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Interview with
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Ollendick

LFA or Bust!!

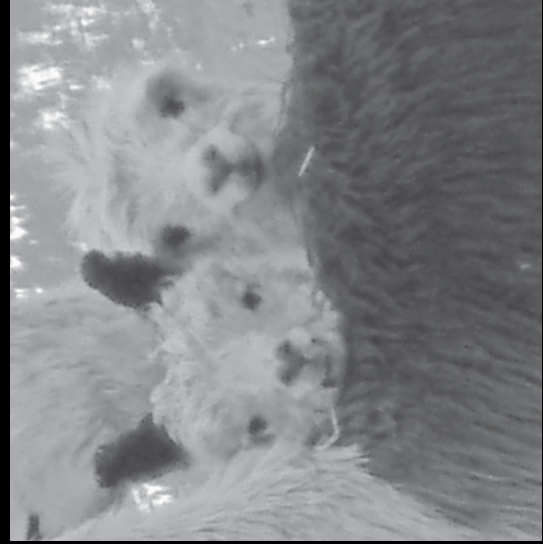
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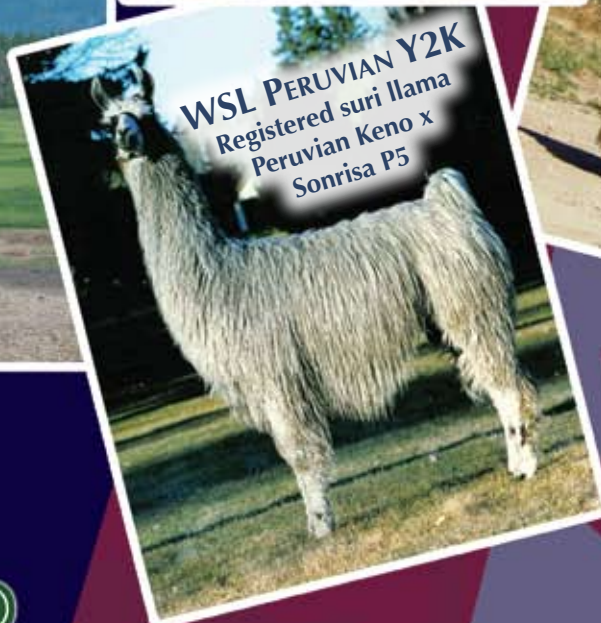
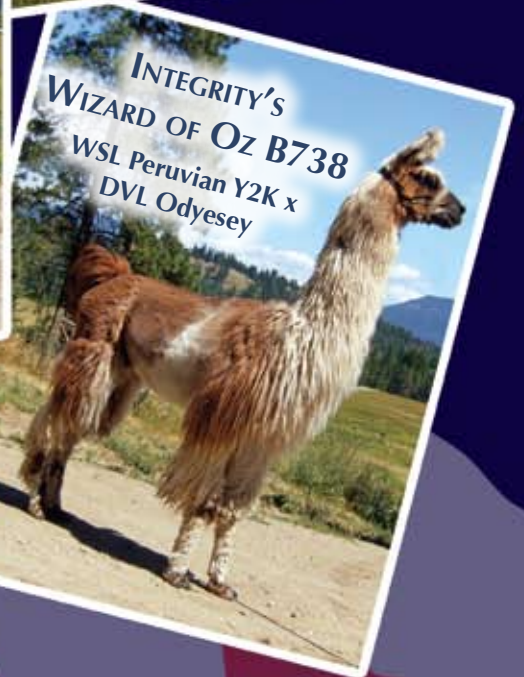
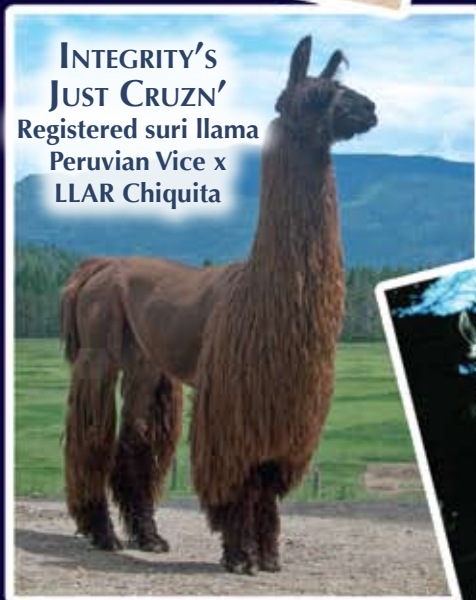
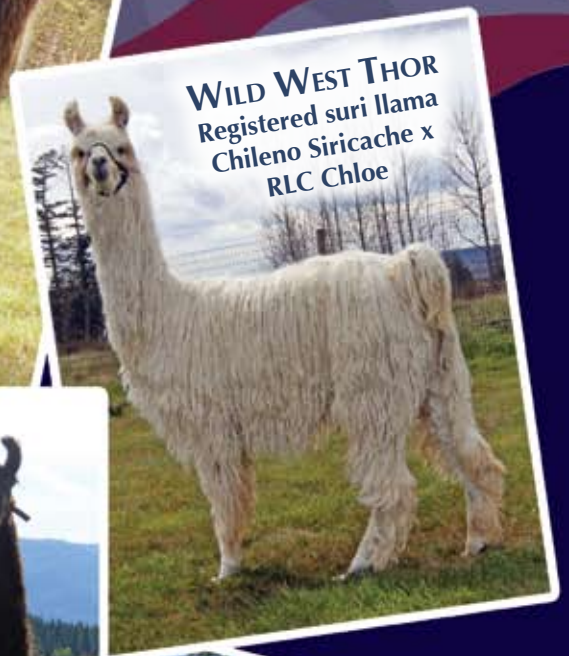
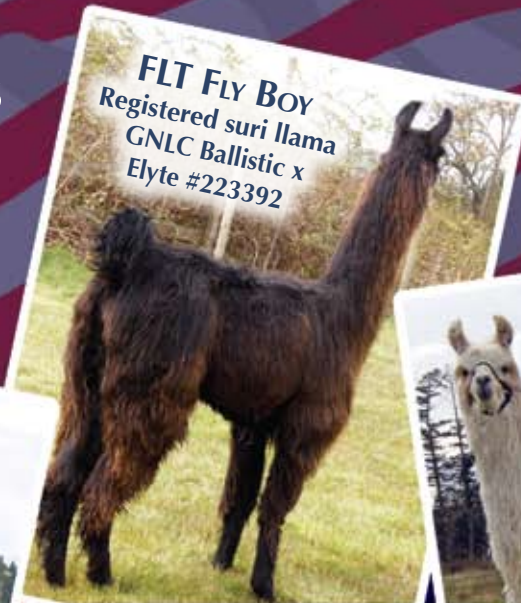
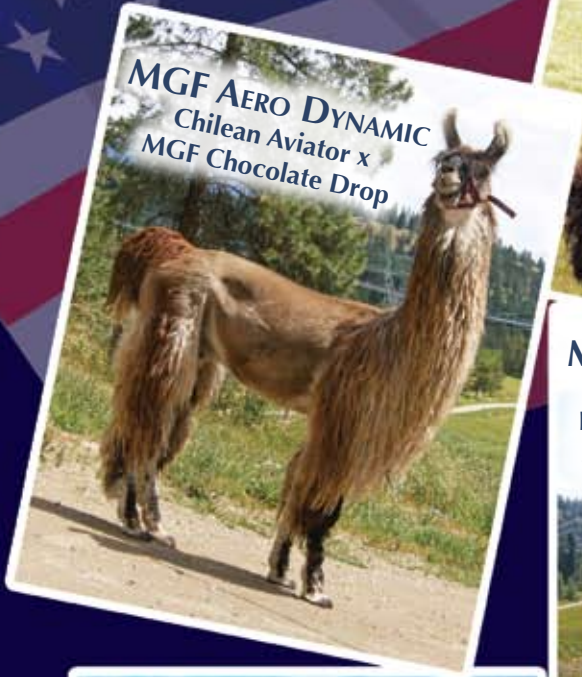
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On The Cover



