons were given for first through fifth place. A particularly exciting class was the Adult Fawn Males, won by Peruvian Drambui, where the first through fifth contestants were all very close. A variety of individuals and businesses sponsored classes and the staff of the Estes Park Wool Market Alpaca Show were greatly appreciative. Plans are already under way for next year's June 8th - 9th Alpcas Show to be bigger and better with even more exciting prizes.

## **Largest Alpaca Show in North America**

icipation and interest this year was the Agility Sweepstakes that had overall prizes of \$750, thanks to the generous sponsorship of these events. The overall winners were, first place: Pisco lead by Michael Hernandez taking \$350.00; second place was Bonde lead by Tiffany Ledall taking \$250.00; and third place was Kwanzaa lead by Chandra Ledall taking \$150.00. Sponsors are already being lined up to make next

### **Male Juvenile**

#### **Black and Dark Brown**

1. Snowmass Star Finder, Snowmass Alpacas
2. Babe Ruth, Tanarshak Alpacas
3. Showmass Duke, Showmass Alpacas

#### **Light Brown**

1. Sir Winston's Golden Rod, Snowmass Alpacas
2. Don Canelo, Columbia River Island Alpacas
3. Kodiak II, Aussie Acres

#### **White**

1. Peruvian Sensation, Fantasy Farms
2. NWA, Ltd Cherokee, Northwest Alpacas

#### **Light Fawn**

1. Twenty Two, Castle Hill Farm
2. Peruvian Infiniti, Fantasy Farms
3. Clark Gable, Castle Hill Farm

#### **Dark Fawn**

1. Southern Gold, Creekwater Alpacas
2. NWA, Ltd Henry, Northwest Alpacas

#### **Gray, Pinto, and Fancy**

1. RBA-Rusty Gray, Rocking Box Alpacas
2. Sir Winston Kingston, Snowmass Alpacas
3. Sir Edmund, Hidden Valley Llamas and Alpacas

### **Male Yearling**

#### **Black, Dark Brown, Light Brown**

1. King George, Hidden Valley Llamas and Alpacas
2. Mr. Celebrity, Castle Hill Farm
3. Senor Cabo, Snowmass Alpacas

#### **White, Lt. & Dk. Fawn, Gray, Pinto, Fancy**

1. Snowmass Chardonnay, Snowmass Alpacas
2. Dr. Jim, Jannell and Jim Sebesta
3. NWA, Ltd Henry Alonso, Northwest Alpacas

### **Male Adults**

#### **Black, Dark Brown, Light Brown**

1. Magic, Castle Hill Farm
2. Kidneybean, Santa Rosa Alpacas
3. Babu, Shear Delight Fiber

#### **White**

1. Peruvian Venengador, Greg Mecklem

#### **Light Fawn and Dark Fawn**

1. Peruvian Drambue, Snowmass Alpacas
2. Peruvian Leon #4560, Northwest Alpacas
3. Felix, Northwest Alpacas

#### **Gray and Fancy**

1. Wiki Wiki, Chualar Canyon Ranch
2. John Gray, Cascade Meadows Ranch
3. Ti, Serendipity Farm

### **Female Juveniles**

#### **Black, Dark Brown, and Light Brown**

1. Alberta Express, Pine Meadow Alpacas
2. Suzy Q, Rose Garden
3. Esther's Majic, Castle Hill Farm

#### **White and Light Fawn**

1. Solomon's Pride, Fantasy Farms
2. Annette, Northwest Alpacas
3. Feres Me, Rose Garden

#### **Dark Fawn**

1. Sir Winston's Sunstar, Snowmass Alpacas
2. NWA, Ltd. Harriet, Northwest Alpacas
3. Snowmass Amberson, Snowmass Alpacas

