

CONNECTION

Winter 2022



'Tis the Season...

- ⇒ to maximize your fiber harvest before the shearer arrives!
- ⇒ to schedule and plan your spring shearing!
 - ⇒ to plan on entering Walking Fleece show category!
- ⇒ to train your next show champions to stand still in the ring!
- ⇒ to start an alpaca youth group at your own farm!

California Classic Alpaca Show 3.25-27.22



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association

Connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other



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 Quarterly Membership Meeting 02.12.2022

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

Hosted by Dave and Sheila Scroggins

Colusa Riverside Alpacas

Cover photos: Background by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm
Alpaca: Sheila & Dave Scroggins, Colusa Riverside Alpacas

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Lincoln NE 68512
402-437-8484
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AlpacaInfo.com

Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

International Lama Registry (ILR)

LamaRegistry.com

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Full Page Color Ad: \$55

Contact *Connection* Editor
editor@lillette.net

To join or renew your Calpaca membership:

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

Stay Connected!

Calpaca Website

calpaca.org

Group Emails

info@calpacaboard.org

Calpaca Facebook

Facebook.com/groups/Calpaca

Message from the President

So Long 2021 – Welcome 2022!

2021 started much the same way as 2020 ended... overshadowed by the far-reaching effects of the Covid pandemic and all it brought with it. Entering 2022, there is no denying a lot has been and still is going on in the world affecting our Calpaca members, our organization, and the alpaca industry.

Introducing the 2022 Board Members

In 2022, four members of the 2021 Calpaca Board of Directors are returning: Steve Craig as VP, Stacey Payne as Secretary, Jackie Jones as Director at Large, and yours truly as President. We welcome Brandi Mello who will serve as the Treasurer. We thank Megan Kukla for serving two years as the secretary in 2020 and 2021.

2022 First Quarter Meetings/Events

There are two activities scheduled the first quarter of 2022. On February 12, we are holding our quarterly membership business and education meeting. The meeting will be virtual only, and the education portion is being offered by Sheila Scroggins, Colusa Riverside Alpacas. Details can be found in this [Connection](#) and on the [Calpaca website](#).

We are closing out the quarter with the popular California Classic alpaca show. After being cancelled two consecutive years because of the pandemic, we anticipate a great turnout of alpaca enthusiasts. We are a social and supportive group, and always look forward to events that bring us together. Remember, you don't have to show an alpaca to participate. It is a great opportunity to learn more about alpacas.

There will be several knowledgeable alpaca owners ready and willing to share their ideas. Also, the show always needs volunteers.

I am looking forward to meeting our new Calpaca members and catching up with our returning members.

Wishing you a great 2022,

Dianna

Dianna Jordan, 2022 Calpaca President
530-744-7474

president@calpacaboard.org



CALIFORNIA CLASSIC REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

What: California Classic Alpaca Show
When: March 25-27, 2022
Where: Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced CA
Registration: www.alpacareg.com
Early Bird Ends: March 01, 2022
Registration Ends: March 14, 2022

*Let's start our 2022 show like we ended
our 2021 season... **with a BANG!!***

Calpaca Quarterly Member Meeting

Saturday, February 12, 2022 | 10:30 a.m. | Virtual Meeting

Covid restrictions necessitate that our meeting be virtual only. Information will be sent separately for online access to the membership meeting and educational presentation.

Educational Topic:

Using Both Histograms & EPDs to Guide Your Breeding Decisions

Sheila Scroggins has been on the forefront in understanding, implementing and educating about Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) since their implementation in the alpaca industry. Though adoption of EPDs by farms has been slow, we continue the education for full implementation in the future for all farms.

Sheila's 60– to 90-minute presentation will illustrate through actual animal progeny the value to farms in using EPDs. She will present a global look at EPD values with an emphasis on fiber improvement in all traits. Emphasis will be on using the EPD values in a manner that brings speedy fiber improvement to a farm's yearly offspring.

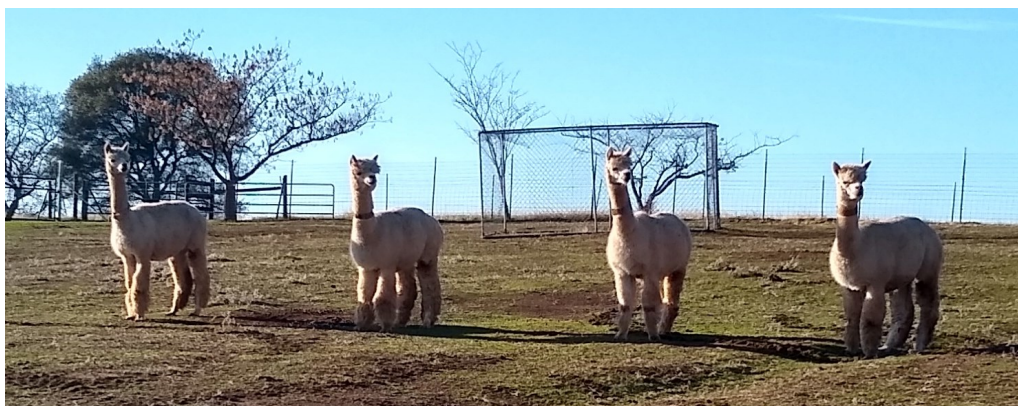


Hosted by: Sheila and Dave Scroggins
Colusa Riverside Alpacas

Meeting Schedule: 10:30 a.m.: Login, greetings and chat time
11:00 a.m.: Business meeting to be followed
by educational presentation

*Please RSVP by email to DNSranch@citlink.net so
we know how many attendees to expect. See you all there!*

Calpaca 2022 Calendar		
DATE	EVENT	HOST/LOCATION
01.22	<i>Connection</i> Winter Issue Submissions Due	editor@lillette.net
02.01-03.01	CA Classic Early Bird Registration	AlpacaReg.com
02.05	<i>Connection</i> Winter Issue	Calpaca.org > Member Services
02.12	Quarterly Business & Education <i>Virtual Meeting</i>	Dave & Sheila Scroggins Colusa Riverside Alpacas
02.14	February BOD Meeting	
02.16	Special Member-Only Webinar	Julie Roy: "Farm-Tourism"
03.01	CA Classic Early Bird Ends	AlpacaReg.com
03.03-06	Stitches West	SAFE CU Convention Center Sacramento, CA
03.14	CA Classic Registration Ends	AlpacaReg.com
03.25-27	California Classic Alpaca Show	Merced, CA
04.23	<i>Connection</i> Spring Issue Submissions Due	Editor@lillette.net
05.07	<i>Connection</i> Spring Issue	Calpaca.org > Member Services
05.14	Quarterly Membership Meeting	TBD
07.23	<i>Connection</i> Summer Issue Submissions Due	Editor@lillette.net
08.06	<i>Connection</i> Summer Issue	Calpaca.org > Member Services
08.13	Quarterly Membership Meeting	TBD
10.22	<i>Connection</i> Autumn Issue Submissions Due	Editor@lillette.net
11.05	<i>Connection</i> Autumn Issue	Calpaca.org > Member Services
11.12	Annual Business and Quarterly Membership Meeting	TBD



GrandDams of [Colusa Riverside Alpacas](#)

2022 California Classic

Registration is now OPEN
for the 2022 California Classic
to be held March 26 and 27
at the Merced Fairgrounds in
Merced, CA

Halter Judges
Males: Laurel Shouvin
Females: Beverly Brehm
Walking Fleece Judges
David Barboza & Ken Hibbits

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our 2021 season... **with a BANG!!**

Herdsire Confidential

by Sandra Wallace, Alpacas of Marin

I have been the coordinator for the Herdsire Auctions at many of the local shows since 2009. Over the years, my experience with Gold Country Gathering, the California Classic, and AlpacaFest West has taught me a few things about what sells and what doesn't in a show benefit auction. I thought it might help others to understand the philosophy behind herdsire choices for a show, the benefits of donating a breeding to a show, and why anyone would want to do this job anyway!

