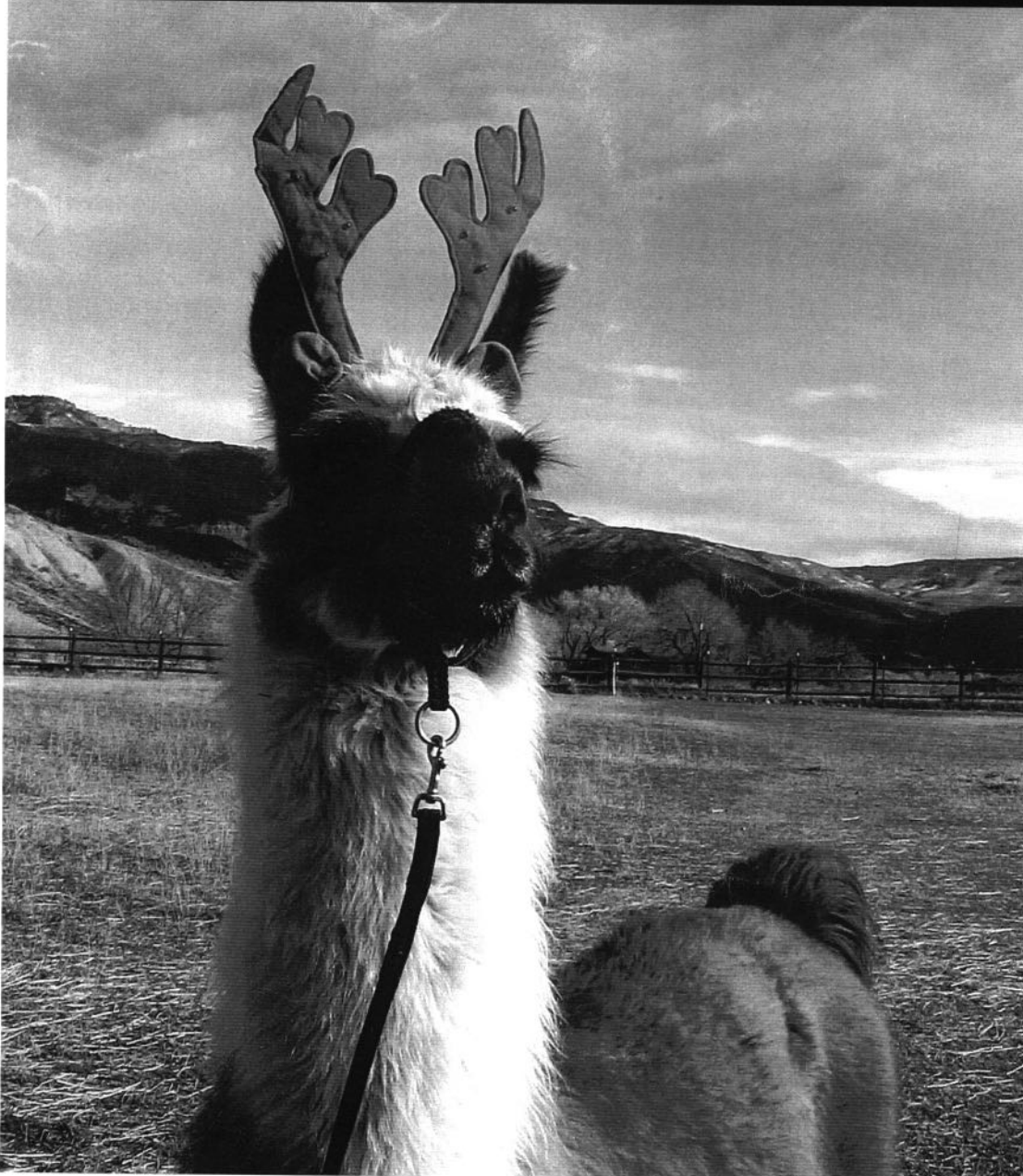




The **Journal**

 www.rmla.com

Winter 2012



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The Backcountry Llama



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ATTENTION

National Western Stock show will have the 2nd annual silent auction of fleeces. All monies go to the fleece owner. This is a great way to sell a fleece and introduce new spinners to camelid fibers. Email Jane Levene @jlevene@comcast.net for more information

Board of Directors

President

Lougene Baird
Post Office Box 385403
Waikoloa, HI 96738
808-883-1887
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Ann Bruhn
P.O. Box 746
Victor, CO 80860-0746
719-689-2122
719-689-2451(fax)
afbruhn11@gmail.com

Director at Large

Linda Hayes
60 Meadow View Lane
Glenwood Spgs, CO. 81601-7704
970-379-4576
llamas@skybeam.com

Journal Staff

Sue Grimm, Editor
Jane Levene
Kathy Stanko
Linda Hayes

Committee Chairpersons

Bookstore

Jan Adamcyk
303-621-2960
adamcyk@earthlink.com
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Bylaws

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

Calendar

Open
Liaison Linda Hayes

Education

Liaison Linda Hayes

Events/Marketing

Jerry Dunn
303-277-1129
beartrak@q.com

Fiber

Patti Morgan
620-442-4996
pmmorgank@gmail.com
Liaison Geri Rutledge

Finance

Marilyn Arnold
303-841-5126
arnold.marilyn@ymail.com.
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Journal

Sue Grimm
303-567-2168
rmlaeditor@gmail.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

Library

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Jerry Dunn

Membership

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Ann Bruhn

Nominations & Elections

Maggie Merrill-Brown
970-667-7227
designer95@bluelinesite.com
Liaison Geri Rutledge

Pack

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Jerry Dunn

Publication Coordinator

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

Rescue

Olin Allen
970-493-2886
olinallen@earthlink.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Website

Ron Hinds
303-646-1320
pacaron@estreet.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

Youth And 4-H

Briana Livengood-Cozzetto
719-371-4839
brianna0215@yahoo.com
Liaison Geri Rutledge

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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.

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Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horizontal	7.5"x2"	\$24	\$36
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Classified Ads—Member \$10 for up to 50 words

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25 cents for each word over 50 for both Member and Non-Member

Issue	Submission Deadline	Printing Date
Spring	February 20, 2013	March 20, 2013
Summer	May 20th, 2013	June 20, 2013
Fall	August 20, 2013	September 20, 2013
Winter	November 20, 2013	December 20, 2013

Ad rates are quoted per issue. Lock in the current rate by purchasing the same ad for Four consecutive issues and receive a bonus of a 10% discount. Ads must be submitted by e-mail as a attached document. RMLA is not able to scan ads. We suggest Ads are created in black and white. Ads must be in word or j-peg files. The Journal staff does not design or create ads.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR Payment: Send your check along with a copy of your ad to

Sue Grimm – Journal Editor – P.O. Box 7, Dumont CO 80436-0007

Payment must and copy of ad must be received prior to publication of Journal.

President's Message By Lougene Baird

As we wrap up the year, it is a good time to reflect on all we as an organization have accomplished and enjoyed over the past year. I realized that as I got involved in writing a few things for this issue I had done just that, what an opportunity! Without intending to do so, I became focused on what amazingly talented and dedicated volunteers this organization has. As you read through this Journal, join me in the appreciation of our RMLA volunteers. Take time to un-

derstand just what each does for RMLA. When you see these folks along the trail, please take time to genuinely thank each one for their gift of time and talent to RMLA.

I also want to thank those of you who drop me a line now in then. I may be far away, but I seem to stay in contact with more of you more than I ever have in the past when I lived much closer. The sound of your voices, your e-mails and occasional cards are a real treasure.

From our land of palms, beaches and gentle trade winds here in the mid-Pacific to yours in the vast continental United States where winter beautifully touches all things, we send you warm wishes of Aloha this Holiday Season. Be safe and plan for a wonderful 2013.

Lougene

The RMLA Library is asking for your help.

The Library contains Membership Directories

From 1998 through 2012 membership years.

If you have any membership lists or directories from 1982 to 1998 please let Dick Williams know.

The library is not only a great resource for lamas but

is the historical archives for RMLA history.

Knowing who members were during that time period would complete that section of the Library.

Also, if you have documents from previous conferences or other RMLA events, those would be welcome as well.

Contact Dick Williams at 406-826-2201.

SPINNING LLAMA and ALPACA

By Chris Switzer 52 pages of helpful info: fiber ID, description, Suri, Paco-vicuna, cleaning & collecting, washing, storage, micron testing, shearing, preparation, blending, dyeing, spinning, marketing & selling, plus 5 projects. 3rd edition. \$18 plus .63 CO. TX and \$2.50 shipping. (\$21.13 total) Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Ln., Estes Park, CO. 80517.

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Letter from the Editor

By Sue Grimm

Happy Holidays. Its hard to believe that fall is on its way out and winter is almost here. I just wish winter would show up!

