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Geoff Robinson

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In the show ring, judges often talk about winning llamas as being the "complete package." Since their judging is based on the conformation of the llama, their comments generally reflect an appreciation that the animal moves well, is well balanced, and exhibits overall impressive ring presence.



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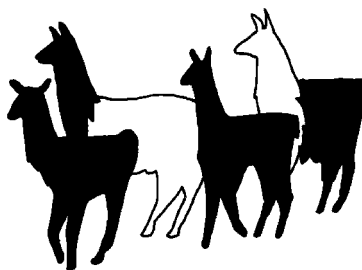
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ON THE COVER — *Argentine Aficionados*

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Greg and Kelly Radding, Columbia, CT

Tuckerwoods farm is located on 20 acres in a quiet section of central eastern Connecticut. Our llama herd includes both Argentine and miniature llamas, including a full Argentine mini stud. TuckerWoods Farm has the largest herd of full and part Argentines in New England with four full Argentine studs, two full Argentine females, two part Argentine studs and eight part Argentine females. Our llamas' lineages represent most of the original Argentine imports. Our bloodlines include the famous Kobra, Pecos, Don Zunca, and Saltarin; as well as the more rare bloodlines including Lefu, Lebu, Oberon, Lola, Paco, & Laucha.

We are dedicated to preserving the rare Argentine genetics with our full Argentine breeding program while at the same time continuing with our part Argentine breeding program. Our crias are exhibiting all of the Argentine traits we so love; fine abundant fiber, great bone structure, and mellow, friendly personalities. For more information or inquiries please email, phone, or visit our website. We would love to introduce you to our amazing Argentine llamas.



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HACEINDA EL SUENO

Chris and John Elbert, Springbrook, WI

Located on 80 acres in Northwest Wisconsin, our farm is home to 28 llamas, most of them Argentine. My husband John and I have had llamas since 1992. In 2005 we purchased part and full ownership in eleven full Argentine llamas both male and female. A year later, in conjunction with Lynda Carothers (Carothers Country farm) and Kelly Brown (British Columbia) we purchased the bulk of Paul and Sally Taylor's Argentine herd.

Our Argentines have done well in the show ring, even advancing and placing at Nationals last year. The Argentine fleeces that I've entered in competition have consistently ranked in the top three placings. Fiber enthusiasts in our area specifically request our Argentine fleeces and yarn. Our 4H



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llama project kids love working with these mild tempered llamas. Besides their wonderful dispositions, our Argentines stand out in the pasture for their beauty, silky fiber and heavy bone. We have several Argentine llamas for sale; you can contact us at:

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www.haciendaelsueno.com and
www.ArgentineLlamas.com

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Jim and Jan McArdle, Wilson, WI

How did this happen? When we moved to Minnesota from Pennsylvania, living on a farm wasn't even on our radar screen. We moved into a 27th floor apartment in downtown Minneapolis and the only 'wild life' we saw were the pet mice that someone let loose in a neighboring park!

Now, some 19 years later, we live on a 40 acre farm with 18 llamas (with one on the way) and seven cats! Argentine Don Quixote ET ("DQ") is our stud and we are anxiously awaiting the birth of his first cria. By the time this is published, it will be on the ground. We recently bought Argentine Autumn Mist from Lynda Carothers and plan to breed her to DQ when she is 'of age'.

For more information about Cady Creek Llamas, please contact us.

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Argentine Don Quixote (ET)

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Gayle and Rich Dumas, Saluda, VA

The Fuzzy Farm, located in Gloucester, Virginia specializes in both Argentine llamas and Miniature llamas. We are very excited that we have been able to combine the two passions into our goal of Argentine Miniatures. We began raising and breeding miniatures because we loved the personalities of llamas, but wanted a smaller, easier to handle animal. We then discovered the Argentines and fell for the robust build, fine fiber and most of all, the mellow dispositions. We wanted to add substance to the bone structure of our minis, so we began adding Argentines to the "mini-mix". We are proud and delighted to report that we have succeeded in breeding

gorgeous little Argentines that exactly meet our goals. Pictured is TFF SweetTime, three-quarter Argentine female who is 29 inches of cute at over one year of age.



Cassidy with TFF SweetTime

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PH Boy Oh Boy

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Jerry and Barb McRoberts, Gurley, NE

Jerry McRoberts says....

We've been raising llamas for over 30 years. I had a chance to go to Chile and Argentina with Paul Taylor before his auction in Temuco. While there... I picked three males and four females ... all seven with silky type wool. We have had excellent results breeding these Don Zunca type llamas to some of our suris. Probably my favorite Argentine look is heavy bone and wool coverage all the way down the legs. We are currently breeding with full Argentine Don Macho and Kobra's Kondor ... both of whom have extreme silky fiber. Witness the results of a Don Macho solid gray suri cross. (Picture left)



MGF Argentine Don Macho X
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Lynda Carothers, Minnesota City, MN

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Our llamas not only have placed well in fiber judging but have also done very well in ALSA shows and Futurities.

We are continually looking to improve our genetics while preserving the exotic look of the Argentine llama. If you are looking to add some rare genetics to your llama program be sure to check out our Argentines at www.CarothersCountryFarm.com. We also offer several Argentine herdsires standing at stud including: Kobra, Pecos, and Poltergeist. We invite you to stop by in person to experience these one of a kind llamas.

Phone 507-689-2677 or
email Lcarothe@hbc.com.



Argentine Poltergeist (ET)

STOBIE LLAMAS

James and Merlene Stobie, Condon, MT

Stobie Llamas is located in NW Montana. We have been breeding llamas since 1985.

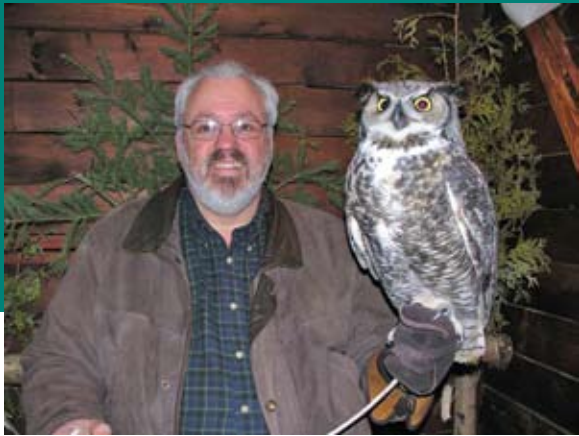
As one of the original members of the A-Team we began breeding Argentines for their hardiness, disposition, bone and fiber.

We currently have 30 + part and full Argentines and are offering several very nice young males for future herd sires.

For more information or photos :
406- 754-3033 or stobswan@wildblue.net



Argentine Zapata



Interview with

Geoff Robinson:

Sea Air International Forwarders Ltd.

by Sue Wilde

Geoff is an international shipper of practically everything! I became acquainted with this interesting man when I enquired about shipping fiber to Bolivia and then again when we booked the llamas to France from my farm. Welcome Geoff to the LamaLink.

What is the exact nature of your business Sea Air and what things do you ship by sea and air? How long have you been an international shipper?

Sea Air International Forwarders Ltd., is a freight forwarder – coordinator of transportation – like a travel agent for cargo in simple terms. The industry is quite large so we have focused on niche markets like: livestock, hazardous cargo, perishable cargo, unique cargo, charter flights. Personally have been doing this for over 40 years and with Sea Air International for 30 years.

What were some of the first animals that you shipped internationally?

Dairy and beef cattle have been the base of our livestock shipping. Other farm animals such as swine, sheep, goats, horses, chickens, turkeys and hatching eggs.

What animals do you ship on a regular basis and to what destinations?

Shipments are worldwide and currently we are sending cattle to Russia, Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, and Morocco. Swine to Belarus, Russia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Chile, China, Viet Nam and the Philippines. Horses to Sweden, Italy, UK, Miniature Donkeys to Holland and UK. Tigers to Thailand.