So, why donate a breeding to an auction? First, of course, there is the necessity that our organizations have to finance our shows. The herdsire auction brings in enough money to make the difference between a show ending up in the red or the black. Calpaca rules require that a show must break even in order to proceed—a show that does not break even cannot go forward the next year. And if it is projected that an upcoming show won't break even, it will be cancelled. This hurts all of us. Those of us who sell alpacas as a business understand that show results play an important role in the marketability of an animal. No shows, no show results! During the COVID lockdown, there was a generation of alpacas that did not get shown be-

cause there were no local shows—in order to show our animals, we had to transport them to the National, Futurity, TxOlan, CABA, and GWAS shows to be able to develop a show record. Animals that did not get shown will be more difficult to market at competitive prices. Being able to hold a successful herdsire auction makes it possible for all of us to show locally.

But what's in it for me, really?? PUBLICITY AND PAID BREEDINGS!! Calpaca rules require that herdsire donations get two e-blasts and two Facebook blasts each. The males are featured on the show website and in the show program. They are announced during the show. When auctions are held on OpenHerd, there is an auction page where each male's information is conveniently located. Our auctions are advertised nationally on OpenHerd and often with AOA eblasts. ***You simply cannot match this amount of publicity for your male and your farm,*** with essentially no financial outlay!! And when breeders do investigate your guy, they have the opportunity to search your website and learn about other alpacas and merchandise you offer. **Even better, donors often sell additional “paid” breedings when the auction closes!** One of our frequent donors got five

paid breedings to her male as a result of a GCG listing from a few years ago! I like to think that our herdsire auctions are a “win-win” for the show and the donor farms, as well as for the winning bidders.

What sells at a herdsire auction? What am I, as the auction coordinator, looking for in a male? There are males out there that may actually be better genetic donors than some of the males who are popular in our auctions, but they lack that “*Je ne sais quoi*” that is required to get someone to place a winning bid. I call it “sex appeal,” and incidentals like a “Snowmass” moniker or having been a “hot item” at a recent big show, can contribute. Remember that Kurt Russell may have been as handsome as Robert Redford, but only one of those guys caught the eye of Betty White!

So, I am looking for a male with at least two Championships, preferably at Level 3 shows when possible. A male who has only fleece awards will be looked upon with skepticism by our bidders. Great EPDs help, but are probably not as important as show records. Pedigree can be very important, especially if the male or his line are familiar to West Coast bidders.

All males entered in the auction must be proven, with at least one documented

pregnancy. In my opinion, males that are five years old or more should have progeny that have winning show records. A male with champion progeny is going to be popular—after all, the quality of a breeding male should be determined by the quality of his offspring!

Our auctions generally feature a lineup of six males—usually one or two Suris, and the rest Huacaya. Everyone knows that “grey sells,” and we tend to feature two grey Huacayas. I like to have at least one really exceptional white male, because white is the foundation of an alpaca fiber industry.

Because our shows are attended by breeders from many western states (and California is a pretty big place), I do try to choose males from several locations. For the Gold Country Gathering in 2021, we had males from Northern California, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.

Sometimes a male will have something special—perhaps not a multi-champion show record, but maybe he’s an eye-catching appaloosa who passes that trait to his offspring. **THAT’S GOING TO SELL!!** Everyone will look at his photo and think, “Wow, I’d like to have one of those in my herd!”

Herdsire Confidential, *cont.*

For the record, Calpaca rules state that all opening bids shall be \$650, and there are no reserve bid requirements allowed. FULL STOP! This is important—it can be an insult to a donor to find that their champion male is valued less by our show than another male. Some breeders fear that a lower sales price of \$650 will diminish the value of their elite male, although the auctions on these elite males usually close at a much higher price. However, if you believe that the quality of a male is determined by their progeny, then having more offspring can enhance the value of your male!

Finally, why would someone volunteer to be a herdsire auction coordinator? Most importantly, it is an excuse to research and learn about all the wonderful males and genetic lines that are out there! Even if you are a Huacaya breeder, it's good to know

about the Suri side of the alpaca biz. Who knows, perhaps you'll be tempted to expand your herd with a few Suris?!

Also, doing the herdsire auctions has allowed me to meet and interact with so many people I would never have known. There are some fantastic, generous alpaca folks out there!

Back in 2007, we were just starting out and attended one of our first shows, the Monterey Pronk. We won a breeding in the auction, but the real “take home” was that I loved the “win-win” design of the auction! It was the motivation behind my first purchase a year later of an outstanding male, Accoyo America Tempest. I wanted to have a male who was good enough for me to donate breedings in herdsire auctions—it was proof that my farm had “arrived”!

FREE BUSINESS CARD ADS FOR CALPACA FARM MEMBERS



One of your member benefits is the inclusion of your business card in every quarterly online edition of the *Calpaca Connection* newsletter. Just follow the guidelines on [page 43](#) for submitting materials to the *Calpaca Connection* editor.

The Walking Fleece Show—WIIFY?

by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

Previously published in the Alpaca Connection, Winter 2016 issue and used with author's permission.

Through a Q&A format, Charlene Schmid, the California Classic Event Manager, has done an excellent job of communicating the details of the NEW, first time ever for an AOA-certified show, Walking Fleece Show being offered at the 2016 California Classic. You might be reading these email

messages and posts on Facebook and wondering “What’s this all about?” and “What’s in it for me (WIIFM)” to enter my alpacas in yet another class? These are great questions for any of us watching our budgets and managing our marketing dollars.

I want to share my thoughts with you about why we feel the Walking Fleece Show has value. Our breeding program focuses on serving the requirements and priorities of the already established artisan (cottage) fiber industry. We feel the Walking Fleece Show provides us the opportunity to receive feedback that will assist us in planning our breedings

and evaluating the results. Because every breeding decision we make is critical, we use several different tools in the planning process. We intend to use the objective and measurable scorecard results from the Walking Fleece Show as another tool.

That’s right, a scorecard much like the one you receive when entering your fleece into

a fleece show. A documented evaluation by the judge that you can add to your tool box of resources you use as you plan your pairings and/or market your alpacas.

For those of us who have shown in the halter classes and haven’t found ourselves at or near the top of the class, wouldn’t it have been nice to get one-on-one feedback from the judge? To

learn what the judge saw in

those alpacas standing ahead of us that they didn’t see in ours? Especially when the results are based 60% on the fleece characteristics. The oral reasons given by the judge are fleeting and, unless jotted down, are easily forgotten.

Another major distinction between the



The Walking Fleece Show—WIIFY, cont.

feedback in the halter class and the Walking Fleece class is that your alpaca is not being judged against any other alpacas in the ring that day. In fact, there is no group judging in the ring in the Walking Fleece classes. The judge looks at the fleece of each animal individually and completes a card that is designed to provide scores based on categories and a range of possible results within those categories.

Although the emphasis and weights given to each category may be slightly different than regular fleece show scorecards, the process is the same.

[For more information on fleece assessment, visit [Innovative Fleece Assessment](#). Note that their “[Detailed Explanation & Scorecard Analysis](#)” page is “Coming Soon.” –Ed.]

Because the fleece is still on your alpaca during judging, more than just the carefully prepared blanket that is entered into three regular fleece show is evaluated. The judge will examine your alpaca’s fleece across its body, onto its haunches, under the belly, up the neck, etc. and provide you with a score of their evaluation. After all points are tallied, the alpacas are placed according to the scores received within their

designated classes.

The classes are split by breed, color and age. Colors are Light, Medium, Dark, Grey/Variegated. Ages are Juvenile, Yearling, Adult, Mature. They are not split by sex unless it is a much larger show.

Hopefully, I have given enough of an overview for you to determine “What’s in it for *You*” to enter our alpacas into the Walking Fleece Show. We intend to enter our alpacas in both the Walking Fleece and the Halter classes. Why not? They will already be there. Actually, we plan to take a couple that will just be en-

tered in the Walking Fleece classes. The halter classes will provide an opportunity to see how your alpacas compare to the others in the ring with them that day. The results of the Walking Fleece class will provide us with a scorecard for reference.

