


The **RMLA**
 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
Journal
 www.rmla.com

Spring 2010



Cover photo by Janine Faussonne

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Board of Directors

President

Lougene Baird

Post Office Box 385403

Waikoloa, HI 80302

808-883-1887

lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

Vice President

Jerry Dunn

14550 West 50th Avenue

Golden, CO 80403-1707

303-277-1129

beartrak@q.com

Treasurer

Bob Hance

11818 West 52nd Avenue

Wheatridge, CO 80033

303-422-4681

hancelama@att.net

Secretary

Geri Rutledge

2209 Road 9

Waco, NE 68460

402-728-5254

buckshollow@wildblue.net

Director at Large

Dick Williams

Post Office Box 1070

Plains, MT 59859

406-826-2201

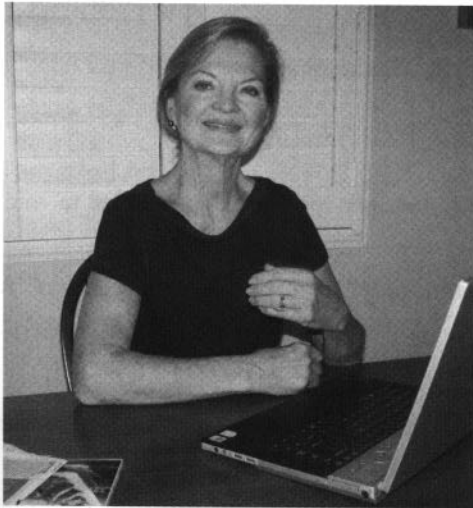
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

Committees

Committee	Chairperson	Telephone	E-mail address	Liaison
Bookstore	Jan Adamcyk	303-621-2960	adamcyk@earthlink.com	Bob Hance
Bylaws	Lougene Baird	808-883-1887	lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net	Lougene Baird
Calendar	Patti Morgan	620-442-4996	pmmorganks@gmail.com	Geri Rutledge
Education	Position Open			Jerry Dunn
Elections & Nominations	Maggie Merrill-Brown	303-646-0568	designer95@bluelinesite.com	Jerry Dunn
Events/Marketing	Jerry Dunn	303-277-1129	beartrak@q.com	Jerry Dunn
Fiber	Patti Morgan	620-442-4996	pmmorgan@skyerock.net	Geri Rutledge
Finance	Barb Hance	303-422-4681	hancelama@att.net	Bob Hance
4-H	Maureen Bergenfeld	719-522-0347	bergenfeld@earthlink.net	Geri Rutledge
Government Relations	Bob Hance	303-422-4681	hancelama@att.net	Bob Hance
Library	Dick Williams	406-826-2201	drdrjhw@hotmail.com	Dick Williams
Membership & Website	Barb Hance	303-422-4681	hancelama@att.net	Bob Hance
Pack	Dick Williams	406-826-2201	drdrjhw@hotmail.com	Dick Williams
Publication	Cheryl Juntilla	970-640-8028	cajwdj@q.com	Lougene Baird
Rescue	L'illette Vasquez	720-839-0787	lillette@veevee.com	Lougene Baird
Youth	Dick Williams	406-826-2201	drdrjhw@hotmail.com	Dick Williams

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President's Message



organization is fortunate to have such a dedicated team full of diverse talent in the leadership positions. One important issue your Board has recently solved is correcting the rotation of Directors in the election process. Please read the article in this issue concerning this year's election.

Also, have you noticed the Calendar of Events? Take a look and choose a few to enjoy. While you are choosing, pick an event that you would enjoy helping as a volunteer. The RMLA Event leaders work long and hard to make wonderful opportunities for those who attend. Call an event leader and lend a hand, they will love you for it!

Above all, be safe as you journey to event destinations. A day of planning to have all your vehicles running well and tack in order will assure you, your family and critters a good, safe time.

Hug a lama for me,
Lougene

In conversations with RMLA members there have been stories of tough winter conditions everywhere. It is with great excitement that everyone is looking forward to Spring and all the activities that blossom in the next several months and into Fall.

Since December, the Board has met for three very productive work sessions. Your

RMLA Election

By Lougene Baird

It is time again to think about the next RMLA election. Being on the Board is a fun filled opportunity to do great things for this super organization.

Somehow along the way things got a little off kilter with the election process, and RMLA has three Directors whose terms ends this year! Jerry Dunn, Bob Hance and Geri Rutledge are all now in their third year of three year terms.

The RMLA Bylaws require that as near one-third as possible shall be elected each

year and that the term of office is three years. The Board unanimously voted to make this the year to correct the rotation of directors.

This year members will elect two Directors for a three year term and one director for a one year term. This will then return the terms of Directors to the correct rotation.

So, step up and have some fun. Get your name on the ballot for the 2010 RMLA Election.

HUSKER HOBO SHOW

APRIL 16 - 17, 2010
NO GROOM!!!!



ADAMS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

DOUBLE POINT HALTER
SINGLE POINT PERFORMANCE

ALSO:

YOUTH JUDGING, CART DRIVING &
A NON-ALSA FIBER FAIR

DON'T MISS THE FAMOUS
HOBO DINNER AND
NOT-SO-SILENT AUCTION

NEW THIS YEAR:

WALKING FLEECE and
VERSATILITY CHAMPION!

JUST FOR FUN CLASSES:

MAIDEN JACKPOT PERFORMANCE

\$\$\$\$\$\$

and ALPACA HALTER

LOTS OF OTHER FUN & SURPRISES!

Judges: Wally and Maryan Baker

Check out all the details at the NLA
website www.nellama.org, or
contact Dee January, 402-462-9976
e-mail djanuary@windstream.net



April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011 RMLA MEMBERSHIP

JOIN RMLA now! Your dues will assure the continuation of all the good RMLA has accomplished.

JOIN as a **LIFE MEMBER!**

Please consider **making a donation** to the RMLA Foundation Inc., for RMLA Youth scholarships.

Youth Membership: \$10.00 per year (must be 18 years or under **AND have an adult RMLA member sponsor**). Not entitled to vote, but eligible to receive scholarships from the RMLA Foundation Inc.

Young Adult Membership: \$10.00 per year **Former Youth members only**, who have continued education beyond High School. A parent/guardian must be the adult RMLA member sponsor. 1 vote per membership.

Annual Membership: \$40.00 per year (Up to 2 adults per membership: 1 vote per person.)

Life Membership: \$500.00 one time only! Same as Annual, plus: **Special** recognition in Directory; and a one time free 1/4 page ad in the Journal. If there are future special assessments, "Life Members" would pay the same as annual members.

Life memberships may be paid in 4 equal quarterly installments of \$125.00 each.

If you prefer, you may join or renew on the web page at www.rmla.com — click on Membership



Name _____

Name (2 or Jr. sponsor) _____

Ranch _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____ Web _____

of Llamas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

of Alpacas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding(B) | <input type="checkbox"/> Training (T) | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving(DR) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales(S) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Products(PR) | <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding(BD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber(F) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research(RE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judging(JD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Packing(PK) | <input type="checkbox"/> Leasing(LE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brokering(BK) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Packing(COM PK) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue(RS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify) | |

Please check if you are interested in working on any of these committees:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber | <input type="checkbox"/> Pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations/Elections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H & Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> By-Laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Gov't. Relations |



_____ Life: \$500.00 _____
 _____ Annual: \$40.00 _____
 _____ Youth: \$10.00 _____
 _____ Young Adult: \$10.00 _____

Donation to
 RMLA Foundation Inc. _____
 Total: \$ _____

Visa/MasterCard
 EXP. Date _____
 Acct. # _____
 Signature _____

This charge will appear on your bill as:
Rocky Mt. Llama

Mail this form with your check (payable to RMLA) or Credit Card information to:
Bob & Barbara Hance • 11818 West 52nd Avenue • Wheat Ridge CO 80033-2032

Don't miss any of the events, sponsored by RMLA.
JOIN NOW!!! ••• Support RMLA Foundation Inc.

Bear Track Farm.....6 & 11
 Cache La Poudre.....21
 Caring For Llamas & Alpacas32
 Classified Ad.....6
 Going To The Sun
 Fiber Mill 16
 Grand Mesa & Kokopelli
 Llama Classics 19
 Hance Ranch Alpacas 10
 Husker Hobo Show.....3
 Laughing Llama Studio.....25
 Lladylhawk Llamas 13
 Mazuri Diets..... 15
 Mt. Sopris Llamas..... 10
 Pheasant Hill Farm.....31
 Rock-N-M Llamas..... 17
 Rocky Mountain Llamas7

MARCH

- March 13 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Denver, CO., Contact Judy Glaser, 303.646.6311, judy.glaser@yahoo.com or Kim Sawyer, kim@tapestryalpacos.com .
 March 20 Llamas & Friends in the Park, Wheat Ridge, CO., Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

APRIL

- April 10-11 Driving Clinic, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO., Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com
 April 16-17 Husker Hobo Show, Hastings, NE., Contact Dee January, 402.462.4996, djanuary@windstream.net
 April 18 Stars & Stripes Performance Show, Waco, NE., Contact Jim Rutledge, 402.728.5254, buckshollow@wildblue.net

MAY

- May 1-2 Llamas and More Association Llama Show, Fallon, NV, Contact John & Pam Trauth, 775.423.5262, llamaman@cccmm.net
 May 8 Jelly Bean Classic, Arvada, CO., Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com
 May 22 Wild 'N' Woolly Llama Show, Broken Bow, NE., Contact Tami Schendt, 308.872.2936, ptschendt@yahoo.com
 May 22 Grand Mesa Llama Show, Grand Junction, CO.
 May 23 Kokopelli Llama Show, Grand Junction, CO., Contact Jill Knuckles 970.487.0223, talltaillamas@bigplanet.com

JUNE

- June 19-20 Paca Buddies Open House, Aurora, CO, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Contact Bob & Barbara Hance, 303.422.4681, hancelama@att.net

JULY

- July 10 Douglas County Ice Cream Classic Youth Show, Whispering Pines Park, Franktown, CO, Contact Scott McHenry, LloftyLlamas4HClub, 303.688.6642, cr_smch@yahoo.com
 July 24 Fairplay Llama Pack Race, Fairplay, CO., Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, gary@jmhfarm.com
 July 25 Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show, Fairplay, CO, Contact Ann Bruhn, 719.660.9253
 July 25 Out on the Prairie Llama/alpaca Youth Show, Calhan, CO, Contact Maureen Bergenfeld, 719.522.0347, maureen.bergenfeld@yahoo.com

AUGUST

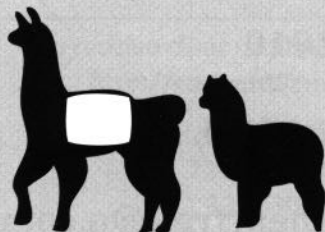
- August 7 Douglas County Fair 4H & Open Youth Show Castle Rock, CO., Contact Scott McHenry, Llofty Llamas4H Club, 303.688.6642, cr_smch@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER

- September 25 Looking For The Gold, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com APRI

“Show me a person
 who has never made
 a mistake and I'll show
 you someone who has
 never achieved much.”

