

CONNECTION

AUTUMN 2022



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Health! Member News! Fiber!
Shows! Training & Handling!



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association

Connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other

August 06, 2022



California Alpaca Breeders Association

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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VIRTUAL Annual Business & Quarterly Membership Meeting

11.12.2022 - 6:30pm

Information on accessing the meeting will be sent prior to meeting date.

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Affiliations

Alpaca Owners Association (AOA)

8300 Cody Dr Suite A
Lincoln NE 68512
402-437-8484
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Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

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LamaRegistry.com

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To join or renew your Calpaca membership:

calpaca.org/page//2572/join-calpaca

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Message from the President

Greetings Calpaca Folks,

Looking back, this year put some of the setbacks experienced in 2020 and 2021, and brought on by the Covid pandemic, behind us.

Although the quarterly Calpaca membership meetings remained virtual, two of the Calpaca annual shows plus an additional show were held. Our annual spring show, the California Classic, exceeded expectations in all areas of participation, demonstrating the desire for Calpaca members to come together to celebrate friendships and camaraderie through their shared interests in alpacas.

Squeezed between the California Classic and the Gold Country Gathering was the first annual Calpaca Fall Fleece Extravaganza. This stand-alone fleece show was met with enthusiastic support. A huge *THANK YOU* to Karen Kelly, Arapaho Rose Alpacas, for offering her beautiful facility. Be looking for this event to return in 2023.

The Calpaca-sponsored shows and events closed out 2022 with the relocated Gold Country Gathering. The reports and feedback about the new venue have been very positive. We are looking to return to that venue for the Gold Country Gathering in 2023.

A big shout-out to Russ Mello, Picotoot's Pack of Paca Farm, for stepping up to serve as the event manager for both the Calpaca Fall Fleece Extravaganza and the Gold Country Gathering. *THANK YOU*, Russ. Heading up two back-to-back shows with just a few weeks in between is no small feat.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy rest of 2022,



Dianna Jordan, 2022 Calpaca President

530-744-7474

president@calpacaboard.org


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Annual Business & Quarterly Membership Meeting 11.12.2022 - 6:30pm

Calpaca's annual membership and business meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 12. The meeting time has been changed to start at **6:30 PM**. It will be a virtual meeting.

We hope you plan on attending this meeting. In addition to our usual business meeting, we will be announcing the results of the election and introducing the members of the 2023 Board of Directors.

Login information and meeting details will be sent the week before the meeting.

Also, **Farm Members**, don't forget to  **Vote!**

Ballot must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 1, 2022. All ballots must be returned by mail or hand delivered to Linda Cline, Election Inspector (805-218-1171) 7970 N Locke Rd, Vacaville CA 95688

Please put the date and time on your calendar,



The FIRST Gold Country Gathering * 2010 *

Fortitude, Grit, and Determination!

By Ian Watt

At the **Gold Country Gathering** I was privy to what this industry can be all about - a beautiful outdoor venue for a first-time show in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada ranges of California, an event hosted by our very progressive Calpaca Affiliate, a group of alpaca breeders out for a good time and a ribbon or two and a test of endurance, patience and understanding.

My lady and I arrived at 4.30 on Friday just as the rain started to fall and left at 4pm on Sunday while it was pelting rain and wind - and not for one minutes did it stop raining!

Tall pines with simple open sided, wooden-framed pens surrounding a high-roofed ring on sloping ground in a rural showground was a setting to die for. Nearly 300 animals, a GREAT group of breeders, one or two first-time showers, a small fleece show, the usual silent auction as well as a fiber arts exhibition of surprising depth and good quality (at least in my eyes!), a sponsored Saturday night barbeque and wine plus a get-together on the Friday night with breeders hosting tables bulging with cheeses by the dozen, freshly smoked salmon, breads, dips, sausage, sweet nibbles, plenty of conversation and chiaking - it was a simply wonderful display of fellowship and collegiate respect.

While the rain started with a drizzle it quickly moved to persistent and then into full storm mode - water gushing everywhere, pens being flooded out, people in wet-weather gear of considerable bulk and variety of color, wet shoes and socks, young men running around doing water abatement works, breeders huddled around gas heaters whilst the wind drove the rain into the judging ring where Diana Timmerman displayed great fortitude, goodwill and great humor to continue judging to the very end after the exhibitors voted to continue the show despite what was atrocious weather - it really was test of spirit.

It truly was miserable walking reluctant animals through mini-lakes of water, getting drenched (can you get re-drenched after being drenched the first time?), huddling like penguins to find succor and warmth from the masses ... this was THE show of shows!!

For all who attended I 'dips me lid' and hope that everyone got as much satisfaction and enjoyment out of the adversity that brought us all together in a show that deserved so much more!

For everyone else - there is goodwill, a sense of purpose and a bringing together of people with good spirit and acceptance in sharing the showing experience no matter what the conditions!! Let us remember what life could be like if we just consider how really lucky we all are and how often petty are our moans and groans at shows.

2022 Gold Country Gathering

The Gold Country Gathering was held at our new venue at the Glenn County Fairgrounds in Orland, California. The show was a great success and fun time!

Judges Diana Timmerman and Stephanie Glyptis were awesome, and Superintendents Harold and Cheri Seiler made the show flow smoothly. Everyone seemed to have a great time and loved the new venue!

On Friday night after check-in, we had our Meet 'n' Greet with wine and appetizers. On Saturday night, we had our annual Potluck Dinner and Herdsire Auction.

Shout-out to all our volunteers for helping make the show a great success, and we're already looking forward to next year!

— Russ Mello, Event Manager (Picotoot's Pack of Paca Farm)



2022 Gold Country Gathering, cont.



GCC 2022 PHOTOBOOTH



GCC 2022 GENERAL SHOW PICS

Calpaca Fall Fleece Extravaganza

The Autumn Fleece Extravaganza the show was a great success for Calpaca's first stand-alone fleece show. We had a total of 97 fleeces with 15 of those fleeces scoring 80+ points!

Judge's Choice for Huacaya went to RockStar Alpacas, and for Suri, it went to Big Timber Alpacas, both with scores of 86!

Big thank you to Karen Kelly of Arapaho Rose Alpacas for hosting the show at her beautiful farm!

Also, big thank you to Dale Davis, Brandi Mello, Lin Murray, Kurt and Sheila Faulkner-Loser, and others for all their help putting on the show; to our awesome Judge Beverly Brehm; and to Superintendent Cheri Seiler. They made the show perfect!

We are looking forward to next year with the hopes of doing both an IFA and a Standard show!

— Russ Mello, Event Manager (Picotoot's Pack of Paca Farm)



Calpaca Fall Fleece Extravaganza, cont.



