



With the biology classes I am studying I feel I am gaining knowledge that will be useful in understanding llamas. Some classes I am taking are Anatomy & Physiology and Plant Biology. The anatomy class gives me an understanding of how the body and body systems work in animals. The plant biology class covers topics on characteristics of different plants and where they are found which will help me identify the different grasses and plants the llamas eat. I feel like the plant classes will not only help me in the landscape company, but to decide on which plants to grow on our land that will supply our llamas with the best nutrition possible. This is going to become a real factor in the future as different parts of the country are put on water restrictions. Drought tolerant plants will become the norm.

**As a young woman, Courtnee, entering the llama business what do you see as the important elements in the industry that will ensure sustainably and attract more young people to the llama world?**

I don't know how many times I have heard whether it be from observers at a show, parade, etc. – "Gross, llamas, they spit!" I've also been asked at a show if my llama was an emu! I think we need to find a way to educate the public on these wonderful animals. I see the alpaca advertisements on TV and people have referred to those commercials asking if the llamas are alpacas. At the local level, the llama shows need to be advertised. It seems like we are in a barn with no spectators because there are no signs pointing the public in our direction. Getting 4-H and FFA kids involved in the llama showing is a great start to ensuring the sustainability of the llama industry. A way to attract more young people may be going to local schools or county fairs to promote the llamas. A feed store near us has a livestock day twice a year where people can bring their animals to have hands on with the public. Parades are another good tool. People love to see the llamas up close and ask questions. We participated in a Christmas parade where we educated people on the "positive aspects" of llamas. It's always fun to bring home friends that have lived in the city their entire lives and let them be hands on with the llamas. We usually halter a few of the girls and take them on a walk. They really enjoy it and hopefully they are learning a little bit about the llamas at the same time. You never know down the road where this could lead.

Excerpt from Robin: *I am extremely proud of Courtnee's accomplishments. She carries a full college load and maintains an A/B average in addition to the huge amount of time she devotes to the llamas. I'm a lucky mom.*

# 2009 National Western Stock Show Llama & Alpaca Show

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*The paddocks of Monastic Fleece*

# *Interview with Fr. Abbot Ryan St. Anne, OSB of Monastic Fleece*

by Lynda Carothers

**Welcome to LamaLink.com and the Llama industry! Can you share a little bit about Monastic Fleece with our readers ?**

Thank-you and it is truly a pleasure to visit with LamaLink.com. Monastic Fleece is basically new to the Llama world – but at the same time – the industry is not new to us. As a Roman Catholic Monastic community of Monks and Nuns, we have always throughout history been “self-providers” and “farmers.”

Our Monastic community searched for a “venture” if you will, that would allow us to contribute in some manner of farming, an investment process, and at the same time, preserve our Monastic identity. We also took into consideration that whatever we decided to get involved in, the project had to be a mission in which everyone at the monastery could partake. In other words, the project had to be multi-

functional to involve all members of the Monastic community. The llamas provide that outlet: raising & selling llamas, processing their fleece (in which the Sisters spin, weave and knit) and the all important aspect for organic farmers ... Llama Beans (which the Monks sell).

**How did you choose to raise Miniature Llamas? Tell us about your herd.**

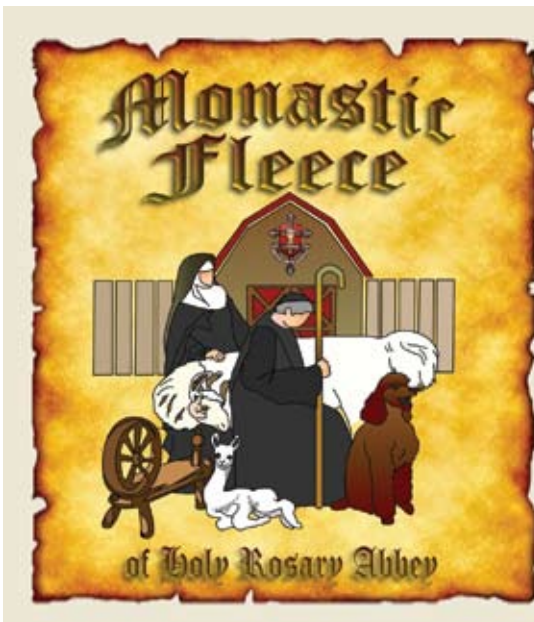
Being a Monastic community, we obviously resorted to our Monastic roots and asked for Divine Providence to intervene. I was actually searching the Internet for sheep when, as you know, one web-site leads you to another. I ended up opening a web-site and “SPLASH” ... right before my eyes was a little white Miniature Llama that was for sale. I could not look any further. This little girl just captured my heart. The problem was – she



*Checking out the new baby*

was 1500 miles away from the monastery – how would I even get her home?

After a couple of months of hoping and praying ... and everyone telling me that I was being somewhat ridiculous ... a Benefactor making a trailer available ... I made the trip to Virginia to pick up our little white “Josephina” and another bred female llama, named Rihanna. As I pulled into the driveway of The Fuzzy Farm I was met at the gate by Josephina and Rihanna ... just standing there as if to



Gentle creatures, lovingly raised by gentle souls.

## Miniature Llamas

We are humbled to share the joy and beauty of these lovely creatures.

### Blessings to All,,,

[www.MonasticFleece.com](http://www.MonasticFleece.com)  
Galesburg, IL  
[shepherds@monasticfleece.com](mailto:shepherds@monasticfleece.com)

[www.TheFuzzyFarm.com](http://www.TheFuzzyFarm.com)

Gloucester, VA

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say: “welcome.” Not wanting to exhibit my complete excitement and awe ... I got out of the truck trying to hold back the joy



Above: At six months of age, Josephina wins her second Grand Champion

Right: Josephina at the 2008 ALSA Nationals



Brother Francis—90 years old

that was pulsating my chest.

