



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

UPGRADED MEMBERSHIP

BENEFIT:

Part of your MOPACA membership benefits is to have a description of your farm posted on the MOPACA website and it has recently been updated to a 100 word limit (from 50 words). If you would like to upgrade your listing to the 100 word limit, please submit your new description to the Website Editor, Kim Baake at

newfenwick@wildblue.net

In the subject line please put **MOPACA Farm Description Update**

Education Committee News

The registrations are coming in for the Neo-Natal Seminar and Workshop with Dr. Toni Cotton, held on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the MOPACA Show. We can only take 20 for the full day workshop, so if you are interested please contact Dale Pessin at dale@pessin.net for details.

The Education Committee is also working on a Marketing Seminar for the weekend of February 7-8, 2009. Details are not complete, so if you would like to offer your thoughts and ideas for this weekend, please contact Dale Pessin.

Have a successful autumn birthing and breeding season,
Dale Pessin, Gwen Wolff, and Rob Long

Officers & Board Of Directors

Cindy Jasper, Director

River Bluff Alpacas

Sandy Binder, Director

Mid-Missouri Alpacas

Kim Baake, Director

New Fenwick Alpaca Depot

Glenn Alpert, President

Alpacas R' Diamonds

Steve Wolff, Vice President

Alpaca Kingdom

Lisa Fererro, Secretary

Big River Alpacas

Mary Lickliger, Treasurer

Curly Eye Alpacas

Welcome New Members

NEW FARM MEMBERS

Steve Trainer & Diane Rogers

Flatland Ranch

Christian & Michelle Davies

C & M Acres

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Terry Jo Passanante

Clover Bottom Alpaca Ranch

NOTICE OF MOPACA

MEETINGS

Future Meetings will be
announced via e-mail Newsletters
and on the website calendar

MOPACA ELECTION

For 2009 Officers/Board

Ballots will be sent out this year around the end of October for the end of year elections.

A copy of the bios will be sent with the ballots and will also be posted on the website.

Along with the bios, will be a copy of the MOPACA Bylaws and the Board is asking for members to vote on the revised changes.

Please remember to cast your vote. Thank you.

Letter from the President

Summer is almost over and the alpacas are still grazing in green pastures with the help of late July and early August rains, and cool nights. With the cooler temps, now's the time to complete those tasks, such as toenail trimming, that were put off due to hot summer temperatures, before fall crias and show schedules are upon us.

MOPACA officer nominating committee, chaired by Cindy Jasper, is working up a slate of candidates for our mail out ballot. When the ballots arrive this fall be sure to vote and mail your ballots in.

MOPACA is an active member in the Affiliate Congress, a group of representatives from interested AOBA affiliates. Gwen Wolff is the current MOPACA representative. The mission of the Affiliate Congress is to work enthusiastically with the AOBA board in ways that add value to our members and support the board in fulfilling article 1 of its by-laws, the **Vision** is to create an organization where our members enjoy effective communication between themselves and the AOBA board and are delighted with the work of both the affiliate congress and the AOBA board, and the **Strategy** is to identify issues and opportunities within our membership which need to be addressed and to then jointly to develop solutions within the congress which the AOBA board can review and implement as appropriate. Teams have been organized to work on various projects to research for recommendations to the AOBA board and to affiliate members. The current team goals:

- Establish an American Alpaca Product Industry with a livestock model incorporating the national fiber industry
- Survey Our members for Top Concerns and Priorities
- Find a Way to Stimulate Economically Viable Uses of Alpaca Fiber/Explore Ways to Encourage Colleges and Universities to Engage in Alpacas
- Create an Economic Model for Fiber/Livestock
- Develop SOP for Health Related Issues at AOBA Shows
- Disaster Preparedness

Results from the Camelid Community 2008 meeting in August can be viewed at <http://www.icinfo.org/pages/08reports.html>. While the majority of the Camelid Community volunteers are llama owners there is a wealth of knowledge available on this site for alpaca owners. The 2008/2009 projects are:

- *Produce a simple camelid care brochure/fact sheet that can be mass produced and widely distributed.
- *Put together a camelid press packet for use by llama and alpaca organizations and owners across the country to assist in their publicity efforts.
- *Identify and compile contact information for other livestock organizations, publications and web sites; agricultural and small farm publications; and fiber publications

Other reports include:

- "Report to Camelid Community 2008 from the Lama Medical Research Group (LMRG)"
- "Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) Report for Camelid Community 2008"
- "Morris Animal Foundation 2008-2009 Approved Llama/Alpaca Studies"
- "Alpaca Registry, Inc. Strategic Plan 2008-2010"
- "Annual Report 2008—Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association" (excerpts)
- "International Camelid Institute: New Look—New Services"
- "IRC Council Report to Camelid Community 2008"
- "Update on the National Animal Identification System"
- "Southern States Llama Association 2008 Camelid Community Report"
- "Camelid Community 2009"

I would like to thank the members of MOPACA for allowing me to serve as the MOPACA president the last two years. While I won't miss all the extra e-mails I will miss working with all the very dedicated and talented volunteers that make MOPACA a great organization.

Glenn Alpert, 2008 MOPACA President.

News from our members!

Members, Sandy and Dave Binder reported for the newsletter, that in August, they purchased a new John Deere mower and Sandy commented that after the salesman deducted her trade-in she asked him about AOBA's discount that members receive. He then looked it up on the internet and she received another \$899 off. It's great to hear how AOBA is working to help the members!

Share
your stories!