"Pop-Up Stores" ~ Fun and Profitable!

by Laurie Findlay, Alpacas of Eldorado

We really did not want a storefront on our property, so a fun idea came to mind and was born at "Alpacas of El Dorado." Why not bring the store to you? For the last several years, we have turned our favorite thing to do—wine tasting—into a profitable business for our alpaca product

We live in wine country and have frequented many of our favorite wineries. In the spring, fall and winter, we offer to bring in our alpaca products to a winery for a market day. If they are willing, we also offer to bring one or two cute alpacas for photo ops. We advertise the heck out of it so people can plan to come. And on our market day, we have our products set up, ready to go, under a pop-up or a shaded area and open for business.

Typically, we sell out of our products. Over the years, we have come to learn what our best sellers are and have plenty on sight. Having those two cute alpacas just brings in that many more folks to have a picture taken with an alpaca and browse our store. Who wouldn't want to spend a fall day, drinking delicious wines, taking a picture with an alpaca, and buying some amazing alpaca socks, gloves, scarves, blankets, hats and more. This has become a great demand amongst the wineries... and why not? It's a WIN/WIN!!!



Density—What is It?

by Ian Watt, Alpaca Consulting USA

Ian Watt has been consulting in the alpaca industry of Australia and the United States since 1991. He mentored in biopsy testing with Dr. Jim Watts using the SRS breeding philosophy and has been providing a biopsy service since 2002, along with an OFDA 2000 fiber-testing service for breeders in the US, Australia and Canada.

It is probably the most over-used and misunderstood descriptor alpaca breeders use in making breeding decisions and creating selling literature. Put simply, density is the number of hair follicles in a given area, usually per square millimeter. There is only one way to arrive at this number and that is through a skin biopsy, but this option is not available in some countries, sadly.

A skin biopsy is usually a 10mm punch of skin taken from a handspan down from the backbone over the third last rib (usually called the mid-side, where fiber samples should be collected from), and processed onto a microscope slide which is then read through a 4K camera computer program. At that time, the number of primary and secondary fibers are not only counted, but also measured for diameter and Standard Deviation calculated.

As a selection tool, this information is invaluable when one considers that there are only three factors that determine fleece weight—density, length and micron. The benefit for breeders who are intent on producing high-in-demand fleeces is by making organized density and length their two primary selection traits to deliver sustainable profits.

Density is set at conception.

Approximately halfway through the pregnancy, the cells that produce follicles (fibroblasts) initiate the production of the

primary follicles for a period of two to three weeks, after which they are shut down, and then produce the secondaries for a period of about four weeks. Once those follicles are established, the left-over fibroblasts convert into collagen, which determines skin thickness.

It follows, then, that thick-skinned alpacas are likely to be less dense than thinner, softer-skinned animals—thinner skins process into softer, more malleable leather, which attracts premium pricing. It is interesting to note that the finest fibers in a cria fleece are the primary hairs.

The result of this process is that a cria is at its densest at birth, after which it loses density as it grows into an adult... which is why it is always wise to look at density by comparing animals at the same age and size when assessing the trait, especially when purchasing genetics.

Density does not increase as an alpaca ages or after the first shearing.

What does happen is that primary fibers thicken (coarsen) as the skin stretches over the growing skeleton, thus increasing the space between fibers and so raising fiber diameter—as fiber thickens, medullation increases, especially in the stronger micron fibers.

At the same time, the organization within the staple becomes less noticeable, the

light reflects less brightly, and soil penetration increases. As this happens, it is often noticeable that the tips of the staples develop a twist, which becomes more and more pronounced as the alignment of the fibers becomes looser and looser.

Because skin biopsies are prohibited in parts of Europe, it is worth understanding how to assess it in a live animal.

First and foremost is understanding that there is density, and then there is organized density—and there is a big difference between the two.

When opening a fleece, one can see jagged lines of skin between the follicle groups in dense alpacas. When that jagged line is not apparent, the fleece is described as “disorganized.” The difference between the two is that when it comes to processing, the organized fleece will process with much less waste.

It is interesting to note that hair follicles take up less than 7% of the skin area of an alpaca at maturity.

Second is the degree to which soil penetrates the staples—less dense animals allow soil to become trapped between the fibers simply because the follicles are

spaced further apart in the skin. The further down the staple the penetration occurs, the more disorganized or dense the animal is.

Third is the definition of the crimp: A structural artifact that allows the fibers to align together, thus protecting the staples from collecting and holding soil, vegetable matter and moisture. When the crimp is highly defined, it means the follicles are very close together, and so the alpaca is dense in a very organized way.

The top 10% of US-tested males have density numbers in the 80-95 follicles/sq.mm and the females in the 60-70 range. Considering that follicles occupy only about 7% of the skin area of an adult, there is plenty of room for improvement—as a guide, merino rams regularly meet 120 follicles/sq.mm.

In dense alpacas with longer staple length, the staples tend to drape from the skin because the staples are thinner and weigh more than those that stand more erect from the skin. These animals also attract less contamination in the fleece even as they roll, simply because any soil tends to fall out rather than settle toward the skin as with shorter stapled animals.



Alpacas of Somerset Farm

...

September 23, 2012

This was taken just before our suri girl born on Sept 19 stood up to go look for mom. I would say she was ready to find the milk bar. The sun was shining directly in her face and that's why her eyes are still closed. It didn't take her long to start nursing once she was up.



An Assessment of Collected Alpaca Testing Data from OFDA2000 — 2012 to 2021

by Ian Watt, Alpaca Consulting USA

It has taken a while, but long, drawn-out examination of data collected from OFDA 2000 testing of the past 15 years in the US has produced some interesting results.

Part of the reason for this study has been the wealth of information acquired over the years and the number of individual animals that have been tested over their lifetime, and in some cases, their progeny.

Users of this service know that I collect information on breed, sex, color and age, and that I record hand-measured stretched and relaxed length of staples along with the age of the sample. The collection of this information allows some suggested conclusions to be drawn that perhaps help make for a better understanding of just what is really happening in the industry instead of conjecture based (often in my experience) on unmeasured anecdotal beliefs.

For several years, I offered different universities access to my data as a research project but did not receive any responses let alone any interest.

I offer the following as my own interpretation of what has happened over the past fifteen years that I have been testing huacaya and suri fleeces in the U.S.

Please note that the references below are all related to huacaya alpacas (unless otherwise specifically stated), as I do not test enough suri fleeces to get any meaningful data.

Length

The relaxed length of fiber does not interest processors, as the fibers are stretched in the process of producing yarn and are held in place by closely aligning the fibers as the yarn is twisted into the final product.

