

CONNECTION

Spring MAY 2022

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- ⇒ It Can Happen
- ⇒ Shade Trees in a Time of Drought
- ⇒ To Act, or Not to Act
- ⇒ VOA: Animal Waste in Demand



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association

Connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other

May 14, 2022



In California's tradition as a pioneer of progress, Calpaca was the first, and the oldest, regional alpaca

association in the Northern Hemisphere. Past and current members of Calpaca have been leaders in the American alpaca industry since 1989.

Calpaca represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences. We host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public.

Calpaca membership meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the month. *We invite you to join us!*

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Cover alpacas, clockwise from left:

Alpacas of Somerset Farm's *Fancy, Flash Dancer* and *Sunday Serenade*;
925 Sterling Alpacas' *Fideo*; and Macedo's Mini Acre's *Easter Lilly*

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VIRTUAL Quarterly Membership Meeting 05.14.2022
Information on accessing meeting will be sent prior to meeting date.

Affiliations

Alpaca Owners Association (AOA)

8300 Cody Dr Suite A
Lincoln NE 68512
402-437-8484
402-437-8488 Fax
AlpacaInfo.com

Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

International Lama Registry (ILR)

LamaRegistry.com

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Message from the President

Greetings Calpaca Members,

The California Classic Alpaca Show, Calpaca's first major event in 2022, proved to be a huge success. Thank you, Maureen and Larry Macedo and your team of volunteers, for pulling together a great event. The California Classic set in motion what we project to be a great year of events for Calpaca members and other alpaca enthusiasts.

Speaking of the California Classic... The 2022 show was the last Classic to be held at this location in Merced. The BOD supports a Calpaca-sponsored spring halter show. However, we need to find a new location and someone to take on the job of event manager for the show. More information will be coming out to the membership about that soon.

Calpaca members will be seeing some changes as we move into the rest of 2022. On September 10 & 11, there will be a new event: the *Calpaca Autumn Fleece Extravaganza*. This will be a free-standing fleece show that has been separated out from the fall Gold Country Gathering show.

The Gold Country Gathering is scheduled for October 15 & 16. It will be at a new location, and details will be provided soon.

Beginning in May, the convenience of virtual quarterly business meetings will see some changes in the education portion of the meetings. We will be trying new formats to provide ongoing education and be more inclusive for those who prefer virtual meetings over in-person.

In closing this message, the other board members and I want to welcome our newest board member, Patti Hazard (HazardAlpacas.com). Patti will be filling the Director at Large position vacated when Jackie Jones resigned. Thank you, Jackie, for the time you served on the board and your many contributions.

Wishing you a great spring and early summer,



Dianna Jordan, 2022 Calpaca President
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president@calpacaboard.org
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Alpacas of Somerset Farm
Popcorn *Hope* *Razz & Tazz*

California Classic 2022

by Maureen Macedo, CA Classic Event Manager

Third time was, indeed, the charm!

Superintendents Cheri and Harold Seiler were on hand to keep registrations and entries in order, and then to report results to the Alpaca Owners Association following the show.

Halter judges Laurel Shouvin and Bev Brehm provided participants with their ribbons and banners, as well as providing all present with some excellent oral reasons for their placements in the ring. It was so nice for them to be able to hand the awards out to participants!

Over in the Walking Fleece ring, judges Ken Hibbits and Dave Barboza were kept hopping with 122 entries in that portion of the show. Exhibitors usually find this an excellent event, since they have the opportunity to listen to the judges while they are evaluating their alpacas' fleeces.

Larry and I really wish to thank all of the volunteers who stepped up and helped with compliance checks, ring steward, gate keeper, hospitality and much, much more. I think just about everyone present helped out in some form or another – that's what alpaca folks do!

We brought a new alpaca owner into the job as

announcer—thank you, Leslie Cobb for volunteering for this challenging position.

And our herdsire auction—WOW! Tommie Smith managed to obtain seven outstanding studs for the LIVE auction. Chris Sturgeon, with color commentators Dale Davis and Scott Miller, brought in over nineteen thousand dollars. Are alpaca owners competitive and able to know a good deal when they see one? We started out with some hot bidding on pies and cakes, and also had some extra nice items donated for this portion of the event. Thank you all for donating as well as for bidding!

The silent auction was filled with many interesting items and stunning pictures. It brought in over nine hundred dollars. Many amazing items were offered, and went home with their new owners. We also had Calpaca t-shirts and signs for folks to purchase. If you missed out at the Classic, watch for them at Gold Country Gathering this fall.

The 2022 may have been the last Classic, but it sure showed that members of Calpaca are able to put on a competitive show, with fun to be had by all. Detailed financials will be reported at the May membership meeting. We did extremely well!

FREE Business Card Ads for Calpaca Members

Calpaca members get a *free* business card ad in every quarterly issue of the *Calpaca Connection* newsletter! Just email an image of your farm business card to the *Connection* editor.



Thank you, sponsors!

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2022 California Classic Alpaca Show Herdsire Auction Results

By Maureen Macedo, **Macedo's Mini Acre**



CRESCENT MOON'S SKEETER

Wow! A Champion Appaloosa!

Winning Bidder: Dale Davis

What a rare and special herdsire! A breeding will be available in the 2022 California Classic **LIVE HERDSIRE AUCTION**.