You are located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. What countries do you ship to that are most unusual and what would be shipped there?

Every country is unique due to health import conditions, local customs and language. How about tropical frogs to Costa Rica.

What are the typical arrangements that have to be made to ship by air? By sea?

Health testing and certification. Reservation of appropriate space and construction of suitable shipping containers. Export Documentation.

What should buyers and sellers be most aware of when making these arrangements for shipping?

The shipment size needs to suit the service and equipment available over the route. It is easier to adjust the size of the shipment than find the aircraft to suit. Need to be flexible -

When dealing with international governments which are the easiest to deal with? Which are the most difficult and why?

People are difficult not Governments. Governments provide the health protocol or framework for the health testing of the animals to comply with the import conditions. So long as we follow these guidelines we seldom have a problem. If the protocol is not practical it needs to be amended and this best resolved by science not emotion.

Which animals present the most “interesting” shipping? Ostriches have been quite interesting and we have shipped about 1400 adults usually by charter flights. We shipped 650 camels from Australia to USA and operated 3 charter flights from Peru with alpacas to Switzerland and Australia.

What are a couple of your most memorable shipping experiences?

We operated all sorts of charter flights of cattle from Canada to Iran during the Iran/Iraq war. Fighter planes shadowed our flights into and out of Iran.

We had USA and Russian Cargo aircraft side by side in Toronto before the end of the cold war and had the crews visit each other and view each other’s aircraft. – Felt like we were ahead of the UN in USA / USSR diplomacy.

Who have been some interesting clients over the years?

The Vancouver Aquarium – sea otter, dolphins, and whales. Several private zoos – Lions, tigers, cougars and lynx.

Continued on page 10...

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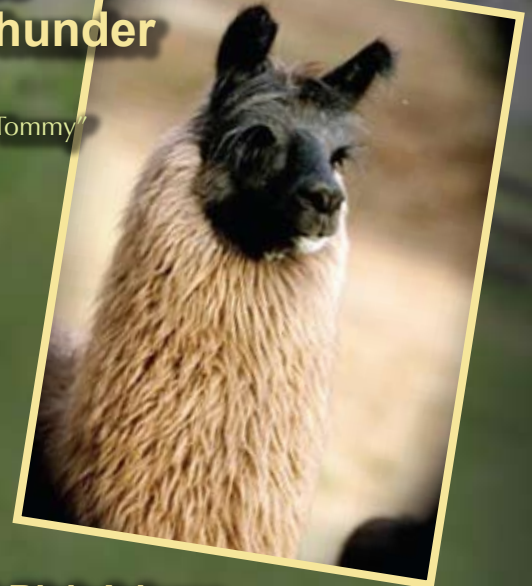
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...Continued from page 8

What type of airplanes are used to ship animals? What type of pens are used to ship llamas and alpacas?

Most of the wide bodied aircraft have very good life support systems so we use the commercial passenger services wherever available. B767, AB330's, AB340, B747, B777, DC10's, MD11. These aircraft are containerized so we build a stall to suit their container base configuration.

What type of care is provided for animals that are traveling long distances? Do different kinds of animals every travel together?

We need to be aware of feed, water and rest requirement during the entire trip for the animals. On charter flights attendants often travel. If shipment is transiting airport to connect on another flight we ensure that someone on site aware of the transit and prepared to provide assistance if and when needed. We cross check

all aspects of the shipment to ensure something not forgotten. – It is rare that mixed species travel together unless they have common health status.

How do buyers and sellers locate for find each other for international transactions?

Lately we see lots of new inquiries as a result of the internet. Trade publications are always a good way to promote your product. Canadian Embassy offices often have Commercial Trade Departments who are always looking for something new to promote from Canada.

Any suggestions for us to be marketing on a more global basis?

Look to the major agricultural shows and fairs such as Royal Show in UK.

Thanks Geoff for sharing a very interesting aspect to world travel, animal style. Contact Sea Air at robinson@seaair.ca



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Intrigued By Argentines?

by Lynda Carothers



a quarterly newsletter and have a display that travels to major events.

What makes an Argentine llama? There most definitely is some confusion here. To be a full Argentine llama, the lineage must have the original llamas coming from Argentina. Many full Argentines start their name with Argentine, but not all. And only full Argentines can have Argentine in front of their name. There was another group of llamas imported called Rebano Escondido or RE's. These have been referred to as Chilean llamas of the Argentine type. And that is exactly what they are....Chilean llamas that exhibit some of the Argentine traits. They are not Argentine. Part Argentine llamas are exactly that....whether they are 1/4th or 15/16th Argentine, they are still part Argentine. We have seen Argentines crossed with Suri's, Classics, Mini's and standard llamas. And we have seen most often the addition of fiber and fiber coverage when these crosses have been made.

Yecu and Argentine Saltarin. By studying the older llamas on the ALA website you can learn more about the initial bloodlines imported to the US. With the limited bloodlines available here, one must plan their Argentine herd genetics with care. Some of the more rare Argentine bloodlines go back to Oberon, Corvo, Paco, Gustavo, Novio and more. Currently there are about 300 full Argentine llamas in the U.S. We are seeing more and more part Argentines as many people seem to like the Argentine ingredient added to their herds.

Just what are the Argentine traits? The phenotype characteristics of the Argentine are a robust build, fine dense fiber coverage,

If you are answering "YES" to this, then hopefully you will find some helpful information in this article.

The first place to check out is the Argentine Llama Aficionados (ALA) website at www.argentinellama.org. Here is where you will find information on the Argentine Llama, members of the ALA and pictures of many of the Argentines in the United States today. This group is more like a club, for those who own or want to own Argentine llamas. The group supports the marketing of both full and part Argentine llamas. They produce

The next step is to educate yourself on the Argentine llama traits and bloodlines. There were 4 imports that included Argentine llamas through Chile into the USA. These all incurred between 1997 and 2000. In all, about 80 full Argentine llamas were brought in and several part Argentines. From these imports we recognize several important names: Argentine Kobra, Argentine Pecos, Argentine Don Zunca, Argentine



Continued on page 14...



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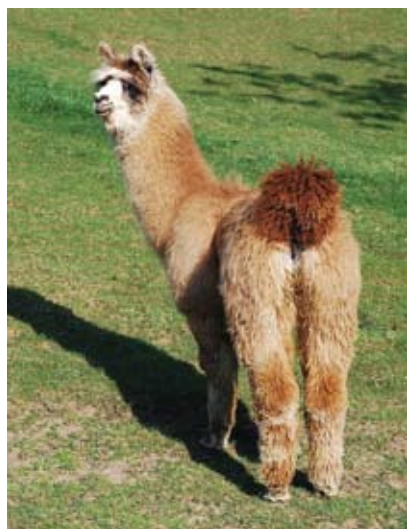
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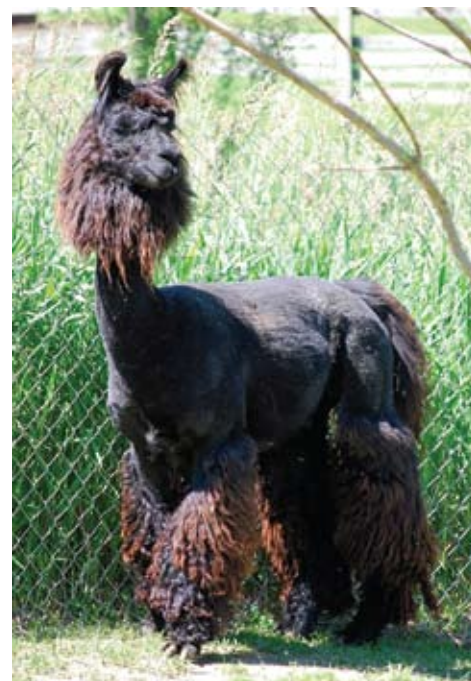
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large leg bone, big feet, triangular head and fiber coverage from the tips of their ears to their toes. They are also known to be intelligent and have sweet dispositions. They have a large range of heights and can have lofty, silky or locked fiber.