#### **Gray and Fancy**

1. Simba, Fireweed Ranch
2. Welcome Rosarita, Chualar Canyon Ranch
3. RBA - Cinders, Rocking Box Alpacas

*Continued on page 39*

## Estes Park Alpaca Show (cont.)

### Female Yearlings

#### Dark Brown

1. Islandia, Cascade Meadows Ranch
2. Aurora Borealis, Aussie Acres

#### White, Gray, Pinto and Fancy

1. Honey Dew, Pacific Crest
2. Senora Rosita, Doug Brown
3. Angelica Isabella, Double Dutch Farms

#### White and Gray

1. Peruvian Lidia, Alpacas of Colorado
2. Cust, Cascade Meadows Ranch

### Suri Male Juvenile

#### White

1. Peruvian Rio Candente, Columbia Rvr. Is. Alpacas

#### Suri Male Adult; White

1. Sur Raphe, Grand Companion Suri Alpacas

#### Suri Female Juvenile: White & Dk. Fawn

1. NWA, Ltd. Charlie's Angel, Northwest Alpacas
2. Lillian, Switzer-Land Alpacas

### Suri Female Adult

#### White

1. Fresca, Cascade Meadows Ranch

### Showmanship

1. Miss Anisette, Rose Garden Farm Alpacas
2. Maxell, Santa Rosa Alpacas

### Open Public Relations

1. Kidneybean, Santa Rosa Alpacas
2. Sokretees, Hance Ranch

### Agility Sweepstakes

#### Sub-Junior

1. Kwanzaa, Fireweed Ranch, Chandra Ledall
2. Soloman's Pride, Fantasy Farms, Riley Giuhane
3. Shear Elegance, Fireweed Ranch, Amelia Cantwell

#### Junior

1. Bonde, Fireweed Ranch, Tiffany Ledall
2. Peruvian Sensation, Fantasy Farms, Colby Giuhan
3. Faiks Ebony, Faiks Alaska Alpacas, Aimee Faiks

#### Intermediate

1. KPR Antonio, Knobloch Prairie Ranch, Tasha Knobloch
2. Peru Infinity, Fantasy farms, Witney Graham
3. Keba, Woods Edge Wools Farm, Brent Walker

#### Adult

1. Pisco, Fireweed Alpacas, Michael Hernandez
2. Sokretees, Hance Ranch, Mary Hance
3. Silver Czar, Pete Peters

### Overall Sweepstakes

1. Pisco, Michael Hernandez
2. Bonde, Tiffany Ledall
3. Kwanzaa, Chandra Ledall



## Wool Market Llama Show (cont.)

2. Rah, Wind's Teeth Llamas
3. SS Moonchild, Barbara Snakenberg

### Fleece Contest

1. Bros Querneia, Hance Ranch
2. SS Moonchild, Barbara Shakenberg
3. Rah, Wind's Teeth Llamas

### Youth with the Best Attitude - Win or Lose

Ben Riggs, Bear Track Farm

### PERFORMANCE GRAND CHAMPION

Tabernash, Plum Valley Llamas

### PERFORMANCE RESERVE CHAMPION

New Shoes, Whispering Woods Ranch

### NOVICE PERFORMANCE GR. CHAMPION

Backcountry Boone, Lla Mariposa Llamas

### NOVICE PERFORMANCE RES. CHAMPION

Ayri's Matchless, Grubstake Llamas

### VERSATILITY GRAND CHAMPION

New Shoes, Whispering Woods Ranch

### Judges:

Hank Kauffman and Virginia Christensen



## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

To those of you who furnished cookies and other refreshments for the hospitality booth at The Estes Park Wool Market. Your efforts made the booth a smashing success. I promised that I would mention your name and give you credit. I apologize for not being able to do so. I was gone from

the booth a great deal of the time. When I'd return, there would always be additional trays, boxes and baskets of cookies, cupcakes and other treats. Please know that you are very much appreciated and thank you again.

