



The Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

Journal

www.rmla.com

Spring 2011



Caught in the Act!
Photo by Midori Matsuda

In This Issue

Jim Osmun	3
Membership Report	8
2011 RMLA Youth Award	8
Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award	11
A Note From The Editor	12
Silverton Pack Llama Festival	13
Destron Fearing Donates Products	13
Do You Have A Plan?	14
Electronic Show Packets	15
USAHA 2010 Annual Meeting	16
Foot Steps and Memories	18
Vets For The Future	19
Montana Llama Rescue	20
Healing Hands & Generous Hearts	21
Wild West National Western	
Stock Show	22
Back to Back ALSA Shows	22
Feds Luring Veterinarians	23
2011 Fiber Booth Update	24
Using Electrolyte Paste	25
Ask The CSU Vet Team	26
Pear Tree Farm Fun Day	28
Youth, 4H & County Fairs	28
Grand Mesa/Kokopelli Show	29
Volunteer News	30
Llama Manure Benefits	30

In Every Issue

President's Message	3
Officers and Committees	4
Ad Rates and Deadlines	4
Calendar of Events	7
RMLA Board Minutes	10

ChanTar Llamas
2010 ALSA Grand National Show
Top 10



Kobra's Mighty Joe Young
(AKA ~ Joe)
8th, HW Adult Male



Mighty Joe's
Smokin Lady Remington
4th, HW Female, 2 Yr Old



Mighty Joe's Daphne
Reserve Grand Champion
HW Female



Congratulations to
Robin & Courtnee Benson, Sapaveco Ranch,
owners of Daphne &
Lady Remington



Mighty Joe's
Smokin Guns & Roses
6th, MW Male, Juvenile



Quenby
3rd, Walking Fiber
Single Coat Over 24 Months

Paul & Karen Schwartz, Big Horn, WY
(307) 672-5144 chantar@fiberpipe.net www.chantarllamas.net

President's Message

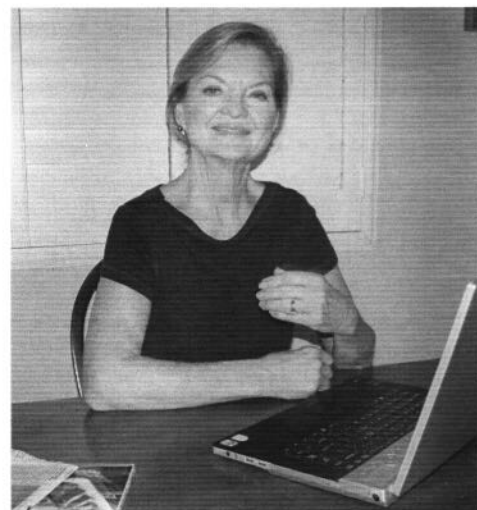
Dear RMLA Members,

Over the last few months, your Board has diligently worked with the Finance Committee and its recommendations to establish a leaner budget for this year. The Board appreciates the Committee's advice and proposals. We have all experienced households, corporations and organizations (both for profit and non-profit) restructure their spending during the economic downturn. RMLA has not been immune to this universal economic condition and must do so also.

However, out of what seems to be a negative situation, we have seen many positive results beginning to happen. The

spirit of community among llama owners is on the rise. Many RMLA members who have been less involved in the last several years have come forward with sound ideas and a willingness, once again, to volunteer. Thanks to all of you who have risen to the occasion!

Member response to our consideration of ways to decrease the cost of producing the Journal was impressive with a surprisingly high number of members volunteering to help RMLA by receiving their Journal via e-mail to help save expenses. The entire Board was touched by the willingness to contribute in such a positive way. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.



Please support the Journal with articles and ads. Have a wonderful Spring, crias, and fun with your llamas.

Lougene

Jim Osmun



Divide Trail and helped with maintenance in that area.

Jim's work with the Leadville 100 garnered much positive recognition for both RMLA and the capabilities of pack llamas. He was instrumental in developing a water filtration system that provided more than 600 gallons of drinking water each year for the runners in that race.

One thing many people may not know is that Jim went to clown school and became a certified clown who entertained at birthday parties and even gave a short presentation at the Jelly Bean Classic one year. According to Jerry Dunn, "He was a kick."

Jim was always a pleasure to talk with, a real gentleman and a dedicated volunteer who quietly made a big difference without seeking fanfare or personal recognition. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to his wife, Virginia, and children, Stacy and Cynthia.

RMMLA lost a dear friend when Jim Osmun passed away in February after a long battle with cancer.

Jim loved RMLA and was a great supporter of llama events. He transported the RMLA information booth to many shows and events and stood near the booth with his llama in hand talking to people. He staged one of the first Llama Pack Trials in Colorado and did volunteer trail maintenance work in the San Juan Mountains with Wes and Mary Mauz. Jim also hiked the Continental

SPINNING LLAMA and ALPACA

the best book since 1994, 3rd edition with 5 fiber/yarn samples and includes projects. \$18 plus \$2.50 shipping (\$20.50 total), to Canada \$3.25 shipping (\$21.25 total in U.S. Funds). Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Lane, Estes Park, CO 80517

Cover Photo

The Matsuda family of Okashi Llamas in Elizabeth, Colorado, didn't know why the sunflower seeds would sometimes disappear so quickly — until Tangiers Tazo was caught in the act!

Board of Directors

President

Lougene Baird
Post Office Box 385403
Waikoloa, HI 80302
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiantel.net

Vice President

Jerry Dunn
14550 West 50th Avenue
Golden, CO 80403-1707
303-277-1129
beartrak@verizon.net

Secretary

Geri Rutledge
2209 Road 9
Waco, NE 68460
402-366-9304
buckshollow@wildblue.net

Treasurer

Bob Hance
11818 West 52nd Avenue
Wheatridge, CO 80033
303-422-4681
hancelama@att.net

Director at Large

Dick Williams
Post Office Box 1070
Plains, MT 59859
406-826-2201
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

Committee Chairpersons

Bookstore

Jan Adamcyk
303-621-2960
adamcyk@earthlink.com

Bylaws

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

Calendar

Patti Morgan
620-442-4996
pmmorgank@gmail.com

Education

Position Open

Elections & Nominations

Maggie Merrill-Brown
303-646-0568
designer95@bluelinesite.com

Events/Marketing

Jerry Dunn
303-277-1129
beartrak@gte.net

Fiber

Patti Morgan
620-442-4996
pmmorgan@skyrock.net

Finance

Barb Hance
303-422-4681
hancelama@att.net

4-H

Maureen Bergenfeld
719-522-0347
bergenfeld@earthlink.net

Government Relations

Bob Hance
303-422-4681
hancelama@att.net

Journal

Position Open

Library

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

Membership

Barb Hance
303-422-4681
hancelama@att.net

Pack

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

Publication

Position Open

Rescue

L'illette Vasquez
720-839-0787
LlamaRescue@lillette.net

Website

Katy Wegner
303-273-9231
K2wegner@axint.net

Youth

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
drdrjhw@hotmail.com

The Journal is a quarterly publication of the **Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association** ("RMLA"). The RMLA Publication Committee and Board of Directors reserve the right to select and edit all articles and advertisements submitted. Reproduction of articles herein is subject to written permission being obtained from individual authors. Lama newsletter exchange editors may reproduce articles as long as such permission from the author is obtained and the author and RMLA are given credit for the original work. The Information in *The Journal* is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant or attorney regarding any questions concerning their animals or business operations. RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from readers' failure to heed this caution. The views expressed by the authors of articles are not necessarily those of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc., its officers, directors or members.

Journal Advertising Rates, Specifications and Deadlines

All rates are per issue, for camera ready ads, and are subject to change in the future. Ads sent via e-mail should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Lock in the current rate by committing to four issues in a row and get a 10% discount. Payments for ad space must be received by the RMLA Treasurer *before* publication. To pay via credit card, contact Bob Hance at hancelama@att.net or (303) 422-4681.

Ad Type	Width X Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5" X 2"	\$15	\$18
1 / 4 Page horizontal	7.5" X 2"	\$24	\$36
1 / 4 Page verticle	3.5" X 4.5"	\$24	\$36
1 / 3 Page Horizontal	7.5" X 3"	\$35	\$48
1 / 3 Page Verticle	2.5" X 10"	\$35	\$48
Half Page	7.5" X 4.5"	\$48	\$72
Full Page	7.5" X 10"	\$78	\$117
Back Cover	7.5" X 7.5"	\$60	\$90
Inside Cover front or back	7.5" X 10"	\$96	\$144
Two Page Spread	15" X 10"	\$200	\$300

Classified Ads — **Member** \$10 for up to 50 words.
Classified Ads — **Non-Member** \$25 for up to 50 words.
25 cents for each word over 50 for both Member and Non-Member.

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

Assistance in formatting your ad is available from New Wave Publishing, LLC.
Please contact Monica at
NewWavePublishing@Centurytel.net or
(406) 755-5473 for rates for this service.

Mazuri®

The Exotic Animal Feeding Resource

LLAMAS RULE OUR ANIMAL KINGDOM

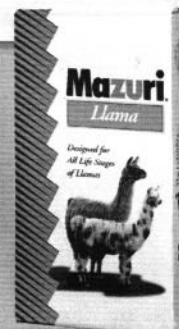


At Mazuri®, we know llamas rule. In the grand scheme of things, we produce more food for more specialty animals than any other company in the world.

MAZURI® LLAMA DIETS:

- Specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs of llamas by complementing feed supplements and forage
- Complete and balanced nutrition with added vitamin E and selenium
- Fortified with organic minerals
- Added levels of biotin, niacin and thiamin

So for healthy, happy llamas and optimum nutrition, trust Mazuri®.



MAZURI® LLAMA DIETS:
Llama Chews™
Llama Crumbles

Take a walk on the wild side and visit us at

www.Mazuri.com



April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 RMLA MEMBERSHIP

JOIN RMLA now! Your dues will assure the continuation of all the good RMLA has accomplished.
JOIN as a **LIFE MEMBER!**

Youth Membership: \$10.00 per year (must be 18 years or under **AND have an adult RMLA member sponsor**). Not entitled to vote. Youth & Young Adult will not receive a *Journal* if the address is the same as the parent/sponsor.

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) | |



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

Visa/MasterCard

EXP. Date _____

Acct. # _____

Signature _____

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

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

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws | <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Elections & Nominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H | <input type="checkbox"/> Govt Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Events/Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | |

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
Or fax Credit Card & this form to 303-422-3568
Don't miss any of the events, sponsored by RMLA.

*** JOIN NOW!!! ***

Advertiser's Index

Backcountry Llama	25
Bear Track Farm.....	11, 17
Cache La Poudre.....	15
Caring For Llamas & Alpacas.....	32
ChanTar Llamas	2
Classified Ads.....	3
FootHills Llamas.....	9
Hance Ranch Alpacas	19
M & M Llama Ranch.....	25
Mazuri Llama Diets.....	5
Pheasant Hill Farm.....	31

Making Plans for Labor Day Weekend?

It's not on the RMLA Calendar of Events yet, but we want to give everybody advance notice that the **ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Championship** will be held in conjunction with the **LOCC Fall Classic** on September 3 and 4, 2011, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock, Colorado. Barb Harris will once again provide her expertise as show superintendent, assisted by all the usual wonderful volunteers.

Gas will probably be too expensive for most of us to drive to Lincoln this year, so let's all come together and make this a fun and special weekend and our Regional Championship the biggest show of the year!

Calendar of Events

March

March 26 Llamas & Friends in the Park, Wheat Ridge, CO. Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

APRIL

April 29-30 Driving Clinic, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO., Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

April 30 Stars N Stripes, Waco, NE., Contact Jim Rutledge, 402.366.9303, buckshollow@wildblue.net, Catherine Steele, thesteele@gmail.com

MAY

May 1 Wild N Wooly Show, Waco, NE., Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thecsteele@yahoo.com

May 7 Jelly Bean Classic, Arvada, CO., Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

May 22 Orschlein PR Day for 4H, Orschlein Farm Store, Grand Island, NE, Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thesteele@gmail.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

JULY

July 30 FAIRPLAY LLAMA RACE/WALK, Fairplay, CO., Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, Gary@JmhFarm.com

July 31 FAIRPLAY CAMP PERFORMANCE SHOW, Beaver Creek Recreation Area, Pike National Forest, Fairplay, CO. Contact Sandra Lockwood, dslockwood@juno.com, 303.838.9554.

AUGUST

August 26-27 Nebraska State Fair Llama Show, Grand Island, NE., Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thecsteele@yahoo.com

Membership Report 3-3-11

The BOD was dealing with budget items, so we have not yet sent your Membership Renewal Forms for 2011, but will get them mailed ASAP. Membership dues are still only \$40, Youth and Young Adult \$10.