As you work through your budget, it is only natural to ask if the additional entry fee is worth it. For us, we asked, “Is the value of documented feedback about our alpacas’ fleeces worth the entry fee?” The answer for us is definitely, “Yes!”



Stand Still, Please

by Marty McGee Bennett, CAMELIDynamics

What is the best way to teach a young llama to stand still, especially during a showmanship class?

First, this a central question that is intertwined with almost everything we do with our animals.

The real question is “Why won’t my alpaca or llama stand?” Llamas and alpacas know how to stand still—they do it all the time. So, you really don’t have to teach the animal how to stand; you need to make it safe for the animal to stand still instead of doing what he thinks is the safer thing under the circumstances, which is to run away.

If the animal is going to stand in a show ring, you need to teach your animal that it is safe to have a human approach him and perhaps touch him. This is a huge leap of faith for an animal that basically runs for a living. It is like running into a burning building. Not comfortable!

The best way to create a sense of safety when you head into the show ring is to change the way you do things at home. If you are in the habit of using the “corner, grab, and hold approach” to catching, it is going to be extremely difficult to get your animal to stand still in the show ring . Think about it. If you, the person with whom your llama or alpaca has the most familiari-

ty, has to resort to trapping him in a corner to catch him at home—where there are no strange lights, people, and noises—it will be exponentially harder at a show.

How you catch your animals at home is the place for you to begin to make changes. If you are one of the llama or alpaca folks who use a catch pen for catching your animals, then good for you! If you are not using a catch pen consistently, that is the first thing to change.



Your body position in relation to the llama is important!

To get more bang for your buck in the catch pen, approach your llama from behind his eye and allow him to move around the pen until he comes to a stop. If you catch your llama or alpaca using a corner, he learns that when a human approaches,

Stand Still, Please, cont.

he must evade until he can't, and then he must accept being caught.

We typically corner and hold or tie our llamas or alpacas still for most of the interactions we have with them. This provides very little opportunity for them to develop self-control. There are no corners in the show ring! When the ring steward and judge approach your animal, his conditioned response to move away kicks in. The animal will try to move away, and when you hold him still, he will get frightened and try even harder to get away. This is the reason he won't stand!

When you allow your animal to move away from you in the confines of the catch pen until he stops on his own, he learns that it is possible to for him to override his instinctive flight response and remain standing, which sets the stage for improved behavior in the show ring. You cannot get good at something unless you have an opportunity to try it and practice it. Teaching your llama to stop and stand on his own each time you catch him is a great investment for future success.

Once your llama student has come to a stop, approach a bit closer. If he remains standing, approach still a little closer. If he indicates he is going to move, back up. If

he remains standing, move a bit closer. Repeat this dance until you are standing next to the animal.

This can require a lot of patience, especially if your animal student is very frightened. I use a wand and a rope (photo below) to help speed this process up and to avoid frustration for both animal and handler; but some version of teaching your animal to stand without being cornered as you approach is crucial to your success in the show ring.



Using the wand and rope with a nervous alpaca

Once you have mastered standing still in the catch pen, you can stage some exercises that mimic what goes on in a show. Enlist the aid of some friends to approach and retreat as you stand with your llama in a very small area, your animal on a halter and lead; then move into a catch pen or other slightly larger area; and next into a

Stand Still, Please, cont.

somewhat larger area. Always add new challenges incrementally, repeating the previous easier steps if easier if your animal student is having trouble accepting a new step.

Don't move on to the next step unless your llama or alpaca is comfortable with the previous step. **It is never the animal's fault if he cannot do what you ask.**

It is your job to set the animal up for success by carefully adding small challenges, one at a time.

It is fine to use food as a training aid for teaching your animal to stand as other people walk up to him. You can use it as a distraction and incentive to stand and help him relax and breathe. Make sure that you communicate with your helpers so they understand that they only get closer when you give the signal that it is okay with the animal.

Teach your llama that when someone walks up to him in a field, in a catch pen or in the barn, there is nothing to worry about. Indeed, at least 95% of the time, good things will happen: a treat will be offered, he might have a walk, or engage in a fun game with a clicker.

Standing still is very helpful for many situations on your ranch: assessing the animal's health and condition; taking that elusive perfect photo; vet checks and examinations of eyes, ears, body condition; and shearing. Typically the llama or alpaca is tied or restrained in these situations. Wouldn't it be nice if instead the alpaca or llama could have practiced learning self-control and standing in balance? Relying on force for routine handling might seem quicker, but it makes teaching your animal to stand in other circumstances much harder!

This short article outlines the very basics, but skipping the foundation means that you may not be able to get your animal to stand, or that the learning process will take a lot longer.

For more information about understanding what motivates a camelid I recommend my book *The Camelid Companion* and my online courses. You can find out more about both at www.camelidynamics.com

Editor's Note: Marty's newsletter contains tips and invaluable information, and even more value can be had by joining her website's forum. Definitely worth checking out. And consider attending one of her clinics next time she gets out your direction.

Tips for Maximizing Your Fiber Harvest

by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

Previously published in AOA Academy, updated 04.16.2021 and used with permission of author.

For some alpaca ranchers, fiber is the primary product. For others, breeding and selling alpacas is the primary product and fiber is secondary. Either way, all alpaca ranchers will reap a harvest of raw alpaca fiber every year. That raw fiber has the potential to add to the bottom line of your alpaca business operation. This article discusses ways you can maximize the potential income from your fiber harvest... from breeding decisions to preparing for processing.

What are your fiber production goals?

The first step in maximizing your alpaca fiber harvest is to know what outcomes you want. The quality of the fiber your alpacas produce is the direct result of your buying and/or breeding decisions. Do you have specific goals for your fiber production? Are you breeding for fineness, density, staple length, uniformity, consistency in color, etc.? Do you know and understand the value gained from some of the tools available to you as a fiber producer? Do you understand how to use the information in a histogram to make breeding decisions that will improve the quality of the fiber individual alpacas produce? Do you research the progeny of the herdsires you select to see

how their “stats” hold-up over time? Do you do the same for your production dams? Do you look to these stats, or show results, or both, to determine your breeding decisions?

What are your pre-shearing practices?

Do you keep your pastures clean and free of debris and stickers year-round? Do you use feeders that minimize the amount of loose hay that creates the “birds nest” affect at the crook of the neck area? Do you provide good nutrition leading to healthy fiber? Do you strive to keep the stress levels to a minimum so you don’t experience “tender” fleece? Do you do all you can to ensure your alpacas are sheared when their fleece is dry? If you answered yes to these questions, you have created a good pre-shearing environment for maximum results.

Who does your shearing?

Another critical step in successfully shearing for maximum value is selecting a knowledgeable and efficient shearer. You want to make sure your shearer understands fiber characteristics well enough to know when the traditional “blanket” area can be expanded, or needs to be reduced, based on the quality of the fiber. Shearers can also identify the fiber for purposes of

Tips for Maximizing Your Fiber Harvest, *cont.*

separation and bagging as it comes off the alpaca. The shearer should strive to keep second cuts (short pieces of fleece caused by going over the same spot twice with the second cut being shorter) to a minimum. These second cuts (nubs) can be seen on the cut side of the fleece and need to be removed before processing.

How do you prepare for shearing day?

Effectively preparing (organizing) for shearing day cannot be overstated, nor overrated. The larger your herd, the more critical the preparation. If you have ever experienced a disorganized shearing, you know the importance of preplanning. Fortunately, preparing for shearing day can be done months or days before the event. Following are some things to think about in preparation for shearing day. It is not all-inclusive and can be modified to meet your individual needs.

Schedule your shearing date well in advance. Exceptional shearers are booked months in advance. In fact, in some cases, the shearers write their own schedules and let their regular customers know when they will be available.