Donna Browne



# The 1995 Intermountain Llama Classic

by Linda Kyriopoulos • Sterling Springs Ranch • Mt. Sterling, UT • 801-245-3529

The fourth annual Intermountain Llama Classic was held in beautiful Logan, Utah on Memorial Weekend. The intention of this show from the beginning was to just have fun with our llamas, and this year was no exception. We had representatives from nearly every western state, as far east as Nebraska. The Utah Llama Association has sponsored this ALSA show in the past, but RMLA jumped on board this year as a co-sponsor. We are always seeing new faces

## **YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP, SUB-JUNIOR**

1. Elizabeth Read, Geronimo
2. Kelcee Dickman, Rainbow's Llyon King

## **YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP, JUNIOR**

1. Dustin Dickman, Chasin' Rainbows
2. Deidre Baird, PVL Almond Joy

## **YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP, INTERMEDIATE**

1. Holly Fleming, New Shoes
2. Marty Johnson, Cameo's Nitro

## **ADULT SHOWMANSHIP**

1. Leslie Dickman, Chasin' Rainbows

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL JUVENILE MALES**

1. Rainbow's Llyon King, Monte and Leslie Dickman
2. PVL Denargo, Ron and Lougene Baird
3. Pedro de Tom-Tom, Stan and Gale Sjol

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL YEARLING MALES**

1. Dance Hall, Joanne Shook
2. KL White Water, Norma Crocker
3. Roman Farms Double Nickel, Marty Johnson

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL TWO YEAR OLD MALES**

1. Polar Plus, Monte and Leslie Dickman
2. GNLC Luck of the Draw, Stephen and Christy Long

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL ADULT MALES**

1. KU Tabernash, Ron and Lougene Baird
2. Poncho McGregor, Danny and Vikki Riddle
3. Fern's Mick Dundee, Daryl Wood

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL CHAMPION MALE**

KU Tabernash, Ron and Lougene Baird

## **RESERVE CHAMPION MALE**

Rainbow's Llyon King, Monte and Leslie Dickman

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL JUVENILE FEMALES**

1. Rainbow Valley's Micka, Reid Langerman
2. Spring Bell, Holly Fleming
3. Rainbow Iago, Monte and Leslie Dickman

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL YEARLING FEMALES**

1. PVL Almond Joy, Ron and Lougene Baird
2. Limberlost's Mareze, Daryl Wood
3. Limberlost's Ballyhoo, Daryl Wood

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL TWO YEAR OLD FEMALES**

1. Perl Essence, Jim and Leanne Baker
2. Rainbow Valley's Panchuela, Reid Langerman
3. Teton Phoenix, Kari Smith

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL ADULT FEMALES**

at our show, and are thrilled that we also seem to see many of the same faces from year to year. Logan is a beautiful, green valley with outstanding facilities for our show, including a huge indoor arena surrounded by acres of tree-covered lawn for a wonderful atmosphere. Howard Kerstetter was our judge this year. Many participants were pleased with his willingness to explain in detail just what judges are looking for. It made the weekend educational as well as fun!