We will also mail ASAP the "2011 Electronic Service Directory invitation to advertise." To offer RMLA members the best service possible while continuing to reduce expenses, the Board voted to discontinue the hard copy of the Service Directory. Over the past three years the number of members using the Service Directory decreased, which resulted in lower income from advertisements and \$2,500

had to be taken from savings to cover the cost of producing the hard copy. All Service Directory ads will now be placed only on the RMLA website, www.rmla.com, which offers world wide exposure. The cost will be \$40 for the first ad and \$15 for each additional ad. For the first time this year your business card ad can also be on the RMLA website for \$40. All Service Directory ads will be placed on the RMLA web for a full year. This has the potential to reach many more people interested in what our members have to offer than the printed Service Directory.

For those of you who still prefer to have your advertisements appear in hard copy, the

Journal continues to offer excellent exposure at very reasonable prices, starting at just \$15 for a business card ad. The *Journal* is not only mailed to RMLA members in 21 states, but also distributed to the public at events like the National Western Stock Show and Estes Park Wool Market. In addition, copies are shared with editors of other association newsletters throughout the country that participate in the Newsletter Network.

We are all being pinched by the economy but RMLA needs your support. SORRY we are late getting these to you but PLEASE return your Membership Renewal and Service Directory orders, post marked by APRIL 1, 2011.

Thanking you all for being members.

Barb Hance Membership Chair

NEW MEMBERS

Luke Bakken (Youth)
784 Valley Road
Lonetree, CO 80124-9605
303.470.0915

Lisa Blidar
Ron Blidar
Cuyahoga Valley Llamas
9260 Longstone Court
Parker, CO 80134-7571
303.840.3722 cell 330.701.6950
cvllamas@yahoo.com

Haley Harper (Youth)
5933 W Hoover Avenue
Littleton, CO 80123-6885
303.948.2583

Taylor McCamand (Youth)
814 County Road 31
Brighton, CO 80603-9577

Ron McCullough
Chris McCullough
rm greenhorn ranch
3380 Grandview Avenue
Cañon City, CO 81212-9339
719.431.3086
rmgreenhornranch@yahoo.com

Bailey McHenry (Young Adult)
Lake Gulch Llamas
1299 Lake Gulch Road
Castle Rock, CO 80104-9744
303.688.6642
cr_smch@yahoo.com

Michaela Vander Hamm (Youth)
5950 W Coalmine Avenue
Littleton, CO 80123-3906
720.299.2540

Lloyd Wamsley
Kristy Wamsley
5255 Memphis Street #703
Denver, CO 80231-5237
303.941.7703

New Ranch Name

Brent L. Holt
Donna K. Holt
Sunrise Ridge Alpacas

Phone/Email Change

Julie K. Heggie
Double J Llamas
307.286.0406
jkheggie@aol.com

Carol Lontine
970.284.6311
cllontine@prodigy.net

Address/Phone/Email Change

Stephanie Hoke, DVM, MS
Dark Horse Veterinary Services
5588 N Highway 1
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3892
970.581.9502
www.darkhorsevet.com

Gayle Woodsum
20833 Highway 14
Walden, CO 80430-8012
307.399.3895
coraldawnnews@aol.com

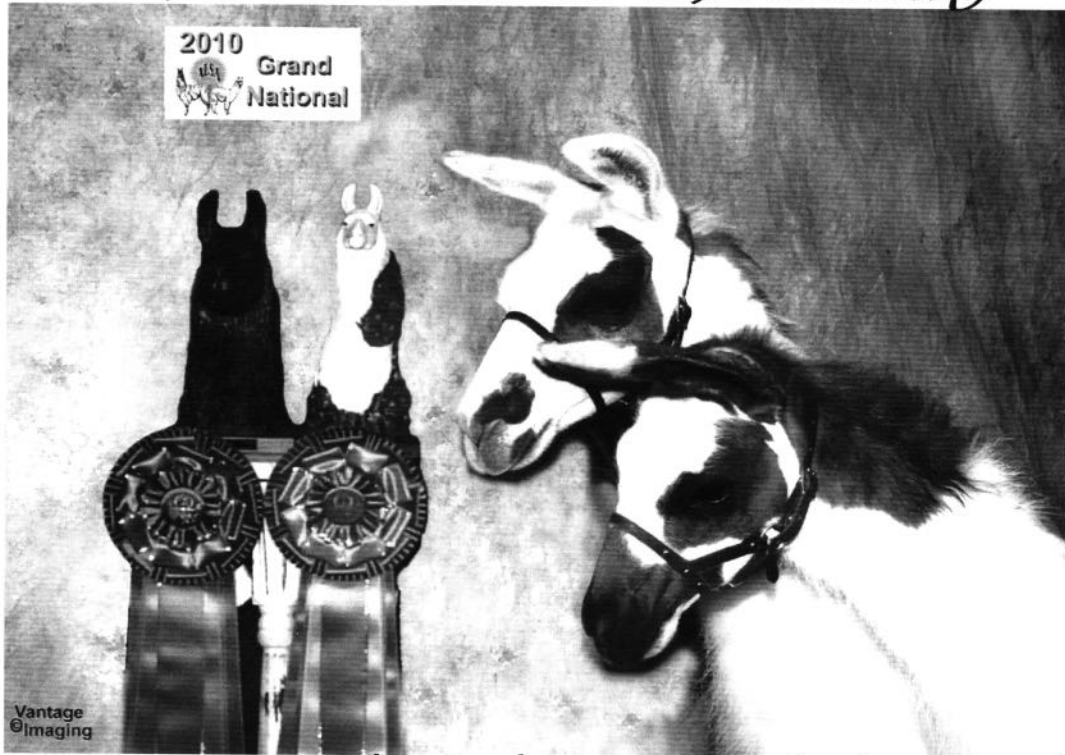
2011 RMLA Youth Award

It is time to accept entries for the 2011 RMLA Outstanding Youth Award. Applicants must have been a member of RMLA for at least a year. The winner will receive a personalized llama belt buckle, certificate of achievement, and \$100 savings bond, along with special recognition in the *Journal*.

Youth Committee Chairperson Dick Williams will be accepting applications until April 30, 2011. The winner will be announced this summer. For more information please contact Dick Williams at drdrjh@hotmail.com or Geri Rutledge at buckshollow@wildblue.net.



FootHills Llamas Where It's All In The Family



FootHills Capriosa, 2010 ALSA National Grand Champion, LW Female & her dam, Rambutan's Pikachu, 2010 National Reserve Grand Champion, LW Female join our other LW National Champions.



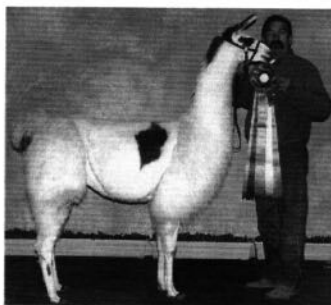
PHF Picacho's Rambutan, 2001
National Grand Champion, LW Male



D's Pongo, 2003
National Grand Champion, LW Male



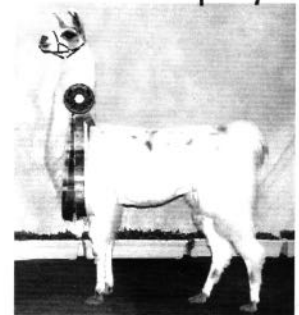
Rambutans Dakota Dream, 2004
National Grand Champion, LW Male



Rambutan's Rainbo, 2006
National Class Champion, LW Female



FootHills Kodiak, 2009
National Reserve Grand Champion, LW Male
(owned by Janine Faussonne)



Pongo's Kahootz, 2006 & 2008
National Class Champion, LW Male

Larry or Deanna Lewellyn, Sedalia, CO fhllamas@aol.com 720-733-2775 303-870-7341
Owners & Breeders of Light Wool ALSA National Champions

RMLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 12-8-10

7:30pm Mountain Time

Year End Meeting to discuss Finances of the Organization

Jerry Dunn moves to go into executive session. Dick Williams Seconds. Approved

9:05pm Mountain Time exit executive session

Dick Williams motions to approve the minutes from the Oct 2010 meeting. Jerry Dunn seconds, Approved.

Treasurer Report – Bob Hance

There is additional information being requested on the TAOS totals.

Dick Williams motions to approve the financial report sent by email to BOD members prior to meeting. Jerry Dunn Seconds. Approved.

Due to the costs of the RMLA Journal looking over the totals of 08, 09, 10. And a cost of \$17, 700 the distribution of the Journal should be issued electronically as a cost saving measure. This would begin April 2011. Lougene Baird makes this motion, Dick Williams seconds, Approved.

Fiber – Geri Rutledge

Due to the increase in costs to the Fiber Coop it was recommended that the consignment cost be increased by 5% to members and non-members. Dick Williams makes this motion, Lougene Baird seconds. Approved.

Credit Card Payments – Bob Hance

Research will continue to happen to find a secure site for processing credit card payments to RMLA for membership, calendars and library items.

New Business

I Motion: Make the following motions approved by e-mail since the previous Board meeting a matter of permanent record. Motion made by Dick Williams 2nd by Jerry Dunn. All in favor. Motion passed.

1. Motion to pay Fiber Co-op Taos Wool Market percentages to the following consignees: Sharon Beacham, Sue Grimm, Sandra Lockwood, Patti Morgan, Cheryl Juntila, Jill Knuckles, Karen Schwartz, Ron Richter, Diana Blair, DeAnn Easley, Judy Stevens, Vickie Staley, Robert Mallonee, Christine Hylemon, Llama Welfare Foundation Jane Sheppard Foundation. The checks amount to \$3257.96. New Mexico sales tax paid is \$306.33. \$251.16 was paid to Co-op manager for the even out of cash sales. Motion by Bob, 2nd by Jer, all approved. Motion passed 11/16/2010.

2. Motion to pay Fiber Co-op Vendor Booth at the Estes Park Wool Market 2011 \$350.00 and New Wave Publishing LLC--Fall Journal \$2153.67. Motion by Bob, 2nd by Geri, all approved, Motion passed

3. Motion to reimburse Bob and/or Barbara Hance for expenses incurred on behalf of RMLA to cover postage, printing, supplies, webhost,

telephone and press ready copy for Membership and Service Directory. Motion by Bob, 2nd by Jer. Bob abstained. All approved. Motion passed. 11/16/2010.

4. Motion to reimburse Patti Morgan \$12.92 for calendar mailing. Motion by Bob. All approved. Motion passed 11/29/2010.

II Discussion of RMLA Award – Jerry Dunn

Jerry Dunn presented the BOD with a written request to have a new award for the passing of Bobra Goldsmith, long time RMLA member and vast supporter of the Llama community. Discussion was given with support reasons. Jerry Dunn will do a write up to send out the RMLA members by email blast. The goal would be to find a recipient for 2011 and present at the 2011 NWSS Stock Show. A bronze statue has been offered to the Award winner made by Henry Revera.

Dick Williams motions that an annual award to honor Bobra Goldsmith be established and begin 2011. Lougene Baird seconds. Approved.

III Bob Hance motions that RMLA donate \$500 to the RMLA Foundation for the continuing education of the youth in the name of the recipient of the award. Jerry Dunn seconds, Approved.

IV Dick Williams motions to adjourn at 9:45pm, Bob Hance seconds motion approved.

Next BOD Meeting Jan 19th, 2011 7:30pm Mountain Time

RMLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 1-19-11

Present: Lougene Baird, Bob Hance, Geri Rutledge, Dick Williams.

Excused: Jerry Dunn

BOD went into Executive Session 7:37pm.

BOD exits Executive Session 8:37pm.

Dick Williams motions to accept the BOD minutes from 12-8-11, Lougene Baird seconds. Approved.

Geri Rutledge motions to accept the Financial as presented, Dick Williams seconds. Lougene Baird votes yes and Bob Hance abstained.

Committee Reports

Pack - Dick Williams

Dick advised the members that the Pack trip plans are moving forward for Sept 20, 21, 2011. Details can be found in the Back Country Llama and we will encourage Charlie Hackbarth to make sure this in the RMLA Journal for Spring and Summer editions.

Youth - Dick Williams

It's that time of year to ask for Candidates for the 2011 RMLA Youth Award. Bob will send Geri the list of 2011 Youth Members, information is mailed directly to the youth. All applicants will apply and this information goes to Dick Williams and his youth committee. Deadline will be set for the end of April. Plan to announce at Estes Park Wool Market if the youth is attending the event.

Old Business

1. 2011 Budget Planning

a. Events that RMLA donates money to will be looked at closely. We cannot give out more than we take in.

b. The BOD will continue to look closely at spending in all areas, and reduce expenses wherever possible. The group will continue to pass ideas by email about budget saving matters.