The weakest point in a yarn are the fiber ends, so it is important (in the production of high quality yarn) that the number of ends per unit length of yarn be the least possible— which means fleeces going into a production run of yarn should be of similar, if not identical, stretched length.

The more uniform the length in a yarn, the higher the strength and general quality of that yarn.

Classing (the sorting of fleeces into sale lines) of merino wool destined for producing yarn is first and foremost classed for length. In fact, all wool testing includes the stretched length as a recorded measurement.

It is interesting to note that crimp style has no role in the processing of fiber, but the degree of crinkle in the individual fibers determines stretch. In other words, crimp is a mechanism that holds fibers together as they grow from the skin, with no evidence that one crimp style is better than another, as density determines how closely the fibers align in the staple or lock.

Length is important in another, perhaps more important, way: it is a major contributor to fleece weight, which largely determines the value of a year's production from an individual animal.

The data shows a clear decline in length from age five in both huacaya and suri alpacas, and that decline seems to be consistent for each subsequent year of age.

On average, length declines 10.2% per year from five to seven years of age (I do not record length after 84 months of age).

There does appear to be a relationship between Mean Fiber Diameter (MFD) and the degree length shortens each year, with

faster “shortening” fibers increasing in micron at a more rapid rate than those losing length at a slower rate.

It is important that growers are aware that fleece weight may not change as fibers shorten simply because micron blows out, so relying on fleece weight per se without taking into account length and micron could be a misleading way to look at productivity.

Average Daily Growth Rate

Because growers are producing fiber for sale (and presumably for premium prices), stretched length is the important measurement, yet my experience is that relatively few growers assess staple length that way.

Only the U.S. uses the imperial way of measurement in discussing length, as all other alpaca fiber-producing countries use metric—as does all research, one might add. In choosing to record length, I decided on metric measurement as the norm for two basic reasons:

- It is easier to measure physically.
- It allows easier comparison between countries and in reading research papers.

I found that calculating the average daily growth rate using inches as the format and dividing it by the number of days it took to grow gave me a number I simply could not relate to or imagine!

Light-colored fleeces outperform darker colors (medium brown, grey and black up) on average with the following growth rates:

	<u>Age: 24 mo.</u>	<u>Age: 48 mo.</u>	<u>Age: 60 mo.</u>
2012			
Light	.30mm/day	.24mm/day	.19mm/day
Dark	.26mm/day	.20mm/day	.17mm/day
2021			
Light	.33mm/day	.31mm/day	.20mm/day
Dark	.28mm/day	.25mm/day	.28mm/day

Micron

First and foremost, it is important to understand that the OFDA2000 measures the whole length of the fiber, whereas the test used in the U.S. EPD program uses a 2mm (about 1/8 inch) sample of fleece. Commercially oriented buyers and processors buy and process on total length.

Fiber diameter varies over any production period as a result of climate, nutrition, stress, pregnancy, etc. by as much as four to five micron in some cases, and is more apparent in untipped cria fleeces.

Generally speaking, MFD is finer in lighter colors than darker in alpacas of the same age, and darker colors tend to strengthen in micron (commonly called 'blowing out') at a faster rate than lighter colors. On a histogram, this shows as a faster movement of measurements to the right and flattening of the distribution curve.

	<u>Age: 24 mo.</u>	<u>Age: 48 mo.</u>	<u>Age: 60 mo.</u>
Light	21.6μ	23.1μ	24.2μ
Dark	22.3μ	23.0μ	26.5μ

The OFDA 2000 shows that the finest fibers in a cria fleece are the primaries and secondaries produced in utero, with micron settling at as much as sex to seven micron higher a month after birth; however, this number varies greatly depending on the milking ability of the dam, climate, the general health of the cria, etc.

It is worth remembering that density is at its highest at birth, as all fibers are set in the skin; and the total skin area available to those set fibers is the smallest it will ever be at birth.

It is also worth remembering that weaning can be a very stressful time for the cria and is the major reason for a tension break in the staple. This point is often highlighted

Assessment of Collected Alpaca Testing Data..., *cont.*

by a precipitous drop in micron on the average fiber profile.

This tension break should not be confused with tenderness associated with the tip of the cria fleece.

MFD of in-utero fiber:

Light	14.3μ
Dark	14.7μ

Warning!

When comparing micron information between animals, especially at sales, make sure apples are being compared to apples, as the 2mm so-called “butt” test often tests finer than the OFDA 2000, primarily because both:

- The sample is taken an inch from the shearing cut, which means that the test result may be directly related to different seasonal conditions depending on the time of shearing.
- The sample reflects a maximum of three days growth out of a full year in most cases.

Also, make sure that the tests have been conducted when the animals are of the same age. Clients of the OFDA 2000 will note that the age of the alpaca is included in the report, as is the date of the test.

Spin Fineness

This is a calculation to tell processors how this fleece will perform when spun into yarn. For alpaca growers, it is of little consequence as it rarely falls outside 1-1.25 micron from the Mean.

Practical Benefits from This Data

Of particular interest in this data reveal is the lack of significant improvement in staple length over the past ten years.

As staple length is of considerable importance in increasing fleece weight, it is disturbing that so little selection pressure appears to be applied to it in breeding decision-making.

Of slightly less importance is the impact of micron and decreased staple length after five years of age. This is not as important for breeding owners (who have breeding as a primary consideration over fleece production as animals age), but becomes a serious economic consideration for those devoted to a profitable fleece-production business.

Two considerations become important:

- Is it economically risk-worthy to keep alpacas over five years of age in the production herd?
- What do I do with those that are culled because of the higher than average risk of not cutting a quality fleece that I can sell as profitably had I replaced with a younger alpaca?

Perhaps this economic pressure to maintain profitability in a fiber-focused business might force an extra focus on terminal market opportunities?

Nobody said alpaca farming was going to be easy!



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Alpaca Manure Management

by Bill & Sherri Duey | Southern Iowa Alpacas

Previously published in *Alpacas Magazine* 2003 Herd Sire Issue

Bill and Sherri Duey operate Southern Iowa Alpacas, located 60 miles southeast of Des Moines. They have incorporated a number of innovative features in their alpaca ranch and are happy to share their experience in new ranch setup with alpaca owners. You may view their website at SouthernIowaAlpacas.com or contact them directly at alpacas@SouthernIowaAlpacas.com.



A very important part of good alpaca husbandry is keeping your alpaca pens as free from manure build-up as possible. Removing manure from the pens helps to maintain a cleaner environment for your alpacas, reduce some parasites, and improve odor control. Alpacas are extremely efficient, requiring only a small volume of hay or grass and feed, because they utilize the nutrients very efficiently. Alpacas defecate relatively small amounts of manure compared to most types of livestock.

