

## “Shhh...the baby’s sleeping”

That’s what Joyce Johnson of Shadowland-Signature Suris Ranch was saying to her family members, a few nights last October, as she would walk through her house after putting the “baby” to sleep...a baby alpaca that is. Joyce Johnson is the proud owner of Suri twins...twins born Oct. 8, 2005, a male they call “Thumper” and a female called “Angel”.

Thumper was born first and although a normal delivery, Joyce said he was a bit “scrawny”. While Joyce and family members were working with Thumper, the dam “Hotflash” walked away, so they thought to pass the afterbirth. (story continued on pg 4).



Photo courtesy of Shadowland Ranch

**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](mailto:newfenwick@earthlink.net)

## New Officers & Board of Directors

New Officers and BOD’s were elected at the December 2005 meeting.  
 Congratulations to the following:

**Cindy Jasper, Director**  
 River Bluff Alpacas

**Nancy Sines Director**  
 Cedar Hollow Alpacas

**Sonda Caffrey, Director**  
 Honey Creek Farm

**Dale Pessin, President**  
 Show-Me Alpacas

**Judy Schaumberg, Vice President**  
 Blue Feather Farm

**Kim Baake, Secretary**  
 New Fenwick Alpaca Depot

**Mary Lickliger Treasurer**  
 Curly Eye Alpacas

## Welcome New Members!

### FARM MEMBERS:

Bob & Lisa Ferrero  
 Big River Alpacas - MO

Ed & Marta Howe  
 Alpacas in Wildcat Hollow - KS

Michael & Carla Terry  
 Country Home Alpacas - KS

Michael & Loretta Green  
 Royal Plush Alpaca Ranch - KS

Glen & Laura Jean Haigler  
 Sunflower Alpaca Farm - KS

Bill & Annie Sloan  
 Wild Woods Alpaca Ranch - MO

Jon & Phyllis Turner  
 Shady Creek Farm - MO

Bob & Claudia Hey  
 Ad Astra Alpacas - KS

Todd & Kyla Harrison  
 Harrison’s Blue Diamond Alpacas - MO

Frank & Sherri Rhodes  
 Alpacas at Rockyfield Farm – KS

Linda Beam/Paul Jokerst Jr.  
 Urban Alpacas - MO

Linda Coats  
 Coats High Ridge Farm – MO

Charles & Cara Colyott  
 Diane & Joe Wickline  
 Samincha Alpacas - IL

Terri Lamfers  
 Pair-A-Dice Alpacas – IA

Alex & Andrea MacDonald  
 Leaping Lagomorph Rare Breeds – MO

Robert & Heather Newman  
 Three Crosses Alpaca Ranch - MO

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Vic & Brenda Bullock  
 Stellar Alpaca Ranch - MO

## 2006 MOPACA INVITATIONAL SHOW UPDATE

Many thanks to the show committee for working so hard these past several months! A successful show is in the making!

### Volunteers Needed:

Contact Bob & Lisa Ferrero at [boblisa@bigriveralpacas.com](mailto:boblisa@bigriveralpacas.com) to find out how you can help make the show a success and learn at the same time!

For more show information, log on to: [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org)

## Silent Auction Items Needed

Would you like to donate an item to the Silent auction at the MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show? Here are some ideas: Baked goods, canned jellies, alpaca products, bucket of supplies, alpaca apparel, services, artwork, furniture. The silent auction will benefit two organizations this year; Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) and the Mid America Alpaca Foundation. Contact Kathleen Wedel at [prariesedegefarm@mokancomm.net](mailto:prariesedegefarm@mokancomm.net) or Steve Wolff at [info@alpaca-kingdom.com](mailto:info@alpaca-kingdom.com) for further information!

Did you know that as a MOPACA Farm member you can submit a 50 word (or less) paragraph describing your farm and have it posted on the MOPACA website? Send your farm description to the website administrator, Beverly Rasmussen at [info@missourialpacas.com](mailto:info@missourialpacas.com). For logging onto the "Member's Login" page, enter your member ID and password that you received by email after joining MOPACA. For assistance, please contact Beverly, or Kim Baake ([newfenwick@earthlink.net](mailto:newfenwick@earthlink.net)).