New Business

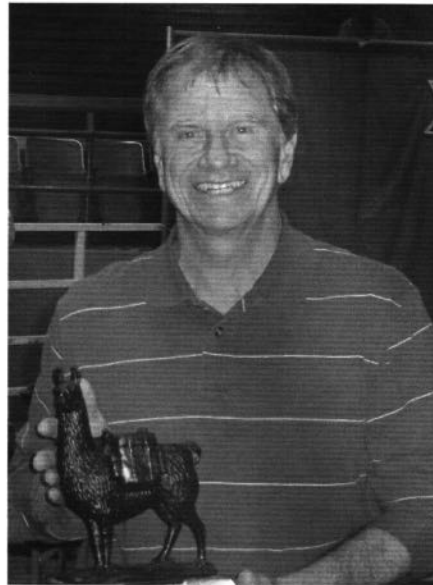
1. Dick Williams moves to make the following motions approved by email since the previous board meeting a matter of permanent record, Geri Rutledge seconds. Approved.

a. Motion to support National Western Stock Show in the amount of \$250. A check for this amount will be sent to Kim Sawyer. Motion by Jerry Dunn, second by Dick Williams. Approved 12/27/10.

b. Motion that no funds of any kind will be transferred to the RMLA Foundation until 1. The Board receives a satisfactory accounting of the funds transferred over the past three years and how they were spent 2.the Board receives assurances that a full accounting of all future monies transferred will be completely accounted for no later than the end of each fiscal year. Motion by Dick Williams, second by Lougene Baird. Approved 1/12/11.

First Annual Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award Presented To Charlie Hackbarth

By Wally Juntilla



by the RMLA Board of Directors from nominations received from the membership. RMLA Vice President Jerry Dunn presented the award to Charlie at the National Western Stock Show on January 8th, 2011.

Charlie has been raising llamas since 1982. He has been president of RMLA, headed up the ILA Performance Festival at the Salt Lake City Conference in 1988, founded the RMLA Pack Festival, taught llama training, packing and management classes at Colorado Mountain College, served as an advisor to Llamas Magazine and published a successful book called "Tales Of The Trail". He is also the founder of Mt. Sopris Llamas Unlimited, which manufactures halters, leads, and pack systems. He conducts clinics all over the country on raising, training, packing and hiking with llamas.

Charlie can be seen at most major llama events in the Rocky Mountain region, freely offering his packing expertise and knowledge, especially to youth exhibitors. He often donates his products for awards and silent auction tables. He always finds time to discuss pack saddle problems you may be having and offers advice when dealing with an unruly or fidgety llama. I think Bobra would agree that Charlie is truly deserving of this award.

Charlie Hackbarth was selected to receive the first annual Bobra Goldsmith Memorial Award from the Rocky Mountain Llama & Alpaca Association.

The purpose of the Award is to recognize RMLA members who have demonstrated a passion for educating the community about llamas and alpacas through a variety of activities, which may include writing articles, hosting workshops, speaking at conferences, and participating in organized llama/alpaca events. In memory of Bobra, Henry Rivera donated a beautiful bronze sculpture of a light wool pack llama. Charlie was selected

c. Motion RMLA Steward in Fact for the Llama legal Defense Fund (LLDF), will disburse \$5,000 of LLDF funds and deliver these to the Montana Llama Rescue Coalition (MLRC) to supplement the cost of transportation of animals being removed from the current location. The first increment of \$2,500 will be issued immediately. Should all animals be removed prior to issuance of the second \$2,500 the balance of the money will be retained in the LLDF. One week from the date of the first issuance, if there is a need for more funds, a second issuance will be issued and may be less than \$2,500 but not more than \$2,500. Motion made by Bob Hance, second by Lougene Baird. Approved 1/13/11.

2. Journal - Lougene Baird reviewed with the Board the requests and solutions to continue printing a hard copy of the Journal. The BOD has reconsidered the motion made on 12-8-10 to publish via e-mail. The hard copy of the RMLA Journal will continue but in a different format, something less expensive and this would be explained to the membership by email and in the April Journal. Date of effective change is set for Summer 2011 edition. Dick Williams moves, Geri Rutledge seconds. Approved.


Lougene Baird will prepare a written statement to explain the financial impact of the Journal to the RMLA Organization by email and in the Spring Journal. Lougene Baird motions, Dick Williams Seconds, Approved.

3. Date of next BOD meeting: February 23rd, 2011 Times set for each BOD member.

4. Motion to adjourn by Geri Rutledge, second by Dick Williams at 8:49pm Approved.

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy."


— Ernest Benn




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



PACK'EM



STACK'EM



DRIVE'EM

A Note From the Editor

You may notice this issue of the Journal looks a little different. That is because we are trying out digital printing for this issue. This switch should cut our printing costs by about half of what they were for offset printing. You are holding this issue in your hands rather than squinting at your computer screen for a couple of reasons. The first reason is that a lot of you took the time to contact the Board of Directors and express your opinions about their decision to force all members to receive the Journal by e-mail. The second reason is that the Board of Directors listened to you and reversed their decision. I hope that the Board will also take another look at my suggestion that members who would prefer to receive their copy by e-mail be allowed that option instead of making it an all-or-nothing situation. In any event, all of those e-mails showed that you care a lot about the Journal and about RMLA as well. In spite of the blows the recession has dealt to the llama community, we still have a strong membership and a Board of Directors that cares about the opinions of the members.

Some of the e-mails were complimentary towards me, but I believe that they gave me far too much credit. The Journal is the result of the efforts of a lot of people, including all of the talented and hard-working editors who preceded me and set the standard for quality. In fact the job of prior editors was much harder because they also did all of the layout work, which is very time-consuming. Because it is so time-consuming, there were periods when the Journal did not get published on a timely basis. The person who found the solution to this problem is Paul Schwartz. When Paul was President of RMLA, he received a proposal from Monica Tocci-Brown to assist with the layout, printing and mailing of the Journal. Monica had experience in publishing other llama-related magazines and Paul realized that using her services could be beneficial to RMLA. I was on the Board at that time

and had some misgivings about paying a professional to do work that had previously been done by volunteers. However, there were precedents as RMLA pays for the layout work in the membership and service directories, and I am very glad Paul convinced us to accept Monica's proposal. She has provided outstanding service to RMLA and deserves much of the credit for the professional quality which makes the Journal a publication of which we can all be proud.

Another person who deserves a lot of credit is Kathy Stanko. The "Ask the CSU Vet" column was Kathy's idea and it was obviously a good one. This column is frequently reprinted in the newsletters of other associations and several associations have started similar columns featuring veterinarians from their own areas. Kathy also assisted with formatting show results and reminding show superintendents to send them in until the Board directed us to stop publishing them.

The credit for most of the content of the Journal goes to the RMLA members who regularly contribute articles and photographs, as well as to those who make suggestions for topics they would like to see addressed in the Journal. Thanks also go to all of the editors in the Newsletter Network who generously share material and help keep the larger llama community connected and informed.

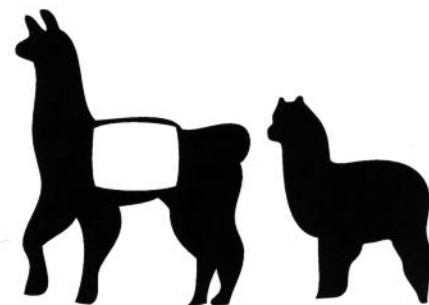
The point I am getting around to here is that the Journal exists because of the efforts of many people, not just whoever happens to be the editor. The strength of any volunteer association, like RMLA, lies in giving all of its members the opportunity to participate and be involved. The amount of benefit derived from membership is directly related to the amount of involvement. Unfortunately it sometimes seems that the same people hold onto the same positions for many years, which doesn't give others the chance to be involved. I have personally

derived many benefits from being editor of the Journal. It has been interesting, challenging and very rewarding. Of course it has not been monetarily rewarding, as it is an unpaid position and I have not taken even a free ad as compensation or asked for reimbursement for any of the considerable expenses I've incurred. However, it has put me in contact with many people I would not have otherwise gotten to know and seeing the finished product in my mailbox on time (or almost on time) gives me a huge feeling of satisfaction. It is probably the most fun volunteer position in RMLA and I don't want to hog all the fun.

After three years it is time for me to step aside and let someone else have the opportunity to serve as editor of the Journal. RMLA has a lot of talented, creative members and just because I have done a decent job doesn't mean there isn't somebody out there who could do even better if they are given the chance. If you are interested in being editor or serving on the Publication Committee, please contact Lougene Baird as soon as possible. I will provide whatever assistance I can to help the new editor and avoid any interruption in the publishing schedule.

Thank you all for the incredible support you have shown for the Journal and for all your help and kindness to me. Please be equally supportive of the next editor, whoever he or she may be.

Cheryl Juntilla



The Silverton Pack Llama Festival

"Passing The Baton" • Silverton, CO • Sept. 23 – 25, 2011

Dick Williams, Publisher
The Backcountry Llama

This event is still in the planning stages, but I wanted to get as much information out to you all as early as possible so you can circle the dates on your calendar! Charlie Hackbarth, contributor and long time llama packer, is putting this event together with some friends. Their goal – "To create a hands-on educational festival worthy of attracting performance llama enthusiasts from across the U.S. and abroad, for the purpose of restoring the integrity of the performance llama and preserving the lifestyle of the sport of llama packing". He wants to make it a 'hands-on', educational (host clinics in

packing, training, performance showing and judging, commercial use, caring for pack llamas etc.) and fun (Durango/Silverton Train, fall color hiking with llamas, jeep trips, fishing etc.) festival.

All llama related organizations "who bring a packing agenda" will be invited to attend and set up booths. The PLTA will be invited to administer Pack Trails. Vendor space will be provided for llamas, equipment demonstration and sales. He plans to have llamas available for rent after the event for personal treks and space for vendors where money is exchanged will be charged a fee.

This has the potential for being the largest and most important pack llama event held in many years and I encourage everyone interested in llama packing to support Charlie's efforts and attend. Stop by and say hi, BCL will be there! Please contact Charlie with input and to express interest, this event will only come together if we all support his efforts and he needs to know that there is enough interest to invest the effort it will take to make it happen! Charlie can be reached at Charlie@soprisunlimited.com, 719-742-5156 – or reach us at BCL, bcllama@blackfoot.net and we'll pass your message along.

Destron Fearing Donates Products to Help Save 600 Starving Llamas

Destron Fearing's LifeChip Technology Saves Camelid Rescue Coalition Thousands of Dollars

Business Wire • January 27, 2011

SO. ST. PAUL, Minn.--Digital Angel Corporation, an advanced technology company in the field of animal identification and emergency identification solutions, announced today that its subsidiary, Destron Fearing, donated 600 LifeChip Bio-Thermo® microchips and four readers to help save 600 starving llamas.

On December 3, 2010, representatives of the llama community were contacted regarding over 1000 starving animals at the defunct Montana Large Animal Sanctuary. The Southeast Llama Rescue, Northeast Llama Rescue, Southwest Llama Rescue, Llama Association of North America, Lama Lifeline Committee, and Animeals of Missoula immediately mobilized resources to evacuate the 600 llamas found at the sanctuary.

Gary Kaufman, spokesperson for the Camelid Rescue Coalition, said, "Destron Fearing has ridden in like the cavalry. Their donation of 600 microchips and 4 readers has given us the ability to evacuate llamas outside of the state of Montana." He continued, "Destron's unbelievably generous offer has literally saved the coalition thousands of dollars of export expenses that now can be used for medical triage needs, food and transport. Every llama now has a better second chance at life thanks in no small part to the support of companies like Destron Fearing. They have earned a special place in my heart and will be my go-to resource for my private llama needs."

"Destron Fearing is incredibly proud to know that our LifeChip microchips and

technology helped accomplish this animal rescue," said Dan Ellsworth, Destron Fearing's Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

At this time, Destron Fearing's LifeChip has been used in the evacuation of approximately 400 llamas, with the remaining llamas in the process of being evacuated.

Direct donation for this effort and additional information can be found by visiting <http://www.fortlucasfarm.com/rescue/> or contacting the Northeast Llama Rescue at NELR, Box 410, Middleburgh, NY, 12122.

If you are a llama producer and would like to use LifeChip as a means for permanent identification please call Destron Fearing at 1-800-328-4656.

Do You Have a Plan?

By Cheryl Juntilla

The llama community is a diverse group of people with different interests and strong opinions. The word “rescue” and its various connotations and implications have historically caused some of the most heated differences of opinion. Some people have stated that even publishing articles about “rescue” only makes the problem worse. I respectfully disagree with that opinion. The first step in solving any problem is to acknowledge it exists and shed as much light on it as possible. From there we can proceed to discussions about how to solve the problem or at least prevent it from becoming worse.

