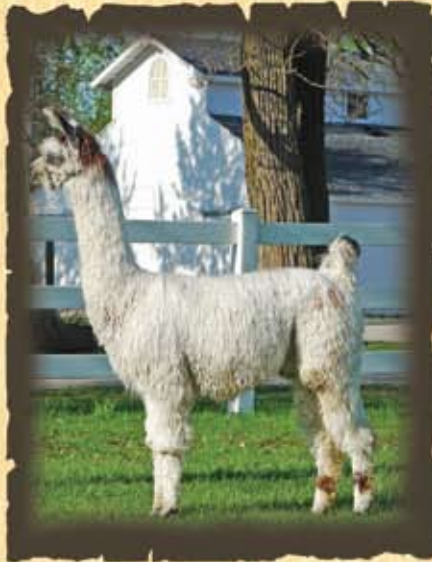




2009 Hard Rock Gold Rush Sale

June 12, 13, 14th



*Hard Rock's
Her Royal Highness (F)*

Consignment of Hard Rock Llama Co.



Rags to Riches (BF)

Consignment of Hard Rock Llama Co.



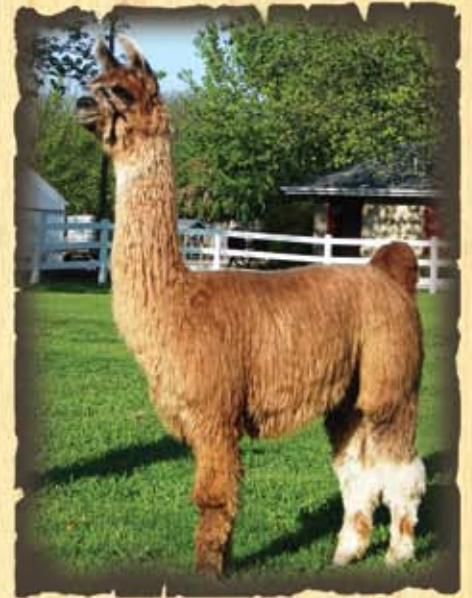
NV's Debutante (BF)

Consignment of New Venture Suris



Star Legal Lightning (F)

Consignment of Gary & Janet Brant



M.R.S. Fully Loaded (M)

Consignment of Hard Rock Llama Co.



Hard Rock's Sonata (BF)
Consignment of Hard Rock Llama Co.



Come Join The Fun



We are pleased to announce that we will once again be hosting the Hard Rock's Gold Rush. This is the fourth major llama event hosted by us at the Hard Rock Llama Co. The Gold Rush has been consistent in offering quality llamas and loads of fun in a friendly farm atmosphere. We invite you to mark your calendar for a weekend of fun and relaxation at Hard Rock Llama Co. Come enjoy the sale, but most of all the camaraderie of fellow llama enthusiasts. Fun, food and entertainment will be provided. We welcome you, your top consignments, your RV, and your family to come join us. There will be plenty of enjoyment for all!



Consignment Forms and Continuous Updates are provided online at www.hardrockllamaco.com

Feel free to contact us at gerken@wcoil.com or 419 634 1124 for more information
1342 County Road 1 Ada, Ohio 45810



Request your catalog today!

www.hardrockllamaco.com



Hi Holly, thanks for taking the time from the stock market blur to link up with us. Your website is packed with interesting things you are doing in the llama industry. What and when was your start?

Ever since getting out of the Coast Guard in 1995, I've wanted to own a piece of land and own large animals. I knew I didn't want to own horses or cows, I had no idea what the "large" animal I wanted to own was, and at the time, I didn't really know that llamas existed.

So, several years later, after getting laid off from a computer drafting job in Las Vegas right before Christmas of 2002, I decided to go ahead and come up to my dad's place in Central Oregon for the holidays. He just happened to have a small herd of llamas that he had acquired from some local folks who had seen the "money" bubble burst on the llama market and wanted out. And while I found them interesting and unusual, it certainly never occurred to me that these were the "large" animals I was going to own.



