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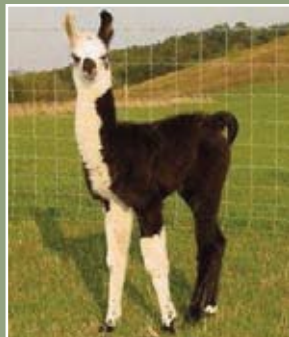
JUNE 2009

Interview with
Lynda
Carothers

Argentine
Excitement

Argentine
Llama Fiber

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ARGENTINE
LLAMA
AFICIONADOS



On-Line Sale

June 5-7, 2009

www.argentinellamas.org

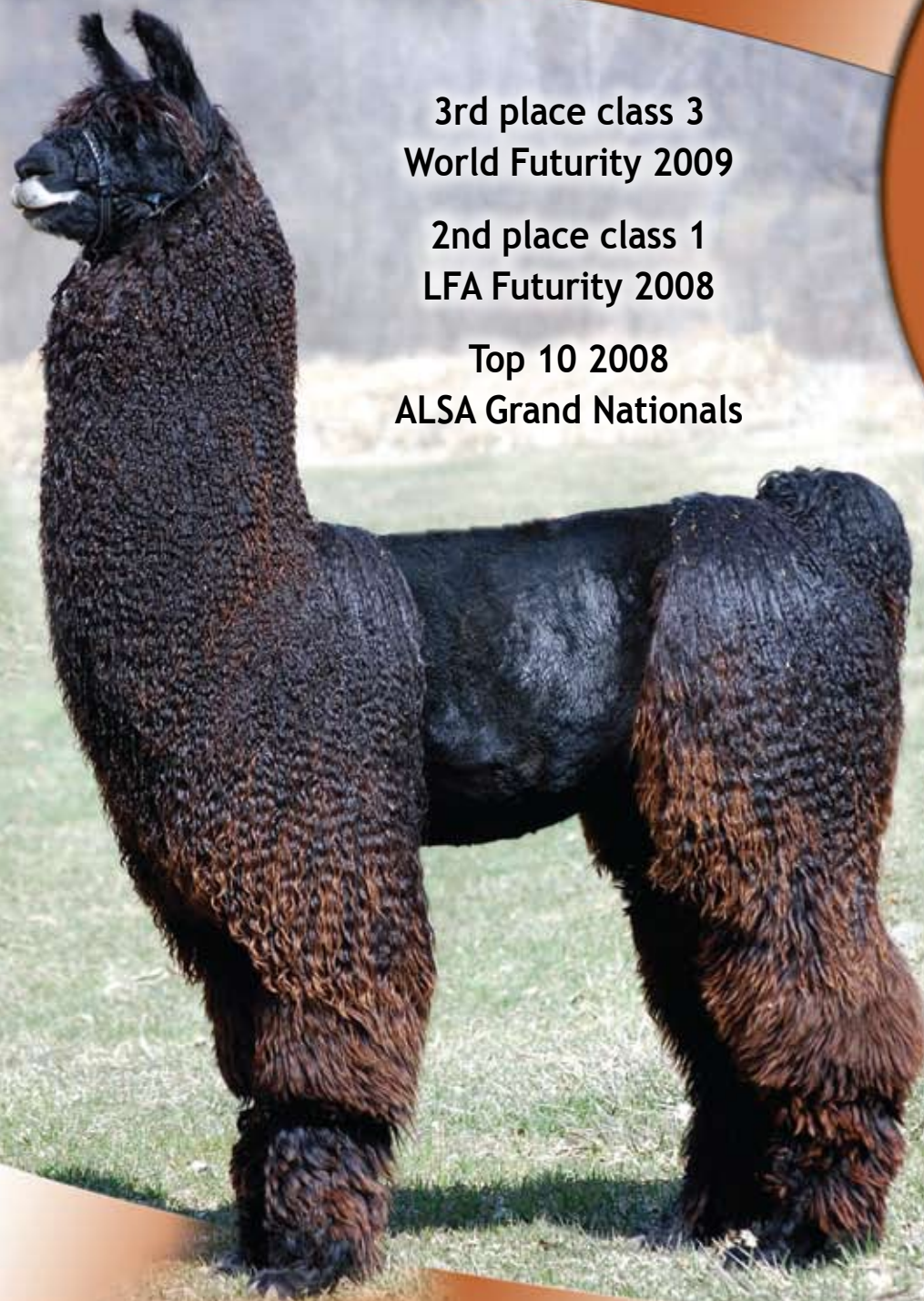
Argentine Marcel (ET)

Argentine Kobra x Argentine Pampita (ET)

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World Futurity 2009

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What makes an Argentine? It is simply the country of origin. The full Argentine llama has its' entire genealogy traceable back to Argentina. Only full Argentine llamas can have the word "Argentine" as the first word in their name.

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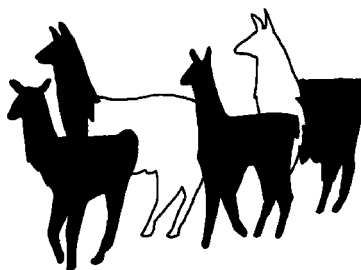
That Argentine look; the short, triangular face, the stovepipe legs, the fiber on the face, the fiber on the legs, the fiber over the toes, the fiber, the fiber....But what does that really mean from a fiber viewpoint?

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2009 Hard Rock Gold Rush Sale

has been postponed until June 2010



We strongly believe that the farm auction format is one that is fun and important to the llama industry. We have every intention and look forward to hosting the sale next year around the same time. It is our sincere hope that by delaying this year's sale, and beginning the promotion of next year's sale early, we can more thoroughly prepare for the kind of event the llama industry has come to expect from us. Mark this event on your calendar for 2010 and get ready for the farm sale to remember!

Please feel free to call or email with any suggestions or questions about next year's event. We hope to make it a very fun event with lots of top quality animals to choose from.

In the mean time, while the sale is canceled, the consignments can be viewed on the Auction Preview portion of our website.

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June 5-7, 2009

www.arginellamas.org

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You will be able to sign up to bid beginning May 1st, just go to the ALA website. All bids will be by email or phone and bidders will receive a bidding number. The ALA auction team will be there to answer any of your questions. For more information on the sale please be sure to visit our website at www.arginellamas.org.

ALA presents a preview of llamas consigned to the sale. To view all of the llamas in the sale please visit www.arginellamas.org starting May 1st.