Many articles have been written about the rescue of animals from the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary and many more could be written. The collapse of this sanctuary was a tragedy on many levels. Regardless of how you feel about “rescue” or how this situation was handled, we can all agree that leaving animals to starve is not acceptable. We may not agree with all of the actions that were taken, but anyone who was not directly involved in this effort has no right to criticize or second guess the actions of those who were. The evacuation of the animals was a heroic accomplishment with good people from all over the country contributing to the efforts. The story does not end there and continues at the ranches and farms serving as either foster or permanent homes for the rescued animals. The important question is: What have we learned and what can we do to prevent similar tragedies in the future?

The situation at MLAS was shocking because of the number of animals involved. However, it is not an isolated incident and the problem of animal over population is not unique to the llama community. The recession has made matters worse as people lose their jobs and homes and charitable contributions dwindle. Horse sanctuaries are full to capacity and animal shelters all over the country are struggling to stay afloat. A recent local newspaper article quoted a veterinarian saying that the number of cases of abused or neglected horses has more than

doubled over the past couple of years. The same newspaper had an article about the local humane society taking in a few of more than 100 dogs that had been rescued from a failed animal shelter in another state. Ironically, that article appeared on the same page as several columns of classified ads for puppies for sale.

Following the MLAS tragedy came the news of several hundred more llamas and alpacas to be auctioned off by a secured creditor. We can no longer ignore the fact that we have a serious llama overpopulation problem. The key to solving this problem is not just to contribute to finding homes for the animals currently in need of rescue, but to take positive steps to reduce the number of animals falling into this situation. There are things that we can each do as responsible llama and alpaca owners to address the problem and reduce the need for rescue efforts in the future.

First, we each need to make a plan for what will happen to our animals when we are no longer able to care for them. Please notice I said “when” not “if.” Nobody wants to think about dying, but we are all going to do it. Illnesses and accidents can strike without warning at any time, so plan for a worst-case scenario now before disaster strikes. Do you have any idea what would happen to your llamas if you were killed in a car accident tomorrow? Me neither. Obviously we can’t count on there being a sanctuary to send them to or assume that we can depend on the kindness of strangers, so we must make plans and communicate with our family and friends about our plans. You may be able to enter into some kind of a mutual agreement with other llama owners to “watch each other’s backs” in case of death or disability. In some states you may be able to set up a trust fund to provide for the care of your animals, but this should be discussed with an attorney who specializes in estate planning to make sure it will be legally enforceable in your state. Whatever plan you come up with, put it in writing, tell your heirs about it and make sure they all agree to

follow it. Families have enough to deal with when someone dies without having to argue about whether to try to sell the llamas or eat them.

Obviously there is no one-size-fits-all plan and yours will depend upon how many animals you have and whether you consider them to be companion animals or business assets. If you are in the llama or alpaca business, it is also imperative to adjust your business plan to reflect current market conditions. Do you have a breeding plan or are you just creating as many crias as possible each year and hoping somebody will buy them? Do you have a realistic exit strategy? Going out of business auctions with fancy buffets and open bars worked for some breeders, but that ship has sailed for most of us.

Many llama owners have already cut way back or stopped breeding altogether because of market conditions. Unfortunately there still seem to be a few of us who are living in the past, can’t get over the practice of breeding every female every year, and are still selling breeding pairs to new customers. The llama business is not immune to the law of supply and demand and creating more animals than we can sell reduces the value of everyone’s animals. It is a free market and we can’t tell each other how to run our businesses, but we can each exercise some common and business sense.

Some good may come from the economic recession if it helps to reduce the number of llamas and alpacas that are bred and sold as “investments” and forces us to start focusing on the real purposes of these animals. Llamas can serve many purposes - as pack animals, fiber producers, guard animals, weed control units, companion animals or even therapy animals. However, not every llama is suitable for every purpose. Be a selective seller and make sure the animals you sell will actually suit the purpose for which they are being purchased. If your goal is to raise pack llamas, then concentrate on that type of animal and take the time to learn from experienced packers. Most

importantly, invest the time and energy to train and condition your animals.

Those of us whose breeding goal is fine fibered animals need to focus more on marketing the fiber and not just the animals. A lot of people show llamas with beautiful fiber and lovely haircuts, but don't do anything with the fiber. So who cares what the micron count is if the fiber is going to the landfill? I was recently told about a gentleman who owns more than 100 alpacas and refuses to sell their fiber because it "isn't worth the bother." Well, if he isn't willing to sell alpaca fiber by the ounce, he must be planning to sell alpaca meat by the pound. Yes, it takes time and effort to process and market fiber, but that is how the agriculture business works. Monetary rewards are directly tied the amount of work invested. The product of any fiber-producing animal is either the fiber or the meat. You don't hear about many sheep having to be "rescued" now do you? Of course you don't hear sheep being described as "an investment you can hug" either.

There is nothing more exciting or joyful than the birth of a cria, but would it be as joyful if you knew the cria's destiny was to end up being neglected or abused? Would it be as much fun to watch those babies playing in the pasture this spring if you knew they would end up being donated to a wild animal sanctuary to be fed to wolves or tigers? Not every lama owner needs to be a lama breeder and not every male needs to be a stud, even though they all want to be. There is nothing wrong with having a couple of llamas or alpacas just to keep the weeds mowed or serve as pasture ornaments.

We can all help to reduce the problem of excess llamas and alpacas by adjusting our thinking and our breeding practices. Or, we can continue to hear horror stories about neglected and abused animals while the value of all of our animals dwindles. To quote a dear friend, "Don't breed it if you can't afford to feed it."

Electronic Show Packets

Many show superintendents are cutting costs by sending show packets by e-mail or posting them on-line, so don't expect them to appear in your mailbox like they have in the past. If you are interested in attending any of the events listed on the RMLA Calendar, please get in touch with the contact person listed to make sure you don't miss out on important information or documents.

For instance, all entry information and forms for the Estes Park Wool Market will be posted at www.estesnet.com/Events/woolmarket.htm. Keep checking back if the forms aren't there yet. Likewise, information about the ALSA Regional and National Championships will be probably only be posted at www.alsashow.net, so don't wait to receive an invitation if you want to attend those shows.



MINERALS

New Owners

Randy & Jody Sharp

Call To Order

or to receive a brochure

800-758-0825

303-420-1659

Supplement #1

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

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

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

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

On the web at: www.CLPMinerals.com

Zinpro® 100 also available.

Supplement #2

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

Supplement #3

Diet consists of: Spring or irrigated pasture; feeding alfalfa or grass hay low in phosphorus. Contains additional phosphorus and recommended basic level of Vitamin E.

Owners of *Arazzmatazz Alpacas*

Report on the US Animal Health Association 2010 Annual Meeting

Compiled by Karen Conyngham, ILR representative to the USAHA Board of Directors and Susan Tellez, Camelid Alliance.

The 114th annual meeting of the US Animal Health Association was held in Minneapolis, MN November 11-17, 2010. Camelid owners who attended this year included Susan Tellez representing the Camelid Alliance, Karen Conyngham, representing the Intl. Lama Registry on the USAHA Board of Directors and Dr. Pat Long, representing the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Assoc. on the USAHA Board of Directors.

USAHA is an international forum where producers join state and federal regulators and researchers/scientists from a wide variety of specialties to discuss issues affecting the health and welfare of livestock species and wildlife. The annual meeting gives the camelid representatives a chance to talk with state veterinarians, US Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Plant & Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) personnel and researchers about issues of concern to the camelid community.

USAHA is comprised of 31 species- and subject-oriented committees, all of which hold sessions during the annual meeting. This year, committee meetings attended by camelid representatives included: Animal Welfare, Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses, Import/Export, Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids, International Standards, Livestock Identification, Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases, Committee on Tuberculosis and the Committee on Diagnostic Laboratory & Veterinary Workforce Development. The following report covers committees in which camelids or diseases of interest to camelid owners were mentioned.

Scientific Session

The topic of the Scientific Session this year was One Health: One-way Street or Are There Opportunities for Animal Agriculture? Presentations covered various

perspectives of the "One Health" concept which is not new. The term generally refers to the intersection of human, animal and environmental health. The world is getting smaller. Human activities expand into wildlife habitats and impact climate change which in turn affects the ability of people, animals and insects to survive in areas where they may not previously have been found. 75% of all emerging diseases are zoonotic in origin which means they can affect people and animals alike. Indeed, 60% of the 1,451 known infectious diseases of humans can affect both people and animals. Dr. Mark Engle of PIC (Pig Improvement Co.) North America voiced the concerns of agriculture in this discussion. Biosecurity is vital to protecting our animal agricultural resources. He pointed out that "One Health" means dealing with more than just emerging diseases – it must also consider diseases that are endemic in the world, such as bovine tuberculosis and rabies. The National Institutes of Health are receiving a steady stream of funding at the federal level, but USDA research funding is flat. Producers and veterinarians must be included in all "One Health" discussions and plans.

The overall theme of the session's presentations was that biosecurity to prevent disease from becoming established is key for safeguarding domestic livestock and that the highest level of focus needs to be on food security.

Further information on the One Health Initiative is available from: <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/>

Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids

Dr. Evermann gave a report on the BVD Subcommittee (bovine viral diarrhea virus) and the importance of tracking BVD strain variations. He then introduced the speakers for the afternoon. This meeting focused on

biosecurity concerns for cattle, bison and camelids.

Dr. Julia Ridpath, USDA, ARS, Ames, IA – Biosecurity and Emerging Viral Pathogens

She focused on the new pestivirus variant, HoBi virus that originated from South American fetal bovine serum. Since then the virus has been reported to cause disease in cattle and water buffalo in Asia. This led to a discussion of biosecurity of animal origin products and the potential value of revisiting the 9 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) to see where updating and revisions may be needed. It was agreed to investigate the possible need for a resolution from this committee on this subject for the 2011 meeting. A representative from the National Center for Import/Export will be contacted in this process.

Dr. Mike Sanderson, Kansas State Univ. reported on Cattle Biosecurity for Cow/Calf producers and Feedlots.

Dr. Dale Moore, Veterinary Extension, Washington State Univ. then reported on Cattle Biosecurity for Dairies. He was followed by Dr. Naomi Taus, USDA, ARS, Pullman, Washington who presented on Bison Biosecurity.

Dr. Jeanne Rankin, Assistant State Veterinarian, Montana Department of Livestock gave an excellent and very detailed presentation on Camelid Biosecurity. Dr. Rankin consults on this topic for the camelid industry and owns llamas.

Dr. Rankin's presentation focused on llamas and alpacas. A critical point of risk was the mobility and frequent co-mingling of animals from different premises when dams arrive for breeding and may have a cria at side, and at llama/alpaca shows. She listed the following as important points.

1. Have a Bio-Security Plan posted, review it annually and stick to it.
 - a. Assess your risks

- i. Animal movement
- ii. Disease risk – BVD, E mac, coccidia, eperythrozoon, etc.
- iii. Facilities
- iv. Feed and bedding
- v. Veterinarian
- vi. Human movement
- b. Manage the risks after identification
- c. Communicate the mitigation factors
 - i. Signs – prominently displayed
 - ii. Boot wash – available at gates
 - iii. Employees – be sure everyone knows the biosecurity procedure and follows it
 - iv. Visitors – keep a log of all guests
2. Keep a Closed herd-limit/restrict non-natural additions
 3. Have an isolation pen for sick or newly purchased animals
 4. House common aged animals together- 'All-in-All out'; Crias are very susceptible to diseases and many neonatal diseases can be prevented by reducing exposure to older crias.
 5. Reduce stress of crowding by having adequate feed bunk space, shelter and limiting additions to the herd.
 6. Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for environment - footwear, coveralls, foot baths, gloves etc.
 7. Separate cleaning utensils for sick pen and healthy pens. Use different forks for hay versus dung pile.
 8. Limit visitors from:
 - a. small ruminant farms - dictate fresh change of footwear and clothing before visiting your barn and pens
 9. Wildlife/Pets Biosecurity
 10. Have an Emergency Preparedness/ Evacuation Plan – review and practice it yearly.
- b. international visitors from livestock operations - Foreign Animal Diseases are the concern here.

Have any visitors arrived from a country where a disease outbreak is underway?

Dr. Evermann noted that each of the presenters focused on a risk assessment as the essential starting point for formulation of a bio-security plan specific to a facility.