— Joan Collins



Membership Committee Report

By Barb Hance,
RMLA Membership Committee Chair

RMLA has had 18 New Members join this year, so it appears that although the economy is down, there is still interest in the Llama/Alpaca industry. We have also had a handful of folks that came back from previous years. I want to thank all of you for supporting RMLA!

Since membership expires on March 31, I mailed renewal and Service Directory advertising forms on February 25. You should have them by now - PLEASE take a few moments and return them as soon as possible so that you don't miss the March 31, 2010 deadline.

I encourage each of you to advertise: your sale animals; your breeding sires; your packing business; your goods and services; in the Service Directory (The Yellow Pages of the Industry) for only \$30 per ad, which will appear on the RMLA web site for a full year, as well as the hard copy booklets that are given away at all of the RMLA events.

Thank you for supporting RMLA!

Get Ready For Spring Shearing

We now offer sharpening for clipper blades, hand shears, scissors, and toenail nippers. Call or email Paul or Karen for details....307-672-5144 or chantar@fiberpipe.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Courtnee Benson
Robin Benson
Sapaveco Ranches
PO Box 507
Florence, TX 76527-0507
512.751.6943 Fax 254.793.2055
llamas@sapavecoranch.com
www.sapavecoranch.com

Drew Schendt (Youth)
Clear Creek Llamas, LLC
1034 N 13th Avenue
Broken Bow, NE 68822-1118
308.872.2936
ptschendt@yahoo.com

Samuel Schendt (Youth)
Clear Creek Llamas, LLC
1034 N 13th Avenue
Broken Bow, NE 68822-1118
308.872.2936
ptschendt@yahoo.com

Zachary Urban
Grant Bennet
Llama Tea
4740 Reed Street
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-3529
720.252.5930
llamatea@gmail.com
www.llamatea.com

Welcome Back to ReNewing Member
(from 2007)

Tom Jones
521 Rado Road
Grand Junction, CO 81507-9738
970.393.2283 Fax 970.468.501
tomsr@wildernesssportsonline.com

E-mail Address Changes

Sharon and John Beacham
grandmamallama@gmail.com

Jerry Dunn
beartrak@q.com

Please be sure to let the Membership Committee know if your mailing or e-mail address changes so that you don't miss out on any announcements or issues of the Journal.

DRIVE DRIVE DRIVE

INCREASE YOUR LLAMA'S VERSITILITY



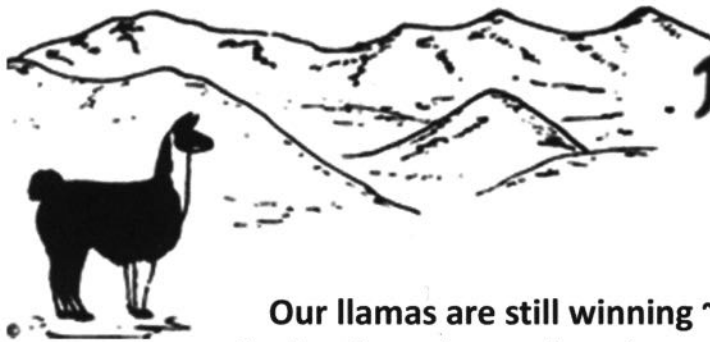
BEAR TRACK FARM DRIVING CLINIC

SINGLES AND PAIRS

APRIL 10-11, 2010

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 2, 2010

JERRY DUNN 303-277-1129 beartrak@q.com



Rocky Mountain Llamas

Since 1978 ~ Raising, Training
and Loving Llamas

Our llamas are still winning ~
in the show ring and on the trail!

Some Rocky Mountain Llamas Champions:

Inca's Legacy: 15 times Grand Champion Light Wool Female &
2 times Reserve Grand Champion Light Wool Female!
(now owned by Nikki & Jeff Kuklenski and Gayle Lathrop;
shown in the northwest region by Nikki Kuklenski)

High Spirits: ROM in Pack, PR and Obstacle

Suprinca: Grand Champion Light Wool Female

Clover: 2 Times Grand Champion Light Wool Female
And numerous other winners in their respective classes

What makes winners? Good breeding and good training!

Are your llamas and alpacas as easy to work with as you'd like?
Are they easy to catch and halter? Stand for grooming? Toenails?
Do they lead nicely on a loose lead? Load in vehicles?
Jump obstacles? Go up and down stairs? Back smoothly?
Can you brush their legs and pick up their feet?

If you'd like to learn more about training your llamas and alpacas,
making them more manageable and fun to work with and show,
please consider our training clinics.

Training Llamas for Willing Cooperation (one-day clinic)

Learn all the essentials for easy management, plus grooming, toenail
trimming, obstacles and loading in vehicles, including standard vans.

Packing with Llamas (two-day clinic)

- *Sat.*: Learn the practical method to teach your llamas to accept a pack saddle and panniers, and how to properly pack the panniers.
- *Sun.*: A lunch hike with your llama lightly packed, learning to ford streams in various situations, cross bridges and other obstacles.

To receive clinic outlines and schedules, see our website or contact us:

<http://rockymtllamas.com> ~ questions@rockymtllamas.com

Bobra B. Goldsmith, owner

7202 N 45th Street, Longmont CO 80503-8844

303.530.5575 (office) ~ 720.306.3691 (fax)

30 Years of Innovations in Llama & Alpaca Equipment

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Saddlepads
Stakelines & Stake Pins
Rainflies
Load scales
Trail bells
Water Bags
String-along Lead Ropes

Cart Driving Equipment

True-fit Llama Harness
Driving Halters
Harness Pads
Whips
Carts

Grooming Supplies

Books & Tapes/CDs

Training Videos

First-Aid & Care Items

Show Sheets

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See our website with color photos
of all our products, or request our
B&W print catalog by mail.

RMLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2010

Attendance: Lougene Baird, Bob Hance, Dick Williams, Jerry Dunn, Geri Rutledge

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm MT

Reviewed the last minutes on record.

Annual Meeting held at Rocky Mountain Regionals Sept 26th will be posted and voted on at the next Annual Meeting.

BOD Meeting Estes Park CO June 12th, 2009 All BOD members have a copy of these. Dick Williams made motion to accept, Second by Jerry Dunn. Approved

Treasurer

Report from Bob Hance Total Equity 120,629.43

A full report was provided by email to all BOD Members for review.

Old Business:

RMLA Tri-fold brochure. Jerry Dunn reporting the production of the flyer is coming along; they are currently looking at bids for printing, some suggestions about which vendor to use, types and colors of paper, quality of print and photos. Once all the information is compiled a decision will be made. It was discussed to print 2000 in a batch. Then we can update the brochure as needed. It may be possible to have these ready by NWSS in Denver Jan 2010.

Joint Conference with LANA and RMLA. This idea was never nurtured, lack of persons to coordinate. Table until later date.

New Business:

1. **RMLA** will sponsor the 2010 St Patrick's Day Parade in Denver CO and pay \$60 Registration fee.
2. **The Research Committee** has been removed from the list of committees. The committee will be re-activated should requests be received in the future.
3. **The Marketing Committee** will be combined with the Events Committee because all marketing is currently being done through the Events Chair.
4. **RMLA** will sponsor the National Western Stock Show by contributing \$250 directly to the Show committee and the funding directed toward the fiber events.

Geri Rutledge motion to approve items 1-4, second by Bob Hance All approve.

5. **Bookstore** request for updates on library and resources. Questions about where are the Original CD's for publications done by RMLA. We currently have 809 Caring for Llama Alpaca Books in stock. Bob Hance will be working to update any information, request updates from Authors, bidding and reprint data. Discussed cost of production, when mailing orders, cost, international costs, etc...The publication of costs to purchase must match what we do. This is published in the RMLA Journal. Website information must also match. Wait till the first of the year, and this should all be the same. We must cover our cost of the publication and shipping.
 6. **Youth Manual** – Time to look at updates, cost, printing, authors. Discussion about Leader Manual, Projects Book, and general updates. Geri Rutledge will take on this project, building a committee. Review what other states offer for information. Make sure RMLA has information to offer Youth 4-H. Dick Williams will mail Geri a copy of the last edition and updates will be done from this point. Bidding, and publication information to follow. Goal of June 2010.
 7. All CD's that have our publication will be kept in two separate locations. One in the library and the other with Secretary/President. That way two or more copies will exist and document in the minutes what publisher was used. The publisher would also have a copy of the document.
 8. **Finance Committee** – Bob Hance will be building the team. The finance committee will consist of at least two members in good standing. They will update the membership roster. Several names were shared. The team will pre-plan a budget for 2010. Building into the budget, the costs or materials, events, etc... General business done by RMLA and committee work.
 9. Next BOD Meeting look at proposed budget. List of assets owned by RMLA, compare list or property, CD's, and documents.
 10. Request Calendar information per year. All exp and profit for 2009 sales. Then the same for 2010.
 11. RMLA note cards, supply has run out. Geri Rutledge will create cards, allow 25 for each BOD Member. Project for the first of the new year.
- Next meeting set for January 27th, 2010
6:30 Mountain Time
- Bob Hance motion to adjourn meeting, second by Jerry Dunn All approve. Adjourned
9:10pm Mountain Time

January 27, 2010

Present: Lougene Baird – President, Jerry Dunn Vice President, Bob Hance Treasurer, Geri Rutledge Secretary, Dick Williams BOD Member.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm Mountain time.

Approval of the minutes from the last meeting 12-16-09. Dick Williams motioned to approve, Jerry Dunn Seconded, all were favor and motion passed.