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Carother's Country Farm, MN



Roana - 3 in 1
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Presenting a selection of llamas offered in the sale; to view them all,
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Pine Haven Llamas, WI



MGF Argentine Toquarita
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MGF La Di Da
3/4 Argentine maiden female
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Sarmiento's Aurora
3/4 Argentine female to be bred
in May; TuckerWood Farms, CT



Argentine Truco
Full Argentine proven herd sire
TuckerWoods Farm, CT



Argentine Bailero (ET)
Full Argentine male - unproven
Taylor Llamas, MT



Kobra's Kahlua & Crème
1/2 Argentine Kobra Daughter
Homespun Hideaway
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PFO Kokopelli Smoke
1/2 Argentine male - unproven
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PFO Paiute Smoke
1/2 Argentine male - unproven
Fallen Oak Llamas, CA



Argentine Senorita Tren
Full Argentine open female
Hacienda El Sueno, WI



Argentine Pistola
Full Argentine bred female
Hacienda El Sueno, WI



Quinton Argentino
1/2 Argentine male
Lone Star Llamas, OK/TX



Lautaro Argentino
1/2 Argentine male
Lone Star Llamas, OK/TX



Lynda with Argentine Sarmiento

Lynda, you are an icon in the Argentine Llama community so it is an honor to interview you. Let's start out with some simple standard questions and expand from there.

How long have you owned llamas?

I purchased my first llamas in fall of 1989. It is a day I will always remember. There was a 3 in 1 package, a 2 year old "friendly" male and a young female. I sure learned a lot from that day on! At the time I raised Arabian horses. But these llamas truly stole my heart. This year marks 20 years!

How long have you had Argentines? and why did you decide to focus your program on them?

I purchased my first Argentine's on the on-line auction that Paul and Sally Taylor had. The llamas at that time were in Chile and had to be imported. I have always loved fiber and the look of these llamas really intrigued me. That was in 2001. Once I saw them in person, that was it. I was in love with them. They were unlike any llama I had ever had before, gentle, kind, large bone, tons of fiber



Carothers Country Farm Located in SE Minnesota

Interview with

Lynda Carothers

of Carothers Country Farm

by Laura Harrawood

and a robust build, big eyes and beautiful heads. I never looked back since then. I use to buy any pretty llama, now I am really focused. It is the best thing I ever did! Once I had my focus, the rest came easy. I can't stop talking about the Argentines. They truly have become my passion, my life.

How big is your herd?

Currently I have 62 full Argentines and 10 part Argentines, and 2 non-Argentines. I have 24 cria due this year.

Tell me about your first Argentine?

The first Argentine that I purchased was Argentine Sarmiento. He was on the on-line auction and on the import in 2001. When he stepped off the trailer, I couldn't believe my eyes! He was absolutely amazing and not even two years old. I don't think I slept for days. He was one of the most exotic Argentines in the import.

Do you have a favorite llama and why is that one your favorite?

I have a couple of females that I just adore. The first is an import, Argentine Naranja. She is one of the sweetest girls in my herd. And she is absolutely one of the top exotic Argentine females in the US today. She has all the qualities that we look for in producing Argentines. She has big feet, huge bone, extreme fiber coverage,

triangular head and great ears. She has been spoiled just a little! We have a special bond. The other favorite is Argentine Chocolat (ET). She is extreme Argentine and out produces herself every time. She is quite the character and is so fun to be around. Just watching her makes you smile. I could go on and on...I really love them all!

Why do you think it took so long for Argentines to come into their own on the llama scene?

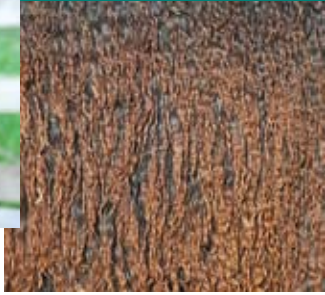
First of all, there really aren't that many Argentines in the US. Only about 80 were imported. And many of those were used to add the look to the llamas already here. Today there are about 350 pure Argentines. It isn't like adding suri fiber...that can be done quite quickly, but this is a country of origin and you can only produce as many as adult females there are. It just takes a lot longer. It is really within the last 3-4 years that they have been marketed and shown. In 2004, the Argentine Llama Aficionados (ALA) was started. A group of Argentine owners that got together to promote the Argentine llama. They have an online



Argentine Poltergeist (ET) 2008 Grand National Reserve Champion Heavy Wool Male



*Left: Argentine Marcel (ET)
Below: Argentine Fiber
from Argentine Marcel*



directory of most of the Argentine llamas in the US today. The Argentine definitely has a look of their own. Now we see ads promoting them, they are present at many shows, and they are catching the eye of many llama breeders. I am seeing more people interested in adding an Argentine to their herd. This past year we sold every Argentine we had for sale. I have even started a pre-purchase program. You can pick a cria before it is born and buy it. I have even had some special orders where customers have picked the sire and dam and have pre-purchased that off spring. I get calls and emails asking advice on breeding goals and bloodlines for the Argentines. It is really something I just love. And I love to talk Argentines.

What is your biggest regret in your Argentine llama business history?

My biggest regret is that I didn't have more money to buy more of the Argentines in the original import! Several very nice llamas were left behind. I would have loved to have imported all of them.

What is the best thing that has happened to you in the llama business?

That is easy! Definitely buying the Argentines! I now really have a focus and that has helped me tremendously. I only buy full Argentines of excellent quality. I look carefully at bloodlines and conformation. That has allowed us to have some showing winners and help get the Argentines even noticed more. That recognition was quite a journey for me. I am very thankful to have Natalie Langowski help me in the show ring! I couldn't have done that without her help.

Do you know when a llama is born if it is show quality? If not then at what age do you know?

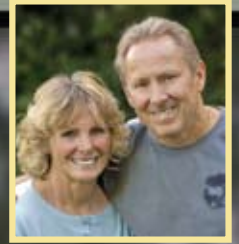
I think if you have an awesome baby born you can tell. But most the time you just have to wait and see. The Argentines seem to grow a little slower. So often at a young age they are smaller than the average llama. But between 2 and 3 they really come into their own. It is really at 6 months or so that you can really see the fiber coverage and conformation. I have had Argentines continue to grow in height until they were 4 or 5. I don't think they are really different than any other llama.

Argentines have several specific characteristics that make them uniquely Argentine. If you had to pick just one characteristic to be the most important which one would it be?

Continued on page 10...