I have done articles on emergency preparedness but this fall it hit home. The day after Thanksgiving I got off work early and was going to go on a hike. I heard some sirens and looked out the windows to see if they were on the interstate. All clear. I open my front door and up the valley smoke was billowing up. It looked like a fire, so I called the sheriff's office to see if it was a structure or forest fire. The dispatch asked if I lived on Mill creek and I advised I did. She reported a brush fire being fought. No sooner from hanging up the phone, I got a Code Red call to advise I was on standby to evacuate as I was less than 1 mile from the fire. So I called a couple of friends and advised I might need

some help moving animals. They were ready to come right away, but I decided to watch and see what happened. Our fire fighters got right on it and I could see less smoke after about an hour. 4 hours later I got another call from Code Red that the fire was contained.

I was not ready to evacuate at the time but I did start to make a tally of what I needed to do. One of the most important things I did last summer was register both my work email address and my cell phone with my local sheriff's offices Code Red. This was done on my county's web site. Had I not been home but still at work I would have still gotten the notification of being on stand-by to evacuate. Everyone should take a minute and register there cell phones and a work email address with the Code Red system. If you are not

home you will still be notified and can get home to remove animals or what ever you need.

My lesson from this is to photograph everything in my house and store the photos off site. I have a plan for what I need to do and bring. Not only any medication I need but I have a dog that required daily drugs. What is important? Photos or furniture. In the end everything can be replace other than loss of life.

Fire season is still going in December this year. So be prepared. A forest fire can affect you at any time of the year.

Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year!

Sue

Letter to the Editor

Gayle Woodsum

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your letter from the editor in the last *Journal*. There are quite a few of us who served as editors to various incarnations of the RLMA newsletter in past years, and we all know what a great challenge and time consuming project it

is. Your commitment and caring effort to keep us all informed on what's happening in the Rocky Mountain llama community (and put it together for print on good old fashioned paper we can hold in our

hands!) is more greatly appreciated than you know.

Best wishes,

Gayle M. Woodsum

Llamas of a Coral Dawn

North Park, Colorado

Membership Update

By Dick Williams Membership Chair

RMLA – New Members

Ace & Robin Buettenback

B4 Alpacas

3742 S. Locust

Grand Island, NE 68801

308-395-8307

ROBINB@B4Alpacas.com

Corrections

Maggie Merrill Brown

Silver Streak Llamas

3125 Sedgwick Circle

Loveland, CO 80538-4946

970-667-7227

designer95@bluelinesite.com

Sandra Nolan –

phone - 303-862-0355

Barb McRoberts – website -
www.McRobertsGameFarm.com

Linda Boyd – website –
www.SilverKnollLlamas.com

Meet the Volunteer

Bt Lougene Baird

Gary Carlton, Chair

Fairplay Llama Race

Comanche Creek Llamas

Strasburg, Colorado

In 2004, Gary agreed to take over as Coordinator and Chair for the Fairplay Llama Race.

In 2013, RMLA will celebrate the 31st race. It all began with fifteen people who wanted to showcase the ability of the pack llama. Fairplay becomes more successful each year and has been featured on PBS television and Wacky Sports.

There is an interesting history which began many years before. Gary was raised in Southern California where he spent most of his time in the ocean. But his earliest memories were of wanting to be in wild places with nature. At age 23 he moved to Colorado to pursue his long dreams of mountains, rivers, and wilderness. And he did just that. In addition to hunting, fishing and back country adventures, Gary has worked 25-years at King Soopers and enjoyed raising cattle and farming.

Avoiding the costly upkeep of horses but wanting to enjoy wilderness experiences, Gary became interested in llamas during the early nineties as a low maintenance pack animal. His first two llamas came from Gerry Golden of Arvada, CO, who had a herd of 30 or so.

His first year as a llama owner was tough until he was put in contact with Bobra Goldsmith at Rocky Mountain Llamas and the rest was history.

And then, there was Fairplay. After hearing about the Fairplay Llama Race, Gary decided to give it a try. At his first race in 1999 he finished in third place. He offered to help Roger Miller the next year with course set up and prizes. Little did he know at that time that Roger was looking for a replacement to take over his position and was sizing up Gary, modeling him to take over. Gary still says that it was the best con job anyone had ever pulled over on him as he had no idea what he had gotten himself into. With the Board's approval and gratitude, in 2004 Gary became Chair of RMLA's longest running event.

So what keeps Gary returning year after year? His driving reason to continue is the participants. Because of the intense preparation for the event, every year by the time the starting gun goes off he is thinking..."never again". But as the day goes on and the participants began to cross the finish line, he can see the ear-to-ear smiles along with the great time everyone is having. It all becomes clear, once again, why he continues to work the event. It gives him the drive

needed to do it all over again the next year.

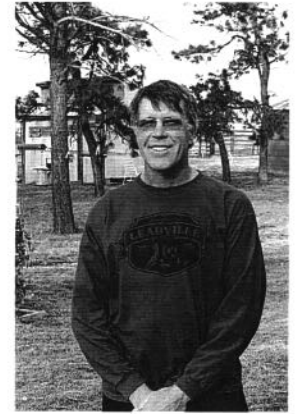
2012 was a Record Year at Fairplay with 257 participants. The event net income was around \$3,000 for RMLA. This has been reserved to fund the RMLA Liability Insurance which is available for all other RMLA Events to use.

And more about Gary's volunteer work. In its 14th year at Fairplay, the second heat of the day is the LAMA RAMA, a race ran by about 120 medical professionals from all over who come out to generate awareness for the need of organ and tissue donation. The LAMA RAMA would not be possible without the generosity of Stage Stop Llamas who provide animals for the event.

Gary and Vicky Foster coordinate the Hope Pass Aid Station for the runners of the Leadville Trail 100, a 100-mile high altitude race. Vicky and Gary gathered up 29 llamas to move 3000 pounds of gear up the pass where the aid station was set up.

Gary passionately believes that a good volunteer is surrounded by great volunteers who together can make a difference in the lives of everyone they touch.

We couldn't agree with you more Gary, thank you for what you give to RMLA.



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Bear Track Farm	20
RMLA Youth	20
Mazuri	21
Farm Bureau	27
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January

NWSS Llama show Jan 11-13

Time to get your 2013 Calendar of events in so we can get the Calendar of events full

Watch the RMLA.com Calendar for events that are finalized before the next Journal

Thank you to all who provide cover photo's for the Journal

This Months is by Kathy Stanko

Fall was Ron and Lougene Baird

Want to see your photo on the cover send it on

RMLA needs a new chairperson for the calendar .

Here is a great opportunity to use your

skills in photography.

Contact Linda Hayes @ llamas@skybeam.com

The Journal is printed in Colorado. It is be mailed from the Dumont, CO. post office.

Youth!! if you need volunteer hours you can help with the labeling of the journal for mailing. Contact RMLAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

The Journal committee is looking for cover art for the next Journals. Do you have that great camping photo? Or did you knit or weave something out of llama or alpaca fiber?

Send photo's to rmlaeditor@gmail.com

Llama Class

By Linda Hayes Lama Linda Ranch Glewood Springs, CO

I love llamas and I love to share them with others. This last fall, I did exactly that by holding a "Fun With Llamas" class through Colorado Mountain College. It was held on Saturdays for two hours at my ranch near Glenwood Springs, CO.

It was a fun group of adults and vet tech students who were interested in learning more about an animal most had never even touched. Our first meeting was in the classroom and went over the questions that every non llama person asks. "What's the difference between..." "What do you do with ...?" "Will I get spit on?" and etc. We discussed health issues and basic care.

To break up the session everyone got to try tying the safety quick release knot. Only a couple were familiar with it so it was quite a "hands on" learning experience.

The rest of the sessions met at the ranch with each person (nine in all) getting to work one on one with the llama of their choice. They were taught how to herd,

catch and halter them. Time was spent grooming, trimming toes and giving shots. Since it was fall, we didn't shear but did do some touch up trimming to make everyone look better.

Every work session had its fun part where llamas were walked, tested on obstacles and trained. Even the llamas seemed to rally enjoy the sessions with their new "persons".

To show what correct conformation looks like and to reinforce the fact that genetics does make a difference I had a couple of my past customers bring some of their award winning animals. We had several related bloodlines and multi generations on hand.

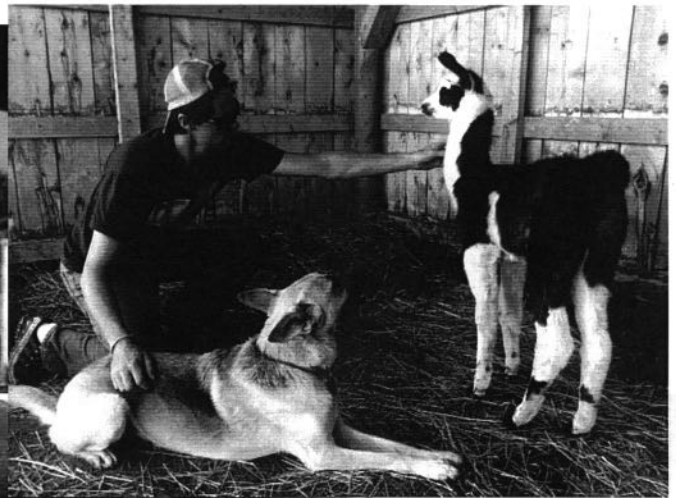
Nancy Stover, Carbondale, CO brought a new cria which was the hit of the day.

Susan Proctor, Carbondale, CO brought her champion gelding, Stormy and demonstrated the correct way to negotiate the obstacles.