Treasurer Report – Bob Hance

Discussion about amount of funds in the Bookstore. Lougene motioned to take \$10,000 from the Bookstore General Operations Account and move to CD, with the best interest rate. Dick Seconded. All were favor and the motion passed. This will leave \$1,500 in the bookstore General Operations Account.

The rest of the Treasurer Report was emailed for the BOD to review.

Committee Reports

Book Store – Bob Hance

The book store has a total of 747 Caring for Llamas and Alpacas books on hand, so at the current rate this would allow enough inventory for 2010. Bob reported Jan is in the process of contacting Authors for the book.

By Laws – Lougene Baird

The Board needs to look at Bylaws updates. One update should be the Committee Chairs, Committee Members and Volunteers must be a member in good standing. Lougene will work on updates and send to the Board for review on email. Board-approved proposed revisions will be placed on the next General Election Ballot for membership approval.

Calendar – Geri Rutledge

Patti Morgan is already working on the 2011 Calendar. Any member can submit photos by picture or online by sending Patti an email. Sales were good for 2009, left over copies have been marked down to \$5. Dick Williams is putting an Ad in Back Country Llama to help sell the remaining inventory.

Elections and Nominations - Jerry Dunn

We need to have a good understanding of who the BOD members are that have rotated on and in what year. Past minutes will be reviewed to discover facts. More information will follow next month.

Events – Jerry Dunn

So far 13 events have completed paperwork for 2010. The Insurance office is requesting the number of planned RMLA events. Some members talked about their 2010 event at NWSS but the paperwork has not been completed. Some of the large events are not in yet, but will be contacted. Insurance premium is due in February.

Fiber – Geri Rutledge

Patti submitted the areas that Fiber Booth will travel to Estes Park and Taos in 2010. NWSS is complete and the accounting is coming soon. There is option to attend Larimer County Fiber Fest and Sun Fiber Fest, these are pending application and booth manager. Patti did request the BOD look at allowing a fund raiser for the Fiber Booth in 2010. Bob Hance is going to check CO Law for amount of income and license information. The BOD will decide and get back to Patti. This can be done by email motion if the information is available before the next BOD mtg.

Finance - Bob Hance

Waiting on the NWSS totals to come in for the Fiber Booth.

4-H – Geri Rutledge

Work has begun on the Youth Manual. The group is re-creating the book since the CD used in the last publishing is lost. Updates are being made. The last update was 1999 so some information can be changed. Dick shared that another State has their 4-H Youth Manual on line. Lougene suggested, why can't we do the same? If the Youth Manual was made available online it would cut printing and distribution costs to RMLA. The group will continue to work on the project and share progress. We will check other State's websites to see what else is out there.

Library – Dick Williams

Dick completed his inventory and gave a report of assets for 2009.

Membership & Website – Bob Hance

There were no changes since the last meeting held in December. The Website has been updated with membership information. Discussion on defining Youth, Young adult and age break for membership with the suggestion this also be placed in the Bylaw revisions. Discussion held on RMLA Youth Award and number of youth eligible. More discussion is needed and can be done on email, presenting this information at the next meeting. This may also need to be incorporated into the by-laws.

Pack – Dick Williams

Dick will be making it his priority to send something in for the RMLA Journal for packing. This way the Journal represents all areas

of promoting the animals. Dick can encourage others to submit articles as well.

Publications - Lougene Baird

Lougene read report from Cheryl Juntilla, Cheryl reported she had received good comments from the last edition of the RMLA Journal. The Journal committee is currently working on the Spring Issue and plans to send an email blast on the deadline. Jerry suggested we encourage events to get their advertising in on time. We lost a few advertisers but hope to pick up on some more with Spring coming. Cheryl questioned the BOD consider changing the winter deadline to become the middle of November with a publication date of December 10 to help deliver the Winter issue to the membership before the Christmas Holiday. Lougene motioned to change the date as requested by the Journal committee. The motion failed. The Journal Committee also requested the BOD consider giving events a money back guarantee should the Journal not published by the scheduled date. It was decided that if the event chair felt their ad did not reach the membership in time for the event because the Journal was late, their complaint would be handled case by case between the Editor, Board and Advertiser. No motion was made.

Lougene had asked the BOD members to review the Journal for any corrections or updates to help Cheryl keep RMLA information current. A discussion was held about show results being published in the Journal. RMLA is not a show organization and we want to promote all uses and education of the animals. The BOD would like to encourage more photos with text and write up to show the fun at the events. Bob Hance motioned that the Journal no longer publish show results. Lougené Seconded – All were in favor and the motion passed. Lougene will be contacting Cheryl to advise of the change of Board action for Spring Journal and future issues.

Rescue – Lougene Baird

There was an excellent Journal article written about "Homer" the lost llama at the Cog rail in Pikes Peak. Jerry reported "Homer" was a star at NWSS with the owner and Tracy speaking to the public about his journey. It brought people into the barns looking for him. This all had a happy ending and brought some awareness about their ability to travel in the rugged terrain.

Youth – Geri Rutledge

It is that time of year to get the RMLA Outstanding Youth Award kicked off. We need enough time to order the Belt Buckle and announce what event the winner will be named. Geri will work with Barb Harris on this.

Old Business

RMLA BROCHURE

Jerry continues to work on the updates for the new and improved brochure. Smaller lots will be printed so updates for the new and improved brochure can be done more frequently. Bob Hance found a supply of brochures and took them to NWSS. Dick was helping to get some bids so we can get the best deal.

The Annual recording of RMLA Inventory is about done. A couple of committees have not yet returned a list of assets. Discussed taxes and end of year 1099 for any member earning \$599 or over, and those will be sent out by Bob.

New Business

The following items were voted on and approved since the last Board Meeting by e-mail and are now a matter of record:

1. Bob Hance emailed send invoice payable information by email prior to meeting – approved all items.
2. Lougene motioned RMLA will advertise the remaining 2010 calendars in The Back Country Llama Publication. The price will be set at \$5 plus postage. Ger Seconded. Bob and Jerry vote Yes, Dick Abstained. Motion carried.

Discussion about the Annual RMLA Meeting. Bylaws state the meeting will take place between Sept 15th and Dec 31 each calendar year. A member has suggested we do the meeting in conjunction with LOCC and/or Regional's to get as many members as possible to attend. This information will be pending as we do not have information about Fall LOCC and/or in combination with dates for Regional's. Lougene will contact the RMLA member with what was discussed and ask for more information about date for LOCC show and Regional Show.

The BOD will continue to communicate by email – frequently. We need to work at putting a better title in the message, to keep the emails flowing on each subject.

Jerry Dunn motions to adjourn at 8:25pm mountain time, Dick Williams second. Motion passed.

Set RMLA Board Meeting Dates

February 24th 6:30 Mountain Time

March 24th

April 21st

May 26th

Thanks! Thanks! and More Thanks!

from Bobra Goldsmith

Now that a year plus a month has passed since the devastating, total burning of my house in the afternoon of January 7, 2009, I can't send enough thanks to all the friends, both llama and other caring people, who helped support me in so many ways. The fire, caused by an 80 mph wind that blew down the power pole just west of my house, left me with nothing in the house, except the clothes I had on: a pair of jeans, one turtleneck and sweatshirt, socks, and my house moccasins, which I had on while preparing to go to a 2:00 dentist appointment.

What is so amazing is how quickly the news got out, and within the next two days so many llama friends came to the farm and brought me all kinds of necessary things, especially clothes. Then I had four pairs of jeans, instead of one (and they all fit) and so many nice sweatshirts, each with some kind of llama activity pictured on it. Then in a few days came boxes of all kinds of wonderful warm clothes which kept me comfortable all winter and are still doing so now.

In addition to the gifts of useful clothes I'm so thankful for, there is another thing of great importance. When Ben Herr and Mimi Wesson came by the day after the fire, Ben went to look at the knocked over power pole. He saw that it was so totally rotten at the bottom that he could pick up a handful of "sawdust" where it was broken off. Ben took pictures of this condition, and when I told my insurance company about that, they got the pictures from Ben. And these

pictures proved that the electric company had not tested the condition of the pole, as they are supposed to do regularly.

When L'illette came running into my house to tell me of the fire, we called 911, of course. Then I grabbed the keys to my big blue van, which was parked outside the garage, and in line of the fire. I moved it away from the house, and two fire trucks came and sprayed and sprayed water, but with the 80 mph wind, they could not stop the fire. So another thing I lost in the garage was my small Camry station wagon, used for getting grain, groceries, and any needed local trips, etc. A few days after the fire, a very nice lady in Lakewood, who heard about the fire, gave me a 1992 Buick two-door sedan, which she was replacing with a bigger vehicle. It drove very well, was comfortable, and I kept it for a year, although it was more awkward to lift 50 lb. sacks of grain out of the trunk, compared to the small station wagon. So thanks to that lady, I did not have to use one of my big vans to do whatever daily runs were necessary, including going to my folks' farm, where we have 17 llamas to look after every day.

So the good news is that my house is now rebuilt, made as "green" as possible with solar panels for electricity and some other panels that make hot water. I was able to move in two days before Christmas and had already gotten several pieces of essential furniture. But more thanks are due to several people, like nearby neighbors who let me stay in a nice apartment above their barn until the insurance company finally brought

a trailer to the farm which I could live in for 11 months. Other things I want to mention include a wonderful Eddie Bauer sleeping bag, which served as a great warm comforter on my bed in the trailer. It also has an extra, separate, narrow section which is still a great warm cover when I sit in a recliner to watch television. A tall floor lamp and a fine table lamp were also donated. I used them in the trailer and now they are great in the living room of my rebuilt house. Numerous useful kitchen items were given, including mugs, an electric frying pan and much more. Another item given to me was a pair of warm winter boots that fit me and were perfect when we had snow. I was also given two pairs of pajamas that were perfect for me because they have turtleneck tops with no buttons. And there were pairs of wonderful warm Dahlgren socks. I had never seen this brand before, but they are special and I still wear one pair in bed every night.

So again, many warm thanks to all who have helped me through the incredible loss of everything, which includes wonderful art works, essential llama records and pictures, etc. And many of the helpers were not just RMLA members, but some llama people from other parts of the country--East, South, West, and North.