Must Reads Features

- 9 **LFA or Bust!!**
Summary
by **Sue Wilde**
- 12 **Communication is the Key**
How to communicate effectively
by **The 2008 Llama Canada Board of Directors**
- 15 **Information for US Lamas Going to Canada**
by **Pat Bell**
- 17 **The Lure Of Lamas Online**
Minimizing The Risk of Online Llama Sales
by **Violet Racz**

- 9 The LFA board is to be commended, once again, for organizing an event for the llama community to participate in.

Within Every Issue

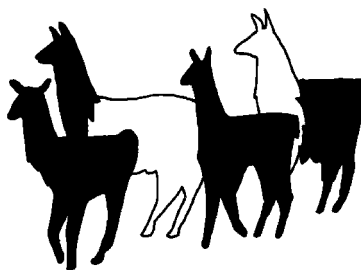
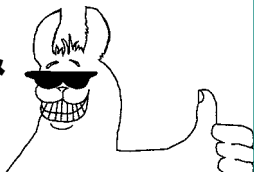
- 5 **Linking-Up**
Interview with John & Marcia Ollendick
by **Sue Wilde**
- 22 **Where To Be**
- 23 **Classified Advertising**



17

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ADVERTISER INDEX

Alitashee Suri Llamas.....	pg 12	Moonshadow Farm Llamas	pg 8
American Miniature Llama Assoc	pg 9	Morning Glory Minis.....	pg 16
Argentine Llama Aficionados	pg 17	National Western Stock Show	pg 10
Azure Acres	pg 19	Ozark Llama Classic.....	pg 18
Back Country Llama, The	pg 20	Pacific Rim Llamas	pg 11
Buckhollow Llamas.....	pg 10	Paco-Vicuñas	pg 16
Canadian Mystic Meadows.....	pg 14	Posey Thisisit Llamas.....	pg 9
Carpe Diem Llamas.....	pg 15	Rocky Mountain Llama Association.....	pg 21
Criation Meadows Llamas	pg 17	Roxywood Farms.....	pg 20
Dreamweaver Creations Fiber Processing Mill	pg 12	Sapaveco Ranches	pg 8
Freestate Llamas.....	pg 8	Sugar River Llamas	pg 7
Integrity Llama Farm.....	pg 2	Sunrise Ranch.....	pg 13
LamaLink.com	cover	Superior Farms Llamas	pg 24
Llama Association of North America.....	pg 6	Treasure State Metal Recycling.....	pg 21
Millstream Miniature Llamas.....	pg 14	Windiana Farms, Ltd.	pg 13

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Interview with

John & Marcia Ollendick

by Sue Wilde

Hi, where is Ollendick Farms located?

We are located in Central WI, Just outside of Tomah WI.

How long have you been in the llama industry and what is the size of your herd?

We have been raising llamas for about 13 years, our herd is in the 70 plus range at this time.

You got into the llamas “by an accident,” tell us about your start into the industry.

Actually we started our retail store in our barn after John had been in a horse riding accident, where he was hospitalized for some time and came home in a wheelchair and we weren't sure he'd walk again. We needed to have a home based business on the farm to help raise our 4 children. So, we turned our barn into a craft/retail store and then soon decided we needed to once again raise some animals and have a place where families could come and enjoy our farm, as well as our store. We live

in a wonderful community, and with the support of family, friends and neighbors we pulled through some difficult times and John beat all odds and was able to walk again and return to work as a contractor, prior to that we were dairy farmers for 17 years. After purchasing our first couple of llamas we were hooked, especially Kelly Jo. She has always loved llamas and she spent many years showing in the Youth Performance and Showmanship.