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Interview with

Holly Russell

The Happy Hiker

by Sue Wilde
www.wcrancho.com

I left my dad's to go back to Las Vegas and only made it 30 miles out of town before I hit a patch of black ice and flipped and totaled my Toyota pick-up. And while the truck was a total loss, I had not a scratch on me. I had to call my dad to come pick me up and take me back to his place for a few days so I could buy another vehicle. It was during these next few days that I took a closer look at the llamas my dad owned and realized (duh) that these were the large animals that I would own and Central Oregon was where my land was. I'm a firm believer that when things aren't "going your way" it's probably because you're supposed to be doing something else or you're not seeing what's right in front of you. And that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Your present farm in Oregon was started from scratch. Tell us how you planned a working llama farm and what would be some useful tips for a new llama owner as they plan for their new llama farm.

The all important most useful tip for llama ranch planning - lots of gates!

Space and money was a limited commodity for my ranch so planning it out on paper (actually the computer) first was a must. It's always easier to change it on paper than change the permanent installation. But what looks good on paper may not be so good in reality. I'm always leery of permanent installations until I get a chance

to live/work with it for a bit so I installed some very temporary cross fencing to mock up the plan on my ranch. Sometimes I just marked gate locations and forced myself to only drive the tractor or physically walk through those markers. If it's irritating to have to go over to the markers when I could just go through right "here", then the gate location isn't in the right spot or I need more gates. On my 5 acres I have 25 drive through gate locations and 8 man gate locations serving 12 distinct areas of the property. Sounds like a lot, but I wish I had put in another couple of man gate locations that are now driving me crazy.

I've also made sure that I have gate locations situated so I can drive a truck with a trailer into every single pasture. And yes, I mocked it up and actually drove my truck and bumper pull trailer through everything before doing the permanent installation. That ensured the tractor with mower deck or pasture vac could make it in all the pastures, too.

Loafing sheds can be located to serve more than one pasture making them much more cost effective. I also wanted as few structures as possible taking over the actual pastures.

I use portable panels to create catch pens or provide additional temporary cross fencing as needed.



You are very active in the performance aspect of shows. What are some of your accomplishments? What are some basic training tips for others wanting to be successful?

I really enjoy the performance aspect of shows. My favorite is the Jackpot Obstacle class at the LFA Show in the fall. I took my stud, Icebreaker, the first year it was offered in 2005 and we won! The next year I spent a considerable amount of time training one of Kay Shaprnick's llamas, a beautiful heavy wool female named Neskowin, and she placed 6th in the Jackpot Obstacle. Last year I took my little Cosmos The Rocketman and he placed 3rd. Cosmos went on to place 9th in pack at the National Show at barely one year of age. This year I am helping my mom train her gorgeous suri male, Hidalgo, for her to show in the LFA Jackpot Obstacle while I show Cosmos again.

Time always seems to be in short supply when it comes to training, so I like to set things up so my llamas start training themselves. I let them live and explore the Happy Hiker Llamas obstacle area on their own terms for several days. This works great for the cria starting when they are about three weeks old. It doesn't take long for the bolder cria to realize how cool it is to get up on the bridges, check everyone out, and show their dam how impressive they are. For studs like Hidalgo and Icebreaker, once I knew which fence line they paced, I put obstacles along that fence line forcing them to acknowledge and negotiate the obstacle. It doesn't matter if they go around the obstacle, they are still having to think about it and negotiate it to continue on their way.

With exploration of obstacles on their own terms completed, it doesn't take much to convince them to negotiate the obstacles with me on the end of the lead rope.

Your performance work takes you out into the real world of performance. Tell us about your pack trips for the National Forest Service to clear hiking trails. How would other people get involved in this service?

Well, I actually started in the "real world" before going into the performance show ring. Training and using llamas to pack has always been at the top of my list. A couple of years ago, I was fortunate



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enough to find out about the volunteer work that can be done with the Forest Service in clearing wilderness trails. This is very physically challenging work as no power tools are allowed in the wilderness areas. All fallen tree removal is done with hand tools - saws, pulaskies, and wedges, etc.

The llamas are used to carry all the camping gear and some of the tools as a group of volunteers will spend 3-4 days at a time clearing sections of trails. A good day can get 80+ fallen trees cleared on a 5-6 mile section of trail. OK, some are dinky trees that take 5 minutes, but some are really big whoppers (24" diam) that take a couple of hours. We also collect any trash found along the way that the llamas then pack out and remove any illegal camp fire sites (ones set too close to lakes).

Judy Mitchell coordinates the volunteers for the Willamette and Deschutes National Forest areas in Oregon. Here is a web link with more information.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/volunteer/volunteers-corner/>

I found your work with fish and wild life so interesting. What is fish stocking all about?