1. Rainbow Valley's Misty, Reid Langerman and Mary Summers
2. Rainbow Valley's Aurora, Reid Langerman and Mary Summers

## **LIGHT/MEDIUM WOOL CHAMPION FEMALE**

Rainbow Valley's Micka, Reid Langerman and Mary Summers

## **RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE**

Spring Bell, Holly Fleming

## **HEAVY WOOL JUVENILE MALES**

1. Windragon, Lars and Janet Bergeson
2. Bodacious de Manana, Mike and Deborah McKeon

## **HEAVY WOOL YEARLING MALES**

1. Pistols 'n' Roses, Chris and Christine Warden
2. Juan Pedro, Joanne Shook

## **HEAVY WOOL TWO YEAR OLD MALES**

1. Cameo's Nitro, Marty Johnson
2. Arctic Fox, Richard and MaryAnna Lowe

## **HEAVY WOOL ADULT MALES**

1. MVF's Vaquero Bandito, Holly Fleming

## **HEAVY WOOL CHAMPION MALE**

Cameo's Nitro, Marty Johnson

## **RESERVE CHAMPION MALE**

Arctic Fox, Richard and MaryAnna Lowe

## **HEAVY WOOL JUVENILE FEMALES**

1. Rainbow's Kid Missy, Monte and Leslie Dickman

## **HEAVY WOOL ADULT FEMALES**

1. Brinklee Anna, Robin and Jane Hunt

## **HEAVY WOOL CHAMPION FEMALE**

Brinklee Anna, Robin and Jane Hunt

## **RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE**

Rainbow's Kid Missy, Monte and Leslie Dickman

## **OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION MALE**

Cameo's Nitro, Marty Johnson

## **OVERALL RESERVE MALE**

KU Tabernash, Ron and Lougene Baird

## **OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE**

Rainbow Valley's Micka, Reid Langerman and Mary Summers

## **OVERALL RESERVE FEMALE**

Spring Bell, Holly Fleming

Continued on page 41

# The 1995 Intermountain Classic (con'd)

## YEARLING AND TWO YEAR OLD NON-BREEDING

1. Geronimo, Ron and Melanie Read
2. L W Drop Cloth, Joanne Shook

## ADULT NON-BREEDING

1. New Shoes, Holly Fleming
2. L W Starburst, Joanne Shook
3. L W Peter Pan, Norma Crocker

## GRAND CHAMPION NON-BREEDING

New Shoes, Holly Fleming

## RESERVE CHAMPION NON-BREEDING

LW Starburst, Joanne Shook

## GET OF SIRE

1. Fern's Mick Dundee, Daryl Wood
2. Southwest's TC Canon, Reid Langerman
3. Mycah, Monte and Leslie Dickman

## OPEN COSTUME

1. Joanne Shook, Dorothy and Wizard of Oz group
2. Rusty Farnsworth, Mountain Man/Trapper
3. Marty Johnson, Eveready Bunny

## OPEN OBSTACLE

1. Pierrot, Joanne Shook
2. Cameo's Nitro, Marty Johnson
3. Poncho McGregor, Danny and Vikki Riddle

## YOUTH OBSTACLE

1. Ted Kyriopoulos, Wind River's Rocket
2. Sherry Brauer, Poncho McGregor
3. Deidre Baird, KU Tabernash

## OPEN PACK LLAMA

1. Pierrot, Joanne Shook
2. LW Starburst, Joanne Shook
3. Black Poncho, Steve and Linda Kyriopoulos

## YOUNG PACK LLAMA

1. Cameo's Nitro, Marty Johnson
2. L W Drop Cloth, Joanne Shook
3. Roman Farms Double Nickel, Marty Johnson

## OPEN PR LLAMA

1. Dance Hall, Joanne Shook
2. Pierrot, Joanne Shook
3. Roman Farms Double Nickel, Marty Johnson

## PERFORMANCE GRAND CHAMPION

Pierrot, Joanne Shook

## RESERVE PERFORMANCE CHAMPION

Cameo's Nitro, Marty Johnson

## VERSATILITY CHAMPION

Pierrot, Joanne Shook



**Rusty Farnsworth, son of Monte and Jane Farnsworth from Mountain Home, Utah. Rusty won 2nd place in Open Costume Class with his llama, Paladin, draped in furs and racks.**



# Australia/ New Zealand Delegation

Veterinarians and researchers invited to join People to People Citizen Ambassador Program trip "Down Under..."

Have you ever wondered what breeders in other parts of the world are up to? Have you thought you might be able to learn something from those people that might help your llama or alpaca operation become more efficient and productive? Well, your chance to answer those questions could arrive as soon as November when a People to People Citizen Ambassador Program Delegation of llama and alpaca breeders, veterinarians, and researchers departs for Australia and New Zealand.

The delegation will be led by camelid breeder Kay E. Patterson, who has spent her professional life committed to animal breeding and care. Patterson started out breeding Arabian horses, and in 1965 became one of the first llama breeders in the United States. Since that time she has played a major role in the gradual professionalization of the industry. She was co-creator of Llama World magazine in 1982, organizer of the first llama medical conference in 1981, and, as a charter member of the Alpaca and Llama Show Association (ALSA).