CRESCENT MOON'S SKEETER is both a **COLOR CHAMPION** as well as a **RESERVE CHAMPION**, with **five 1st Place ribbons**. He comes from the legendary Crescent Moon breeding program. Sire Crescent Moon's Accoyo Augustine is a **13X Champion** and his dam Crescent Moon's Mertyl boasts **Top 5% EPDs**. Skeeter himself has very **impressive histogram and EPDs**. And to top it all off, the boy has **SPOTS!** Even if you aren't into spots (who isn't?) you'll definitely want to take a look at what this guy can offer your breeding program. We're excited to see his 2022 crias. We're betting on **Champi-**



EL DORADO BLUE'S TROUBLEMAKER

Wow! Next Generation Herdsire!

Winning Bidder: Denisse Castillo

Improve your suri herd in one easy step. It's simple. Just place the winning bid for a breeding to this spectacular young male! **El Dorado Blue's Troublemaker** has won **nine blue ribbons** and **two Championships**, including a **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** in his 3rd Fleece. With **TOP 10% EPDs** in four traits and all **TOP SHIP SCORES**, this guy stands out above the crowd. He has five confirmed pregnancies. The judges say "Troublemaker's frame is fantastic, can't wait to see his offspring."

Luster, fineness, lock structure, density, handle... this guy has it all! And genetics? He's son of Champion **black Bluegrass Peruvian Rhythm & Blues**. He is being shown at the California Classic so people can see what a mature male looks like. Thank you to **Laurie and Scott Findlay of Alpacas of El Dorado** in Somerset, CA for their generous donation of a breeding to this fantastic male.

2022 California Classic Herdsire Auction Results, *cont.*

GVA CHESNIMITZ

Multi-Champion Suri & Champion Producer Winning Bidder: Denisse Castillo



I have had a crush on this guy since I first saw him! This **Accoyo Inca Grandson** has incomparable style, and his show record confirms this assessment with a total of **11 blues, two Color Championships and six Reserve Color Championships!**

GVA CHESNIMITZ was one of those youngsters that had "IT" from the day he was born. His sire **Snowmass Grand Marnier** is a **highly decorated MacGyver son** out of the Snowmass breeding program. His dam is **Peruvian Inca daughter, LCA Inquita** that brings deep color to his pedigree, as well. This male's pedigree is a sure asset for a quality colored breeding program. His offspring include *several* **Futurity Champions**, proving that Chesnimitz has what it takes to produce quality suris!

If you are looking for **exceptional locks, luster, excellent density, and a powerhouse pedigree** in a herdsire, Chesnimitz is your guy. Huge thanks to **Jennifer Hack of Triple H Ranch** and **Lona Nelson Frank of Alpacas of Tualatin Valley**.

HERCULES OF IPH

This young male is new on the scene and is about to make a major debut! WINNING BIDDER: Tommie Smith



If you're looking for **UNIQUE HARLEQUIN APPALOOSA GENETICS**, Hercules is the guy. His dam is Tennessee Valley Tia, a lovely harlequin, and his sire is the handsome **3X champion MFI Peruvian Tachometer**. Tachometer is a spotted pinto with a distinctive different look than an appaloosa or a harlequin. What fun! Harlequin alpacas tend to change color between shearings! Classic Harlequins often start out as solid light fawn to medium brown cria, and shear out as light to dark silver or rose grey.

Six FIRST PLACE wins and a **BEST BRED AND OWNED!** His first crias are on the ground. This boy is ready to be put to work for the serious harlequin-appaloosa-spotty breeder!

Many thanks to **Jan Hayes of Diamond Valley Alpacas** for donating this special breeding. And thanks to **Darcy Phillips of Rare Gem Alpacas** in Sage, CA where Hercules is available to meet up with your lucky girl.

2022 California Classic Herdsire Auction Results, *cont.*



MAJESTIC'S A MAN AMONG MEN

You have a great, ambitious name for your new cria. You give him that name and hope he lives up to it. And once in a great while . . . you nail it!
WINNING BIDDER: Leslie Cobb

MAJESTIC'S A MAN AMONG MEN has a show record that is unmatched, starting with **Color Championship at the 2016 Futurity**. He finished his illustrious career with a **Color Championship in the 2017 Nationals**, which put him in the ring for Supreme Champion at the 2017 AOA Nationals! Along the way, he collected a total of **four CCs, one RC and 13 blue ribbons!** His fiber is incredibly dense and long with the most amazing brightness & character.

Majestic's Man's fiber and phenotype are heritable traits—they come straight from **his sire, Herdsire of the Year JUMANJI**. The 2022 California Classic Herdsire Auction is thrilled that **Dave and Sheila Scroggins of Colusa Riverside Alpacas** in Lincoln, CA have donated a breeding to this majestic male.



NEVERSUMMER'S US STEEL

WINNING BIDDERS (2 offered!):
Deb Galway/Leslie Cobb & Karen Kelly

A silver-grey male with great fineness! He has also inherited his sire's trademark silky handle, uniformity and retained fineness. The judges agree! **Five CHAMPIONSHIPS** and, did we mention, **3X HERD-SIRE OF THE YEAR!**

Winning and ribbons are fun and good, but the true test of a great herdsire is in his offspring. A breeding to ANY of Steel's many champion offspring is fantastic. **A breeding to STEEL himself** – an incredible opportunity!

Huge thanks to proud new owner **Chris Sturgeon of Strawberry Fields Alpaca Ranch** for donating a breeding to this superstar **NEVERSUMMER'S US STEEL**.