Arrange for help on shearing days. Many ranches work together and exchange labor by assisting each other on shearing days. The number of helpers you need depends

on how large your herd is, how many days you will be shearing, and if you plan on doing regular herd maintenance (vaccines, toe nails, tooth trimming, etc) at the same time.

Prepare your fiber collection bags before shearing day. Purchase clear plastic trash/garbage bags, create labels for the bags to record alpaca's name and date of shear, and attach the labels to the bags. You will need a minimum of two bags for each alpaca: one for the blanket and one for the neck and britch area.

Schedule a time to prepare your fleece for processing. Experience has shown that if you don't schedule it, preparing your fleece for processing will be put off, or it will not be done at all. If you can get enough help, you can actually arrange for the fiber to go directly from the alpaca to the skirting table. This gets it all done at one time, and you don't have to think about it anymore until next year.

Preparing your fleece for processing

Whether you are preparing your fiber to send to a mini-mill or one of the fiber co-operatives or pools, there are certain steps you can take to help ensure you receive maximum return on your raw fiber. Whether you do it yourself or expect the processor to do it for you (which will add to the

Tips for Maximizing Your Fiber Harvest, *cont.*

expense of processing), your fiber needs to be skirted, cleaned, sorted, and graded.

Skirting is the process of removing undesirable fiber from the edges of the blanket. Generally, this fiber is easy to spot when the blanket is placed cut side down and spread flat on the skirting table. It is noticeably different in quality and characteristics from the blanket. This fiber is usually described as being too hairy and is thicker, straighter, and coarser than the other fiber. To remove the fiber, grasp the fiber you wish to remove between your thumb and index finger and pull. You will need to apply pressure with your other hand against the blanket to keep from pulling the usable fiber from the blanket.

It is during the skirting process that any “second cuts” are removed. The second cuts are easily seen when the blanket is flipped and the cut side is exposed. Looking across the blanket, the second cuts will look like little nubs of fiber. Hint: to ensure removal of all of the second cuts, take an index card or other stiff piece of paper and run it across the cut side of the blanket. The second cuts will come to the surface and stick to the paper.

Beware of the *Terrible Toos* identified by former AFCNA Board Member Starr Cash

who has graciously given her permission for this collection to be used by anyone promoting effective fiber preparation. The *Terrible Toos* are the most common reasons certain fiber [is](#) labeled as having no commercial value (NCV). NCV fiber is just what it says, of no value to the processor meaning no value to you as the producer. Most of the *Terrible Toos* can be eliminated during the skirting process.

The *Terrible Toos* include fiber that is:

- Too short—less than 1.5"
- Too long—more than 7.5"
- Too tender—take a few strands and holding on to the ends, quickly try to pull it apart by snapping (if the fiber breaks, it is too tender)
- Too stained—mostly a problem with whites
- Too full of vegetable matter (VM) or other contamination (feels "crunchy" when you grab a handful of fiber and squeeze)
- Too matted
- Too molded—usually happens when fleece is wet or damp when bagged
- Too buggy—infested with moths or other insects
- Too hairy—topknots, tails, and lower leg hair; excess guard hair

Tips for Maximizing Your Fiber Harvest, *cont.*

Why is it so important to take care of the *Terrible Toos* before sending your fiber for processing? Well, if you don't, the processor will have to because any of those things included in the list can play havoc with the processing equipment. There are a few other things to consider, too. Generally, freight charges are determined by weight and there is no sense paying for something that is going to be discarded. Depending on the processor, you may be charged by incoming weight instead of outgoing; so, again, why pay for something that will be discarded? Another important consideration for the future is that in handling and examining the fiber as it comes off your alpacas, you will gain a greater understanding of the actual quality of the fiber being produced by your individual alpacas and your herd as a whole.

The alpaca industry is beginning to experience a shift in focus from strictly breeding and selling to explore new ways and expand existing ways to grow the fiber industry. Current economic conditions have shown to be an incentive for many breeders to take a closer look at the fiber end of the business.

Our alpacas will continue producing an annual harvest of incomparable fiber. It is up to each of us to promote "the fiber of the Gods" by getting it into the hands of the consumer. That is the only way we can build the future fiber industry.

© Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm



White Lightnin' at 3 weeks



White Lightnin' of Alpacas of Somerset Farm. He was the great grandson of two of the greats, 6PERUVIAN ACCOYO TITAN and PCA Accoyo El Niño. In bringing together these outstanding genetics, we expected something spectacular. We were not disappointed! His sire is MFI Peruvian Providence, a Titan son, and his dam is Infinitos Savannah, a daughter of El Niño's son High Point Radiance. This picture of his fleece was taken when he was about five months old. The picture to the right was taken when he was four months old. Sadly, this exceptional boy died from an impaction when he was a yearling.



White Lightnin' at 4 months

How to Pick a New Shearer

by Steve Murray, Lassen View Alpacas

Previously published in the Alpaca Connection Winter 2014 Edition and used here with permission of author.

The time to start the process of selecting a shearer for your alpacas is not two weeks before you want them shorn. In fact, probably any shearers still available at that short notice are not the ones that would be your first choice. The time to start the process is January 1st. Do not procrastinate, for capable shearers book quickly and early.

If you are a new alpaca owner, the place to start is to talk with other alpaca owners in your area. They will have a good idea who is working in your area and what time of the season to be prepared. Next, call each shearer and ask if they might have room in their schedule for your herd. If they do, ask a few questions...

- Does he come with or without help? Some shearers work alone and expect the owner to provide help. Others come with help for which you will pay extra. Find out so you can plan.
- Ask how long it takes to shear a single alpaca. Any longer than 12 minutes or so and you should move this person down your list of candidates. Shearing is stressful for the animal, and a skilled shearer will never take more than 15 minutes per animal. Seven to nine minutes is the sweet spot.
- If show fleeces are important to you, ask if he can shear a fleece in one piece.
- For Suri owners, ask if he is comfortable shearing Suri fleece.

Ask for several references. Then call these people and ask:

- Is he on time and professional in appearance and action?
- Does he do a good job shearing? That is, when he's done, does the animal look good, and is the fleece in excellent condition with very few second cuts? This is really important!
- Does he have bad habits? Ex. smoking, spitting, cursing, animal abuse, etc.
- Does he cut the animals with the shears? No cuts are the rule, but accidents do happen, and a minor nick or two during the day is within normal parameters. If you get reports of large, long, deep cuts, move this shearer well down your list.
- Finally, if this is a shearer with whom no one is familiar, ask him if he sharpens his own combs and cutters. A good, competent shearer is not likely to send combs and cutters out to be sharpened and will have spent the time and money to learn how to properly sharpen his equipment. This is not a hard and fast rule, but may give you an idea of how committed this shearer is to do good work at a reasonable price.

The most important take-away is to start the booking process early. The longer you wait, the likelihood of having to settle for the less qualified and/or least professional shearer increases.

Steve has been shearing since 1999 and retired just this year. You can visit [Lassen View Alpacas](http://LassenViewAlpacas.com) online.

If You Haven't Booked Your Shearing Yet...

"In general, it's a good idea to set up your shearing in January, to ensure that you are booked with the shearer of your choice. Shearing usually takes place between late March and mid-June--most of us shear in April and May in California." ~ Sandra Wallace, Alpacas of Marin



Alex Crawford Alpaca Shearing

Area:
Email: ACrawfordShearing@gmail.com
Facebook: [@acrawfordshearing](https://www.facebook.com/acrawfordshearing)
Phone: 530.613.9355
Website:
Notes: located in Auburn, CA; started his own business in 2018; previously worked with Josh Swink

Alpaca Shearing Service, Brett Crosby

Area: Central to southern CA
Email: MLalpaca@aol.com
Facebook: [Alpaca Shearing Service](https://www.facebook.com/AlpacaShearingService)
Phone: 661.618.4941 (office)
Website:
Notes: Has been shearing over 16 years, averaging over 1000 per year. "I am Experienced, Reliable, and very Capable."