On the way home from that trip – I stopped at another Miniature Llama farm, The Very Little Llama Farm and purchased two more! I was hooked. There was no stopping me now. I then made a trip to Minnesota to Minnesota Mini’s – four more! I am now up to eight. And now ... just a few months later ... Monastic Fleece is the proud owner of twelve Miniature Llamas.

**After owning llamas for just a couple of months, you were showing at the ALSA Nationals. How was that experience?**

That is like asking “are you a proud father” (no pun intended) ... It was simply amazing. Here we have this magnificent 5 ½ month old little girl who has already proven herself as a Grand Champion ... what can one say? She gives of herself so freely to whatever the

situation. She has traveled from one end of the United States to the other in such a short period in her life ... and she still gives! That is what owning a llama is about. Josephina gives unconditionally the example of what we all should be doing – and she gives with unreserved trust and love.

**How have the llamas changed the lives of those living at Monastic Fleece?**

The Monastic’s went into this venture in the beginning purely as a financial investment and a way of support for the monastery. What it has turned out to be – is something that I never dreamed or imagined or expected! The llamas have

brought the entire community together in a way that no Abbot could ever do ... and they did it in such a short period of time.

One of our members (90+ years old) had not been outside in the back yard of the monastery in over four years. The Sisters brought the llama inside the monastery and was walking down the corridor when they ran into our Venerable Brother Francis (Mr. Frankie). I can’t explain or tell you what caught me first ... but I saw eyes that lit up like sunshine and a smile as wide as he was tall ... and there he was ... holding on to that little llama with such blissful joy ... giggling and clamoring all at the same time. He has now been outside in the paddocks ... fresh air ... a smile on his face ... and joy in his heart. No amount of money could ever replace that encounter.

Whether you are the youngest member of the monastery ... or the oldest ... everyone is a part of Monastic Fleece in some way or another ... all sharing the peace and the joy that these little creatures of God have brought into our hearts.

*Continued on page 16...*



Josephina & Rihanna

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# LLAMA FUTURITY ASSOCIATION

## Highlights from the 2008 Llama Futurity Association World Championship Show and Sale



High Selling Female  
**Lot 22 Overman Kameo & cria**  
*consigned by Doug & Kamala Overman of Overman Farm  
 purchased by Keith & Patti Wattigney of PK's Llamas*



High Selling Female  
**Lot 9 MSF Jewell's Noel**  
*consigned by Mark & Susan Smith of Mark Smith Farms  
 purchased by Lew & Jennifer McGinnis of Superior Farms*



High Selling Male  
**Lot 51 Hightower**  
*consigned by Lew & Jennifer McGinnis of Superior Farms  
 purchased by Barbara Reinecke of LaMara Spring Llamas*

## FUTURITY



Class #1 Amateur Males  
**DPDL Sundot**  
*Breezy Acre Llamas/Angela Rumbaugh*



Class #2 Amateur Females  
**Wild Ridge Unchained Harmony**  
*Wild Ridge Llamas/Kristy Murdock*



Class #NB1 Non Breeder  
**RLL Arbolado**  
*Sugar River Llamas/Ali Soukup*



Class #S1 Males  
**Perfection's Ducler**  
*Perfection Llamas/Deone Townsend*



Class #S2 Females  
**Heylee**  
*Wild Oak Llamas/Mary Adams*



Class #S3 Males  
**KHL Casino's Royale**  
*Baker & Company Llamas/Barb Baker*



Class #S4 Females  
**Star Queen Pristine**  
*Hard Rock Llama Co/Mike Gerken*



Class #1 Males  
**GNLC Full Tilt**  
*Wilkins Livestock/Westerham Farm*

# Mark your calendars - The 2009 LFA World Championship Show & Sale September 18-20, 2009 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## Futurity Results Continued



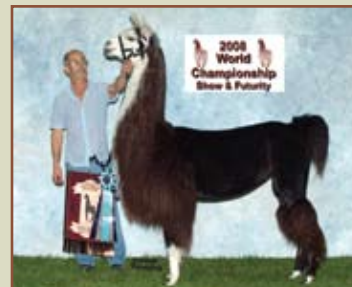
Class #2 Females  
**Tijara**  
Hid-N Hills Ranch/Pam Jensen



Grand Champion Suri Female  
**CTW Starlite**  
Catawissa Llamas / Larry Kisner



Grand Champion Suri Male  
**Hidalgo**  
Tai' Chi Llamas / Cheryl & Holly Russell



Grand Champion Light/Medium Wool Female  
**Tootsie SSRMT**  
Northwind Farm / Robert LaMorte



Class #3 Males  
**LUA Wyoming Status**  
Lash's Unique Animals/Tami Lash



Grand Champion Light/Medium Wool Male  
**ALCL All Jacked Up**  
Log Cabin Llamas / Debbie & Ulin Andrews



Grand Champion Heavy Wool Female  
**WLK La Tida**  
PK's Llamas / Keith & Patti Wattigney & Marcelo Sanchez



Grand Champion Heavy Wool Male  
**Starrmaker**  
Rain Dance Ranch / Ken & Celia Austin



Class #4 Females  
**MHF Sirius Style**  
Margaret Fowler



Grand Champion Non-Breeder  
**MBL Radar**  
Rishel Llamas / Patricia Rishel



Champion Get of Sire  
**BAL Renegade**  
Carolllama Farms / Carol Ann Tallmon



Produce of Dam  
**Mareecha**  
Maplewood II / Cassie Miller

Photos courtesy of Vantage Images

**January is Membership Renewal Month!**  
Renew online at [www.thelfa.org](http://www.thelfa.org)