## Letter from the President

MOPACA has been very busy this first quarter of 2006. We had great attendance at the Midwest Alpaca Type Conference in February and it looks like we will have another outstanding group of exhibitors and alpacas at our Level IV 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Invitational Alpaca Show. We have some great vendors who will have lots of alpaca products available. There is still space available in Steve Hull's Seminar on Friday, "Alpacas, All Things considered". The Saturday seminars are complimentary, and should be very informative. Dr. David Pugh will be one of our seminar speakers as well as the Saturday Night speaker. If you have not met him, it is worth the trip to hear him!



Plans are in the works to make our summer MOPACA meeting a major educational seminar. Keep an eye on our website for further details. We are also developing a marketing/advertising committee for MOAPCA members. We need your input and experience to promote alpacas and alpaca products from our affiliate.

I look forward to seeing you in Lake St. Louis March 24-26, or at our summer meeting.

Dale Pessin  
MOPACA President 2006

## Area Events 2006

(visit [www.mopaca.org](http://www.mopaca.org) for full details and more alpaca shows and events)

### March 18 – Smart Skirting for Great Rewards

Hosted by Kansas Alpaca Company  
[info@kansasalpacacompany.com](mailto:info@kansasalpacacompany.com)

March 24-26 – MOPACA Invitational Alpaca Show

### April 8 – Beginning Weaving with Alpaca

Hosted by Kansas Alpaca Company  
[info@kansasalpacacompany.com](mailto:info@kansasalpacacompany.com)

June 3 - Fourth Annual Spring Alpaca Festival

Hosted by Ozark Alpacas at Starlight Ranch.  
[wr@alpacaoz.com](mailto:wr@alpacaoz.com)

October 27-29 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mid America Alpaca Show – Topeka, KS. [www.midamerica-alpacashow.com](http://www.midamerica-alpacashow.com)

## NOTICE OF MOPACA MEETINGS

Our first meeting of the year was an on-line meeting (Jan. 31, 2006) with a brief follow-up meeting held while at the Type Conference in St. Louis on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Future meetings will be announced via email, newsletters and on the website calendar.

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## Update – Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America, Inc.

By Daryl W. Goodrich, AFCNA President

The Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America, Inc. is the only US-based alpaca fiber cooperative and serves 1,100 members. Cooperatives play a major role in US agriculture. The cooperative business model can bring US alpaca farmers predictable and long-term income from their only consumable commodity – fleece.

Farmers working cooperatively can utilize production and selling practices frequently beyond the reach of individual members. This enables more of the pipeline from raw agricultural commodity to consumed product to be within the control of the farmer. Control is important since agricultural commodities are worth more in the manufactured state than raw.

Accordingly, AFCNA's goal is to open a large consumer market for fine and coarse fleece allowing your entire alpaca fleece clip to be sold. Its volunteer Board of Directors is working hard to position AFCNA for strength, expanded member services, and patronage distributions. They are now building AFCNA's infrastructure to make fleece a prominent component of all successful alpaca farms - large and small. Let me give you a tour of some achievements.

**An AOBA certified AFCNA National Fleece Show will be presented the first weekend in August. Show rules, information and registration are at [www.alpacawebsite.com](http://www.alpacawebsite.com).**

A "North American Alpaca" certification mark was recently adopted to certify that product alpaca content is 100% North American alpaca. It will be placed on AFCNA products made with member-contributed fleece.



Member 2004-2005 contributed fleece collected at Tapedes de Lana in New Mexico is now being grade sorted. AFCNA's online store at [www.americasalpaca.com](http://www.americasalpaca.com) is being redesigned and will have an expanded product mix for member farm stores. Members without farm stores will also be able to benefit from AFCNA product sales. A member sales commission is planned for retail sales placed through member farm websites to AFCNA's online store. Purchasing division net profits will be distributed to members based on their annual purchases.

AFCNA also markets member fleece in a value added form. Our Extreme Alpaca™ socks are very successful. A new spinning mill will supply sock yarn faster and at lower cost. A US prototype 100% member fleece hat–scarf set has just been completed and hand knitting yarn, gloves and a throw are being developed. Marketing division net proceeds will be distributed to members as payment for their fleece based on their annual fleece contribution total quality factor.

We have suffered disappointments as a pioneer in the uncharted waters of the large volume North American alpaca fiber industry, but a bright and successful picture is now coming into sight. The magic of AFCNA as a farmers' cooperatives is that members benefit to the extent they contribute more fleece, purchase more products, and encourage more alpaca farmers to become members.