The Argentine llamas have been used mainly for fiber production in Argentina. We see beautiful shades of red and brown, from rich mahoganies to chocolate browns,



whites, blacks and less often paints and appaloosa's. We see this because different colors often have different fiber characteristics, even if they are on the same animal. For that reason and that solids eliminate the need for sorting colors, Argentines were bred to keep solid color coats. We typically see about four pounds of fiber from just a barrel cut, with full cuts often producing eight pounds. Because of the dense fiber, they most often need to be sheared with an Argentine hair cut. This helps keep them cooler in the summer months. Research shows taking the fiber off the neck can lower body temperatures two to three degrees. I have seen Argentine fiber so dense that nothing can get into it. If they are sheared yearly, it takes very little time to clean their fiber. And we are seeing an interest in people asking for our Argentine llama fiber products.



Whether you are interested in starting an Argentine herd of your own, or adding the Argentine ingredient to your existing herd, be sure to start with a visit to the ALA website. Then visit member websites and talk with some of our Argentine

llama members. The Argentine llama is a magnificent animal and is bringing excitement to the llama industry. Once you have an Argentine llama, you will for sure want more!

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CELLINI	2000 F (Federale – Celestyna)
WF CANADIAN IDOL	2005 F (Bolivian Taylor Made- Shaumalee Lady Jamaya)
CONZUELA	2006 F (London-PL Concertina)
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PERUVIAN NORTIA	2004 F (Norte – Peruvian Finesse)
EAST FORK ILLUSION	2006 F (Starr Fyter-The Devine MS Lily)

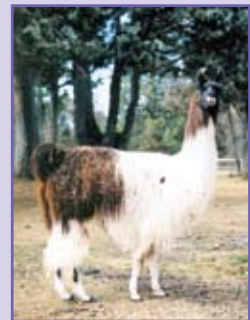
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The Lure of Versatility ...and the love of Argentines

by Gayle M. Woodsum

In the show ring, judges often talk about winning llamas as being the “complete package.” Since their judging is based on the conformation of the llama, their comments generally reflect an appreciation that the animal moves well, is well balanced, and exhibits overall impressive ring presence.

Back at the ranch, when I think about the complete package I’m envisioning a llama that is built correctly, moves smoothly, grows exquisite fiber and is a joy to be around. And if they also like to accompany me on outings in the Rocky

Mountain backcountry, I’m looking at my llama soul mate.

In the early 80s, the horse world packaged this kind of multiple collection of positive traits into the marketing buzz word *versatility*. It didn’t matter what breed was being promoted—if the horse you were trying to sell was going to be worth anything at all, it had to be versatile. I was the editor of a regional horse magazine at the time, and two thirds of every monthly issue was dedicated to versatility. There was the versatile Arabian, the versatile Thoroughbred, the versatile Appaloosa. Farms were known for producing the most versatile horses in the show ring, on the trail, at the pony club trials.

So I come by my obsession for versatility honestly. And the fact is, the horse breeders and lovers of 25 years ago were onto something. Humans are inherently fickle. In order for them to maintain a dedicated interest level over what would amount to the average llama’s lifetime (nearly a quarter of a century), and for that interest to extend beyond an exclusive club of trend oriented fans, they

need to pair up with llamas who offer a range of positive attributes. Llamas who appeal to knitting moms, hiking dads, obstacle loving kids and a community that benefits from parade entries and nursing home visitors, are more apt to have a home for life than those whose talents are more narrowly focused.



With the herd that lives at my place, we believe in a well rounded basic education. Just about every llama gets at least a little trail time, is introduced to the idea of obstacle negotiation, takes a downtown visit or two, enters the show ring if they are basically correct, and has



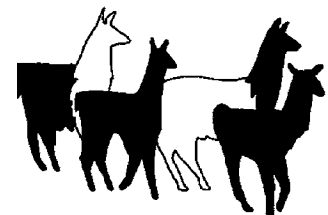
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his or her fiber collected for some use or another. It's all part of introducing the idea that they will forever be sharing their lives with humans, and a means for us to evaluate what will be the most appropriate career path for that animal.

Very few llamas excel in every venue. An incredibly high percentage of those who do turn out to be Argentine and Argentine crosses. Which (in addition to that pounding heart thing

that happens to me when I see a well built Argentine llama) is why I am so enamored of these particular llamas.

The Argentinean people began the honing of certain characteristics in their centuries of llama breeding focus. In addition to color sorting for strong stamping capabilities, they genetically encouraged massive fiber production, extreme body capacity and bone, and supremely gentle personalities. They ended up with llamas that exhibit a rich, true color palette; fine yet dense fiber with a common regrowth rate of 8" a year; a big footed, broad nosed, wide-eyed, teddy-bear look irresistible to the general public; and amenable, laid-back personalities that are happily willing to put up with a range of human requests.

Here in the States, all we have to do is stay true to breeding for correctness, and we've inherited the ultimate in versatility potential. Of course, no animal is automatically suited for everything, but with the Argentine genetic background along with proper training and care, we are given a great shot at it.

The first Argentine offspring to come from the llamas we imported who had started out on the South American altiplano were a great surprise to us. All those complex, patience challenging techniques needed for halter training the typical weanling were overkill for most of our Argentine crias. Those halter introduction sessions ended up going something like: "What is it, a halter? Okay. What do you want me to do with it, wear it? Okay. What do you want to do now?"

We also had to develop a different eye for the growing Argentine than for the rest of the herd. Sure, the basic needs like straight front legs, correctly angled hocks and strong topline were still what we wanted to see. But things like eye-catching presence, exotic style and fiber that knocked our socks off didn't blossom as quickly as they did on our other youngsters.

Our full Argentine Espiritu is experiencing the typical developmental curve of most of our Argentines. He looked like a round, curly brown llama with ears hidden by a puff of head fiber until he was almost 18 months old. He was happy being a popular youth llama until we gave him a lion cut and the cool

Continued on page 18...

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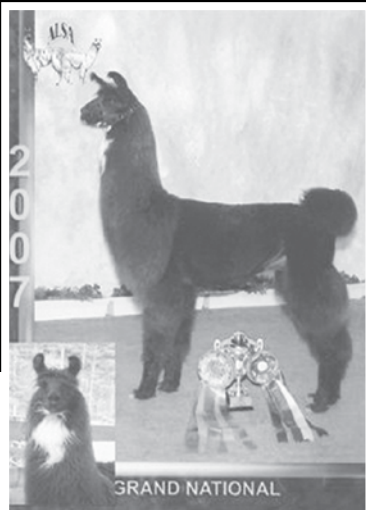
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...Continued from page 17

breeze on his substantial body made him want to strut his stuff. Even then his show career was spotty. He was seventh out of eight at his first show. Little by little he began to work his way up in placings, then won his Celebrity Futurity class and grabbed the vast majority of his grand champion classes in ALSA shows after that.

Spirit was between two and three before we could consistently count on top-of-his-class placings, and three before he began to grab regular firsts and grand championships in his walking fleece classes. Last summer he became the favorite llama among pack trek outings because he never seemed to notice the pack and never lagged no matter how long or steep the trail was. Last winter he surprised me again by being one of the easiest-to-train performance llamas I've ever worked with and in spite of his graduation into popular breeding male, has begun to show and place well in the novice and open performance ring. He steps out willingly and grasps voice commands, so has begun early driving training.

Argentine llamas develop more slowly than other llamas. They continue to grow well into their fourth year, both physically and emotionally. These are not necessarily llamas that will light up the show ring as babies (although there are some happy exceptions). They take their

time shining their light on the world, and need us humans to be willing to wait for them to display their ultimate strengths.