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Left: Argentine Chocolat (ET)

Right: Argentine Richarius Valentino Arg Tico x Arg Valentina 2 weeks



Right: 6 Month old Argentine



...Continued from page 9

It would be the fiber! All that dense fine fiber and outrageous coverage, from the tips of the ears to the bottom of their toes. You do see all different types of fiber from silky, almost suri, to dense lofty and crimped fiber. But when you can get five pounds or more of beautiful fiber from one shearing, you are indeed in heaven! You do find Argentines in all colors, but predominately it is the rich reds. Those are my favorite!

Can you briefly talk about your goals?

My main goal is to preserve the Argentine in the US. I focus mainly on raising pure Argentines. I want to continue to produce the best Argentine llamas that I can. Not only putting together good conformation, but all the Argentine traits on top of that. Argentines can add wonderful qualities when crossed with other llamas and I think that great too. But my goal is to keep the pure Argentines pure. I want to produce the ideal Argentine llama... fine dense fiber with extreme coverage, robust build with heavy bone, the beautiful triangular head with the big beautiful eyes, and the oh so sweet disposition plus the correct conformation. I have also worked hard at getting a good variety of bloodlines. This has become so important as the breed continues to develop here in the US.

Have you ever been to Argentina? Do you have any plans to go?

No, I haven't been to Argentina, not even South America. I would love to go!

Do you have anyone that you would consider your mentor?

I can't just pick one person. There have been so many people that have helped me in my journey with llamas. I have learned

so much from so many people. I am so grateful to so many. The internet has let me meet many people that I never would have met before.

What would be your best advice for new buyers?

Put together a list of goals. Raise a type of llama that you truly love. Don't do it for money, but because it is what you have a passion for. Everything will fall into place!

What motivates you?

The llamas. They give me so much every day. I love to spend time with them. I use to work full time off the farm and I couldn't wait to get home to spend time relaxing, just watching them. Today, they are my full time job. I couldn't have it any better.

What is the thing that you are most proud of?

In 2008, we showed and promoted, Argentine Poltergeist (ET). He won Grand Champion almost every time we showed him. And at the ALSA Grand Nationals he was Reserve Grand Champion Heavy Wool male. That was a dream come true for me. He is a super male and such a gentleman. But to get the recognition in the show ring was so great.

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The Beginning Of The Argentine Llama In The States

by Seth Onsager

In 1989 the Von Baer's created the very first llama ranch on about 60 acres just east of Temuco, Chile. The ranch known as "Llamas del Sur," reminding the Von Baer's the time before the Spaniards invaded Chile, was dedicated to the finest breeding stock in Chile and organized genetic selection of llamas. In 1999 Llamas del Sur complemented the ranch with alpacas, and in 2003 the very first guanacos were added totaling the herd to about 280 llamas, 80 alpacas, and 15 guanacos.

Llamas del Sur's team includes the five family members (three veterinarians, a graphic designer and a publicist) and three qualified helpers. The highest level of motivation and compromise of each individual has been the determinant factor in the technical, genetic, and economical progress reached at Llamas del Sur. This way, "Llamas del Sur" has three of the four South American Camelids species, which makes them very happy and proud.

Llamas del Sur will be soon celebrating their 20th anniversary in the camelid industry. The main objective for the past 20 years is to "Become the Worlds Widest and Best Gene Pool." To do this they have had to be focused on specific

criteria and hold the entire herd to the highest standards in genetic selection, conformation, fiber quality, and beautiful animals. They also focus on criteria given by the international markets; especially the U.S. Their gene pool has been reinforced by introducing different genetic types of llamas from various areas of the Chilean Altiplano and Argentina.

The Von Baer's have successfully managed two importations of breeding animals of the "Argentine phenotype", characterized by a wide fiber coverage and fineness, solid colors, and stronger/bigger legs. 30 pure Argentine llamas were imported in 1996 from Argentina and another 20 were imported in 1997. In 2001 the USDA gave permission to Paul and Sally Taylor to import the original Argentine llamas and an online auction would soon begin. There was 15 Argentine males and 31 Argentine females that sold to numerous buyers in the United States. From the original group of pure Argentine llamas the Von Baer's still have five breeding females: Arica, Kobra's dam; Leufu, Nikita, Pellu, and Changa. In recent years they have had some wonderful offspring from the five females, some pure Argentine and some mixed with Chilean animals.



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co-owned with Natalie Langowski

Argentine Excitement in the Air!

by Lynda Carothers



*Argentine Poltergeist (ET) 2008 Grand National
Reserve Champion Heavy Wool Male*

“Did you see that llama? Oh my, what a beautiful animal! I have not ever seen such an exotic llama!” Yes, there is excitement in the air! We just got back from the Celebration Sale in Oklahoma City and what a great experience we had. We were fortunate to have some magnificent Argentine llamas represented there in the shows. We had taken two full Argentines to show in the World Futurity and had nothing but wonderful comments on both. There were also several more awesome full Argentines there, plus some really great part Argentines. And there was excitement in the voices of those talking to us about them.

The Argentine llama is quite rare here in the United States. With approximately 350 full Argentines here, they truly are a hard to find gem in the llama world. They were first imported by Taylor Llamas in the late 1990's. The final import was in 2001. The total of all imports brought in about 90 full Argentine llamas. Those llamas and their offspring have since been gracing the pastures of some very fortunate llama breeders here in the United States.

What makes an Argentine? It is simply the country of origin. The full Argentine llama has its' entire genealogy traceable back to Argentina. Only full Argentine llamas can have the word “Argentine” as the first word in their name. Not all have this, but many do. Part Argentines, are just that. They have a portion of their lineage traceable to Argentina. It could be 1/4 or 15/16, they are still referred to as part Argentines. Rebano Escondido (RE) llamas come from Chile and are not Argentine. They are often referred to as Chilean llama of the Argentine type. With an increased interest in the Argentine llama, we are often seeing people referring to their llamas as Argentine type. Be sure to study the background of any llama you are purchasing. Just because people say they have an Argentine llama, does not necessarily mean that. We see this happen when talking to people, in auctions and on websites. Check out the llama's lineage.

Continued on page 16...