But, 15 years ago when the ambulance drove off our farm with John and shortly after I arrived at the hospital where John was receiving his last rights from our priest we did not know what would happen to our family. God has blessed us with 4 healthy children, 2 great son-in-laws and a wonderful daughter-in-law, and 6 wonderful grandchildren, our farm, the llamas and our wonderful friends we have met in the llama industry. We have learned never to take life for granted and to enjoy every day of our lives.



Your family has always been active in the llamas, what part does each person play in the business?

Kelly Jo of course has always been our show person and now shares that role with her dad. She set up our farm records, helps with shearing, shots, worming, setting up clinics for our annual llama fun day. She helps with bus tours, sets up the obstacle course and just about anything that needs to be done. Kelly's husband Todd helps with farm work and chores whenever we ask. Our oldest daughter Carrie helps with the fiber, sorting, cleaning, washing and spinning. Our Son John is always around with his family to help with the crops especially during hay season. He has updated all of our electrical on the farm. He also helps with the fencing and John and his wife Kelly are always willing to help out with chores while we are away at llama shows. Our daughter Mandy has been a great help with the marketing, she sets up our bus tours and helps to promote and market our wool products in the store. She also does our website, flyers, and business cards. Mandy's husband Craig also helps us when we are haying and does chores for us when we are gone. The

Continued on page 6...



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...Continued from page 5

best part of owning llamas is being able to share them with our grandchildren. Mandy has 2 children, Taylor and Jacob who are our 2 oldest grandchildren they are 4 and 2 ½ and they have already picked out their own llamas. They love to come to the farm to walk the llamas and do the obstacle course, and of course name the new babies. We now have 6 grandchildren and we can hardly wait till the day comes when they are all old enough to travel with us and compete in



the performance classes, and halter.

You had a very successful store on your farm. What were you selling?

We were selling many handcrafted items from local vendors for 13 years. We once had 62 consignors, as well as, a large line of retail products and of course our own raw fiber, rovings, yarn, and finished wool products such as socks, hats, mittens, rugs, and mattress pads.

Do you still sell online?

Yes we do! We are changing our website and will discontinue our retail and set up a display page for our fiber, from raw to finished products.

You have different types of groups visit your farm. What do your farm tours entail?

Most of our bus tours are agricultural tours. We also do some bank groups and mystery tours. Our tours are set up as educational tours to each the many benefits of owning llamas, including agriculture tax benefits. We like to divide the busses into groups where they can do some hands on with the llamas, take a llama for a walk, visit the cria pasture, watch our llamas perform on the obstacle

course, watch a shearing demonstration, learn about our feeding and worming program, as well as, our breeding program. We show them a film, the old favorite, "Alive with Llamas," as well as, some of the newer ones. We teach them the steps of our wool processing, demonstrate spinning, carding, felting, and weaving. Provide them with a catered lunch if they wish and music entertainment after their meals.

You also host different events on the farm throughout the year, what are they?

We have hosted many different events over the years. We use to have a big Fall Festival, with craft vendors set up in our fields, horse drawn wagon rides, pony rides, theatre productions, music entertainment, food vendors, petting zoo, specials throughout the store, and vendors selling llama products. We have hosted many Christmas events with horse drawn sleigh rides, Christmas caroling with Santa Claus, and llamas dressed up in Christmas attire.

We have also had classes with an instructor teaching spinning and weaving for a weekend of great fun. We

host a llama fun day for the 4-H kids, as well as, new comers who want to learn about llamas and try their luck on the obstacle course. We were just featured in a Agricultural Tour Bus film promoting our farm and llama business.

With a super show handler like Kelly in the family, tell us what shows you like to participate in best?

We have always loved the ALSA shows and continue to support them but we love the excitement and competition at

the futurities like, Badgerland, Celebrity and our favorite the LFA.

What is the focus of your breeding program?

We strive to produce and breed quality stock with strong conformation, stylish, elegant, athletic llamas with lustrous fiber and sound minds. We have heavily invested in our female herd choosing strong pedigrees which have proven themselves. Our males have been chosen to add all the extras such as fiber, coverage, color, attractive heads, great ears and of course conformation is a must for both dam and sire. Our breeding program is known for lustrous silky and suri fiber with strong correct yet elegant frames.

What are some of the success you have had the last couple of years in the industry?

We have had several of our llamas place in the Top 10 at Nationals, Celebrity and

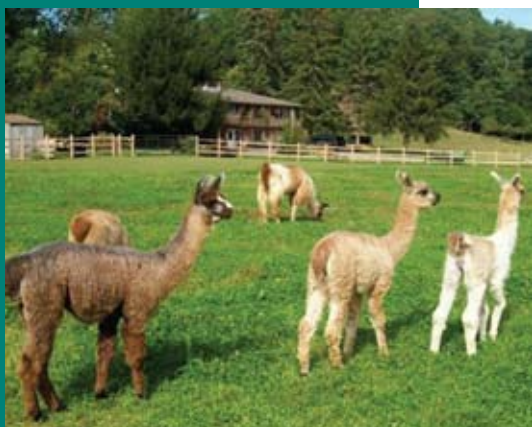
LFA. Several Grands and Reserves in ALSA shows. In 2006 our male GNLC Caspian won his class at the LFA World Champion Futurity and this past year 2008, we had also had 5 llamas place in the top 10. Our stud GNLC Caspian also was on Herdsire Row and received the highest bid for the Herdsire Service Auction which helps to benefit the LFA! We thank Barb and Tom Parsons for their bid.

You have a great website. How are you marketing it?