The average alpaca only “produces” about one gallon (four pounds) of fresh alpaca droppings every 24 hours. But for each alpaca, this equates to about 1,500 pounds of fresh manure per year. For a ranch with a herd of ten alpacas, that is about two five-gallon buckets each day, or 730 five-gallon buckets of manure per year. That computes to about 15,000 pounds, or over seven tons of manure a year for a herd of ten alpacas. That is a lot of alpaca beans!

The daily routine care for alpacas includes watering, feeding, observation of each alpaca for “unusual features or activities,” and cleaning alpaca pens. A visual inspection of the manure pile can reveal some health problems.

Efficient Handling

Manure handling can be time-consuming, so it is very important to develop a plan to maximize your manure-handling efficiency. For small herds, this may involve relocating the manure spreader or compost pile to save you some foot-steps and time. Locating the spreader 20 feet closer to the barn door may save you miles of walking or carrying buckets over a year’s time. On larger farms, extra gates between pens may save hours of labor over a year’s time by improving traffic patterns for the manure cart or

spreader as the operator goes from pen to pen. The point is, really examine your system and see if there are any time-saving steps you can take to improve efficiency.

Having two complete sets of scoops, rakes, and buckets to do the cleanup makes the job go much faster and allows both ranchers more fun time with the alpacas after the work is done.

Alpaca manure has value. In some areas, it can be sold or traded to neighboring farmers needing fertilizer for crops, pastures, or gardens. You can use it on your own crop or hay fields and reduce fertilizer expenses. However, your alpaca manure should be tested to determine its composition so that proper rates can be determined for applying to fields.

Alpaca Manure Sample Test Result (results may vary)	
%moisture	50%
%solids	50%
Nitrogen (N)	18.0 lbs./ton
Phosphorous (P)	5.7 lbs./ton
Potassium (K)	13.0 lbs./ton
Calcium (Ca)	39.4 lbs./ton
Magnesium (Mg)	6.8 lbs./ton
Sulfur (S)	5.0 lbs./ton
Sodium (Na)	1.0 lbs./ton
Zinc, Manganese	Traces
Copper, Iron, Cobalt	Traces
pH	8.57

Testing labs located throughout the country will test manure and give you an analysis of the nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium, as well as micro-nutrients in the sample. Most land grant uni-

versities have a listing of certified testing labs in their state. You can generally find these by doing a quick search on the Internet. The soil for the targeted area should also be tested in order to determine the proper application rate. (See the Husbandry Hints article in the Spring 2003 issue of *Alpacas Magazine* for information on soil testing and fertilizer application rates.)

Manure is far superior to artificial, man-made, commercial-type fertilizers and has several positive effects when added to soil. The manure naturally contains nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micro-nutrients. Other organic compounds in the fertilizer trigger biological activity which makes the nutrients available to plants. Regular manure applications generally lower soil pH. Soil structure is improved, because it tends to bind light soils together and to loosen heavy soils. The moisture retention characteristics of soil are also improved with manure applications.

On a small alpaca ranch, the daily manure handling routine will include grabbing a “bean scoop,” rake, and five-gallon buckets or a wheelbarrow and heading to the dung pile in each pen. The alpaca droppings (or beans) are raked into the scoop, and then scoopfuls are emptied into the bucket or wheelbarrow. When the buckets or wheelbarrow reach a still manageable weight, the manure is then carried to and dumped in a nearby manure spreader or centralized transfer pile.



Alpaca manure has value. In some areas, it can be sold or traded to neighboring farmers needing fertilizer for crops, pastures, or gardens. You can use it on your own crop or hay fields and reduce fertilizer expenses.

If a manure spreader is used, it should be emptied as it nears full capacity when ground conditions allow it to be transported to a target field for spreading. The spreader may fill up in anywhere from a few days to a month, depending on the size of the spreader and the size of your herd.

The centralized transfer pile is loaded and moved out either to a long-term compost pile or spread on a target field.

Manure Spreaders



Medium-sized spreaders can be pulled by utility tractors and are designed to be ground driven or powered by a power take-off (PTO) shaft. The PTO shaft is used to transfer the power from the tractor engine to the spreader to drive the manure spreader system.

Manure spreaders come in a wide variety of types and sizes. The smallest that we have seen is an 85-pound, seven cubic foot capacity cart that is designed to be pulled by a lawn tractor.

It costs about \$550 and is made primarily out of aluminum. Another company makes spreaders from nine cubic foot capacity up to 138 cubic foot capacity with a variety of loading-side heights and drive types. Major agricultural equipment manufacturers make some very large spreaders that have application on the bigger alpaca ranches.

Small spreaders are designed to be pulled by lawn-type tractors or all-terrain vehicles, and the spreader mechanism works off drive wheels on the spreader cart. Medium-sized spreaders can be pulled by utility tractors and are designed to be ground-driven or powered by a power take-off shaft (PTO shaft). The PTO shaft is used to transfer the power from the tractor engine to the

Alpaca Manure Management, *cont.*

spreader to drive the manure spreader system. Large spreaders have to be pulled by large tractors and utilize PTO systems to operate their spreader systems.

One feature to consider in shopping for a manure spreader is the height of the sides of the spreader. If you lift buckets of manure up and into the spreader, a lower side height is very important. This will vary depending on your method of handling and the size of the person.

Most spreaders cannot be emptied when temperatures are below freezing. The moist manure can freeze to the bottom and sides of the spreader and will not allow it to operate. At these times, it may be necessary to just stockpile the manure in a centralized transfer pile near the barn, but outside the alpaca pens. When the weather warms up, it can then be loaded in the spreader and applied to a field.

Instead of purchasing a manure spreader, you may want to see if you have a neighboring farmer who already has a spreader. He may be willing to park it at your ranch and allow you to use it to place manure in it if he can have the manure for spreading on his fields. This might be a good trade, especially for a new alpaca rancher with lots of start-up costs to tackle.

Other products that are worthy of mentioning are barn lime and palletized wood bedding materials. Barn lime is sacked lime dust used to dose manure piles in barns or alpaca pens. It is very good to use on dung piles that have sunken in and are collecting either urine or rainwater and staying wet.

Thoroughly clean the pile, apply some barn lime, wet the lime with water, stir up the wet lime and shape to a slight domed figure. Then dose the top of the lime with alpaca droppings. The lime will harden like cement in a few days and will allow you to easily clean up the pile as it does not let the site become a mud hole.

Pelletized wood bedding material is a pine or fir material that is sterilized, compressed, dried, and pelletized. It works very well when applied to a urine spot in the barn. It not only absorbs the urine, but also absorbs the smell. It will decompose in a compost pile or after being spread on a field.