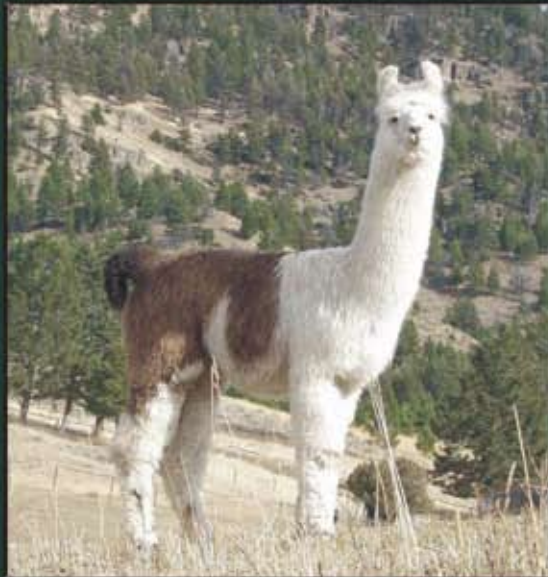


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LLAMA DREAMS

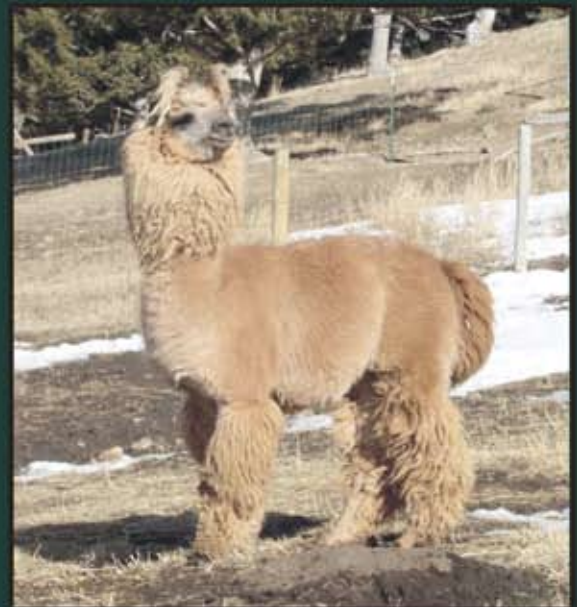
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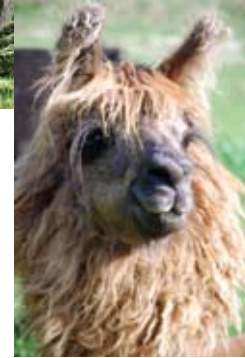
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Above:
Argentine
Zapata



Above: Argentine
Naranja



Left: Argentine
Nadalina

...Continued
from page 14

The Argentine llama has a dense fine fleece. We often have shearing weights of five pounds and up. The fleeces can be crimpy or silky, but most often have loft to them. We see locked fiber too. We have seen fleeces so dense that vegetable debris can hardly get through. And the fiber coverage is extreme. Most often their fleece covers their toes all the way up to the tips of their ears. Most Argentines are completely sheared here, only leaving a ruff around their neck and their leg wool on. With the dense fiber this is about the only way you can keep them cool in the hot summer months. Their body shape is robust. They have a great spring of rib and heavy leg bone to support their bodies. The Argentine llama has a shorter triangular head, with big eyes. They are quite intelligent and have sweet dispositions. One can't help but fall in love with them.

Yes, the Argentines are winning in the showing and fleece contests. And yes, their exotic look is catching the eye of many llama breeders. The Argentine llama is causing quite a stir in today's llama world. The Argentine Llama Aficionados (ALA) is busy planning their first on-line auction of guaranteed full and part Argentines to be held on June 5th through the 7th this year. The sale will feature ALA member llamas from all over the country. Be sure to check it out at www.ArgentineLlamas.org!

The ALA is continuing to grow. Members receive a semi-annual newsletter with news about the Argentine llama. Pictures of show wins and new cria arrivals are featured, along with member profiles. This year the group has worked on putting together a show standard for halter classes featuring full and part Argentine llamas. The first show to feature the new classes will be the Lama Market show being held in Wisconsin this June. There will be Argentine owners traveling across country to take part in this show. We also have members, now marketing Argentine fiber products. Be sure to check out the ALA website for a list of members who would be happy to give you more information on Argentine llamas. You will find members who specialize in producing full Argentines to those who find adding the Argentine ingredient to their llamas is exactly what they want to breed for. If you are looking for something different, you may want to consider checking out the Argentines. It is indeed an exciting time for Argentine owners!



What Can You Do With An Argentine? Or Accidentally Argentine

by Laura Harrawood

When you've had llamas for even a short while and get in on a couple of public appearances you start to know the natural progression of typical llama questions.

Q #1. Is that a llama or an alpaca?

A #1. Hopefully no one needs help with this one? Right?

Q #2. Do they spit?

A #2. My answer is.... Yep, they do but usually it's because you've done something to deserve it.

Q #3. What do you do with a llama?

A #3 My answer is... The same thing you do with a dog, a cat, or a horse... feed them, water them, clean up their poop and love them. Oh Oh—that sounds

like a pet!! So I guess my llamas are pets. The final question, though, why an Argentine, is a little bit harder to answer until you've actually seen one. Until you've seen an Argentine up close and personal you may not "get it". You can't describe the taste of pickles to someone who has never tasted one but once you eat a pickle you know what they taste like. Argentines are outstanding and impressive. It is easy to admire and appreciate beauty, conformation strength and quality.

Having raised *mini* llamas for 5 years, I **accidentally** bought an Argentine that was small. He is 7/8 Argentine and was a happy accident for me. I wasn't looking for

an Argentine but once I got one I suddenly needed more. Who knew. An Argentine, a mini and an appy. No deliberation, no ciphering.... he's my new herdsire.

I then got another 1/2 Argentine female who is a tough llama but aloof and cautious. She's got a left rear hook that is lightning fast and as quick as a mouse trap. But boy howdy she has the most beautiful babies... so there she is in my field being a symbol of history and noble caution in an experienced mother whom I respect. Dot and I have an understanding and it is working out well for us.

So not all Argentines are created equal. Some excel in bone, some in fiber,

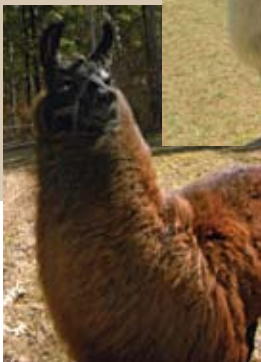
Continued on page 18...

Bid on Us at the ALA Online Auction June 5-7

Right
PH LuCinda
1/2 Argentine
yearling (F)



Below
PH Priscilla Pearl
1/2 Argentine (F)



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...Continued from page 17

some in facial structure, personality or conformation. Some Argentines have it all. My *other* 1/2 Argentine named "Puppy" does not excel in every single typey Argentine trait, but I can get her bred and change her babies. I named her Puppy because I think she looks like a giant golden Retriever Puppy. She is 1/2 Argentine and 1/2 something else. She looks a lot more Argentine to me than the "something else", though. Puppy is a llama of course but is so sophisticated and civilized that she appears to have been schooled by mystic noblewomen.