The delegation is scheduled to depart from Los Angeles November 28 and return there December 13th. Delegation members can count on an experience that will generate ideas through discussions, seminars, and field visits. "This is the first time we've sent a camelid delegation to Australia and New

Zealand," says Citizen Ambassador Program Special Projects Director Mike Wacker, "and it will be a wonderful opportunity to experience the llama and alpaca industry in that part of the world. It's also an opportunity to form lasting personal and professional friendships with breeders from Australia and New Zealand." Wacker says the contacts don't stop in Australia or New Zealand, "Some of the best discussions People to People delegates make is with other delegates. There will be other camelid breeders from around the world involved in this trip, and informal discussions between delegates can lead to good meetings and great advice right here at home."

People to People was founded in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower as a way of reducing Cold War tensions by creating a way that Americans could meet and work with other people from around the world. The Citizen Ambassador Program specializes in adult Professional programs, while a separate division focuses on travel programs for youth.

For more information on the camelid delegation to Australia and New Zealand, please contact either Mr. Mike Wacker or Ms. Jean Mathews, Program Coordinator, at 800-669-7882, or by fax at 509-534-5245.



## Jack Robertson's Memorial Fund

The Board of Directors of RMLA and the Membership wish to thank Betty Robertson and all those who gave in Jack's memory.

The RMLA Library is the recipient of gifts from the Jack Robertson Memorial Fund.

These gifts will be used to expand and strengthen the existing inventory of books, tapes, videos and publications, to maintain the high standards expected and to serve the needs of our growing membership.

## Progesterone (Cont.)

We believe this is something inherent in certain females. It could be the particular bloodline's characteristic, or a very quick cycling of the progesterone levels in individual females. Now that we know these girls' blood levels vary this much, we can plan to test them in the evening rather than on our traditional schedule. We hope others who have breeding females can use these experiences to their benefit. A simple cyclical morning and night testing procedure to establish an individual female's cycle of progesterone could save an ultrasound or a lavage procedure. It could, under some circumstances, also save months of a pregnancy.



# *Caring for Llamas*

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Published by Rocky Mountain Llama & Alpaca Association

By CLARE HOFFMAN, DVM & INGRID ASMUS

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## Planning Your Alpaca Facility (cont.)

In creating useful barn space, you must decide what kind of fixtures are going to be utilized for feeding your alpacas. A feeder that is accessible from both sides to a large group of animals is recommended. We had free-standing, V-shaped feeders built out of raw wood with wooden trays underneath to catch the chaff. I separate the bales, and then toss the individual sections of hay down onto the feeders from the hayloft. Pellets and other nutritional supplements are put into individual square plastic feed dishes that either hook into the fences or can be placed on the ground.

### Interior Design

The barn floor is the next area of consideration. In my opinion, a dirt floor is a poor choice. The two best choices that I am aware of are bluestone screenings and sand as they readily absorb urine and are easy to clean. We use bluestone, and keep an extra supply under the hay feeders where the alpacas can't get to it. As this gets used up quickly, an adequate storage area in or close to the barn is recommended. I only use concrete in certain areas of the barn such as the vet room, office or work areas where you're shearing or grooming your animals. If there is a cement floor in an existing structure that you're making over, adequate drainage must be provided for cleaning.

The alpacas are not the only ones who need space in your barn. The owner needs a room where breeding records and all of the other paperwork relating to your alpaca business can be kept. Barn office is the answer, for you can then keep all your medical and management records in a place of their own and not risk getting them mixed up with your personal accounts. When your papers are all in one place, it's much easier to answer specific business-related questions. A portable phone in the barn is essential, especially if you're waiting for a callback from the vet, and need to be right there to check your alpaca's vital signs.