The last day was spent taking the llamas on a short pack trip. When we missed the correct trail, one of the llamas started humming and carrying on. She had been there before and knew that the "stupid humans" were going the wrong way. Once we listened to her and changed directions, she quieted down.

The college required that the students do a critique at the end of the course. Everyone said they enjoyed it and most asked that there be a follow up class. I have since heard from most of the students and they all want to come back. They say they will help shear, train and would love another hike.

This was a good way to spread some positive PR for llamas and for me to share what I know with others. I think I had more fun than my students. I will definitely do a follow up class. It's something I think a lot of the RMLA members could do in their neck of the woods. Give it a try.



GPLA (Golden Plains Llama Association) is having their annual conference on February 16, 2013 at McPherson, KS. The conference will run from 8am to 8pm including a "pot luck" lunch and buffet dinner. The theme this year is "LLAMAS ON THE GO". There will be hands on training in various fiber projects, training, travel advice, etc. Vendors are welcome: \$15 for a spot (see attached flyer). Thank you so much. Hope to see you there!!!

ANNUAL GPLA CONFERENCE

"LLAMAS ON THE GO"

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Please send your reservation form to Patti Morgan, pmmor-ganks@gmail.com or 12120 282nd Rd., Arkansas City, KS 67005. The vendor fee is payable at the conference.

Thank you.

How to Catch a Llama

By Linda Hayes Llama Linda Ranch Glenwood Springs, CO

Llamas don't like to be caught but once you have them they usually give in and are easy to lead and work with. The following steps are for a llama that has been caught before and is lead broke.

You need a small catch pen. Ten by ten is best but a long narrow alley will also work. It needs to be narrow enough that you can move back and forth to keep them from going past you.

Most llamas will not brush by you if they think they are going to touch you when they do it. This really works to your advantage. You need to remain quiet and not hurry things as that gets the llama upset and my advice won't work. Then they will push past you and you will have to start over trying to calm them down.

Keep in mind that llamas are creatures of habit and they will usually react the same every time. You will find that they have one certain place where they "give in" to you catching them. They will also react the same each time when you try to put the halter on them. They may stick their face through the fence or stick it in the air or some other avoidance method. Learn what each of your llamas likes to do and work with them on it.

Get them used to going in the catch pen by feeding them in it. Do this so much that they are comfortable there. Don't just try and get them in it when you want to catch them. They will quickly figure this out and without the catch pen you won't get them caught. (It is a very rare llama that you can walk up to in the field and catch...very rare.) Once in the pen, go in slowly but with authority. Don't act like you are afraid of them. Stand straight and move slowly but without hesitation. Don't walk straight toward their head. Instead aim for their shoulder or side. This seems to be less intimidating to them. Hold your arms out to the side to make a "person fence" to keep them where you need them. Most

don't rush your arms but try to avoid them. Just don't YOU rush them.

Llamas learn vocabulary. Use the same word each time and with the same tone of voice. I use "Stand". When the llama stops moving, you stop too. This is their reward for doing as asked. Wait a moment and step toward the center of their back. Say "stand" again and when they stop you repeat your stop and keep doing this over and over. Talk calmly to them as you stand there. Watch for them to relax a bit before you move again.

When you are close enough you may be able to touch them on the back or put your arm around the neck. Do this with a firm feel. Llamas do not like a light touch. Some llamas give in when you rest your hand on the back, others don't. You have to learn the individual animal.

Some llamas give in if you put the lead rope over their back. If you can get it over the back up by the neck, try and keep it there even if they move around the pen. If you can get it around their neck, try and move it up toward the head as this gives you more control and leverage.

If they move away you will have to repeat the process until they give in.

Remember that the reward for the llama standing still is that you stop heading for them for a moment. If they try to bolt and run by you, you will need to move in front of them to block them. Do this until they stop, then go back to saying "stand" again.

Once you can get close enough to slide your arm around their neck, you may have to move with them as they try to get away. Now is not the time to wimp out...go with them. Most will stop soon especially if you say "stand".

I say "Halter" to let them know I am going to snap the lead on them or put the halter on their head. They like to know or be

warned as to what you are going to do to them. So get used to verbal commands.

At this point you should be able to snap on the lead. If you need to put the halter on this may take more doing.

To Put the Halter Off and On

Try and keep them under control by having the lead rope around the neck up by the head. Hold it in one of your hands along with the halter. That way if they try to back away you can keep them with you.

If you are able, it helps to position them so their rear end is in a corner. This keeps them from backing away from you. Some llamas however, will not let you move them until haltered so you just have to work with what you have.

With your right arm around the llama's neck, use both hands to get the halter ready. Hold it below the llama's face. They hate things coming at them from above so always put it on from below.

Have the nose piece open and lift it over the nose. Try not to slide it on the nose but lift it over onto the face just below the eyes. Then fasten it. Halters with stiff nose bands and a snap instead of a buckle are the easiest to use. They are worth the investment.

When you take off the halter, use the neck rope to keep them from getting into the habit of pulling away as you take the halter off. This is a bad habit and one they learn way to fast so don't let them get away with it. Some llamas already have learned this trick. With these llamas, turn them so that their back end is in a corner. This way they have no place to go should they try and bolt backwards.

Be sure not to slide the halter off their nose. Instead lift the nose band up and lift it off. In time you will find that your llama

no longer tries to bolt away from you and may even stick their nose into the nose piece when you hold the halter out in front of them.

Llamas learn fast. Unfortunately they pick up bad habits just as quickly. Try and be consistent in what you do and the commands you give. Work with their quirks instead of fighting them to do it your way. If they want to stick their head through a fence, you need to learn how to put on the

halter with it there. If they tend to spit when you approach, just get ready for it and ignore the behavior. Most won't direct the spit at you. They are just showing their displeasure or fear. Don't reward them by reacting to it.

Don't rush the process. If you are getting upset, stop and come back at another time.

Once you have the llama caught, do something fun as a reward. Leading them around to see the sights or to a place where

they can eat some green grass or fresh hay will make catching them much easier the next time. If you need to trim feet or give shots, do it after they have had their reward and settled down.

Working with llamas is fun but you have to catch them first. Have a small pen, lots of patience and a positive constant demeanor and you will do just fine.

Llama Linda Hayes llamas@skybeam.com
www.LlamaLindaRanch.com

Chair Needed for the Education Committee

By Linda Hayes

We are looking for someone to be the Chairman of the Education Committee. Linda Hayes, the board liaison will work closely with you.

The education committee is in charge of promoting llamas and alpacas through education. There are many ways this can be done. Articles, seminars, public relations events and etc. We are open to suggestions.

Education is necessary for the llama industry. When people learn how easy llamas are to own, they will buy them and the market will increase. Articles on care and training will help the new people do a better job of herd management.

We need to keep teaching our youth as they are the future of the industry. Even members of many years appreciate more educational events where they can network with other llama owners.

As Chair, you would help find people to do some of these things. It is a fun way to work with other llama owners and to increase your own knowledge as well.

Contact Linda Hayes, if you would like to put on an event or chair the committee.
llamas@skybeam.com

Please help RMLA maintain correct member information.

All new or additional information or changes concerning your membership information should be given to the Membership Committee – Dick Williams, Chair. Dick maintains the only master list for all member information.

When needed, the information is then forwarded to the appropriate Committee for use. This list is used to update RMLA.com, create Journal mailings and election ballot labels. It is also the data base for all information which goes into the makeup of the Membership Directory. Please notify Dick as soon as any of your information changes.

Dick Williams – Membership Chair bcllama@blackfoot.net 406-826-2201

Looking for the Gold 2012

By Jerry Dunn Bear Track Farms Golden, CO

A fun activity to experience on a warm September day.

