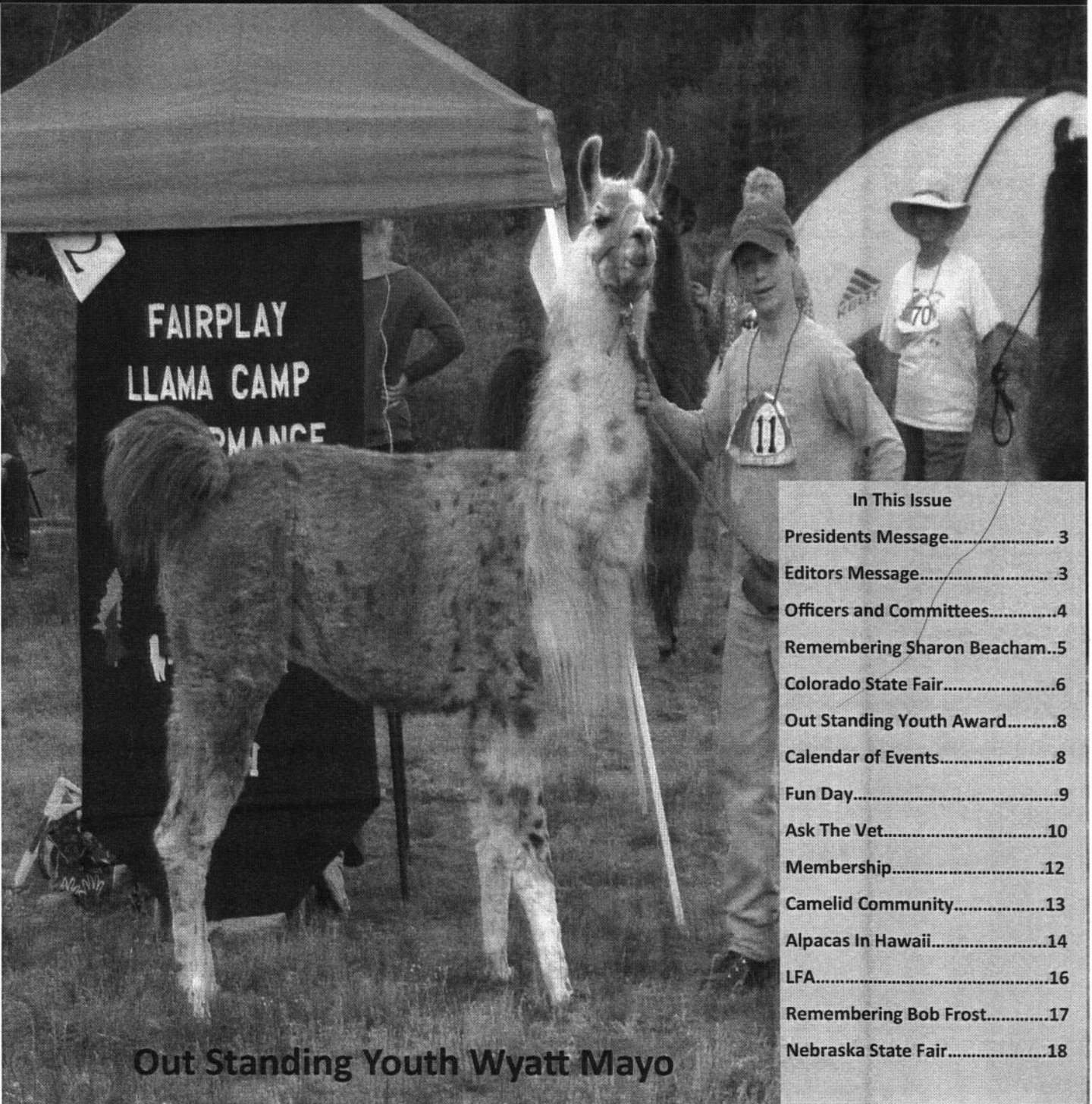


  
**The** **RMLA**  
 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association  
**Journal**  
 www.rmla.com

Fall 2011



**Out Standing Youth Wyatt Mayo**

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## President's Message

Dear RMLA Members,

For those of you who attended the Annual Meeting we say a big 'Thank You'. About 30 members were present. Many positive comments were made and several members took the opportunity to volunteer for a committee position. The minutes are posted on RMLA.com and will be approved at next year's Annual Meeting.

At last year's Annual Meeting, the BOD, committed to the belief that every RMLA member has talent to share. Members were encouraged to volunteer and share their time, energy and knowledge. Since that 2010 Annual Meeting, one by one – many members stepped up to take a more active role in RMLA.

Here is a list of those appreciated volunteers who have filled some large positions as they volunteer:  
Barb Hance has taken on coordinating revisions with the authors and managing the revision of Caring For Llamas and Alpacas.  
Diana Blair is an active 4H leader and is

the new 4H Committee Chair  
Youth Manual revisions were completed by Linda Hayes, Karen Schwartz, and Gayle Woodsum  
Teri Baird returned to Chair the Government Relations Committee  
Sue Grimm raised her hand to be the only volunteer to assure the Journal continues to arrive in your mailbox.  
Jane Levene joined the Journal Committee to assist with format and design  
And, Jane Levene re-designed, typeset and formatted the Membership Directory and will return to produce your directory next year  
Olin Allen, as Coordinator of the Southwest Llama Rescue, agreed to Chair the Rescue Committee to assure RMLA is kept informed of rescue activities  
Katy Wegner volunteered to Chair the RMLA.com Website Committee and Ron Hinds, with years of web design experience, joined to partner with Katy to develop the new RMLA.com.  
Ron Hinds has joined the Membership Committee and has plans to establish a membership campaign.

There is also an endless list of members who volunteer for RMLA events.

You have seen them at the gate of a show ring, selling fiber in the Fiber Coop, teaching in a clinic, helping a youth to care for their lama or you have read their articles in the Journal.

RMLA is an outstanding organization because of its members who volunteer. Think about how you, too, can be a volunteer. No task, large or small, goes unappreciated. The more we each invest in volunteering, the better for all and the best for our llamas.