Fish stocking was the event that truly got me inspired to train llamas to pack. When I made the move up to Central Oregon, it was one of the first things I'd heard that you could do with llamas. And obviously my dad's herd of 25 adult llamas were just waiting for me to train them so I could use them for the annual Central Oregon Llama Association fish stocking.

Each summer the Central Oregon Llama Association would coordinate with the Oregon Fish and Wild to use llamas to pack the juvenile brook trout to Doris and Blow Lake in the Cascade Wilderness. The

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Monastic Fleece
of Holy Rosary Abbey

Gentle creatures, lovingly raised by gentle souls.

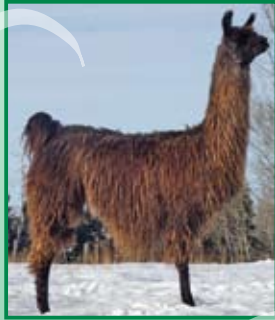
Miniature Llamas
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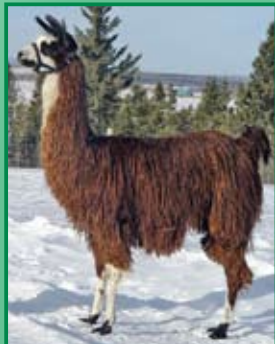
Consigned to the Cascade Llama Sale April 24/25, 2009



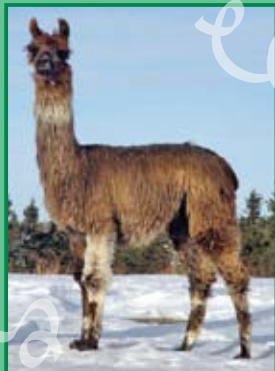
Double The Joy Lot #22



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survival rate of the fish was substantially higher if packed in with llamas as opposed to being dropped by helicopter. Yes, dropped by helicopter. Some lakes that are stocked are too remote even for the llamas and do need to be stocked with helicopters.

Llamas used for fish stocking need to be well-conditioned. The small load is 35 lbs and the large load is 50 lbs. This is the weight of the fish, water, and ice. It does not include the weight of the saddle which can add an additional 10 lbs to the llama's load. Doris Lake is a 1.5 mile hike in and Blow Lake is a 3 mile hike in and it's all uphill! Best for the fish if you hoof it in at a quick clip before the ice melts and their mini aquariums get too hot.

The llamas used for fish stocking also need to be fairly experienced packers. There's been more than a few occasions where the Forest Service and/or their volunteers hadn't gotten the trail cleared prior to fish stocking day. Lots of fallen trees to negotiate.

You are out in your community with some great PR with parades at Christmas. Tell us about some of your experiences and the public responses to your community work.

I love the Christmas parades! Since most of my llamas have some level of pack training, I get to use the Sopris pack saddle to come up with some really cool costumes for the llamas. Of course, since I often use llamas that are younger, I also have to be very careful regarding the final costume weight I expect the llama to carry. Icebreaker is now mature enough that he can carry a small sound system and have music playing in addition to the little tree

he carried for the first two years. The costumes my llamas wear normally include the pack saddle with some glob attached, some type of head gear, and leg wraps. Lots of training involved before hand to make sure the llama can deal with it.

The public response to the llamas in the Christmas parades has been very positive. The kids are always excited to see them, and I've noticed that the kids all seem to know that they are llamas as opposed to alpacas. I've actually overheard one of them tell her mom, "No, mom, that's a llama not an alpaca. There are no alpacas here today." I've also had a picture of one of my Christmas parade llamas make it into the Bend 2007 Calendar for the month of December.

Your fleeces have been entered in a lot of shows. What is the process for submitting a fleece for a show?

I began showing shorn fleece a couple of years ago. I started with the "intense" preparation for the first year and then reality, practicality, and common sense took over. Now, I honestly don't go to great amounts of time and energy prepping potential competition fleece prior to shearing. The practical side dictates that the fleece is going to be carded and washed prior to its journey into yarn, socks, blankets, etc. So as long as I have the big stuff out and maybe a dirt blowout with a wet rinse and dry, I call it good for fleece competition. Sure, I may lose a few points in the fleece prep and lock structure categories. But I prefer to stay with practical, not obsessive, especially since practical placed 2nd, 5th, and 6th out of 14 at the 2008 National Fleece Show. ☺