Armando Esquivel

NOT CONFIRMED

Area:
Email: AlpacaShearing1@yahoo.com
Facebook:
Phone:
Website:
Notes: 10+ years experience

Biosecure Alpaca Shearing , John B. Gunther

Area: [see list on their website](#)
Email:
FB: [Shearing Alpaca, BiosecureAlpacaShearing](#)
Phone: 330.378.5155 Mon-Sat 11am-8pm EST; ask for Rachel
Website: [ShearingAlpaca.com](https://www.ShearingAlpaca.com)
Notes: Pre-schedule on website. Special accommodations for Covid restrictions. Four-person teams. Practices biosecurity.

Shearers included in this list are provide as a resource and have not been recommended or endorsed by the Alpaca Board. Shearer information was verified and included verified where possible and subject to change.

High Country Alpaca Shearing, Cody Fifield

Area: AZ, CA, CO, ID, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA
Email: hcar2009@wildblue.net; codyinc86@gmail.com
Facebook: [High Country Alpaca Shearing](https://www.facebook.com/HighCountryAlpacaShearing)
Phone: 505.495.9232; 928.245.8482
Website: [HighCountryAlpacaRanch.com](https://www.HighCountryAlpacaRanch.com)
Notes:

John Sanchez

NOT CONFIRMED

Area:
Email:
Facebook:
Phone: 707-769-8914, 707-484-3097
Website:
Notes: Lives in Petaluma. Does alpacas, llamas and sheep.

Josh Swink Alpaca Shearing

NOT CONFIRMED

Area:
Email:
Facebook:
Phone: 530.559.6222
Website:
Notes:

Matthew Gilbert

Area: CA: "Hollister to Arcata, Trinity to Guinda, and between"
Email: ShearingMatt@yahoo.com
Facebook:
Phone: 707.972.9144
Website:
Notes: Based in Ukiah CA

Moonrise Alpaca Shearing, Gina Gouveia

Area: Central to northern CA, ID, OR, NV, UT, WA
Email: EVpacas@hotmail.com
Facebook: [Moonrise Shearing](https://www.facebook.com/MoonriseShearing)
Phone: 206.819.9738
Website: [MoonriseAlpacaShearing.com](https://www.MoonriseAlpacaShearing.com)
Notes: [Schedule on website](#). Two-person shearing team.

If You Haven't Booked Your Shearing Yet, *cont.*

Olde Lyfe Alpacas, Stacey S. Payne

Area: CA, NV, OR, UT
Email: OldeLyfeAlpacas@gmail.com
Facebook: [Olde Lyfe Alpacas](https://www.facebook.com/OldeLyfeAlpacas)
Phone: 702.496.7561
Website: OldeLyfeAlpacas.com
Notes: Calpaca member

Sandy Acres Alpacas, Steve Mortimer

Area: Most of CA, parts of NV, other if needed
Email: steven@SandyAcresAlpacas.com
Facebook: [Sandy Acres Alpacas](https://www.facebook.com/SandyAcresAlpacas)
Phone: 209.988.3396, 209.505.2959
Website: SandyAcresAlpacas.com/shearing
Notes: Shearing for 24+ years. Brings an assistant.

Shorn Mercantile & Shearing Svcs, Peter Connelly

Area: Central California; based in Livingston, MT
Email: ShornStore@gmail.com
Facebook: [Shorn Mercantile and Shearing Service](https://www.facebook.com/ShornMercantileandShearingService)
Phone: 505.231.2058; 406.333.2377 FB
Website: ShornStore.com
Notes: Comes with three helpers

Shear Magic, Sergio Balcorta

Area: CA to OR
Email: sergio.shearing@gmail.com
Facebook: [Sergio Balcorta](https://www.facebook.com/SergioBalcorta)
Phone: 530.761.1987
Website: ShearMagicShearing.com
Notes: Worked at Derwydd Alpacas in 2013. Lives in Fremont, CA. Learned shearing from Steve Murray (see Steve Murray articles in this issue)

Shear Relief LLC, Brian Gnizak

Area:
Email: ShearReliefLLC1@gmail.com
FB: [Shear Relief LLC](https://www.facebook.com/ShearReliefLLC)
Phone: 330.641.6424
Website: ShearReliefLLC1.com
Notes: Shearing since 2006; in business 2008. Comes from Midwest with team of four.

Steve Bell Alpaca Shearing

Area: WA to CA, east to NV and ID
Website: [Steve Bell Alpaca Shearing](http://SteveBellAlpacaShearing.com)
Facebook: [Steve Bell Shearing](https://www.facebook.com/SteveBellShearing)
Email: PacificMeadows@yahoo.com
Phone: 541.913.9993
Notes:

Top Knot Shearing, Pete Hofman

Area: CA, CO, IA, IL, MI, MO, MT, TN, WA, WI
Website: TopKnotShearing.com
Facebook: [TopKnot Shearing](https://www.facebook.com/TopKnotShearing)
Email: info@topknotshearing.com
Phone: 406.219.1255
Notes: Practices biosecurity

Before your shearers arrive:

- Alpacas need to be dry, penned and accessible
- Alpacas penned near shearing location
- Electricity for shears.
- Ample room to stretch out alpacas on ground or flat area for shearing table.
- Your bags for fiber collection.
- May require that you provide at least two helpers.
- Generally preferred that you give vaccinations at an other time to minimize animal stress.



Picture by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm



Picture by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

Preparing for Shearing Day

by Steve Murray, Lassen View Alpacas

Previously published in the Alpaca Connection Winter 2014 Edition and used here with permission of author.

This is an aid to you the alpaca owner on what to expect and have on hand when I come shear your animals. Shearing day is THE big day of the year for alpaca people, for it is the day you harvest what your alpacas have given to you. With some preparation, it will go smoothly and efficiently, and not be too stressful for the alpacas (or the people).

- **Shearing area.** We will need a dry, semi-



flat, shaded area of at least 12 feet square. That being said, I have sheared animals in the hot sun, on hillsides, and in the mud, so conditions don't always have to be ideal. What's really needed is an area where the animal can be stretched out on a tarp on the ground, and the shearer and helpers have room to move about. This will help ensure your fiber comes off and is bagged in as good a condition as possible.

- **Animal cleanliness.** Your animals should be as clean as you can make them. This will increase the value of your shorn fleece. Commonly, alpacas are cleaned by using a high-speed blower, such as a Circuiteer II. A quick five-minute blow of each animal will do wonders for your fleece. In my opinion, a vacuum does not work as well as a blower and is much slower. Also, to rid the fleece of the dirty tips of each lock, a quick comb-out with a slicker brush will do the trick. Show fleeces should not be cleaned or blown in any way, other than to carefully hand-pick large pieces of debris. Please tell the shearer which fleeces are for showing, as they are sheared differently.
- **Sorting animals.** Sort your animals for shearing from light to dark when possible. Do not mix males and females; i.e., light to dark females, then light to dark males.



Preparing for Shearing Day, *cont.*



- **Helpers.** Helpers are always welcome and needed. A minimum number of helpers for shearing only one to five animals, would be two. More animals means more helpers needed. For 10-20 animals, four to five helpers would be excellent. If you have a large herd (35+), you might consider setting up two shearing stations adjacent to each other, each station with its own crew. The shearer can work constantly, alternating stations, so there is one animal on the ground being sheared at all times. If this is not practical, one station will suffice; it will just take a bit longer to complete the herd.

- **Things you will need:**

- A heavy-duty tarp to lay your alpacas down. Minimum size 10x12.
- Large plastic garbage bags to hold the shorn fleece—clear bags are best (available at Costco). You will need three bags for each animal: blanket fiber in one bag; neck and upper leg in another; and a third bag for the trimmings, ends and contaminated fiber. This third bag can be used for several alpacas.

