

CONNECTION

Summer 2010



**California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association
Newsletter**



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Thank you to the following
contributors to the Summer
2010 Edition of the Calpaca
Connection:

David Barbaoza

Dale Davis

Julie Roy

Dianna Jordan

Sheila Scoggins

Debbie Emory

Linday Peck

Hope you all have a won-
derful Summer!

Regards,
Aase Frederick
Editor

P.S. As always, please let
me know if you think of
things that can improve
your newsletter and keep
those articles coming, you
are doing "GREAT"!

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International Lama Registry
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Spring 2010

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Throughout the issue:

Classified Ads

**Important Links, information and
Articles are to be found throughout
every issue!**

President's Message

This is the third of my messages to the Membership as President of Calpaca, and as been my approach in previous messages, I will use the themes of Communication, Education, Marketing and Vision to provide an update.

Communication

At the May meeting there was discussion on the benefits of moving the Connection to an "e" format. The Membership was recently provided with an example of the Connection in a pdf format and the feedback I have received to date has been minimal and mixed. Aase Frederick will be providing me with data on the cost of current mailing cost vs. mailing first class and the e-file option. Look for this topic as an agenda item at the August Calpaca meeting.

Survey says...the Board has adopted Survey Monkey as a tool for soliciting feedback from the Membership. The first effort on the topic of alpaca rescue was a very brief instrument that yielded 47 responses with a common theme-need more information and need an option for providing comments. The survey was expanded as requested and resent, generating 30 responses. The results of that survey have been distributed to the Membership and will be an agenda item for the August meeting.

A third survey on the issue of supporting AWE's shortfall for the 2010 show and providing seed money for the 2011 show has been distributed to the Membership. The deadline for this edition of the Connection is prior to the AWE survey close date; I will distribute the survey responses prior to the August meeting and include as an agenda item.

Education

Hayley Jessup and Joan Speirs have arranged for Dr. David Jensen to speak at the August 14th meeting quarterly meeting. Dr. Jensen has 25+ years experience with Camelid, and was a contributing author to the most recent study on corona virus in Camelid. Dr. Jensen will be speaking on the topic of current issues in Camelid medicine to include care and treatment of eye injuries.

Planning for the 2011 Camelid Symposium continues with all speakers confirmed-mark your calendars for January 15-16 for what will be yet another fabulous educational opportunity. Confirmed speakers are:

Steve Hull, PhD,

Michelle Kutzler, DVM PhD

Claire Whitehead, DVM
(England)

Marketing

Quantifying the annual clip production by county continues as a goal for Calpaca; to date I have received clip data from 18 ranches. If you have submitted your data," thanks" if not, please do so. I will distribute this data back to individual County Ag Commissioners; the data will not identify specific ranches.

Vision

Adding to the future ranks of Veterinarians interested in Camelid Medicine continues as a goal. This years UCD Veterinary Medicine students receiving Calpaca

scholarships are Jessica Axelrod (2nd year) and Alison Hoffman (3rd year); additionally they will become Associate Members of Calpaca.

Further development of the alpaca fiber industry is happening-check out this link for current events relating to fiber: thealpacafibersymposium-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Thank you for supporting the Calpaca leadership -stay involved, stay connected and stay tuned

Best regards,

Tom Petersen

Calpaca BOD President

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Loomis CA

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Calpaca Quarterly Meeting Minutes

May 8th, 2010

Welcome - meeting started at 10:30 am. Absent board members, Jack Jordan and Dennis Rabe.

Minutes from February Meeting is posted on the Calpaca.org Web site: Motion to approve by Bonnie Potter, second by Maureen Mercedo. All approved and carried.

Tom gave a big Thank You to Bruce and Joan for having us. Joan looked fantastic. Joan and Bruce thanked all members present and not present for their prayers, flowers and well wishes.

First Time Members Today: Ruth and Craig Brammel of Virtual Opulence Alpacas. They are in the Sacramento area.

UCD Faculty: Many will be attending after the equestrian event ends at noon.

UCD Students: Introductions: Kirsten, a third year vet student and alpaca owner and President of UCD Camelid Club; Kirsten is also active in planning the Camelid Symposium.

Finance Report-Jack not present but had advised Tom that we are still in great shape with about \$50,000 in the bank.

California Classic Review

Joyce advised that there were miscellaneous items left behind at Classic and if you are missing anything please let her know. Still trying to close out show but should know if we are ahead shortly. Thank you to Mark and Debbie Emery for managing a very successful silent auction that generated \$13,700. In addition to the traditional herdsire, products and services available to bid on, this year three alpacas were offered for auction. Dale and Jan Davis donated a Suri with a male cria at side that sold for \$4,100. That money will be used to pay for the expense of Claire Whitehead DVM to speak at the 2011 Camelid Symposium. Steve and Lin Murray donated a female huacaya that sold for \$4300 bringing the total for scholarship fund contribution to \$8600.

Joyce extended a big Thank You to everyone that volunteered for the show. Meet and Greet got oodles of compliments. Gabrielle asked for clinic suggestions. If you have any comments on anything about the show, please let Joyce know.

Grass Valley Show Update-Kay gave update. Everything is moving along. The winner of our logo contest was Alice Lessard from Cookie Cutter Alpacas. Her entry was of a miner panning for alpacas. Logo will be sent out soon. Kay is having trouble sending emails on the Calpaca email lists. Show date is October 23-24, 2010 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. This show is limited to 400 entries and will have only 1 ring. Our judges are Dianna Timmerman, halter and Babs Manion, fleece. Cheryl Tenold will be our show super and Joyce Judy our fleece, spin off, and fiber arts super. Diane Hoschler will be our spin off judge. Kay advised that stalls will be limited to 3 stalls per ranch with sponsors having the option to purchase 2 additional stalls. We already have several ranches that have committed to a sponsorship. Kay also advised that we are using the fairground panels, which are 3 feet by 6 feet and stalls will be 6X12. Some concern was raised about the panel height, so a discussion began about a stall decorating contest with people coming up with creative ideas to add height to the stalls. Also brought up, discount for people who want to bring their own panels. This will allow ranches to bring their larger alpacas and not have to worry about "free breeding!" This venue is also the location of the very 1st California show held in 2001. If anyone attended this show and has pictures or ribbons from this event, please share them with us so we can add some history to our show program. We are hoping to have the web site up by June and registration open by July 1. We are waiting on forms from both Cheryl and Joyce. Gold County Gathering also received a \$500 AOBA grant, thanks to Rick Brady's help. We are working hard on getting everything together for this show.

Dixon Event: Joyce advised that planning is going well. This will be a Level 2 show, with Dave Barboza as judge for both halter and performance. Dates are October 2nd and 3rd, 2010, at the Dixon Fairgrounds. This is the perfect opportunity for new breeders to learn how to show. There will be a fleece sale, not show, this year. Also, since Lambtown is only a 1 day event and our event will take 2 days, Sunday will be a "brown bag" event since no concessions will be available. Please plan accordingly.

Joyce and Dale advised that they need volunteers to help set up on Friday and that the panels are heavy. Check in for the event will start on Saturday at 7am and should be completed by show starting time of 10am. Discussion started about children handling large, intact males; wanted to try to make a rule change. Dale advised that they could not make a rule change or adjustment but wanted everyone attending to think about the size of their children showing and the size of the alpaca that they are showing. Please use good sense when picking your child's alpaca for the classes, both halter and performance.

Ag Day March 23rd-Tom advised that it was another big success. Bruce Nelson brought his great PR alpacas and a good time was had by all that attended. Making our State Government aware of alpaca in agriculture is an important part of this event. Contributing to state agriculture from fiber to finished product is a big part of this event. We are trying to get more interest in the small property owner to participate in local agriculture. Gifts were given to Governor Arnie, and, so far, no "thank you" note has yet come from him. Bonnie is looking into this. Pictures have been sent to Aase to put in Connection.

Calpaca Trailer, Storing/Moving-Accomplished thanks to Russell Ratti!

2010 clip reporting- Number of alpacas shorn and total weight report to Tom@

tapetersen48@hotmail.com. Tom is trying to compile our fleece weights. Heaviest average weight will win a great bottle of Rombauer Char-donnay.

Bonnie advised us that Gircom is working on a questionnaire to be sent out to see if we are all properly insured for our farms. Many ranches find out that their home owner's policy will not cover ranch related incidents. More on this to come.

Tom advised that the Legislature continues to push for taxes on professional services

Announcements:

New Camelid Vets-Elizabeth Adams Escalon CA 209.652.1436 elizabethadamsdvm@gmail.com. Rick Brady and Airell Nygaard both advised that she is a great vet and "breath of fresh air!" Elizabeth is with the Sierra View Animal Hospital. This started a discussion on the UC Davis scholarship fund and endowment fund. How do we keep track of vet students once they graduate? Discussion on giving all Camelid club members a free associate membership to Calpaca to help keep track of address and keep students posted on events and opportunities to learn more about alpacas. Symposium is one of the few classes on Camelids that the UCD students get. Kirsten, our UCD vet student who attended early today, advised that more ranches need to sponsor vet students. John Foulke, who helped with CA Classic vet check advised that Dr Mary had a great time with check in and that if we wanted to give this opportunity to another vet student we needed to get it out there before November. Dr Danny Mora offers some of the students "ride along" and visits to alpaca ranches. We need to offer the students more ranch visit opportunities.

Membership level-Tom 2009 174/29 2010 154/24 - not as much of a drop in membership as we thought. Lin advised that she has received 17 new members since our last meeting. AOBA is experiencing a 10% decrease in membership. No comments were made on AOBA at this meeting.

Other Business:

Question rose if anyone had received their new Connection? No one has and much was commented on this. A motion was raised by Airell Nygaard to see if we wanted to go electronic verses paper? About a third of the membership present said they would like to see an electronic version. This would also make it possible to have an archive of the Connections. Most members agreed that they would still print out the Connection. Another idea to get the Connection out to the membership faster was sending it 1st class. It might cost us a few hundred more per mailing, but right now, we can afford the increase. Also suggested to get it out sooner are set due dates for each issue. Aase does send out notices, but also listing on Calpaca web site as well as in the magazine. Board will look into more options.

Gabrielle Menn wanted to know if we had a list of vets, shearers, product distributors, mills, etc....we advised that we do have one in the "members only" section. Discussion on making it more available. Would have to ad a disclaimer to the list so Calpaca would not be held liable for any problems with people or services on the list.