Our daughter Mandy is responsible for most of the work done on the website. Having lots of search engines so your website can easily be found helps. We are linked to our Chamber of Commerce for our bus tours.


We have found that private treaty, farm sales and web sales are a great way to market our llama with less stress on the animals. There are lots of ways to advertise and promote your farm to the public. Hosting events at your farm and inviting the media, this is a great way

Continued on page 8...



Sugar River Llamas...

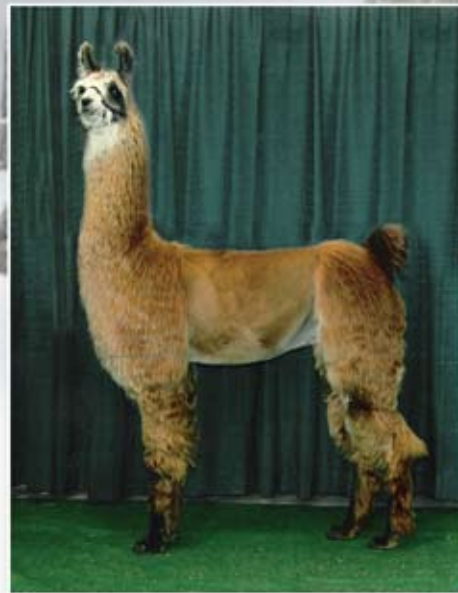
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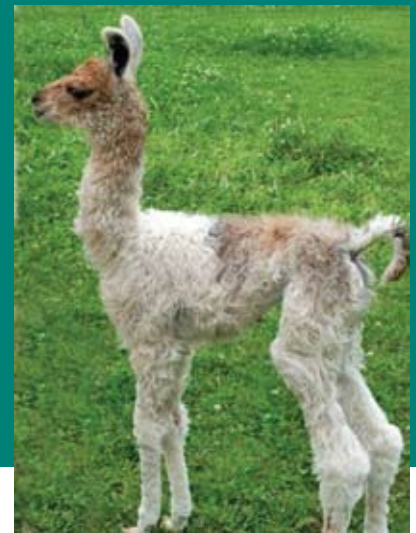
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...Continued from page 7

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Where do you see the future of the llama industry going in the next year or so?

Our industry needs everyone to work together and we need the show ring to promote our llamas. I believe there are still many new families that will benefit from owning llamas, many 4-H kids out there looking for their next show llama. In our area there are so many people moving into the country and buying these smaller farmettes to enjoy country life and they are looking for a break on their taxes. By adding llamas to their farms they can enjoy many tax benefits and learn of their many functions, such as their wonderful fiber and all it's uses, and I can't think of a better animal for them to raise and to enjoy the emotional satisfaction that we all enjoy in our lives with llamas.

What direction is Ollendick Farms going in the future?

We are going to continue to show our llamas as a family, enjoy our lives with llamas and sharing them with our grandchildren. And when they are old enough, they too will be traveling with us and showing their llamas in halter and in youth performance. They are already picking out their own llamas. Kelly's daughter Morgan has been in the llama pasture since she was just a few weeks old, so we know without a doubt where her future is heading with llamas of course, so watch for us in the show ring.

Thanks for being such an active member of the llama community.

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LFA OR BUST!!

by Sue Wilde

Those cross country road trips are really one of my favorite things to do, sound crazy? With my move to the east, meaning far to the east, Nova Scotia, my side kick Bev Popwich couldn't resist one last road trip with the llama gang. We packed up my llamas, Marie Towell and Tammie Efraimson-Hiraga's llamas and headed for the border where at customs we got "busted"! The broker had us coming from Raymond, Montana instead of Raymond, Alberta! More paper work, you gotta love it. At Dr. Becker's, the federal vet, of course there was one wiley microchip that didn't want to read but finally the reader chirped and we were headed to LFA.

With the crack of dawn we headed out from Hardin, Montana and got busted again! This time by the only deer in a 200 mile radius! Thankfully the damage to the truck didn't impede our "llama drive" and we just kept headin' those doggies east to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

We followed the trail to the barns with help from Google maps and settled into the routine of the event. Thursday night the Wattigney's treated us all to Louisiana style hospitality with shrimp, veggies, pasta and the greatest garlic bread! We had arrived a little busted up but ready for fun.

We all got a chance to bust up at the geriatric obstacle competition and



the laughs really rolled when "John McCain" and his running mate Sarah Palin maneuvered the course! (I hope the real Sarah is a little more willing to work with her leader!)

Continued on page 10...

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*Holiday Cheers To All The Beautiful Critters
 That Make Our Daily Lives So Great!!*

...Continued from page 9

Friday's ALSA show was, as usual, show casing some of our best and the evening "gather around the campfire" was all great grub and gab. Jan Wassink and the ILR board gave breeders the opportunity to view a very informative presentation about out registry and yes there is still room on the conference cruise!! We should be "all aboard" on this!



Sale day is always exciting and stressful. The red carpet presentation is everyone's chance to plan for their next step up in their breeding program.

The 72 llamas available were a superlative group with all types of llamas presented for sale. The online auction was busy with over 21 registered buyers and there were many online bids. For some lots the sale was a bust however due to the pressure of gas prices and travel but for others it was a super day to introduce new genetics excellent breeding programs.

Congratulations and a super thank you to volume buyer, Lew and Jennifer McGinnis of Superior Farms, these folks know how to build a herd!

The classes for the LFA futurity were great with 21 females in the yearling suri class! The prize money stake is enough to motivate all of us to pony up and compete in this event. Check out www.theLFA.org for all the results.



The LFA board is to be commended, once again, for organizing an event for the llama community to participate in. Without these people willing to walk the line for us we won't have a llama industry and it will be LFA busted!

North America is a huge place but we do have the ability to make our "llama drives" down the Chisholm Trail to where ever we need to be. I say let's get to LFA or Bust, we've got what it takes. Ya'll come back now!