The 2011 USAHA Annual Meeting will be held at the Buffalo Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY

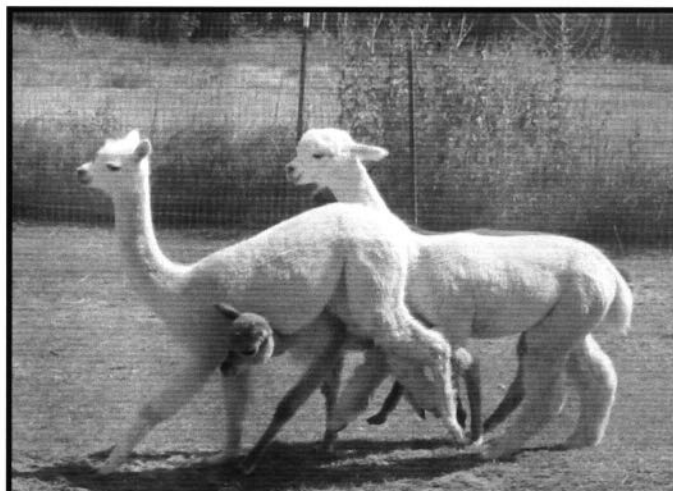
September 29 – October 5, 2011.

Volunteer Needed for Youth Manual Production

Inventory for the RMLA Youth Manual is running low at the Bookstore. The last revision was well over a decade ago. The current edition is in need of updating before it will be reprinted again.

The Youth Manual has been used mainly as a 4-H Project book by youth all across the nation. Many copies were purchased by lama farms and were given away to folks who bought an animal as an introduction to care and enjoyment.

If you are interested in taking charge of this revision please contact the Youth or 4-H Committees. Once revised, RMLA will again begin production and distribution of this classic manual.



Want Help With Your Training?

Clinics And Workshops Available For
Llamas, Alpacas And Paca Vicunas

Jerry Dunn • Bear Track Farm
303-277-1129
Beartrak@Q.Com

Foot Steps and Memories

The 29th annual RMLA Fairplay Pack Llama Race • July, 30th 2010

By Gary Carlton
Photos by Deb Paparelli

Each foot step we take in life takes us one more step into the future and a little closer to our next mountain top, or perhaps to meeting our latest goal. At the same time it becomes a foot step that can never be regained, one that is forever lost in the past. 2010 became a year of both with the loss of Bobra Goldsmith, a llama pioneer who helped many of us find our own beginning in this wonderful world of llamas. It was also a year of meeting a whole new generation of young people who have found the joy of llamas and will carry us all into the future with new ideas, new thoughts, and a new direction we have yet to explore.

The Fairplay Pack llama race last July was a time of several changes from my previous years as coordinator and became without question, the best year ever. The separation of my wife and I meant there was a need for someone new to head up the Race day registration. This left me a little bit on the nervous side since this is the most confusing

and complex job of race day. Ann Bruhn and her sister Debbi did a great job and quickly laid all of my concerns to rest. There was also a need for someone new to separate T-Shirts, put together pre-registration shirts and numbers, and help out with everything it takes to put this day in the llama racing history books. So I would like to thank Vicky Foster and Angi Jenkins for your help and taking care of these tasks and filling in the open spots around camp before race day.

Our usual photographer was not able to be there, so Debbie Paparelli stepped in and gave it a shot. With three days to wander around and just take photos of the different aspects that make up this event she was able to catch a really different side of things. Her side kick (and our camp clown) Gail Davidson took over as our Pot Luck Coordinator and became a one lady greeting committee to all who drove up the road.

The Lama Rama also went under some new direction as Dr. Kathleen Fitting turned

over most of her coordination tasks to Pauli at the Hand Hotel who had a lot more time to keep in contact with me about different concerns and needs for that event. The result was a perfect day. A big thanks to Jeff and Sally Rucker who supplied all of the llamas for the Lama Rama and to everyone for putting up with my sometimes quick mood swings and my highs and lows as my mind was often off dealing with my own personal issues during this weekend.

The footsteps that have been taken by participants over the last twenty eight years of this event have become memories for thousands of people who spent a day with a llama in a natural setting. The e-mails we receive after the event have filled my heart with their warm memories and have brought a piece of their smiles and laughter to my own face throughout the year.

2010 Results:

Top three in the Men's division:

Zac Johnson: 38.39

Ty Carrie: 42.13

Jesse Cornblum: 44.07

Top three in the women's division:

Shannon Nico Smith: 38.40

Stephanie Metzlor: 39.57

Sally Dehetre: 44.50

First place Alpaca:

Emily Fazure: 41.30

Top three llamas

Lester: Kaltenbaugh Llamas

Lucky: Kaltenbaugh Llamas

Tony: Comanche Creek Llamas

We would like to extend a great big thank you to all of the Ranches who provided llamas for this race/walk:



Vets For The Future

By Kathy Stanko



Stage Stop Llamas, Comanche Creek Llamas, Gail Davidson, Kevin Kaltenbaugh, Rockin-N-M Llamas, Marci Saska Agnew, Clearwater Llamas, Mike & Bekki Friedel, Stargazer ranch, Escarpment Llamas, Cedar Cliff llamas, Foothills Llamas, and Loma Linda Ranch.

I would like to say thanks to all of our Volunteers. We could never pull this off without your continued support.

Ann Bruhn and sister Debbie, Marcie Saska Agnew, Vicky Foster, Gail Davidson, Deb Paparelli Rivero, Mark & Arthur Smith, Niles Whalen, Jeff & Sally Rucker, Mile & Bekki Friedel, Gary Carlton, Mary Wickman, Steve & Angie Jenkins, Gaylene, Kevin Kaltenbaugh, Larry Lewellyn, Sandy Lockwood, Patti Morgan, Roger Miller, and our course clean up super crew Steve & Leslie Schubert. I apologize to anyone who I may have left out.

Please join us for the 29th annual RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk on Saturday, July 30, 2011.

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

With the heroic rescue just completed by the lama community, I believe we can be confident that we can do anything! One of the next challenges is a future supply of large animal vets.

We all know the problem, either directly or indirectly. It costs a great deal of money to become a veterinarian. Once complete, do you go to an urban area where you can expect to make an adequate income and pay off the debts? Or, do you go where your heart & the need is: rural areas and large animals? But, with the second choice you can expect your annual income to be significantly less. So without upfront money in the form of scholarships and backend money in the form of loan forgiveness, the choice is clear for many graduates.

In this light, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is helping through the Veterinarian Medicine Loan Repayment Program. The accompanying article from the Denver Post highlights how this program has helped two rural areas in Colorado and two veterinarians who have chosen large animals.

The following web address provides general information on the program: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp.html

And to see a list of the areas in need and all of the 2010 awardees, please visit this webpage: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/animals/in_focus/an_health_if_vmlrp


[repts_stats.html](#). From this page you can also access a map for your state.

And guess what? There is even more we can do on a personal and local level! Both 2010 Colorado recipients of the Dept. of Agriculture's program are CSU Veterinarian College graduates. The CSU Veterinarian Teaching Hospital in Ft. Collins is a nationally-recognized facility. They can always use our help. Donations can be made on line at <https://advancing.colostate.edu/csu.asp?vetmedmaster>. Scroll down to the link for Camelid Research & Education. Then give what you can; even \$5 from many people can make a huge difference.

And, many months ago I wrote about the scholarship fund started by Dr. LaRue Johnson. This fund is specific to students making a commitment to becoming large animal vets. Since the fund has yet to reach the \$25,000 mark, no scholarships have been given. (\$25,000 is the minimum required to endow a fund. This ensures that awards are given from the interest and not the principle.) To give to this fund, make your check payable to the CSU Foundation with a note that it is for the AADRP Scholarship Endowment. Then mail it to Paul Maffey, Director of Development, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, 1680 Campus Delivery, Ft. Collins, CO 80523-1680.

Thanks to Everyone!





HANCE RANCH ALPACAS

Bob & Barb Hance **303.422.4681**
11818 W. 52nd Avenue **Fax 303.422.3568**
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
hancelama@att.net **www.alpacas.ws**

Montana Llama Rescue — Nebraska takes 27

By Geri Rutledge

As everyone has heard, there were hundreds of llamas that needed to be relocated from the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary. The story was interesting, heart breaking and very close to home for all of us that own llamas. There are many different opinions about rescue llamas, their past, their story and what should be done with them.

Well, as some of you may know, my job is working with abused and neglected children. Over the past twenty six years I have reunified thousands of children with their families, or on the flip side given them permanency with new families. In every case the bottom line is that it is not the kids' fault. They cannot control the choices their parents make. And in this case, it's not the llamas' fault.

I was in touch with several people directly involved in the front line. I had said there were some of us in Nebraska that would foster, and help out, just let us know. Then came the call for the last 169 who had to move before January 31st when the gates were being locked. The drivers were Andy and Mike who loaded the last of the llamas on the last day and one truck headed our way.

It was 1 degree above zero with wind chills of -27 degrees below zero and that truck was coming across I-80 loaded. The first stop was at the home of Renee Forney, a long time llama owner who is familiar with rescues and has a great big heart. She took the first 13 that unloaded. There was no picking

and choosing, you got what you got. Then they went on to Waco, where the blizzard was in full force. We had to call the County Roads Department to get the road open for the transport to pass. When Mike arrived he said there were 14 on his trailer, 9 females and 5 males. Mike will not be allowed to be my personal shopper as I said we could take the gelded males, as they would be easy to re-home. But Mike unloaded the llamas, got his chocolate chip cookies and was quickly on his way back to pass the storm.

So here we go! Tail check! Can you see, what was that? Was that gelded? Oh it's a girl, wow look at the ears on her. That one, oh it's a boy, man he's nice. And he's gelded, what about that one? We looked at her? No we didn't. Yes we did, it was a girl. I don't think so - there are three black and white ones, which one was the girl? They said the green tags were on girls. What? That's a green tag and it sure looks like a boy to me. Yep. It's a boy. Logical deduction now, the other one might be a girl??? Then we decided to leave them alone and just rest following the trip.

The Camelid Kids 4H Group came out the following Sunday to help sort, load, give medications, trim toes, photo, halter, move and give them all the tender loving care they needed. Five have gone to new homes. Susan Murphy from York picked two girls. She has a six year old gelded male who lost his partner in November and had been longing for company. Susan is aware she could have babies anytime in the future. Doug Crawford from Beatrice adopted three females. He is a

llama owner and has a livestock background, so he was prepared to help with some of the very thin females. And "Old Blue Eyes," a little boy with a blue eye and white eye went to Stephanie and Mary Kate Steele in Osceola. They already have two geldings named Gus and Vulpes and didn't need another llama, but felt it was their calling to help one of the rescues. The three llamas are all the same size and are adjusting well. Plus, they have a neighbor boy who wants to show his own llama this year. Perfect, add one to that home.

We are currently nurturing the others, giving them some time. There is a family south of us whose girls have been interested in llamas for about three years. Well, mom and dad are going to give in and adopt three of the rescues. They are currently working on a shelter and reading lots about llamas on the internet. So we will have a new family added to our llama community.

So Nebraska has 27 new llamas, all being well cared and loved because so many people came together here to help. The kids in my 4H group have been following the blogs of the rescue. This has taught those kids much about responsibility, compassion, finances and common sense. Some of the kids are foster kids, some are adopted, some from their biological families. But they all got it when they saw the thin llamas, the long toe nails, the wool almost dragging on the ground. It's not the llamas' fault, we have to be responsible and help them. They need us, more than we need them. For these 27, it is a happy ending.

It's Not Too Late To Help

According to a press release from the Camelid Rescue Coalition, 495 of the llamas from the MLAS were transported to foster facilities in California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma and

Washington State. Donations are still needed to help provide for hay and supplies as well as future transport to adoptive homes. All aspects of adoption will be handled by the regional groups involved, which are: Llama Association of North America's Llama Lifeline Committee (LANA Lifeline), Northeast Llama Rescue, Inc. (NELR), Southeast Llama Rescue, Inc.,

(SELR) and Southwest Llama Rescue, Inc. (SWLR). Information about how to make tax-deductible donations to each of these organizations can be found on-line. If you would like information about how to help by providing an adoptive or foster home, please contact one of the following:

SELR: Deb Logan logan99@bellsouth.net • NELR: Wes Laraway laraway@midtel.net
SWLR: Pat Little et@zianet.com • LANA Lifeline: Gary Kaufman gary@roadsendllamas.com

Healing Hands & Generous Hearts

By Kathy Stanko



It takes many generous people with huge hearts and healing hands to get 600+ llamas to safety. Here in Colorado, Olin Allen & Becky Boutz of Shangri-Llama Farm opened their gates to 30 llamas that eventually went to a number of farms and ranches in Colorado. Olin and Becky decided to open their farm as a hub for the folks who would eventually take the llamas because they “knew transportation dollars were tight and thought the costs could be minimized by avoiding dropping off 2 here and 3 there.”