Grabbing a rake, bean scoop and five-gallon bucket to clean up after your alpacas is just part of the business. Manure management may not be the most fun part of alpaca ranching, but with the right tools and products, it can become an efficient process that helps you keep your alpacas healthy.

– Bill and Sherri Duey



Barn lime is used to dose manure piles in barns or alpaca pens. It is very good to use on dung piles that have sunken in and are collecting urine or rainwater and are staying wet.



Clean the dung pile thoroughly. Spread the barn lime over the area and wet down with water. Stir up and shape into a domed mound.



Be sure to 'dose' the barn-limed dung pile to encourage alpacas to use the same spot.

Minimum Standards of Care for Llamas and Alpacas

Standards of Care Committees | Camelid Community Working Group | ©2005

Minimum Standards of Care are mandatory to llama and alpaca survival and humane treatment. These are the most basic requirements that all llamas and alpacas must have for physical well-being and, as such, define minimum requirements for animal control officers and government officials investigating questionable llama and alpaca care situations.

1. **Water:** Animals should have continuous access to potable drinking water.
2. **Nutrition:** Animals should have nourishment adequate to sustain life and health.
3. **Shelter:** Animals should have natural or man-made shelter that enables them to find relief from extreme weather conditions. The sheltered area must allow for the ability to stand, lie down, rest and reasonably move about.
4. **Mobility:** Animals should have a living area through which they can move freely and exercise independently.
5. **Neglect:** Animals should have a physical appearance free from signs of serious neglect. Signs of serious neglect may include such things as crippled ambulation due to severely curled toenails, ingrown halters, or living conditions not meeting the minimums listed above.
6. **Safety:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from injury or death within their defined living environment and/or when traveling.
7. **Cruelty:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from cruel treatment and actions that endanger life or health or cause avoidable suffering.
8. **Socializing:** Llamas and alpacas are herd animals and should not live alone without a companion animal. A cria (a baby llama or alpaca under six months) should not be revised apart from other llamas or alpacas.



Acknowledgements

Appreciation is extended to the following individuals who have made special contributions in their areas of expertise:

- David E. Anderson, DVM, MS, DACVS (OH)
- Karen Baum, DVM (VA)
- Leah & Allan Dewald, MD (SD)
- Murray Fowler, DVM (CA)
- Nancy Irlbeck, PhD (CO)
- Michelle Kutzler, DVM, PhD (OR)
- Patrick Long, DVM (OR)
- Bob Mallicoat, JD (CA)
- Ty McConnell, DVM (CA)
- Jeanne Ranking, DVM (MT)
- Cheryl Tillman, DVM (OR)

Camelid Community Standards of Care Working Group members:

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- Hilary Ware (ME) co-chair
- Alvin Bean (NC)
- Dave Belt (Canada)
- Ruth Epstein-Baak, PhD (CA)
- Barbara Greer (MO)
- Julie Ann Jarvinen, DVM, PhD (IA)
- Judy Morgenstern (NJ)
- Teri Nilson-Baird (CO)
- Sherry Sheridan (OR)
- Norma Stevens (CA)
- Debby Ullrich (CA)
- Marsharee Wilcox (MD)

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Ectoparasiticides Used in Large Animals

By Roger W. Stich, MS, PhD, University of Missouri

Published on [Merck Veterinary Manual](#)

Last full review/revision Nov 2015 | Content last modified Oct 2022

Arthropod parasites (ectoparasites) are major causes of livestock production losses throughout the world. In addition, many arthropod species can act as vectors of disease agents for both animals and people. Treatment with various parasiticides to reduce or eliminate ectoparasites is often required to maintain health and to prevent economic loss in food animals. Some ectoparasiticides were derived from pesticides used to protect crops. The choice and use of ectoparasiticides depend to a large extent on husbandry and management practices, as well as on the type of ectoparasite causing the infestation. Endectocides are capable of killing both internal and external parasites. Accurate identification of the parasite or correct diagnosis based on clinical signs is necessary for selection of the appropriate parasiticide.

- [Chemotherapeutic Agents](#)
- [Organochlorines](#)
- [Organophosphates and Carbamates](#)
- [Pyrethrins and Synthetic Pyrethroids](#)
- [Macrocyclic Lactones \(Avermectins and Milbemycins\)](#)
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- [Safety Restrictions](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article; click the link below to jump directly to that topic.

Alpaca Owners Association (AOA)

Disaster Planning Articles

Available in the [Calpaca Connection](#), Autumn 2020

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Blind Trust

by Marty McGee Bennett, CAMELIDynamics

Reprinted from *Alpacas Magazine* Spring 2007

Camelidynamics is a way of training and handling animals that involves using specialized tools and techniques that allow the handler to approach and work with alpacas in a way they find to be safe and non-threatening. In addition, we also create facilities that allow the handler to move animals around easily without chasing and cornering. Practically speaking, this means that the alpacas are less likely to run away when you enter the barn or pasture, will go willingly to a handling area, such as a catch pen, and once there, are less likely to misbehave.

The advantages of such tactics range from reduced stress on the animals to less time wasted in chasing and wrestling. A less tangible benefit is that you'll have a more satisfying relationship with your alpacas. Alpacas raised in such an environment are more confident without being pushy; are easier to train; are more confident in the show ring; and are just generally easier to manage.

Another big advantage of calm, confident alpacas is that as an industry, we can honestly market them to a wider range of people of varying levels of expertise or physical ability. Alpaca owners need not have previous experience with livestock, even if they intend to handle intact males. Alpaca owners using these specialized methods do not require expensive infrastructure. They also don't have to be ultra fit, strong, or fast.

I am writing this from Australia. I am teaching a workshop in New South Wales in a little town called Crookwell. It is a

tiny town in the country and the setting is a lovely alpaca stud (Australian for "ranch") called Currabungla Alpacas... home to some of the finest (micron-wise) merino sheep in the country and about 300 lovely alpacas. My hosts, Penny and John Pittard, and my organizer, Marilyn Matthews of Daisy Banks Alpacas, have assembled a group of 17 dedicated (and as it turns out, "hardy") camelid lovers for a three-day clinic.

The weather here is *cold*; in fact, last night was the coldest night in the last 100 years. None of this would be especially newsworthy, but at this particular clinic, one of my students is blind. Her name is Jo Wier, and she is nothing short of amazing. She is a *very* good handler and incredibly quick to learn new techniques. I am so struck by her ability to problem-solve; and after working with her, I am finding that her experience as a blind alpaca handler offers a great deal of insight (pun intended) to those of us who can see.