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Communication: The Key to Success



By The 2008 Llama Canada Board Of Directors



Llama Canada's National Conference was held at the Camrose Regional Exhibition in Alberta September 26th to 28th. Llama breeders and owners from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia were in attendance. The conference theme was Communication: The Key to Success so the 2008 conference featured speakers sharing and educating owners on how to communicate effectively with their llamas and other llama owners. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to learn new techniques and welcomed the time to network with fellow llama enthusiasts.

The conference opened with Dan Ohler, a professional speaker and life skills coach, presenting "Practical Principles for Lookin' at Life with Fresh Eyes." Dan challenged participants to outline the "F" words in their life so they could focus and face fears, forge forward and have fun! He explained that all of our thoughts are a direct result of our behaviors, beliefs and

attitudes. As he presented his session he correlated many of the issues facing the llama industry with our ability to "think outside our barn" and challenged each of us to create our own goals for our individual hobby farms and llama businesses.

Friday afternoon consisted of three concurrent sessions that allowed participants to select from shearing, flat felting or llamas 101. Dave and Connie Carlson, from Fort Macleod, Alberta presented the Llama Shearing Techniques and Practical Principles session. According to session attendee Susan Wipfli, "Click Go the Shears" was almost the national anthem of Australia, way back when she was a kid growing up there, and it was one of those tunes you never forget. However, when she shears her llamas next spring, she'll be humming it with a new vigor now. Dave provided an overview of the equipment required, the safety precautions to be considered, the handling of animals and fibre, as well as setup of the shearing area ... and then the fun started. The llamas used in the session were all heavily fibered and provided ample opportunity for each of the enthusiastic participants to get used to the feel of the clippers in their hands, and to the different ways to hold the clippers when removing fibre from the edge of the blanket area. Many of the participants were so keen that they

were reluctant to hand the shears back to Connie and Dave when the session came to its conclusion. As the participants moved on to the next phase of the conference, Susan noted that Connie and Dave were smiling, the newly ordained shearers were smiling, and most importantly, the freshly shorn llamas were smiling! There was no doubt that this session had been a huge success in communicating ways to shear effectively.

An enthusiastic group attended the Fundamentals of Flat Felting with Tracey Kuffner. Most of the attendees were beginning felters and Tracey took them step-by-step through the process, which included layering the wool, using water and soap and agitation by rolling their projects in bamboo blinds. Tracey is a full-time felter and operates The Wool Mine in Duchess, Alberta. Tracey is well known for her acclaimed children's books, which are fully illustrated with some of her felted pictures.

Dr. Corry Mortensen presented a three-hour session entitled "Llamas 101" where she provided tips and ideas for acquiring suitable llamas to fit with each person's goals. She educated individuals about common husbandry and management issues such as vaccinating, deworming, blood or fibre collection for DNA typing, and selecting the best equipment and

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methods for achieving ultimate success. She also related tips and strategies for effective breeding and birthing of llamas. Most of the participants had a vast amount of practical llama knowledge and the session molted into a session of sharing and discussing information that epitomized the theme of communication!

The evening of September 26 concluded with a dinner reception sponsored by The Canadian Llama and Alpaca Association (CLAA) and a one-hour session by keynote presenter Marty McGee Bennett entitled Raising Respectful Llamas. During the session Marty explained how to categorize llama disposition, recognize potential problems with aggression, and how to deal with it before it becomes a real problem. The Annual General Meeting of the CLAA followed this session.

Saturday and Sunday were dedicated to Marty McGee Bennett instructing her two-day CAMELIDynamics training course. This was composed of lectures followed by practice on inflatable llamas or on another course participant. When practice was complete Marty gave demonstrations on live animals followed by individual hands-on with the animals generously provided by llama owners. The main principal taught was not teaching animals but training and teaching people how to handle and train their animals. Some of the topics covered were approaching your animal, your body position, catching, haltering, training techniques, maintaining animal balance, proper leverage, toe nail trimming, injections and even an example diagram of a good handling facility. Along with the training, Marty had a variety of items such as catch ropes, wands, control lines, toenail clippers with holsters, books, etc... These items she used in her training and also had a supply for purchase for those who needed them. The information presented and demonstrated was of value for new and seasoned Camelid owners alike!

Saturday night provided an opportunity to network with fellow llama breeders. After a delicious banquet meal, the results of the fibre competition were presented, followed by a comedy routine

Continued on page 14...

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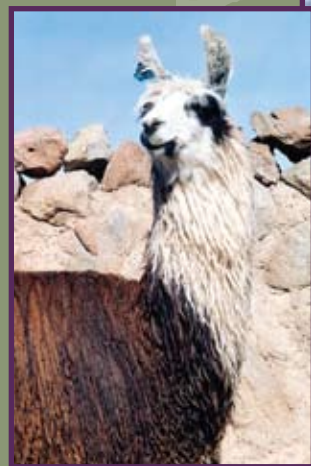
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...Continued from page 13

by Ole Olson. Serious bidders vying for items in our very successful silent auction followed the lighthearted fun. It is always amazing to see the unique items people donate and even more entertaining to see the competition mount to be the highest bidder!

Llama Canada's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday morning prior to the conclusion of Marty's 2nd day of training. Member attendance was excellent and productive dialogue and discussion occurred regarding Llama Canada committees, as well as future projects and events.

Llama Canada Vice President, Lorraine Guyn was the coordinator for the Fiber and Fleece Competition and provided the following summary of this part of the conference.