The endearing sweetness of Argentines can also translate into more of a pasture-browsing temperament than that of a working athlete, so lots of exciting trail or public work as youngsters can help overcome that couch potato tendency early on (easier than trying to convince them otherwise once they've grown up).

Maintaining health and comfort for Argentine llamas is crucial. All that body mass is very prone to easy weight gain and potential obesity, especially with the full Argentines. Those who have a show career with us also have a regular jogging and hiking regimen with me when they don't have access to their ridge and canyon summer pasture that affords natural exercise. (In the flat fields of winter, I'll see the rest of the herd gallivanting around while the Argentines stay put at the nearest feed source.)

Equally important to maintaining condition is fiber management. If you don't think carrying around an 8" - 12" incredibly dense coat takes its toll on a body, try it sometime. I've seen these animals sweat and breath hard from heat stress in the halter ring on a 58° day. All that beautiful stuff is also nearly impossible to keep matte free for more than a couple of years. It has to come off regularly. All of it. Which is where the famous Argentine shear comes from. It's a matter of necessity with these llamas.

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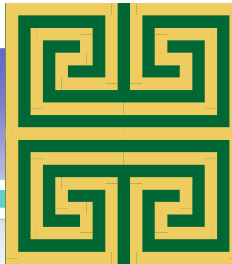
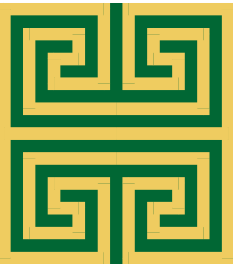
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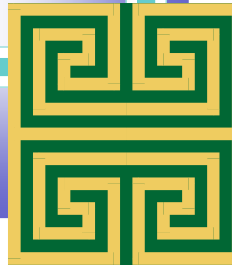
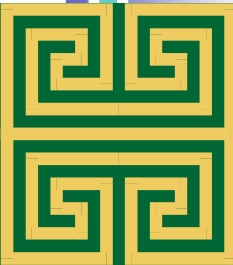


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...Continued from page 18

Unfortunately, it's a hard leap to make. There are still plenty of people who love to make the "poodle" comments, and plenty of judges who can't find their way to placing a body shorn animal over one with comparable conformation and the added beauty of flowing fiber. (That's a hard competition to win in what is—in part—a beauty contest.)

Once all that fiber comes off, the teddy bear look goes with it. We kept Spirit's neck and leg wool on through almost four years of major showing. By this spring, it was time. He was matted underneath, the tips were drying out. He needed to start over. So he got his first Argentine cut. I happen to love that shear, but it was nonetheless hard to see on our star. My teddy bear was gone. He looked all grown up. The crowds don't stop us

now, and halter classes are not automatic wins. Of course, he'll have most of it back by next season and we'll be able to keep it on every other year, which I'm looking forward to (it's fun to get lots of attention). Most importantly, he's happy and healthy.

So, there's a price to pay for the amazing, irresistible versatility of the Argentine llama, and it comes with a little work. But every time one of our Argentines wins a blue or purple ribbon, every time I wear a garment with Argentine champion softness, every time I spend a glorious weekend in the backcountry with a contented Argentine, I remember how much in love I am and remember that all the investment is worth it.

—Gayle M. Woodsum is a writer, llama lover, ALSA Judge and founder of the Llama Welfare Foundation, who lives in Wyoming

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Palmira's leg which shows the amount of leg wool on her FRONT leg.

SO WHAT'S IN A WORD... THE WORD ARGENTINE THAT IS?

by Kelly Brown

As their number grew so did my breeding program take on its identity. Now when I look over my animals I am very clear about how I would like to see Argentine traits blended for the positive with the balance of the llama population.

Just as many llama owners before me and those sure to follow, when the llama bug first bit me I felt compelled to learn more. The internet being such a wonderful educational tool soon led me through Chilean, Bolivian, and Peruvian llamas and then finally, and seeming not as common, to Argentine llamas. I was intrigued. What was different about this group of llamas that they had taken so long to turn up? Turned out that they were a relatively recent import, still few in number in comparison to imports from other countries and therefore, somewhat rare. Are they different from other llamas? Yep...they are.

I was immediately attracted by the traits that were obviously different and even though my breeding program hadn't formulated itself yet, started slowly building a small herd of pure Argentines.

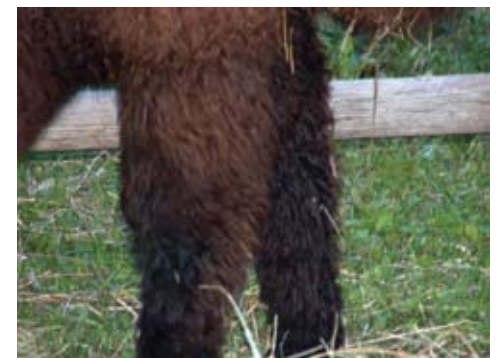


Palmira full body. Neck shows one year of re-growth in fiber also awesome top line (Argentines tend to have VERY straight backs and are nicely proportioned.)



9 month old with fiber "beard".

When I look at Palmira, one of my girls who is as fine an example of an Argentine as you ask for, I can picture combining her dense, dense fiber coverage with some of my stretchy silkies. Argentines were bred for fiber over 100's of years. Their abundant fleece is fine, dense and fast growing. It is also speculated that orphaned Vicuna females were adopted into Argentine herds



9 month old front legs already showing trademark bone size and fiber coverage.

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and as such have added some of their wondrous fiber qualities to the Argentine population. These are all qualities I would like to see passed on and blended with the array of colors and fiber types present in other llamas. For example, breeding for a tall, stretchy body with abundant, dense, fast growing suri fiber. Many Argentines

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Iceman front leg - sometimes fiber coverage takes the form of tight curls on the legs such as picture.

have front leg fiber down to their toes... wouldn't that be an amazing trait to see in all llama fiber types?!

Another trait and one that appears to be harder to consistently breed (although I can honestly say I've yet to see a fine

boned example) is their trademark heavy bone. They often remind me of a draft horse or even a mammoth when you look at their wool too...heavy boned animals that some how manage to look graceful. I love this look. Argentine Kobra, Don Zunca, Sarmiento and Omar are several original imports that have managed to pass this on more often than not and their offspring in turn have been able to do the same. There are definitely llamas out there that could use an injection of this type of bone to their genetic makeup giving them a more robust and solid appearance.

Lastly, but to me just as important, is the gentle and mellow personality that the majority of Argentines are endowed with. Calm, manageable animals are a benefit to all of us breeding better stock no matter what type of fiber or bone present.

I am truly excited about the contribution Argentines can make to the llama population. Since their numbers are still relatively low their impact is only now slowly emerging but as more full and



Mercurio - 1 year fiber regrowth evident on neck - very find and dense - fabulous colour and ears

crosses make names for themselves in the show rings and fleece contests, their mark will become distinctly recognizable. And definitely desirable too.

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Showing Your Argentine!

by Natalie Langowski



If you are reading this magazine, or this article, it means that you love llamas. One of the best activities to do with llamas is to take them out and get them in to the show ring. Most people that are competitive will love to show. Whether you have been showing for years, or you are just considering the idea of showing, Argentines are great to show in the ring for many reasons. They are incredibly unique looking, have great personalities, and everyone recognizes that you have one. I would like to talk about some ways to get your Argentine out into the show ring and perform at its best.

To start, you must prepare your Argentine to perform in the ring. Yes, this does include the entire grooming process. I am sure that you are overwhelmed that it is a lot of wool to brush, wash, and that it takes a lot of effort to make them look great. Really, it isn't as hard as it looks. First of all, the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to do it all at once. Take your time. Remember, if it is making you tired, it is most likely making your Argentine tired, too. I would suggest that you start at the bottom and work your way up, it is essential to hit every wooly spot that you can. Another great idea would be to wash your Argentine. With the build up of dirt and debris, the fleece does not have the luster and the movement that it should. Another helpful tip for bathing Argentines would be to make sure that they air dry after you wash them. In addition, make sure that there is not a strong wind in the forecast. Argentines are extremely dense, and if you were to blow them, or have them in a windy spot, it will blow their coat and make them appear even fluffier than most desire. Now that you have the knowledge and understand the essentials, you have no choice but to show them in the ring.