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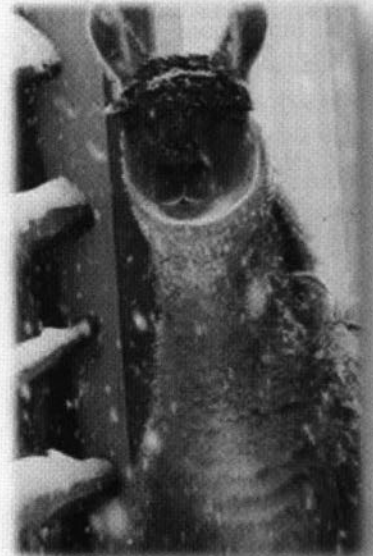
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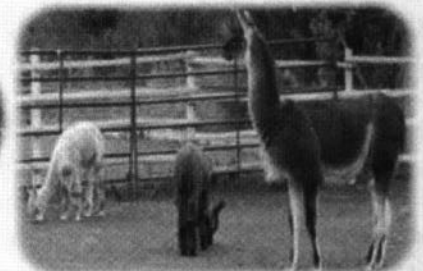
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The 28th Annual RMLA Fairplay Pack Llama Race/Walk

Saturday July, 24th 2010

By Gary Carlton

When I think of the Fairplay Llama Race, I think of people with great big smiles who have just had the time of their life learning that llamas are not the stubborn or mean animals the media has sometimes portrayed them to be, but instead very gentle and intelligent creatures with an easy-going disposition. Regardless of whether they are seasoned veterans of this event returning for a little bit of friendly competition in the pack race or just walking the course for the very first time, everyone leaves this day with a little more respect for the llama who has just spent the last three miles by their side.

I am always amazed at the extreme popularity of this event with the public and often wish they could all experience the real prize a pack llama can provide: Spending the day miles away from roadways and traffic in places only a good set of legs and heavy back pack or a good pack animal can provide and waking up the next morning in the peace and beauty of nature.

Our three mile course is set in the scenic Platte river valley below the town of Fairplay, Colorado, and covers many of the obstacles and situations you may find while packing with a llama in the back country. This event is open to the public and we do our best to provide llamas for those who do not have one of their own. What better way to showcase your animals and their ability, then to let someone take them out for a three mile adventure? We have course spotters and staff members all along the trail to ensure the safety of llamas and participants alike.

The entry fee is twenty dollars and includes a T-Shirt. Race day registration will begin at 9:00 am on Front Street in Fairplay, Colorado, or you can fill out the Pre-registration form that can be found on the RMLA web site. Just go to the Events

worthwhile when they tell me this weekend will be marked on their calendar so they can return next year to be a part of this event like no other. I cannot express enough thanks to the ranches and volunteers who return year after year to make this race all come together. None of this would be possible without their generosity and support.

Llama camp will be set up by Wednesday July, 21st along Beaver Creek and everyone is welcome to come up early and camp with us, whether you have a llama of your own, or if you would just like to spend a few days getting acquainted. Plan to stay around on Sunday for the Llama Camp Performance Show or to attend the 62nd annual Fairplay Burro Race and Parade



page at www.rmla.com, click on the Fairplay Llama Race to open the form. Then print it, fill it out and mail it to me so that I receive it by July 20, 2010.

It is always fun to meet the new folks who show up to see what this weekend is all about. The months of planning all become

to round out this weekend of fun under the Colorado mountain sun. I hope to see you all in Fairplay in July!

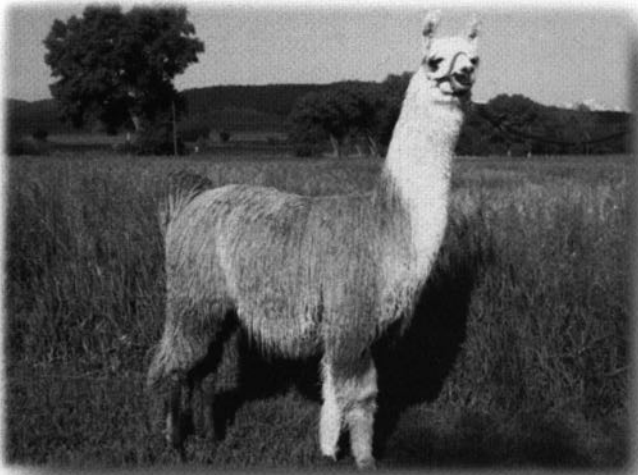
For information, suggestions, or to volunteer please contact me at gary@jmhfarm.com or call me at 303-503-1324.

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Pikes Peak Homer's Other Survival Challenge

By Michael Klahr

The loose white llama on top of Pike's Peak reported by cog railway riders is now the nationally famous Pike's Peak Homer. The story of his plight and rescue by Tracy duCharme of Southwest Llama Rescue and her llama Autumn Dancer captured the attention of animal lovers everywhere.

The conditions on the 14,000 foot summit when he was rescued on October 2 were bitter cold, with a biting wind and a minus two degrees wind chill. But once he was safely moved to Tracy's ranch in Black Forest, Colorado, there was a new and also potentially fatal challenge for Homer. Happy as he was to be with other llamas after his six week solo sojourn, Homer was not thriving.

"I was having a hard time getting him to eat. Homer hadn't been on hay before," Tracy remembered, speaking from home recently. "He wasn't really interested in hay, and he never had supplements before. Usually llamas love them, but he didn't know what it was. He was really thin, skin and bones."

Tracy was worried, but fate was on little Homer's side. Not only had he survived the mountain lion attack that had killed his mother, but his story in Colorado newspapers was carried nationally by the Associated Press. Through a newspaper reporter, Tracy received a message from BoviDr Laboratories. Having read about Homer the company wanted to send Tracy and Homer a gift of their newest product, Alpaca/Llama Nutri-Drench. After reading up about Nutri-Drench online, Tracy called and accepted.

Alpaca/Llama Nutri-Drench is an oral application squirted directly into the mouth of an animal. Its complete package of necessary vitamins, minerals, amino acids, electrolytes and glucose is absorbed



directly through mouth and alimentary canal tissue, and the stomach wall, reaching the bloodstream in minutes, bypassing digestion, which can take hours—especially in ruminants with their multiple stomachs.

Digestion offers no guarantee of delivering nutrients to the bloodstream in animals with stressed systems or diarrhea, and certainly not if they are not eating or drinking. Nutri-Drench is the only oral supplement that bypasses digestion.

For 23 years BoviDr has specialized in producing nutritional supplements that restore stressed livestock. According to its website, www.bovidr.com, tests show the Nutri-Drench formula is in the bloodstream within minutes, has 50% uptake in 30 minutes and 99% utilization. Because of its speed and efficiency it has been described as a non-invasive IV.

"Homer was only 80 pounds," Tracy remembered, much smaller than expected when she found him. "He was so thin I could feel every bone in his neck and that is really unusual. I grabbed Homer and squirted the Nutri-Drench in his mouth," Tracy said. "He started sneezing and trying to spit it out, like Llamas do when you try to feed them orally with something they are not familiar with, but he immediately went to the feed. Sometimes after they get a taste in their mouth they will pickup a pinecone, anything to get the taste out of their mouth," so Tracy was cautious. "I wasn't sure that wasn't it, but I watched him, and he started actually eating. For a couple of days he was starting to sample the grass hay, and I gave him some alfalfa which is very fattening. Mine just eat grass," Tracy laughed, "they all are overweight."

Continued on page 16...

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"I made a creep feeder, an opening in his stall just big enough only for him so none of the other llamas can creep through. I stocked the grass hay and once a day threw on a few handfuls of alfalfa hay and Mazuri Llama Chews. After the first day he started to eat, and he was eating pretty good then he stopped. So a week after I gave him the first dose of Nutri-Drench, I gave him another. He didn't try to spit it out. He didn't react at all. And he did start eating again."

Homer's recovery was quick and complete. Tracy was confident enough to take Homer to the promotional opening of her new paint-your-own pottery studio on the day after Thanksgiving, where he drew big crowds.

"Everyone in Colorado Springs is so fascinated with Homer," Tracy said. "He is a local celebrity. It's amazing how many are familiar with his story. People knew who he was."

Tracy couldn't be sure how Homer would react to his first herd of humans, but had been told that users of the other Nutri-Drench products, formulas for cattle, sheep, horses and other species, dose their animals before showing and for travel stress.

"We were in public away from the herd so I brought the Nutri-Drench and once I had him in the little corral at the store," Tracy said, "I gave him another dose because he was in a stressful situation. He didn't mind it. I had dripped some on the pavement, and my other llama licked it and he seemed to like it. He is used to being out in public, but I gave him a dose. It's more stressful than being in pasture and he seemed to want one."

"We gave out 500 gift bags and I talked until I couldn't talk anymore. He did great, Homer is a pretty easy going guy. Even though he had not had contact with people, he's not afraid of me, and he wasn't afraid of the crowds. I watched for signs of stress all day, and the only thing I saw was a little drooling after a couple of hours."

"Some of the signs of stress are their lower eyelids can droop, and they get a little bagging under the eye. Their chin, instead of being relaxed, it will be tense and tight. And they will flare their nostrils. The most obvious thing is they will start to hum. I was really watching him for stress and I didn't see any of those things."

Homer has made stress free appearances in even larger venues, drawing crowds at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, and making trips to two television station interviews. Each time Tracy will dose Homer with Alpaca/Llama Nutri-Drench, and then he climbs into the back seat of her truck and rides patiently.

All Nutri-Drench products have separate formulations for each specie which are comprised of the nutritional requirements standardized by the Association of American Feed Control Officials. BoviDr Laboratories recommends using Alpaca/Llama Nutri-Drench whenever animals are likely to experience stress, including heat, travel, show and weather stress, to balance the immune system, as well as to stimulate appetite, correct diarrhea or for general preventative and maintenance care. BoviDr Laboratories

recommends repeated dosings every eight hours as needed for animals off feed to give stressed animals the boost they need. Nutri-Drench is also recommended for use when administering antibiotics, vaccinations, and other medicines because low blood sugar is a leading cause of failure.

Tracy believes Homer survived his wilderness challenge because instincts took him 3000 feet above tree line, away from lions and bears, atop Pike's Peak. "There was good forage; we were pretty surprised to find that even this late in the year." Tracy said Homer foraged for lichens and tundra grasses, alpine treats high in protein, and had the long sightlines to avoid any predator for six weeks. Even so, she does not believe he would have survived the winter.