Jo began losing her sight from corneal disease when she was 18. Her sight deteriorated significantly in her thirties, and after seven failed corneal transplants, she is now legally blind with only the ability to see limited color and contrast. Five years ago, Jo and her husband Ken were posted in Sydney, and Jo worked in town. She would make her way around Sydney with her cane, but after being hit by a car, became so frightened that she would only go to work and then directly home.

After being accepted for a guide dog, Jo began to gain confidence in her ability to get around safely, and ultimately began traveling all over Sydney to speak on behalf of guide dogs for the blind. Jo and her dog Khan together were fearless—they would ride buses and trains to strange locations to speak about the advantages and possibilities of guide dogs for the blind.

Jo met her first alpacas many years ago and always remembered their pleasant but distinctive smell, the subtle sounds they made, and the gentle aura she could sense so well. After moving to the country, she began to do research; and after reading an article about Camelidynamics that emphasized the advantages of herding laneways, and containment along with non-forceful ways of catching and haltering, she decided that despite her blindness, she might be able to have camelids.

Jo told me, "It was extremely important to me that I could take care of them myself, and any handling method that involved cornering or chasing would obviously not work for me. We bought our first alpacas about five years ago and at

first agisted them; but after reading about barn set up that would allow me to herd my animals to a small catch pen, I knew I could do it myself. In a cruel bit of irony, her guide dog is now going blind; but now that Jo and her husband Ken are living in the country with llamas and alpacas, she finds it more convenient to rely on her cane and a clever hand-held device which senses the presence of an object and vibrates with a varying intensity giving Jo a sense of its distance from her. Khan still works occasionally, but is pretty much living the life of an adored companion instead of a working dog.



From a practical standpoint, once Jo has herded her alpacas into the catch pen, she uses her radar device to locate the position of the alpaca in the pen, and she can also determine which way the animal is facing by finding and sensing the neck. She is very adept at using the wand and rope technique to catch her animals; and by using balancing techniques, is able to get the catch rope up high on the neck to balance the animals, while her husband trims toenails or gives injections.

Despite her blindness, Jo observes where her animals are, how much they eat, and probably notices more about their daily habits than a sighted person. She has

Blind Trust, *cont.*

picked up signs when her alpacas have been ill or off feed. In once instance, she was able to figure out that an alpaca was in early labor.



Jo has managed up to 16 alpacas at a time, has sold a number of alpacas, and has been very successful in the business. But her heart was never in the selling of animals, so she has reduced the size of her herd. Jo still has four of her old girls and has now added some llamas to the mix. Jo told me, "I really didn't like the coming and going of animals. It was hard on my herd and hard on me to figure out the new relationships. It would break my heart when they left, and maybe because it takes a real effort for me to really get to know them, it made it much harder for me to sell them. It took the fun out of it for me. So now, I just enjoy them."

Jo is a bit like the Pied Piper when she is walking around with her charges. Jo told me, "I have a very strict rule in my barn area. NO ONE is allowed to reach out to the animals AT ALL. Greetings are done strictly with nose greetings. The animals must feel safe getting very close to me and to any other humans that visit. With this rule in place, they really do come up very close and have no fear of humans. In order for me to work with them

and truly enjoy them, they must feel totally safe. I only touch them when I work with them in the catch pen, and the TTouch* really works to help to make them feel safe with me."

Before the clinic, Jo had not actually halted her animals. Jo told me, "I just couldn't quite work out exactly how to do it from the book, but now the clinic and you have been for me like my guide dog. He gave me the confidence to try new things. Before the clinic, I had the equipment to navigate, but I needed someone to guide me and help to conquer the harder tasks on my own. Now I am really ready to go for it!"

Jo and I were comparing different aspects of the work that I do with animals and her journey learning to live without sight. She told me, "What really struck me about the work that you do is that it is so much like learning to read Braille. When people

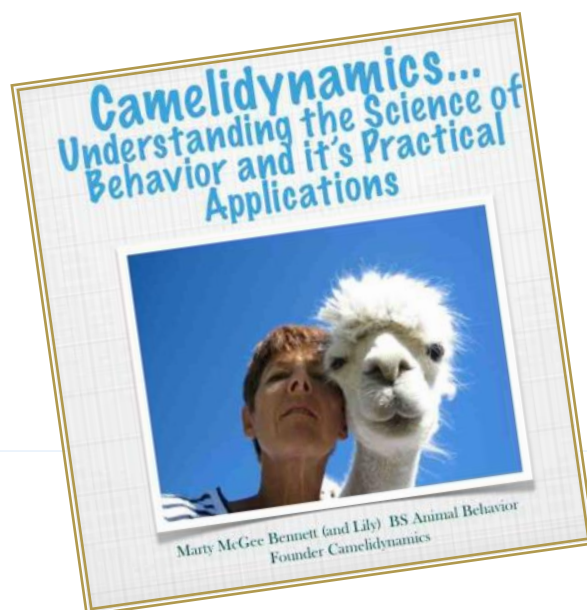


first learn to read Braille, they think pushing harder will give them more information. They tend to press really hard, and the result is they don't really feel anything. Learning to read Braille is really just the opposite. The more lightly you move your fingers across the page the

more you feel. That is when you really learn how to read Braille. Working with the animals is so similar. The lighter you connect with them, either on the lead rope or with your hands, the more information you get about what they are thinking and what they are about to do. It is just amazing."

Actually, what I think is that Jo is just amazing! The next time you are working with your alpacas in the catch pen, close your eyes for a moment and rely more on your instincts and your touch. Get light with your hands, breathe and truly connect. You will really begin to feel what Jo feels, and it will transform the relationship you have with your alpacas.

** TTouch is part of the Tellington Touch Every Animal Method (TTeam) developed by animal trainer Linda Tellington-Jones for interacting with animals. It involves the use of special massaging techniques by the handler to gain the trust of an animal.*



About Marty McGee Bennett The founder of CAMELIDynamics, Marty has traveled from the wilds of Patagonia to Peru and around the world studying llamas and alpacas, and teaching others to understand them. She has always been interested in animals and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Behavior.

Marty has studied with some of the most influential animal trainers and teachers in the world Linda Tellington-Jones, Terry Ryan, Karen Pryor, Bob Bailey, Dr. Susan Friedman, Teresa McKeon, Dr. Susan Brown and others. She has created a constantly evolving method for understanding and working with camelids in a way that not only gets the job done but enhances the human animal bond.

Marty's clinics, books and videos have helped thousands of camelid owners more fully understand, appreciate and enjoy this magical animal. Marty's book *The Camelid Companion*—published in 2001 and now in its fourth printing—has received rave reviews in publications worldwide.