Enjoy the beautiful Autumn that is before us. And say 'Thank You' to our volunteers as you see them along the way. Lougene

## A Note From the Editor

By Sue Grimm

As all of you have seen my first issue of the Journal made it out to everyone. It was a huge learning experience for me, and as you will see in this issue I have learned even more. I want to thank Lougene and the Board for the chance to take on the Journal. I want to thank everyone for the articles and ask for more. In the end the journal is here for the members and by the members. I need your photos and stories.

When I took on this task I was unaware of the challenge of doing the full layout. As you can see we changed printers. And I have new

format. And you will continue to see more changes as time goes on. I would love your constructive comments Your story ideas and your photos. I would love to do a cover of just hand spun yarn. Want to send me some photos?

I want to thank Dick Williams for doing the mailing of the last journal. It really is a team effort to get the Journal to bed. And a big thank you to Jane Levene for stepping up to help. The more the merrier.

Remember [rmlaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:rmlaeditor@gmail.com) to contact the editor and if you are looking for information RLMA.COM.

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Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Summer	June 1, 2012	June 20, 2012
Fall	September 1, 2012	September 20, 2012
Winter	December 1, 2011	December 20, 2011
Spring	March 1, 2012	March 20, 2012

## Remembering Sharon Beacham

By Gayel M Woodsum

Before Chile, I knew Sharon Beacham as one of the original icons in the llama world. Together with Karen Kinyon, she created recognition of and judging criteria for llama fiber in ALSA llama shows. She made me love llama fiber, made me see it and feel it in ways I had never imagined. I also knew her as the woman who washed the walls of her show stalls before allowing her llamas inside them, and the woman who showed the magnificent Cadfael (but was sometimes dragged across the ring by his unbridled enthusiasm for running).

Then came Chile. Sharon went to Temuco with about a dozen of us who had to go in person to see the rare Argentines who had made it out of Argentina during a window of export opportunity, who were ready to come Stateside for those of us lucky enough to get one. In Chile, I met the real Sharon Beacham. The one who made me laugh raucously with her quiet, dry humor. The one who could shop with Jane Sheppard and I for hours in the fiber stalls of Temuco and Santiago. The one who fell madly in love with Argentine Yecu the

same time I did and agreed to be a partner. "I haven't felt this way about a llama in a long time," she sighed when we found him tied alone behind the barns because otherwise he leapt all the fences and drove everyone crazy. "I'm willing to blow my entire wad on this llama," she added. With that, a long, loving, and joyful partnership was born.

After Chile, I shared trips to Celebrity in Oklahoma City and LFA in Kentucky with Sharon. A night owl supreme, she huddled under the covers with a flashlight so she wouldn't disturb me into the early morning hours. After Jane Sheppard passed on, Sharon worked tirelessly to help make sure every llama found a good home (taking several herself), she and John offering up their beautiful home to put on the sale/adoption event, and giving me a warm bed and hospitality whenever I needed to be there.

My best memory of all, was coming home from Celebrity one year, and dropping Sharon and her llamas off at a place we'd arranged for John to meet her and take her the rest of the way home. She jumped from the truck, ran across the parking lot and flew into John's arms as if he was a long lost lover. They'd been married forever, and only apart for a few days, but the embrace spoke of a rare and true love.

I'm thinking of you, Sharon, and will be missing you for a long, long time.

Gayle M. Woodsum  
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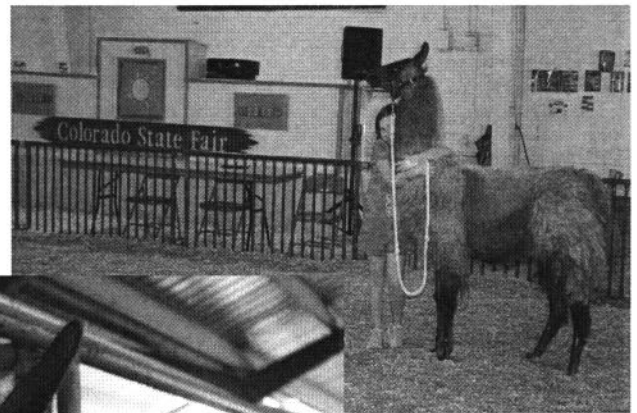
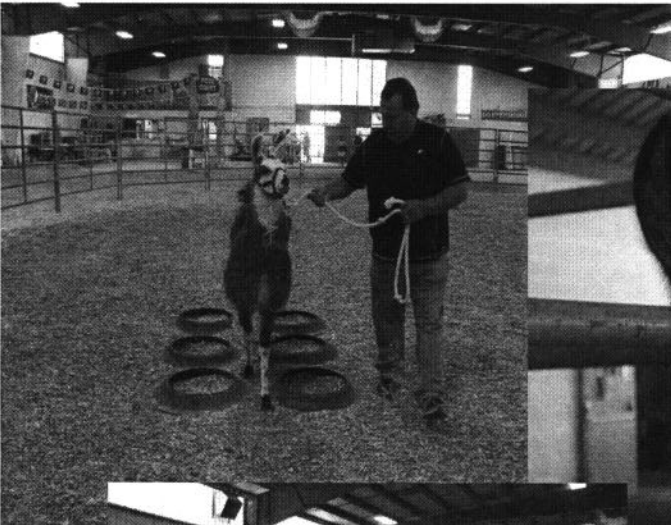


# Colorado State Fair

By Briana Livengood-Cozzetto

Another successful llama demonstration at the Colorado State Fair! Our first day at the fair Saturday, September 3rd close to 69,000 people walked through the fair gates! The following days Sunday and Monday were over 64,000 and 59,000 respectively. The busiest llama demonstration was on Sunday afternoon when 104 kids and adults walked with llamas through a simple obstacle course. I took 5 llamas Silver, Avalanche, and Avalanches' three sons Cliffe, Patriot and Huck. They did wonderful and it was Patriot and Huck's first time away from home!! The youngest "leader" was 7 month old Taurus, who acted like a pro and held the lead rope through the whole course! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers J.J. Moore, Rhonda Livengood, AJ Cozzetto and Nancy Jamnik. Before the fair I made llama information boards and the public loved them! I will be making more before next year! I also made stickers for all the kids (and adults

too) that walked a llama through the obstacles. Many RMLA information brochures, journals and service directories were given out and numerous questions answered. The Colorado State Fair is always a good time to practice the RMLA mission of dedication to the education of the public. People of all ages loved walking with the llamas and they enjoyed being educated about llamas. If you are interested in bringing llamas to the Colorado State Fair or would just like to come sell your llamas and talk to the public contact me at e-mail: [brianna0215@yahoo.com](mailto:brianna0215@yahoo.com). The Llama Demonstration is held Labor Day weekend. The 2012 dates are Sept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.