2022 California Classic Herdsire Auction Results, *cont.*



R CREEK'S STAYIN ALIVE **A Multi-Champion Producing Champions!** **WINNING BIDDER: Scott & Laurie Finley**

From the renowned breeding program of **North Plains Alpacas** comes this donation of a breeding to their exceptional herdsire **R CREEK'S STAYIN ALIVE**. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

What do you look for in a herdsire? Results in the show ring? This guy has it. **Two CHAMPIONSHIPS and four RESERVE CHAMPIONSHIPS!** Offspring? This guy has it! Several **MULTIPLE CHAMPION OFFSPRING** already to his credit for this six-year old! Genetics? His sire is the outstanding **SNOWMASS XXXTRME LEGACY XXX!**

A big thank you to **Eldonna and Tim Graber of North Plains Alpacas** for donating a breeding to this impressive male for the 2022 California Classic LIVE Herdsire Auction! And **CONGRATULATIONS** Eldonna and Tim on a fantastic Spring show record already this year!

Calpaca 2022 Calendar

Date	Event	Host/Location
05.14	Quarterly Membership Meeting	Virtual Business and Educational Meeting
07.23	<i>Connection</i> Summer Issue Submissions Due	editor@lillette.net
08.06	<i>Connection</i> Summer Issue	Calpaca.org
08.13	Quarterly Membership Meeting	Virtual Business and Educational Meeting
09.10-11	Calpaca Autumn Fleece Extravaganza	TBA
10.15-16	Gold Country Gathering Halter & Walking	TBA
10.22	<i>Connection</i> Autumn Issue Submissions Due	editor@lillette.net
11.05	<i>Connection</i> Autumn Issue	Calpaca.org
11.12	Annual Business and Quarterly Membership Meeting	Virtual Annual Meeting

Shade Trees in a Time of Drought

by Sandra Wallace, Alpacas of Marin

THE GOOD: Our property in west Marin County enjoys mild summers with high temperatures ranging from 75 to 90 degrees, and night-time temps in the 60s. The mercury nudges 100 degrees five days or less, with little humidity. The screaming winds from the northwest that we curse all winter and spring become cooling breezes in summer.

THE BAD: Our grazing fields are open grassland with no tree cover. Gophers have devoured half of the mulberry trees I have planted in the barnyard area over the years. Ground water is inadequate, and our well goes dry every year by late July. The concept of irrigating grazing fields is an absurd fantasy; but with the 40,000 gallons of water storage we have put in for the barnyard, we can spare water for some drought-tolerant trees.

THE UGLY: FIRE!! We all know it well. Happily, we have only been on the receiving end of evacuations thus far, but Westerners know to regard fire with grudging respect. The Marin County Fire Department inspects properties annually for fire risk and defensible space, and they offer excellent outreach and support.

So, this year we decided to add shade trees to each of the six grazing fields that surround our barnyard area. We participate in Fibershed's Carbon Farming program, so rotation of grazing fields and "silvopasture" (planting of shade trees, which help fix carbon to the soil) help us qualify for the designation.

The challenge was to find the ideal tree to plant. I had several strict criteria to meet:

- It must be a tree that offers **significant shade**.
- I am impatient! I want a tree that **grows quickly!!**
- The tree must be **drought-tolerant**. The mulberry trees that remain in our barnyard are rather thirsty—I dump the dirty water from our five-gallon watering pails on to the trees, and my elbows ache from carrying the water buckets!
- The trees **must not be toxic** to livestock. Obviously, oleander is out of the question. The



Shade is appreciated, even on a warm January

internet abounds with tales of livestock poisoned by almond trees, peach and other citrus trees, and rose bushes. It's a wonder that Dale Davis' alpacas thrive in her almond orchards! (*That's sarcasm...*) Most of these reports are circumstantial—an alpaca is ill or dead, and a few rose leaves are found in its stomach, etc. However, I did find that anything in the red maple family is to be avoided—the leaves can cause a very serious, even lethal, type of anemia. Pepper trees may also be toxic, and they can be very messy!

- The trees must be **fire-resistant**. I had a "back and forth" with the fire department on this—Internet reports of some trees contradicted their guidelines, but it's wise to follow the advice of your fire department! These guys see burning trees up close and personal. There is an excellent plant selection list and more at firesafemarin.org/plants
- I would dearly love to find a tree that the **gophers don't like!!** We have learned that the hole must be dug at least three feet deep and lined with ¼-inch hardware cloth. The root ball is encased in a gopher bag. I have also invested in some of those solar-powered, hypersonic

Shade Trees in a Time of Drought, *cont.*

gopher-repellant stakes. Believe it or not, they seem to help!

- I don't want **messy trees**, or trees that will give me



Olive trees April 15

polka-dotted alpacas, or attract more rodents (and thus, more predators).

Along the way, I was reminded why one should not apply for grants! There was a well-funded grant available with the California Healthy Soils Program, but after many hours trying to make my square peg fit their round hole, consulting with the UC Extension, I realized that I would never get funding. It was interesting that the program assumed that all shade trees would be conifers. I can't think of any conifer that would be considered "fire-safe."

Our decision? The selected trees are a **non-**



Raywood Ash early Feb.

fruiting variety of olive tree (Wilson Olive), and Raywood Ash trees. Both trees offer shade, and are considered fast-growing and drought-tolerant. I watered them twice a week for two weeks, and then once a week for four weeks. Now, I am wa-

tering every ten days or so. As they mature, I will water them a few times during the dry months. These trees are not toxic to livestock. Because we have selected a non-fruiting olive, we will not attract more rodents, and we should not get alpacas with green or purple spots. In autumn, the ash tree turns a glorious red color before dropping its leaves. I got the thumbs-up for both trees from the Marin County Fire Department. An extra bonus is that, as an acquaintance tells me, her orchard was overrun by gophers until she replanted with olive trees. The gophers did not like the olive trees, and they departed. I can only hope...