PACKING WITH ARGENTINES

Experts who pack have their ideas of perfect pack llamas. They look at legs, back, conformation and gait. They like fiber with guard hair and not too heavy of fiber on the legs. One thing they will tell you, though, that one of the most important attributes is attitude. When the perfect llama does come around... keep 'em. Puppy is a pleasure to walk with and *she carries my stuff !!*. She actually enjoys the walk, looks happy and alert and interested, not fearful and worried. It wasn't hard to get her used to wearing the pack or walking with it. Some llamas really struggle with pack training and it is sort of like trying to push water up a tree. I've seen a lot of Disney movies in my life and I still have some magical thinking that you can always tame an unruly animal. Reality is that some llamas are just a little short on people skills. Then

again, some times people are a little short on *llama* skills too. Every llama can not be every thing, all ways.

When we hike, Puppy keeps pace with my pace, runs when I run which I'm pretty sure she thinks is funny. I mean.... I never did run gracefully and that skill hasn't improved with age. Puppy should have to walk first once in awhile so I could laugh at her. I make her jump over stuff which I'm sure she thinks is stupid. She does it without question like I am so simple minded that I don't know the easiest way around a fallen tree. She sometimes will try to walk around a log but I make her jump over it and she does it. I can put my hands over her eyes for no good reason at all and she lets me. She doesn't mind leaving her buddies to take a walk with me.... *she likes me*.

ARGENTINE FIBER

The typical (typey) Argentine fiber is as good as it gets.... kind of like a hot breakfast when you're on vacation. Many of the Argentines produce a variation of brown fiber. They do come in all colors, though, from black to white and all manner of multi-colors too. As a hand spinner and fiber addict I love a true black fiber that can be shorn, spun, knitted and worn without ever having to worry about the item bleeding out dye on to something else. This true black color will never bleed and will probably wear out long before it fades. Other true colors stand on their own merit or can be over-dyed. I love

all the possibilities of over-dying. Even dark browns can be over-dyed to make a whole new spectrum of colors. One of my favorite dye techniques is rainbow dyeing. It is a process where you dye a fiber with 3 primary colors in the same pot. The primary colors stay primary but then migrate into each other as well to make a variety of other colors in the same pot. I love to rainbow dye natural colored fiber because if you miss a spot it doesn't matter. The natural color (red, brown, gray) shows through and makes it even more interesting. Typical Argentine fiber is soft and has a fine hand to it. It is abundant so you get a lot more bang for your buck on the back of an Argentine. It is fine as well. More fiber per square inch makes a finer fiber.

ARGENTINE PERSONALITY

I added Argentines to my herd only a year and a half ago, which is certainly not enough time for me to be an expert but I report what I see. I see a calm and sensible personality in most Argentines. When visitors come to our barn and see the llamas they are immediately drawn to my Argentines. When my reluctant partner (my husband, Tom) met my first Argentine, he finally got semi-excited about the llama business.

My llamas are pets.... . Pets with a purpose, a job and a value added bonus of fiber. Many cats, dogs or horses, don't offer even 1/2 of all that.



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Argentine Llama Fiber— From a Self-Proclaimed Fiber Junkie's Viewpoint

by Kelly Radding of TuckerWoods Farm, CT



*Argentine Just Perfect April 09.
Fleece regrowth almost even with leg
and upper neck wool. Will most
likely be even by the time sheared.*

That Argentine look; the short, triangular face, the stovepipe legs, the fiber on the face, the fiber on the legs, the fiber over the toes, the fiber, the fiber.

Oh that glorious fiber! Our Argentines are known for their fine, dense fiber coverage and staple length. But what does that really mean from a fiber viewpoint?

It means that our Argentines produce a luxury fiber whose hand and style is consistent over a large percentage of their body. That translates into a better yield of fiber per animal. Average clips can be 3lbs of barrel wool to upwards of 7lbs or more of usable fleece - more

than double the typical yield of a non-Argentine llama. Average staple length growth per year can be up to 6" . We have a half argentine male that grows an 6" to 8" staple each year. Argentines are also known for the fineness of their fiber. There has been Argentine fiber with recorded micron counts between 18 and 21.

What can we do with all that fiber?

YARN & ROVING

Make yarn, of course! Or at the very least, make roving so that handspinners can make yarn. Handspinners are

Continued on page 20...





Salsera



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RE Zepher

Salsera, our Halter Champion, placed 6th in the heavy wool class at the 2006 ALSA Grand Nationals. She is correct and perfectly balanced with the typical Argentine fiber and density. RE Zepher, is a unique color with magnificent fiber and the typical bone. Both animals have all the typical Argentine qualities with added superb conformation and great balance. Salsera is bred to Zepher for a fall 2009 cria. Contact me about our in utero program for this girl in particular. The structure on both the dam and sire is superb so just think of that offspring. It will be easy to fill mom's shoes in the showing so do not miss out on this gem. Paul Taylor said of Salsera, "she is exactly what we have been striving for." We only have two Argentines; but we do have two of the best to bring you their best.

PH Boy Oh Boy

Part Argentine • Herdsire
ILR #266772 • Sire: Arg. Felix X My Susie Q
Breeding fee: \$1000.00

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...Continued from page 19

beginning to take notice of llama as a luxury fiber. Our wonderful soft, dense, fine-fibered Argentine fleeces can and do rival a lot of alpaca for softness of hand. I have had many people handle our argentine llama roving and guess that it is alpaca. Handspinners are beginning to take notice that llama breeders are breeding for fiber in addition to conformation and disposition, and that the fiber they are producing is exceptional. Handspinners are beginning to seek out llama fiber to spin; the old myth in the spinning world that llamas are only good as pack or guard animals is fast unraveling. Our Argentines are poised to take the handspinning world by the 'proverbial' tail!

ENTER FLEECE SHOWS

Our Argentines are consistently winning and placing high in both ALSA sanctioned and non ALSA fleece shows; once entered, our argentine fleeces



*Skirting table with fleece on it.
Not Argentine, but our mini Tick Tock
who won Best In Show Single Coat
at the 2006 Nationals*

routinely come home with ribbons, and many times take top honors. An interesting fleece show for our llamas is known as a Spin- Off. This is where the animal's fleece is judged for fleece quality according to the show's rules but it is also judged from a handspinning point-of-view. The entry is a 2 oz sample from which a small sample is hand-carded and spun and then judged.