As breeders are becoming more aware of the value of their llama's fleece the conference saw an increase in entries to well over 60 in combined categories. More breeders are spinning and/or sending

their shorn fleeces to mills for processing into roving, batting, felt, yarn and cones. The results of the end products not only indicate the great value of the fleeces, be they double, single or suri-llama but also the talent of fibre crafters that exists in the Canadian llama industry. Entries came from across Canada with a few entries from the United States. Not only did the winners go home with ribbons but substantial monetary prizes as well.

Although the judging of fibre end products was held September 26 to 28, 2008 the Hand spinner's Choice Competition began August 1, 2008. Exhibitors were asked to submit 2 ounces of prime fibre from the blanket area of their choice of double, single or suri-llama fleece. Our judge, Rosemary Harris, spun 1 oz and judged the sample on characteristics such as spinning ease and fineness, comfort factor and overall handling. The winning entries were displayed with the spun yarn along with 1 oz. of the natural fleece, a photograph of the llama and an exhibitor's business card in a colorful carousel effect.

The categories of end products consisted of knitted, crocheted, woven, felted, hand spun combined fibre yarn and hand spun 100% llama yarn. Phenomenal craftsmanship graced our tables with items such as knitted vests, scarves, gloves, crocheted jacket and scarves, hand-woven throws, felted purses, magnificent felted wall hangings and pictures, felted vests and novelty items; which included needle felting. Some products were for sale and Marty McGee Bennett even went home the proud owner of a beautiful felted elephant wall hanging.

The fleece competition, although not as many entries as last year, had good competition in the categories of double coat, single coat, and suri-llama. We anticipate next year's fleece and fibre competition portion of the Llama Canada Conference to increase in numbers, especially with the United Nations General Assembly declaration that 2009 is The International Year of Natural Fiber. Get those spinning wheels going and those needles clicking to take part in the 2009 competitions!

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Information For US Lamas Going Into Canada

by Pat Bell

So you've decided to purchase a US llama in order to put some new bloodlines into your breeding program? Now what do you do? We've found that with patience and a good veterinarian, it's pretty easy to do this. This article will briefly outline some of the criteria for importing live animals (llamas) specifically from the United States into Canada.

The most important criteria for importation falls within one of the following areas:

1. The Rules
 - US quarantine
 - Importation permits
 - Canadian Quarantine
2. Paperwork
3. Testing

The Rules

It pays to be knowledgeable. Before you start, insure that you know what's involved, what's recently been changed and what this will cost both in terms of your sanity and your pocketbook. Paperwork and fees are necessary before your new llama is roaming in your pasture back in Canada.

Check out the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/>. You can learn a great deal here. Click on animal and animal products and go to the AIRS Import details for Llamas section. We've also learned that when in doubt, call CFIA. Each province has a provincial office. Our experience is that communication between the CFIA provincial office and the CFIA border office and other vets is very consistent and is the most effective way of cutting through red tape. As well, our farm vet is certified by CFIA to conduct all the necessary testing. This is important in terms of having the proper paperwork and dialogue between everyone.

Insure that you select a US farm or quarantine that is experienced and reliable. Since paperwork is everything in this process, the details are important. Start your process by insuring that you're familiar with the herd of origin - where your llama is coming from in the US. As well, decide where you will conduct the quarantine in Canada. And apply early for an import permit from the provincial office of CFIA. We've found that the earlier the application the better, since the Import Number must be declared on each of the US quarantine documents.

Getting to the selected quarantine site may require that the llama is tested for transport through various States. USDA requires a 30 day minimum period between TB tests (in Canada it's 90 days), so insure that you're prepared to board your llama prior to the start of the quarantine if TB tests have been conducted.

Quarantine of any animal in the US requires that:

The llamas being imported into Canada have resided in the US from birth and have been resident of a herd that is not and has not been under quarantine or health related restrictions imposed by the USDA or any regulatory for a minimum of 60 days.

The llamas have been resident of the herd of origin in the US for a minimum of 60 days prior to the commencement of pre-export isolation and originate from a herd recognized to be tuberculosis free.

The herd of origin has resided in a State in which no TB or Brucellosis has been diagnosed during 3 years prior to export to Canada.

Once this is established, the US piece of the quarantine begins. This requires a 30-day Pre-Export Isolation. During the pre-export isolation period the following rules apply:

Continued on page 16...

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...Continued from page 15

Llamas to be exported have been isolated in a USDA approved facility for a 30- day pre-export isolation period.

During the pre-export isolation period, the llamas have had no direct or indirect contact with any llamas that are not of equivalent health status as the llamas being exported to Canada.

During pre-export isolation the llamas were tested for tuberculosis and Brucellosis

Upon completion of the pre-export isolation period, the animals may be transported in cleaned and disinfected trucks directly from the pre-export isolation location to the Canadian port of entry. During transport, they cannot be off-loaded nor have any direct or indirect contact with other animals of a different health status.

An import permit is required prior to importing the animals into Canada. Before approving the permit, the Canadian quarantine must be inspected and approved by CFIA. For the past 2 years, we've conducted quarantines on our farm. This means that the local CFIA vet attends our farm to complete the inspection of our planned quarantine. Various details are confirmed and only after the local office has signed off, is the Import Permit released. The list of requirements is lengthy and only a summary is listed here. Check out the CFIA website for Evaluation of Minimum Security Quarantine Facilities. Main areas of concern are:

- Location/Environment
- Feed/Water
- Waste Handling/Disposal
- Housing
- Vector control

- Staffing/Security
- Animals

Once again, attention to detail insures that your quarantine will go smoothly. We post signs, insure foot baths and proper waste management are all in place before we plan a visit from CFIA. Since the vets may inspect at any time during the 90-day Canadian quarantine, it's in your best interests to keep well organized. A log outlining all activities within the quarantine must be maintained and although we've never been required to produce it, we document everything.