Dale is working on a RFP (request for proposal) form that will be used to help select key people for our events. Hopefully, we will have this soon.

Airell Nygaard advised that the date of our November meeting has been changed to December 4 to accommodate Dr Bravo. Board has already approved the change.

Joyce advised that she is doing a clip collection for AFCNA. Please have fleece properly boxed and tag. She will collect at August meeting or it can be dropped off at Derwydd.

Next Meeting: August 14 @ Alpacas of West Ranch

Meeting adjourned at 12:20.

Marty McGee Bennett was on hand to give a three hour demo on alpaca handle and training techniques. UCD students were coming after their equestrian event ended.



Photo: Bonny Rice



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www.alpacastreet.com/alasdeangelalpacas.asp

What are the "foundations" of your herd?

By David Barboza

Lin Murray and I were recently talking about the value of animals and how do you establish it.

During the discussion, we spoke of the value of "foundation females" and what value they have to your breeding program. There is no simple or exact definition of what constitutes a "foundation female", it is more of a concept. As breeders we look for animals that possess specific traits, which we want to see expressed in our herd. Also, and this is the important part, those animals must be able to pass those specific traits to the next generation - this would be judged by the progeny that they go on to produce.

To really discuss the subject of building the foundations of our herds we must digress a little, and make sure we can define what is most important in our herd. By this I mean what are your herd goals? Do you have specific herd goals? Do you have them written down and are they measurable? Are they related to production of an end product and do they economically relate to that end product? The term we apply to this is called "economically relevant trait" or ERT... Do *you* keep complete performance data on your herd and measure your annual cria crop against the dams that produced them? The measure of whether or not we are successful as seed-stock producers lies in the progeny we produce. The saying here is "the proof is in the progeny". So this is the question we all must answer, are we making genetic progress or are we not? If we make the next generation better than the one before it, we will succeed. If not, we have not made the correct breeding decision, or we simply do not have the "female base" in our herd that we would need to advance genetically.

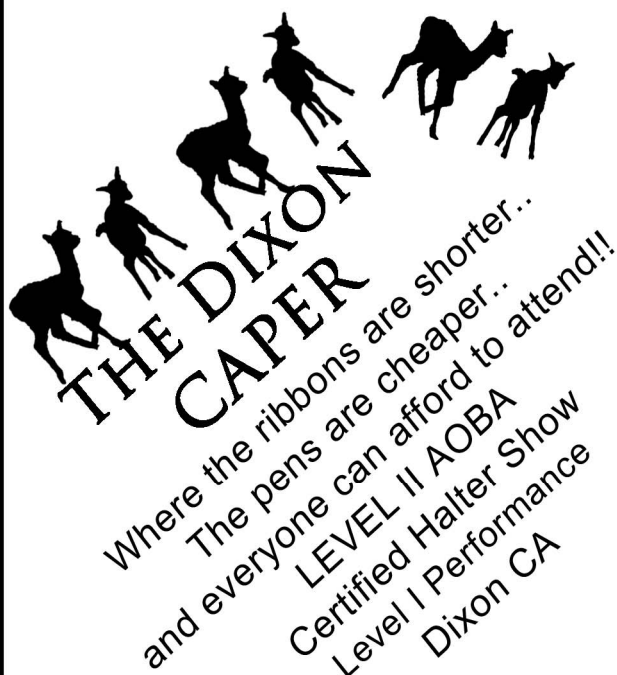
So armed with this background information, what is a "foundation female"? A foundation female is one that will function in your herd for many generations, probably the rest of her breeding career, measured by the genetic advancement seen in her offspring. There are dams that consistently produce offspring better than themselves regardless of which male they are bred to. That is what I would define as a "foundation female". What is her value to your breeding program? If the advancement you see in her offspring, aligns with your herd goals, she may be priceless to your herd. On the other hand, if the advancement she is making does not align with your herd goals then she may be of limited value in your breeding program. She may, however, be very valuable in a breeding program where she is reproducing the traits that match the herd goals of that breeder. So what may not work for you, may be just what someone else is looking for!

Notice something very important here, I have not discussed the **show ring**, or **ribbons** at all, and I am not going to. The reason being is, as a breeder, I need to know specific performance data on an individual animal to make specific breeding decisions. Ribbons *do not* tell us this specific information. What show ribbons are, is a good measure of your overall breeding program, judged against a particular group of animals, as assessed by that particular judge on that given day. Make no mistake, I like shows and I like to win. I would encourage everyone to attend as many shows as they can, there is always something to learn. However, as a breeder, the data I need, in order to be successful, does not primarily come in the form of a ribbon, what I need is accurate performance data, collected on specific traits, year after year.

What is a "**foundation female**"? She is an animal that produces the traits you desire in her offspring, as defined by your herd goals. She contributes genetic merit to your herd independent of, or in addition to, any male she is bred to, by consistently producing offspring better than herself. In any successful program she will be the dam that is in the pedigrees of many of the younger females, she will be the foundation of your herd. She may, or may not, have the phenotype you desire, however, she produces consistently time after time. She is built from the ground up, with rock solid conformation, births without problems, the rate of weight gain of her cria are in the top percentage of your herd and her offspring have fiber with traits that are economically relative to the end product.

How does this all relate to being a more successful breeder? First, we must have clearly defined, economically relevant and measurable herd goals that are trait specific. Then assess your herd and identify these important animals in it, or go out and acquire them, we must have the data to make the analysis regardless. And lastly, we must know that the desirable traits are being passed from one generation to the next, that is what EPDs predict for us, but that is another story, for another day...

David Barboza and his wife Brenda are the owners of RanchoNC Alpacas in Valley Springs CA. David is also an AOBA Certified Judge.



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Color Champion - CA Classic 2008
Res Color Champion Fleece - CABA Classic 2009

First Place Halter - AOBA Nationals 2008
First Place Halter - CABA Classic 2009
First Place Halter - CA Classic 2008
First Place Halter - CA Classic 2009
First Place Halter - AWE 2009
Second Place Halter - Monterey Prunk 2007

First Place Fleece - Dixon Alpaca Fleece Show 2009
First Place Fleece - AWE 2009
First Place Fleece - CABA Classic 2009
Second Place Fleece - Alpacamania 2008

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Giving Alpacas a Shower

By Julie Roy

Alpacas love water – especially on a hot day. My females will stand in line to get their bellies hosed down. Then they wander off and find a cool place to roll, or lie in the mud, or bucket dance in their water pails.

This regular ritual allows me to give each one a close inspection. I check for the changes in the udder, birth canal opening, body score and personalities. I also look at their toenails and any possible wounds or lesions. Because I control the flow of water, they let me get real close to them with no fear. If need be, I can catch one easily.

If you are going to give them a shower, **keep the stream of water aimed at their feet and lower belly.** This will prevent water from collecting in the fleece on their back and possibly generating a highly humid condition that could harm them. They have a "Thermal Window". It

is the area on the alpaca that allows them to shed excess heat . This can be found on the belly, armpits and groin.

Make sure that they always have shade throughout the day. This is especially important for the fully fleeced females in late term when the weather starts to turn warm. Even if you have just shorn your herd – they need access to shade in order to control their body temperature. And in humid parts of the country fans are a must to cool and circulate the air. Keep the fans aimed at the ground for the most effect.

Oh, remember the males! They love to have their bellies hosed too.

One of my "BIG BOYS" will rear up on his back legs – exposing his belly. When he brings his front feet down he does a "quick-step" and **loves to splash me with mud as he rears up again.** This dance continues as long as I aim the hose at his legs. I keep my distance with him because he also lunges quickly on those back legs towards the source of the water. (Allow time for changing clothes after this shower ritual ... if you have a dancer like mine!)

Bio:

Julie Roy & her husband Don own ***Alpacas of Anza Valley*** since the fall of 2004.

How to "Build" an Inexpensive Fiber Sorting Studio 101

By Debbie Emory—Brookfarm



1. Go to Costco and purchase a 10 ft X 20 ft Carport structure (for under \$200)



2. Carefully put it together



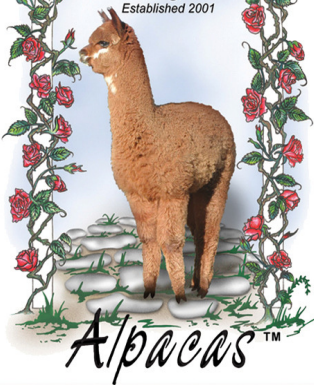
3. Celebrate your accomplishment!



5. Watch carefully so the guy and tractor doesn't take down the whole thing!
6. Then bring in the skirting table, racks, tables and all the bags of lovely fiber.
7. Open the screened in windows when it is hot. If there is a little breeze, you can open up either end completely and there is a nice side door with an awning.
8. When not in use, zip it down tight and it


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Calendar of Events

Calpaca Quarterly Membership Meeting—August 14, 2010

10 am – Calpaca business meeting will start – coffee and snacks will be available

Noon – Lunch provided by West Ranch. **Please let us know if you will be attending** so that we can assure plenty of food and drink!

1 pm – **Dr. David Jensen of San Marcos Equine** will speak on current medical practices in the alpaca world and particularly about issues related to eyes. Dr. Jensen has been practicing camelid medicine for over 25 years along with his large animal practice. Dr. Jensen was a contributor to the most recent study related to Coronavirus / snots in camelids.

6 pm – **No host dinner at Firestone Walker Brewery (\$40/person and open bar). All reservations must be paid in advance. Please send a check to Hayley Jessup, 1545 San Roque Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. We will be confirming the numbers with the BrewPub on Tuesday, August 10 so please get your check to me before then**

Directions to West Ranch

(5009 Zaca Station Road, Los Olivos, CA 93441)

From 101, take the Highway 154 Exit, head East (you really can only go one way as there is a dead end). Take first left on Zaca Station Road, go three miles and turn left at the entrance to Firestone Vineyard. At top of hill (less than ¼ mile) turn right and continue along vineyard road. There will be signs directing you where to park etc.

Accommodations: As indicated before we recommend that you get hotel/motel reservations in either Buellton, Santa Maria, Solvang or Lompoc. All these have a wide variety of styles/prices etc. I would say Kayak, Expedia etc. might be the best way to find a good place...