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209 Virginia Classic Spin-Off entry samples (for what it's worth, the sample on the left: Half Argentine Sarmiento's Joya won first and High Score Spinner's Fleece and the sample on the right, full Argentine, TWF Argentine Isobel won first and High Score Fleece.) I thought it more educational to show how it is done instead of ribbons.

Check us out online at the
ALA Online Auction
June 5-7



Left
Argentine Jupiter
 Proven Full
 Argentine Herdsire

Below
PH Master/Card
 3/4 Argentine
 Future Herdsire



Full/Part Argentines



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More shows are adding Walking Fleece classes. I encourage all Argentine owners to enter their animals if feasible. It is a valuable learning experience that can only enhance one's knowledge of how to use your llama's fiber to its fullest advantage and to aid in future breeding decisions based on fiber in addition to other factors.

There are steps that need to be taken to ensure that you yield the best quality yarn, roving and winning show fleeces. Before shearing, every llama gets as much dirt and debris blown off their coat as possible. I usually choose who will be my show fleeces at this point. I don't brush out show fleeces as that will destroy the lock formation. Also care should be taken when blowing that you don't change the integrity of the lock formation. I don't as a general rule shampoo and wash the llamas, as that would triple the time I need for shearing. I shear the barrel/prime area first and bag separately. I then shear the shoulders,

Continued on page 22...

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...Continued from page 21

neck, and hindquarters and bag as seconds. I toss anything that I deem not useable, ie, belly, leg and matted wool. Our llamas all get Argentine cuts unless they are showing; neck wool should be harvested every year; it is too valuable a source of wool to leave on the animal to mat and then become throw-away. Although there is a use for the long-stapled first clips of neck wool (or for that matter, long-stapled barrel wool) can be spun into a single lopi style yarn, where the long staple is a plus for the strength and integrity of the yarn. It is also important the staple length be relatively the same throughout the fleece you are processing; something that is next to impossible with the length our argentes can grow on their necks in a two year period. It is also important to shear as much wool as possible so that the llamas will be as comfortable as possible throughout the summer heat and humidity.

All fiber should then be skirted. I lay out the fleece on a screened skirting table and start picking. Fleeces chosen to be show fleeces need to stay as intact as possible, meaning it should look as much like it just came off the animal as possible. At this point, I skirt and toss any part of the fleece that is inconsistent to the whole in handle or length. If the fleece is going to make roving or yarn, you can pull the fleece apart to pick vm (vegetable matter) out. I shake the screen to rid the fleece of dust, dirt and some debris. The rest needs to be picked out by hand. The rule of thumb is that the cleaner your fleece is before processing, the more superior the end product.

Even though I split my shearing into prime and seconds and skirt them separately, I tend to combine them once skirted as I find most of the time there is no major difference in the style, integrity and hand between the barrel and the rest of the harvested wool.

TO THE PROCESSOR

I have all my llama fiber, including the Argentine fiber, de-haired with the exception of fiber that is being made into lopi-style singles yarn, as that type of yarn needs the length of the guard hair to maintain integrity with only a little bit of twist, making a strong, soft yarn. I believe that de-hairing our fiber makes for an exceptionally superior roving and yarn. Even though some of our fleeces are considered single coated, there is always guard hair, however fine, and the end product benefits from the de-hairing process.

The next choice is whether or not to blend with other fibers. Llama fiber creates a very drapery yarn that is beautifully suited for items that benefit from drape such as shawls and scarves. If you require your yarn to have memory so that items such as sweaters don't grow beyond their original shape, you need to add some wool. 10% of a fine wool such as merino adds the required memory

without changing the hand of the fiber all that much. A 50%/50% blend is also a very nice yarn. Llama lends itself to most any weight of yarn, but keep in mind that it is a very warm fiber and if you are going to create a heavier yarn, a blend such as 60% llama /40% wool would be advisable.

We all love the natural fiber colors and everyone has their favorites, mine happen to be chocolate brown and gray, but llama fiber takes dyes very nicely. Of course white is the preferred color for dyeing, but some beautiful effects can be achieved by over-dyeing the natural colors for some gorgeous heather yarns.

MARKETING ARGENTINE LLAMA YARN

Be creative; attend farmer's markets and fiber festivals to sell your own product, or approach your local yarn shops; most of them are more than happy to support local fiber producers.

Our Argentine llamas are the whole package; mellow, friendly temperaments, robust, stocky builds and fiber, fiber, fiber. Not all llamas can have show-ring pizzazz, but even the llama with the not-so-level topline or the slightly crooked front leg can have award-winning fleece, and I would take that llama over the show llama with so-so fleece any day!

Monastic Fleece Proudly Presents:
... His Majesty ...
Argentine Gustavo



Argentine Gustavo:
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Spring has Sprung...

2009 Spring Celebration Sale and Futurity



by Natalie Langowski,
Photos by Dar Wassink

Every year we all look forward to the start of the show season, the time of year to take a look at those fall crias and decide on the show string for the season. The time of year to get all the llamas cleaned up and go to Oklahoma City! This year marked another great year in Oklahoma for all; it was a time to reminisce with old friends, see what competition is out there, and maybe get your hand up in the air to buy that great addition to your herd. Every year we all look forward to the Spring Celebration and this year the weekend went down with a bang, here are some of the highlights.

This year marked the 21st annual Spring Celebration Sale and Futurity with a new

twist, Dan and Marilyn Milton have taken on the role of being in charge and they did a great job. The weekend was full of fun surprises that kept the weekend interesting. One of the new twists was the “People’s Choice Award,” which was sponsored by Bob and Monte Houseman, that went to six lots in the sale. They were:

Lot 9 – East Fork Black Beauty
(owned by Heather Bamford & Neil Josselyn)

Lot 16 – GNLC Cornerstone
(owned by Steve & Sue Rolfing)

Lot 33 – M.R.S. Heavenly Rose
(owned by Dan & Marilyn Milton)

Lot 53 – HOLR Angels’ Surina
(owned by Wil & Sherri Tallmon)

Lot 55 – Pallar
(owned by Randy & Dianne Sanders)

Lot 68 – WRLF Cookies N Crème
(owned by Jerry & Carolyn Ayers)

With the “People’s Choice Award” the buyers took home a ribbon and a dinner for two with a chance to win \$500 in a drawing. This year the \$500 went to Tom and Barb Parson. It was a big hit!