Paperwork

The CFIA and its vets create all the paperwork, other than permit application. It's important that details are checked for accuracy. We narrowly avoided disaster about a year ago when an error in one number on a recorded microchip was found during our border inspection. Luckily the border vet was familiar with us following our many border crossings. He only allowed us to transport the llama, providing that the number could be confirmed later to the local CFIA vet by registration certificate.

Paperwork also creates tension since timing is essential to the entire process. One document arriving late can upset the entire border inspection and crossing. In today's technological world, the quarantine process still relies on original signatures and documents. You must be ready to comply with everything.

We've found that crossing the border for importation is assisted through the services of a Brokerage firm. Once you're parked at the border, it's not only CFIA who's interested in what you're doing and why you're bringing these llamas

into Canada, so is the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). Getting through the paperwork and GST requirements, etc is easily achieved with a knowledgeable Broker. Avoiding a huge GST payment is also avoided if you make your Broker aware of the purpose of your llamas.

Testing

The only testing requirement for llamas entering Canada is a negative TB and Brucellosis test. Likewise once the 90-day period of isolation in Canada is completed a second negative test is required before the llamas are approved for discharge from the quarantine. This can be tricky as we've learned in one of our quarantines. A false positive not only results in serious anxiety, it can also result in a repeated 90-day isolation period for all the llamas in the quarantine. If the second test remains positive, it could result in your entire herd of origin requiring testing. The decision of CFIA is final in these cases and could result in complete destruction of all animals on the farm.

Despite all the rules, the anxiety and the costs of bringing llamas into Canada, buying new llamas remains one of the best ways to diversify bloodlines and maintain a healthy and viable breeding program. We have been able to select outstanding llamas from reputable herds in both the US and Canada. This principle applies to all of us. There are fabulous herds and outcross bloodlines in both Canada and the US. Canadian buyers can easily with a little planning purchase US llamas. US buyers should realize that the terms and conditions of exporting a Canadian llama to the US is just as easy. We welcome questions about any aspect of the quarantine process and encourage other breeders to participate.



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THE LURE OF LAMAS ONLINE? MINIMIZING THE RISK OF ONLINE LLAMA SALES



by Violet Racz



Let's face it! Women are genetically wired to shop. Whether it's for clothing, jewelry or yet, another pair of shoes, we have a burning desire to see what's out there and explore the latest trends! Well from a self proclaimed llama addict, the Internet has satisfied my desires to continuously search for and purchase llamas online. Being able to peruse through herds across the country undetected, for the latest desirable addition to my breeding program has become increasingly accessible and a viable way to purchase llamas. Much to my husband's dismay!

Online shopping reduces travel and information collection costs for the purchaser, and reduces the pressure of dealing with seller in person. There are several organizations that have been providing this service for years. This experience and staying power have created great places for a newbie Internet shopper to start. Jim White and Brian Edwards founded LLAMA SALES LIST on the internet back in 2003. Their user friendly format and emphasis on presenting some of the finest llamas available on the market have made purchasing off the internet a less risky

proposition. I purchased my first Internet llamas from his online venue in 2005. Most Llama associations also have a "Llamas for Sale" or "Market place" segment on their websites to allow members to show case their breeding programs. These are all good places to start your search allowing you to hook into a range of llama farms across the country and hopefully a farm near you.

Buying on the Internet is **risky** but the risk can be minimized if you do your homework! Internet shopping doesn't have to preclude the **ideal** situation which

Continued on page 18...

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...Continued from page 17

is to physically assess your prospect before the cheque is written. Personality, manageability, size, conformation and movement are difficult to assess from a series of photographs. A good photograph can cover shortcomings that are detectable in person providing you can be objective & not easily influenced by your emotions. With the rising costs of travel it can add thousands of dollars to the llama price tag, enough to make your prospect unaffordable. Only you can determine whether the risk of being disappointed outweighs the risk you're willing to take by purchasing without a hands-on assessment.

Where does a new llama lurker start?

You start by surfing the Internet lurking through countryside pastures and sooner than you expect, “Voilà !” you've spotted one! Hmm, a very interesting herdsire prospect and look a very flashy young female suitable for the show ring! I can always use another bred female with a new

bloodlines to add to my breeding program. Choices! There are a lot of amazing llamas available and after an extended search you learn to identify the characteristics that catch your eye. I find lists and writing down the strengths and weakness for each animal a helpful approach when faced with a broad range of options. Decide what you need and list your top choices.

The next step is access to **pedigree information**, which is obtainable through the ILR or CLAA {Canadian Llama & Alpaca Association} websites. You can extract a lot of valuable information from their sites and this is where you need to do your homework!! Look closely at your potential prospects lineage. Personally, I'm leery of Unknown x Unknown parentage too near the front of the pedigree. Three generations and DNA parent verified are the minimum requirements in my books.

Some registries require several generations of registered ancestors before the offspring can be registered as purebred

llamas. Make certain you know the requirements of your country's registry before compromising on the pedigree.

Personally, I can really get into researching bloodlines and the ILR is a fabulous tool for assessing genealogy, age of the llama, length of life of parents and ancestors, color patterns, prepotency of specific herdsires, production, etc. It's valuable information available for the price of a membership.

Owner Inquiry:

Most of us are more comfortable sending inquiries by email than picking up the phone to call a stranger. You can compose and re-edit your inquiry to ask your questions without being intimidated by a gruff masculine voice or someone with an intimidating reputation on the other end of the line. A few questions that I ask aside from the obvious include:

Is the particular llama of interest still available for sale? Or do they have



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a comparable animal with your list of criteria.

Request additional photographs including views from the back, front and both side. If possible with the handler visible as a reference for size.

Head shot. I like to see if the eyes are clear and not droopy. Long banana shaped ears and straight tails are a must.

Photos of sire and dam as those are the genetics you're purchasing.

Be objective when evaluating conformation, proportion, and straightness of legs as fibre hides a lot! Personally, I prefer photographs of un-groomed and shorn animals. I need to see a flat topline.