- **Small, zip-lock sandwich bags.** These are for the small fiber sample you will likely want to send in to be tested (histogram).
- **Nail clippers.** This is a good time to clip nails if time allows. As I'm shearing, a very adept person can hop around the animal clipping nails as I shear.
- **Permanent marker** to mark bags.
- **Broom or blower** to clean tarp after each shearing.
- **Towels** for the nervous alpacas that have "accidents" during shearing. This will help keep your fleece clean.
- **A nearby electrical power source.** The shears are electric and draw quite a bit of power, so try not to plug me in to a circuit with an air-conditioner, refrigerator, or other heavy electrical consumers.
- If you have show fleeces to shear, have on-hand the corresponding number of old sheets to carefully wrap and protect your show fleece until you can skirt it



Preparing for Shearing Day, *cont.*

later. (Old sheets at Goodwill are cheap).

- Shearing is strenuous business. Please be prepared to work very hard! It helps to be in reasonable physical condition. I recommend stretching well beforehand, and have plenty of water available for everyone. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes you don't mind getting very dirty.

Each alpaca, as you know, has a different personality, and they will all approach being sheared with different attitudes. Most don't mind too much; some even seem to like it. Some definitely don't like it and will protest mightily. They will all be fine and secretly thankful at how good they feel.

A word about pregnant animals! I would not recommend shearing a female who has just become pregnant. After they have held the pregnancy two months or so, I feel it is relatively safe to shear them. Animals due very near the shearing date are problematic. I have shorn alpacas on their due date with no



deleterious effects; conversely, I have heard of late-term pregnancies being aborted after shearing. Heat stress is real and prolonged. Shearing them only takes 15 minutes, and in my opinion is far less stress than the heat. So, as an owner, it's your call to make.

Well, that's about it. You may have questions about the whole process that come to you before shearing day. Please feel free to email me at any time. I'll be glad to answer your questions.

Steve has been shearing since 1999 and retired just this year. You can visit [Lassen View Alpacas](#) online.

Barn Tips & Tricks for Cold Weather

- ⇒ In need of emergency lighting? Use the battery-operated stick-on closet lights in a stall, tack or feed room; on a barn wall; even in the back of a dark trailer.
- ⇒ Need a quick cria nursery? Use portable panels with blankets hanging on the *outside*. You can purchase inexpensive blankets and comforters from thrift stores. Use quick-ties to hold the blankets in place.
- ⇒ Cold winter weather can be a killer for the very young and old. Get down to their (kushed) level and check for drafts and water-soaked bedding.
- ⇒ Wood chips and straw make great bedding for your outside livestock guardian dogs.
- ⇒ An old blanket and a length of Velcro, or a bathrobe belt in a real pinch, that fits around the belly makes a quick warmer for a llama with the shivers. For crias, use a child's jacket or sweater, buttoning on the back.

If you have a seasonal tip you would like to share, please email editor@lillette.net.



Starting an Alpaca Youth Group

by Laurel Shauvlin

By forming an alpaca club or group, both leaders and parents play a key role in making our children's experience with alpacas as positive as possible. The following are considerations to help ensure that.

Defining the Purpose of the Group

In the past, alpaca clubs have focused primarily on alpacas as an opportunity for children to learn to care for and work with alpacas. Often, these experiences culminate in competitions at local fairs or at AOA alpaca shows. But leaders may decide that they would rather focus their group on doing things with alpaca fiber, perhaps engaging their club members with learning fiber arts such as felting, knitting, crocheting, weaving, dyeing, or spinning. Perhaps the purpose of the club is to train alpacas to serve as ambassadors visiting schools, participating in parades, or visiting nursing homes. Certainly, a club could have activities that include all the above. Before you recruit children to your club, you should define what the club and its activities will focus upon.

Determining the Size of Your Club

When inviting children to join your club, think about the ratio of the adult helpers

to the number of youth members. It is strongly recommended that a club leader have at least one assistant who can help during meetings or can step in as a substitute if the leader is unable to attend. Many parents are willing to become club partners to help at meetings with activities. Often, parents may be unable or unwilling to help, so be certain that the number of members you invite is manageable. The age and maturity of the participants will make a big difference as well, both in their abilities to participate and complete certain projects, as well as how long they can remain engaged. If this is your first youth club, you might want to start small and build to avoid becoming overwhelmed.

Recruiting Members

A great place to begin looking for members is to contact local alpaca breeders. They may have children that would be interested in joining your club, or know of other children that might. Both the Suri Network and the AOA websites have a feature to find farms based on location. Another natural place to begin seeking members for your club would be your local schools and homeschool groups. You could ask local schools to place a notice in their communi-

cations to parents. If you are interested in participating in your county fair, you could contact your local extension office to see if they have any interest in including alpacas and know of potential participants.

Selecting a Meeting Location

Where you meet will be determined in part by what your club is interested in doing. Libraries, schools, and extension offices can be used for club meetings. Meetings can occur in your own home or farm if you have adequate space, but you should check your insurance policy to be certain activities such as this are covered.

Safety

It is imperative that the environment that we place our children in is as safe and welcoming as possible.

Leaders must ensure that the children are knowledgeable about the dos and don'ts of handling alpacas before they begin work with them. Parents must be certain that their children have a level of maturity and self-control that allows them to handle alpacas in a responsible manner.

The areas on the farm where the children will be working with alpacas should be free of dangerous items or hazards. If obstacles are used for training, they should be well

designed, constructed with sturdy materials, and include adequate safeguards such as rails to prevent falling. The alpacas that are used should have temperaments that allow safe handling.

Youth organizations around the country are now requiring that adults working with children in formal settings such as schools, 4-H, churches, or other clubs have specialized training in child safety. Formal background checks may also be required. The Suri Network strongly recommends, but does not currently require this of adult volunteers working with children.

The club environment should be emotionally safe so that an adult quickly intervenes if they see any bullying or belittling behavior on the part of youth or adults. And of course, if a parent or leader is suspicious of any physical or sexual abuse, they should immediately report it to the required authorities.

Communication

It is also extremely important that the lines of communication between leaders, parents, and youth are open and clear. The following is a list of items to assist with that:

- Calendars/schedules with all pertinent club activities and dates.

Starting an Alpaca Youth Group, *cont.*

- Clearly outlined expectations of the youth participants.
- Current contact lists with names, addresses, emergency contact information, and email addresses for each child and their parents or guardians.
- Fee schedule for participation in the club and its activities.
- Required materials for activities
- Any optional activities in addition to the regular club activities.
- A listing of additional resources youth and parents might use, such as books, websites, or educational materials.
- Keeping records of expenses to care for their alpaca helps teach financial skills.
- Keeping health and nutrition records teaches how diet and environment affect overall health.
- If the club has youth officers, elections teach about the democratic process and the responsibilities associated with holding an officer position.
- Activities and competitions help build camaraderie and teach how to accept both winning and defeat with grace and good manners.

Cultivating Leadership Skills

Raising and caring for livestock and belonging to a club that creates positive experiences help develop life skills in our youth. There are several opportunities within an alpaca club that foster such growth

- Caring for another living being develops empathy and a sense of responsibility.
- Working with fellow club members creates opportunities where youth can mentor one another, particularly those younger than themselves.

Community Service

Many agricultural youth groups have a club activity specifically to benefit others. There are many options, and it can be beneficial to allow the club members decide what they would like to do as a group. There might be more than one activity, and it could change from one year to the next. The club may:

- Do a fundraising activity such as a garage sale to benefit a special cause in their community.
- Take alpacas to a nursing home.
- Participate in a parade.

Starting an Alpaca Youth Group, *cont.*

- Bake alpaca-shaped cookies to take to a homeless shelter.
- Knit, crochet, or felt items for people in need.
- Assist at alpaca shows with handling alpacas, or loading and unloading trailers for exhibitors.

The Suri Network All-Suri Fleece Show

Many Suri Network members and their children enjoy participating in halter, performance, and fleece shows. The Suri Network runs one show every year that is the largest Suri alpaca fleece show in the world. Suri owners, spinners, and fiber artists send their entries to compete against fellow competitors. There are special fiber arts classes for youth and there is no cost for them to participate.

Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) Shows and Events

Of course, it would be wonderful if youth participation in alpaca shows increased. If leaders and parents think that their club or individuals from the club might be interested in showing their alpacas, they should contact their local alpaca affiliates as soon as possible to seek out shows to participate in. Competitions for youth include

showmanship, obstacle courses, and public relations. Clubs may also be able to work with affiliates to create “fun” classes that allow even more youth participation. There are also fleece and fiber arts competitions where club members can compete with other alpaca owners. To find a listing of AOA affiliates, visit [AOA’s Regional Alpaca Affiliates](#).

County and State Fairs

Many alpaca groups participate in county and state fairs that include alpacas. Contacting your local extension office is a great start to discover alpaca shows in your area. If your county does not offer alpaca competitions at their fair, it may be possible to participate in fairs in adjacent counties, so be sure to investigate nearby counties as well. Your county extension offices are the best place to start, and those offices can also be a tremendous source of resources to help alpaca owners with their activities. For instance, there are 4-H clubs that participate in sewing, fiber arts, and crafts. Perhaps your club members could compete in those types of activities and competitions.

At the state level, there are often competitions for alpacas to compete in, and cer-

Starting an Alpaca Youth Group, *cont.*

tainly youth can participate in shows for art. The best place to investigate those possibilities would be your [state fair web-site](#).

Often, county and state fairs represent the end of the 4-H club season, so it is important to become familiar with the timing and requirements for those activities even if you are not planning to have a 4-H club. In many counties, you do not have to be a

4-H or FFA club to compete.

Suri Network Youth Program Resource Book

Several years ago a Youth Committee of the Suri Network put together a resource book for youth to use in their 4-H activities. You can access that book from the Suri Network website on the [Resources](#) page at [SuriNetwork.org](#).

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The Lleaping Llamas 4-H Club, sponsored by Rocky Mountain Llamas, regularly participated in mountain hikes, parades, lama shows, nursing homes and school visits, and other PR opportunities. The inimitable Bobra Goldsmith is pictured below left with her champion packer Rocky Mountain Llamas Zenith. Below right is White Bird's Torino, owned by L'illy Llamas and shown by a 4-H member. At least one of these 2009 4-Hers has gone on to become a veterinarian!

Photos property of L'illette Vasquez



Publication 122, Buying and Selling Dogs, Cats, and Other Nonfood Animals

cdtfa.ca.gov/formspubs/pub122

This publication is designed to help you understand how sales or use tax applies on sales or purchases of dogs, cats, and other nonfood animals. Sales tax generally applies to sales of animals, birds, reptiles, and insects that do not meet the definition of “food animals,” whether they are used for working stock, breeding, pets, or other purposes. Please see Regulation 1587, Animal Life, Feed, Drugs and Medicines.

Pet sellers generally need a seller's permit

Generally, you must register with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) for a seller's permit if you are engaged in the business of selling dogs, cats, or other animals which are considered nonfood animals in California.

There are some *exceptions*:

- If you sell no more than two pets or other nonfood animals during a twelve-month period, you are not required to hold a seller's permit.
- Cities, counties, or other local government animal shelters or nonprofit animal welfare organizations—those that primarily prevent abuse, neglect, or exploitation of animals—are not required to collect sales tax for charges related to the adoptions of pets.

Nonfood animals defined

Nonfood animals are animals commonly kept as pets or companions, and are not sold for food (human consumption).

Nonfood animals include animals such as:

Dogs and Cats
Tropical fish
Monkeys
Earthworms
Rodents such as guinea pigs, rats, hamsters, and mice
Reptiles such as iguanas, lizards, or snakes
Horses
Pet birds
Chinchillas and Mink
Llamas

Applying tax to sales of pets or other nonfood animals in California

If you sell more than two pets or other nonfood animals in a twelve-month period, you must obtain a seller's permit, and report and pay sales tax to the CDTFA. The rate of sales tax will depend on the location of the sale. For information about tax rates in specific areas, please select [*California City and County Sales and Use Tax Rates*](#).)

Note: This publication summarizes the law and applicable regulations in effect when the publication was written, as noted above. However, changes in the law or in regulations may have occurred since that time. If there is a conflict between the text in this publication and the law, decisions will be based on the law and not on this publication.

Purchasing pets from out-of-state

If you purchase a pet or other nonfood animal from outside California, you are generally liable for use tax on your purchase. If you hold a seller's permit, you must pay use tax under "Purchases Subject to Use Tax" of your sales and use tax return in a timely manner. If you do not hold a permit with us, you may report and pay your use tax on an out-of-state purchase by entering the transaction on your annual California state income tax return. You can also report your purchase(s) subject to use tax on our website at www.cdtfa.ca.gov by selecting [*Make a Payment/Prepayment*](#), and then select *Pay use tax for one-time purchases from out-of-state retailer*. Once you have registered, you can pay any use tax due by filing your return. You can also register to report use tax in person at any of the CDTFA [*offices*](#). Please contact our Customer Service Center for assistance at 1-800-400-7115 (TTY:711).

Purchasing food for pets or other nonfood animals

If you sell pets, other nonfood animals, and breeding stock, you may purchase their food without tax by issuing a resale certificate to the vendor at the time of the purchase. Conversely, purchases of food for pets or other nonfood animals that are not held by you for sale in the regular course of business are subject to sales or use tax.

Purchasing drugs or medicines for pets or other nonfood animals

Sales of drugs or medicines for pets or other nonfood animals are subject to tax, regardless whether or not the animals are being held for sale in the regular course of business. These drugs or medicines can be administered orally, hypodermically, topically or externally as injections, implants, drenches, repellents, or pour-ons to pets or other nonfood animals. See [*Regulation 1587\(c\)\(1\)*](#) for more information.

However, tax does not apply to the sale or use of such drugs or medicines when added to feed or drinking water for pets or nonfood animals held for sale. If you buy drugs or medicines which are mixed with the feed or drinking water of pets or other nonfood animals for resale, you may issue an exemption certificate to the vendor. See [Regulation 1587\(d\)\(2\)\(C\)](#).

Purchases of pet care or nonfood animal supplies

When you purchase pet care and animal-related products such as tack, cages, kennels, bedding, and pet supplies, they are taxable. If you purchase these items from out-of-state without tax, you must report and pay use tax to the CDTFA on your purchase.

For More Information

Regulations

[1587](#) *Animal Life, Feed, Drugs and Medicines*

[1595](#) *Occasional Sales—Sale of a Business—Business Reorganization*

Sales and Use Tax Law sections (Revenue and Taxation Code)

[6010.40](#) “Sale” and “purchase”; pet adoptions

Publications

[18](#) *Nonprofit Organizations*

[36](#) *Veterinarians*

[51](#) *Resource Guide to Free Tax Products and Services for Small Businesses*

[66](#) *Agricultural Industry*

[70](#) *Understanding Your Rights as a California Taxpayer*

[73](#) *Your California Seller’s Permit*

[103](#) *Sales for Resale*





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- [Alpaca Academy](#)
- [Alpaca Owners Guide](#)
- [Affiliate Directory](#)
- [Breed Standard, Huacaya](#)
- [Breed Standard, Suri](#)
- [Marketing Opportunities](#)
- [Members Helping Members](#)
- [Mission and History](#)
- [Renew/Join AOA](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Upcoming Shows](#)
- [Veterinarian Schools](#)

2022 Mazuri® AOA National Alpaca Show

Presented by Flying Iron Ranch, Tierra Prometida Alpacas, & TXOLAN Alpaca Association

Join us **March 18–20, 2022**, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the 2022 Mazuri® AOA National Alpaca Show presented by Flying Iron Ranch, Tierra Prometida Alpacas, and TXOLAN Alpaca Association! Come compete against the best and connect with alpaca breeders from across the country. In 2022 we are *Going Green in the Ring* as we recognize alpacas as a sustainable livestock, and we do our part to make environmentally-friendly choices. Don't forget, double points for our new Show System Point Program will also be awarded at this show! Registration opens in January 2022.