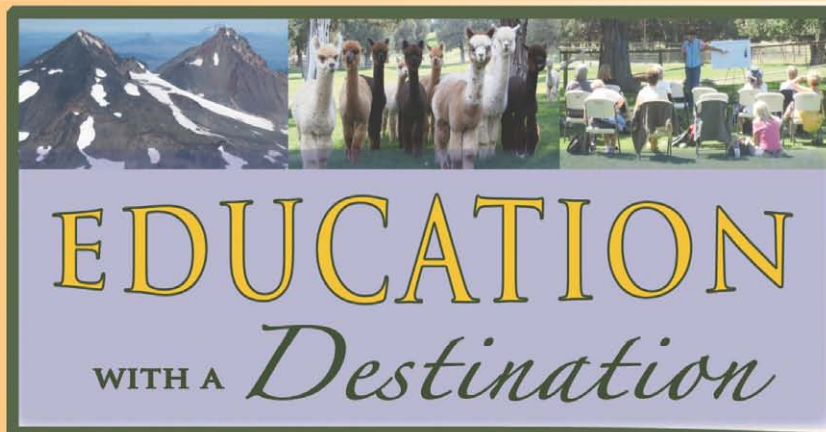
Contact Information:

Hayley 805-698-4540

Joan 805-455-6539

Can't wait to see you on the 14th.

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Cria Announcement

Brookfarm ~ Alpacas in the Valley of the Moon introduce several new crias out of all of our herdsires: We have multiple cria on the ground from our herdsires and have been very impressed with what they have produced so far. Come visit Brookfarm to see our new additions.

Classified Ad

Be sure to add the **ALPACA SHIRE** to your list of places to visit during **National Alpaca Farm Days** September 25th & 26th from 10 am to 4 pm both days. It's real easy to find, right off Hwys 12/121 south east of the historic town of Sonoma. Walk among the animals and talk to breeder Vicki Arns, who is celebrating her 25th year in raising alpacas.

Locally grown fiber and yarn will be for sale along with hand made, hand dyed, and commercial products and, of course, alpacas. Do a "make and take" project with the kids and start your holiday shopping early. Visit some local wineries and enjoy the lovely Sonoma Valley.

For more information, or to visit at another time, contact Vicki Arns (707) 938-5412 or vickiashire@vom.com www.alpacanation.com/alpacashire.asp

Classified

Summer Breeze Alpacas is pleased to offer this outstanding herdsire from Idaho. SNOWMASS CASANOVA'S CONDOR from Aspen Alpaca Company. He had a micron count of 18.3 at 3.5 years of age and his recent histogram is still under 25 microns at over 9 years of age! Condor carries on those traits in a beautiful fawn grey color.

Condor's dam, 5Peruvian Condori, was originally imported by Snowmass Alpacas and she is true black. On his sire's side he boasts the exceptional bloodlines of the famous Snowmass Peruvian Casanova. For Calpaca members we are offering him at half his usual stud fee \$750.00 for one breeding or \$1300

Classified Ad

50% Discount on entire herd! We NEED to downsize. Our herd consists of 22 females and 14 males from 4 months old, to 14 years. Many of our animals are related to 1st place ribbon winners. We hold good health as our number one priority when raising our alpacas. When you contact us, mention this article, to purchase any of our animals at 50% of their listed price. Please contact, Margie Cline from Feather River Alpaca Farm, Oroville, CA, ph. 530 534 5451, cell 530 370 0724 email address is, margiecline@featherriveralpacas.com. Our website is - www.featherriveralpaca.com, and we are on Alpacanation..

Herdsire Ad

An amazing alpaca ready to produce a quality cria! Alpacas of Baragon introduces its namesake herdsire, Terra de Luz Cochiti's Baragon. A beautiful fawn macho boy, Baragon has some wonderful lines with Aspen Ridge Augusto's Cochiti as his sire. Visit our website to view the impressive lines of Baragon:

www.loveofalpacas.com, email me alpacasofbaragon@aol.com or call Linda Nicolosi at 805.698.0980 to discuss your breeding goals. Stud fees are currently \$800, which is a steal in today's market!

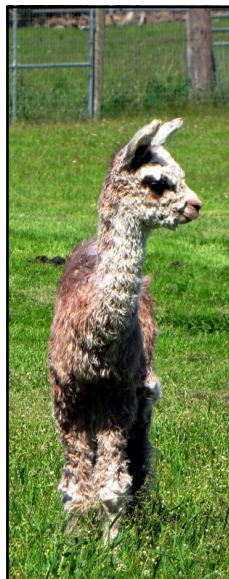


Photo: Nancy Helwig

THIS PROPERTY HAS IT ALL!!!



Gracious country living with panoramic mountain views. 41-acre, turn-key ranch. Tastefully remodeled, passive solar home. Chef's kitchen: Corian counters, maple cabinets, very large walk-in pantry, Dacor range and restaurant cooler. Large master suite! 40 x 18 Pebble-tech in-ground pool. Gym (featured in New York Times magazine).

Five acres irrigated, 15 acres seeded dry land. High quality full perimeter fencing and cross fencing. 36 x 60, 5 stall barn with tack room and hot water. 3 bay heated shop with 220 and covered trailer/RV parking and equipment storage. Numerous loafing sheds. Nicely treed! PRICED ATTRACTIVELY!! MLS #99446 ASKING \$875,000.00 CALL KIM ROETTO, Broker/Owner of KRS REALTY AT (530) 925-6054 FOR MORE INFO TODAY!! DRE #01071562



Alpaca Owners: Make the Most Out of Your Local Veterinary Resources.

BY: Sheila Scroggins

<http://www.colusariversidealpacas.com>

The cost of veterinary services can be one of the most prohibitive expenses for the alpaca owner and breeder. During this recession, we all know alpaca sales are down, but expenses can be up. During these times, any way to save on costs

would be welcome by any alpaca owner. One novel way to cut some of the costs is to allow veterinary technician students to provide some of the services that you would typically have your veterinarian provide or paid ranch help. Especially those once a year type of services you need completed for your entire herd.

Today, veterinary technicians play an increasingly important role in the veterinary field. They are now performing a variety of clinical and technical tasks in veterinary offices, hospitals, clinics, research labs, shelters and other veterinary venues. If you have not already had experience with veterinary technicians you will probably in the future. Each year, more and more veterinarians are utilizing technicians to help deliver health care to their animal patients. My horses' teeth are floated by a veterinarian technician employed by UC Davis Animal Clinic. The veterinarian comes to give the sedations and the technician takes over and completes the floating procedure.

We at Colusa Riverside Alpacas have as our mission to promote education about alpacas. In keeping with our educational philosophy, we forged an educational partnership with the [Yuba College Veterinary Technician Program](#). In forging this relationship we kept to our mission, promoted our business, and saved on the medical care of our alpacas. Dr. Scott Haskell, DVM and Colusa Riverside Alpacas joined together to furnish Yuba College Veterinary Technician students with experience in some of the fundamental health care needs of the alpaca. I can't overemphasize how rewarding this experience was not only for the students, but for us.

I believe it to be possible for many owners, to likewise form partnerships with their local [college veterinary technician programs](#). These educational relationships can prove to be a benefit for all involved, especially the alpaca. Collaborations provide valuable experience for students who would otherwise never have experience with the alpaca. These technicians could someday be responsible for handling and aiding in the treatments of your alpacas. No doubt, each student will have taken from our ranch experience, knowledge about the alpaca that will serve them well in their future careers.

I am a teacher, so for me this collaboration seemed like an ideal idea, and I wanted to be involved in the teaching. I do know however, that others may not feel as comfortable with students, nor feel comfortable in teaching students. Dr. Haskell of Yuba College was a veterinarian previously for U.C Davis Veterinary School for years, and had experience with camelids. Thusly, even if I was not available or needed in helping students, Dr. Haskell would have been equipped to complete all the teaching. It could be possible that a program director may have little experience with camelids, requiring you the owner, to participate extensively with the teaching. Because of differing levels of knowledge with programs about the alpaca, I believe one priority is to contact your local college program veterinarian director to meet and discuss what kind of experience you both want and the types of experience you could each offer. Ultimately, I believe, the success of any collaboration depends on the development of a good working relationship between you and the veterinarian program director. That director must come to see you in a trustworthy manner that will provide a safe and good learning environment for his or her students.

The day the students came started with me giving a demonstration on how to catch an alpaca, lead an alpaca, and halter fit the alpaca. A brief safety explanation was also given on how to prevent stress to the animal, and of course safety for the student. Next, we set up 3 stations in the barn for treatment of each alpaca with the students divided up into groups of 4 or 5 students. A must is to be well prepared for what examination or treatment is needed for each alpaca. Dr. Haskell had the students teamed up with each group mixed with first year students and second year students to make sure each group had some experienced students.

I had previously made index cards on each alpaca that gave a description of the alpaca and all medical treatments required for that alpaca. All the information on those cards was given to Dr. Haskell well in advance, so all treatments were agreed upon and all necessary supplies would be available. This is probably the most important preparation. Next year, I am going to place small pictures on the card, so no mistaking of animals occurs. Though this did not occur it could easily happen with a look alike alpaca. It would work well if you can attach the card to each alpaca.

All the animals had a full examination. Nearly all the alpacas received some type of injection or vaccine, whether it was Vitamin D or West Nile. All the babies were chipped, and many of the babies had blood draws for blood cards. Many of the adults had their molar teeth floated and of course toenails clipped. All the pregnant females got abdominal ultrasounds whether they needed it or not, and that was the really fun exercise for the students. Students even did some work on my horses.

Of course, the local college program must have the ability to make farm visits as part of their program. There may be some costs to the owner for the treatment of their animals. For example, I had all of my alpaca vaccinated by the students, so the veterinarian ordered some of the vaccines, but I was responsible for the cost of those vaccines and any other medications used during the ranch visit. These were the only cost to me, though other colleges may have differing policies on charges. An added benefit is that any costs incurred for the experience in most cases is considered a charitable donation.

You can usually locate veterinarian technician programs by going online. For example, to locate a program in California, the State provides a list of all licensed programs at the State website, <http://www.vmb.ca.gov>. Most programs are provided by community colleges in California, though in completing an online search for college programs I did come across 4 year colleges with programs. And, private colleges such as Western Career College have numerous veterinarian technician programs in a number of states.