Homer is now 17 months old and over 100 lbs. The frostbite on his ears is healed. The skin has grown hair, and circulation has returned. He is very calm, easygoing, and thriving under Tracy's care. After his wilderness adventure he seems unscarred emotionally. In spite of all his fame Homer remains nonchalant and enjoys challenging other llamas to play King of the Hill, even if they are bigger than him.

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New Test May Help Address Costly Parasite In Sheep And Camelid Industry

Oregon State Univ. Press Release • January 5, 2010

Writer: David Stauth, 541/737-0787, david.stauth@oregonstate.edu
Contacts: Michael Kent, 541/737-8652, Michael.kent@oregonstate.edu
Bob Storey, 706/542-0195, bstorey@uga.edu

Researchers at Oregon State University and the University of Georgia have developed an improved, more efficient method to test for the most serious of the parasitic worms in sheep, a problem that causes hundreds of millions of dollars in losses every year to the global sheep and wool industry.

This technology is now available, and will allow a faster, easier and less expensive way to test for the presence and quantity of *Haemonchus contortus*, or “barber pole” worms, a species that is very pathogenic to sheep, goats, alpacas and llamas. This will help sheep ranchers deal with this problem more quickly and effectively, optimize their management practices, and sometimes avoid costly therapies.

Findings about the new test were just published in *Veterinary Parasitology*, a professional journal.

“This particular parasite is much more pathogenic in sheep than other worms, and previous methods to detect it were very labor intensive and often not commercially practical,” said Michael Kent, an OSU professor of microbiology. “Now ranchers and veterinarians can test for this problem and target their management or treatment strategies much more effectively.”

This parasite causes significant production losses, and in some cases it’s the limiting factor to sheep production on pasture lands. The nematodes can cause internal bleeding, which in turn can lead to anemia, poor food conversion and growth, low protein levels, reduced lamb production and wool yield, and in some cases death.

Known as the barber pole or wire worm, *Haemonchus contortus* is a blood-sucking parasite that pierces the lining of the sheep’s stomach. It’s a prolific egg producer, releasing up to 10,000 eggs per day, and often causes problems in warmer climates or during the summer. Once an infection is demonstrated,

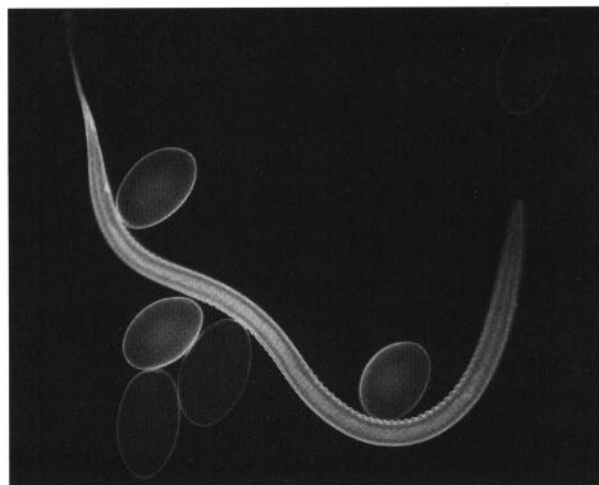
expensive treatments or complex management strategies are often needed to address it.

The new lectin staining test is based on a peanut agglutinin that binds to eggs of the parasite and can be easily visualized with a microscope using ultraviolet light. It’s an improved version of previous technology developed by scientists in Australia that was slower, less effective, more expensive and required more advanced training to perform, researchers say.

The relatively inexpensive test was developed by microbiologists and veterinary doctors at OSU and UGA, and is now available through those institutions. Its use should continue to expand and become more readily available around the world, Kent said.

The test may also be of special value to ranchers interested in organic production of sheep, goats, alpacas and llamas, who try to avoid use of chemical treatments in maintaining the health of their animals.

“One of the current testing tools commonly used by sheep and goat farmers in dealing with *H. contortus* is the FAMACHA method, in which the farmer compares the animal’s lower eyelid color to swatches on a card to determine the animal’s anemia status,” said Bob Storey, a UGA researcher who co-developed the lectin staining test. “This method only works in situations where *H. contortus* is the primary parasite in a given herd’s worm population. The new lectin staining test allows for a faster and less expensive method of determining the predominance of *H. contortus* in a herd worm population, thereby making it easier for producers to determine if FAMACHA can be a useful tool for them. Additionally,



“This parasitic worm that infects sheep and camelids, Haemonchus contortus, is seen along with its eggs, made easily visible with a new test developed by researchers at Oregon State University and the University of Georgia.” Photo © 2009 The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

for the veterinarian dealing with an anemic animal and a heavy parasite burden, the lectin staining test provides quick feedback as to whether the anemia is parasite-based or may be due to another cause.”

The test requires only a small amount of feces, and results are available in as little as two days. Anyone interested in obtaining the test can get information on sampling, test results and fees from the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at OSU* (<http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed/diagnostic> or 541/752-5501), or Bob Storey (Dept. of Infectious Diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga., 30602 or 706/542-0195). FAMACHA information can be obtained through Bob Storey or by sending an email to famacha@uga.edu.

As with any animal health concerns, results should be reviewed with a veterinarian so that proper treatment programs can be put in place, researchers said.

About Oregon State University: OSU is one of only two U.S. universities designated a land-, sea-, space- and sun-grant institution. OSU is also Oregon's only university designated in the Carnegie Foundation's top tier for research institutions, garnering more than 60 percent of the total federal and private research funding in the Oregon University System. Its more than 20,300 students come from all 50 states and more than 80 countries. OSU programs touch every county within Oregon, and its faculty teach and conduct research on issues of national and global importance.

About the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine: The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, founded in 1946, is dedicated to training future veterinarians, to conducting research related to animal diseases, and to providing veterinary services for animals and their owners. Research efforts are aimed at enhancing the quality of life for animals and people, improving the productivity of poultry and livestock, and preserving a healthy interface between wildlife and people in the environment they share. The current Teaching Hospital, built in

1979, serves more than 18,000 patients per year in one of the smallest teaching hospitals in the United States. The college is currently working to raise \$15 million toward building a new Veterinary Medical Learning Center, which will include a new teaching hospital as well as classrooms and laboratories that will allow for the education of more veterinarians. More veterinarians are needed to promote food safety and protect public health and to provide veterinary services for farm and companion animals owned by a rapidly growing regional population. The college enrolls 102 students each fall out of more than 550 who apply. The goal is to increase enrollment to 150 when the Veterinary Medical Learning Center is built. For more information, see <http://www.vet.uga.edu/>.

*From the Oregon State University Diagnostic Laboratory web site (January 2010):

Haemonchus contortus Identification

Test Name: Haemonchus contortus ID

Diagnostic Section: Bacteriology

Fee: \$10.00*

Species: Camelid, Caprine, Ovine

Set up days: M, Tu, W, Th, F

Turn Around Time: 2 days

Specimen Requirements:

Fresh feces - 5 grams, samples older than 5 days should be rejected as embryonation and loss of ova may have occurred.

Collection Protocol:

Fresh feces, collected directly from the animal's rectum or from very fresh droppings to eliminate extraneous soil organisms. *Concurrent sugar centrifugation required, additional charge applies.

Shipping Requirements:

Refrigerated, leak proof container. Do not submit in latex gloves or OB sleeves. Overnight or 2-day shipping is recommended.

Additional Information:

This technique is used primarily for camelid, caprine and ovine species but can be used for other species as well.

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Time and gravity take their toll on all of us. As we grow older we may feel their effects in aching knees or hips and creaking ankles. As our llamas grow older the passage of time may be evidenced by dropped fetlocks or pasterns, especially in the front legs. A good illustration and description of this condition can be found on page 82 of *Caring For Llamas and Alpacas*.

Just like humans, some llamas hold up better than others and have strong, upright pasterns for their entire lives. If you are lucky, you may never see this condition in any of your llamas. Sadly, one place where this condition is sometimes seen is in youth performance classes at llama shows. Youth exhibitors often work with the same animals from the time they start showing as sub-juniors until the time they are competing as seniors and even into the open performance division. In many cases, these llamas were already mature and “bomb proof” when the kids were introduced to them and in some cases

may have been passed down from older siblings. After years of working with kids, the llamas trust their youth handlers, and are willing to do whatever is asked of them. The bond between a young handler and a well-trained llama or alpaca is a beautiful thing to see. One thing that could interfere with that bond is pain.

If a llama that has always done well in performance starts balking at or refusing obstacles, you should immediately check to see if it has an injury or if its pasterns have started sagging. Walking on dropped pasterns is painful for an animal, especially on hard surfaces like bridges and ramps. Backing up becomes difficult and going over jumps can further damage the joint and cause permanent injury. Youth exhibitors aren't in a good position to see their llamas' pasterns while they are leading the animals, so parents need to be observant and watch out for them.

Even adult exhibitors may fail to notice that their llama's pasterns are dropping, because the decline can be gradual and it

isn't something we look for every day. The condition of the pasterns is easiest to see by watching from the side as the animal walks by you. The ankles may look fine while the animal is standing still, but have excessive downward flexing when it walks. If you aren't sure what to look for, ask an ALSA judge, a veterinarian or another experienced llama owner for their opinion.

Llama judges must not knowingly allow unsound animals to be exhibited and may dismiss llamas with dropped fetlocks or pasterns from a show. This could be a heartbreaking experience for a youth exhibitor. If your son or daughter has an animal with weakening pasterns, it would be a good idea to find another llama to start working with now, before the show season starts. Starting fresh with a new llama may be a bit of a challenge, but showing isn't just about winning ribbons. It is about learning and taking responsibility for the health and well-being of the animals who place their trust in us.

Jerry G. McRoberts



Long-time RMLA member Jerry McRoberts passed away on January 22, 2010, at the Memorial Health Center in Sidney, Nebraska. He was 67 years old and is survived by his wife, Barbara, daughter Brooke, as well as his brother Wayne, sister Julie Wilson, and their children. Other survivors include his exchange student son Mario Coronado, of Lima, Peru, and his family.

Jerry had an incredible zest for life and positive attitude, which was clearly evident at every llama event he attended. He was an

innovator and pioneered crop techniques that resulted in conservation awards. In addition to llamas he raised thousands of exotic animals and birds. He was known to have the most beautiful animals of the highest quality and bred for perfection. He was constantly looking at the genetics to find the best possible combination for the perfect animal.