There is strength in numbers when alpaca farmers march to the beat of the same AFCNA drum. Members are the only ones benefiting. There is no officer, director or select group of members who benefit in any way all members equally do not. Please visit [www.afcna.com](http://www.afcna.com) for membership and other information.

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### ***Midwest Alpaca Type Conference and Educational Seminars Report***

The MOPACA/IAOBA/KAA sponsored event held in St. Louis, MO Feb 4-5, 2006, was very successful in a number of regards. First, participants from eleven states joined together in expressing their views about the relative importance of various alpaca traits in crafting a potential national descriptive statement. One hundred registrants came from FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, MO, ND, OH, OK, TX, and WI. Final results from the group work will be compiled and posted on the MOPACA website as well as forwarded on to AOBA for inclusion in the National Type Conference process.

Lots of education took place on a number of subjects as the group listened to presentations from Dr. David Ames from Colorado State University; AOBA judges Diana Timmerman and Shannon McConnell; and veterinarian Dr. Doug Pernikoff. Dr. Ames gave an overview of the breed standard discussion process within the AOBA organization, including judges training. The two judges helped us

understand how a standard might be used in the judging process. Shannon McConnell will be remembered for his outstanding example in simplifying the breed standard for human beings! Dr. Pernikoff pointed out the importance of archeological work and genetic research. Connie Alexander, AOBA Show Superintendent, was on hand to answer questions. Brett Kaysen from Colorado State University moderated the presentations and question and answer sessions.

When the participants broke into small work groups, they began talking about specific traits divided into several categories: frame; head; huacaya fleece and suri fleece. As a group, they ranked traits within that category and wrote some descriptions of their most important traits. For example, within the FRAME category, reproductive soundness and a balanced profile were two of the traits ranked highly by groups working on that category.

After the small groups had finished (not really – we just ran out of time!) the participants reconvened to present their findings to the whole group. As predicted by some of our panelists, many of the reports sounded very similar.

Networking with other alpaca people is always a conference benefit, and the group enjoyed the chance to relax and talk informally during the buffet dinner. A short MOPACA meeting preceded dinner.

Sunday's session on BVD presented by St. Louis area vet Dr. Tricia Rouff was a highlight of the weekend. Her in-depth research and preparation and ability to communicate clearly with breeders was impressive. Many participants expressed the feeling that they got their conference registration's worth from that one session alone.

Adding value to value, participants selected two more educational sessions to attend on Sunday. They chose from "Ask the Judge" with Diana Timmerman and Shannon McConnell; "Ask the Show Superintendent" with Connie Alexander; or "Ask the Vet" with Dr. Tricia Rouff. Everyone enjoyed the chance to ask questions in a small group setting, without the rush of a show, clinic, or antsy alpacas.

If you missed this event, find someone who attended and ask for a little of their time to talk about it. Maybe they'll even be willing to let you copy their BVD handouts!

--submitted by Gwen Wolff, Alpaca Kingdom

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### *"Shhh...the baby's sleeping" (continued...)*

According to Joyce, a short time later, Hotflash laid down, then stood up, moaned and repeated this a time or two before Joyce noticed that the placenta exiting Hotflash was "breathing...and...it had teeth! A surprised Joyce exclaimed "Oh my God...there's another cria!"

They rushed to her side and watched Hotflash deliver another 10 lb. cria...female this time. The tiny cria's temperature was down to 93 degrees and was rushed to the vet's office. "Angel" they named her, was immediately administered fluids and colostrum. After her temp increased, Joyce took her home, and for the following three days Joyce slept with Angel in an empty Jacuzzi hot tub that had heat lights. She would cover the cria with towels to keep her temperature up. After the baby would go to sleep, Joyce would go through the house letting everyone know..."Shhhh...the baby's sleeping". After three days of this "special treatment", this

small "Angel" was up walking, and even sitting on the couch with Joyce...watching TV! Soon after, Joyce and her family re-united the cria with her dam and new brother. At first Hotflash was reluctant to accept Angel, but does so now with little resistance. Angel does have a surrogate dam that she has bonded with and nursed off of as well.

Today both Thumper and Angel are doing quite well. Thumper weighs in at 55 lbs., and Angel is at 33 lbs.



Photo courtesy of Shadowland Ranch

Thank you Joyce for sharing your story! If you have a story about your experiences that you would like to share, please send your story to [newfenwick@earthlink.net](mailto:newfenwick@earthlink.net).