A vet room is a bit of a luxury, and not every barn has one, but every breeder needs a space to keep medical supplies, and it's nice to have a closed-in area that's relatively dust-free for the vet to work in. One of the best ways we've found to store medical supplies is in plastic wall units that come equipped with several dozen drawers. We also have a small refrigerator in which we store plasma and colostrum for the alpacas and cold water and sodas for us.

In any barn, hot and cold running water is not a luxury, but a necessity. Not only will the vet want a place to wash up, but if you're assisting in a medical procedure, you also want to be able to clean up without bringing buckets of hot water from the house. The presence of hot water allows us to have a washer and dryer in the barn which takes care of all towels, cria coats and anything else that has been used in the care of the alpacas.

Although it's handy to have a separate storage area in which you keep everything that has to do with the care and management of your alpacas, it's easy to create a combination vet and storage room. This would include space for extra vet supplies, animal food, buckets, grooming equipment, shears and other items. I also encourage you to put a bathroom in the barn. It's great for visitors who are looking at your furry friends, and it's convenient for you and anyone working in the barn. If you have to sit up with a cria on a long, cold night, it may not be possible to leave for more than a minute or two.

It's imperative to have good lighting in your barn, especially on those long nights. We have fluorescent lighting here, but some people don't like that. An alternative choice is carefully placed lighting fixtures which provide maximum illumination to the main barn and any stall areas. In addition, place spotlights on the outside to light up the entire area around the barn.

One last idea to contemplate in fine tuning your barn plan is its flexibility. If you decide to sell your property and move, can this building be converted to house other animals? Will it be as salable as everything else on the land? My barns are set up to convert easily to horse stalls as I live in horse country. This consideration may alter a few of your plans, but could pay off in the long run.

There are two more items that belong in your barn, although they're not part of the construction. One is a holding chute with sliding panels to restrain your animal during routine vet work, shearing or grooming. These chutes can either be built or purchased. We had one built, and then acquired a portable one to go on the road with us. The other item is a scale to weigh your alpaca baby as it grows and matures. Due to the volume of fleece, it's impossible to know the weight of your alpaca and how well it's doing. Keeping track of your alpaca's weight is an accurate way of tracing its pattern of growth and good health, for sudden weight loss can be an indicator of

Continued on page 45

## ■ *Planning Your Alpaca Facility (cont.)*

something wrong. Looking at this from the other side, an overweight alpaca could possibly have birthing problems. Thus, a monthly weigh-in of all your alpacas is a good preventative measure.

### **Outside Options**

Once all of the inside design is worked out to your satisfaction, think about what you want your barn to look like from the outside. What fits with the rest of the buildings on your property? Leave room for some creative landscaping to enhance the barn's appearance, particularly the entrance. It creates a lovely first impression on visitors if your barn and pasture shelters have a uniform look that fits together. At Lanark, there was an old creosote timbered horse barn dating from the early 1900s. We couldn't paint over it, so we painted our alpaca barn black to match the original barn.

If you don't choose a wooden barn with its traditional weathered look, another option is the ultra-modern style of a metal barn. Once that decision is made, then your next step is to decide if your fencing should be wire, wood or a combination of the two. We chose wood and roving wire fences with a wooden top, and learned the hard way that wood painted white and Virginia red clay mix only too easily, and the red clay always wins. If I had to do it again, I would choose black fences since they don't show the dirt.

When you make your decisions about fencing, pastures and outer shelters, please remember those principles of growth. Four pastures are the bare minimum required, with one for pregnant mothers, one for female yearlings, one for male yearlings, and one for your breeding herdsires. You should build six, and make sure there is space for eight, for there will be animals visiting your farm for breeding purposes, and they should have a pasture of their own, preferably a bit away from your own herd.

Run water and electrical lines out far enough to reach the new pastures when it's time to put them in. Alpacas need their space, and each of these areas needs to have water, fans and shelter available. For best results, you should build the pasture shelters with three sides to protect the animals from the wind in cold weather and the hot sun in the summer.