Jerry lived his life with enthusiasm and good humor. Even in the last three months as he battled cancer, he did not lose his optimism and ability to believe that things would work out.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leyton Nebraska School Athletic and Music Departments, the Gurley Nebraska Fire Department, or to the American Cancer Society.

Keep Your Packers Hydrated!

By Dick Williams
Pack Committee Chair

A question sent to me at The Backcountry Llama suggested that this might be worth writing about. Many of us pack at times in very warm weather and while we may pay attention to keeping ourselves hydrated we need to be sure that we do it for our llamas as well.

Many years ago (never mind how many!) we obtained a new llama and added him to our pack string. The first summer we had him we took a planned week long trip in the Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana. It turned out to be an extremely hot and humid week but as the trip involved numerous stream crossings each day we would pause at each and allow the llamas to drink if they wanted to.

The fourth day was very hot and close with no wind and we all proceeded slowly down a side drainage headed for the North Fork of the Sun River when our new five year old gelding went down in the trail and refused to get up. We stripped off his

pack and saddle and found that he was warm, but not excessively so. On checking him further it became apparent that he was very dehydrated. I had assumed (almost always a bad idea!) that he had been drinking with the other llamas at all of the stream crossings. The problem was that while he had no problem going into the water and making the crossings he had never drunk from moving water before. It later became obvious that he would put his head down to the water but as soon as the moving water hit his muzzle he would lift his head – dripping water, but not having drunk. He had been packing for almost four days without drinking and fortunately got to the point where he just lay down.

Luckily, we were quite near the river and when I brought back one of the buckets from our panniers filled with water he immediately started to tank up so fast that we took the water away and only let him



drink small amounts every half hour or so. We were lucky and he was up on his feet, though still quite unsteady, after about four hours. After another day he was good enough that we could lead him back out with an extremely reduced load. Fortunately, he recovered completely and was an outstanding packer for us for many years. Since then, wherever possible I offer my llamas water from a bucket each morning and evening to see if they want it and never assume they are drinking from streams unless I actually watch them swallow.



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Ask The CSU Vet Team

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

One of the tremendous assets of the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital is the numerous specialists and specialty services. In addition to the classic internal medicine and surgery specialties, there are faculty members who specialize in:

- ophthalmology (eye diseases),
- dermatology (skin diseases),
- cardiology (heart diseases),
- oncology (cancer), and
- neurology (nervous system diseases)

Along with these medical disciplines, most faculty have a research focus to go along with their clinical interest. This creates a tremendous network or resources to help solve medical problems for patients brought to the CSU VTH. In this Ask the Vet column, some of the specialists at CSU have addressed your questions.

Question: Are llamas susceptible to *Equisetum* spp. (i.e., field horsetail) poisoning, especially dried in hay? (It is our understanding that Horsetail is considered potentially harmful to horses

and that long-term feeding of hay with content greater than 20% may be lethal.)

Response from Dr. Tony Knight, BVSc., MS, DACVIM, Professor, Integrated Livestock Management (Plant Toxicology)

Several species of horsetail grow in the intermountain states, generally preferring moist areas. Irrigated hay meadows can be invaded by the plants that spread via an extensive root system. Rarely do any animals eat horsetail in its green state when fed adequately with other forages as, in general, Horsetail is a coarse and unpalatable plant. If incorporated in hay, horsetail may be consumed, especially if there is little else to eat.

All horsetail species should be considered toxic until proven otherwise. Reports of llamas or alpacas being poisoned by this plant have not been documented. Horses are susceptible to horsetail poisoning if they consume large quantities of the plants over a period of weeks. Horsetail contains the enzyme thiaminase which destroys vitamin B1 (Thiamine) causing a deficiency of this essential vitamin. Horses in the absence of vitamin B1 become depressed, uncoordinated, and will become recumbent if not treated. And yes, death may eventually occur. Ruminants, including camelids, do not generally become affected by the thiaminase because they are able to produce substantial amounts of vitamin B1 in their rumens.

Horses and other animals suspected of horsetail poisoning can be effectively treated with large doses of vitamin B1 (Thiamine) until recovered. Provision of a high quality hay source and the regular inspection of the hay being fed are important to ensure the hay is not heavily contaminated with horsetail.

For more information on toxic plants, check out Dr. Knight's guide to poisonous plants at http://southcampus.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/index.cfm.

Question: If a llama is diagnosed as blind, but you know it can see shadows because it reacts, is it really blind? And do you have any suggestions on what can be done to help teach it things?

Response from Dr. Julie Gionfrido, DVM, MS, DACVO, Associate Professor, Ophthalmology

If the definition of blind is that an animal sees absolutely nothing then the llama is not blind. Sometimes we use the term "functionally blind" because, although an animal can detect light and dark and can see shadows, it cannot see well enough to avoid bumping into objects, etc.

The ability to discern light versus dark is extremely important as this is what regulates an animal's diurnal rhythms. This allows an animal's brain to wind down to sleep in the dark and be awake in the light. This is very important in the psychological well-being of the animal. In humans there is a legal distinction called "legally blind". Often people with this designation can see things but just not well enough to drive, read, etc. This is similar to what we call functionally blind in animals.

Many books have been written on teaching blind dogs to navigate so it is difficult to discuss training techniques in a short answer (but these books could be a resource). Having other animals as "guides" can help a blind llama to navigate in its environment. Not moving feeding stations, water bowls or other objects in the surrounding environment can also help.



Question: Do llamas see in color?

Response from Dr. Giofrido: As far as I know this has not been specifically investigated but if we extrapolate from cows and other ruminants the answer is yes. Cattle are dichromatic in that they can see in shades of blue and yellow but not red or green. Red and green are just seen as shades of gray.

Question: Why do some llamas get munge? Why does it recur in some and not in others? What is the most effective treatment?"

Note: munge: a blackish crustiness that develops on the nose and mouth.

Response from Dr. Rod Rosychuk, DVM, DACVD, Associate Professor, Dermatology, Department of Clinical Sciences

Unfortunately, our knowledge as to the cause of "munge" in llamas and alpacas is no better now than it was 25 plus years ago when the disease was initially described. The clinical and biopsy changes remain characteristic:

- Variable degrees of hyperkeratosis (thickening of the surface of the epidermis)
- Crusting (accumulation of serum and inflammatory debris) that is very tightly adhered to the underlying skin
- Histological evaluation of skin biopsies show this hyperkeratosis and crusting. Variable degrees of inflammation are also observed within the skin.

The most commonly targeted areas are those around the entrance to the nasal passages (especially the lower and lateral aspects) and around the lip margins. Heavy, adherent crusting can be severe enough to compromise nasal breathing. On a rare occasion, similar lesions may be noted on the bridge of the nose, around the eyes and around the ears. Affected areas are usually not "itchy". Affected individuals are usually 6 months to 2 years of age at onset, although "munge" can be seen in older individuals.

The lesions may wax and wane in severity and may spontaneously resolve. Recurrence has been noted. The incidence is sporadic in a herd (i.e. only one or a few individuals involved). It does not appear to be communicable. Secondary bacterial colonization of the crusty areas is relatively common, although these bacteria usually have only a minor contribution to the severity of the lesions. In my experience, affected individuals are otherwise normal.

Diseases that have to be ruled out as causes of these lesions (because they can look very much like "munge") include:

- contagious viral pustular dermatosis or "orf" (usually more inflamed to begin with, but may become crusty with time; often resolves within a couple of weeks, but can persist for months; often communicable; skin biopsy),
- dermatophilosis (a bacterial infection; look for the bacteria in specially prepared samples of crust or culture crusts and skin),
- fungal infection (ringworm organism; identify by skin biopsy and culture of crusts),
- chorioid minge (usually more generalized; define by skin scrapings; skin biopsies may be needed).

So what causes munge and what can 'cure' it? There is no data to support the theory that the incidence of the problem is higher in immunodeficient animals. Similarly, there is no data indicating that the inflammation and crusting is a "footprint" of a viral infection that persists in lesional areas, long after the virus itself is gone.

The crux of treating the problem appears to be aimed at resolving the inflammation present within the skin and also resolving any secondary bacterial infections. This is often achieved with an antibiotic/steroid/antifungal containing ointment (steroid being the anti-inflammatory component). We find that the commercially available dog and cat ear

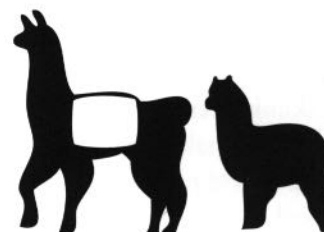
treatments, such as Otomax or Panalog or Surolan work well for this purpose.

The lesional areas are usually treated twice daily. Occasionally, a more potent topical steroid can be of benefit (e.g. fluocinolone). For individuals who are difficult to treat (i.e. do not like to have medications rubbed on them a couple of times a day), consideration can be given to the use of a steroid (e.g. triamcinolone) that is given by injections in to the base of the lesions. One to three treatments, separated by 3-4 week periods can produce dramatic responses. Alternatively, oral steroids (e.g. prednisolone) can also be effective.

Other therapies including zinc, vitamin A, vitamin E are currently being explored by the CSU clinical faculty. Should you be interested in such "alternative" treatments, please contact the Dermatology or Livestock Services at CSU.

Finally, after the lesions are indeed diagnosed as munge, the issue is generally limited to only a cosmetic problem. If you and your animal can 'live with it' do so while keeping an eye on it to make sure it doesn't worsen.

Well, I certainly learned a great deal from your questions. I am continued to be amazed at the wealth of resources available to us camelid owners from the entire staff at CSU VTH. To contribute financially to the great work these folks are doing, please go to the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences Online Donations (<https://advancing.colostate.edu/csu.asp?VETMEDMASTER>) and click on Camelid Research. Thank you!



Rabies: To Vaccinate or Not To Vaccinate?

By Paul & Karen Schwartz



This is an ongoing question for anyone that owns livestock. We want to share our story with you.

We had wrestled with this question for years and spoken to our vet about it. We were told that since we didn't have a skunk problem in our area not to worry about it. Well, this changed for us one July day last year. I had gone to town and on my return noticed our female llamas were all near the barn. I went into the house to eat lunch, and when I was walking to the kitchen I looked out the front windows and saw the females had moved to the front pasture and were all clustered together with their heads bobbing up and down. I went to the front door, looked out, and to my horror saw a little black and white creature trying to make his way through all the legs. I ran out to try to call the girls back towards the barn, but they were too intent on keeping the skunk surrounded and stomping it. A couple of times I saw the skunk latched on to a leg that was stomping him and thought "this was going to be disastrous." The skunk kept trying to get away, but he was finally dazed from all the stomping. With all of this going on it was amazing to see how the older females kept the yearlings away from the skunk.

