



Quarterly

Summer 2006

Submitted by the Secretary

As most of you know, shearing can be quite the experience...for both the alpaca and the shearing team! We have new neighbors, Terri and Rob Vinck of Mystic Ridge Alpacas, that have two male alpacas. They called to hire us to shear their two boys one recent Saturday morning. Terri is a columnist for a local newspaper. After this fun and adventurous time of shearing their alpacas, she writes this story and publishes it. It's a "hoot" of a story and I know most of you will be able to relate to it! Enjoy! ~Kim B.

"AN ALPACA TALE", By Columnist Terri Vinck

There is nothing in the world as silly looking as a sheared alpaca. These smaller relatives of the Llama do not go happily to the shearing table, especially Bucky and Red, our two spoiled brats. There are protests, spitting, balking and downright sit-downs. (...continued on pg. 4)



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MOPACA Officers & Board of Directors

Cindy Jasper, Director
River Bluff Alpacas

Nancy Sines Director
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Sonda Caffrey, Director
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New Fenwick Alpaca Depot

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Welcome New Members!

FARM MEMBERS:

Brian & Denise Cunningham
Crane Creek Ranch Alpacas - MO

Larry W. & Linda Ream
Misty Breeze Alpaca Ranch - MO

Mary Wasinger & Laurie Hesed
Heartland Farm - KS

Caryn Wolf
Woldpaca Ranch Suri Alpacas - IL

WANTED
Training Tidbits
Husbandry & Farm Tips
Newsletter articles
"Thank You" notes and any
other alpaca articles of interest
to fill your newsletters!

Please submit your items to
Kim Baake, at
newfenwick@earthlink.net

2006 & 2007 MOPACA INVITATIONAL SHOW

Once again the MOPACA 2006 show was a huge success! Numerous farms and ranches commented on how successful and smoothly the show went. Many thanks to the 2006 show committee for all their hard work!

Another successful show is in the making! The show for 2007 will once again be lead by Dale Pessin. If you would like to volunteer to help on the show committees, please contact Dale at 314-392-9999 or showmealpacas@pessin.net

Watch for more show information, at www.mopaca.org

Area Events!

June 27th – Spin-off deadline for entries to the Mid-America Alpaca Show. Log on to www.midamerica-alpacashow.com for details.

July 4th – Bates City, MO - **Fun, Food, Music, Alpacas & Fireworks at Wild Woods Alpacas!** Contact Annie at annie@wildwoodsalpacaranch.com or visit www.wildwoodsalpacaranch.com . Special discount for MOPACA members.

July 22-23rd – MOPACA Meeting. **Seminars planned, meet and greet with complimentary appetizers.** Dr. Rob Pollard will be talking about homeopathic medicines for camelids and bonding issues with dam and cria. Mr. Jack Tyler will be talking about the financial aspects of setting up an alpaca ranch. For more information and registration form, log on to www.mopaca.org and click on the MOPACA News link.

July 29th-30th – Lebanon, MO - **"Alpacas-All Things Considered" and Advanced Reproduction** with Steve Hall and Tom Cameron, DVM at Whirlwind Ranch. Contact Liz Mitchko at 417-533-5280 or at www.whirlwindranch.com and click on seminars.

September 16th – Warrensburg, MO – **1st Annual Alpaca and Fiber Fair of West Central Missouri**. Hosted by Rob and Kim Baake of New Fenwick Alpaca Depot newfenwick@earthlink.net, and Jane Hall of Little Slice of Heaven Alpacas, janehall77@aol.com For more details and a registration form, please contact us! Co-Host and Demonstrator Coordinator Ann Mayes of Alpacas d'Auxvasse annmayes@ktis.net.

September 23-24th – Lebanon, MO. – “**Gentle Spirit and Behavioral Training**” with Cathy Spalding at Whirlwind Ranch. Contact Liz Mitchko at 417-533-5280 or at www.whirlwindranch.com and click on seminars.

October 21-22nd – Lebanon, MO. – **9th Annual Open House and Production Sale**. Contact Liz Mitchko at 417-533-5280 or at www.whirlwindranch.com and click on seminars.