2022 Mazuri® AOA National Alpaca Show

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: <http://www.alpacainfo.com/learn> and click on the topic.

ALPACA ACADEMY



- [About Alpacas](#)
- [Alpaca Fiber](#)
- [Alpaca Registry](#)
- [Alpaca Research](#)
- [Alpaca Shows](#)
- [Alpacas as a Business](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Embryo Transfer](#)
- [EPDs](#)
- [Farm Management](#)
- [Genetics & Breeding](#)
- [Health & Husbandry](#)
- [Marketing](#)
- [Research Registered Alpacas](#)

Video Topics Available From International Camelid Institute Include:

- How To Give an Injection
- Assessing Your Camelid Before You Call Your Veterinarian
- Removal of Fighting Teeth
- Proper Halter Fit For Camelids
- Passing A Stomach Tube in Camelids
- Obtaining a Blood Sample and preparing the DNA Blood Card
- Shearing for the Health of Your Animals
- Training Your Camelid to Halter and Lead

Agritourism Resources

PLAN A TRIP GET LISTED UPDATE LISTING

Agritourism World

ENJOY NEW TRAVEL PLANNING IDEAS WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY AND GROUPS. A PLACE FOR NEW AND UNIQUE ADVENTURES
GET LISTED. IF YOU ARE AN AGRITOURISM DESTINATION, OUR FREE LISTINGS ONLY TAKE A COUPLE STEPS.

FARMS WITH ANIMALS >

Alpaca and Llama (216)	Beekeeping (78)	Chicken and Eggs (233)
Dairy and Beef (158)	Falconry (1)	Farm Sanctuary (1)
Fish (34)	Goats (182)	Horses (145)
Livestock Sales (102)	Other Livestock (161)	Sheep and Lamb (1)

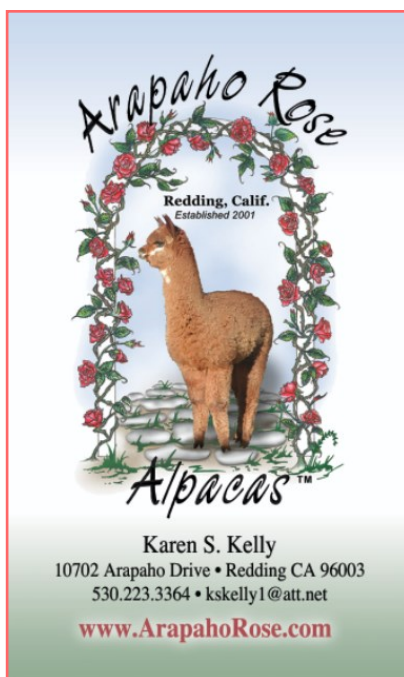
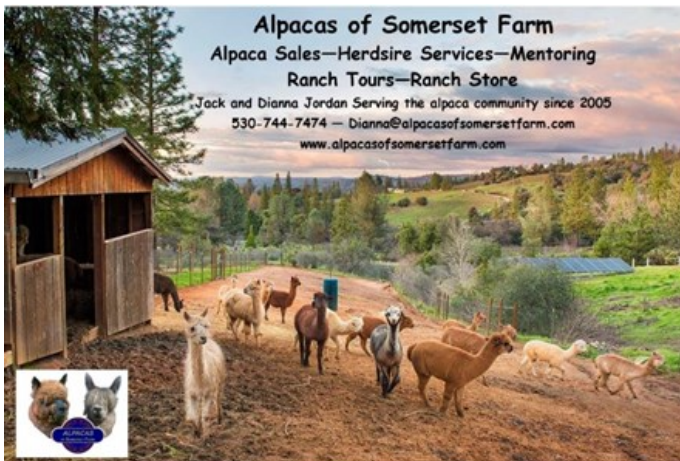
Newsletter Archives:
California Agritourism News

California Agritourism News

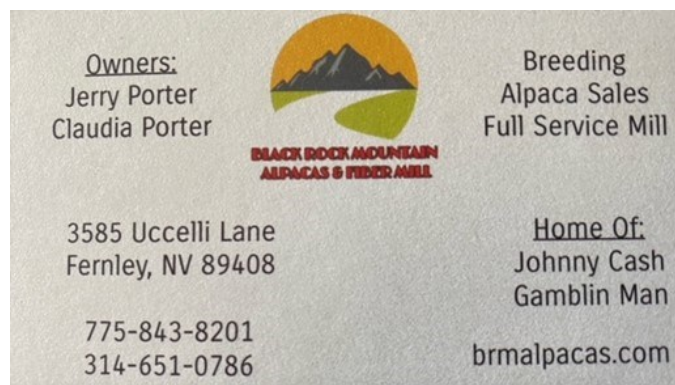
Agricultural tourism (agritourism) is a commercial enterprise at a working farm or ranch conducted for the enjoyment and education of visitors, and that generates supplemental income for the owner or operator.

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!

Calpaca Member Business Cards



Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.



Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.



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SALES & SERVICES

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209.675.4330 Mychaela

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Cyndi Howard
Owner

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Calpaca Member Business Cards, cont.

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picotootsppf@gmail.com

Ranch of the Oaks

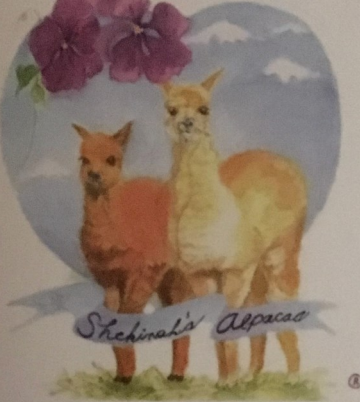


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Kerrville, Texas 78028-8780
LlamaRescue@lillette.net

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



Southwest Llama Rescue.

SWLR—a 501 c3 non-profit organization

SouthwestLlamaRescue.org



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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

www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

Calpaca Classified Ads

Herdsires, *cont.*

Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock, California

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

Huacaya: RR Brubeck (roan)

Sundance Kid (light fawn; has sired harlequin greys)

Desert Lotus Mr. Wallace (grey)

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

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

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

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

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

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners

www.menageriehillranch.com | 707.290.7915

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100% Alpaca Dryer Balls at wholesale pricing! Variety of colors.

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

www.macedosminiaces.com | macedosminiacre@gmail.com

Maureen Macedo 209-648-2384

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

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

Calpaca Connection Newsletter 2022 Deadlines

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

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

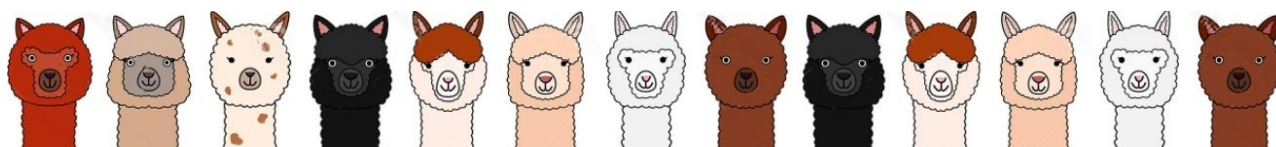
To Pay for Your Advertising

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

Mail checks to: **Brandi Mello, Calpaca Treasurer** **16860 Hawthorne Ave**
Anderson, CA 96007

To Submit Advertising & Articles

Email attachments to: Editor@lillette.net



To Submit Advertising & Articles:

Email attachments to:
editor@calpaca.board

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

To Pay for Your Advertising:

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 "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.

Join Calpaca Today!

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

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

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

Benefits:

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

Calpaca Associate Membership - \$30/year

Benefits:

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

Join Online

Keeping in Touch

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

Email: info@CalpacaBoard.org

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

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

Website: Calpaca.org

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

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

Facebook Page: facebook.com/groups/Calpaca

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

Advertising: Only Calpaca Farm Members may adver-