I called a neighbor to come over and kill the skunk after I'd spoken to the vet. The vet said to make sure it wasn't a head shot since we had to send it in for testing. Paul missed all of the excitement but drove up right after the skunk was killed. He had

the task of taking the skunk to the vet's office for them to send away. We got the results back the next day with the expected positive results. This was no surprise since it was 1:00 in the afternoon when the skunk visited.

Paul contacted Dr. Robert Pollard in California and he was extremely helpful. Our vet was also in contact with Dr. Pollard since he had experience with llamas and rabies. Our vet contacted the Wyoming State Veterinarian regarding our circumstances. Even though they didn't require us to be quarantined, our vet quarantined us for six months for our own safety. She told us that the liability would be too great for us to take part in outside activities.

Paul, Tara, and I had to inspect the legs and faces of every animal in that pasture. While Paul and Tara held up each leg, moving the fiber for inspection—while wearing latex gloves—I looked for any puncture wounds. Our vet told us that since a skunk has razor sharp teeth, it would be almost impossible to see any puncture wounds unless blood was present.

All of our llamas had to be vaccinated for rabies then followed up with a booster a month later. In the meantime, our vet told us to watch for any personality changes, that this could be the onset of rabies. This was extremely intense since every little change was suspect. It also brought our breeding to a halt since we couldn't allow any contact with the animals that weren't exposed.

A week and a half after the first exposure, I saw another skunk trying to get into the pasture of our herdsire, again at 1:00 PM. I spoke to our vet about immunity after vaccinating and was told that it would be two weeks after the booster was given that the animals would then be protected.

We wanted to share our experience with all of you so you would be aware of the consequences of not vaccinating. We know it's expensive but we decided to be safe rather than sorry. The rabies virus can remain dormant in llamas for six months. We thought that having 2x4 welded no-climb wire would be a deterrent but the skunk found a way under the wire. Thankfully I was home to see the skunk in the pasture.

Rabies is not just a warm weather virus. In November there were six cases of rabies within the city limits of Sheridan, Wyoming, which has a population of 14,000 people. Last year a couple who live about a mile from us found a bat in their home. The wife had picked up a sweatshirt and felt something moving in it which turned out to be the bat. Both she and her husband had to get the series of rabies shots which cost them \$4,000 each. Just this week, (the last week of January, 2010) Paul has seen two skunks out between noon and 2:00 PM. More than likely they were rabid since they were out in the daylight hours.

We hope this helps everyone to make the decision to vaccinate. I now know that if we had, we would have had peace of mind.



USDA Announces New Framework for Animal Disease Traceability

USDA Press Release • February 5, 2010

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced today that USDA will develop a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States, and undertake several other actions to further strengthen its disease prevention and response capabilities.

“After concluding our listening tour on the National Animal Identification System in 15 cities across the country, receiving thousands of comments from the public and input from States, Tribal Nations, industry groups, and representatives for small and organic farmers, it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “I’ve decided to revise the prior policy and offer a new approach to animal disease traceability with changes that respond directly to the feedback we heard.”

The framework, announced today at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Mid-Year meeting, provides the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability

capability in the United States. USDA’s efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

“One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our framework for animal disease traceability,” said Vilsack. “We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process.”

One of USDA’s first steps will be to convene a forum with animal health

leaders for the States and Tribal Nations to initiate a dialogue about the possible ways of achieving the flexible, coordinated approach to animal disease traceability we envision. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability.

Although USDA has a robust system in place to protect U.S. agriculture, with today’s announcement, the Department will also be taking additional actions to further strengthen protections against the entry and spread of disease. These steps will include actions to lessen the risk from disease introduction, initiating and updating analyses on how animal diseases travel into the country, improving response capabilities, and focusing on greater collaboration and analyses with States and industry on potential disease risk overall.

More information on USDA’s new direction on animal traceability and the steps to improve disease prevention and control is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability>.



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Llama and Alpaca Photography by Lauren Munger

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New 4-H Club in Kalispell, Montana

By Hank Crenshaw, Club President



Leaping Llamas And Marching Alpacas (L.L.A.M.A) 4-H Club is a new and fun llama and alpaca club in Kalispell, Montana. We are so excited to have fun and learn how to care for our llamas at the same time!

In October, Mr. Dick Williams and his, pack llama, Gandolf, came over to share with us his knowledge of llama packing. Dick's enthusiasm was so contagious, we are now looking forward to a spring packing trip and maybe catch some fish at the same time.

In the late fall, the tamarack's pine needles start to change from the normal green to a vivid golden yellow. The small town to Bigfork, Montana, celebrates this season with Tamarack Time. Again, our club loaded up our llamas and took them to the village to share our interest in our llamas. We would walk up and down the main street filled with people. It gave everyone, even the kids a chance to pet our llamas and ask questions.

We all led our llamas in the Kalispell Christmas Parade. It was at night and the floats were brightly lit with green and red lights. Our llamas seemed to prance to the music of the choir and the sound of the jingle bells. The children on the side lines clapped their hands and jumped up and down when we walked our llamas past them. Our leaders, Angela Crenshaw, Erin Sanchez, and

Kori Gallagher, made festive saddle blankets to go on our llamas for the parade.

We will be walking in the St Patrick's Parade along with other llama owners such as M & M Llamas and Going to the Sun Llamas. Anyone else who would like to have fun can join us as well.

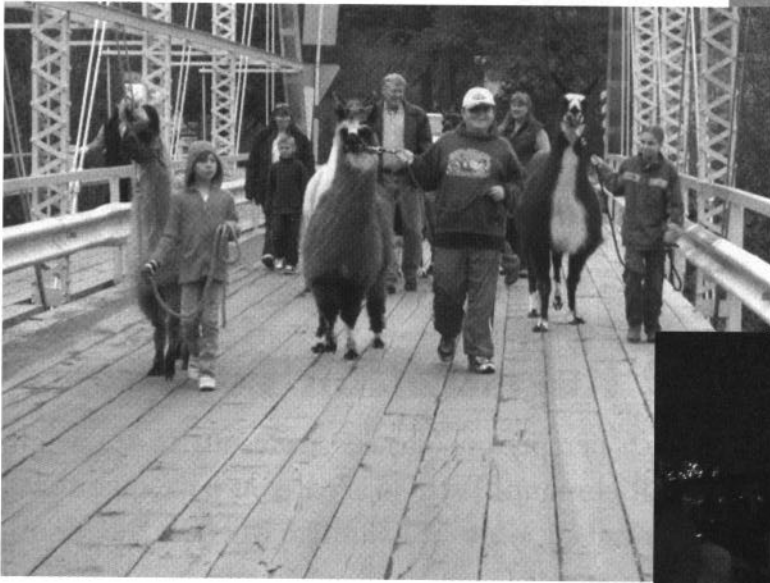
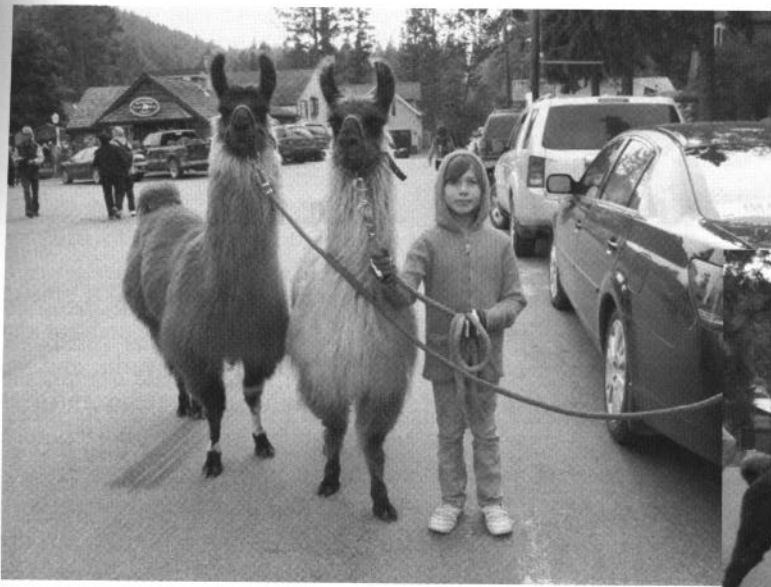
We are always busy! Our club had a tour of the International Llama Registry by Mrs. Dar Wassink. It was interesting to see the long lines of llama files, knowing this info is

about every llama in North America. On the wall behind us, in our group photo, hangs the original watercolor painting from which the ILR Certificate was fashioned.

I now can see how important the registering of a llama is. I like signing on to the ILR website and looking at the photos of the ancestors of my llamas. It helps me in my own breeding program.

Our L.L.A.M.A. 4-H Club is going to host a 4-H Fiber Invitational on July 10 and 11, 2010 during the Montana Fiber Roundup held at the Kalispell Fairgrounds. We will be having halter class competition, cart driving and pack string demos. We will be entering our llama's shorn fiber for judging in the Fiber Division at the Roundup. I hope other kids from around state come with their llamas and alpacas to join us and a lot of people come to watch us and our llamas at the Invitational.





Camelid Community 2010: Pulling Together in Fragile Times

Join Us July 30-August 1 in Kansas City, Missouri

By Sheila Fugina

How is the economy affecting our world as camelid owners and what can we do about it? Our community in the camelid world comes not from what we do with our animals but from the very fact that we have them. It is critical that we identify with the whole of our community and not just one of its constituent parts. Can we be more inclusive rather than exclusive? Can we achieve a sense of commitment and solidarity that plays out in real life? The driving force of any community is cooperation, and that has been one of our main goals at Camelid Community.

Camelid Community 2009 produced a packet of business ideas designed to help people recognize the potential of their llamas and alpacas and how they can capitalize on

the qualities that make them unique. Called "Customize to Maximize...because one size doesn't fit all!", the packet encourages owners to use some of the ideas in putting together their own individual plans to maximize use of their animals. Camelid Community 2010 plans to build on that momentum by continuing to move forward together in these unsettling times.