October 27-29th – Topeka, KS – **3rd Annual Mid-America Alpaca Show** – for details log on to www.midamerica-alpacashow.com

Letter from the President

It is hard to believe we are almost halfway through this year! Shearing, birthing, and breeding are almost complete, and we are all hoping for an easy summer with just enough rain to keep the pastures green and rich.



The MOPACA education committee has been very busy planning our summer meeting for the weekend of July 22 & 23. I hope you will join us in Overland Park, Kansas, with Dr. Robert Pollard and Jack Tyler. Not only will you receive great information from both speakers, you will also receive Dr. Pollard's 60+ page booklet Llama and Alpaca Husbandry and Medical Care. As the registration form indicates, MOPACA members have the benefit of complimentary seminars and a wonderful opportunity to meet, greet and network with our fellow alpaca breeders.

We will also have our MOPACA meeting on Sunday morning. I invite all of you to participate as much as your schedule allows. We will be looking for some new committee chairpersons for our 2007 MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show as well as candidates for the MOPACA Board of Directors and Officers for 2007. The work load is shared among a great group of people and you get to help determine the direction of MOPACA. We need your input as our December business meeting and elections are closer than we realize!

The education and marketing committees are currently making plans for a fall/winter Marketing Seminar. This will be another weekend of seminars directed at both new and experienced breeders and will move back to the St. Louis area. Please let us know when you are hosting your own seminar so our schedules do not overlap!

I look forward to seeing you in July,

Dale Pessin
President, MOPACA 2006

MORE MOPACA NEWS

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- ◆ The Education and Marketing committees are planning a fall seminar. Date to be announced.
- ◆ December - Our regular election meeting will be held in Columbia, MO. Date to be announced.

NEW COMMITTEES FORMED

MOPACA would like to announce the formation of two new committees. The Education Committee will work to provide MOPACA members opportunities for seminars and the Publicity Committee will work to advertise MOPACA and it's members. Volunteers for these committees are:

Education Committee:

Jeanette Campbell, Alpacas of Willowbrook Farm, KS
Catherine Stickann, Sycamore Creek Farm, MO
Macel Koerth, Kaw Valley Alpacas, KS

Marketing Committee:

Jon & Phyllis Turner, Shady Creek Farm, MO
Pete Caffrey, Honey Creek Farm, KS
Dale Natoli, Alpacas Midwest, MO
Robyn Ambs, Light of Day Alpacas, MO
Kim Baake, New Fenwick Alpaca Depot, MO

Tips & Tid-bits: by Liz Mitchko of Whirlwind Ranch

What to do with all those slick auction catalogs:

Punch two holes at the top of a 4x6" index card and tie an end of a piece of yarn through each hole. Cut out the pictures of the alpacas and tape or glue them to index cards to be used for name tags when you have children groups visit your farm or ranch. This allows you to call the children by their name and they get to take home a picture of an alpaca. Make the visit interactive by using both Huacaya & Suri photos and different colors and having the children raise their hands if they have a brown Huacaya, a black Suri, etc.

Medicine Log Book:

A good husbandry tip is to keep a separate notebook as a Medicine Log Book where you record the following information for each and every type of medicine, wormer, or other items such as powdered milk replacer, colostrum, etc.

Name, Brand, Where Purchased, Lot Number, EXPIRATION DATE, Date Opened, Date Finished. recommended dosage.

When you are done with your bottle, carefully remove the label (if you can) and tape it into the book. This way, you'll remember what it was you gave such & such alpaca 4 years ago for that stuff on it's mouth. This also helps if multiple alpacas come down with something weeks later and you eventually trace it back that all of them had the same shot.

Make a point of checking the expiration dates of all your Alpaca products at least twice a year (time change is a good reminder).

Hope this helps!
Hums,
Liz

Midwest Alpaca Type Conference and Educational Seminars Report

For your reading pleasure, the summary document for our Type Conference is now available on the MOPACA website at www.mopaca.org and click on the link in the Community Board, (home page). I believe you will find it both precisely faithful to the outcomes of each group's work as well as instructive to the process we followed. It should be a useful document. I owe thanks to Karen Rogers, an IAOPA member and Type Conference Committee member, who was kind enough to read the last data compilation draft and make suggestions for improved readability.