Another consideration was the placement of the trees. We planted the trees on the periphery of our leach field, which courses through three of the grazing fields. Also, I am basically lazy, and I wanted to plant the trees within a 50–60 foot radius from the hose bibs, so that I could easily water the trees. We have added a manual timer to each hose bib to prevent overwatering. And, of course, we wanted to locate the trees in an area conducive to hosting 15 or 20 alpacas in the shade.



Ash tree April 15

It has been three or four months since we planted seven 15-gal trees. We plan to plant a few more in the fields, and then, over time, move back to the barnyard to replace the trees killed by gophers. I am so looking forward to the day when we can look out on a hot day and see a group of alpacas peacefully loafing in the shade of a welcoming tree!

Animal Waste in Demand as Fertilizer Prices Rise

from [Voice of America](#)

The war in Ukraine is causing a rise in oil and wheat prices. Other items are hard to come by due to international restrictions on doing business with Russia. For example, many countries are seeing less fish than usual, because Russia usually catches and sells a lot of fish.

However, one item you may not think of that often is harder to find than normal. That is the crop-growing aid known as fertilizer.

Fertilizer is added to soil and provides plants such as wheat and corn with nutrients so they can grow. But some of the chemicals used to make fertilizer, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, require a lot of energy. As energy sources like gas, oil and coal get more expensive, so does fertilizer.

Why a fertilizer shortage?

The Dutch bank Rabobank said 40 percent of the world's supply of potash, or potassium chloride, comes from Russia and Belarus. Potash is an important fertilizer ingredient, and it is not as available as usual.

A company that follows fertilizer in London, CRU Group, said nitrogen-based fertilizer is four times more expensive than it was in 2020. Fertilizer made from phosphate and potash has gotten three times more expensive.

As a result, farmers are more interested than before in using animal waste, sometimes called manure, as fertilizer. The animal waste has some of those nutrients and can be used by farmers to make their soil healthier.

Farmers that raise livestock such as cows and pigs normally have to pay to get manure removed

from their land. However, due to the high cost of fertilizer, people are paying the farmers to pick it up.

"Manure is absolutely a hot commodity," said Allen Kampschnieder, a farming consultant. There are long lists of farmers waiting for manure deliveries.

Farm equipment sales rise

The need for manure is also helping people who make farm equipment that helps dry and spread manure. The spreaders are called *honeywagons*.

Phinite is a company based in North Carolina that makes manure dryers. The dryers take the water out of the waste and make it easier to spread. Phinite said it has gotten calls for its equipment from farmers in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

One company in Canada, Husky Farm Equipment, makes honeywagons. Some of them can cost \$70,000. The company's president, Walter Grose, says they are sold out for six months.

Other companies that make similar products said they are selling more than normal.

Abe Sandquist says he has worked for much of his career to sell manure to farmers. Now, he doesn't have enough. "I wish we had more to sell," he said, "but there's not enough to meet the demand."

In the U.S., high fertilizer costs will likely cause farmers to plant fewer crops. The government notes the amount of wheat stored in the U.S. is at its lowest in 14 years.

Some concerns

The manure will be able to replace some of the fertilizer, but it is not risk-free. First, there is not enough supply. Second, it is costly to transport. And third, there are environmental concerns about manure. Experts believe the manure can make water unhealthy.

As a result, it is hard for farmers that raise pigs and cows to easily get into the manure business.

Jim Monroe is a spokesperson for a large company that raises pigs. He said more farmers are thinking about using manure to help grow crops.

Dale Cramer is unsure about what he will do. He grows corn, soybeans and wheat in the Midwestern U.S. state of Nebraska. He has been trying to get manure for his 2,400 hectares of land. So far, he has not found any.

Kampschnieder said manure prices are almost 100 percent higher than usual.

Pat Reisinger is a farmer in Iowa. He said he is glad he raises animals, because he can use their manure for his corn and soybeans. He is also able to sell a little to his neighbors.

Farm economy changes

Reisinger, however, is unique. In recent years, farms like his are less common.

Instead, certain regions in the U.S. are known for producing items like eggs, milk and meat. That is where the most manure can be found. However, some of those regions are far away from the areas that need the animal waste. As a result, some parts of the U.S. have too much manure, and others do not have enough.

Brett Reinford of Pennsylvania raises cows that produce milk. Last year, he told other farmers they could take his manure. No one wanted it. Now he has something valuable.

"I wish we had more," he said.

Dan Friedell adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on a report by Reuters.

Animal Manure Comparison

- Alpaca Manure (1.7-.69-1.2) - Highest N-K of any natural fertilizer
- Poultry Manures (1.1-1.4-0.6)
- Cattle Manure (0.6-0.2-0.5)
- Goat Manure (0.7-0.3-0.9)
- Horse Manure (0.7-0.3-0.6)
- Sheep Manure (0.7-0.3-0.9)
- Pig Manure (0.5-0.3-0.5)
- Rabbit Manure (2.4-1.4-0.6)

How to Make Manure Tea

1. Fill a 5-gallon bucket two-thirds of the way full with water.
2. Add enough fresh manure to fill the bucket the rest of the way.
3. Allow this to steep for two days.
4. After steeping, allow the solid material to settle to the bottom of the bucket - this may take an hour or so.

Using Composted Alpaca Manure in the Garden
by Nikki Phipps, author of *The Bulb-o-licious Garden*

AskingLot.com

Teamwork is the Key to Success

By Paul Kezdi, Northcoast Alpacas

I'm posting to share something that I hope may help others. My goal here is primarily to share a story which may help others facing a similar situation, and to show appreciation to my staff who responded and did a great job.