Conducting hundreds of clinics in North America and around the world have kept Marty on the road for much of the past 30 years. Her work with camelids is popular with owners and veterinarians alike. She has taught the principles of animal handling to veterinarians and at veterinary schools around the world. It is true that Marty works magic with alpacas and llamas, taming even the wildest ones in just a few minutes, but the real magic is that she can teach you to do it too!

Visit CAMELIDynamics.com to learn more!

From the editor:

Not long ago, I was having a particularly “blue” evening. For some reason, I had an unexpected pang of really, really missing my animal companions lost to me over the past months. Then I ran across a stranger’s Facebook page, and found on it this post by a friend of hers. Julie Heiss, a pet bereavement counselor, wrote some things I needed to read and think about. Maybe you will, too.

J’illette

Missing Ozzy... and Welcoming Kitty

By Julie Heiss on Facebook

It’s been five months since my Ozzy crossed the “Rainbow Bridge.” Some days, I’ve really struggled, and I’ve been open about that; but as time goes on, there are better days, brighter days... and today is one of those days!!!

Although the pain of losing Ozzy is still very much there in the background of daily life, it’s true to say it does feel different now. The rawness has gone, and it’s now a dull ache. I suppose that means I’ve adjusted to his loss, and over time, things have become easier. I hate it, but I have accepted it.

Why am I explaining this? Well, to those good friends I know who are just starting out on the journey called grief, these words may help a little and give you hope that things will get easier. I won’t say it gets “better” because it doesn’t. I won’t say you ever “get over” your loss; you don’t, not really. But it does become easier to bear. I suppose we absorb it, and accept it, and create a new normal around it.

I’ve shared this journey with my friends today, and my experience of pet bereavement and life beyond, in case it may help anyone else going through this process. But there is something else I have to share with you, some much happier news.

Today is my new start, a new beginning

and a reason to start my day! So, I would like to take great pleasure in introducing you all to “Kitty.”

I will talk to Kitty about Ozzy. “Ozzy would have loved you,” I’ll tell her.

Maybe he’ll visit her in spirit... I’d like to think he’d be watching over her because he was such a “mother hen.” I will honour his memory by finding my smile again—I know he’d want that; he hated to see me sad or upset.

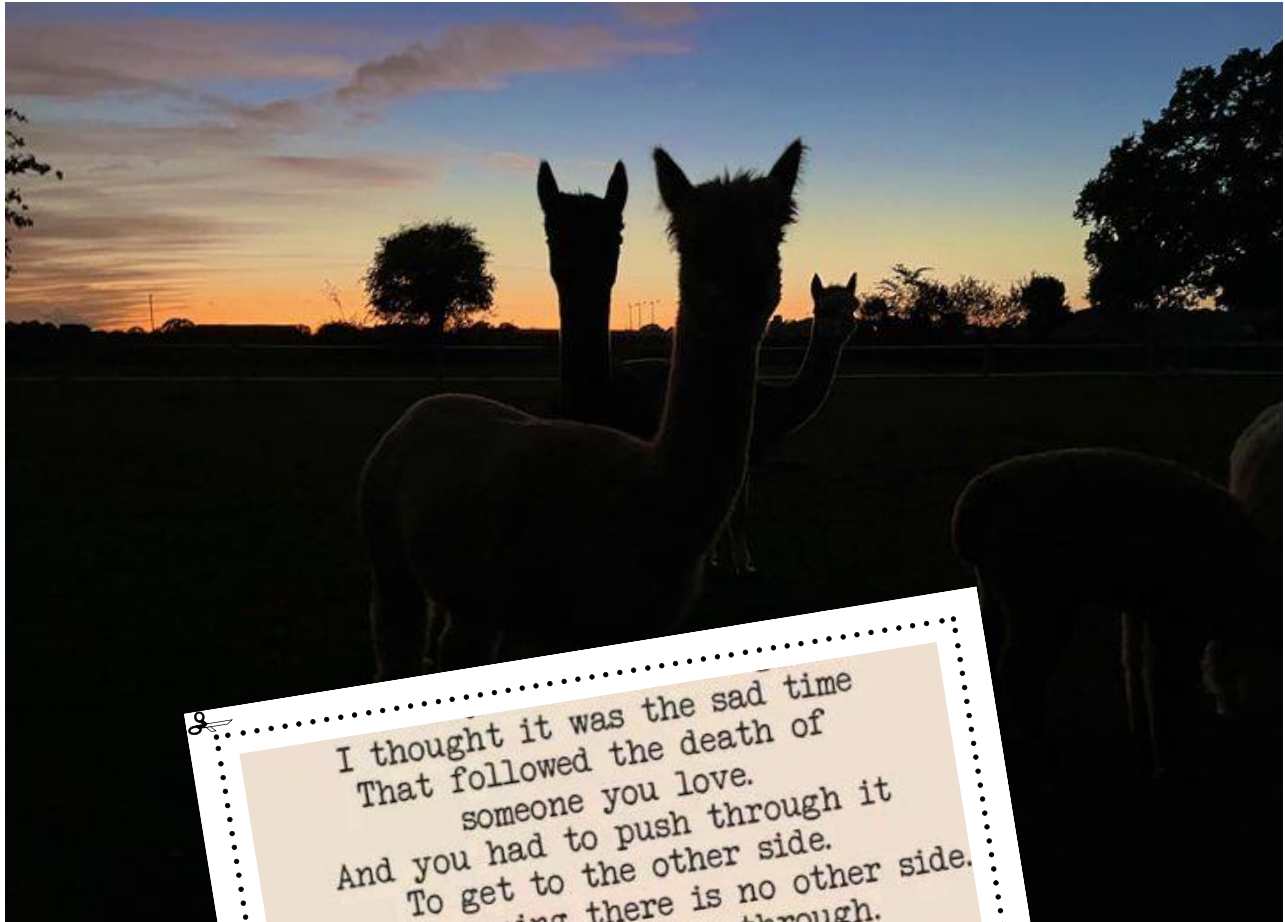
I’m looking forward to my morning routine again and, in time, introducing Kitty to some of the places that Ozzy and I both loved.

Also, a special thank you to some very good friends who have been so supportive in the last few months while I’ve been totally broken. Your kind words and advice have been very much appreciated.

Now is the time to begin a new chapter in my story, and what a story I expect it to be!

I shall apologise in advance for the photo overload over the coming few weeks but I’m super excited and I can’t even tell you what a wonderful surprise she has been!

For now there’s a baby puppy fast asleep at my feet, and I could not be happier!