This year the high selling female (\$16,000) was lot # 69, M.R.S. SWEET MELODY, a suri female with an FFF Tapa de Seda suri female cria, “Stapa the





Above: High selling male (\$3,700) was lot # 34, "Champagner", sold by Kay Patterson and purchased by Robin and Courtnee Benson and Shawn Norman.

Below: High selling female (\$16,000) was lot # 69, M.R.S. Sweet Melody, with cria by side. Melody was consigned by Dan & Marilyn Milton of Highland Llamas and purchased by Wil & Sherri Tallmon of Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch.



Music", by side. She is bred to Silver Moon Chiri Alluro. Melody was consigned by Dan & Marilyn Milton of Highland Llamas and purchased by Wil & Sherri Tallmon of Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch. The high selling male (\$3,700) was lot # 34, "Champagner", sold by Kay Patterson and purchased by Robin and Courtnee Benson and Shawn Norman.

Continued on page 26...

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Craig Wilkins Memorial Sportsmanship Award

The "Craig Wilkins Memorial Sportsmanship Award" created in memory of a great showman, who was always willing to lend a helping hand, this year went to Fred Rowley, an unsung hero who is always lending a helping hand.

The "Linda Pierce Memorial Award" presented to someone who loves llamas, loves showing llamas and has a positive attitude, this year went to Bob & Monte Houseman, definitely those who have the enthusiasm, style and class that Linda demonstrated throughout her life.

This year's small breeder award, the one who accumulated the highest number of points for placing in the World Futurity, went to Mark & Celia Taylor of Meadow Dance Farm in Ellijay, Georgia.

All Celebration Sale purchasers were given the stuffed baby llama, "Starburst", from the 2009 HBO movie An American Girl -- Chrissa Stands Strong. All buyers were eligible to win the Martin Eichinger bronze "Winter Birth" (valued at \$2,900). John & Deb McDougall were the lucky winners for purchasing lot # 43.

Another attraction of the weekend is the Spring Celebration Futurity which consists of nine classes that are held on Sunday. The classes consisted of silky/non suri and suri classes divided out by males and females and then one Get-of Sire class. Congratulations to all participated and who won! There was great competition this year and some of the most gorgeous animals in the country.

Some other highlights of the weekend were the Herdsire Row, this consists of multiple studs that come for the weekend to flaunt their stuff. There was also an Open show on Friday, where all the llamas competed for the ribbons in their respective classes. The ILR-SD held an exciting 50/50 raffle that raised over \$2000. The



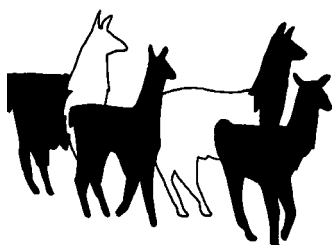
pot was shared with the winning ticket holders Pam and John Trauth and the show division. Pam and John were also recipients of a full page of ad space donated by *LamaLink.com*. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle! There were many vendors that you could buy your supplies for year or get a great souvenir from the weekend. Overall it was a great weekend to start off the year. If you haven't been to the Spring Celebration or haven't been in years it is time to go. It is always a great weekend with fun to be had. Hope to see you next year!

(Special thank you to Dan and Marilyn Milton for providing the information and details for the article.)



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There's No Time Like The Present



by Sue Wilde

"It is good to appreciate that life is now, whatever it offers, little or much, life is now- this day-this hour!" Charles Macomb Flandrau.

Are you putting off marketing your llamas? We need to shift our thinking and our priorities. In our changing times, life is still enriched by llamas and we need to get this message out now! This Day! This Hour!

We always find llamas from other breeders that enhance our breeding programs but what about the llamas that would make great pets and acreage llamas that others could be enjoying?

Word of mouth is always a tried and true method of getting the word out that you have some wonderful llamas for sale. Place local ads, send out flyers, have an open house. Make people offers they can't refuse! You might be amazed at the new people you meet and who can possibly be new friends.

Don't wait until you have so many llamas to place that your costs of caring for them are too high. I am a classic example of this. Last January I had about 120 llamas on the farm. It was very expensive to feed them, hire help to care for them and exhausting to look after problems when they would arise. I had to put my feelings for each of them aside and get serious that day, that hour about marketing my llamas, even my favorites! If you have a serious sale take advantage of this opportunity.

Try to create markets to spinners and weavers so that they can have their own fiber makers in their own back yards!

Support your local ag shows and fairs. Send out personal invitations to shows! We all know the value of llamas in animal assisted therapy programs. Donate or participate!

"Promises are like crying babies in a theatre, they should be carried out at once!" Norman Vincent Peale. When you make a sale, deliver or have your llamas available promptly. Help make arrangements for hauling, do what you can to make the sale a positive experience. You will find that people who have positive experiences will come back and spread the word to others.

It is so easy to just sit paralyzed by the job in front of us. Look at the people who are successful at selling their llamas and take notes. Support the shows and sales that are organized for you. The longer we procrastinate, the more discouraged we can be about placing our llamas in new homes where they will be appreciated and happy. In these economic times llamas are one of the most economical animals to own! They don't require the acres and food that most animals require. Their health is usually stable and low cost to maintain. Publish the benefits of owning the "green choice"!! Llamas!

For program building, trade breedings, trade females that enhance each other's programs.

"The times they are a changing" so let's make the most of these times and our time, this day, this hour! Let's get organized, let's get supportive of each other and build up and promote our image! We have something wonderful to offer and the time is now to get the word out!

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Classic Show
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WHERE TO BE