We benefited so much from this experience. Everyone had a lot of fun, and the collaboration promoted our business. Dr. Haskell and I both agreed to put something about the experience on each of our websites. We had an incredibly enjoyable time and we had some extremely valuable help for a day. Most importantly, veterinary technician students learned how to give medical care to the alpaca, the best way possible, and that is with hands on experience. You too can partner in your community with educational institutions on a personal business level or if you don't want a ranch visit, your business could benefit by becoming a volunteer in some way to promote the alpaca. I suggest a web search for your local colleges, their programs, and make contact to offer ranch visits, volunteer your animals, or even yourself to help out in these program.





Siskiyou County Fiber Arts

By Linda Peck

Overshadowed by beautiful Mt. Shasta, in Northern California, lies Siskiyou County. Interstate 5 dissects it, and the north end of the county borders the state of Oregon. I have resided here for almost 15 years. The climate is considered "high desert". The winters are cold, the summers are hot, but the weather, over all, is quite mild. The skyline is huge, and the variety of terrain gives the county many facets of beauty and majesty.



Almost ten years ago, after my husband bought me a spinning wheel for Christmas, I began attending monthly meetings of the Siskiyou Spinners. They meet in a different member's home each month. The group has been meeting this way for many years. Everyone brings a sack lunch, the hostess provides beverages and dessert, and we sit and work from mid-morning to mid afternoon.

At my first meeting, I immediately began learning from women who were accomplished and experienced fiber artists from many walks of life, and with many personalities. I was awed by a room filled with about a dozen women, most of whom had a spinning wheel in front of them, calmly and happily spinning away. They chatted away about family, friends, new fiber adventures, and recently acquired fleeces. Some were fleece growers and some were not. I spent the entire day just watching the various styles and techniques, and asking many, many questions. These knowledgeable women were gracious and generous with their information and helped me to begin a journey into spinning that would lead me into all kinds of projects!

The group spins at the county fair each year, demonstrating to the fair-goers. They also provide large rosettes and premiums as special prizes for handspun entries in the fair. They have had group outings to local fiber-related businesses, and they plan group attendance each year to a large wool festival in Eugene, Oregon – The Black Sheep Gathering. The Siskiyou Spinners also get together once a year and have a dyeing day where they make a rainbow assortment of gorgeous hand-dyed and hand-spun fibers.

With the popularity of electronic mail in the last decade, the group has been able to find an enormous amount of fiber-related events throughout the county and the northwest. We have shared hurts and heartaches, as well as successes and triumphs. We share fibers, new ideas, interesting new methods of spinning, weaving, and/or knitting. Every meeting seems to be an encouraging experience.

In 2006, we began a similar type of meeting in the evenings (once a month) and titled ourselves the "Siskiyou Knitters". We also meet in a different member's home each month and we meet after dinner and go until the hostess, or her sleepy husband, is ready for us to leave! There is a two-week gap between the meetings of the spinners and knitters so many people are members of both groups. The Siskiyou Knitters, as the Siskiyou Spinners, are a wealth of information. They are helpful to new knitters and crocheters, and challenging to more experienced needle artists. The group will do charity-knitting projects for local women's shelters and crisis pregnancy centers. They are quick to share interesting patterns, new ideas, favorite yarn shops, and knitting websites. The group, very often, have yarn exchanges where everyone brings a package of yarn with specified guidelines: Red - for the February meeting, red-white-and blue for the July meeting, fall colors for November. The yarn is wrapped "fun or functional", then numbers are drawn and the packages are exchanged. This practice has become a hi-light of the group and can be a good way to ease an abundant stash! We have had chocolate exchanges during the holidays, recipe exchanges, and even book exchanges. The group is always quick to welcome new members. They have even held a group baby shower for an expectant member. In 2010, the group is having a Lace Knit Along where each month a short lesson on lace knitting tips is given and a lace-knitting pattern is handed out. This lesson is given at the Siskiyou Spinners meetings as well.

In an age where neighborhoods lie empty most weekdays, and women no longer gather at the central water fountain to do laundry and chat, it is nice to have a community of people that can encourage and support one another.

About the same time the Siskiyou Knitters group was formed, a web site was established to post information on meeting times for both fiber groups. Photos of events are posted there, as well as coming events, times and places. There are some basic instructive knitting information and links to many local fiber-related businesses. There is a page for local fleece and fiber growers to post contact information. There is no advertising and nothing is for sale, it is just a site to further support the fiber artists in Siskiyou County.

As my Ashford Traveler sits in the corner of my living room, bobbins beginning to fill with a gorgeous dark gray fiber from a local Cotswold-blend sheep named "Chris", I am reminded of the wool growers in this county that are exceptional at what they do. This county produces some of the finest fleeces in the world. The growers take wonderful care of their animals and it shows in the quality of the fibers.

In the other corner of the living room is a stack of bags and buckets with knitting projects, a finished lace shawl, Lace Knit-Along information and a skein of lace yarn (wrapped "fun") ready for a yarn exchange at the Siskiyou Knitters meeting tonight. I so look forward to these meetings. I know it will be fun to see what the other knitters have been working on and it will be fun to see the expressions on each face as we open each other's yarn exchange offerings.

If you would like to see some photos of either the Siskiyou Spinners or Siskiyou Knitters, visit our web site at: www.siskiyouknits.com

"Grannie" Linda Peck
Siskiyou County, CA



**Brookfarm ~ Alpacas in the Valley of the Moon is proud to announce our
authorized dealership with Schacht Spindle Co.**

Contact Debbie Emery about spinning wheels, looms, drop spindles, accessories and more!

707-996-0350 or brookfarmalpacas@mac.com.

Report on the 3rd Alpaca Fiber Symposium held in Richmond VA, Jun 2010.

Dale Davis June 2010*

**disclaimer.. this is a report of what I wrote down, so its subject recording errors..*

There were about 65 people attending this session..

Hokay folks here is the big news coming out of The Alpaca Fiber Symposium..

1. Big Take Away
2. Fiber Testing
3. Marking & Marketing Yarn
4. General Tidbits

Big Take Away..

So its become fairly clear that our biggest roadblock to a healthy active Alpaca fiber industry currently is Alpaca Fiber Producers (Fiber Raisers).. (be it a single farm or a group of farms, or a co-op or a commercial venture..)

are RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Skirting
- Sorting
- Scouring
- Baling

Our fiber...

*If we as an industry are not prepared to do the above we can't/won't make it as a fiber industry - we need the ability to easily source graded, scoured, baled fiber - the demand is there, we cannot currently serve it.

The above idea statement was hit on in at least 4 presentations.. and talked about a LOT.. the end of Sunday idea was to explore the feasibility of regional collection sites (region being a fluid definition) to accomplish the above and how to make it incentivized so its not a case of continually burning out volunteers..

Fiber Testing

They have completed some of their initial testing on alpaca fiber. Target of this testing was primarily to see what tests they need to choose in the future and to figure out how to standardize them so they are repeatable tests.

AOBA donated \$1000 to do testing. The AOBA Fiber Committee coordinated the testing. They used college and university lab vs commercial labs because it was much less expensive (they set up the testing as student projects) They have finished Phase 1.

They also did an exhaustive literature search on the Internet to see if there were any previously published papers on testing alpaca fiber.

Their goals were to validate the claims the alpaca industry uses with scientific data.

Intrinsic Value of Alpaca Fiber

Values of Alpaca Fiber vs other fibers.

First round of testing included

Flammability

Thermal conductivity (insulating factor)

Moisture retention (wicking, absorption, desorption)

*using roving processed under controlled conditions, washed all the same.

Both Huacaya & Suri in various colors and ages.

Abrasion & Pilling

*Cloth was provided by the Alpaca Blanket project (huacaya) hand woven sample (suri).

So here are the initial results:

None of this is claimable data yet. More along the lines of hints of what we will find when we have reproducible tests that can be run in any lab.

- ✓ It IS Flame Resistant, (bit not Flame Retardant) Class 1 (same as wool) by FTC/CPSC methods - does not spontaneously combust and self extinguishes in 45 sec.
- ✓ It does have more thermal capacity in its fiber than almost any other animal fiber.
 - o Thermal conductivity and evaporative resistance of clothing material.
 - Clo value of .9 (can be worn indoors without overheating)
 - Permeability of .6 (breathes)
- ✓ Moisture Regain... (higher % equals warmth/resistance to static)

Alpaca 8.0%	Corn Silk 0.5	Milk Silk 5.5%
Wool 16%	Bamboo 13%	Tencel 10%
Cotton 8%	Polyester 0.3%	Nylon 4%
Cashmere 16%	Linen 12%	Rayon 11%

** Explains why alpaca feels lighter and less 'sticky' than wool under use conditions, compares to cotton & silk.
- ✓ Absorbency - resistant to wetting (similar to wool)

Drop test - drop is never absorbed. Spray test, somewhat resistant to wetting.
- ✓ Wicking - does not wick as felt (nor does wool) however if knit appropriately WILL wick (it's the spaces in-between the yarn that actually wick) thus sock fabric can wick.
- ✓ It IS stronger than wool (tensile strength) and resilient. This does not diminish, as it gets finer.
- ✓ Abrasion & Pilling
 - o No pilling is 5, excessive pilling is 1 Alpaca came in at 3, which is good.
 - o Abrasion came in at 15,000 which is the min for upholstery **related to structure of fabric

Phase 2 will look at comfort value claims and in comparison to other fibers.

Hypoallergenic testing is on the plan, but will be very expensive and time consuming (will involve doctors, etc etc)

Only a couple research papers found on the Internet on Alpaca Fiber Testing: 2 papers out of Aus... Compared processing alpaca vs wool - some conclusions presented.

1. Alpaca is dirtier than wool.
2. You can wash alpaca @ lower water temps than wool. Alpaca felts faster at higher water temps than wool does.
3. Alpacas have the same softness & comfort as wool @ higher micron levels
4. Less pilling than wool
5. Alpacas must be carded slower than wool, but has better yield.
6. Fussier and sheds more than wool.

6. Fussier and sheds more than wool.
7. Twist for alpaca needs to be different than wool (crimp related).
8. Alpaca has lower resistance to compression than wool.
9. Alpaca can be bleached & dyed.
10. De-hairing is NOT cost effective 30% total loss when only 50% of guard hair is removed.

Making & Marketing Yarn - Cottage

Crimp, Crinkle, Locks and Bundles!! Oh my! Both can influence the SYTLE of the yarn, but are NOT factors in processing.