The Allen/Boutz farm located in Laporte is just a short distance from the CSU Veterinarian Teaching Hospital. Olin and Becky contacted their veterinarian, Dr. Bruce Connally, at CSU Equine Field Services. They asked Dr. Connally to examine every llama that stopped at their farm. They wanted each animal examined and evaluated so that the new ‘owners’ would have a good idea of what issues and concerns they would be faced with.

Prior to leaving Montana each llama was required to have a health certificate exam to assure they were free of infectious or contagious disease. Each llama was also required to be treated for scabies using Ivermectin before transport. These precautions don’t guarantee they are in good health, just not dangerous to our Colorado camelid community.

Dr. Connally went out to Shangri-Llama Farm for 2 group arrivals and has

since made follow-up visits. He takes senior veterinary students with him to give them the opportunity to participate in real clinical medicine outside the confines of the school. They assessed each animal’s body condition, age, medical conditions and orthopedic status (lameness or mobility), and tried to get through years of fiber growth to check for external parasites.

Dr. Connally reports they have seen a thin but fairly healthy group of llamas. Several are very old (probably 15+ years) as estimated by teeth and general appearance. Several were very weak and thin having



a body score of 1 on a 1 to 9 scale. One had lice, another a severe heart murmur, another a tooth abscess, and another a healed jaw fracture. They examined one with a neurologic disorder which is most likely damage from a meningeal worm infection. A few have the dropped fetlocks that are so common in older llamas.

We are lucky to have Dr. Connally at CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. He has been working with llamas since 1982 when Ann Johnson and Darlene Vaughan in Lander, WY got him involved. He later taught llama medicine at Michigan State University Veterinary School for 3 years

and was an ALSA judge for nearly 20 years. He was hired at CSU as an equine doctor 6 years ago but his responsibilities were soon rearranged to include camelids.

The work with the rescued llamas is part of Dr. Connally’s job as a CSU veterinarian. Most of his work for CSU is outside of the hospital on farms and stables. The majority of these ranches are in the Fort Collins area but if he can arrange enough animals to examine to make it worth the travel time for CSU, he will go as far as Granby and Trinidad in Colorado and up into Laramie and Cheyenne in Wyoming where he is still licensed. Dr. Connally can be reached at Bruce.Connally@ColoState.EDU or 970-297-5000.

And the latest report from Shangri-Llama Farm is that of the 30 llamas taken in, 22 have gone on to either foster homes or forever homes. Becky & Olin are keeping the remaining 8 in addition to their herd of 9. Becky & Olin report that all of the folks involved stay in frequent contact with each other as well as with Dr. Connally. They are all experienced llama owners, but new to the world of rescue and the special needs involved in treating these guys.

THANK YOU to all involved for opening your hearts and your farms to give each of these llamas another chance.



Wild Wild West National Western Stock Show

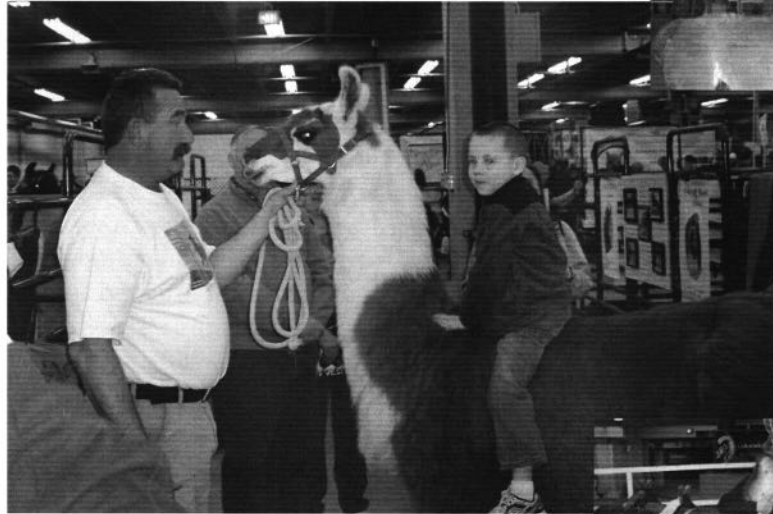
January 2011

By Kim Sawyer

I've heard it said that great things come in small packages and I guess the same thing could be said for shows. While this year's Stock Show was small, I think the show was fun for all participants. And it wouldn't be Stock Show without the typical weather -sunny skies on arrival and a lovely winter storm when we packed up to leave. Fortunately, I believe everyone made it home safe and sound. Special thanks to the Grand Junction group who braved the mountain passes to participate in the show.

Friday started with the return of Tools of the Trade, a great way to learn new tips on a wide variety of topics from toes to packing! The public crowd was energized for the start of the show on Saturday including a very active Meet the Llama session. With an earlier show start this year, we had an audience for a good portion of the show. Every show has some room for improvement and this show was no exception. However, while the evening for performance was lengthy, we had beautiful and challenging courses set up by Becky and Roy Leach. We hope Becky and Roy will be back next year, along with George who was the hit of the Public Relations course. I would like to personally thank Mary Wickman for stepping up to help us out with volunteer performance judging. Plans are under way to make the next Performance event a shorter evening for all.

Sunday wrapped up with Showmanship, Halter show and Walking Fiber results. Heiniger donated a set of their Saphir clippers to be given to one of the



Halter Grand Champions. Every Grand Champion winner was entered into a lottery for the clippers. Congratulations to Laurel Snider who I'm sure will make great use of them.

National Western Stock Show isn't just a place to have another llama show. This venue provides a wonderful opportunity to market the wonders of llamas. Planning is already under way for 2012. Wouldn't it be great

to build a program that promotes greater outreach of marketing for the time we're at the Stock Show? If you have any ideas or want to participate in the development of a marketing program for NWSS, contact Kim Sawyer, kim@tapestryalpaca.com. We hope to see more of you at the 2012 NWSS!

Back To Back ALSA Shows In Nebraska

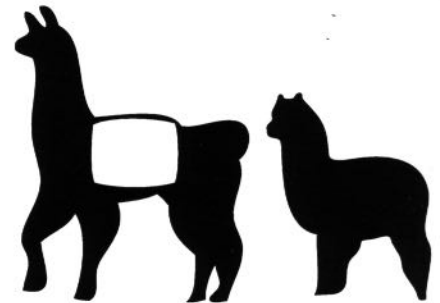
By Geri Rutledge

This year the Stars N Stripes and Wild N Wooly lama shows will be held back to back on the same weekend. The focus of both shows is on Youth and Families.

The Stars N Stripes show will be held on April 30, 2011, and include full halter and performance classes, along with youth judging and showmanship.

The Wild N Wooly Show will be held on May 1, 2011, and include performance, youth judging and showmanship.

Both shows will be held at Buckshollow Ranch at 2209 Road 9, Waco, Nebraska 68460. For information please contact Catherine Steele at thsteele@gmail.com or 402-747-2301.



Feds Luring Veterinarians To Underserved Rural Areas With Subsidies

By Steve Raabe
The Denver Post January 4, 2011



(Please Note - This article is being reprinted with permission limited to this issue of the *RMLA Journal* and does not include electronic posting of any kind. For permission to reprint, please contact JAnderson@Denverpost.com or 303-954-1630.)

Veterinarian Britt Stubblefield, right, and M Lazy C Ranch manager Jamie Gibbons keep a grip on a longhorn as Stubblefield checks the animal's teeth. He is one of two Colorado vets selected in 2010 for a USDA tuition-loan reimbursement. (Photo by Craig F. Walker, *The Denver Post*)

LAKE GEORGE — Dr. Britt Stubblefield's office is the cab of a dusty Dodge Ram pickup. His examination attire is green coveralls and a pair of well-worn work boots. His patients are of the four-legged variety. While many of his former veterinary school classmates enjoy jobs in the comfortable confines of house-pet clinics, Stubblefield spends his days — and some of his nights — in barns, corrals and windy, snow-covered pastures. That makes the 35-year-old animal doctor a rare breed. Rare enough that the federal government is handing out \$6 million a year in subsidies to attract newcomers to the shrinking field of large-animal veterinary medicine.

The Department of Agriculture's new program awards up to \$25,000 annually for four years in tuition-loan reimbursements for veterinarians who commit to work in underserved rural areas. It's modeled after a similar program to induce medical doctors to serve in outlying regions. Agricultural experts say the need for the incentive is clear.

Consider the options for a newly graduated veterinarian who, on average, has amassed \$130,000 in tuition debt: Work regular hours at a higher salary in a small-animal clinic or labor at lower wages with an unpredictable schedule in a large-animal practice.

"It's not the easiest livelihood," said Terry Fankhauser, executive vice president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. "You're getting called out in the middle of the night, getting banged around by a 1,200-pound animal."

Stubblefield is one of two Colorado veterinarians selected in 2010 for the USDA financial award. The other, Dr. Shane Porter, practices in Elbert and Lincoln counties. Nationwide, another 60 vets were chosen to receive the grants, based on studies that determined the most underserved regions for large-animal medicine.

Stubblefield's primary work area is the 2,758-square-mile expanse of Park and Teller counties. Stubblefield, who graduated from the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine in May, said his new career calls for him to drive at least 100 miles a day, sometimes more than 300. He has no complaints. Working with cattle and horses is his passion. Yet he'd be hard-pressed to pursue it without the federal payment.

After recently inspecting and treating a half-dozen head of cattle at the M Lazy C Ranch, the 6-foot-7 Stubblefield discussed his career path while wolfing down a hamburger in a cafe in the tiny mountain town of Lake George, northwest of Colorado Springs.

"If I hadn't gotten this award, I don't know if I could have made it through the first year," he said. "I probably would have had to find a small-animal clinic in Colorado Springs a couple of days a week to make ends meet." While Stubblefield declined to disclose his accrued debt from four years of veterinary school, he said monthly payments on it are equivalent to a modest house payment.

Tuition at CSU's vet college runs about \$80,000 over four years. Industry experts estimate that additional non-tuition expenses bring the average graduate's debt to \$130,000. "It's very difficult for graduates with high debt levels," said Dean Hendrickson, director of the veterinary teaching hospital at CSU. "Rural veterinarians are putting in 80-hour workweeks to earn 20 percent less. You can see why there's a movement toward small-animal practices in urban areas."

The national average salary for first-year livestock veterinarians is about \$62,000, compared with \$71,000 for entry-level pet doctors, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. In 1986, 45 percent of AVMA members cared for farm animals as a part of their practice. By 2008, that figure had dropped to 17 percent.

"The financial and lifestyle issues have created a shift toward urban communities," said Dr. Keith Roehr, Colorado's state veterinarian. "This (incentive) program encourages veterinarians to serve in communities in need of their valuable service."

San Luis Valley cattle rancher Don Shawcroft is worried about the rural exodus and the advancing age of the remaining vets. The two he uses at his ranch south of Alamosa are in their 80s. Shawcroft said the veterinarians have sought younger partners to work in their practices, but with no success.

At the M Lazy C Ranch, manager Jamie Gibbons said she's grateful that Stubblefield has established his practice in the area. The ranch's previous veterinarians have either retired, succumbed to health issues or moved away. A former veterinary technician, Gibbons said she's particular about the care her horses and cattle get.

"It's hard to find somebody good that we trust," she said. "Not only are these animals our livelihood, they're our family."

Steve Raabe: 303-954-1948 or sraabe@denverpost.com

2011 Fiber Booth Update

15 Years Strong

By Patti Morgan



“The purpose of the RMLA Fiber Coop Booth is to educate the public about and to promote North American llamas.”

The BOOTH was founded in 1995 when Karen Kinyon, after returning from the Estes Park Wool Market, wrote a letter to the RMLA BOD proposing that RMLA have a booth, which could be taken to various fiber events. The RMLA Fiber Coop was founded in 1996. Consequently, Karen ended up being in charge of it and “promoted” Sharon Beacham to be her assistant. Instead of reinventing the wheel, the Fiber Coop operation was based on a successful organization: The Handweavers Guild of Boulder, Colorado. The first year, 15 consignors shared the \$2715.88 annual sales. RMLA received from this a commission of \$454.93. It attended three events that year: EPWM, Taos Wool Market and the RMLA Conference. In an article written by Sharon for the Journal, “Garments and household goods sold the



best that year followed by yarn, then roving. Raw fiber did not sell and only immaculately clean roving was of interest to spinners.”

The Fiber Coop has been run continuously since then. With some very easy calculations, you can then determine that this is our 15th year of operation; 15 years at EPWM and Taos. Other outlets have also been attempted. The BOOTH has travelled to Nebraska to the ALSA Grand National, to Oklahoma to the Celebration Show and Sale, to Denver for the Great Western Alpaca Show and National Western Stock Show and some others over the years.

Karen and Sharon continued as managers until Judith Wolff-Mills took over 7 years ago. She ran the very successful operation for 2 years until her business grew to the point she needed her own booth. Patti Morgan took over then as head of the committee.