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**September**

22-23 2011 Pack Llama Festival, Silverton, CO contact: Charlie Hackbarth 719-742-5156 [www.soprisunlimited.com](http://www.soprisunlimited.com)

24-24 2011 Paca Buddies at the Douglas County Fair Grounds, Castle Rock CO Contact: Brent Holt 281-250-2000, [Brent.Holt@CFBMIC.COM](mailto:Brent.Holt@CFBMIC.COM)

24 Looking for Gold Llama hike at Golden Gate Park, Golden, CO. Contact: Jerry Dunn 303-277-1129, [beartrak@q.com](mailto:beartrak@q.com)

**October**

1-2 RMLA Fiber Booth will be at the Taos Wool Festival, Taos NM. Contact: Jill Knuckles, 970-487-0223, [talltail-lamas@bigplanet.com](mailto:talltail-lamas@bigplanet.com)

**January**

7 Tentative schedule National Western Stock Show

**RMLA Outstanding Youth Award**

BY Jerry Dunn

Wyatt Mayo, the recipient of the RMLA Outstanding Youth Award, is a fine young man who enjoys working with his llama and being around people in the llama community. He is a good listener and takes praise and criticism with great maturity and is always willing to help others no matter what the task. Wyatt is respectful of others and takes a great deal of pride in his accomplishments within the llama community with his winning smile and a fun sense of humor.

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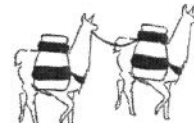
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# Fun Day At Pear Tree Llama's

By Cathleen White

Article for RMLA Journal:

Earlier this year the RMLA Journal carried the announcement of an event called the Second Annual Llama Fun Day, which took place on June 25, 2011, at Pear Tree Llamas of Midway, Utah. The event was designed as an educational experience where people curious about llamas could come and learn more about them in a casual, unstructured setting. The event was free and open to the public; this year more than 200 people turned out to enjoy the day. The event ran from 10am to 5pm and a local Papa Murphy's pizza wagon was available throughout the day for pizza, hotdogs, drinks, and snacks.

The first stop for participants was the Utah Llama Association booth, where attendees received a map of the event and could browse through a display of literature about llamas. From there attendees could browse at will among the assorted activities.

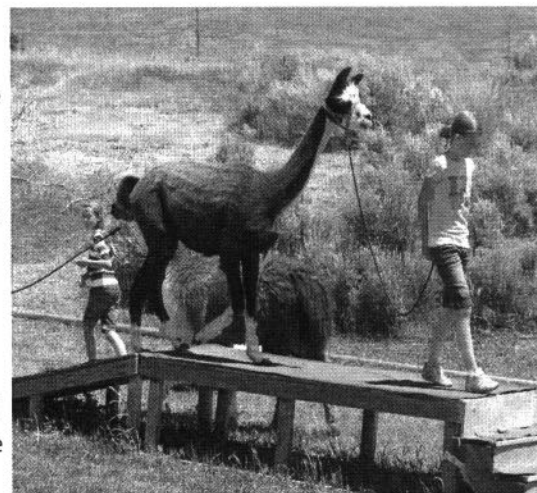
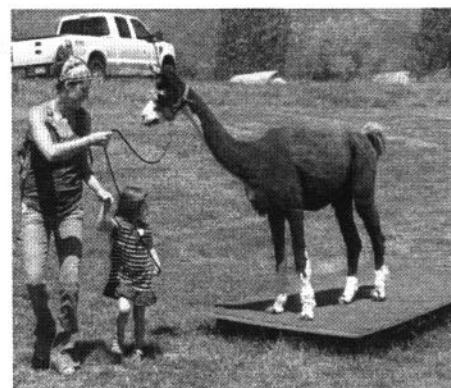
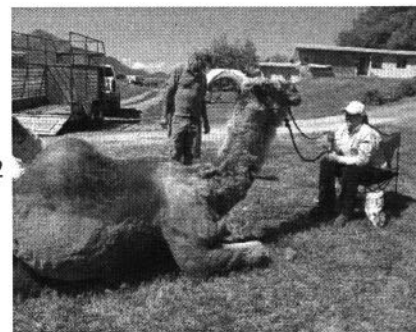
One set of activities offered during the day focused on around llama fiber. Mike Coffey demonstrated custom llama shearing (electric), while various volunteers cleaned and skirted the newly shorn fiber in a fiber tumbler.

Shirley Weathers and Bill Walsh of Rosebud Llamas demonstrated hand shearing and talked about llama packing. Judith Rosenthal, a hand spinner from Henefer, Utah, brought three spinning wheels, and kept them constantly busy throughout the day. There was also fiber merchandise to be purchased. Kathy Stanko and Cheryl Juntilla of RMLA provided an extensive booth featuring their fiber arts handcrafts, including shawls, hats, scarves, socks, and many other beautiful clothing items. Bagged fleece and yarn were also offered for sale. From the Pacific Northwest Llama Fiber Coop came an elegant assortment of llama fiber rugs, blankets (woven by the Pendleton Woolen Mills), scarves, and socks.

Another set of activities focused on the animals themselves. The llama obstacle course was busy all day long. Tonya Otterness of Circle T Alpacas brought two young male alpacas so that attendees could see the differences between llamas and alpacas. Beverley Hefferman of the Backcountry Horsemen of Utah provided an educational display on leave no trace camping. Although pack horses were included in last year's event, the fear of the equine virus

that struck Utah in May and June of this year prevented organizers from encouraging inter-species socialization. However, a high point of the day was the cameo appearance of Clyde the Camel, a 22-year-old dromedary bull owned by veterinarian Dr. Charmian Wright of Park City, Utah. Clyde accepted considerable petting and brushing, and posed for innumerable photos with great dignity.