When constructing the pastures, the flow of animals and machinery must be considered once again. Build your pastures with two openings, so that they can feed into each other as well as into a common thoroughfare that will take them all into the barn.

This alleviates having to herd all the animals into the barn when you only want to single out one alpaca. Create gate openings that are wide enough to accommodate the largest piece of equipment that will pass through them.

There are several choices in fencing, but the main requirement here is that your fences be predator proof. For more information on fencing, read the excellent article, "Fencing For Your Alpacas," by Leah Dewald in the Winter, 1994, issue of Alpacas magazine.

### **Welcoming Visitors**

In the primary stage of building and planning, it may seem too early to think about hosting your own alpaca event. However, if you're really going to enjoy the adventure of the alpaca industry, there will eventually be an event at your farm, even if it's a joint venture with another breeder. So, as with everything else that you've been doing to get started in alpaca breeding, it's best to look ahead and plan now to make your future with alpacas work out smoothly and easily over the next few years.

If you're organizing an event, one of the big considerations is parking. Do you have room for it, or will it be necessary to make some sort of agreement with a neighbor? Where would a tent be set-up for other breeders to display their animals? Is there an area for seminars, lectures and workshops? If there is space in the barn, that's great, but it may not be big enough to comfortably hold several dozen people. Is your driveway big enough for animal trailers to comfortably move and turn? All of these factors will become very important when it comes time to host an alpaca event. Even if you start small, your seminar or shearing festival is going to attract more people each year.

It may seem that there is a lot to think about in building your barn and creating outdoor space for your alpacas, but the choices are really very simple. The first one is to have enough space to grow into. The second one is to construct a building that is equipped with the requirements to maintain a top quality breeding operation. The third is to build a barn that is comfortable for both you and your alpacas. You're all on the same team and will be spending a lot of time together there.

Make your plans, build the barn of your dreams, and find lots of adorable alpacas to fill it up. That's what I did, and I've never been happier.

# New Members

by Judy Sealy, Secretary

Shor Eisele  
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Lucy Martin  
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Peyton, CO 80831  
719•749•2373

LeeAnn Walker  
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801•722•2603

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Lauriann Blakeman  
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David & Willow Kauffman  
DUSTY BRITCHES  
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Castle Rock, CO 80104

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Levi, Heidi & Gretchen Kauffman  
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San Angelo, TX 76904-4083

David Lee-Johnson  
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307•527•7032 (FAX)

Brianna Livengood  
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Denise M. Hankins  
LUCKY "H" RANCH  
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719•495•9778  
JUNIOR MEMBER

Ginger E. Paladino  
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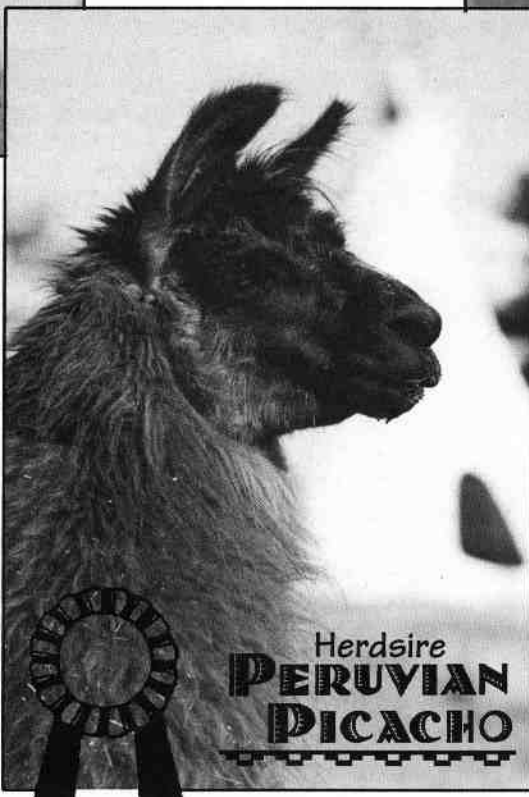
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