The BOOTH continues to operate as a volunteer run enterprise. All aspects of the operation are dependent on volunteers from managing the BOOTH at an event to working in the BOOTH to the set up



and tear down and to the maintenance of the materials and equipment used in the operation.

In 2010 and 2011, the financial aspects of the BOOTH operation were reevaluated. A spreadsheet with the last 5 years of data is seen below. With this information in mind and some solid reasoning behind it, the guidelines are being changed as to commissions and travel reimbursements.

The new commission rates will be 20% for RMLA members and 40% for non-members. In addition under the BOOTH manager guidelines, the BOOTH manager will be charged a 10% commission fee for the show to which they manage the BOOTH. The BOOTH manager will not receive other reimbursements, except, fuel costs will be reimbursed to the person who hauls the BOOTH to an event. This could be the BOOTH manager or another volunteer. These changes are incorporated into the web page. Another change will be the forms

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
INCOME	\$5,733.92	\$8,236.97	\$7,987.54	\$10,224.00	\$7,668.60
Set expenses	-\$5,876.26	-\$7,851.22	-\$7,500.44	-\$9,837.17	-\$7,137.30
Equip ex-penses	-\$104.70	-\$105.43	-\$59.55	-\$226.99	-\$226.70
New equip-ment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$312.64	\$0.00
Mgrs Expenses	-\$168.84	-\$819.32	-\$614.79	-\$962.68	-\$544.06
NET	-\$415.88	-\$539.00	-\$187.24	-\$1,115.48	-\$239.46
FUNDRAISER	\$396.00	\$0.00	\$136.00	\$208.68	\$340.00
BOTTOM LINE	-\$19.88	-\$539.00	-\$51.24	-\$906.80	\$100.54

Set expenses include consignors payments, booth fees, taxes, credit card expense.

Equipment expenses include trailer tags/licenses, tax licenses.

New equipment is the 10x20 tent for Taos.

Mgrs expense include the fuel costs and motel/etc reimbursements.

which are submitted by consignors. The consignment agreement form has been added to the web page in the word document format. Therefore, all agreement forms may be submitted electronically to Patti Morgan if you have a signature on file (i.e., you have signed a previous consignment form.) Also the Inventory Sheet is now in excel format on the web page, and all inventory can be submitted electronically. More importantly, inventory at the end of a show and throughout the year can be accessed by the committee chairperson at any time. Hopefully this will make event inventory faster and easier. Forms have been emailed to existing consignors.

The BOOTH will travel to EPWM and Taos this year. Details are on the web page as to deadlines for consignments and where to volunteer your help. We are also evaluating new sites. Please let Patti Morgan know if you have an event that we can go to. With the rising price of fuel, this evaluation will consider the booth fees and distances to be travelled. We will also do a major fundraiser at the end of summer to help defray costs. Ideas and donations are welcome.

The BOOTH continues to be a great source for education of the public as to lamas and their uses. We enjoyed a very successful 2010 and are ready to face the challenges of 2011.



The Backcountry Llama



**'By Packers -
For Packers'**

A Quarterly Journal
Dedicated To The
Working Llama.

We publish stories on pack trips, training, first aid, events, recipes and backcountry skills. Subscriptions are \$20 a year (\$30 international) or \$37.50/two years. For further info contact BCL at bcllama@blackfoot.net, 406-826-2201 or see our website at www.bcllama.com. Subscribe by sending payment, e-mail and mailing address to:

BCL, P.O. Box 1070, Plains, MT 59859.

Using Electrolyte Paste

By Linda Hayes,
Llama Linda Ranch

I keep a tube of electrolytes on hand at shows as well as at home. It can be a life saver in time of stress or on hot days.

Electrolytes in tubes of paste are generally designed for horses weighing about 1100 pounds. Based on the weight of your alpaca, you should get six or seven doses from each tube.

Use when the animal is stressed or sick. It will put needed electrolytes back in its body. These help keep the chemical balance in the blood and muscles correct. This is especially important in the summer when sweating and drooling causes excess loss of water.

One dose may be all the animal needs. If you don't see improvement in a few hours you can give more. I give two doses each day. Ask your vet if it is okay to give yours more.

Application: Slide tube in mouth at an angle and press plunger until desired amount is applied. Try not to stick it straight back as it could go down the wrong way and choke the alpaca. You just need to get it in far enough that it won't fall out when the alpaca opens its mouth. The paste does not taste bad so I have not had a problem with them trying to spit it out.

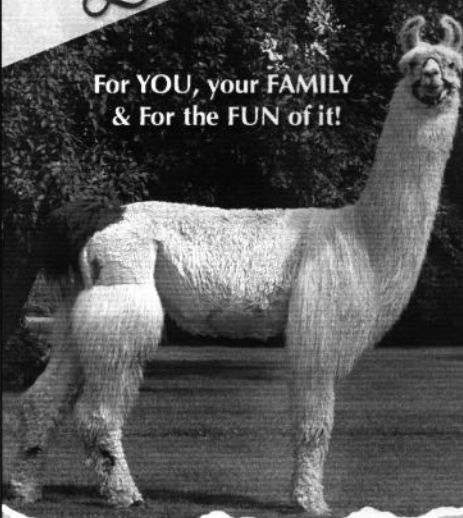
The best way to give any paste is as follows:

1. With your arm around the alpaca's neck, use your finger and massage the upper and lower gums until the alpaca relaxes.
2. Insert tube and give paste.
3. Repeat the massaging of the gums until the paste has had time to melt or be swallowed.

You may also have luck just putting it on their feed. Give it a try!

Llamas

**For YOU, your FAMILY
& For the FUN of it!**



M&M LLAMA RANCH

Start the Fun Today! Contact us at:
(406) 755-5473 • info@mandmlamas.com
www.MandMLlamas.com

With cooperation from our friends at the Colorado State University Veterinarian Teaching Hospital, the goal of this column is to answer your basic camelid-care questions in a helpful and practical way. In this issue the focus is on feeding our llamas what is best/most nutritious for them. So let's just jump in.

Question: As llama owners we hear about llamas in certain areas of South America having a very sparse food supply and apparently doing quite well. But common guidelines suggest a daily hay ration of 1-2% of body weight. In addition, these guidelines also suggest that the llama needs 6-10% protein in the daily amount of food. So, are these percentages still accurate or are we overfeeding our animals?

Dr. Callan: Llamas and alpacas have a slower gastric transit or emptying rate than do ruminants like cattle, sheep and goats. This slow transit rate limits the total amount of feed a llama or alpaca can consume in a day. But, it can also increase the digestibility of the feed compared to true ruminants. The current research on camelid nutrition indicates that llamas and alpacas can only consume a maximum of 1.5 to 2% of their body weight in dry matter intake per day. So, for a 350 lb llama, this would be about 5 ¼ to 7 lbs of feed per day.

The other variable is that llamas and alpacas can and will select the quality of feed that they consume if given the opportunity. Studies of New World Camelids grazing in their native range environment show that they will selectively consume forages of a higher energy and protein content than the average of the forage available. In our management system where we feed dry hay, they do not have as much opportunity to choose the optimum forage for their needs. So, we must take into account the total energy and protein needs of the animals relative to their production status and provide feeds that meet those needs.

In general, these nutritional needs can be satisfied by feeding various combinations of a good quality grass hay and an alfalfa hay for different production groups. Additional pelleted supplements can be provided but may not be necessary depending on the quality of the hay used.

The table below shows how optimum energy and protein needs change by production status in llamas and alpacas.

Adapted From: Van Saun RJ. Nutritional requirements and assessing nutritional status in camelids. VCNA 25 (2009) 265-279.

*TDN is Total Dietary Nutrients & is a measure of the useable energy content in the feed.

Question: When llamas eat pelleted food (e.g. llama & alpaca ration, sweet grains, or equine senior) does it go through the normal digestive process? Can they regurgitate it like hay?

Dr. Callan: Pelleted feeds and grain are digested and transit through the intestinal tract similar to forages. However, pelleted

feeds and grain mixes are able to provide a more concentrated source of energy and protein than forages. These feeds are more readily broken down in the first gastric compartment (C1) into smaller particles than are forages. In addition, the carbohydrate in these feeds is readily available to bacteria for digestion and can result in an increased production of organic acids that can have a negative impact on the C1 function, resulting in acidosis or grain overload (see below).

Roughage, in the form of grazed forages or hay, is very important in the normal development and function of the first gastric compartment of llamas and alpacas. The long stem fibers stimulate appropriate development of the stomach wall and also stimulate normal gastric motility. Some people refer to this as the scratch factor. These long fibers are also what stimulate rumination (regurgitation and chewing of the cud). Active rumination increases salivation and the bicarbonate in the saliva

Feeding Plan	Physiologic States	TDN*	Crude Protein
Sub-Maintenance	Obese Animals	40-50%	8-9%
Maintenance	Males > 1year & Geldings Breeding Females Pregnant Female 1-8 months	50-60%	8-10%
Moderate	Pregnant Female 9-11 months	55-70%	10-12%
High	Weanlings up to 1 ½ years Lactation up to 4 months	55-60% 60-70%	14-16% 12-14%

Adapted From: Van Saun RJ. Nutritional requirements and assessing nutritional status in camelids. VCNA 25 (2009) 265-279.

*TDN is Total Dietary Nutrients & is a measure of the useable energy content in the feed.

helps buffer the pH of the C1 compartment, protecting it from acidosis. Lastly, a diet that has sufficient roughage may decrease fiber sucking/grooming from other animals and possibly reduce the risk for hairballs that can cause obstruction of the small intestine.

It is my personal belief that some producers rely too heavily on grain or other pelleted supplements in feeding their llamas and alpacas. Pelleted supplements and grain have their place in providing highly digestible energy and protein for animals that are sick, thin, highly active (pack llamas), or have a high energy demand (late gestation or early lactation). However, most llamas and alpacas can be fed effectively with a combination of pasture forage when available and dry grass or alfalfa hay depending on their production status. In general, pelleted or other grain supplements should stay below 30% of the total diet and in many cases are not needed at all.

Question: Does eating too much sweet grain cause a lama's digestive process to 'malfunction' like it does in goats?

Dr. Callan: Sweet feed is an acceptable supplement for llamas and alpacas but you need to consider why you are feeding it. The benefit of sweet feed is as a concentrated energy supplement that may be fed to animals that need the extra energy (late pregnancy, lactation, high activity or physical exertion). It should never constitute more than 30% of the dry matter intake for normal animals in normal husbandry situations. It also increases phosphorus intake and that can increase the risk of urinary stones and urethral obstruction. If llamas or alpacas consume too much grain, this can lower the pH of the C1 compartment and can cause severe disease (grain overload or gastric acidosis). High grain diets may also increase the risk of C3 ulcers.

Question: When is Equine Senior an appropriate food for llamas? Can it be the sole component of an animal's diet? Or just a supplement?

Dr. Callan: Equine Senior (Purina Mills) is a high energy, high protein (CP=14%) pelleted feed that has high digestibility and very good palatability. Much of the energy

comes from crude fat (5.5%). Because of the high palatability and digestibility, Equine Senior is often used to supplement animals that are thin or need additional energy to increase or maintain body condition. Several producers have found this to be an effective supplement for older geriatric llamas and alpacas. However, because of the high fat content, it should NOT be used as a sole component of the diet and should be combined with a high quality grass or alfalfa hay. As stated above, I do not recommend feeding Equine Senior or other supplements in excess of 30% of the daily intake.

Question: What about feeding beet pulp as a supplement for llamas and alpacas?

Dr. Callan: Beet pulp can be used as a feed for llamas and alpacas. It has slightly higher energy content than high quality alfalfa hay but lower than cereal grains. Beet pulp has a crude protein content similar to a standard grass hay (CP about 10% DM basis) but is lower than alfalfa (15 to 20% DM basis). Beet pulp is a good source of calcium (about 0.6% DM basis), although less than alfalfa hay (around 1 to 1.5% DM basis). (DM Basis stands for Dry Matter Basis. All feeds have some amount of moisture content and in order to compare feeds it is important to standardize them on a dry matter basis.)

In summary, beet pulp is a potential supplement when you want to increase energy intake above a basic grass hay diet but you are not concerned about providing additional protein. A good example for this would be in maintenance of gelded males during the winter when energy requirements are increased but protein requirements remain low.

Question: What advice can you give for feeding elderly llamas and/or underweight llamas (llamas who have trouble holding weight and get pretty skinny because they are incredibly active) in the cold of winter?