Thinking back on the event, two things stand out. First, the public fascination with llamas continues as strongly as ever. An event of this kind reaches far beyond the traditional llama community. This may be a mechanism to open new avenues for education about responsible llama ownership as well as possible future markets for sales of llama fiber merchandise or even llamas themselves. Secondly, the people who worked to make this event come together came from a wide variety of backgrounds - both llama owning and non-llama owning. A wonderful spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm permeated the day and made



# Ask the CSU Vet Team

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

With cooperation from our friends at the Colorado State University Veterinarian Teaching Hospital, the goal of this column is to answer your camelid-care questions in a helpful and practical way. In addition we are taking this opportunity to get to know the people at CSU who take care of our wonderful animals and us. So lets' meet the 2011 Interns who contributed to the information you are about to read.

This is Dr. Alexandra Hund happily bathing a pig!

Dr. Hund is from southern Germany and graduated from the vet school in Leipzig in 2008. Last year, Dr. Hund was one of the Livestock Interns at CSU and she is continuing her work at CSU for another year as a "Super" Intern in Livestock Service and also helps with other livestock extension and research programs at CSU. Dr. Hund chose CSU for her training "because it's a great place to work and learn". She would like to continue training in livestock medicine and surgery as well as livestock management in the future.

In the next photo, we find Dr. Katy Lutz (on left) and Dr. Andi Lear (on right) 'snuggling' a cow ... or is it a bull? They look like a totally fun crew!

Dr. Andi Lear is from Covington, KY and attended Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in Auburn, AL. Dr. Lear was awarded one of two internship positions with the CSU Livestock department in July 2011. Dr. Lear's interest in the CSU program is

because "CSU is the perfect place to gain better experience and knowledge with a wide variety of species as well as work with renowned veterinary clinicians. Andi's dream veterinary practice consists of working with all food and fiber animals, ranging from cattle, small ruminants, pigs, and camelids.

Dr. Kaitlyn Lutz is a current livestock intern at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She grew up just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and spent most of her time working with and training horses. She attended the University of Delaware for her bachelor degree in Animal Science and attended veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania. She was drawn into livestock medicine during her time at U. of Delaware where she worked on a project studying dairy cow lameness. She is excited to have the opportunity to work at CSU and get to know their camelid patients!

Wow there is so much enthusiasm in this group. It really makes me wish I was young again and could still wrestle a cow! (Not . . . I could never wrestle a cow.) Now; to your questions.

**Question:** Can you address these issues regarding llamas with blue eyes.

- Does a blue eye have normal eyesight?
- Does a blue eye indicate possible deafness?
- Does a blue eye appearing in conjunction with a white coat always indicate deafness?
- Does a blue eye with a fawn or brown coat indicate normal hearing?
- Are blue eyes considered hereditary? Should an animal with

a blue eye not be bred?

## Response from Dr. Hund

Blue eyes result from a lack of pigmentation of the iris of the eye. This does not directly affect vision in camelids. However, it might predispose the animals to snow blindness and increased sensitivity to ultraviolet light in high altitudes, but no scientific study has validated this yet.

Deafness has been described in many species of domestic animals with substantial white patterning, especially if they have blue eyes. The mechanism for the deafness may be associated with degeneration within the cochlea of the ears associated with a lack of melanocytes within the cochlea.

In llamas and alpacas, there is an association of deafness in animals with blue eyes and a solid white coat color (Blue Eyed White, BEW). Documenting deafness in llamas and alpacas can be difficult because the animals are so astute at picking up visual cues that their deafness is well hidden. The only objective way to measure hearing is to conduct a test called brainstem auditory-evoked response audiometry (BAER). This was done in a study published in 2005 evaluating BAER in 63 camelids. Seven of ten tested BEW llamas and alpacas were bilaterally deaf and one of them was deaf in one ear only. The other two had normal hearing. None of the animals with any coat or iris pigmentation showed any hearing impairment.

This means that llamas and alpacas that are completely white and both eyes are completely blue with no observed pigment in the iris will most likely be deaf. Interestingly, none of the animals were perceived as deaf by their owners. In this study animals with any coat or iris pigmentation were not deaf.

Blue eyes are hereditary. The question of breeding a BEW animal needs to be carefully assessed taking into consideration animal welfare and concrete goals for future generations. The genetic mechanism is rather complicated therefore eliminating the trait is not easy, even assuming that all breeders are aware of the parentage of their animals.

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**Question:** What alternative 'therapies' such as herbs and acupuncture are being used at CSU?

**Response:** By Dr. Andi Lear (CSU Livestock Intern) and Dr. Tim Holt (Assistant Professor)

Complementary therapies are a growing area of interest throughout medicine, including our veterinary patients. Incorporating old world therapies alongside conventional medical approaches allows for the potential for augmented response to treatment. Acupuncture is one of these popular therapy techniques that many large animal practitioners are now offering their camelid clients. This complimentary therapy can be used for the treatment of a wide variety of conditions involving reproductive performance, gastrointestinal conditions (diarrhea, non-surgical colic, chronic colic, inflammatory bowel disease), musculoskeletal issues (muscle/joint pain, lameness, arthritis, back pain), skin conditions (allergies, wound healing) and nerve damage.

Before an appropriate acupuncture therapy protocol is determined, a diagnostic acupuncture examination (DAPE) must be performed. The DAPE consists of an evaluation of the patient using thorough, full body palpation. This type of physical palpation is derived from a Japanese approach to acupuncture revealing trigger points, areas of repeatable painful reaction typically found within muscles or fascia. These trigger points may help identify localized pain at the area of palpation or referred pain, which is discomfort originating from another site within the body. Pain or discomfort created from a positive trigger point can be identified as muscle twitching, behavioral changes such as tail twitching, rearing, spitting, or even just a change in stance. These sensitive areas

are evaluated as a whole to focus on specific areas of concerns. Identifying these areas of pain can lead the examiner to further diagnostics and appropriate treatments.

After the areas of concern are identified an appropriate treatment protocol can be made, involving both conventional medical therapy and alternative therapies such as manual therapy. Manual therapy is a broad term meaning manual manipulation of the body. This includes many alternative therapies such as acupuncture, chiropractics, osteopathy, physical therapy, and message.

Camelid patients tolerate therapeutic acupuncture sessions very well. The session is performed with minimal restraint in a relaxing environment to help minimize stress. The duration of an acupuncture session depends on the animal's tolerance to the techniques, as well as the overall purpose of the therapy. The frequency of acupuncture sessions can also vary, ranging from 1-3 times the first week then monthly to maintain beneficial effects.

Acupuncture along with all other alternative therapies are best used in conjunction with conventional medical treatments. Keeping an open mind to techniques used for your animal's therapy can allow the best possible treatment: the best of both worlds.