Tuesday morning, I got a call from my farm that an alpaca, NorthCoast Silver Bells, was in labor, and it "didn't look good." I immediately started to head over, texted one of my staff members who works at several farms, and called another. Both started to head over immediately. I asked our employee who was already at the farm working, one without any birthing experience, to describe what he saw. It sounded normal other than the female may have been excessively uncomfortable. She kept lying down and getting up; and while some females do this, it does not mean anything is wrong. However, it can be a sign of excessive discomfort associated with a birthing issue.

The staff member I texted that morning, Shelly Holliday, got there first. She has experience with assisted birthing and had taken a neonatal class. We had also worked with her on how we handle farm births, which may not be the same as some other farms.

Our philosophy is to let the process go if it appears normal, and only get involved when

there are definite signs indicating the need to intervene. Often, this is a judgement call based on what we see and how we interpret that information. I have also instilled the idea to evaluate the situation, take a deep breath, and consider alternatives as to what may be happening—so you go in with a plan that can change as you work and see what is happening.



Paul and Shelly, who is holding NorthCoast Klondike—this time, thankfully “an easy, normal birth!”

Shelly had been eager to learn how we handle birthings and had adapted to our procedures very well. It's wonderful to see someone who wants to do the best that they can, and is always willing to listen and learn. We have copiloted several difficult births, and I try to talk through them regarding what I'm doing and why.

Shelly reached our farm about 10 minutes before me. It had been about 15 minutes since the bubble appeared, and the head was emerging. The head, neck and front legs worked their way out over the next five minutes, which is great... but the birth did not appear normal. The mom seemed too agitated, and there was something wrapped around the cria, which Shelly determined to be the placenta. We were dealing with placenta previa. Many would have lubed up. Many would have lubed up and been trying to pull out the cria; but in

this instance, that action could risk the life of the dam if her placenta had not fully detached. The placenta is attached to the uterine wall by thousands of micro blood vessels which begin shutting down at birth. It should never be pulled until it is ready to come out, or the dam can hemorrhage and bleed to death.

Shelly, noting that the cria was showing no movement or visible breathing, decided not to pull it. When I arrived a few minutes later, I was glad to hear about what she observed during the attempted birthing. Her decision process was spot on. She had popped the bubble, which we only do when a cria is in distress, and that was definitely the right move under these circumstances. All of her decisions were right on the money.

As is the usual result of placenta previa, the cria died, suffocating during attempted birthing. The oxygen-rich blood supply the cria was getting from the dam was disrupted when the

placenta was being forced out with the cria. Consequently, the objective becomes to not harm the dam by pulling before the placenta is ready for ejection.

In this situation, success is defined as saving the dam, which was accomplished. The natural tendency is to want to go in and pull out the cria. Shelly did not do that, and instead popped the bubble and waited. This was as good a result as possible for this birthing issue, and an excellent job by Shelly.

I grabbed the cria, which was out as far as the hips, and tried to untangle the placenta. The cria then fell out, and the placenta was ejected seconds later.

It is so gratifying to see someone who is learning and working hard to do it right! After having learned to not pop the bubble, she realized this was a case where it *should* be done. Also, she did not try to do too much, understanding the issue, and refrained from assisting the birth. Perfect!



NorthCoast Alpacas started in the fall of 1996 by Paul Kezdi and Linda Brown shortly after we attended a county fair and met these animals for the first time. Six weeks later, we were the proud owners of four pregnant female alpacas!

Since that time, we grew and bought our own farm, using what we learned during our years of boarding to design a farm that would be easier to manage. Our breeding program emphasized specific colors—white, silver grey and true black—and specific bloodlines, including full Accoyos.

We were founding members of the Ohio Alpaca Breeders Association, where Paul designed the logo and much of the initial OABA web site. In the following years, Paul served on AOBA's initial show committee when AOBA was breaking away from ALSA to form our own show division complete with new judges, judging criteria, judges training program and show rules. Then Paul was selected to chair AOBA's first Ethics Committee, and assisted in authoring the ethics rules for the organization. Currently, NorthCoast Alpacas is located in Grafton, Ohio, and is home to over 110 huacaya alpacas.

It Can Happen

by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

The Boy Scouts Got It Right: Be Prepared!!

So, here is a question for you to consider: How prepared are you for a personal health crisis? If something happens to you, your spouse, partner, or family member, will someone else be able to take care of your financial affairs? Not just your long-term estate-planning financials, but your day-to-day financial activities: bill paying, account records, financial institution usernames and logins (on a portable drive), etc. These records should be kept in a safe, fireproof, quickly accessible place with other important documents. Are your financial affairs set up in such a way your designated survivor or trustee could step in and take over?

Most livestock owners have some plans in place for natural disasters. Disasters that can strike at any time, often with little time to respond to the immediate danger. Preparing for natural disasters doesn't mean they will happen; it means you have plans in place *should* they happen. The same is true for preparing for a health crisis. Preparing for a serious illness or death doesn't mean it will happen; but too often people hope that if they don't plan for it, serious illness or death won't happen.

What about your alpacas? Are your records (financial and herd information) up-to-date? Will someone be able to step in and take care of the day-to-day activities and responsibilities for your alpacas? Maybe you and your spouse, partner or

family share the responsibilities. Maybe only you have that responsibility. Maybe only you know the details of running your business or taking care of your herd. Are your physical and electronic records set up so that someone can step in should you become mentally or physically incapacitated? Do you have a written plan for the care of your alpacas or the running of your business? What if your alpacas need to be dispersed?