Dr. Callan: Geriatric llamas and alpacas often do not seem to maintain body condition on pasture forage or hay alone, especially in the cold of winter. This may in part be due to poor dentition (short teeth, lost teeth, or points) or a general decrease in

digestion and absorption of nutrients with age. A combination of free choice high quality alfalfa hay along with a highly digestible pellet can be an effective way to increase and maintain body weight in geriatric llamas and alpacas. Two high energy, highly digestible and palatable pellet supplements that seem to work well for geriatric llamas and alpacas are Equine Senior (Purina Mills) and Milk Plus (Nutrena Feeds). The palatability of these supplements can vary for individual animals so it might be good to try each of them out. Milk Plus has a lower crude fat content (3%) than does the Equine Senior (5.5%). Other pellets may also work well but these are two that we have some experience using in geriatric patients.

Question: What is the best way to add weight to a llama?

Dr. Callan: First, try increasing the energy and protein content of the diet by adding or substituting alfalfa hay into the diet. If that does not seem to help, it probably means one of three things.

The nutritional content of the hay is not as good as you thought it was. Have a full nutritional analysis done on your hay.

The animal is not consuming enough hay. You should try to separate the animal and measure how much hay it is eating to ensure that it consumes at least 1.5% of its body weight per day. Decreased feed intake can be because of poor dentition. An adequate dental exam often requires heavy sedation or even general anesthesia. Decreased feed intake could also be an indication of another underlying disease.

The animal is not absorbing the nutrients in the diet. This may be due to internal parasites or other gastrointestinal diseases such as Johne's Disease, inflammatory bowel disease, or even cancer of the intestine. First have your veterinarian perform a fecal exam and if there is no evidence of parasites, request a more thorough examination and don't forget to look at the teeth!

Well, this gives me food for thought. Pun intended! Thanks to everyone for sending in your questions. Keep them coming: turkeytrot2@aol.com.

Pear Tree Farm Fun Day

By Katy White

In May of 2010 Pear Tree Llamas hosted a free public day with llamas. The event, which was sponsored by the Utah Llama Association, was designed to give non-llama owners and those just curious about llamas a chance to spend a day with a llama and learn more about them. The event took place on Saturday, May 22, at Pear Tree Llamas, in Midway, Utah. Despite terrible weather (it snowed in the morning) more than 90 people turned out to go through the obstacle course, talk to llama owners about llama packing, watch a llama being sheared, and learn about the differences between llamas and alpacas.

Due to the success of last year's event, a Second Annual Llama Fun Day is being



planned for Saturday, June 25, 2011, at Pear Tree Llamas. Hours are from 10am to 5pm. The event will again be free and open to the public. The local Papa Murphy's Pizza Wagon will provide an optional for-purchase pizza lunch.

Once again, demonstrations of llama packing, llama shearing, llama fiber cleaning, and llama fiber spinning will be included in the day's events. The llama obstacle course will be open throughout the day. Members of the Backcountry Horsemen of Utah will be on hand with their horses to show the public how different kinds of pack stock can mingle and co-exist peacefully and comfortably. A local camel may even make a cameo appearance.

A frequently repeated suggestion from last year's event was to have more items made from llama fiber available for sale. Last year

the Pacific Northwest Llama Fiber Coop provided a sample display of blankets, rugs, and socks. This year we hope to have more vendors of llama fiber items on hand with their products. If you have llama fiber items to sell, please consider coming to this event and bringing your sale items.

In hopes that this event will catch on and expand, we would like to extend an open invitation to all RMLA members to attend our 2011 Llama Fun Day. There is ample room at our ranch for trailer parking. Bring yourselves, bring your llamas, and bring your llama fiber items for sale. For planning purposes, we will need to know as soon as possible who will be able to attend.

For information on participating in Llama Fun Day, please contact Katy White, Pear Tree Llamas, POB 379, Midway, Utah 84049, 801-231-3210 cell, 435-654-1047 home, 801-435-654-1047 FAX, or treelama@xmission.com



Youth, 4H & County Fairs

By Geri Rutledge

It is time to fire up for the year and get the kids and llamas/alpacas in training! Not sure who needs more help the critters or the kids, or some days the leaders?? If you already belong to a 4H Extension Office this is a good time to invite a friend and make the group grow. If you are thinking about getting a group organized, move quickly so the extension office includes your information in the yearly publications. There is a 4H section on the RMLA website where you can ask fellow 4H groups for ideas and help. And you can always turn to another RMLA member with llamas/alpacas to guide you in the right direction for your area.

We like to start training in March as the youth always pick the animals born in the fall to train. So it is a combination halter breaking and training. We like to have the older kids teach the younger kids, they seem to listen a little better. And we always make games out of the learning. Red Light, Green Light, teach them to walk and stand. Training the babies for Showmanship is always the big challenge. The little ones squirm, wiggle and always have to see what the neighbors are doing. Start early on this class. We teach the kids first, without a llama/alpaca. Teach them the quadrants and make sure they know to keep a watchful eye on that Judge. Then add the animals and see how they progress.

Even if you have to travel to belong to a 4H group, the rewards make it worth every moment. Watching the skills progress and seeing the kids playing with the animals is the best part of the summer. And when the kids reach the High School age, having 4H on the Scholarship applications is a great bonus. Sign up now for 4H.

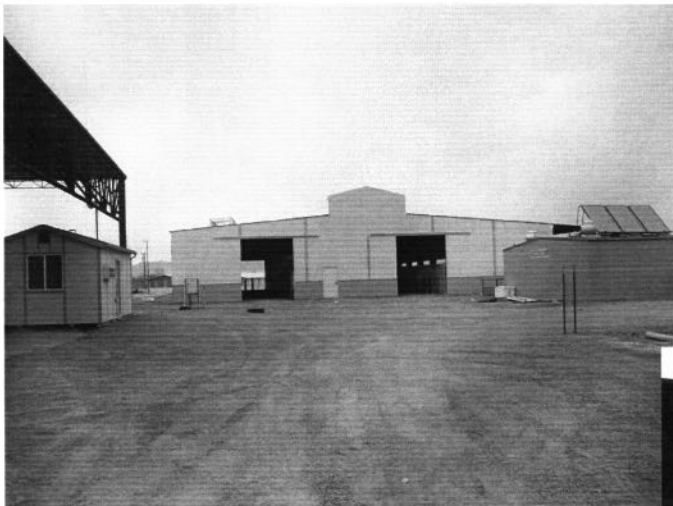
2011 Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Show Packets Have Been Sent

Article and Photos By Wally Juntilla

The information and entry packets for the 2011 Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Llama Classics have been sent out via e-mail to as many exhibitors and RMLA members as possible. If you did not receive yours, or would prefer to receive a hard-copy, please contact Jill Knuckles at talltaillamas@bigplanet.com or 970-487-0223 as soon as possible. The entry deadline is May 2.

The shows will be held on May 21 and 22 at the Mesa County Fairgrounds in Grand Junction, Colorado. Construction on the improvements to the Fairgrounds appears to be progressing on schedule. The new barn is close to completion, with the stalls already in place, and the arena roof has been extended so that it actually covers the new office building.

As always, the focus of these shows will be on providing exhibitors with a top quality experience while having fun in a relaxed setting. The show superintendent and volunteers have their thinking caps on and are coming up with ideas to make the shows even more fun, including some inspiration from "George" at the NWSS. Please join them for a weekend of good times with llama friends.



Katy Wegner named as new volunteer team leader for Webmaster of RMLA.com

Katy and Keith Wegner reside in Golden and own K2 llamas. Katy and Keith were once Bookstore managers as well as interim Journal editors. Katy is a Senior Technical Writer and Team Lead with an international corporation. She has served on the Web team for her local chapter of the Society for Technical Communication, and routinely designs information and presentation for online use. It is Katy's goal to establish a team of RMLA members to work together as a committee to redesign, refresh, manage and maintain RMLA.com. The transition from Barb Hance to Katy will take a few months. We welcome Katy to the growing list of volunteers who are eager to work for RMLA and you. Thank you for volunteering and we look forward to the new look of RMLA.com.

Barb Hance resigns from two positions

After 10 years of service to RMLA, Barbara Hance has resigned from production of the Membership Directory but will continue as Membership Chair. As well, Barb will no longer be the Webmaster for RMLA.com. RMLA has been a better organization because of Barb's unselfish gift of time and energy. She has dedicated many, many volunteer hours to RMLA and for this we are all very grateful. The Hances chose to become RMLA's 2nd Life Members in 1994 and have been strong leaders and givers to your organization. Thank you Barb.

Jane Levene named as new volunteer for Production of Membership Directory.

Jane and Arthur Levene, also RMLA Life Members, are owners of Jefferson Farms Alpacas & Paco Vicunas and reside in the Denver area. Jane has stepped up to be the new volunteer production leader for the Membership Directory. She has a strong knowledge of the software needed to accomplish layout and design of the directory and has experience in several other projects of this type. Welcome Jane, thank you for volunteering and we look forward to working with you.



Llama Manure Benefits

Llama manure is lower in organic matter content than manures of most other barnyard livestock (like cows, horses and sheep) but still has plenty to improve soil texture and water-holding capacity. This lower organic content allows llama manure to be spread directly on plants without fear of "burning" them. It is the decomposition of organic matter which produces the heat that can damage plant roots.

Compared to other barnyard animals, the nitrogen and potassium content of llama droppings is comparatively high - an indication of good fertilizer value. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the major plant nutrients; they are the familiar N-P-K on fertilizer bags. Phosphorus is relatively low in llama "beans," but phosphorus levels in other barnyard manure are low as well. Calcium

and magnesium content are about average. Salt content is not too high, but it is high enough that one should not apply llama poo directly onto seedlings.

Overall, llama manure is a great organic fertilizer. Of course, organic fertilizers are usually lower in nutrient content than synthetic fertilizers, so more needs to be applied to get the same amount of nutrients. For example, llama manure would be about 1.5% nitrogen (N), 0.2% available phosphorus (P), and 1.1% available potassium (K), as compared to 20N, 10P and 5K of commercial synthetic fertilizer. To get about the same amount of nitrogen to your plants from llama manure requires 13 times the amount of the synthetic, but who doesn't have AT LEAST 13 times the amount of available llama "beans" readily available?

Llama manure can be used directly in your garden without danger of burning your established plants. If the "beans" aren't kept moist, they will harden and form a white crust that will take longer to break down. A way to store them is to moisten them (damp, not dripping like for compost) and keep them covered. During the first couple of days, check and remoisten if needed. In something over a month the individual "beans" will break down and look much like a moist, rich peat moss, ready to use to amend your garden soil.

Used fresh or composted, llama manure is a valuable amendment to your spring or fall planting preparations.

Reprinted from the SSLA Llama Journal, Winter 2009/2010

PHF Winterthur

Argentine Yecu x PHF Delphinium * 11-23-02

Win combines the best characteristics of his Argentine sire and his multiple-champion grandsire Rocky Mountain Jester

Rocky Mountain Regional Grand Champion Medium Wool Male
in both 2005 and 2006

ALSA ROM

Still in his prime and able to sire
award-winning crias for you



**Pheasant
Hill Farm**
Llamas

For fiber,
packing
and show

*Win is offered as
part of our
perennial effort to
retire.*

*No reasonable
offer refused.*

*Lots of photos
available - or
come meet him
nose to nose.*

John and Sharon Beacham

15760 County Road 220, Salida, CO 81201 * 719-539-7185

biggerjohnb@gmail.com (new)

grandmamallama@gmail.com

RMLA

11818 W. 52nd Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033-2032

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 684

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

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

Only \$32.95 (Includes postage and handling)

Mail your check payable to RMLA for \$32.95 to:

RMLA Attn: Janice Adamcyk,

39420 Olson Court,

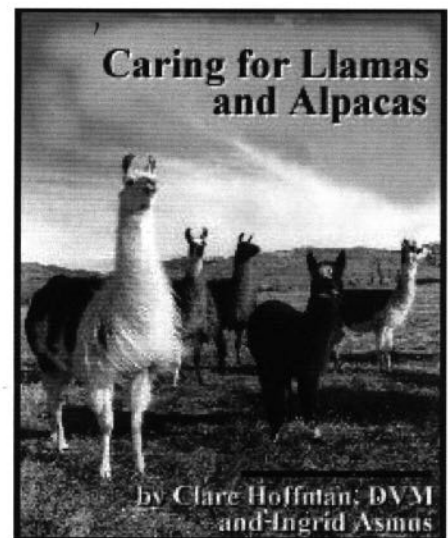
Kiowa, CO 80117-9604

(Include name, mailing address, phone number and \$32.95.

CO residents add 85¢ for State Tax.)

Non US Mailings

Contact Jan Adamcyk at adamcyk@earthlink.net for postage Amount.



8-1/2" x 11" ♦ 172 PAGES

OVER 60 ILLUSTRATIONS

THE STANDARD OF THE INDUSTRY