Thanks to all of you for the parts you played in making our Type Conference such a successful one. We can be very proud of the work Midwestern alpaca breeders have partnered to do for our industry!

Best regards,

Gwen Wolff
Alpaca Kingdom

Regional Events

The Camelid Community 2006 is scheduled for August 4-6 in Kansas City, MO. The Main purpose of this annual event is to discuss "the state of the union" in the camelid world. It is an open forum for people to exchange ideas, share concerns and identify opportunities to help one another in the camelid community. MOPACA would like to be represented and we are looking for a member (or members) to attend this weekend and report back to our group. MOPACA will

cover the registration fees and some expenses on a first come first covered basis. Please contact Dale Pessin at dale@pessin.net or 314-392-9999 if you are interested. Registration deadline is July 7, so please don't delay. The registration includes Saturday lunch and dinner.

“Submitted by the Secretary” (continued...)

First you have to get them to walk onto a scale. Now, no one likes to be weighed in public. Imagine being at the doctor's office and hearing the nurse sing out your weight for everyone to hear. Bucky's technique is to place all four feet everywhere but on the scale. Someone must have told him if he stands on a metal plate he'll die. This is a mere herd myth, but he believes it. After they announced his weight he stamped his front feet and snorted, as if saying, "Well, thank you very much! Now everyone knows I'm ten pounds overweight. I'll have you know that is all pure muscle." Bucky is Mr. Tough Guy until he's on the shearing table...

Any passing witness unfamiliar to the process would think the poor animal was being tortured. The problem is his feet are restrained and those traitorous humans are holding him down while they shear him. Even worse, the process is not his idea. He is bleating piteously and desperately trying to work up a decent gob of odorous spit to lob at the first person to loosen their grip. All his hard work is wasted when he ends up wearing a paper towel over his face to deflect his efforts. In spite of his attempt to thwart his torturers, his nails are clipped, his teeth attended to and injections administered. At the end, his dignity is tattered, but he stands eight pounds lighter and ready to face a hot summer. Bucky will never concede it was for his own good. By the time he returned to the holding area, he had convinced himself the whole procedure was his own idea.

I imagine if someone were writing about shearing day from the alpaca's perspective, it would continue on like this:

When Red saw Bucky returning, he wanted to ask what had happened to him. Red was just happy Bucky was back, even if he did look goofy with his wool gone. Red was too polite to laugh, but he did let one high pitched hum slip out. He hoped Bucky hadn't heard him. Red had more important things to worry about. Now they were leading him away. He was really scared. He hoped he could be as brave as Bucky must have been. Bucky was Red's hero. He had taught him everything he knew.

When it was Red's turn to get on the scale, he was ready to be led to it, past all the admiring females who were watching from their side of the yard. But then he saw the metal plate and Bucky's warning came suddenly to mind. Red did what he always did in the face of a problem. He sat down. He folded his front legs under himself and plunked down so firmly a cloud of dust billowed around him and into the faces of those humans who were leading him. He would not go lightly upon that evil spot. Unless, of course, there was food involved. They knew his weakness, darn them. With a promise of treats, they lured him into the danger zone. He closed his eyes wondering if these were his last moments. But nothing happened, except the humans called out, "He's one-hundred seventy four pounds!" He was still alive. Could it be that Bucky was wrong? Red thought this really isn't so bad and the next thing he knew he was on a table and they were shearing the wool from his body, leaving him feeling lighter and cooler. This was a good thing. He wondered why Bucky told him it was bad.

That night, Red and Bucky stood under the stars, feeling more comfortable in their thinner coats. Red asked Bucky if he'd been afraid. Bucky told him that no, he was never afraid of anything. Red said that someday, he wanted to be just like Bucky. Bucky did not comment. He stood in the moonlight, chewing on a grass blade. Far above them, a meteor shot across the sky, blazing into oblivion. A coyote howled, piercing the silence. Bucky and Red watched the last trace of the shooting star. Bucky nuzzled Red and hummed, "You did good today, kid. You did really good."

And to himself Bucky promised that next year, he would be as brave as Red.

Thanks to Kim and Rob Baake at New Fenwick Alpaca Depot.

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If you have a story about your experiences that you would like to share, please send your story to newfenwick@earthlink.net.

Join MOPACA

Application at www.mopaca.org