Thanks to all the CSU Doctors for taking the time to answer our questions. If you have a question, please send it to me at [turkeytrot2@aol.co](mailto:turkeytrot2@aol.co). Just a reminder, if a timely response is needed please call your own vet! Thank you.



# Membership Report

By Barb Hance

Your 2011-2012 Membership Directory was created and published by **Jane Levene**, she deserves a **huge thank you** for doing a great job. Thank You Jane!

As you know, membership runs from April 1, through March 31 of each year. Some of you may not know the reason for these dates. After I had the membership duties (Jan. 1, through Dec. 31) for a couple of years, it seemed renewals were getting lost in the mail, mislaid or forgotten during the holiday rush of Thanksgiving/Christmas/New Year. With the Board approval we moved the

membership year to the current dates, April 1, through March 31, (a bit of RMLA history). We find this is not ideal with TAX day to close. This year, so far, the **good news** is we have received 10 new regular memberships, 8 new youth members 1 new young adult, and 2 new honorary members, the **bad news** is we had 2 young adults move on; 6 youth members did not renew; and we had a **whopping 33 regular adult memberships that did not renew from 2010**. The previous year, we lost 23 adult memberships and 5 youths. Maybe our timing is still bad, or maybe the Membership Committee needs

help in reaching Lama owners, and encouraging membership.

RMLA depends on dues to pay most of its expenses and provide the benefits it offer, as membership drops, RMLA has had to dig deeper & deeper into its reserves to cover costs.

Please forward your ideas and suggestions on increasing membership to me. Or become a committee member.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Hance, RMLA Membership Chair

## New Members

Tanja Andreas  
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www.kcllamas.com

### Renewals

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Melanie Darter  
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Jessica Bache (Youth)  
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Castle Rock, CO 80109-7983

Rob Funk  
Benjamin Funk  
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rbfunk@me.com

### New Email address

Marilyn Arnold Hans  
Arnoldarnold.marilyn@ymail.com

### Additional Email address

Linda Kutscher  
James Lewis  
kutcherlinda@aol.com

# Camelid Community 2011

## Moving Forward Together

July 29-31, 2011

The Clarion, Kansas City, MO

By Sheila Fugina and Barb Baker

## Background

Because it is the only national forum that offers the opportunity for dialog among representatives of national, regional and local camelid organizations, as well as interested individuals and owners, Camelid Community provides a unique occasion to assess the state of our camelid world.

Camelid Community does not have a board of directors, officers or great funds at its disposal. The gathering brings together concerned llama and alpaca enthusiasts to discuss issues, suggest solutions and work toward common goals that are critical to the existence of our industry. The overall focus has been to concentrate on areas where the llama and alpaca communities can cooperate and collaborate. Participants attend because they care about their animals and about the future of our industry. Unlike most conferences, Camelid Community's agenda is set by participants. It is a "move forward and get things accomplished" group and not simply a weekend gathering to wring hands and rehash old problems.

## Building on Previous Years

Last year's Camelid Community produced *The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Fiber* brochure, which provides tips on harvesting, utilizing and selling our camelid fleeces. Other Camelid Community gatherings have produced *The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Care* brochure; *Customize to Maximize*, a pack-

et of ideas for having a successful llama or alpaca business; a press packet that includes a llama and alpaca fact sheet, poster, sample press release and tips on how to use the various publicity pieces; a standards of care document for animal control and a piece on raising camelids. Camelid Community 2010 participants felt the need for a brochure to encourage youth involvement with camelids, so the 2011 gathering created *Alpacas, Llamas & YOUth* by the end of the weekend.

Like the brochures on care and fiber, the youth brochure is a simple, easy to reproduce piece that allows organizations and individual farms or businesses to add their contact information before distribution. Like previous materials, it will be sent to llama and alpaca organizations and newsletters. All publications and reports presented at or created by Camelid Community are available free for downloading at [www.icinfo.org](http://www.icinfo.org), the web site for the International Camelid Institute.

## Additional Discussion

Marketing both animals and their fiber was discussed at Camelid Community 2011, and it was felt that the one upside to a soft economy is that more people can afford to buy llamas and alpacas as the prices decrease. The downside is that it has increased the need for rescue and re-homing. National attention to camelid rescue and increased involvement by national and regional groups in planning for un-

wanted animals was a major concern. A group will be working on ways to help make that happen. The importance of keeping camelid research a funding priority—at whatever level an individual or association can manage—also was stressed.

## Looking Ahead

Because the brochures have been popular and are being widely used, both in print form and on organization websites, Camelid Community 2011 participants decided to continue to produce more in the basic brochure series and plan to focus on therapy, packing and rescue/re-homing at Camelid Community 2012. For information on how you or your organization can be involved in Camelid Community, contact Barb Baker ([bebaker@earthlink.net](mailto:bebaker@earthlink.net))

or Sheila Fugina ([bsfugina@presenter.com](mailto:bsfugina@presenter.com)). Input and participation is welcomed from all quarters of the alpaca and llama communities in the U.S. and beyond.

# Raising Alpacas In Hawaii

By Ron Baird

## RAISING ALPACAS IN HAWAII

Yes, it is done; and quite well.

We all tend to think of Hawaii (the island that the state is named after) as a tropical environment—lush green jungles and foliage, lots of warm rain, balmy days and nights. The facts are that Hawaii also has lots of deserts that get less than 2 inches of rain per year; two mountains nearly 14,000 feet above sea level (actually over 45,000 feet above the ocean's floor) that can get up to 40 feet of snow in the winter (and even some in June like this year); no snakes; and lots of indigenous feral animals, ranging from cattle, turkeys and donkeys to boars, goats, and chickens. Hawaii is also the most remote inhabited lands on earth in terms of distance from any other land.

On the northeastern slopes of snowcapped Mauna Kea (13,796 feet above sea level), home of the world's greatest aggregation of big astronomical telescopes, is the alpaca ranch of Dr. Jeannie Brundage. Her ranch is at an elevation of about 2,500 feet and has an unlimited view of the deep blue Pacific Ocean. While not at the end of the road, the ranch is in a secluded area among pristine virgin forests, open meadows, deep soil, and very moderate rainfall. Temperatures rarely exceed 75 degrees during the day and the nights are almost always in the 50's or even the 40's in the winter.