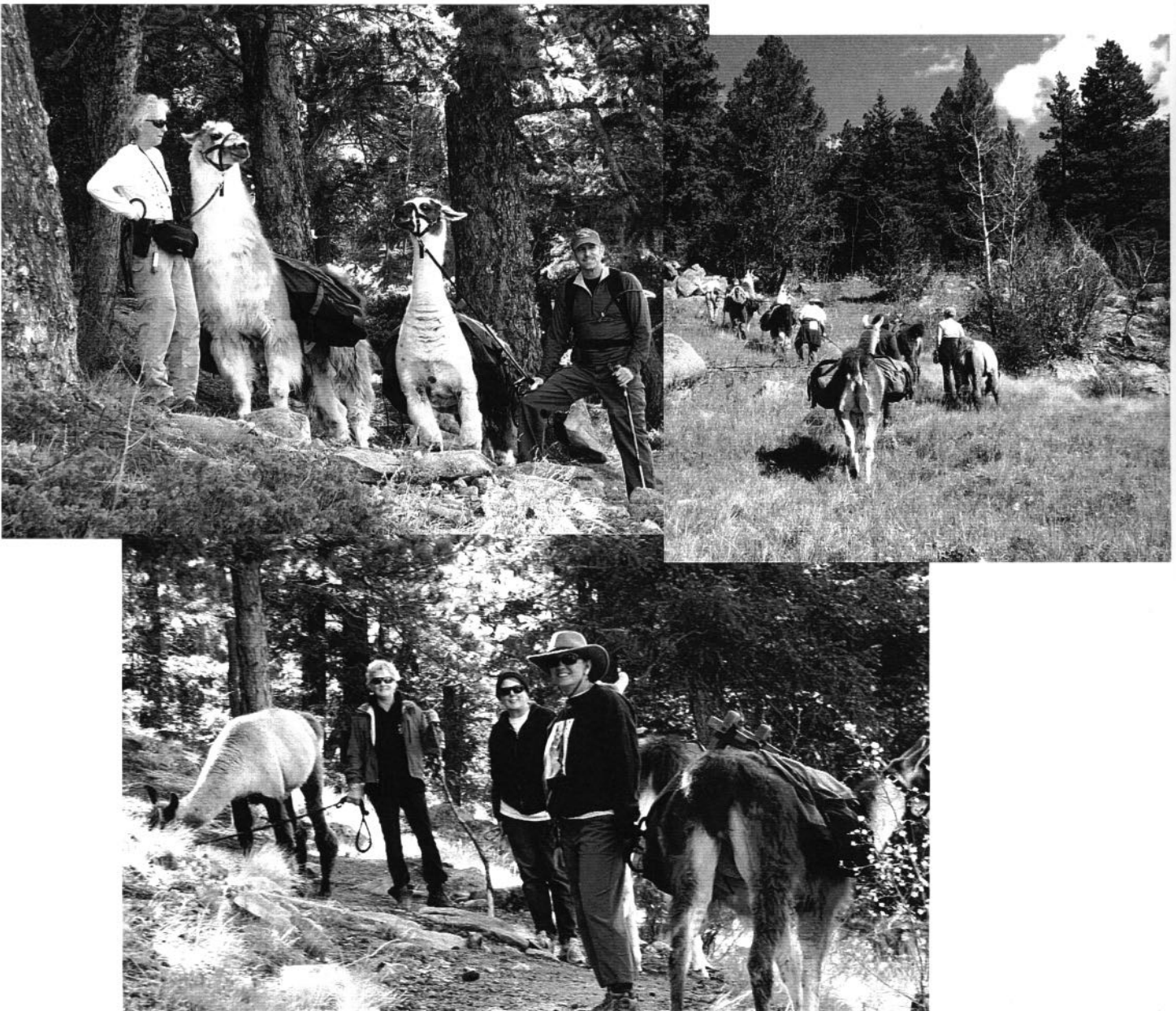
Yearly, a group of llama enthusiasts load up their animals and head for Golden Gate Canyon State Park, west of Golden, Colorado, to view the fall colors. Everyone arrived around 9:30 above Kriley Pond with their llamas and packed them up with their lunches, jackets and cameras. The air was filled with lots of laughter and chatter about the upcoming adventure. Many of the people who attend are mem-

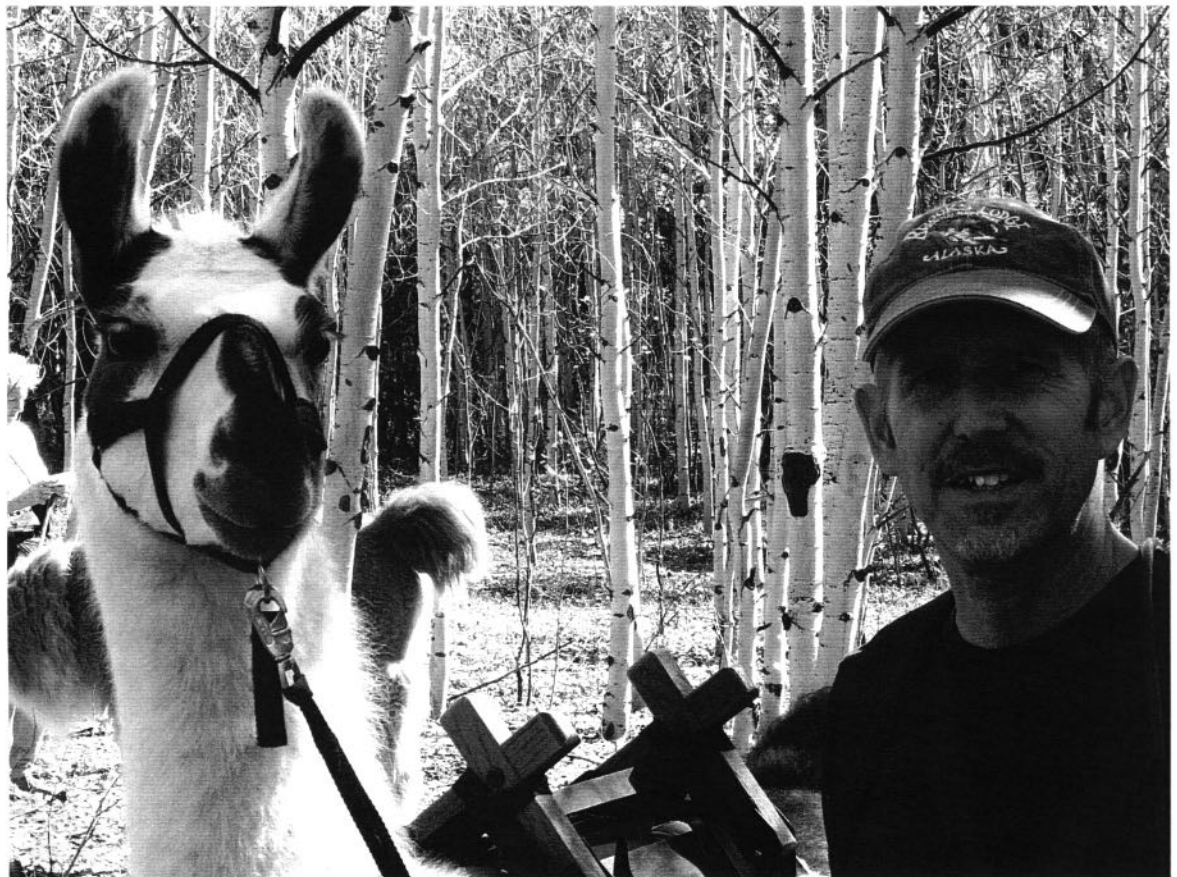
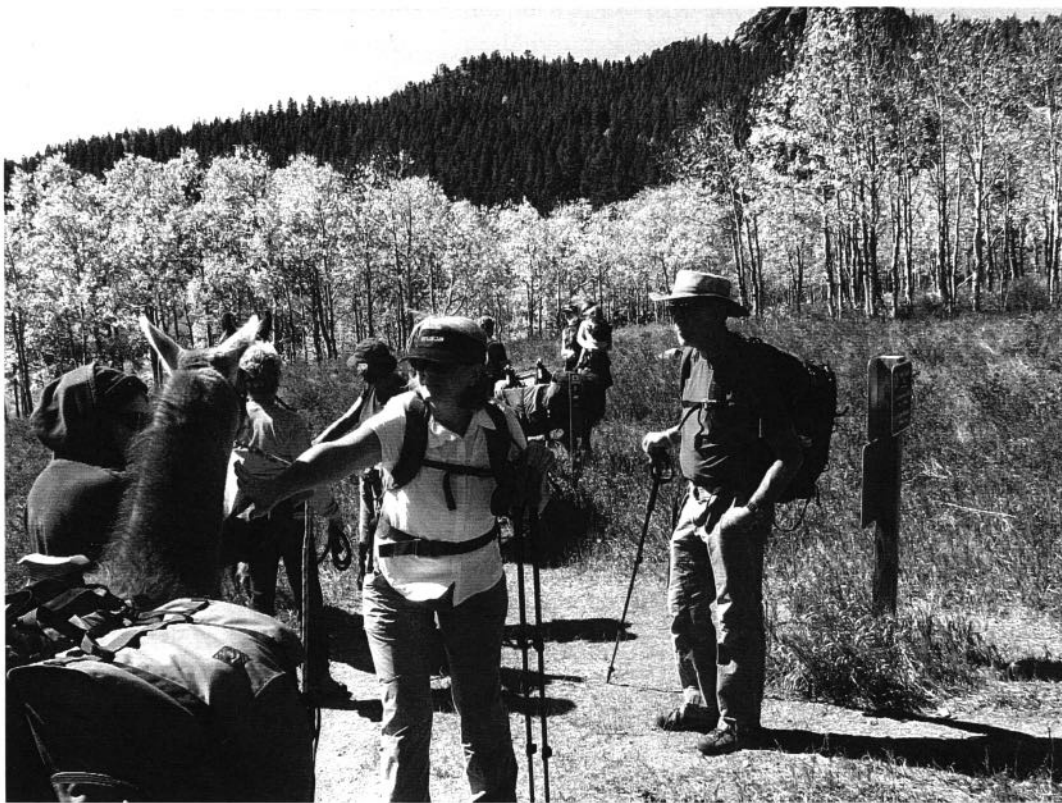
bers of the original group from eleven years ago. This year a few new people came along who were friends of friends and borrowed animals to take on the hike.

