

The NMAB Quarterly

The Official Newsletter of the
New Mexico Alpaca Breeder

Fall Edition November 2007

NMAB News and Reminders

Newsletter Announcements

Thanks to our contributors for this issue, and if you didn't have any news to share this time around, then please consider submitting an item for the January issue – a new year! Submissions are due for the January issue on Wednesday, January 9th.

Cynthia Daly, Editor, Milagro Moon Ranch (info@milagromoonranch.com)

Next NMAB Meeting

As soon as you get your 2008 calendar, circle February 23. This is the date for the next official NMAB Meeting at Dean and Linda Kahlich's Adobe Farms which is located right in the middle of the state. 420 Fenceline Road, Ancho, NM (505) 937-7949

The Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 8 at Kent and Susan Sasser's AlpacaWorks Ranch in Santa Fe. Details and directions will be posted on the Calendar page of the NMAB website. The Party starts at 4. Dress casual and bring a dish and something for the gift exchange.

The BOD is meeting before the Christmas party at 2:30 at Susan and Kent's.

Your NMAB Renewal Fees are due now.

Your 2008 NMAB membership renewal is due December 31. Please submit your renewal check to our Membership Chairman, Anne Stallcup, Que Sera Alpacas, 3 General Sage, Santa Fe, NM 87505. The dues are \$100 for Breeder level members and \$25 for Associate level members. For more information on membership benefits or to download a membership form, please visit the NMAB website at www.newmexicoalpacabreeders.org.

You should also consider reviewing your website listings at this time and making any corrections or edits you would like to see. Send your website edits to Anne Stallcup at queseraalpacas@aol.com.

Alpaca Industry News, Opinion and Comment

The following obituary was submitted by Carol Weisner in honor of Ken.

KEN WEISNER, 65, founder and owner of Victory Ranch Alpacas in Mora, New Mexico, died September 27, 2007, in Illinois. Ken fought Multiple Myeloma (cancer of the bone marrow) for three years and won the battle. He was cancer free for more than a year when he got a bacterial infection in his blood that was resistant antibiotics. His entire family was with him when he died. The funeral took place in Chicago.



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He followed his dream to go west and settled in Mora, New Mexico, more than 17 years ago. Ken and his wife, Carol, were pioneers in the alpaca business starting with a small herd and building it to one of the largest in the Southwest. Their alpacas have won numerous champion prize ribbons, and alpacas from Victory Ranch have gone on to become and breed champions throughout the United States. Ken was proud that a south-side boy from Chicago, with no livestock experience, could become a real cowboy with a successful alpaca ranch.

Ken was a true visionary. Victory Ranch Alpacas was the first vertical operation where alpacas are bred and sheared, their fiber spun in yarn and made into garments that are sold in the ranch store. It is the only vertical alpaca operation that is open seven days a week to the public.

Ken also owned and operated Victory Auto Wreckers in Bensenville, Illinois, for 40 years. The television commercial he created for Victory Auto Wreckers has become an icon in the Chicago area.

Ken and Carol's daughter, Darcy, took over management of the ranch several years ago and will continue to manage the ranch,. Ken is survived by his wife of 43 years, Carol; daughter, Darcy; son Kyle (and Lisa nee Koppersmith); son Seth (Andrea nee Padilla); and three grandchildren Brandon, Ryan, and Cayla.

Ken loved his life in New Mexico and his many friends. His family loved him dearly and considered him their superhero.

A donation was made in memoriam by NMAB to the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF). If you wish to make a donation to ARF, please go to the ARF website and click on the DONATE box: www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org

The following obituary was printed in The Ottawa Herald (Ottawa, Kansas) on October 30, 2007

DR. WILLIAM "BILL" DEBOIS

Dr. William "Bill" DeBois, 64, Ottawa, died Monday, Oct. 29, 2007, at his home. Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Lamb-Roberts Funeral Home, Ottawa.

He was born Aug. 27, 1943, at Baltimore, Md., to Stanley and Esther (Fogel) DeBois.

He graduated from City High School, Baltimore, Md., in 1962. He graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Philadelphia, Pa.

He enjoyed animals and the outdoors. He was known for his great sense of humor and how he cared for people.

He was a member of the Midwest Alpaca Association and served on the Bea Martin Peck Animal Shelter board, Ottawa.

He worked as an optometrist for Indian Health Services, at Albuquerque, N.M., from 1973 to 1975. He began his optometry practice at Albuquerque and served the community for more than 35 years. He moved to Ottawa in 2005 where he owned and operated the Kansas Alpaca Company.

He married Bonnie Samuel April 10, 1993, at Albuquerque, N.M. They shared more than 14 years of marriage. She survives.

Survivors also include a daughter, Erica Linnell, and her husband, A.J., Idaho; a son, Steven DeBois, Salt Lake City, Utah; step-sons, Ray Nath, and his wife, Kellie, Anita, Iowa, and Scott Nath, and his wife, Mary Jane, New York, N.Y.; an uncle, Ted DeBois, and his wife, Eileen, Baltimore, Md.; and two stepgrandchildren, Faith and Grace Nath.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Bea Martin Peck Animal Shelter in care of the Lamb-Roberts Funeral Home, P.O. Box 14, 325 S. Hickory St., Ottawa KS 66067.