The result is a great pasturing environment for lamas (a neighbor down the road has llamas). Gentle afternoon rains irrigate pasture grasses all year a round, even to the point

that mowing is sometimes necessary. Temperatures are such that shearing only has to be done once a year. Pests and parasites are minimal. There are no predators since the largest predators on the island are a small owl (Pueo) and a hawk somewhat resembling a chicken hawk (Io).

Dr Brundage is a small animal veterinarian whose practice is in Hilo, about 40 miles from her ranch. She specifically moved to Hawaii from the island of O'ahu (Honolulu) to raise alpacas. She has selectively chosen her breeding stock, bringing her base animals mostly from Ohio and California, seeking diversity on lineages, looking for conformationally and structurally sound stock, with strong proven abilities to produce exceptionally fine fiber. Her practice is to quarantine incoming purchased animals (after they go through the state quarantine process) for several months, until she is satisfied they pose no parasitic threat to her existing herd. Presently, Dr. Brundage has a small herd of about 20 alpacas; several herd sires, the remainder mostly breeding age females and a few younger females.

Attempting to breed for specific color as well as extra fine fiber, Dr. Brundage is applying her knowledge of genetics to breed her females. Herd sires have been specifically chosen for their ability to throw consistent color shades and fiber fineness. Much of the breeding stock has been purchased from Ohio farms with track records of success in competition and in reproduction.

As mentioned earlier, Hawaii is the most isolated inhabited land mass in the world. This isolation, however, has not prevented invasive spe-

cies from destroying much of the endemic plants and birds on the island. Additionally, modern transportation means and influxes of visitors and importation of mammals such as cattle, goats, horses, dogs and cats have brought the traditional array of parasites. Dr. Brundage follows a strict schedule of fecal cultivation for all known parasites known to be fond of lamas. Very little treatment for parasites is the result of her good herdsman-ship. Rabies is not known on Hawaii, so while that vaccination is not given her herd, Dr. Brundage does vaccinate for other known lama pests. Being relatively isolated and not on property previously used for production of beef cattle, her ranch is free of ticks.

The ranch is located at a fortunate elevation – cool nights, pleasant days, moderate rainfall. This climate has resulted in no problems that one might think typical of raising animals in a tropical environment – fiber rot, foot problems, and the like.

Dr. Brundage shears her herd once a year. Her shearer is an Australian sheepshearer who flies over from the island of Kauai to spend a day working on her herd. She is fortunate that her herd is pleasingly mild tempered and every animal is easy to handle; making shearing a simple swift task. Collected fiber is being sent to two different facilities at present, one in Texas and the other in Ohio, as Dr. Brundage is evaluating the resulting product before making a final decision on which mill to ship fiber.

Two other alpaca ranches are located on Hawaii island, perhaps 90 miles away from Dr. Brundage's facility. A number of people have llamas. We believe the total of all camelids is



around 200. The largest herd is of about 40 animals. Managing lama herd on Hawaii can be a challenge, as only one vet has any experience with them, and that was gained during her college years. So, breeders and owners do much self-education and discussion with owners in the rest of the United States and Pacific Rim countries to develop their suites of best practices.

Indeed, Hawaiian lamas are evolving as an unique variety of their own, due to the passion of their owners and their desire to succeed in this wonderful industry.

## Well Wishes

Word has come that Emily Varela was involved in a farm accident this past week. RMLA wishes you a speedy recovery with your injuries. Hope you are doing better.



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# What is The LFA?

## The Llama Futurities Association

The Llama Futurities Association's mission is to act as a catalyst, independently or in cooperation with other llama organizations, to create leadership in developing and promoting llama futurity events. The LFA is a non-profit organization that strives to be the highest paying event in the country with classes paying out to \$2,500 to futurity class winners. In 2011 The LFA will introduce a Best of Show for the futurity with an additional payout. With increased sponsorship there is opportunity for even greater payouts.

The LFA works diligently throughout the year to support llamas, llama shows, and llama people. The LFA is involved in and

sponsors regional futurity events throughout the year as well. The main event is held annually in Cedar Rapids, IA. The weekend consists of a show, auction, and futurity. A futurity takes a look into the future of the species that is being shown. In the case of The LFA futurity it is optional to nominate the sire of the offspring that will be exhibited in the futurity. If the sire is nominated, 20% of the purse is awarded to the individual nominating the sire. If the sire is not nominated The LFA retains the 20% of the purse. In the futurity conformation is judged along with movement, fiber, and overall appeal of the animal. The auction held on Saturday is comprised of some of the finest show and breeding stock from across the country. Prior to the auction there is a herdsire auction where breedings to top studs across the country are auctioned off.

There are several new and exciting events in store for the 2011 LFA event. First, a Male Claims Futurity is scheduled to be held on Saturday. In this futurity young males will be judged following the futurity judging criteria and offered for sale at a price of \$1,000. In addition to the 8 classes of the traditional futurity held on Sunday there will be a Maturity for animals over the age of two.

It is the goal of the LFA to increase awareness of our organi-

zation and by encouraging participation in the LFA and in LFA sponsored events; breeders both large and small can enjoy the camaraderie and financial rewards that the Llama Futurities Association has to offer. Where else can you breed or purchase an animal, and with a first place ribbon in one class at one show, potentially cover the expense associated with that purchase or breeding?

If you would like more information regarding The LFA please visit our website at [www.thelfa.org](http://www.thelfa.org) for membership forms, show information, consignment applications, and links to member farms across the country.

Please consider joining us for a weekend of camaraderie September 16-18, 2011 at the Kirkwood Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids, IA.

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## Remembering Bob Frost

### Bob Frost, Long-time Llama Owner and Past President of USAHA, Passes

By Karen Conyngham, ILR representative to the US Animal Health Assoc. and Ben Richey, USAHA Executive Director

August 16, 2011

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Bob Frost after a courageous battle with cancer. Bob passed away at his home in Lincoln, California on August 15, 2011, with his loving wife Bonnie at his side.

He received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation at the University of California, Berkeley in 1964. During his college years Bob fashioned an entrepreneurial lifestyle that continued right up to his death.