I thought it was the sad time
That followed the death of
someone you love.
And you had to push through it
To get to the other side.
But I'm learning there is no other side.
There is no pushing through.
But rather,
There is absorption.
Adjustment.
Acceptance.
And grief is not something you complete.
But rather, you endure.
Grief is not a task to finish
And move on,
But an element of yourself-
An alteration of your being.
A new way of seeing.



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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](#)
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Livestock Sales (102)	Other Livestock (161)	Sheep and Lamb (1)

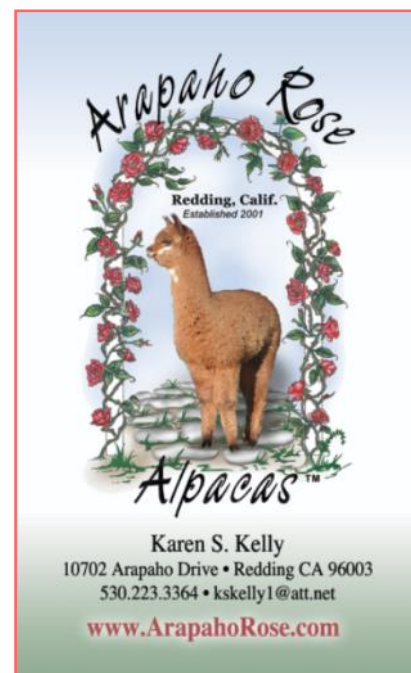
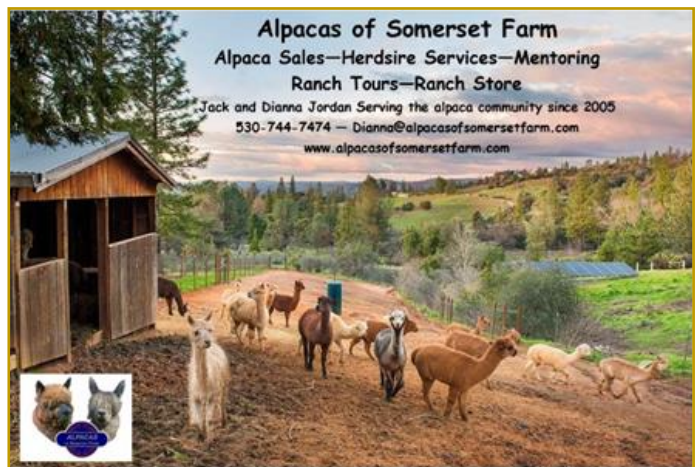
Newsletter Archives:
California Agritourism News

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!

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Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.

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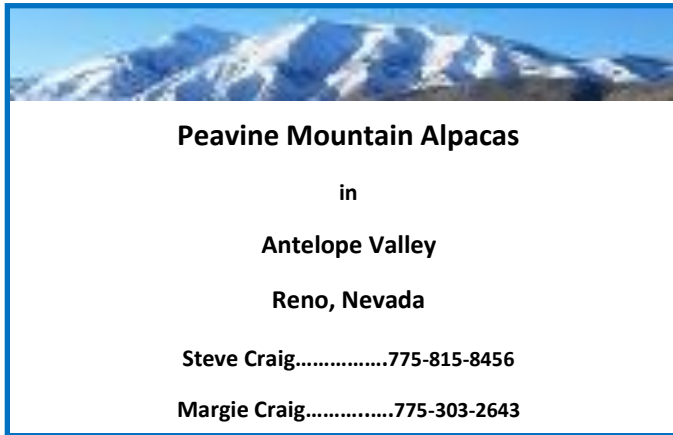
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To provide safe refuge for unwanted, neglected or abandoned llamas through intervention, education and necessary support. To seek placement and lifelong care for all llamas entrusted to our care.

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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

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Calpaca Classified Ads

Herdsires, *cont.*

MHAR Blizzard by Justice is a beautiful, bright-white stud, with extremely uniform, dense, crimply 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

www.menageriehillranch.com | 707.290.7915

Alpaca Products & Instruction

Put that stockpiled huacaya alpaca fiber to good use, have a finished product to sell at Farm Days, Ranch Tours, Holidays, etc. Fiber should be a minimum of two inches in length, minimal guard hair results in better quality finished products.

Payment is based upon quantity of completed dyer balls, \$2.50 per dryer ball. Contact Larry Macedo for the form to use when submitting your fiber. Larry's e-mail is macedo1ref@aol.com, phone number 209-648-2338

Alpaca batts, roving, pre-felt in natural and dyed colors. (We grow many of our own dyes.)
Dryer balls at wholesale pricing. Classes in skirting, felting, dyeing or spinning by appointment.

Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock California | Maureen & Larry Macedo
209-648-2338 or 209-648-2384 | macedosminiacre@gmail.com | www.macedosminiaces.com

See page ## for Advertising Rates and Submission/Publishing dates.

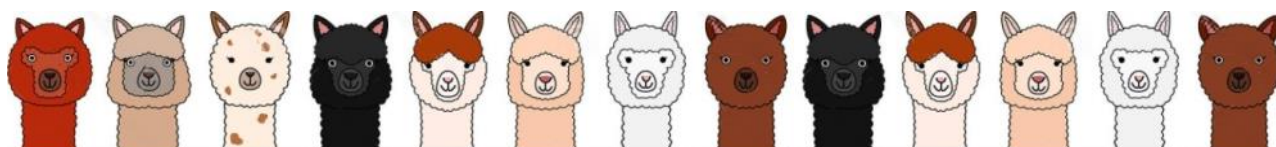
Calpaca Connection Newsletter 2022 Deadlines

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 2023	Jan. 21, 2022	Feb. 04, 2022	Feb. 11, 2023
Spring 2023	Apr. 22, 2022	May 06, 2022	May 13, 2023
Summer 2023	July 22, 2022	Aug. 05, 2022	Aug. 12, 2023
Autumn 2023	Oct. 21, 2022	Nov. 04, 2022	Nov. 11, 2023

Non-member Ad Rates

<u>Ad Type</u>	<u>Width x Height</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Business Card	3.5 x 2.0"	\$15
1/4-page horizontal	7.5 x 2.0"	\$24
1/4-page vertical	3.5 x 4.5"	\$24
Half-page	7.5 x 5.0"	\$48
Full-page	7.5 x 10"	\$78



To Submit Advertising & Articles:

Email attachments to:
editor@calpaca.board

Mail CDs/DVDs to editor at:
 L'illette Vasquez
 170 Hoofbeat Trl
 Kerrville, TX 78028-8780
 720.839.0787 voice/text

To Pay for Your Advertising:

Make checks payable to:
 "Calpaca" with info in the memo line
 Identifying what you are paying for

Mail checks to:
 Jackie Jones, Calpaca Treasurer
 5055 Messing Road
 Valley Springs, CA 95252

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.

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-



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