What IS a factor:

- Tensile strength
- Staple length 2-6"
- Uniformity of fiber length * *Super important for automated equipment*
- Free of Debris
- No Matting
- Uniformity of Fiber type
- Micron (Cottage has uses and needs for a number of micron range & style yarns)

Process Yields:

- Huacaya 75-90%
- Suri 65-80%
- Dehairing 35% loss

General consensus 23-26 micron makes the very BEST yarn for cottage use.. *Did you know that steel wool has a micron of 22 and an SD of 5?? I thought that was a very interesting tidbit..*

Marketing-Labeling Basic considerations of a yarn user

- Does it itch?
- Natural/Eco Friendly
- What colors I can get
- Will it work for my project?
- What's an alpaca?

Label needs

- Labeled by weight by law (optional by yardage)
- Content % of fiber
- Country of Origin
- Fabric care after knitting/crafting
 - Organic regulated by USDA cannot use wormers, must use organic feed
 - Natural
 - Eco-Friendly
 - Local (lots of states have a made local logo program)

Call to Action:

Standards; Definitions and Parameters.

Everyone else (ie all other fiber producers) has done this already and is a part of various standard groups including yarnstandards.com - we need a presence on these standard groups.

How come we are not part of these groups?

- Craft Yarn Council
- Knitting Guild
- Craft & Hobby Assn

HGA

The National Needle Arts Assn of America

Crocheting Guild

And finally.. just some general tidbits..

Gaston College has a community mill project (course) to train alpaca breeders; they have received a grant from North Carolina (who are quite enthusiastic about making alpaca one of their top sustainable fiber producers). Course teaches Fiber Value added business models. Fiber, Yarn and Textile terms. Lays out how fast your payback is on new fully automated equipment available (different than mini-mill, more like mid-mill). Allows participants to actually run fiber on the new spinning machines and carders.

Update: 2 commercial scourers available in the US now.. one in TX (Bolmans) one in Maine (lost name)

Are there a lot of NEW commercial processors out there??

.. NO, but we have some semi-commercial ventures that were new to me.. Claudia Raessler of SuriPaci alpacas has started her own mill in Maine, along with assisting to start a new scouring facility in Maine that can process 300lbs a day. She processed 8000 lbs of alpaca into yarn over the past year. She is purchasing sorted graded fiber at around 2.50 a lb. from her local growers, might possibly be interested in purchasing more. Talked a bit to her. Shipping to Maine would be an issue for West Coast profitability..

Back to Back is making non woven products. They are making quality batting, and have launched a large needle felting supply - with both beginner and advanced kits and supplies. They are purchasing short fiber in 'trade'. You send in fiber, you receive credit; you choose what products you wish to spend your credit. They are scouring their fiber at Bolmans and making batting at another facility in Texas. You pay shipping to TX. They are processing around 5000 lbs.. with about 300 farms that are participating in their program.. *Fiber length is VERY important to their product. 2-3 inches. Period.*

Report that the Blanket Project is now purchasing fleece. \$1.00 to \$3.00 a lb. - blanket and Grade 1 to 5.. they expect they will purchase around 25,000lbs of fiber for 2010.. WOW

OK and last but not least.. a very small fiber boom was demo'd.. and wow.. ok so the oil just instantly slid into the boom and was gone from the water.. no update on the fiber boom project from Matter of Trust.. (they were going to try to get one to the Symposium but it did not happen..)

There will be a number of the presentations added to the Symposium website under

www.alpacafibersymposium.com Resources

All the results for alpaca fiber research papers that were found on the internet search are listed on the AlpacaFiberSymposium website..

Again a great session of passionate folks...

CHEERS ALL!

-Dale Davis Derwydd Alpacas

(Dale Davis is also a Member of the Calpaca BOD)

HERDSIRE SERVICES

Oak Valley Alpaca is pleased to extend our Fall Breeding Special through the Winter/Spring breeding seasons. Breed your best females to our Three-time Champion and multiple Blue Ribbon winner **OVA Kiernan of St. Andrews** for just \$850 (regular fee \$1,500). Book two breedings and receive a third breeding FREE!! See www.AlpacaNation.com/oakvalley.asp for more information, show record and fleece statistics. Flexible terms to meet your needs. Contact Rick & Pam Brady at 209.772.3906 or brady-ova@att.net to book your breedings. Also look for Kiernan at the **TAP Herdsire Showcase** on March 27th in Dixon, CA.

American Pride Alpacas invites you to consider our macho boys- Caligula Accoyo Octavio and Crescent Moom Private Reserve II, Accoyo Elite's son- superior genetics, beautiful phenotype, tons of blue ribbons and championship -back up by gorgeous offsprings! Krypton /Kryptonite 's son and Legacy 's grandson is just starting his carrier as well as several younger great boys.

Visit our website americanpridealpaca.com, e-mail dpoplaw929@aol.com or call Donna Poplawski at 916 -761-7783 to discuss how these boys can help you with your breeding goals.

Affaire de Coeur Alpacas is proud to offer these suri herdsires: **El Pacacola** is ¾ Peruvian with rich, deep brown locks and quality genetics. He began showing in 2006 receiving a blue ribbon in each of five shows entered including AOBA Nationals, IAO, & AWE; and 3 championships, including AWE. **BD Ricardo** is a white, full Bolivian that was only shown once, but walked away with a blue. Both these boys produce lustrous, well-locked cria with great coverage that are winning in the ring; including a Color Championship. Breeding fees are currently \$2000. **Contact Susan or Russell @ 209-848-8965 or info@adcalpacas.com.**

925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas, where suris have a silver lining, has two up and coming suri herdsires "at your service". **Sterling Silver Dollar**, our full Peruvian MSG, is proven with a new crop of beautiful cria on the ground. Our 2007 National blue ribbon winner, Sir Frederick Gray, MSG Captain Morgan boy, should be ready this Fall 2009 to bring your gray suri program to the next level. These herdsires will be sharing time between NoCal, SoCal, and Oregon, so please visit our website www.925suris.com or call 805.496.0343 for availability and "limited time only" special breeding fees.

Shekinah's Alpacas/Southern Cross Farm is offering herdsire services from the following Huacaya males:

SCFA John Hancock, ARI# 810136, Hemingway son, Proven

SCFA Prince Sunshine, ARI 1341188, Caligula grandson, Proven

ABA Accoyo Pegasus, ARI# 803537, PPPeruvian Don Juan son, Proven

Lincoln's George, ARI# 30408050, Camilio/PPeruvian Timoteo grandson, Proven

See them at www.shekinahsalpacas.com Contact Wendy MacBain @ 408-848-9583 (ranch) or 408-655-8768 (cell) or by email info@shekinahsalpacas.com to schedule a visit.

DANCING MOON'S DARK KNIGHT, Black Reserve Color Suri Champion, is now standing stud in Southern California! Greasy, dense, consistent, lustrous **black** locks to die for! Introductory offer good thru the end of '09. Make your reservations now. . . Contact Ann Hayes at dancingmoonsuris@aol.com, or go to www.dancingmoonalpacas.com.

EBA OAKS ALPACAS As always, our Hemingway's Tennessee produced some real lookers in 2009 and now that they are one, you can start to see the real potential, one of them looks like a clone and the other is pretty close!... Even at his "older" age, Tenn is still stunning. He won a 1st in Fleece at the AOBA Nationals at age 7! His luster is amazing and his offspring are legendary. **Breeding Fee reduced to \$1500** —Tenn does his best work with CHILEAN girls, take a look at daughter Amber Joy, who is now 3 and stunning. Our **PANCHO VILLA**, has a beautiful head and True Black fiber — son of famous sire, **Silver Del Fuego (MSG)** - Pancho produced his first lot of beauties last June 2009, True Black, Light Grey, Medium Gray, True Black and Bay Black. Breeding fee (\$1000) through June of 2010. Phone 530.842.3504 or Email: Aase@4fast.net - www.ebaoaksalpacas.com— Last but not least, **Payday son "Sam"** produced some great offspring in the Spring 2009 cria bunch. Standing at EBA Oaks Alpacas, Sam is a **CALIGULA** grandson, His very light beige fiber has every-

Agistment

Board with the best, and forget the rest! Located in Santa Ynez, we are centrally located in California. All alpacas receive pad-docks, pasture, supplemental orchard grass/alfalfa and Bar Ale pellets. Our ranch vet is located less than a mile from our ranch, and is available for any unseen emergency care. We promise to provide your alpaca with the attention and love that you are looking for! Rates \$3.50/day. Additional fees for transportation, immunizations, veterinary services. To view the ranch: www.loveofalpacas.com, email me alpacosofbaragon@aol.com or call Linda Nicolosi at 805.698.0980 to discuss any and all of your questions and concerns.

thing, density, crimp and great lock structure and staple length.

Sweet Water Alpaca Ranch is proud to offer these outstanding multi ribbon herdsires. **SW Inca Bronze** and **Rock Me Amadeus**. They have both produced exceptional crias during the past 6 months and they would like to meet some special females from your herd! We'd like to see more crias on the ground so we have discounted their stud fee.

Contact Cecilia Secka 661-645-1420 or e-mail: ecsecka@yahoo.com for more details.

Alpacas All Around invites you to checkout these Herdsires: **HVLA Black Jack** (ARI 1191011), co-owned with Brookfarm Alpacas, Multi-champion non-fading true black, with *BLUE* ribbon offspring. **2007 OFDA** Fiber Testing identified **Black Jack, FINEST BLACK HUACAYA in the country** for his age. **Derwydd Bueno's Akupana** (ARI 30033825), co-owned with Derwydd Alpacas and Washoe Valley Alpacas, light fawn, show ring success, excellent fiber statistics, and *BLUE* ribbon offspring. **AKU's 2009 AlpacasAllAround** crias, all female, including one true black. **Cinnamon's Legacy** (ARI 30613324), multi blue ribbon/reserve color champ, light brown, just beginning his breeding career. Contact Susan Petersen 916.660.1918. **Tom and Susan Petersen** **Alpacas All Around**

916.660.1918

susan.petersen89@yahoo.com www.alpacasallaround.com

**Enhance Your Future with the Greatness of Their Past
Solid Foundation Genetics Are Ageless**

If you are looking to add some solid and valued genetics to your breeding program, **Alpacas of Somerset Farm** (Dianna and Jack Jordan) offers the following proven herd sires for your consideration.