His interest in camelid medicine and animal health relations with the federal government dates back to 1979 when he began his llama herd. He realized the need for camelid owners to be aware of federal and state animal health regulations and conversely, for regulators to understand the nature of camelid health and how it differs from that of conventional livestock. He always worked closely with the school of veterinary medicine at UC Davis on llama medical research projects, especially during the years that Dr. Murray

Fowler was on staff, and he also had a very close relationship with Dr. Bennie Osburn, immediate past dean of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine.

Many of the early International Llama Assoc. (ILA) conferences featured Bob, reporting on tuberculosis testing and other health and regulatory issues, and his wife, Bonnie – an equine veterinarian – also gave presentations at some of those meetings. Bob served on the board of directors of the ILA and was ILA vice-president in 1991.

Susan Tellez, long time member of USAHA and close friend, remembers Bob and some of his many contributions to the camelid community:

“Bob’s enthusiasm for teaching and encouraging young people carried over to his support for the Alpaca and Llama Show Association (ALSA) to host Judge and Owner Training Clinics at his ranch for teaching the healthy, correct evaluation of unique camelid behavior and conformation. The research work he helped with on Blue-tongue Virus (BTV) allows for the interstate transport and exhibition of these animals today.”

His wildlife, agriculture and livestock endeavors brought Bob to the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) in 1989.

One of the most important camelid papers presented at USAHA, “Prevalence of Selected Diseases of Llamas and Alpacas” was authored by Dr. Fowler and Bob Frost, and issued at the 1999 USAHA annual meeting. This paper is still used as a reference

document by state and federal agencies.

Bob served as President of USAHA in 2003, the only llama owner ever to hold this position. His vision and energy during his leadership years in USAHA included recruiting individuals, government agencies and national allied organizations that could assist USAHA in dealing with the nation's challenges in wildlife as well as domestic animal health. Bob championed the modernization of the United States' federal animal health laboratories, utilized USAHA partnerships to assist in establishing the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, initiated collaborative efforts between Canada, Mexico and the United States that resulted in the formation of a North American Animal Health Laboratory Network and he served on the United States Secretary of Agriculture's National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee. For several years Bob chaired the USAHA Committee on Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Workforce Development – a committee which he established. He was also responsible for creating the USAHA Committee on International Standards which focuses on improving global animal health and security and includes members from many countries.

Bob is also survived by his son, Austin.



# Nebraska State Fair

By Catherine Steele

State fairs are still among the best places to market llamas these days. Due to the variety and volume of the public stopping in to visit the fair, you will also find at least one person who has never seen what a llama can do. At the Nebraska State Fair that is no exception. In its second year at its new location in Grand Island, NE, the Nebraska State Fair continues to attract first time fair goers. The design of the fairgrounds keeps all the animals in close proximity to each other. Simulcasting videos of all arenas can be seen in all barns as well as many outside screens. Our llama show shares a the swine barn with the dairy goats and the arenas are close to each other as well. This year we instituted a "get to know your neighbors goats versus llamas games". We had a variety of ages participate, some with

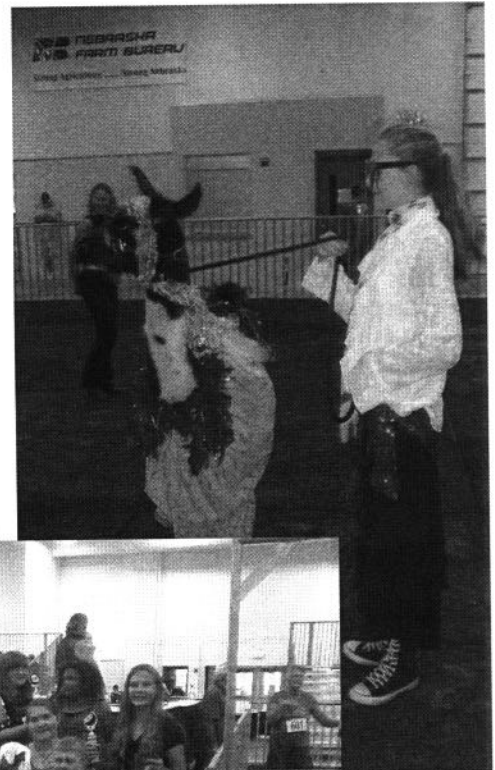
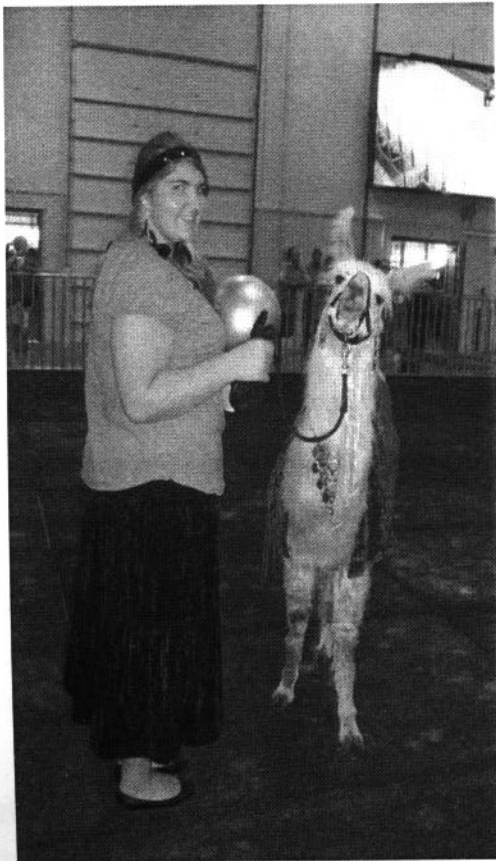
goats or llamas and some without. It was free to participants and our new goat friends provided the prizes. We also included our new goat friends in a barn versatility on Saturday. On Sunday at noon, so our judge - Patti Morgan-- could have a lunch break we had an "beginners llama leading" walk for all ages. This marketing and showing of how gentle llamas are was worth it! By the end of the weekend we had three new llama owners excited to come back to the fair and show in both the dairy goat show and the llama show.

We also had a great time in the show itself marveling at the beautiful halter animals and being amazed and inspired by the animals in performance and driving classes. Costume is always fun and we had a

couple girls enter "spur of the moment" using just what they could find in their tack stalls and cars. We are adding new things to the Nebraska State Fair each year and we would love to have you attend the Nebraska State Fair August 25th-26th 2012. For questions or to get on next year's mailing list, please contact the llama superintendents Catherine Steele at [thecsteele@gmail.com](mailto:thecsteele@gmail.com) or Tami Schendt at [ptschendt@yahoo.com](mailto:ptschendt@yahoo.com)

thanks!