When showing an Argentine, it is very similar to showing another llama. Your primary goal is to make your animal look and feel the best it possibly can, while still having fun while you are showing. I have also come to find that Argentines are very smart and relaxed. Even when you are taking them out for the first time, they perform extremely well. They are very calm, and

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it is not essential to have the Argentine include a lot of training out in public. Although it is always hard at the first show with any animal, the second or third show will definitely prove that your Argentine knows its proper etiquette. The greatest and most important part of showing is to make sure your animal walks with you, stops and stands still, and lets the judge handle them.

I hope that these tips that I have been able to share with you give you a better understanding of the Argentine llamas. I have been showing Argentines for the past three years, and I must say that they are a joy to show off. With fourteen years of experience in showing llamas, these last three have been my favorite. Please remember the few tips that I have been able to share with you; get your Argentine as clean as possible, make sure they meet the minimal training criteria, and most of all, have fun showing off the great animal you love.



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LOVER BOY'S LEG

by Laura Harrawood
Show Me State Minis

This article should probably come with a caution warning for those folks who lean towards a weak stomach. Most people sit when they read anyway but if words like pus, exudate, drainage and suppuration make you queasy then it's probably especially important to sit in this case.

In September of '07 we were getting our mini llama "Lover Boy" ready for his first ALSA show. We noticed a patch of dusty, caked dirt on his rear leg so we soaked it with water to soften it for easier removal. Some of the dirt came off but with Lover Boy's dancing and tail swishing it became pretty apparent that this was not just dirt. My sister, Joanne, and I cut the hair around this dirt and once the hair was cut free we were able to remove a "cap" from a wound about 2 inches long. After this cap came off, a cottage cheese like pus was evident. After pushing around on the area surrounding the wound we were able to get more pus out and when we couldn't get any more we cleaned up the wound with mild soap and water, put on fly repellent and watched it..... Obviously we weren't going to the ALSA show....

We were pretty proud of ourselves after we saw how good the wound looked and we checked it daily. We could see that it was healing really quickly. Just what we wanted.... right?

Well a couple of weeks later this wound opened up with a vengeance and let loose a string of white exudate. Now the wound on Lover Boy's leg looked bigger. He let us clean it up again and cut even more hair off



the surrounding skin for cleanliness sake. You have to question your own sanity if you are satisfied and repulsed at the same time you squeeze pus from a wound. We cleaned it up every day and now flushed it with saline at every wound examination. Once again we did a good job and the wound healed up nicely.

In November when this wound opened up yet again, we asked our vet to come see it with us. Our vet is a wound addict and admits to loving wet labs at the veterinarian conferences. She cleaned the wound and explored it for any foreign objects. Not finding any she was hopeful that just by roughing it up maybe it would promote healing from the inside out.

It healed beautifully.... this is one tough llama.

The next time it opened up after a strenuous 2 days of packing we decided to take Lover Boy into the veterinarians office. The plan was to sedate him and do a thorough examination with wound debridement. Our vet opened up the wound, removed some necrotic tissue,

inserted a drain and put a couple of sutures in it to keep it shut. Our job (Joanne, my nephew Ben and me) was to irrigate the wound twice a day with a dilute Nolvasen solution. This was supposed to keep the skin from healing before the inside of the wound was healed and to prevent infection. After 2 weeks it looked like we had been making progress but it sort of stalled. Since Joanne and I are nurses, we know a wound care nurse who we refer to as "The Wound Wizard". She suggested we change from Nolvasen to a Dakin's solution and our vet agreed. Dakin's solution is a homemade concoction that includes bleach and baking soda that we cook up on the stove.... really. It was used extensively in WW I as an antiseptic.

So now every day, twice a day we are irrigating the wound. The penrose drain was removed after 3 weeks so in order to keep the skin from closing we started packing the openings with gauze soaked in Dakin's. Here's the tricky part.... we have to get wet gauze... Oh, clean wet gauze pushed into a tiny hole in a wound that hurts, on a llama leg that is searching for a face to kick.

We decided that dealing with draining wound tracts is a sport best practiced in the winter months. One of the only things that could have made this whole ordeal worse would have been a maggot or two. We said it more than once during the months we treated Lover Boy's leg that we were glad he was a mini llama. Every day we asked

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each other if the wound was getting better.... I mean it looked better!

Needless to say we were all getting very very tired of this Lover Boy's leg business. After improvement stagnated and a new type of purulent drainage emerged from the wound, the team (Joanne and me) cultured this new drainage and brought it to the University of Missouri-Columbia, which is a Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.



I brought a piece of pus covered gauze in a sterile container to UMC to Dr. Dusty W. Nagy, DVM, PhD. Dr Nagy came out of a back room with a smile on her face and a quick sure stride. Dr Nagy is nothing but fearless by any standards. She walked right up, took the lid off the container that held the piece of gauze and smelled it hard. I tried not to look horrified because I am a nurse. I have a hair trigger gag reflex though, and tend to sneak up on potentially foul smelling articles. I knew that given ½ a chance this woman could command armies.... maybe even countries for that matter. The gauze did grow some harmful bugs but even with this news Dr. Nagy suggested an x-ray because she thought maybe we were dealing with a sequestrum. Yes, a sequestrum. This is a bone fragment which drifts away, for a variety of reasons, from the live bone and dies. The body then



tries to rid itself unsuccessfully of this dead bone and creates a draining wound tract to the outside of the body. Apparently some abscesses on jaws are actually sequestrums. So an x-ray was indeed taken. A sequestrum was indeed found. Dr. Nagy did surgery to remove the dead bone and Lover Boy's leg healed up and haired over.

A couple of weeks ago someone asked Joanne and me if Lover Boy's leg was better. At the exact same time we both said, "we hope".



When To Hold ‘Em And When Best To Fold ‘Em

By Cathy Spalding

Spitting would seem to be among the higher levels of aggression exhibited within the normal alpaca and llama behavioral range. Humans often miss-understand or altogether miss the behaviors leading up to a true stomach contents spit. An alpaca or llama can easily manipulate our human fear of receiving spit by simply snapping ears back and very slightly raising the nose. “Oh no... they are going to spit!” As if by magnetic repulsion, we move back hoping for the moment to pass.

Spit is not something to be given – nor received – lightly. It is serious business. The alpaca or llama who would spit does not seem to enjoy the doing of it any more than those who would be on the receiving end. Animals not directly involved in the exchange will tend to avoid anything with spit on it and some might even hang their own lower lip. It is as nasty to the alpacas and llamas as it appears to be for humans.

After a good stomach contents spit, an alpaca or llama will open their mouth to “air out.” This stance is commonly called “bad mouthing.” They appear miserable with bits of greenish stomach contents dripping from their mouth. The lower lip hangs loosely and the ears are usually hanging at half-mast. Nostrils can flare and there may be mouth and/or irregular breathing. While the lower lip hangs limply downward, the eyes may appear somewhat dull and distant showing some disconnect with their surroundings. There are often signs of tension and tightening in the facial muscles with a skin wrinkle appearing directly below the eye. In this offensive and rather disgusting state, they are normally left quite to themselves by the rest of the herd.

It is not unusual to see an alpaca or llama that has just hurled a good

stomach contents spit wander about his environment looking for anything that might help rid their mouth of this disdainful mess. In search of a “breath mint,” they may chew on the bark of a tree or wooden fence rail, leaves, sticks or head directly for any available fir bow. Some have even been seen picking up and mouthing rocks. In this state, it is not typical that they will seek out their usual hay or grain or even drink water.