The hike was a week later than usual due to a schedule conflict, so the colors in the trees were not as vibrant as we have experienced in years past. We needed no excuse to have fun with the air filled with the aroma of fall and warm sunshine. The hike is two miles up a rocky trail through the woods to an open meadow centered

between groves of aspen and evergreen trees. This location is one of our favorites as well as a favorite for elk, moose and deer to bed down at night. The llamas were staked out in belly deep grass and a joyous lunch was had by all. The hike back to the parking lot went quickly faring a few tired animals on their first outing in the mountains.

Come join us next September. Watch for the date posted on the RMLA web page and in the journal.





USAHA Report

by Karen Conyngham Barton Creek Llamas Austin, TX

This report was compiled by Karen Conyngham ILR Representative to the USAHA board and Susan Tellez Camilid Alliance

The 116th annual meeting of the US Animal Health Association was held in Greensboro, NC October 18-24, 2012. 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. 1,141 people attended this years meeting.

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.

This year the plenary session focused on several hot topics in the news: antibiotic resistance in food animals, and the agreement between the United Egg Producers with the Humane Society of the US (HSUS) which is quite controversial within the production animal sector. Another presentation included an economic overview of food animal agriculture in the US and the economic impacts of a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak here. Earlier this month, the Dept. of Homeland Security awarded a contract to Harrisvaccines of Iowa to develop an RNA Particle vaccine against FMD. The live virus is not used in this technique;

only a gene sequence from the virus is needed to prepare the vaccine. Production of FMDV vaccines using traditional methods in the U.S. is not allowed due to the significant risk of releasing the virus into FMD-free U.S. during production. This is the result of more than 10 years of research and development by Dr. Marvin Grubman of Plum Island.

There was also high interest in the new Schmallerberg virus which has not been found in the US to date.

The following report covers committees in which camelids or diseases of interest to camelid owners were mentioned.

Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids

Dr. Dale Grotellueschen of Pfizer Animal Health gave an update from the subcommittee on Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) with a focus on the disease in cattle. It has been determined that vaccination does not prevent persistent infection in ALL calves. Vaccination is not being used in camelids. Thanks to the vigilance of AOBA and alpaca owners, the incidence of BVDV in alpacas is very low.

A presentation on Schmallerberg virus was given by a representative from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Iowa. This virus was first detected in Schmallerberg, Germany, in August of 2011 and has since move northward as far as Finland. It is a vector-borne disease, transmitted by midges. USDA is working to determine if the US hosts any of the midge species that could be involved in transmitting this disease. Schmallerberg is affecting cattle, sheep and goats, mainly via birth defects in neonates. A

PCR test has been developed to confirm infection with this virus and it can also be cultured. There are still questions remaining as to where the virus came from, how is it shed by infected animals and how long it might persist in the environment. As of now, no camelids have shown clinical signs of Schmallerberg, but several alpacas in the UK have shown serum antibody development against the virus.

Dr. Luis Rodriquez of the Plum Island research center gave a talk on Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) Ecology and Epidemiology. It has been found that the midges that carry VSV can transmit the virus to each other. It appears that the infection found in the US probably originated in Mexico. This year New Mexico reported a number of VSV cases in horses but it does not appear that any camelids have been infected. However camelids are covered under the temporary entry requirements for Colorado since camelids can contract VSV.

Dr. Rob Bildfel of Oregon State Univ. reported on *Cryptococcus gattii* in camelids. This was formerly known as *Cryptococcus neoformans* var. *gattii*. Occurring mainly in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, this is a fungal disease and it can be opportunistic in cases where antibiotics have been used for extended periods. Dr. Bildfel has seen 16 camelid cases, mainly in males with the highest incidence in animals aged 6-16 years, with no occurrences in those under 2 years old. There have been more cases in alpacas than llamas. Neurologic signs are common, along with anorexia and ataxia. Blindness and convulsions have also been noted. There is no treatment for this disease. There is a PCR assay available at OSU Diagnostic Lab. The best control is to re-

strict animal access to areas with decomposing plant material (especially tree hollows). This disease can also be contracted by people.

For more detailed information on *C. gattii*, see:

http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/15/8/08-1384_article.htm

USAHA/AAVLD Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinarian Workforce Development Committee

This committee discussed the recently issued report from the National Research Council, "Workforce Needs in Veterinary Medicine". Large animal vets are still in demand and also the need for veterinarians to enter the public health and regulatory sector was emphasized. The Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, has been working for more than 20 years to prepare veterinarians for jobs outside of clinical practice. About 30% of the veterinarians currently employed by USDA are now eligible for retirement and will need to be replaced soon. Dr. Valerie Ragan who works at the Center was instrumental in getting more than 30 students to attend this year's USAHA meeting so they could see the types of work being done by public health and regulatory veterinarians.

Committee on Import/Export

The report from Dr. John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer, USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services, regarding the European Union Trade issues, indicated that VS (Vesicular Stomatitis) and BTV (Bluetongue Virus) are still in effect and form the major impediment to live

animal trade in to those countries. Export/Import of livestock, including camelids, may still be completed through Canada.

Dr. Bob Bokma, head of Technical Services for NCIE (National Center for Import/Export) stated that regionalization, described as compartmentalization in foreign countries, for various disease status and regulation requirements, is under consideration for both livestock and animal products to increase trade.

More International Inspectors of livestock and products are being trained with emphasis on new markets.

There is a new revised 9 CFR (Chapter of Federal Regulations), aligned more with the O.I.E. worldwide disease status and trade rules.

Dr. Kazimierz Tarasink, Director of Poland's Veterinary Services described the effects of the explosion of African Swine Fever there, and indicated prevention and control measures to be considered by other countries.

The Director of USDA APHIS VS NCIE, Dr. Joyce Bowling-Howard, presented a chart of the plans for Reorganization of the Veterinary Services and the increased use of electronic health certificates.

Discussion was held regarding the implementation of the Scrapie Program regulations on international trade, but no definitive regulations were presented.

Committee on Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses

The report from the UC Davis Diagnostic Lab by Dr. Megan Schroeder presented information on the development

and performance in a simple streamlined method for detection of the Bluetongue virus (BTV) and Epizootic Hemorrhagic virus disease (EHDV). Because of a few positive BTV test results (in cattle), the U.S. is still considered as having the Bluetongue Virus. This fact prevents export of livestock, including camelids, to many EU countries and other nations.

The head of the Sector Disease Control and Identification of the EU COMMISSION Health Directorate, Dr. Francisco Javier Reviriego Gordejo, reported on Bluetongue Virus Infection and the newest midge-related Schmallenberg (SBV) disease. He emphasized his experience and lessons learned over the past 10 years with BTV and now the explosion of the newest SBV virus in Europe. A mass vaccination program for BTV-1 and 8 (including camelids) has eliminated the appearance of these viruses in cattle, sheep, goats and camelids in the EU.

Reports were given from AADR (Arthropod-borne Animal Disease Research) Lab, NVSL (National Veterinary Services Laboratory) and USDA/APHIS on their surveillance programs for BTV, EHDV, and the probable SBV appearance in the U.S. The U.S. and Europe have distinctly different serotypes of the BTV and EHDV viruses (those in Europe so far are not found in the U.S.) and protection against invasion by these diseases is enforced.

The next USAHA Annual Meeting will be held October 17-23, 2013 at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego, Calif. Information on USAHA is always available at: <http://www.usaha.org>

Karen Conyngham would like to thank the officers and members of the Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Assoc. for their most generous financial support this year. Their contribution helped defray some of Karen's non-deductible meeting expenses that she

Thanking Committee Chairs

A Special Thank you to RMLA Committee Chairs

The Board of Directors is so very grateful for the Committee Chairs and the continued work each gives to your organization. This is a strong, positive and easy to work with group of volunteers. We all appreciate each one of you and the enthusiasm you bring to RMLA.

Lougene, Jerry, Geri, Ann and Linda

Calendar Committee – Chair Open

When you see Patti Morgan, please be sure and thank her for all the work she and her daughter Linsay have done over the last several years for the RMLA Calendars. Each year, for a number of years, they collected photographs and put a great looking pictorial together. They have become collector's items with so many wondrous photos of our members, their llamas and alpacas and RMLA events. Linsay has gone on a fast track to her own career while Patti has switched over to helping with all things fiber. Thank you Patti and Linsay for a great job and creating a treasure for RMLA. By Linda Hayes, Liaison

Events Committee Coordinator – Jerry Dunn

Jerry has coordinated RMLA sponsored events for many years. She works behind the scenes that each event has the necessary paperwork to be an RMLA sponsored event. When the paperwork is in, she obtains a Certificate of Insurance if needed, ships RMLA supplies, liability signs, the RMLA booth, etc., to each event Chair person. Her history and knowledge of how to put on an event is passed on to the events when needed. She sends event information on to the RMLA web-

master to be posted on RMLA.com.

Events are times when RMLA members are able to share, learn and just have a good time. Jerry, we all thank you for your year-to-year detail to RMLA events. Your Board Buddies.

Fiber Committee – Patti Morgan, Chair.