Alpacas at Grants Farms

Submitted by: Tina Travis (Elkhorn Alpacas)
and Beverly Schroeder (Magnolia Bend)

We have some exciting news to share, that Grants Farm now has Alpacas! Two females two males, (one Suri and three Huacaya).

Grant's Farm, owned by the Anheuser-Busch family, is a family attraction of an animal paradise located in St. Louis, Missouri.

We are hoping that this will help the industry as a whole. We are proud to have done business with a St. Louis, icon. This came about when we helped All American Shearing, Christopher Aiken, shear the Llamas at Grants Farm. We found out that they were very interested in adding alpacas to their exhibit. Our farm was inspected by 2 of their Keepers for over all care and quality of our operation. We were given high marks for our knowledge and animal health.

Visit Grant's Farm at
www.grantsfarm.com

NEWS FROM THE MID-AMERICA ALPACA FOUNDATION

The Alpaca Teaching Herd at the College of Veterinary Medicine at KSU had their annual shearing on April 21. Special thanks go for the gifts of time, talent & equipment to Glen Alpert, who sheared the herd, Jeanette Campbell, who sorted the fiber, to Sally Brandon at Shepherd's Mill, who has agreed to process the fiber at no charge, and to some very devoted 4th year veterinary students on the Field Services rotation. The herd that is 12 strong is now sheared, examined, vaccinated, has had their fecal exams done and teeth and toenails trimmed. We are pleased to report that the herd is doing extremely well and all of them appear happy and healthy! When you are at the Mid-America Alpaca Foundation show in November, look for products in the Silent Auction made from the fiber of the teaching herd. The proceeds from the Silent Auction always go towards support of the herd.

Over the past few months, the herd has been busy being used to teach students to place catheters and perform other procedures. The herd was also used for the annual KSU Veterinary Technicians Conference on March 1, 2008, where Dr David Anderson taught a well-attended vet lab on veterinary techniques in llamas and alpacas. The educational purpose of the herd extends beyond just that of veterinary students, but also to graduate veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are already working in practice near you.

The best news of all...the girls have been having ultrasounds performed by the faculty and students on both the medicine and surgery service and the reproduction service here at KSU and we are expecting 5 crias to be born between now and the fall. We could not be more excited about this and feel it is absolutely the best way for future veterinarians to prepare to meet your needs in the area of reproduction, obstetrics, neonatology and juvenile care.

Thanks again for all of your support. In just 2 more weeks, we will be starting a brand new class of fourth-year veterinary students on their clinical rotations: 110 more students with opportunities to work with the teaching herd!

Sincerely

Meredyth Jones DVM, MS, DACVIM-LA
Assistant Professor - Agricultural Practices
Kansas State University
College of Veterinary Medicine

If you have a story or a photo about an alpaca experience that you would like to share please send to Lisa at bigriveralpacos@esagelink.com. All stories/submissions are subject to edit and approval.

2009 MOPACA Invitational Show Update

Hello MOPACA friends!

2009 show plans are in the works and moving right along. Show dates are March 27-29th. I really think you are going to enjoy being at the American Royal this year and we plan to make Kansas City our home for the future. It's a top of the line venue and we have lots of room to show off. "Showing Off", will be the theme for our fleece show this year.

A few highlights about the show: We are going "GREEN" for 2009. **One feature of going green is:** I'm working to find a local nursery that is willing to bring a large trailer to the show to collect 'paca beans and I'll be communicating with them through the spring planting season to track how they like our natural soil conditioner and "great" plant food.

If you didn't get a chance to read the blast I sent out recently, we will have three shows rings in the main arena. Two for the halter show and one for the fleece show, auxiliary classes and fiber demo's of all kinds. Lots of action to be seen, so plan some time to visit the fleece show this year. We also need extra volunteers to help out with the fleece show. If interested, contact Sandy Binder at 573-581-1415 or email her at: applesandalpacas@ktis.net. We would like to see our fleece show grow in numbers and quality and we are looking to you to make this happen. "Look to MOPACA First" to show those fleeces.

We are still in need to fill the open volunteer show committee position of **Publicity Coordinator**. This is a fun position and responsible for the marketing and advertising of the show, along with putting together the show book. This position will require your time, but it's one of the most fun positions on the committee and I'm here to help with lots of up front prep work already done. Please contact me at 913-226-7431 or email at: Rhonda@rbalpacaranch.com if you are interested. Even if you just have a little time to invest, we could use your help.

Show registration will begin mid October for the spin-off, fiber art and skein competition. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments about the show, feel free to send them my way. This is your show and I look forward to hearing from you with suggestions on how to make it better each year.

Warm Regards,
Rhonda Butler
MIAS Event Coordinator

Affiliate Congress News Sept 2008

The Affiliate Congress has monthly teleconferences to exchange work group information and to communicate with the AOBA Board. Our new AOBA Liaison is Kim DeVos. The AC has liaisons to many AOBA committees, and reports return monthly. This has allowed us to have a better understanding of association work, and to coordinate our efforts. The monthly meeting minutes are posted on the AOBA website, and will give you a quick overview of your association. Please contact me if you have questions, or would like to make suggestions for the Affiliate Congress to address.

AC workgroups are currently working on ideas for establishing alpacas as a better livestock industry, and for creating an economic model that includes alpaca fiber. The disaster-planning group is looking at an equine guide that could be modified for alpaca owners' use. Another group is working on standard operating procedures for health issues at shows.

Planning for the 2009 National and World Conference is the major work area within AOBA. International attendance is spurring work to create the biggest conference yet.

Respectfully submitted by Gwen Wolff, MOPACA AC Liaison