There are different levels of spit. Alpacas and llamas may spit out a large volume of air complete with saliva. Spit may be composed of whatever was in the mouth at the time of the incident such as grass, hay, grain or cud. These spits can be somewhat spontaneous in the midst of an argument or in the form of making a statement. These spits will also happen with little to no warning.

The highest level of spit aggression – serious and vile – is the stomach contents spit. The contents of this spit are actually called up from the stomach. Alpacas and llamas normally go through a series of behavioral warnings prior to actually spitting stomach contents. Truth be, they would hope to avoid giving this type of spit as much as any recipient would hope to avoid receiving it. The ears snap back, the nose rises and if the “offender” does not respond appropriately, the nose goes higher and the ears move to the pinned position. If the “offender” still does not respond appropriately, you will see a significant lump travel upward along the neck. Sometimes that goopy lump is halted and held in the mouth for just one more warning. Often,

however, it is not halted and the lump is forcefully spewed forth in the direction of the “offender.”

Alpacas and llamas are unable to retrieve and spit fresh stomach contents in one continuous action unless the nose is raised high which in turn allows the ears to be pinned back (cued) nearly in line with the neck. This physical posturing effectively diminishes any dramatic curves – particularly at the throat -- thus facilitating a fairly straight path from the stomach, up the esophagus and out the mouth. Thinking of this physical positioning in human terms, if we were about to regurgitate and did not stretch out our neck, what would happen?



The photo above captures just how miserable an alpaca can feel immediately following a stomach contents spit. Llamas feel just as miserable. The lower lip is drooping, the ears hang at half-mast and

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the nostrils are somewhat flared. Notice the look in the eye and the sagging eyelids. There is an appearance of disconnect to the surroundings as this alpaca seems to focus on how she is feeling at the moment.

In the next photos, a male alpaca has chosen a leaf as a sort of “breath mint” after a stomach contents spit. In the first photo, he has just secured the leaf. He still looks miserable. His lower lip is drooping, his nostrils are flared, his ears hang at half-mast and his eyes are dulled with eyelids sagging. He appears a bit withdrawn and disconnected from his surroundings.

In the second photo of this same alpaca a short time later, notice that he is beginning to perk up. Still in recovery, he continues to hold the leaf in his mouth. However, he is feeling much better. His lower lip is beginning to return to a more proper positioning and



Continued on page 30...

his ears have come forward. His nostrils do not appear flared. His eyes and overall body stance now appear more interested and connected with his surroundings.

We can learn a great deal by closely observing a potentially serious stomach contents spit situation with our animals.



The white alpaca is quite serious in her statements to the fawn alpaca. So serious, in fact, that she would appear just moments from backing it up with a hearty spit of stomach contents. Notice her body language and the combination of cues coming together for this expression of anger or upset. The neck is outstretched,

the nose is up and the ears are nearly pinned. While not looking straight on at her opponent, she is looking more directly than the recipient. She is not quite yet lined up physically in a balanced body position for a good stomach contents spit. She is, however, surely warning that it is a definite possibility.

Notice the recipient of her aggression. She is well aware of the situation but for the moment has decided to lower her head and look away. Her eyes are drooped and she shows signs of muscle tension in her face. Her body is out of balance. Her combined behavioral stances come together to give her a softer and more subordinate look.

Moments later, the situation has escalated. The white alpaca has shifted herself to a near front on position and balanced herself fairly squarely on all fours. She has brought her neck up, pinning her ears and straightening her esophagus. She has not yet spit but is at the ready needing only to perhaps lift her nose slightly higher. It would appear the recipient would still hope to avoid an all out confrontation. While moving closer into a defensive spit position by raising her nose, she remains off balance. In fact, she has not even moved her feet. While she has raised her nose, her neck remains lowered in a more submissive position and she does not make eye contact with her aggressor. Even so, she has escalated and lost some of her softer, more subordinate look. While certainly aware of the situation, the other alpacas are not getting involved.



It is interesting to consider the so often-heard advice: "Don't look them in the eye." Alpacas and llamas look at one another constantly. We look at them... they look back... nothing happens. In understanding alpaca and llama behavior, perhaps we can take our cue for the instance when it is likely not appropriate for us to look them in the eye. The recipient in this potential spit match is surely providing the cues for us. When an alpaca or llama is moving into a stomach contents spit posturing, it seems wise to soften our body, perhaps turn sideways to them and, in this particular instance, it seems clear... "Don't look them in the eye!"

An advertisement for Holy Tea. It features a smiling woman with brown hair holding a white mug. The text "Holy Cow!" is written in a green, bubbly font inside a white speech bubble. Above the woman, the text "HAVE YOU TRIED Holy Tea?!" is displayed. At the bottom, the website "www.Holy-Tea-Time.com" and phone number "1-888-887-4654" are listed. A circular callout at the bottom right says "Drink the tea and see. Holy Tea is your key to better health."/>