It takes one Buffalo to make a Stampede, in RMLA we have Patti Morgan to get the stampede going for the Fiber Booth. We are thanking Patti for her time getting the booth rolling, setting up the shows, registration, coordination, drivers, set-up crews, tear-down crews and booth managers. And Patti has introduced us all to - square_credit card charging - what a wonderful tool. Getting the silent auction organized helps to make sure the Committee stays ahead of the financial game at the end of the year. Thanks to everyone on the Fiber Stampede and Patti for heading it up, great year. By Geri Rutledge, Liaison

Journal Committee – Sue Grimm, Chair

Sue Grimm began as the RMLA Journal editor with the Summer 2011 edition. She came to the job with only a computer and a desire to give back to the organization that has meant much to her and her girls. She purchased publishing software, set up a dedicated e-mail and rolled up her sleeves. The learning curve for the software alone was a major task. She now has good working knowledge of the software, has learned how to manage ads and ad money, talking to the printer with the 'printer lingo' required to make herself understood, dealt with the post office on permits and other things such as viruses that arrive with articles. Each Journal has grown in content, ads and commitment from members. Sue has been a

hard and fast believer that the Journal costs must be in line with the overall budget of RMLA. Her enthusiasm, willingness to learn and care for the organization have made Sue a great asset. Thank you Sue for a job well done. Lougene Baird, Liaison

Library – Dick Williams, Chair. Dick Williams has been in charge of the RMLA Library for six years. The first thing he did when the RMLA Library arrived at his home was to purchase two 6 foot high book cases (and put them together!). He unpacked, dusted off the inventory and organized the entire library, made repairs as needed and organized all of the books, periodicals, etc. Over the past year, RMLA has received several donations of boxes of lama related periodicals. Dick has organized and categorized these and is creating an inventory list of these gifts. VHS tapes have been converted to DVD with the help of Ron Hinds. The DVDs will make the historical information more useable for the RMLA membership. The entire content of the Library is listed on RMLA.com. Dick, we thank you for being Librarian and keeping a great RMLA asset safe and readily available. Jerry Dunn, Liaison

Membership Directory/ Publishing – Jane Levene, Chair.

This year was Jane Levine's second year to do the layout and design of the RMLA Membership Directory. Jane is very talented in data management and has been able to layout the Directory to see that it is easy to travel with and contains the pertinent information in which members are interested. This year the directory was reformatted a number of times because of incomplete information transmitted on some of the membership infor-

mation. She has a keen eye to detail and tries to see that every piece of information about a member is accurate. She works closely with the Membership Committee to co-ordinate all information.

Jane, we appreciate your time, energy and attention to detail. Thank you for bringing to the membership a most useable publication. Lougene Baird, Liaison

Nomination & Elections – Maggie Merrill Brown, Chair

Every year we call on Maggie to do the "Count". Each time we wonder if she will run from this project? But nope, she sticks in there each year, verifying memberships, counting our ballots and watching deadlines. Getting the election material ready to go is nothing compared to the work Maggie does. The task is kind of like Santa, make her list, checking it twice, do they get one vote or two, are they a paid member this year? Is this a youth or adult and keeping all those names straight. Maggie is the perfect person to work with on elections. She always meets her deadlines and does a good job putting it all in nice neat little package to be stored for the required time periods. Thanks for the work you do for RMLA and sticking with us for so many years. Geri Rutledge, Liaison

Pack Committee - Dick Williams, Chair.

Dick Williams became Chair of the Committee several years ago. His goal at that time was to grow continued interest in pack and pack activities for not only RMLA members but others as well. He has organized several pack trips for people with an interest in getting out into the great outdoors with llamas. He has taught packing techniques, packing equipment and shares this information with any person who

wants to learn. Dick's goal for 2013 is to put together an RMLA sponsored trail maintenance trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area/Montana. The Committee is also working with RMLA members to write about their pack experiences to share with others. By Jerry Dunn, Liaison.

Rescue Committee – Olin Allen, Chair.

Olin Allen has been working with various rescue organizations for several years. He has been monumental in finding homes for many neglected, unwanted or stranded llamas in the Rocky Mountain area. Not only has he given his time but he has also spent his own money to make sure that all llamas are wanted and have good homes. He has taken them in himself, has hauled countless miles and has gotten banked up dealing with the wild ones. His wife, Becky Boutz, has also helped. Both with moral support and in a physician sense. They both deserve a huge thank you. Rescue is not an easy job, it is heartbreaking, physically demanding and costly. Try trimming toes on an adult who has never even had a halter on. Or catching llamas that have been turned out to fend for themselves on thousands of acres of open land. A hard job but one Olin & Becky do frequently. We thank you for your tireless work and dedication to the animals. Linda Hayes, Liaison

Website - Ron Hinds, Chair.

Ron Hinds has stepped up to make RMLA.com more usable and beautiful than ever imagined. His knowledge of website management and his keen creativity is apparent on every tab that can be clicked on: Ron has reorganized RMLA.com to make it more logical and predictable to

use. He has refreshed the site with more options than ever and the color choices are welcoming and easy on the eye. Ron also manages the information that is forwarded to RMLA members on the e-Mail News Line. He has designed a great RMLA header, keeps all information simple and easy to read. Ron has suggested a number of things to the BOD that had not been done. Ron is sensitive to what is appropriate for the website and what is not. The RMLA Events Calendar is a real upgrade to RMLA.com. All RMLA events are on the calendar and where appropriate, each date may be expanded to see all information concerning that event.

Thank you Ron, for giving RMLA a website that is at the top of the industry. Lougene Baird, Liaison

Youth & 4-H – Brianna L. Cozzetto, Chair.

Tip your hats to Brianna. From the Youth member perspective, to Young adult now making progress with her own family, Brianna has what it takes to make our Youth Group active and successful. To her own credit she designed the 30th Anniversary Shirts, managed the entire production and sales, kept track of the accounting and sold the shirts. This has allowed her to help the Youth with funds for more activities. Brianna is the one person with great ideas and wonderful things are happening for the kids. This is our future, we need to keep them involved and grow our families. This includes all members of our llama/alpaca families. Good Job Briana. Geri Rutledge, Liaison

Sexual Awareness in Llamas

By Ron Baird

Ron has been the Chair of the RMLA Research Committee for many years. He has represented RMLA on issues concerning lama health and other issues such as Johnes Disease, Viral Vesicular Stomatitis, choanal atresia and interstate transportation of llamas.

All of us who have bred llamas and alpacas know the females are induced ovulators...they can get pregnant at any time of the year, unlike sheep, horses and cattle that ovulate on a regular cycle that is quite predictable. While it does not seem there is much research being conducted on llamas in this economy, the University of Saskatchewan maintains a llama (yes, two ll's) Research Herd and recently announced a major breakthrough discovery, as reported by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (08-20-12) and Science News (09-22-12).

There is a molecule in semen of the machos called Nerve Growth Factor (NGF). When NGF is received by the female llama, it kick-starts release of the egg and vitalized pregnancy-

protective hormones in the female. The protein is also found in human semen. A team co-led by Gregg Adams of the university discovered that it does not require a macho to be present to induce a female to ovulate. The team collected sperm from five male llamas, filtered out the sperm, injected increasingly pure portions of NGF into female llamas' legs. They ovulated. While it has been known NGF is produced by nerve cells to tell neighboring cells to grow, this discovery found that semen NGF goes all the way through the blood stream into the brain, where it delivers a message to "get busy cranking out more hormones." Called "...a blockbuster paper" by reproductive biologist Bruce Murphy of the University of Montreal and hailed by Raj Duggavathi of McGill University who said "If we find the NGF is also effective in women (the human kind) it will obviously have huge implications for treating male infertility conditions." In fact, Adams' team plans to investigate NGF's role in human reproduction to determine if the protein is

connected to fertility in people as well as llamas. Dan Bernard of McGill University, a reproductive biologist stated that it's not clear yet if NGF is also important for people, "It's still early, I think the fact that they've identified the protein will put this work on the map." It is anticipated this initial research will provide fertile ground from many researchers in the reproductive field.

In addition to tweaking ovulation timing NGF could also promote growth of the pregnancy-protecting corpus luteum. It is known, from the University of Saskatchewan work, that NGF nurtured growth of the little yellow gland in the ovary of llamas called the corpus luteum. Adams' team will also be examining this in its human studies, which might lead to, or reveal, a methodology that could help prevent miscarriages.

One more beautiful example of how llamas are indeed helping humans in their everyday life! But, isn't this really more than you wanted to know!!

Peace on Earth

Good Will to All

2012 has been a rough year across the country and in Colorado. Take a minute to give thanks for all we have, and hope 2013 brings joy to all.



Volunteer Needed

One of the ways that RMLA makes money is with calendar sales. This money is used for many worthwhile causes. A major one is the fact that when you as an individual RMLA member have an event at your ranch, you can get insurance. This is paid for by the RMLA and keeps you from having to buy it yourself. In most cases, if you bought it from your insurance company, the cost would make it impossible to hold an event. Income from the calendar helps pay for this.

We need someone to step forward and take on the project of the 2014 calendar.

This would be a great project for some young person who is trying to build a portfolio to use when job hunting. Think how impressive it would be to walk into a job interview and hand the interviewer a calendar. It would show them that you are able to take on a project from start to finish and do a quality job. Any employer would be impressed. And for folks going into graphic design, there is no better way to add to your portfolio than to have a finished project. As an added bonus, it says that an organization was willing to let you take on a project, in other words, you were working for the RMLA. More job experience for your resume.