In today's economic climate, we in the camelid world need a vision that goes beyond mere plans for adjustment. We need to imagine new ways to accomplish our objectives if we are going to do well by ourselves and our animals. More of the same—including bigger and better of the same—just isn't going to cut it in our new economic environment. We need to realize that and move on.

The main purpose of Camelid Community is to discuss "the state of the union" within the camelid world, and we would like to continue to have representatives from all geographic regions, national groups and local and regional breeder/owner groups. Past Camelid Community gatherings have provided significant contributions to the community at large and proved that our various alpaca and llama groups can work together without taking away from each other. We need to expand that cooperative effort even further. To propose discussion topics for this year's open forum, contact either Barb Baker (bebaker@hughes.net) or Sheila Fugina (bsfugina@presenter.com).

(A complete report on Camelid Community 2009 is available at www.icinfo.org, the web site for the International

Camelid Community 2010 Registration Form

Mail this registration form and a registration fee of \$75 per person (checks made out to Camelid Community) to: Sheila Fugina, 1331 130th Avenue, New Richmond, WI 54017. If you have questions about the event, e-mail Sheila at bsfugina@presenter.com or call 715-246-5837. There will be a late fee of \$15 charged for registrations made after July 5.

Name _____

Organization (if representing) _____

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Proposed Discussion Topics:

Camelid Institute.) More specific details on this year's agenda will be forthcoming as we receive your input.

Camelid Community is being held in Kansas City with easy airport access and central proximity for people coming from all parts of the country. The name Kansas City is synonymous with great food, and Saturday night dinner at a popular area restaurant is included in your conference registration fee. Kansas City is also a sight-seeing and shopping mecca, and the nightlife is nationally renown—so you might want to extend your stay a day or two.

Because we try to keep costs as low as possible for everyone, the registration fee for Camelid Community 2010 is still only \$75 (a late fee of \$15 will be charged for registrations made after July 5). This

includes conference fees, as well as Saturday breakfast (continental), lunch and dinner. The conference is being held at the Radisson Kansas City Airport, located at 11828 NW Plaza Circle (just off Ambassador Drive), which is about two miles from the Kansas City Airport (MCI). The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from the airport.

Radisson has reserved a block of rooms for Camelid Community 2010 at a special discounted rate of \$65. Rooms must be reserved by July 5 to guarantee this rate. The hotel offers in-room data port hookups, fitness facilities, indoor pool with Jacuzzi and free parking. Reservations should be made by calling the hotel directly at 816-464-2423 and specifically mentioning you are part of the Camelid Community group. Fill out the conference registration form and mail it in today!

Tentative Schedule: (All events will be held in the Platte Room.)

Friday, July 30 • 7-9 p.m.

Breakout Discussion Groups

Saturday, July 31 • 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Discussions

(lunch break noon-1 p.m.)

6 p.m. Dinner

Sunday, August 1 • 8:30 a.m.-noon

Discussions, Wrap-up, Take-aways

(The specific agenda for this year will be provided as we get closer to the date.)

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Issue	Mailing Date	Submission Deadline
Summer, 2010	June 20, 2010	June 1, 2010
Fall, 2010	September 20, 2010	September 1, 2010
Winter, 2010	December 20, 2010	December 1, 2010
Spring, 2011	March 20, 2011	March 1, 2011

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As we enter the Spring Season it's time to start thinking about 4-H. Many of the programs have a "Family Kick off Day" to get the new kids interested and the old kids coming back. You can contact your Local Extension Office or University to find the programs near you. 4-H is not something that you send your kids off to, it is a family event. All the family members can attend no matter what the age.

If you don't already belong to a Llama/Alpaca 4-H group, ask around. Don't be shy. There are other families that can help get a group going. If you already belong and have your group going, now is the time to recruit. Allow the kids to borrow animals and get used to them. The "City Kids" love to come out to the Farm.

Plan your Club Spring Meeting at the Farm with the most animals. Have everyone bring a friend. Keep the day fun by bringing out the animals for simple interaction. Have the older kids teach the younger kids. Let everyone walk the animals, and get them involved going inside the pens to catch and halter. Let the older kids or youth with more experience show the group some obstacles. It is always a good example to bring out the "Grand Champion" who makes it look so easy, and then follow that up with a juvenile that is just getting halter broken. This comparison shows the youth that it starts with them. They have to get to know the animals, they must learn to trust. The animals don't come out of the pen understanding what we humans are asking of them.

We have a group of more than 14 youth and it's growing this year. My older kids are already thinking about ways to teach the new group. One game we always start off is: Red Light Green Light. Yes, just like in school you all line up with your animal. You start at the red light

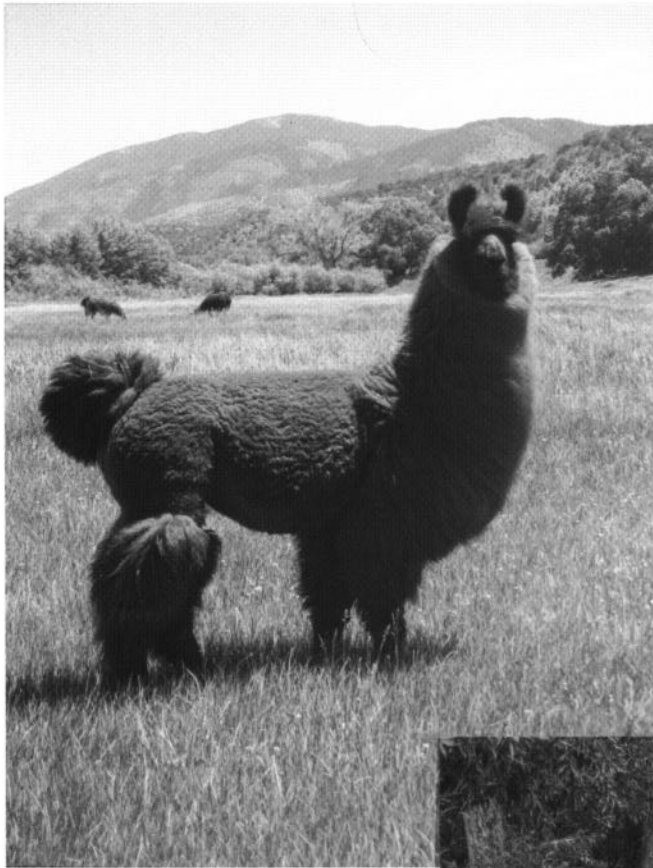


and wait for the green, and then everyone runs with their llama/alpaca. Then its red light and they all stop. Little do they know they are already training their animal for a mandatory obstacle "change of pace". Keep them going for a distance and then let them all run to finish line. Teaching the kids can be interesting, and watching them grow and bond with their animals is "priceless".

Another way to recruit is during the County Fair. One of your classes is Audience Participation. We put up posters, letting them know to wear tennis shoes, and sign up before the show. After the 4-H members have done their obstacle course, then they take a member of the audience through the course. The judging is done by how well the member communicates to the new handler what they should be doing, giving verbal commands, entering

the element on the correct side, following the weave etc... This has grown so large, we now have to use the same animal a couple times to get them all through! All the "recruits" are given a participation ribbon and lots of photos are taken. We are the talk of the town following the fair. We try to get some teachers, get lots of kids and once in awhile even get the cattle guys involved.

Another reminder for those groups up and going – Thank the Leaders and Farm Owners. They take time to prepare the animals, prepare the obstacle course, plan meetings and teach the important education so the youth can be successful. I'm looking forward to another great year with the 4-H Camelid Kids of Polk County - a crazy group of kids that always keeps me laughing.



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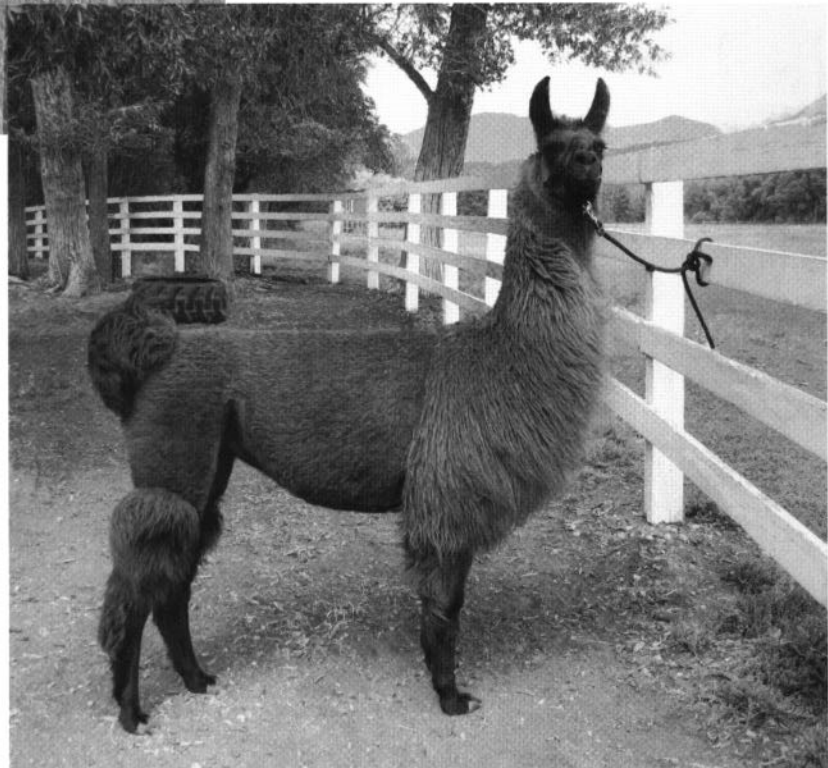


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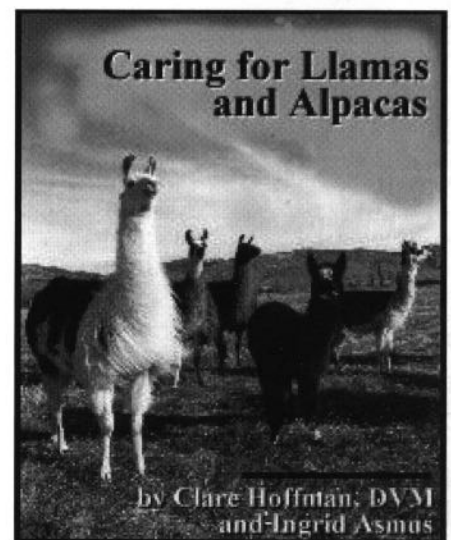
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