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WHERE TO BE

- **July 24-26th, 2008 "20th Celebration Ohio State Fair Llama-Alpaca-Fiber Show!"**
Level III, every class imaginable. Judges: Tami Lash and Terry Duespohl. Prizes, food, vendors, tee shirts, music, favors, fun, phenomenal Fiber Show, Drill Team performance. Access all information, list of classes and entry form at www.ohiostatefair.com. Deadline always June 20th. Questions: Donna Moore (740-743-1092) Held at Fairgrounds in Columbus, OH
- **July 25 & 26, 2008 WALKABOUT VI – Hinterland's 6th Tri-annual Llama Production Sale.**
A Stellar Selection of the finest show and breeding stock in North America. Preview: Friday, July 25th; Auction: Saturday, July 26th. Please contact Kay: (541) 549-1215, hinterlandllamas@peoplepc.com, or visit us at www.hinterlandllamas.com.
- **August 1-3, 2008 Camelid Community 2008, Kansas City, MO**
Open to everyone in the llama and alpaca community, this annual gathering will discuss "the state of the union" of the camelid world. All llama and alpaca organizations are encouraged to send a representative to this open forum, and interested individuals also are welcome. For registration information or more details, contact Sheila Fugina at bsfugina@pressenter.com or 715-246-5837.
- **August 2, 2008 Lenawee County Fair Open Llama show Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI**
Open Single Llama Show Official judge: Beth Myers Show contact: Tami Lash (517)467-2709, show forms a available on www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com or email Uniqueanimal@aol.com
- **August 2, 2008 Lenawee County Fair Open Llama show Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI**
Open Single Llama Show Official judge: Beth Myers This show will utilize the ILR Show Manager Software and all ILR points will be tracked for ILR members and ILR llamas. Show contact: Tami Lash (517)467-2709 Uniqueanimal@aol.com Show forms will also be listed on www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com
- **August 23-24, 2008 Nebraska State Fair Alsa Ii Llama Show State Fair Park Lincoln, NE**
Judges: Barbara Harris – Halter Harold Herbold – Performance Contact: Eunice Cernohlavek 402-475-8636 eunice@isp.com For premium book and application forms: www.statefair.org
- **August 29, 2008 -10am, Fulton County ALSA Llama & Alpaca Show, Wauseon, Ohio.**
Judges- Deb Shellabarger, Mike Haumschild. Halter and Performance llamas & alpacas. Contact Joy Bishop-Forshey drlamaj@yahoo.com
- **September 19-21, 2008 Oklahoma State Fair Llama Show Oklahoma City, OK**
Entry forms available online July 1, 2008 at www.oklahomastatefair.com Judge: TBA Superintendent: Dwight Anderson d.anderson@totaltruckandtrailer.com
- **September 27-28, 2008 Millennium Magic Fall Festival Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI**
Open Double Llama Show Saturday evening fellowship dinner Official judges: Darrell Anderson and Terry Duespohl Show contact: Tami Lash (517)467-2709, show forms available on www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com or email Uniqueanimal@aol.com
- **September 27-28, 2008 Millennium Magic Fall Festival Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI**
Open Double Llama Show Saturday evening fellowship dinner Official judges: Darrell Anderson and Terry Duespohl These open shows will utilize the ILR Show Manager Software and all ILR points will be tracked for ILR members and ILR llamas. Show contact: Tami Lash (517)467-2709 Uniqueanimal@aol.com Show forms will also be listed on www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com
- **Oct 3 - 4, 2008 Tulsa, OK Tulsa State Fair**
Entry forms on Tulsa State Fair website Superintendent - Brenda Foulks bfoulks74016@yahoo.com
- **October 4 & 5, 2008 8th Annual Alpaca Heritage Days.**
Looking for that special alpaca to add to your herd? How about some prime fiber and alpaca products? Mark your calendar now! The weekend offers private treaty sales, free seminars, and lots of shopping fun at Terhurne Orchards in Princeton, NJ. For more information including directions, go to www.AlpacaHeritage.com.
- **October 25, 2008, 9-3 Tucson Wool Festival**
Sponsored by the Withers Ranch as a community outreach and educational awareness program on fiber animals and arts, various breeders and vendors from throughout the southwest will be demonstrating their wares from their fiber animals on the Withers Ranch in Tucson, Arizona. Free booths are available. Seeking instructors for 2-3 hour classes. Contact Kathy Withers (520)572-3758, jmarckathy@aol.com. Additional information is on the Wool Festival page of www.uniquedesignsbykathy.com.
- **November 8, 2008 Alpaca Heritage Events presents Dr. LaRue Johnson's Neonatal Clinic in Bordentown, NJ.**
This clinic includes 6 hours of lecture and 90 minutes of wet lab for each registrant. Topics include reproductive anatomy and physiology, breeding and pregnancy diagnosis options, gestational development, care of the pregnant dam, normal and abnormal creation, and care of the newborns as well as high risk crias. The wet lab will include diagnosing the contents of the uterus, delivery plans and cria deliveries. Cost is \$200 per person and includes lunch. For more information and to register, visit us at www.AlpacaHeritage.com or contact Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696.
- **November 9, 2008 Alpaca Heritage Events presents Camelid Infertility and Congenital/Genetic Defects,**
a seminar presented by Dr. LaRue Johnson. This informative session will be held in the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown, NJ from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Cost is \$75 per person and includes lunch. For more information and to register, visit us at www.AlpacaHeritage.com.
- **November 7-9, 2008 North American Llama & Alpaca Show, Louisville, KY.**
Part of the World's Largest Purebred Livestock Show. Double llama, including mini classes, single alpaca and single llama fiber show. Deb Yeagle & Lora Crawford llama judges & Anthony Stachowski alpaca judge. Fiber judge Susie Smithers. *Change in health requirements- no blood work from free states.* Premiums plus awards and ribbons. One fee for unlimited classes same handler and llama. See website northamericanllama-alpacashow.com or contact Mary Jo Miller, 502-350-4525 brookscrkllamas@bellsouth.net
- **November 9, 2008 Alpaca Heritage Event's Fleece Show at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Bordentown, NJ.**
All you need to compete in this fun show is 2 oz of prime alpaca fiber! Great for novices and experts alike! Simply mail-in your entries ahead of time or drop them off in the morning. For more information, go to www.AlpacaHeritage.com or call Ingrid Wood at 609-261-0696.

Please submit your lama events to: editor@lamalink.com



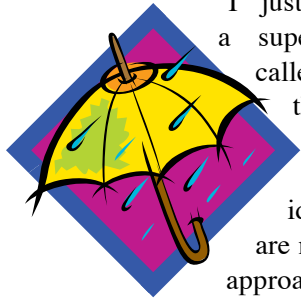


Welcome The Rain



by Sue Wilde

Is it raining on our parade?



I just came across a super new book called, 'Welcome the Rain' by Michelle Sedas. The ideas in the book are not new but her approach is excellent.

We all know the mantra, "we are in control of the way we think about and respond to life's events" but are we living this in our daily lives and in our businesses? In the book Michelle describes a rain storm that falls on a salesman going to a call. His car was just washed and he was wearing his Italian leather shoes that were going to get wet. He slams his hand against the steering wheel and say, why today! Down the road a farmer and his family run outside and stand in the rain and welcome it as the savior of their crops. Every situation has it's perceptions and reactions.

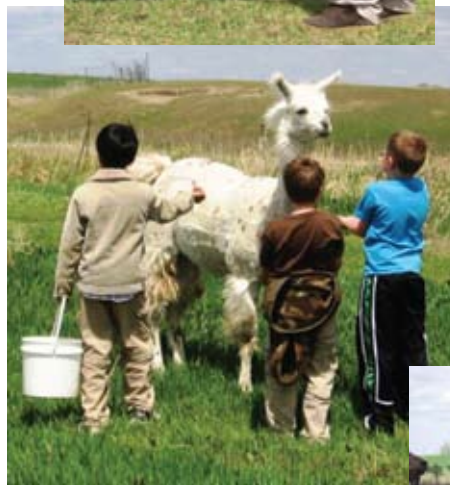
As I have been marketing my wonderful llama herd, I have experienced many different perceptions and reactions to the llama business and believe me they range from the shoes to the crops! One response to an email I received was that they were not buying any more llamas; they were buying sheep, something that makes money! I had to wonder if they had the type of llamas that make money. One ranch was so excited that I was offering my llamas for sale they emailed and called for a couple of weeks until they had finally narrowed their group down to twelve, all we could fit on the trailer!

Is it raining on our llama parade? I think there are some aspects of the industry that are without umbrellas, but when the rain comes what can we do?

Michelle's suggestions:

✓ Develop your leaders!

I have always said, get in line behind those who are willing to "walk the line". Vote for people that see and realize progress and be a part of that realization.



✓ Inspire your team!

Put 12 llamas on the trailer. Go crazy for a pedigree, look deep into big brown eyes and discover who is behind them. Inspiration becomes passion!

✓ Weather the storm!

Get out the umbrellas! I see the ILR, ALSA, regional and local clubs, magazines, websites and great breeding programs as umbrellas that will keep the rain off our parades. Welcome the rain! It will motivate us to create the strength to toss our umbrellas to the wind! We are so strong, bring on the rain!

Recently I hosted two grade three classes to the farm, as Peru is part of the grade three curriculum here. The kids were super, they were quiet and kind and the llamas ate snacks from

Continued on page 34...



their hands for over half an hour. I was standing by one of the moms and she said in an awe inspired voice, "This is a once in a life time experience." What I take for granted daily, really is a life time experience. Jean Pascal Petit, the breeder

in France who was our interview last month, hosts on average, 17,000 tourists to his llama farm every summer. They come by the bus load! Is there anything else on his farm as an attraction? Nope, just amazing llamas!

A quote from the book by Henri Frederic Amiel states:

Conquering any difficulty always gives one a secret joy, for it means pushing back a boundary line and adds to ones liberty.

Let's go out and do some singing and dancing in the rain! Sans umbrellas!

P.S. When I first got started breeding llamas I had a few boys, which was very discouraging. When my first baby girl arrived I called her "Sunshine After Rain".

I admire the llama people over all because they are still in this crazy thing for love. Do we want to make money along the way? We do! Because we award great value to llamas in many aspects. A non-llama breeder asked me why people were buying my llamas from me. What were they going to do with them? My response was, they will love them just like I have.