Farm and fertility guarantees offered with purchase.

Once you've initiated an email exchange you can sort out the logistics of price, payment schedule, transportation costs, pick-up and delivery dates and testing.

Be very clear in your communications and don't make assumptions about costs. Are the costs of obtaining a vet certificate for health and testing requirements included in the purchase price? If not, who is paying for what services?

I've been on the hunt for bred females with fresh bloodlines to add to my breeding program. I want to know their production record, number of times bred before caught, birthing difficulties, milk production of the specific animal and her dam. Also, what health issues does their farm and others deal with, relative to their geographic location? Living on the wet West Coast liver flukes can be a challenge so inquire about general herd health. It's up to you to initiate asking the questions and realize you will get a range of responses in return. **A hint:** If an owner is willing to be honest & divulge any health issues, chances are they are more trustworthy and knowledgeable about their animals. Vague or "Not that I know of" responses may indicate sellers who

do not know their herd or are concealing information. Push to see if they expect to avoid responsibility for any problems after the sale.

Before you've made your final decision, review your list to ensure you confident that your prospect meets your requirements. Issues you need to think about include: farm location and transportation costs and the feasibility of coordinating pick-up with a llama event. Health certificates, testing requirements for state travel and whether quarantine is required. As you proceed with the acquisition, obtain from the seller a bill of sale, a written farm guarantee, veterinarian examination and health certificate, signed registration papers, and most importantly the llama's health records. Also, it is always worthwhile to insure your llama while traveling and a minimum for the first year to protect your investment.

You've confirmed your purchase, sent

Continued on page 20...

the deposit and now you have to get them home. FED-X and UPS do not deliver llamas, so you need to contact a livestock transporter with experience hauling llamas. A good place to start is the **Hummin' & Thumbin'** section of this magazine online! Give them as much information as possible including a photograph or physical description of the llama you've purchased. Male or female, pregnant or cria by side and whether or not your yard is big enough for a truck and trailer to maneuver in.

The day finally arrives and the true test of your objective decision making gets off the trailer. Well, how did you do? Size and personality are usually my biggest surprises. Well, maybe he still has some growing to do and as for personality, with a little patience and trust you can bring out the best in the most cantankerous female you've met. Get them settled into their quarantine area and get acquainted. Or in my case, where can I hide them before my husband gets home!

The last thing you need to take care of is to acknowledge the safe arrival of your llama with the previous owners. You did good! Now go hang out with your new llama!

The Opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and not affiliated with her position as Vice-President of the CLAA.

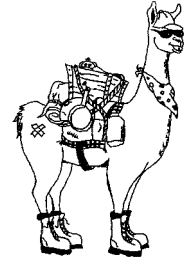
About the Author:

Violet Racz & her husband, Michael Burgess reside in Maple Ridge, BC with their 40+ llamas. They have been breeding, showing and packing with llamas since the conception of *Carpe Diem Llamas* in 1995. Their breeding goals *emphasize exquisite fibre on show champion frames*. Violet is also Vice-President of the Canadian Llama & Alpaca Association for a second term and very active in the llama community.

Violet is passionate about llamas and her daily mantra is: "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing (HUMM) it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

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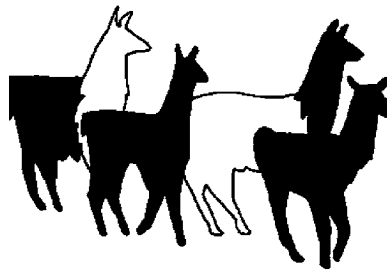
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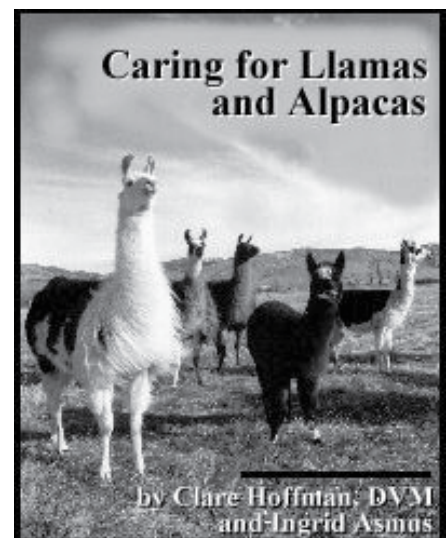
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- **April 3, 2009 The Grand Slam Llama Event '09 Friday April 3, 2009**
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or 405-476-0399. DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST GAME OF THE YEAR!!!!

- **April 3-5, 2009 - Spring Celebration Llama Sale, Heritage Place, Oklahoma City, OK.**

Tom & Nancy Simmons and Tim & Teresa Vincent have turned over the lead rope to Dan and Marilyn Milton after 20 years of putting on the Spring Celebration Llama Sale. 2009 will again see Shawn Norman's Grand Slam llama show on Friday, the preview and sale will be on Saturday and the World Futurity on Sunday. Look for some new and exciting additions to the weekend's events. It is time to look over your herd and select your best for the grand slam show, sale, futurity and herd sire row. Contact Dan or Marilyn Milton at dmmilton@charter.net or 541-899-8097 for more information on the 2009 Spring Celebration Llama Sale.

- **May 2-3, 2009 The 7th Annual Llamas And More Association** will be holding a double point show at the Churchill County Fairgrounds. This is a no groom show and this year we will be holding a Walking Fleece and Shorn Fleece single show. Judges: Wally Baker for the Gold Show, Nikki Kuklenski for the Silver Show and Maryan Baker for the Garnet Fleece Show. See website www.lamandmore.com or Les Flynn 775-424-1217 for entry forms.

- **June 20th, 2009 White Star Production Sale.**
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