Not job hunting? Well, let me ask you this, when was the last time you did something for the llama industry? It seems like the same people do all the work. Why not step in and take on the project? We are all busy. You won't "find the time" but you can "make time". And what a feeling of accomplishment when it is finished. Let me hear from you. I'll help you with the project.

Need more information? Contact Linda Hayes llamas@skybeam.com as I will be the board member working with you.

Don't let the RMLA go without a calendar in 2014. Now is the time for you to step up and give back to the llama community.

The RMLA Rescue Committee Needs Your Help

Step up and adopt a llama or alpaca.

It is your chance to give back to an animal
that has enriched your life in so many ways.

Your help is urgently needed.

Contact Olin Allen or Becky Boutz

olinallen@earthlink or call 970-493-2886

Reminder from the Membership Committee

The RMLA membership year runs from April 1st to March 31st. In order for your information to appear in the 2013-14 Membership Directory your application must be received prior to May 1st.

Join or renew online at the RMLA website (www.RMLA.com), click on the JOIN-REVIEW tab where you may complete the application OR download and print the membership form if you so chose.

Mail your application to

Ann Bruhn - RMLA Treasurer, P.O.Box 746, Victor CO 80860-0746.

You are welcome to print out copies of the application for events and distribution.

Dick Williams – Membership Chair - membership@rmla.com

Membership Renewal Reminder

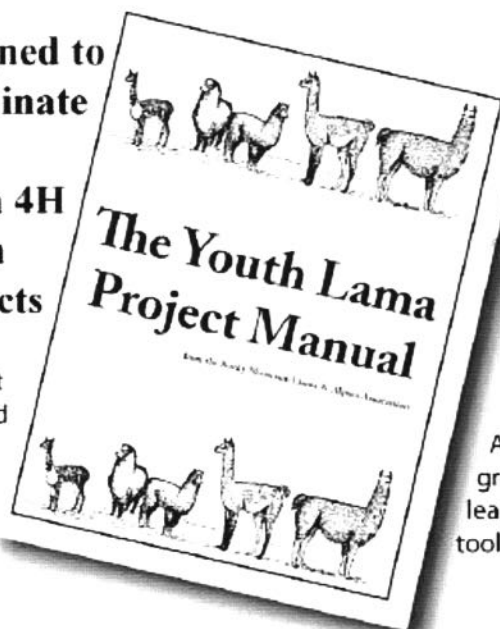
It's time to renew your RMLA membership!
Remember, in order to be assured of being
listed in the 2013 Membership Directory
your renewal application must be received by April 30th!

You can renew through the website or send a
printed application to the Treasurer

Ann Bruhn.

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Hi All! We have some very interesting questions in this issue. Enjoy.

Question: I have a weight management question. Our llamas can spend time in their 'day pen' where there is nothing to eat except the hay that we feed AND they can spend time out in their pasture where they can also run around to play and eat. We like them to have time in their pasture each day = freedom! So to my question: are there any guidelines as to how many hours on pasture is equivalent to eating a flake of hay?

Response from Dr. Jessica Collier, DVM, Livestock Intern: While every animal enjoys some pasture time, it is always important to make sure that they are maintaining a proper weight. It's great to hear that you are conscientious of how much food your animals are eating. The question of how much pasture time equals hay consumption is a good one, however, there is no single answer. Unfortunately, there are too many variables involved to easily solve this equation!

For starters, what kind of hay are you feeding and how large are your flakes? Alfalfa is considerably more energy dense and heavier than a flake of grass hay or oat hay. What is the size and body condition of the camelid in question? One might be more inclined to limit the pasture time or place a grazing muzzle on an overweight animal. Alternatively, an underweight animal could benefit from extra feeding time out in the pasture.

The caloric output of individual animals also comes into play. Crias and lactating animals will be expending much more energy than an older animal. The average adult camelid will generally eat 1.5-2% of its body weight in dry matter intake per day.

Another important question: how lush is the pasture that your animals are grazing on? Forage density in Rocky Mountain pasture is very different than in the Pacific Northwest, Plains States, or the East Coast! Also, pasture density and quality in the intermountain area can vary tremendously based on the amount of irrigation available. So, unfortunately, there is no simple way to say how many hours of grazing is equivalent to a specific amount of dry hay intake.

Most importantly, you should monitor your animal's body condition or body weight individually and allow them pasture access accordingly. Too much time on good pasture may result in weight gains, but too much time on poor pasture could result in weight loss if supplemental hay is not present in the pasture.

Question: My husband and I have a mobile shearing service. We have returning clients and new ones every year. I have clients who insist on leaving at least an inch of fiber. I have heard, they'll be too cold, they'll get sunburned, flies bother them, they're too old, it won't grow fast enough... and more. I also have clients that want them sheared to the skin (like sheep!). I try to sway my clients to have it taken down to the 1/4 inch that my blades leave but I also have to respect what the customer wants. I would appreciate some points to make that will help my clients understand the importance of leaving a little fiber on. I also want to know what can be used to help the lighter colored llamas not get sunburned.

Response from Dr. Sarah Raabis, DVM, Livestock Intern: The staple length of fiber at shearing is ultimately up to the owner's preference and aesthetics. However, it is important to con-

sider the environmental conditions and fiber characteristics at shearing.

If shearing at the end of the year (Fall or early Winter), it is important to leave a longer staple length (3/4 inch) to ensure the animal will grow out enough fiber to maintain body temperature during the colder months. If shearing in the spring, a shorter staple length (1/4 inch) will most likely grow out in time for the winter season.

And yes, sunburn is a risk for lighter colored llamas and alpacas. Preventing sunburn is an important farm management task. Animals should always have access to shade while outside and lighter colored animals may need to be kept in a well-ventilated barn while the sun is strongest (10:00am - 2:00pm). It is preferable to leave greater than 1/4 inch of staple length on animals with a lighter fiber color, as the fiber will help protect the skin from sun damage. This also may be more important for older animals that may grow fiber out slower and need more staple length to protect against the sun and colder temperatures.

Question: Do llamas blink? How do llamas blink? We have heard that horses are afraid of llamas because they don't blink. But when I watch mine carefully, they do seem to blink.

Response from Dr. Andi Lear, DVM, Livestock Resident: Llamas do in fact blink. The basic action of blinking is caused by the function of the facial nerve, cranial nerve number 7, which originates from the brain stem. This nerve innervates the eyelids and tear ducts of the eyes as well as muscles around the muzzle, lips, and ears.

Blinking is a very important process that we take for granted. It is required to allow tear distribution across the eye surface as well as help remove foreign debris from the eye when needed.

One of the most important functions of blinking is to prevent trauma to the eye by protecting the easily damaged cornea, the surface of the eye. This importance is most evident with the menace response, a blink response that animals and humans learn to do when something moves towards the eye.

This response can be demonstrated when you flash your hand in front of your animal's eyes.

Blinking can be impaired primarily from facial nerve dysfunction. This can be caused by damage to the facial nerve from reasons such as trauma or middle

and inner ear infections. Impaired blinking can result in additional problems such as chronic dry eyes or corneal ulcers (damage to the surface of the eye). Other signs of facial nerve dysfunction include a deviated muzzle, droopy ears, and lack of tear production.

As far as why some horses are afraid of llamas, it is an unknown mystery. A nonofficial poll of the equine clinicians at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital speculated llamas' strange movement, different smell, and unusual vocalization compared to what

horses are accustomed. But one thing is for sure, horses are not afraid of llamas because they do not blink.

If you have a question, please submit it to Kathy at turkeytrots2@gmail.com. I recently heard from Dr. Callan at CSU that our questions are becoming quite challenging!!!! Yeah to us for keeping them on their toes.

Volunteer in the Bob Marshall Complex in MT!

The RMLA Pack Committee is attempting to organize a partnership trail maintenance pack trip with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation for the summer 2013. The project will hopefully be either the last week of June or the first week of July and will involve a day in, a day out, three or four days of trail work and a day free to explore the area. This will be a 'Bring Your Own Llama' trip (one llama per volunteer). A project leader, food and tools will be provided by the BMWF. This will be a great opportunity to pack into the 'Bob' as well as helping keep some of its 700 miles of trail in shape - but we need at least 6 members to express interest ASAP to reserve a date and project for this summer. For more information or to volunteer for the project contact Dick

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Fleece Judging Explanations

By Judy Glaser , Rockwood Llamas Kiowa, co

Apprentice's Corner – What we learned at summer camp.....

As a new Apprentice Llama Fleece Judge there were many things that we learned that helped explain finally “what are all those categories on a Walking Fleece judging card?”

We wanted anyone entering this category to understand these judging criteria. The following explanations are from the apprentices that attended the Beginner/Advanced Fleece Judging Clinic this August in Florrisant, Co.

Cleanliness – Pretty self explanatory BUT making sure your llama is clean and free of debris does not mean brushed and washed. This criteria just means lack of debris, vegetation and odor. Odor can also mean no hint of a grooming product. So to all of us that groom and wash, try to give the llama a chance to look and smell like one to some degree.