For those attached to these amazing animals,

these can be difficult and emotional questions to think about, but questions that should be dealt with sooner rather than later. At the farm level, procedures should be written: financial, record keeping, registration information, user names and logins (on a portable



Dianna and Jack two years ago

drive), etc. They should be kept in the same, or a similar location, as your personal records. And ask yourself the same question: Are your alpaca-related records set up in such a way that your designated survivor or trustee could step in and take over?

Planning for a health crisis is as critical as planning for a natural disaster. You won't understand the physical, emotional and psychological enormity of the situation unless it happens to you. How do I know? Because it happened to us.

In October of 2021, Jack was struck hard by Covid,

It Can Happen, *cont.*

resulting in not only unexpected but extended health issues. He was admitted to the ICU two separate times for more than a week each. Before coming home after the second ICU admission, he entered a skilled nursing facility for physical and occupational therapy. After two weeks in the facility, he was released to my care, and I became his full-time caregiver.

All off a sudden, those “be prepared” things I mentioned became very real. Fortunately, we—well, actually Jack—had our personal preparedness in order. We had gone over where the information I might need could be

found. Had he not survived Covid, we were prepared; and from the paper-pushing standpoint, I would be in a position to move forward. I quickly realized that was not the same with our alpaca business.

Our arrangement with the alpacas is they are basically my business endeavor. Through the years, we made business plans and decisions together. However, our division of responsibilities is fairly straightforward. I take care of the day-to-day operations and financials, and Jack builds the buildings and infrastructure, and oversees the repairs and maintenance. That is not everyone’s model, but it works for us.



February... first time out since Jack’s return home

As you might imagine, the days, weeks and months that followed his illness were extremely stressful. Especially the first few weeks. Our lives were turned upside down and inside out. Fortunately, we were able to communicate. That’s not

always the situation with all couples facing this kind of a crisis.

Because we were “prepared,” I could focus most of my energy on dealing with the “now” of my emotions and situation. Being prepared opened up space in my day to acknowledge being overwhelmed, to feel the fear, to attempt to confront the unknown, to grieve, to rejoice in small victories, to feel the blessings of being surround-

ed by those supporting us with their love, prayers, and well-wishes. Being prepared allowed me to focus on our current circumstances.

Fast forwarding seven months... Jack’s overall health is good, but he still experiences shortness of breath, which is not uncommon for many Covid survivors. We are back to living our pre-Covid lives. We feel so grateful and blessed, and are looking forward to what the future brings.

Life is unpredictable. Being prepared can relieve so much of the immediate and lingering stress that comes when faced with a natural disaster or health crisis.

The Boy Scouts got it right: Be Prepared!



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Alpaca Education At Your Fingertips

Do you know the AOA website contains a section called the Alpaca Academy? The Alpaca Academy provides education and information for the entire alpaca community. Topics range from the most common questions about alpacas and the industry to in-depth articles on alpaca EPDs, genetics, and breeding. Alpaca Academy also provides information on the latest alpacas research and links to additional resources.

The following pages contain examples of the various topics available for those wanting to know more about alpacas and the industry.

One of the common themes I have found in reading about what alpaca owners breeders would like is the desire for more education. Perhaps many don't know that many of their questions have already been addressed in the Alpaca Academy. Take a few minutes to review the topics on the right. If you would like to learn more about the Alpaca Academy just follow [this link](#), and click on the topic.

ALPACA ACADEMY

- [About Alpacas](#)
- [Alpaca Fiber](#)
- [Alpaca Registry](#)
- [Alpaca Research](#)
- [Alpaca Shows](#)
- [Alpacas as a Business](#)
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Agritourism Resources

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FARMS WITH ANIMALS >

Alpaca and Llama (216)	Beekeeping (78)	Chicken and Eggs (233)
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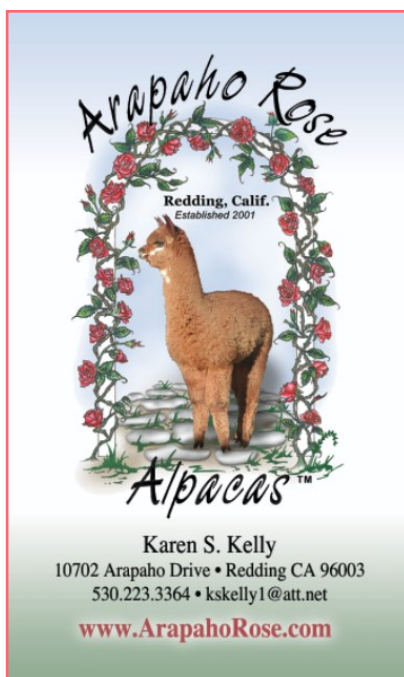
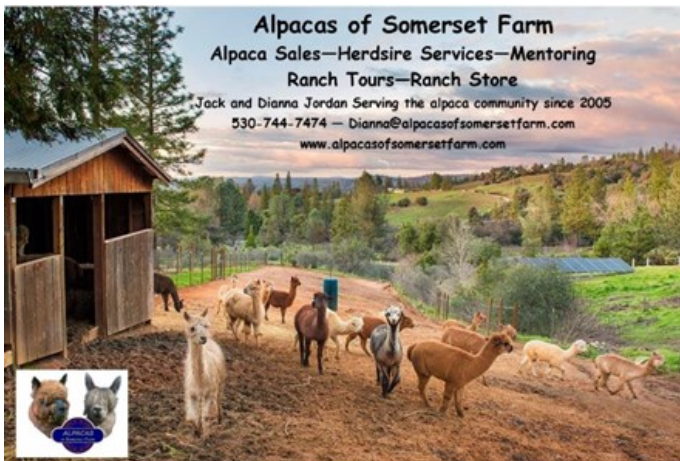
Newsletter Archives:
California Agritourism News

California Agritourism News

Agricultural tourism (agritourism) is a commercial enterprise at a working farm or ranch conducted for the enjoyment and education of visitors, and that generates supplemental income for the owner or operator.