CF Cuzco (1100259) WH, Sire: Eastwind's Andino, GSires: 4PeruvianPachucuti/5PeruvianChacchu

Followill Emilio (842819) BG, Sire: Snowmass Peruvian Highlander, GSires: Peruvian Don Julio/Peruvian Bueno—co-owned with EBA Oaks Alpacas

Eastwind's Blade (30502710) MB, Sire: Victor's Hemiaccoy Viking, GSires: PPeruvian Victor/Peruvian Hemingway.

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To make a date for your girl, contact

Paige Romine at paige@retiredicealpacos.com or

Vicki Arns at vickiashire@vom.com



The Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America, Inc. (AFCNA) is an agricultural cooperative incorporated in 1998 under the Colorado cooperative corporation laws. AFCNA Members wholly own it. To be a Member, one must produce alpaca fiber and purchase one share of voting common stock. AFCNA is headquartered at 17494 State Highway 58 N, Decatur, Tennessee where a small permanent staff provides cooperative administration, product manufacturing management, product sales & fulfillment (packing & shipping) and customer services. A 7 to 15 Member elected, volunteer Board of Directors guides AFCNA's business and finances.



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SHEARERS (as of Fall 2009)

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Ktkelly@charter.net

530-226-1971

Eddie Dunham.

theshearer@macnet.com

503-864-4240

cell: 503-805-7409

Brett Crosby

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info@adcalpacas.com

Paul Smith

alpaca_shearing@callsouth.net.nz

(note: alpaca_shearing, underscore not space)

Starting in California from mid-May onwards as long as needed.

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Phone 541-549-2202

Highland Shearing Bruce MacLean

509/485-2132 (Washington)

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Portland vicinity.

Sharon Allen

(Chiloquin OR area only)

Ballen004@centurytel.net

Steven Mortimer

Sandy Acres Alpacas

Escalon CA 95320

209-505-2959 ranch cell

209-988-3396 Steven's Cell

Steve Bell's Shearing

541-913-9959

OR, WA, ID, CA, NV

Jerry Lane

jdlane@gotsky.com

Green Valley Alpacas of Rescue

(El Dorado County CA)

3613 Walnut Drive

Rescue, CA 95672

(530) 672-0710

(916) 606-9063 Cell

Russell Murray

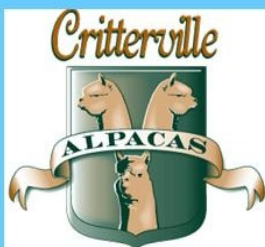
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5245 Woodview Dr

Redding CA 96002

murray44185@yahoo.com

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Cria Announcement

925 Suris of Sterling Alpacas is overflowing with beautiful crias born this past Spring. Most are Silken Gold genetics of exceptional quality and in a variety of colors! Too many to list here, so please visit our website www.925suris.com for pictures!

Herd sire Ad

Primitivo of the Shire. Dark gray suri; Blue Ribbon Halter and Blue Ribbon Spin-Off winner. 100% Suri offspring (well, two out of two so far) 100% Female (both girls) and 50% BLACK (one is white). Check him out on www.alpacanation.com/alpacashire and contact Vicki Arns to make a date for YOUR females. (707) 938-5412 or email vickiashire@vom.com. **Alpaca Shire ~ Since 1985.**



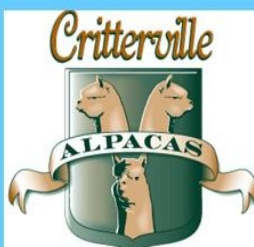
Photo: Aase Frederick

Herd sire Ad

Sierra Rose Alpacas Bronson
now standing stud.

Modern Rose Gray won 1st place Juvenile Halter at the 2010 California Classic. Limited breedings available at low introductory pricing. 707-373-6871

Photo: Renate Guyro



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Northern California Alpaca Rescue

I believe the thought of an alpaca rescue is heart wrenching to most alpaca breeders. Here is one story:

A long time alpaca rancher who has been struggling for years to do what is right for their herd was especially hard hit by our current economy. They knew they had a problem and took steps that each one of us would take to try to remedy the problem. They tried to sell their herd. They put posters in the local feed store. They put ads in various magazines, local news papers, on line and even took the alpacas to a local alpaca festival. While they were able to sale a few of their animals the sales were few and far between. Those sales did help to care for the remaining alpacas for a while. This person cared very much for their animals but life sent them a fast ball they just couldn't dodge. When things got desperate and it was evident they would no longer be able to afford to feed their animals, they made the heart wrenching decision to turn the animals over to the local animal control.

Over the years many alpaca breeders, aware of the problem, had assisted this breeder with donations of food, medicine, vaccinations, supplies and volunteering time to assist in shearing. This breeder looking for additional support was told they would be helped only if it was a permanent solution and not just the stop gap as provided in the past. After much soul searching, the breeders choose not to put the burden on their fellow breeders and contacted animal control to voluntarily surrender the whole herd.

Unfortunately, Animal Control had no place for these alpacas. Animal control had no experience with alpacas and contacted the local alpaca vet, Betsy Adamson, for assistance and direction. Betsy suggested they call Karen Kelly for assistance. Karen along with Lin Murray, and Brenda Pasqual had been working on a solution when the call was made.

We knew the alpacas had parasite infestations. They had not been shorn in two years. We were lucky that Shasta county had not seen temperatures over 100 degrees as is usual for that time of year. The alpacas needed shearing, food, housing and medication. They needed to be examined by a vet and we were concerned some might need to be humanely euthanized.

Animal Control was provided one bale of hay per day for 28 alpacas hoping that we could provide temporary shelter until homes could be found. We worked closely with animal control to coordinate the pickup date. This enabled us to coordinate volunteers to evaluate, shear and vet the alpacas the day after they were surrendered.



Animal Control transported 25 alpacas to Redding from their former home. Three were placed before the surrender. At 7:30 the following morning several people met at Animal Control for shearing. Kris Kelly, Arapaho Rose Alpacas; Russ Murray and Steve Murray, Lassen View Alpacas volunteered their shearing services. Animal Control allowed us to use their facilities to shear so our properties were not affected by any parasite infestations. Two stations were set up. We had 10 people assist-

ing in one fashion or another. Our "master of ceremonies" ensured each alpaca was shorn, nails clipped then treated with Ivermectin, CDT and dusted for lice. All were also started on a course of Corid. A good number of them appeared in relatively good health. Others needed a visit to the vet for various problems found during shearing. On initial evaluation none needed to be euthanized.

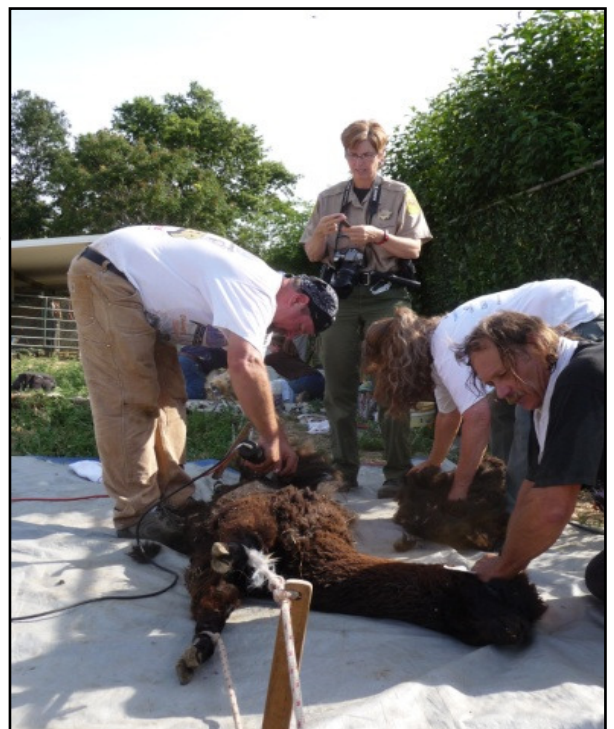
We designated a 30 day quarantine period for the alpacas during which we would learn their personalities, continue observation and treat as needed

Overall, the alpacas were not doing too badly. Unfortunately, there were a few major problems. One girl had a prolapsed bladder and had to be euthanized. Two had osteomyelitis - infected jaws and need x-rays to determine the extent of the problem. In the mean time they are on antibiotics. One young boy had a wounded and infected penis. He has been affectionately named "Peter". Several have a lot of skin damage from ongoing fly bites, mite, and lice infestation.

The progress these animals have made in a short time is heartwarming to watch. They started out depressed and accepting of their fate. After shearing they were transported to a temporary quarantine location. I wish you all could have seen them when the trailer door was opened and they were released onto green pasture. After a moment's hesitation they left the trailer as a unit and as if choreographed all heads went down and they began to graze.

A catch pen was set up with free choice hay available. Each day you could see an improvement. First there was some spitting over food. Not seen in the beginning as they did not have the energy. How rewarding it was the first time they trotted out the pen after the evening feed. But the most heartwarming was the **Wowee.....** moment when they all came running in when call with "C'mon girls PELLETS".

What a difference! Also noticeable, they are eating more hay than before. All the youngsters seem to be eating well. "Mary" is still a bit depressed with the loss of her dam. Her dam was the female we had to euthanize because she had a prolapsed bladder.