Tips from Aspen Ridge Alpacas

1. 'Tis the season to stock up on your woodstove pellets. Use them for soaking up urine at the poop pile. Soon the supply will disappear. Home Depot has Organic Woodstove Pellets for \$4.09.
2. Instead of Panacur paste, use liquid Safe-Guard which is 10% Fenbendazole. A 1000 ml bottle costs a little over \$100 and lasts a long time. Safe-Guard is easy to use. Pour into a syringe and put the dose in the cheek of your alpaca. Dosage: 10% of the weight of the alpaca. www.kvvet.com Item # 26101

3. Use contractor-grade bags to collect the poop. Aspen Ridge has a classified ad in the local newspaper for free paca-poo pickup. The ad is free. We schedule weekly pickups.
4. Locate your scale where the alpaca can look outside. They are more likely to get on the scale and weigh themselves without any hassle.
5. Your alpaca insurance carrier knows a lot about the latest info on alpaca diseases. Mickey called Prairie States and found out that West Nile Virus hasn't been a particular problem this year.

--From Aspen Ridge Alpacas of Northern New Mexico

Susan Sasser would like to receive information on fiber males or pet quality males that you have for sale, their prices and descriptions of their fiber. Let's be reasonable as many of us have an abundance of these wonderful animals. Susan 505-412-2098c

Mickey's Selected Shorts from Dr. Pat Long's Neonatal and More Clinic
Scottsdale, Arizona
November 3 & 4, 2007

Pat Long, DVM, has the ultimate credentials to serve alpaca breeders well. He was a contributing author of *Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care*; he is a board member for the Alpaca Research Foundation; he goes all over the country bringing people up to date on the latest and greatest research on llamas and alpacas; and I found out this weekend that he is a patient and effective teacher.

In addition to a yellow pad full of notes on alpaca health, nutrition, the latest research, and dam and cria issues, I received his permission to video tape the manipulations needed for correcting dystocias. My small-size DVD holds only 20 minutes, but I got some great instructional material.

Listed below are some selected points from Dr. Long's presentation.

- He suggests breeding every third day until female spits off. The cycle should catch by the third breeding. This is because the semen is viable for 24-36 hours.
- He cautions that we should use lower doses of Oxytocin, 5-10 units, in alpacas.
- 3-5% of births will require assistance.
- The most expensive statement is: "Let's see how she looks tomorrow."
- The three most common delivery problems:
 - Uterine Torsion: Usually the last two months of pregnancy—95% turn to the right or clockwise.
 - Leg back
 - Breech presentation
- Alpacas have small lungs and problems like pneumonia are difficult to assess.
- When milking a dam, use wet hands.
- Feed llamas and alpacas differently. Llamas are browsers like goats. They like variety and eat shrubs and coarser grass. Alpacas are grazers like sheep.

- Most grass hay is low in calcium and phosphorus. Need supplements for balance.
 - Alpacas are not as good at converting vitamin D as other animals. Not much vitamin D comes through mom's milk.
 - Shearing opens up skin to receive more sun. That's one reason he prefers spring babies.
 - Fall crias: Give 30,000 units of vitamin D every two weeks until the crias are old enough to eat supplements. Use paste. It takes a lot of vitamin D to be toxic. Or give A & D injections: 1000 units per pound every three months. This may cause muscle soreness.
 - Alpaca Genome Mapping should be completed by the end of the year to provide basic genetic tools to develop genetic tests for negative and positive inherited traits. We should see a lot of research in the next 3-4 years.
 - Jeff Smith of North Carolina State University has done research that proves that Gastroguard doesn't get into the bloodstream. Therefore, it is not effective for ulcers. Dr. Smith is looking into the effectiveness of another product used by humans.
 - Dr. Long doesn't see mastitis very often in alpacas. This is probably because the crias suckle frequently.
 - A study in New Zealand showed that 26% of the dams will lose pregnancy. Dr. Long thinks this is about right.
 - There are not many pregnancy losses after 90 days.
 - Banamine isn't needed before traveling. Use a probiotic if you think it will help.
 - Alpaca males mature later than llama males. Look for fighting teeth.
 - First three months of pregnancy, do nothing (shots, worming, stress, etc.). The last two months of pregnancy, do nothing.
 - His favorite site for injections is in the rear. IM in muscle. SQ: The skin on the back of the leg is pliable.
 - Biosecurity: eliminate nose to nose contact. Feed quarantined animals last. You don't want to track a disease into the unquarantined areas. Changing shoes isn't a bad idea either.
 - Great website that Dr. Long consults often: www.sheepandgoat.com
 - Dr. Long changed his mind about how to do fecals. He says that alpaca fecal samples should use the SUGAR SOLUTION and use a centrifuge. Dr. Chris Seavert (spelling) of OSU did extensive research. Using the sugar centrifugal method, he discovered a lot more parasites. It's best to let the fecal sit in the solution overnight.
 - Prepatent stage of coccidia is the most destructive. Take another fecal sample for testing in 10-14 days after worming. Then I see a note saying that coccidia is distributed by direct fecal-oral contact and has a 21-day life cycle. Check after 21 days. (?)
 - The worst coccidia is E.Mac. Big Egg. Difficult to find because the eggs are heavy and need a long time to float to top.
 - Do not deworm if eggs are in low numbers.
 - Do not have sheep and goats with alpacas because they don't use a common dung pile and disease can spread.
 - Dr. Long says: "Alpacas are healthier than any other species I've worked with."
 - It really bugs Dr. Long to see hay put on the ground.
 - Worm eggs are super resistant and may survive over a cold winter or hot summer.
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Farm News and Events

HOLIDAY ROUND ROBIN CLASS

Plan now to start creating your unique and personal gifts for the holiday season! (or any other time too!)