The **California Agritourism News e-newsletter** is written by the statewide agritourism coordinator for the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP). This e-mail newsletter is a chance for growers, agritourism operators, county staff, tourism professionals and everyone else involved in California agritourism to keep up with the latest information. Input and suggestions from readers are always welcome!

Calpaca Member Business Cards



Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.



Belvoir Mine Alpacas

Shalon Smith – Owner
916.390.5802
info@BelvoirMineAlpacas.com

www.BelvoirMineAlpacas.com



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Claudia Porter

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209.617.5392 Dennis
209.675.4330 Mychaela

Donna & Dennis Morris
lurvpacas@yahoo.com

Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.



Macedo's Mini Acre
Turlock CA
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Larry & Maureen Macedo
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www.macedosminiaces.com

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Cyndi Howard
Owner
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916-869-0765
misfitranch2@gmail.com



Peavine Mountain Alpacas
in
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Steve Craig.....775-815-8456
Margie Craig.....775-303-2643

Picotoot's Pack of Paca Farm



Russ and Brandi Mello
Anderson, CA 96007
530.945.0801
picotootspppf@gmail.com

Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.



L'illette Vasquez, Coordinator
170 Hoofbeat Trail
Kerrville, Texas 78028-8780
LlamaRescue@lillette.net

Mission Statement
To provide safe refuge for unwanted, neglected or abandoned llamas through intervention, education and necessary support. To seek placement and lifelong care for all llamas entrusted to our care.

SouthwestLlamaRescue.org



Calpaca Connection Newsletter Ad Rates			
- per issue -			
Ad Type	Size	Members	Non-member
Business card	3.5 x 2.0" 2.0 x 3.5"	Free!!	\$15
1/4 page	7.5 x 2.0" 2.0 x 7.5"	\$12	\$24
1/2 page	7.5 x 5.0"	\$12	\$48
Full page	7.5 x 10"	\$24	\$78

Calpaca Classified Ads

Agisting

Menagerie Hill Ranch is a full service, family run alpaca ranch offering **agisting, consulting, sales, support and alpaca fiber products**. Our agisting service includes quality feed/water, routine husbandry, vaccinations, birthing and other care. Cria born here receive basic halter training. Owners are welcome to visit any time by appointment, and we will help you learn how to care for your alpacas. Veterinary care, breeding, show training and other services are extra. Standard rate \$3.50 per day. We are located in the English Hills area of Vacaville, close to Hwy 505.

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners

www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

Farms / Ranches

Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock, California Suri and Huacaya breeding program focused on performance (obstacle, pack and public relations) as well as fiber. Classes also offered in spinning, felting and fleece preparation. Wholesale dryer balls!

www.macedosminiaces.com | macedosminiacre@gmail.com

Larry 209-648-2338 | Maureen 209-648-2384

Herdsires

Menagerie Hill Ranch is pleased to offer the stud services of **RR Gun's Kit Carson (KC)**. With **17 Championships** and **21 1st-Place** wins, it's no wonder that more than **10 of his offspring** are **Color Champion** winners! KC took his first championship at eight months of age. Since then, his fleece has maintained its length, fineness and uniformity, and he remains one of the best grey males in the country.

His kids still win big in the ring... including: 2016 Gold Country Gathering KC son 4-Sights Crawford won RCC behind RR Dizzy Gillespie in Grey Male; KC daughter 4-Sight's Centerfold won CC, grey female; and KC son RR Lancelot won Black CC. Centerfold also took CC at the 2016 ABI and the 2017 Futurity. And at the 2017 CA Classic, Lancelot won CC in both Halter and Walking Fleece. Most recently, MHAR Ebonni Carson won CC in Walking Fleece (Black) at the 2019 Gold Country Gathering!

Check out KC and his cria at:

<http://www.menageriehillranch.com/alpacas-for-sale/121347/rr-guns-kit-carson>

With gorgeous silver-gray fleece, excellent conformation and a perfect bite, we believe Kit Carson can make a big impact on our breeding program and yours!

He normally summers in Utah and will be leaving around May 1. Until then, he's available for hosted breedings at **\$3,000**, with **drive-byes at \$1500**. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners

www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

Calpaca Classified Ads

Herdsires, *cont.*

Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock, California

Suri: Jar Jar Binks, Sir Baronoff son and Angel Dreams Viggo (true black)

Huacaya: RR Brubeck (roan)

Sundance Kid (light fawn; has sired harlequin greys)

Desert Lotus Mr. Wallace (grey)

macedosminiacre@gmail.com | Larry 209-648-2338 | Maureen 209-648-2384

MHAR Blizzard by Justice is a beautiful, bright-white stud, with extremely uniform, dense, crimped fleece, full-body coverage, and excellent bite/conformation. At six years of age, his fleece still has a lovely, soft, buttery feel!

At the 2014 Gold Country Gathering, judge Kathy Klay said, "He's the total package!" when awarding him First Place (no CC), noting his soft crimp style and density. Most recently, his 3rd fleece spin-off entry won Judges Choice! And his fourth fleece spin-off entry won 1st Place in the adult (D) class (of 8) at the 2017 AOA nationals, this in spite of being very dirty thanks to our very wet/muddy winter. His first cria are on the ground with more due next winter. We can't wait to see them all!