Northern California Alpaca Rescue

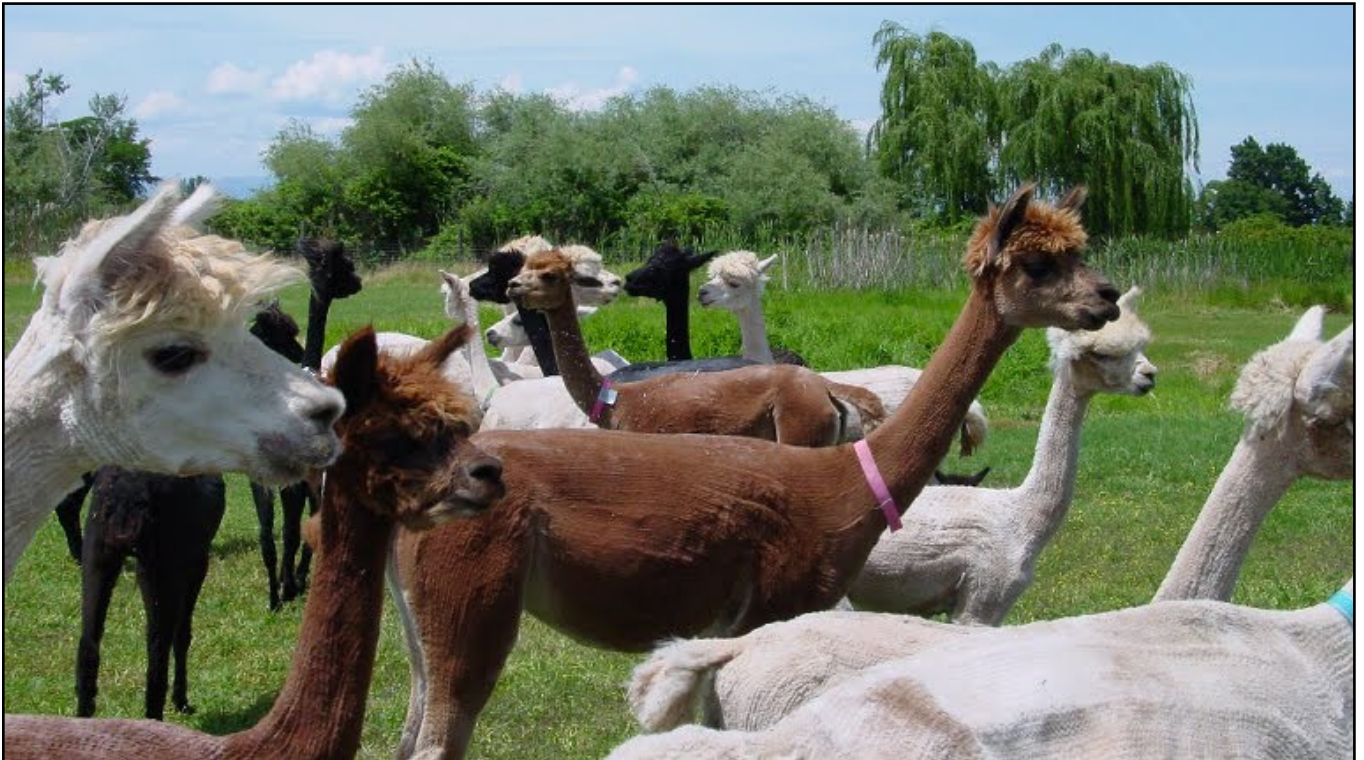
All are eating well but now that the larger group is getting more aggressive at eating time, the younger alpacas tend to stand off a bit until the others are done. Another pen was opening up that could accommodate some of the quarantined alpacas. The youngest alpacas were moved there for weaning. Most are past weaning age but had not had free access to as much feed as they need so we opted to leave them on the dams while they adjusted to their new diets. By moving them, they will have full access at all times to all the hay they want. They will still be in a pen that is adjacent to their dams.

Two females need x-ray to see the extent of the infection in their jaws and we shall schedule that for next week. At that time, we will determine the next step in their treatment.

The alpaca community is a very special group of people. The outpouring of concern, donations and offers of help has been amazing. We have had donations of hay, time, medications, transportation and money. Surprisingly and most pleasing to us, is the fact that we have had offers to take some of the non-breeding females, older girls and boys for 4H. For that, we want to say a very special thank you to those very special people that have offered to take those alpacas. Currently, we have homes for about 13 of the alpacas. They will be adopted when their 30 day quarantine period is over.

We are getting pictures together of the alpacas to be adopted. We hope to invite people interested in homing these alpacas to come see them at the end of July. We have been trying to collect as much information as possible to share with you. Again, thank you for your donations, and your well wishes.

This has been a rewarding experience for us.



Stay tuned....to follow their returns to health. See more information at <http://lvalpacas.blogspot.com/>

Karen Kelly, Arapaho Rose Alpacas
Lin Murray, Lassen View Alpacas
Brenda Pasqual, Creekside Alpacas

I think I can safely say on behalf of all our Calpaca Membership "THANK YOU" to all of you that helped with this rescue project, from vets to shearers and all the helpers. You done great! (Editor Aase)



Photo provided by: Wendy MacBain

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Calpaca New Member Ambassador Program

By...Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

Imagine how welcomed you would feel after joining an organization if, in addition to a welcome letter and member directory, you received a personal phone call from a fellow member welcoming you. Thanks to the Calpaca New Member Ambassador Program, that's the welcome our new members receive.

The purpose of the program is to assist new members in learning how to make the most of their membership through personal interaction with a Calpaca Ambassador. The most important concept emphasized is that they are now a part of an organization that is interested in assisting them in becoming informed and successful alpaca owners. The ambassador lets them know the benefits of Calpaca membership. They make sure they know about upcoming meetings, conferences, shows, as well as how to find this information on our Calpaca website. They also discuss the benefits of becoming involved in Calpaca events that interest them...meeting new people interested in the same things they are, providing volunteer help and support is a great way to get to know other Calpaca members.

Some new members find out about Calpaca and join. Others join Calpaca at the suggestion of the individual(s) they purchased alpacas from. It is not the intent of the Ambassador Program to take the place of a solid mentoring relationship by another Calpaca member. The ambassadors access early in the conversation if the new member is working with a mentor farm. If they find there isn't a mentor farm they offer to be a resource for the new member if needed.

The current Calpaca Ambassadors are: **Rick and Pam Brady, Jennifer Powers, Laurie and Scott Findlay, Len Chyet, and Lin Murray.** **Dianna Jordan** is the program coordinator. These individuals responded when the opportunity to serve as an Ambassador was presented.

How does it work? When a new member joins Calpaca Lin Murray, our membership chair, sends them a welcome letter and directory. She also sends an email to membership with the new member information. Dianna maintains a record of new members and assigns an ambassador on a rotational basis. We discussed assignment by location. But, since the program isn't designed to be a mentoring program based on location, it was decided that the assignments would be by rotation...next on list will be assigned to the new member.

Calpaca is a friendly group and I think we do a great job of helping people feel comfortable at our meetings. I often observe members introducing themselves to new members and guests. The Calpaca Ambassador program takes that extra step of helping new members feel welcome through a personal contact before the next activity or meeting. It gives new members a sense of belonging before attending their first event.

If you have any questions about the program, please don't hesitate to call Dianna or one of the ambassadors.

For more information about the article in the Sac Bee go to their website and do a search on "vet students" and the article referred to comes right up! It is worth the effort to look for it!

Mr. Rick Brady
2044 South Ranchero Rd. Valley
Springs, CA 95252

Dear Mr. Brady:

Enclosed is a copy of a June 13, 2010 article from the Sacramento Bee. The headline of the article reads "Animal Lovers Trained to Heal".

The students featured in the article, Tomo Wiggans and Jessica McAfee, are members of the Class of 2010 that graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine last month.

Tomo and Jessica followed very different paths to UC Davis, but they and their classmates learned the same lessons during the past four years. Veterinary medicine is technically challenging, but it is also based on the special bond that humans and animals share. The article underscores the value of the human-animal bond to all of us.

As one of the school's generous scholarship donors, you play a critically important role in providing our students with the world's best veterinary education.

Thank you for making this possible! Sincerely,



Thomas M. Venturino

Acting Assistant Dean of Advancement—U C Davis, Davis CA

Enclosure

Herdsires

Benchmark's SilverCoyo Outlaw (1/2 Accoyo Silver Grey) Outlaw has the look, the color, the genes, and the ribbons! And even better, he's passing it on. His impressive show record includes: 9 Blue Ribbons, 4 Color Champs and 2 Reserves. He's produced 14 greys to date, and his first grey girl took 1st place and Color Champion at the CA Classic, as well as 3rd place at AOBA National's 2009 out of a class of 10. Incredible Accoyo Express bloodlines at an outstanding price. **Stud Fee: \$2200**
Calpaca members get a 60% discount Sunny Acres Alpacas 559-323-9608 See him and his progeny at www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com

Tin Man is a beautiful dark fawn, but his real beauty is in his fiber. He offers matchstick bundling, amazing crimp, fineness and density. Tin Man is a Shades of Grey son and grandson of the legendary dark silver grey herdsire, Peruvian Silverado. His progeny are hitting the show ring in all colors and winning, including a 1st Place at AOBA National's 2009.

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Cria Announcement

Alas de Angel Alpacas is proud to announce the long awaited arrival of "Star"; the blending of our Winnie (out of Glacier) and Our Peruvian Cirrus! She is stunning to say the least and everything we hoped for in this blend. We also welcomed "Hamilton" out of our SweetPea and Our Peruvian Cirrus. . . what an amazing boy! Spitting image of Cirrus. . . We are proud parents!

ZZALPACAS is proud to announce the arrival of our 2010 crias.

We have had 3 boys and 3 girls this time around.

Our rose grey stud Michi produced 2 attractive rose grey males Tommy Lee and Vlad Tepes as well as a beautiful fawn female Noelani.

We also had a handsome light fawn male Ysenio, a true black female Bella Donna, and a delicious dark brown female Valrhona...who has very nice markings including white bracelets on all 4 legs.

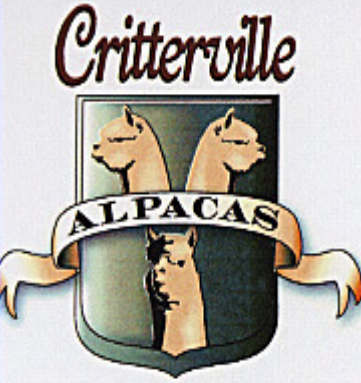
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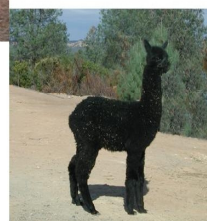


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Mila Mae



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Genevieve with
Louise and Petey

July 2010

Photo:

Aase Frederick



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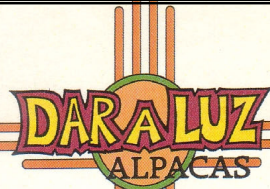
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Herdshire Ad

Ahh...Sweet Alpacas introduces the two newest members of their Herdshire Row, Ahhh Sweet's Enrique and Ahhh Sweet's Rocky. Both have settled several females. Enrique is a Full Peruvian Rose Gray from the Luciano/Platinum line, and took 1st Place at AFW 09. Rocky is Light Fawn, with a micron of 18.1 at 3 yrs. Rocky combines two legendary bloodlines, Legacy and Victor. Introductory fees for both boys are \$500. Visit www.sweetalpacas.com or call 707-448-9157 for more information. And don't forget our established Studs, Gladiator, Glacier, Cirrus, Grey Ghost, and LV Silver Sage. So far Little Sage has produced 7 cria, 3 Rose Gray, 2 Silver Gray, and 2 Black. Discounts offered for multiple breedings.