We'll be goin' round thru several "*Creation Stations*" to make a variety of fiber arts pieces that are simple, quick, and sure to be noticed.

Round robin items for the class include:

*Roving angels
Needle-felted ornaments
Felted Soap
Coasters / Mug Rug
Covered Journal
Bookmarks
Needle-felted pins
Pin Cushion
Business Card Case
Felt bead bracelet*

All materials, tools, supplies and instructions you need are included in the class, and a take-along kit to make additional items.

You'll felt, weave, and more!

Cost of class: \$75.00

DATE: Saturday Nov 10

TIME: 9:00am - 4:00pm

LOCATION: Fiber and Friends Workshop at Four Pines Alpacas

MORE: Lunch included!

Please email mary@fourpinesalpacas.com if you are interested in the Round Robin class, or call us at 505-379-4534

Fiber and Friends
At Four Pines Alpacas
Upcoming Fiber Arts Class Info

Coming Up: Saturday November 10 -Holiday Round Robin (see above)

Contact us for Felted Hats class: You can make individual arrangements for groups of 2-3 for the Felt Hat Making class - \$75.00. You'll leave with a finished felt hat!

mary@fourpinesalpacas.com

505-379-4534

New class schedule will be out in January 2008!

Open Ranch and Holiday Boutique

Milagro Moon Ranch (Edgewood) and Enchanted Sky Alpacas (Sandia Park) will hold their Holiday Boutique and Open Ranch Days on December 1st and 2nd from 10-3. Come on down to southern Santa Fe County and pay us a visit! Contact Jim and Cynthia at 286-1335 or Al and Lynne Fatkin at 235-0305.

Show Results

New Mexico Alpaca Breeders were well represented at the Louisiana Deep South Alpaca Show November 3rd and 4th. Here's how we did...

AlpacaWorks

AlpacaWorks Thunder Bolt – fawn yearling male Huacaya - Third in Class
Alpacas & Angels Leilani – black yearling female Huacaya - Third in Class
AlpacaWorks Hannah – fawn yearling female Huacaya - Sixth in Class

Altiplano Alpacas

Altiplano's Ariana – white yearling female Huacaya – First in class, Color Champion
Altiplano's Sonora – fawn yearling female Huacaya – Second in class
Altiplano's General Diego – fawn yearling male Huacaya – Fourth in class

Milagro Meadow Alpacas:

Dona Clea's Apollo – white yearling male Huacaya (younger males) – Third in Class

Que Sera Alpacas

Que Sera Vito's Evita – light juvenile female Huacaya – First in class, Color Champion

Turquoise Trail Alpacas

Turquoise Trail's Got Milk – black yearling male Huacaya – Fifth in Class

Classifieds

WANT COLOR?

Dream Catcher Ranchito has what you want and need in Huacaya and Suri.
Suri Breeders– WLK Inferno is now delivering 4th generation true black in 3 out of 3 crias. Look up his ARI number 1431483 and you will be impressed with his background.

If you are looking to breed up for color, density and lock structure call me.

Huacaya Breeders – FRA Peruvian Mercury is a new herd sire from Lucy and Charles Farrar. He is a medium silver grey boy with black genetics as well because his sire is Aladdin of KPR. His sire is multiple award winning and at age 7 had a micron count of 23, with a SD 4, and less than 16 for CV. Let's talk breeding up!

Contact Mary Ann Andrews, cell 699-3080, Santa Fe.

ATTENTION SURI BREEDERS!!!!

If you'd like to add proven grey genetics to your herd we have just the male for you. Greycliff Jax is a handsome medium silver grey male who has consistently produced champion show cria, Out of the 42 cria that he currently has on the ground he has produced...

35% silver grey

35% black

30% varied colors, including rose grey

Standing Stud at Desert Moon Alpacas thru April 1st, 2008.

Co -Owned with Stevens Lama Tique

Contact Brenda Mosier at 505-466-2057 for an appointment..

We would like to thank Mary Ann Andrews for her Full Purchase of WLK Inferno!! His first three cria are on the ground—all true black, 4th generation.

-For Sale-

Alpaca Socks – great for holiday gifts

New Mexico Alpaca + 10% nylon – soft and durable

All natural heather color - Produced at USA mill

Mens' and ladies' sizes, long and short crew styles

NMAB member special pricing - \$15.00 pr. + free ship

mary@fourpinesalpacas.com

505-379-4534