

Affiliate Congress Report – March 2008

The AOBA Board reported this week that they have tabled the idea of changing AOBA from a Colorado into a Tennessee corporation until after spring Board elections. They have been too busy with other work for now.

Once again, your input on Show Rules can be given anonymously through the Affiliate Congress, as well as personally to Betty Brock, the Show Rules System Administrator. Send your comments on changes you'd like to see made, or things to remain unchanged, to me at gwolff@starband.net by April 1. I'll strip any names and send our MOPACA comments to be added into the Affiliate Congress document that will go to Betty before the deadline. *Please be aware that rule changes made next year will get locked in for three years, so this does make a difference to those who show.*

A new resource on EPDs – estimated progeny differences – will soon be available to Affiliates. The AC team working on issues surrounding establishing a fiber industry using a livestock model plans to finish this product by April. It will contain reading materials from scientists; a PowerPoint presentation; a chapter from a classic breeding text available through the Internet; and pointers to industry experts within the alpaca and livestock communities.

Another working group is gathering resources on emergency and disaster planning. This has turned into a huge project, and various other animal agencies are willing to cooperate with the camelid community.

2009 is the International Year of Natural Fiber, as proclaimed by the United Nations. The website is at www.naturalfibres2009.org. The Affiliate Congress is eager for AOBA to produce a comprehensive marketing plan to take advantage of this opportunity. We are waiting to hear about details. In the meantime, please visit the site and think of ways it could help your business.

The AOBA Rose Parade Committee reported to the AC that they've raised about \$30,000 toward the project. This is entirely separate from the AOBA Marketing budget. If they don't raise enough for this year's parade, the funds will carry over to a 2010 initiative. Having a float, with two geldings riding on it, would be a great way to bring in the 2009 International Year of Natural Fiber. The Rose Parade group is willing to take questions from anyone, so don't hesitate to ask.

Respectfully submitted,
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