Fineness and Hand – Fineness can be easy to understand but hand? Hand is a term that fiber artists may use to describe how the fiber feels as well as how it reacts when worked with. The softness, strength, density and flexibility all are considered when working with fiber. Ask a fleece judge to go into detail about these if they have a minute.

Density – We've all seen those really puffy light woolled llamas. Yes, they may be dense but can a suri llama be dense? Density depends upon how much skin can you see when the fiber is parted. So in each fiber class, density has its role.

Guard Hair – I always thought this was a weird category, yes, my llama has guard hair.... well it is actually the percentage and fineness of those guard hairs in relation to the rest of the fiber.

Style and Architecture – Here's another one that was a mystery...Style is seen as an individual fiber. Does the fiber have crimp? Suri fiber on the other hand does not have crimp.

Architecture is the entire lock structure. Is it uniformed through out the prime area of judging? Well, then, how is a shorn llama judged? Difficult but can be done. The judge looks at the areas closest to blanket area, usually the shoulders. (Hopefully there is fiber there) Sometimes there are fully shorn llamas entered in the walking fiber class. Depending on the judge and how much growth of fiber is there and can be seen will determine whether the llama is dismissed or not. After all, it is called walking fiber, so I would think there has to be something there

Luster – This is the amount of light that is reflected off fiber that is wrapped over the finger. The judge should pick different parts of the prime judging area to make sure this is consistent. Again, a newly barrel-shorn llama can reflect light in this area if it has luster throughout

Overall Impression and Uniformity – Now that all the individual aspects of the fleece is evaluated, the judge looks at the big picture. To the judge, does this fleece call to them? Makes them want to touch it? Or would they rather not touch it? This is the WOW factor.

Uniformity means that where ever you look or touch, the fiber should be uniform through out the blanket.

Tensile Strength – This is when the judge gets up close to the fiber and listens as well as tugs a bit on the a few fibers. Listens? Good grief, what is this? Fiber has some degree of elasticity. As those fibers are stretched, the judge will hear (or not) crackling or popping sounds. This is the dryness or suppleness of the fiber. From a breeder's point of view, this is genetics, nutrition as well as where you live. Dry climates are tough on a fleece.

Condition – The entire blanket is evaluated, shorn and unshorn. Skin condition can also affect fiber growth and density. Does it look alive and healthy or dull, drab and lifeless?

Excessive brushing can also dull a fleece and the fiber structure.

So there you have it, overall learning more about fiber and these criteria can help prepare better for shows. Now we need some information on what kind of “grooming” can help before a walking fleece class. That's the next chapter.....

Apprentices:

Judy Glaser, Katy White, Marcy Saska-Agnew, Rob Knuckles

Knit Some Socks

By Sue Grimm Dumont, Co

I love to knit socks. They are the best take any where project you can have. And once you have worn hand knit socks non other will do. Socks are a great way to try out a new design or pattern, and once you know your size they are fun to design. Both my daughters love llama and alpaca socks. Since both of them live north where a typical winter is cold they love nothing better then a pair of mom's socks. I use 5 inch double pointed needles and either 58 or 62 stitches. For a plain sock I like a k2p2 rib all the way to the heel start. I like a longer sock then the "standard" length as I am a taller person. And I like a longer heel then most patterns call for. But the joy of knitting you own socks is you can make all those adjustments.

Its easy to figure out how many stitches you need just measure your calf and then divide the inches by the stitches per inch and you have your cast on number. I use 3 needles with the stitches divided on the needles as follows 1/4 stitches on the 1st needle, 1/2 the stitches on needle 2, and 1/4 stitches on needle 3.

I like a little looser cast on so I use 2 needles to cast on with. I then I do a k2p2 for about 6-7 inches to the heel start. You hold 1/2 the stitches on 2 needle and combine

the stitches from needle 1 and 3 .

I do about 2 1/2 inches of heel.

There are several ways to do the heel I typically do slip one knit one all the way across the knit row. Slip 1 then purl to the end, continue these 2 rows until the heel is to your desired length. Next you turn the heel. The basic heel turn is to knit to 2 stitches beyond the center of the heel stitches ssk, k1

Row 2 sl 1 p5 p2tog p 1

Row 3 Sl 1 knit to 1 stitch before the gap formed from the previous row ssk k1

Row 4 sl 1 purl to 1 stitch before the gap formed by the previous row p2tog p1

Repeat rows until you have worked all heel stitches, end with a knit row.

Next pick up the stiches along the side of the heel to the start of needle 2.

K2 p2 across needle.

Pick up the stitches along the other side of the heel. Divide the stitches left on needle from the heel between needles 1 and 3, along with the stitches you picked up along the edges.

Decrease Gusset stitches.

On needle one knit to the last 3 stitches k2 tog knit 1

Follow pattern on needle 2 to the

end

Needle 3 k1 ssk knit to end

Next row knit needle 1 and 3 follow pattern on needle 2 (in my case k2, p2)

Continue to decrease the gusset until you get back to 1/4 the number of stitches on needles 1 and 3.

Continue to knit needles 1 and 3 and pattern on needle 2 until the foot is 2 inches less then the length of your foot.

Basic toe

Knit to 3 stitches before the end of needle 3 k2tog k1

Needle 2 k1 ssk1 knit to the last 3 stitches of needle 2 k2tog knit 1

Needle 3 k ssk knit to the end of row.

Row2 is knit all stitches

Continue knitting these 2 rows until you have some where between 12 and 20 total stitches. I like a less pointed to so I leave 5 stitches on needle 1 10 on 2 and 5 on 3. Combine the stitches on needle 1 and 3 bind off with the kitchener stitch.

K= knit

P= purl

K2tog= knit 2 stitches together

Ssk= skip skip knit

USDA Loan Repayment for Rural Veterinarians

Press release from

Jennifer Martin

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 2012 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today more than 40 awards to help veterinarians repay a portion of their veterinary school loans in return for serving areas of the United States lacking sufficient veterinary resources. The awards, totaling more than \$4.6 million, were made by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) through the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and will benefit 30 states. "Many veterinarians are facing insurmountable student loan debt, and they choose to work in urban locations that offer higher pay. This is causing a critical shortage of veterinarians in rural America," said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director. "This assistance will help veterinarians return to rural America where they can provide needed services to our farmers and ranchers and continue to keep our food supply safe for all Americans." Veterinarians are critical to America's food safety and food security, and to the health and well-being of both animals and humans. Major studies indicate significant and growing shortages of food supply veterinarians and veterinarians serving in certain other high-priority specialty areas. A leading cause for this shortage is the heavy cost of four years of professional veterinary medical training, which can average more than \$150,000, according to the latest American Veterinary Medical Association survey of graduating veterinary students. Recipients are required to commit to three years of veterinary service in a designated veterinary shortage area. Loan repayment benefits are limited to payments of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received for attendance at an American Veterinary Medical Association-accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent. Loan repayments made by the VMLRP are taxable income to participants. Also included in the award is a federal tax payment equal to 39 percent of the loan payment made directly to the award recipient's IRS tax account to offset the increase in income tax liability. In fiscal year 2012, NIFA received 139 applications, of which 47 received awards, a success rate of 33.8 percent. Below is a breakdown of the fiscal year 2012 awards:

- 47 awards totaling \$4,610,954 (includes loan and tax payments)
- Average award: \$98,105 (includes loan and tax payments)
- Average eligible debt for repayment: \$119,500
- 83 percent of recipients received the maximum payment of \$25,000 per year (plus taxes)
- 72 percent of awards went to those who obtained their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine within the last three years
- 30 states will fill at least one shortage area through VMLRP
- Texas will fill four shortage areas
- Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Oklahoma and South Dakota will fill three shortage areas
- Shortage type breakdown
- Type 1 (at least 80 percent private practice): 5 awards
- Type 2 (at least 30 percent private practice): 38 awards
- Type 3: (at least 49 percent public practice): 4 awards

A map showing all designated shortage areas and areas that were filled is [online](#). Participants are required to serve in one of three types of shortage situations. Type 1 shortage areas are private practices dedicated to food animal medicine at least 80 percent of the award recipient's time. Type 2 shortages are private practices in rural areas dedicated to food animal medicine up to 30 percent of the time. Type 3 shortage areas are dedicated to public practice up to 49 percent of the time. The National Institutes of Health Division of Loan Repayment provided their expertise in service to NIFA during the applicant review process by reviewing loan documents submitted by the applicants. Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future. For more information, visit www.nifa.usda.gov.

I am the proud parent of a veterinarian who received one of the loan repayments as a rural Montana vet. Congratulations to my daughter Dr. Heather Grimm. A former RMLA youth!

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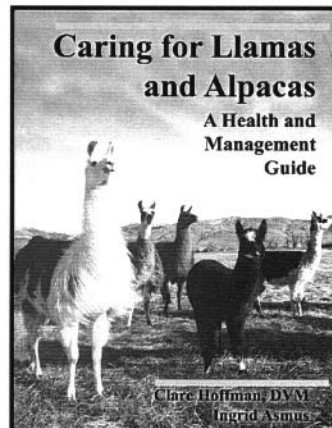
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