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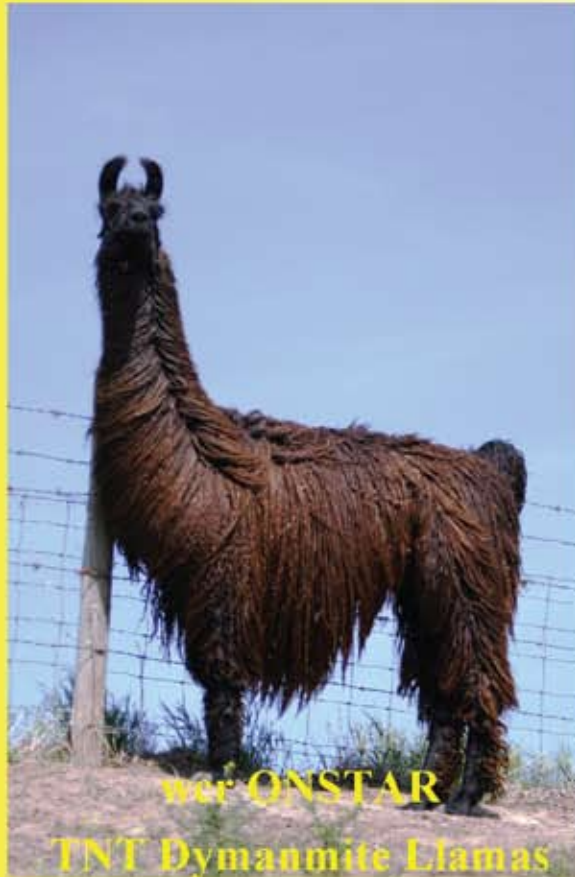
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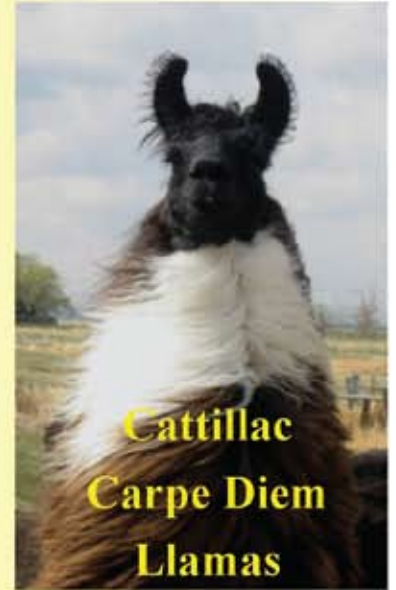
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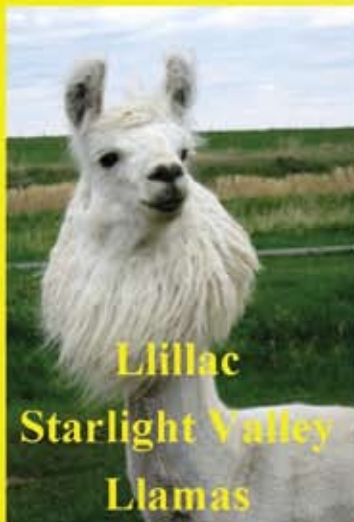
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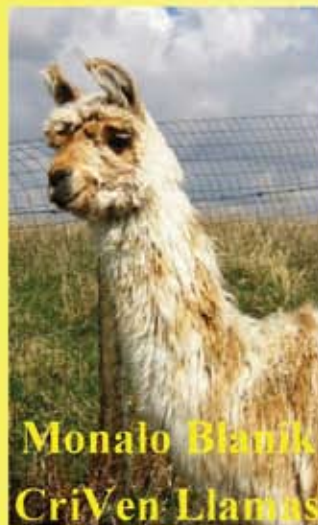
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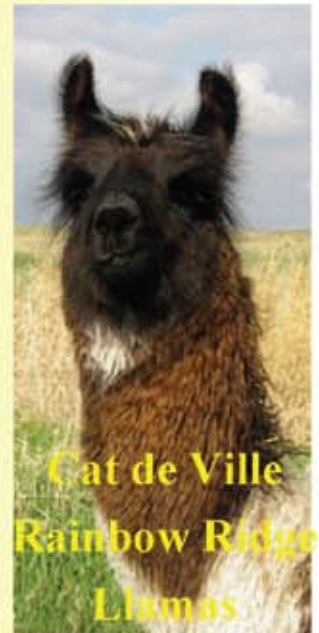
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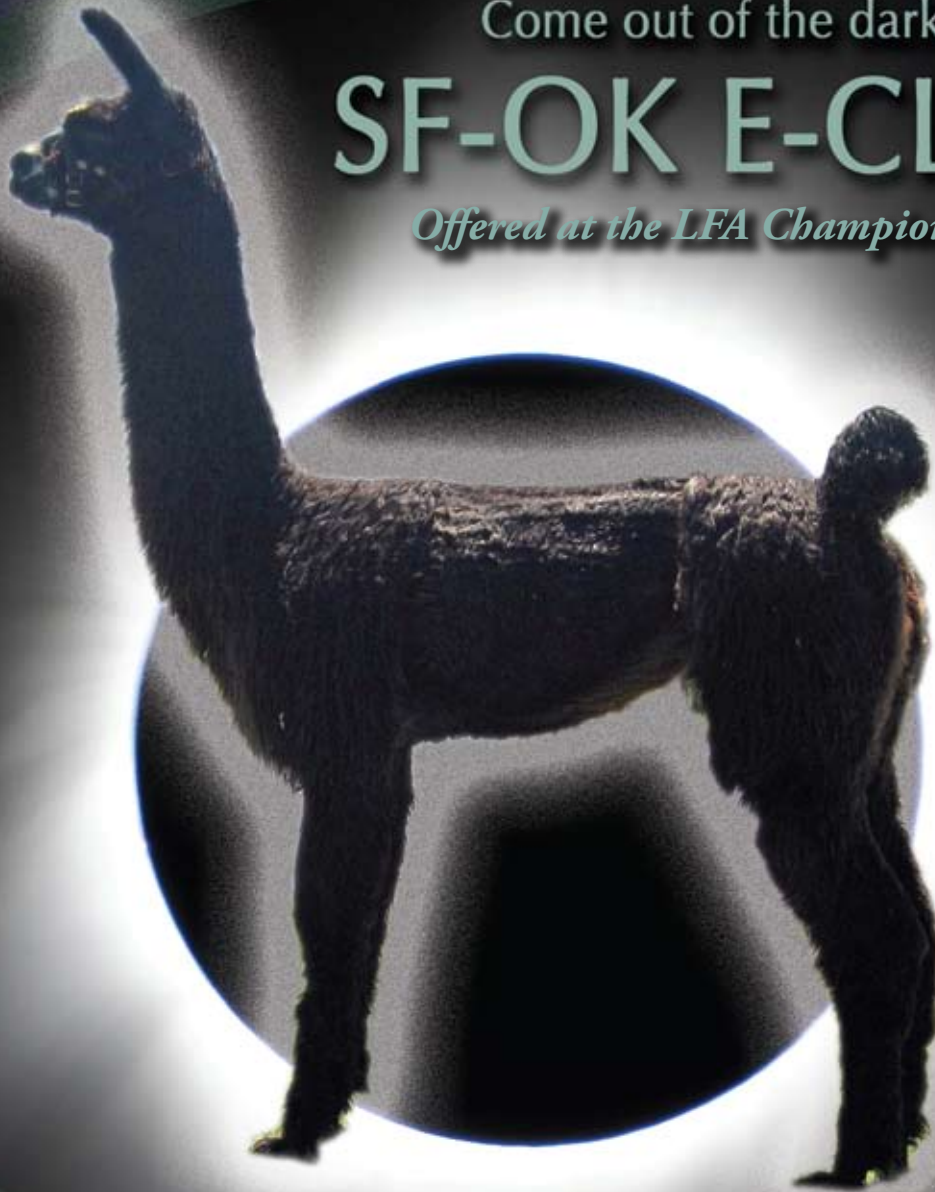
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Already I'm so lonesome I could cry... Sue wcrancho.com

Thank you llamasaleslist.com Jim White & Brian Edwards

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