Classified

**For Sale: CCR Valienza w/female cria at side DOB 7/9/05
Dark Brown Bred Female \$5000**

Valienza is a 1/2 Peruvian girl sired by Inti-Sapa. She has dark vicuna markings that create her striking appearance and wonderful presence. Her confirmation is impeccable from her bite to her dead straight legs. She has a bay black CCR Malato female cria at her side and is bred to SilverCoyo Outlaw for an April 2011 cria.

Sunny Acres Alpacas 559-323-9608 See her at
www.SunnyAcresAlpacas.com

Herdshire Ad...

Derwydd Peruvian Inti-Sapa - 4 x Get-of-Sire, color champion, and too many blue ribbons to count! Now his colorful progeny is winning Champion in both fleece and halter. You could pay \$2,500 for one breeding, or you could have Inti at your ranch during August and September and breed him to as many of your females as you like for a mere \$5,000. You pay for transport from Alpacas at Lone Ranch in Southern Oregon to your ranch. **Call Renate at 541-826-7411.**



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Kathryn Hamilton**

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Email: Sweetalpacas@sweetalpacas.com

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\$310,000

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For info/photos see:

www.zzalpacas.com or call:

510-303-5530

Useful (or just interesting) WEBSITES BOOKS & LINKS

Calpaca, Inc: www.calpaca.org

Alpaca and Llama Show Association: www.alsashow.org

Alpaca Fiber Coop of N. America (AFCNA)

www.americasalpaca.com

www.afcna.org

Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF):

www.AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

Yahoo Groups:

AlpacaSite, AlpacaGeldings, AlpacaMarket, AlpacaMarketClassified

AlpacaBrags, AlpacaPolitics, AlpacaWatch

Links

including sources for looking up Poisonous Plants

www.feedsafe.com

Includes information on how to obtain a home kit for testing
your hay and grasses for NITRATES

The following link has a bunch of links to articles about poisonous
plants and trees (at the bottom of his webpage)

http://www.vims.edu/bio/faculty/perry_ie.html

<http://www.calacademy.org/research/library/biodiv/biblio/poison.htm>

<http://envhort.ucdavis.edu/ce/king/PoisPlant/>

Reference Books

"The Complete Alpaca Book" by Eric Hoffman

www.bonnydoonalpacas.com

"Alpaca Field Manual" by C. Norman Evans, DVM

Able Publishing and AG Press Inc.

"Caring for Llamas and Alpacas"

by Clare Hoffman, DVM and Ingrid Asmus

"Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care"

By Bradford B. Smith DVM, PhD, Karen I. Timm, DVM, PhD,
Patrick O. Long DVM

Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock Western U.S.

By Shirley A Weathers

*The following are also advertising websites (alpaca sales, alpaca
goods and services, etc.) but do contain useful information on
their*

forums & libraries of articles

www.alpacastreet.com

www.alpacanation.com

www.OpenHerd.com

WWW.KNITCLICK.COM

www.hatshapers.com

TKA - Knitting Guild of America

www.knitpicks.com

Has useful and helpful Podcasts and well designed instructions for
beginning and advanced knitting and crocheting

www.lionbrand.com—free patterns

<http://www.siskiyounits.com/>

Lots of useful links and information on knitting and spinning

DIY website

"Knitty Gritty" podcasts and knitting Patterns and links

Conference of N. CA Handweavers: www.ench.org

Spinners and Weavers Housecleaning Pages

<http://homepages.together.net/~kbruce/kbbspin.html>

www.alpacafibersymposium.com.

You might consider joining the symposium yahoo chat
group thealpacaibersymposium.

www.ETSY.com

Your place to buy and sell all things handmade

Useful Farm Links

<http://www.alpacadelapacifica.com/scratch.htm>

**Please Contact the Connection Editor
if you have a "useful" link on your own website!
Aase@4fast.net**



Information on how to submit advertising and articles etc. to the Editor of the Connection Newsletter

*(when sending me checks, please make sure your ranch name is somewhere on either the check or the return address on the envelope: Make checks payable to: **Calpaca Connection** and mail to:*

Aase S Frederick
EBA Oaks Alpacas
6010 Little Creek Road
Yreka, CA 96097
Phone: 530-842-3504 Cell: 530-340-0660
Email: **Aase@4fast.net**

DEADLINES ARE FIRM. You will receive emails from the Editor, in plenty of time, regarding deadlines for each issue:

2010: December / Spring **April 11th** / Summer **July 11th** / Fall **October 10th**

Please **do not bother with NEXT day mailings to Yreka, they take longer than Priority mail!**)

Stud Services, Agistment, Cria Announcement and Classified Advertising up to **100 words** for each category are FREE for Calpaca Members

Business Cards, Herdsire and Agistment advertising is **renewable once a year, SPRING ISSUE** — Classified and Cria Announcement are renewed each issue. *Business Cards are prorated if they are received at other times of the year.*

Each page is 8.5 X 11 inches, with a 1/2 inch margin all around. So a full page ad is 7.5 X 10 Inches. Half page is 7.5 X 5.

A quarter page is 3.75 x 5 and 1/3 page is always run at just over 2.5 H X 7.5 L. You can also run a 1/2 page 3.75 X 10 H

B/W Business Card	\$40 per year
Color Business Card	\$75 per year
B/W 1/4 Page	\$25.00
B/W Half Page	\$45.00
B/W Full Page	\$85.00
Color 1/4 Page	\$45 per issue
Color 1/3 Page	\$55 per issue
Color 1/2 Page	\$85 per issue
Color Full Page	\$160 per issue

ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS CARDS must be submitted electronically (via email), or, if the file is more than 8 MB (a full page color ad should run not much more than 2 MB at 300 dpi), copy to a CD and mail (USPS). Graphics must be submitted as .jpg files or PDF and ready to go. ***Please do not submit "WORD" documents with un-imbedded graphics—even if you print them as PDF docs, they do not transfer to the publishing program.***

I can correct some problems, but a low quality "pixelly" product is going to print that way and some other problems are not correctable at all. For example, please don't send me a half-page formatted ad and ask me to STRETCH to a full page, if you think about it, it will look like the funny mirror at the fair :)... please check it for yourselves (on computer) before you send it, to make sure the quality is what you are looking for. ***Please be sure*** the file format is what I requested and—also, please do not send me an ad that is meant for a professional print shop, those require special programs just to open them and I don't use professional "Printer" programs to create this newsletter. Please keep in mind that we now have more than 230 members at any given time so, ***please sign your emails and articles with all your information including contact phone, email and websites if applicable.***

ARTICLES AND OTHER TEXT FILES should be emailed as attachment "Word" documents. Please do NOT format your Word docs, since I have to undo the formatting to make it work in the program I use for producing this newsletter. ***Please contact me if these instructions need more explanation.***

The editor may edit articles for content and especially for length. Articles should fit about 1 to 3 pages of text (7.5 x 10). Ta-homa font (size 10, 9 or 8 is great). Articles of interest to everyone are really appreciated and enjoyed by all. Articles about current events that are of importance to our industry, such as research and development of new or better Vet info, new developments in procedures or application of certain meds and supplements are all of general interest and are beneficial to all of us and can be educational or just fun! Articles about your experiences as alpaca farmers are invaluable to the newbies and also to everyone else!

PLEASE MAIL YOUR ADVERTISING AND CHECKS IN PLENTY OF TIME TO MEET THE DEADLINES!

CALPACA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND INFORMATION SHEET

Farm Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Number of Alpacas:

Huacaya: Males _____ Females _____ Geldings _____

Suri: Males _____ Females _____ Geldings _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Date: _____

Farm Membership \$100.00 (First Year Farm: \$50.00)

Associate Member: \$30.00

Farm Membership entitles you to:

Two votes on Calpaca Issues

Run for a seat on the Board of Directors.

Receive inquiries from potential buyers.

A Membership Directory

The Quarterly Calpaca "Connection" Newsletter

Free Listing on the Calpaca Web Page

and up to 100 WORDS in the Classified section

of the Connection Newsletter & Entrance to all free Calpaca functions

Associate Membership entitles you to:

The Quarterly Calpaca "Connection" Newsletter

Entrance to all free Calpaca functions

Mail new Membership Applications

(and yearly Renewals)

To Membership Chair:

Lin Murray

Lassen View Alpacas

22783 Venzke Road

Cottonwood CA 96022

alpacas@shasta.com

(530) 941-7855

National Disaster Rescue Information

From: Sheila Fugina, IRC Council

National Lama Intervention & Rescue Coordination Council

As a result of the networking efforts of several camelid organizations, a communication system for disaster response and relief has been set up on the web site for the International Camelid Institute (ICI). The tornadoes and floods in the Midwest were the most recent impetus to putting such a plan together, but the wildfires and droughts in other parts of the country started the discussions much earlier. Contact information and links have been provided on the site for national, regional and local agencies involved with disaster preparedness, response and relief for both people and animals. A list of owners with immediate needs such as water, pasture, hay and shelter will be posted on the site shortly, as will a list of people offering help (transportation, pasture room, water, etc.). The list will be updated often over the next several weeks as ICI receives additional information. Specific concerns and suggestions from camelid veterinarians regarding disaster response and relief also will be posted on the site.

Much of the data in several of the reports was compiled by Sandra Wallace and her team members on the Alpaca Owner and Breeders Association (AOBA) Affiliate Congress who then worked with ICI and the IRC Council to get the actual communication system in place. Though the current concern is with the problems in the Midwest, the system is intended to provide immediate communication regarding any disaster nationwide. Please inform your members they can go to ICI's web site at www.icinfo.org and click on "Help for Affected Flood Owners" under the Hot Topics section for information and help not only for this latest weather related crisis, but also for future disaster concerns.

Calpaca Connection Newsletter
c/o Aase S Frederick
EBA Oaks Alpacas
6010 Little Creek Rd
Yreka CA 96097

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