Catherine Steele



# The Backcountry Llama

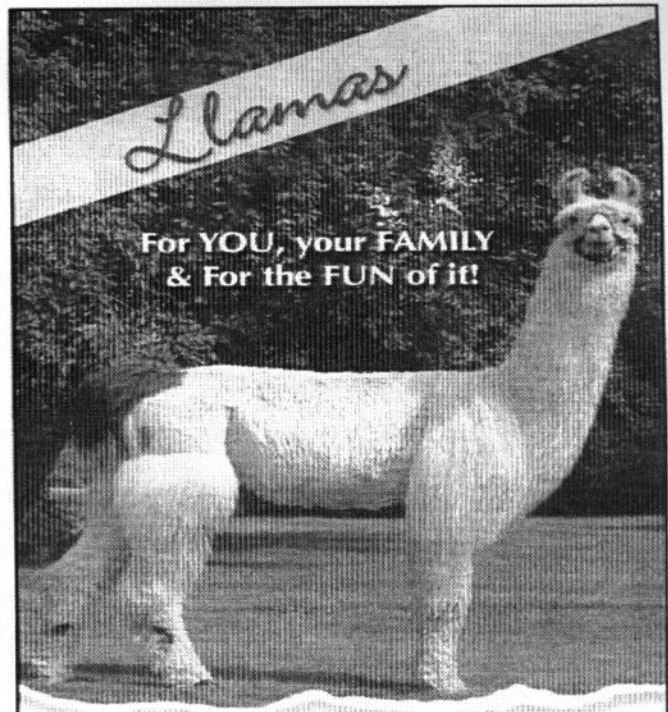


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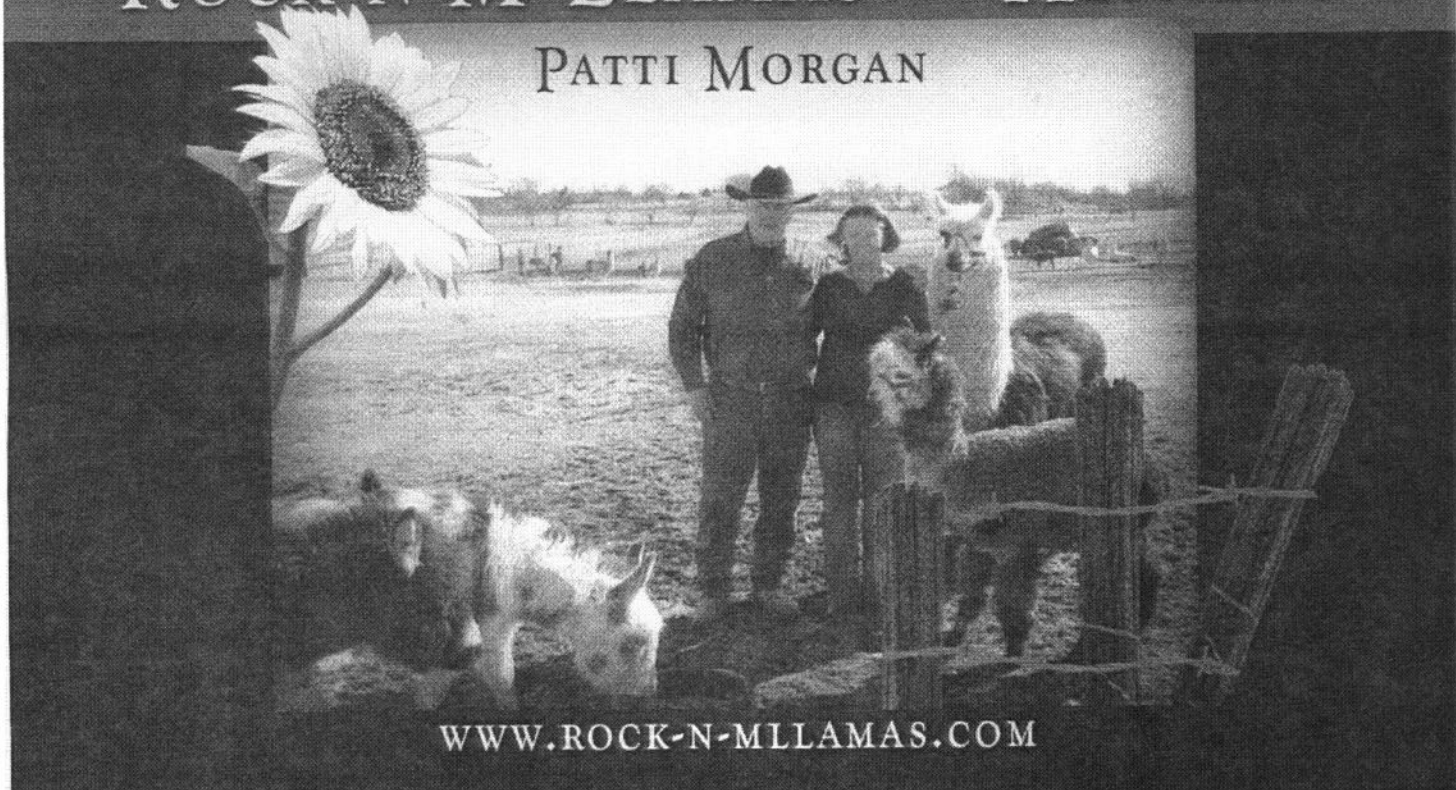
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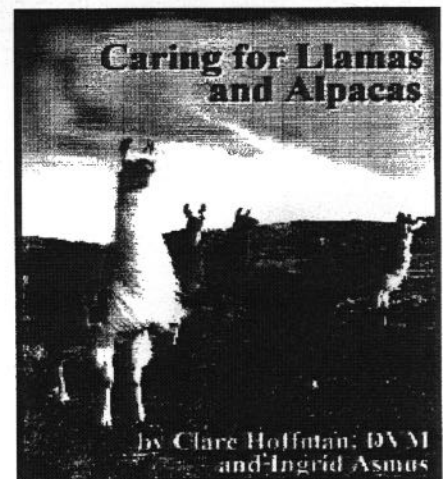
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