To date, we haven't used him as much as we should because we've been focusing on the SG/black colors. But he's produced several lights/fawns; and now a gorgeous brown with amazing early crimp/bundling and density, plus staple length, brightness and handle that we'll definitely be showing! So we're focusing more on using Blizzard and hope you will too!

His stud fee is \$750 for Calpaca members, including 60 days agisting at **Menagerie Hill Ranch** in Vacaville for your girl. Reserve your breedings now, and take advantage of his great genetics at this special price!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners

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Maureen Macedo 209-648-2384

Classes in skirting, felting, spinning at **Macedo's Mini Acre** in Turlock, CA.

www.macedosminiaces.com | Maureen Macedo 209-648-2384 | macedosminiacre@gmail.com

Calpaca Connection Newsletter 2022 Deadlines

CONNECTION DEADLINES ARE FIRM! Newsletter deadlines allow publication one week prior to each quarterly Calpaca Membership Meeting. Both advertising copy and articles must be received by the deadline or they will not be published until the following issue. Payments for advertising must be received by Calpaca Treasurer within seven days of submitting your ad via email, or if payment is mailed, included with the advertising copy.

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>SUBMISSIONS DUE</u>	<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>	<u>MEETING DATE</u>
Winter 2022	Jan. 22, 2022	Feb. 05, 2022	Feb. 12, 2022
Spring 2022	Apr. 23, 2022	May 07, 2022	May 14, 2022
Summer 2022	July 23, 2022	Aug. 06, 2022	Aug. 13, 2022
Autumn 2022	Oct. 22, 2022	Nov. 05, 2022	Nov. 12, 2022

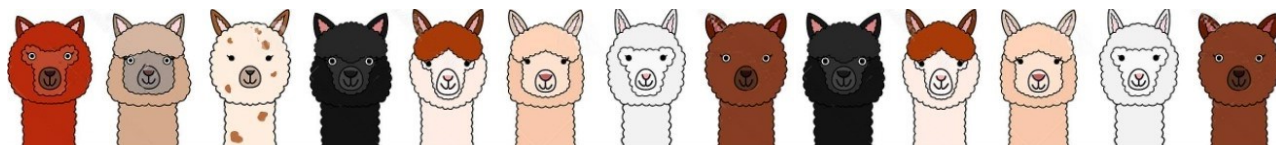
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Make checks payable to CALPACA. In the memo line, indicate what you are paying for.

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Email attachments to: Editor@lillette.net



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Connection deadlines are firm with few exceptions. Submission deadlines allow for newsletter publication one week prior to each quarterly Calpaca Membership meeting. Both advertising copy and articles must be received by the deadline, or they will not be published until the following issue. Payments for advertising must be received by Calpaca Treasurer Jackie Jones within seven days of submitting the ad via email or, if payment is mailed, included with disk containing the advertising copy.

Join Calpaca Today!

The **California Alpaca Breeders Association (Calpaca)** represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences, and host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public. We invite you to join us!

Calpaca Membership Meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the second month of each quarter.

Calpaca Farm Membership - \$100/year (\$50 first year)

Benefits:

- Free marketing on Calpaca website (animals, fiber, store, services etc.)
- Educational quarterly Calpaca membership meetings
- Free advertising opportunity in the Connection newsletter
- Ability to link your Web site to a mobile device
- Ability to link your Web site to Facebook page
- Lobbying our State Legislature through— AG Day sponsorship
- Discounts at alpaca events
- Advertising opportunity to showcase your farm to over 3000 alpaca breeders
- Opportunity to run for a seat on the Calpaca Board of Directors and have a voice in the future
- Opportunity to host a Calpaca meeting and give your ranch and alpacas more exposure
- Two votes on Calpaca issues
- Connection newsletter that provides educational articles
- Ability to send email marketing items to members offering your animals, products and services
- Complimentary listing of your Openherd website on Calpaca's website – check out <http://www.calpaca.org/alpaca-farms/>

Calpaca Associate Membership - \$30/year

Benefits:

- Attend all Calpaca meetings and events
- Quarterly Calpaca *Connection* newsletter

Join Online

Keeping in Touch

Calpaca has three primary ways for members to send or receive information: by email, through the Calpaca Facebook page, and on the Calpaca website.

Email: info@CalpacaBoard.org

- To Email Calpaca Members: A member of the board of directors will forward your message to Calpaca members in a timely manner.
- To Email Board Members: Your board members encourage members to contact us with any comments, questions or concerns. We are here to serve you.

Note: This process helps prevent the scamming that occurred with the former member email distribution list.

Website: Calpaca.org

This is Calpaca's primary online presence, the "Internet face" of our organization. It's the place where existing, new, or potential alpaca owners can go to learn about Calpaca. Who we are. What we offer. How we assist

new and current alpaca owners. How we support the alpaca community through education. What events we offer. What support we offer.

Facebook Page: facebook.com/groups/Calpaca

Calpaca maintains an active Facebook page, **Calpaca-California Alpaca Association**, which serves as an extension of our website. The Calpaca Facebook page exists to promote and answer questions about raising alpacas, using alpaca fiber, husbandry issues; to share interesting news and ranch events; and to promote classes having to do with those issues. We are an open group and encourage people who are interested in alpacas to join the discussions; e.g., BOD announcements, alpacas in the news, emergency information, birth announcements, new purchases/acquisitions, Calpaca events, Calpaca farm member events, industry events, etc. This is a group for learning, sharing, and being supportive.

Advertising: Only Calpaca Farm Members may adver-