- **May 9-10, 2009-The 15th Annual Llama Magic, Lake Elmo, MN**
Held at the Washington County Fairgrounds, this private treaty sale offers llamas and alpacas for sale on Mother's Day weekend. A special llama training clinic for adults and youth will be held Saturday by Mallon protege Marc Page of Massachusetts. On Sunday, a fun llama/alpaca performance show for youth will be held with emphasis on those in 4-H and FFA. There will also be a fleece contest, demonstrations and a wide array of vendors. Contact Sheila Fugina at bsfugina@presenter.com or 715-246-5837, or visit www.llamamagic.com.
- **May 16, 2009 Techniques for Dyeing Skeins and Roving.**
Llama Adventures, near Spring Green is hosting this class taught by Vanessa Kessler. Information will be posted on the ORGLE website event section by December 30th. contact: Edie Benusa at 608-206-0874 bbenusa@merr.com
- **May 16-17, 2009 Indy Open Llama Show - Double Show Noblesville, IN**
Indy Open 400 & Indy Open 500 All halter, performance, & youth classes offered. Fun Friday night get-together and complimentary "Exhibitor Thank-You" breakfast buffet served at exhibitor meeting on Saturday morning. Fun show, easy in/easy out, cash premiums, and ribbons. Information at www.shagbarkridge.com/indy.html
- **May 16 & 17, 2009, 21st Annual COLA FESTIVAL, Prineville, Oregon ILR-SD Show "The Black And Blue Show," Double Point Halter.**
Silent Raffle at the Saturday Night Dinner. Private Treaty Sale of llamas with sale llamas presented during dinner. Prize money for String Along Pack, Costume, and Overall Maiden. There will also be Best of Show Female and Best of Show Male awards. Contact Person: Sherry Halligan, 541/389-6855. E-mail halliganranch@hughes.net. Enter via the ILR Show Module or contact Sherry Halligan to have show forms sent.
- **May 23-24, 2009, The Great Smoky Mountains Llama Show**
6th Annual Event at the Walters State Community College Expo Center in White Pine, Tennessee. All classes with full-size and mini-size llamas. We have lots of fun, good food, great people, and usually good weather. Grooming is optional, but not a 'hobo' show, so it is probably a good idea to put your animals before the judge in a somewhat presentable manner. Walters State Community College Expo Center is a large, temperature-controlled arena; very clean and bright. The stalling area is within 100 feet walking distance. Saturday night dinner is compliments of the Great Smoky Mountains Llama Show. Also, Continental breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings and Sunday lunch will be provided by the show. For further information, contact Helen Farley, Phone: 865-922-5844, E-Mail: farley42@tds.net.
- **June 6, 2009 Beginning Wet Felting**
Llama Adventures, near Spring Green is hosting this class taught by Jarka Sobiskova. Information will be posted on the ORGLE website event section by December 30th. contact: Edie Benusa at 608-206-0874 bbenusa@merr.com
- **June 6-7, 2009 Traverse City, MI**
The first annual Northwestern Michigan Llama and Fiber Open Show a wonderful new opportunity for llama enthusiasts and an educational experience for those not yet knowing the joys of owning one of these exceptional animals. Judge is Ray Howard for both halter and performance, and Joy Bishop-Forshey for fleece (walking, shorn, and finished classes). Information and forms for the show are available at our website www.fehrenbachfarms.com. Call Denise with any questions at 231-590-8549.
- **June 7, 2009, Fiber Fiesta & Alpaca Sale**
This event in Lumberton, New Jersey offers private treaty huacaya and suri alpaca sales as well as locally produced alpaca fiber, yarn and apparel. Meet breeders and their alpacas from the Mid-Atlantic area and learn about one of the most fascinating and beautiful fiber animals in the world! Free admission and free seminars! For more information, go to www.AlpacaHeritage.com
- **June 14, 2009, 2 p.m. Workshop at Dawn of Promise Farm in Battle Ground, IN,**
to be conducted by Emily Leak. For adults just starting to show and 4-H age youth who want to learn about llama showmanship and training for obstacle course. Event is free. Registration is required due to space limitations. Contact: Vickie Maris, vickiemaris@gmail.com or 765-567-2067.
- **June 20th, 2009 White Star Production Sale.**
For more information contact Fred and Sharon Isayew 306.764.2917 or go to fred@whitestarllamas.com
- **June 26-28, 2009 All American Youth Jamboree**
National ALSA & 4-H Youth Show & Conference Noblesville, IN - just outside Indpls. 2nd Annual National Youth Show! Separate 4-H & ALSA shows with cash premiums & ribbons. Additional challenges such as Skillathon, Llama Jeopardy, Farmer Olympics, Fiber Show, Poster Show, Versatility Award, Obstacle sweepstakes. Showing seminars, fiber workshops, & vet seminars. Auction, street dance, cook outs. One price fits all! A "don't miss event!" Information at www.youthjamboree.net.
- **July 17-19th, 2009, Open Ranch and BBQ at Abbott's Big Sky Ranch.**
Join them for ranch tour, BBQ, and wine to help celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. For more info contact Loretta and Gerry at 406-644-3130 or abbott@charlo.net.
- **July 23-25, 2009, Ohio State Fair—Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus, Ohio**
ILR Sanctioned Llama Show and ALSA Sanctioned Fiber Show Every class imaginable. Judges Mark Smith and Darrell Anderson To access all information on the show, list of classes, and our show rules, sometime in April, visit www.ohiostatefair.com. Deadline for show is June 20, 2009. You can make a late fee entry for \$50 per farm. Questions about anything, feel free to contact either: Show Manager-Donna Moore-donnatimberlane@aol.com 740-743-1092 Show Clerk, Debbie Arendas, llamadeb@aol.com 330-536-8517
- **August 29 & 30, 2009 Nebraska State Fair Alsa II Llama Show**
State Fair Park Lincoln, NE Judges: Kenneth Forster – Halter Patti Morgan – Performance Contact: Eunice Cernohlavek 402-475-8636 eunice@isp.com For premium book and application forms: www.statefair.org
- **September 26-27, 2009 Millennium Magic Fall Festival Open Double Llama Show**
Come on out to see what all of the fun is about! Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI Show contact: Tami Lash (517) 467-2709 Uniqueanimal@aol.com Show forms: www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com
- **October 3 & 4, 2009, Alpaca Heritage Days Come join the fun!**
Alpaca Heritage Events will be holding its 9th Annual Alpaca Heritage Days at Terhune Orchards in Princeton, New Jersey. This event offers private treaty huacaya and suri alpaca sales in addition to locally produced alpaca fiber, yarn and apparel! Free admission and free seminars! For more information, go to www.AlpacaHeritage.com.
- **November 7, 2009, Alpaca Fleece Forensics with Wini LaBrecque**
What can your fleece tell you? While most everyone initially evaluate fleece using visual inspections, this seminar will take you a step closer into the fleece and learn to "see" what the fleece is telling you. Join us as we take a detailed look at alpaca fiber and the exciting overall picture it presents! Visit us at www.AlpacaHeritage.com for registration information and directions to the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown, NJ.
- **November 7, 2009, Alpaca Heritage Events Fleece Show for Alpaca Fiber**
2 oz. Samples All you need to compete in this fun Level II show is 2 oz. of prime alpaca fiber. Great show for novices and experts alike! Simply mail in your entries ahead of time or drop them the morning of the show at the Rutgers Eco-Complex in Bordentown, NJ. For more information, please go to www.AlpacaHeritage.com

Please submit your lama events to:
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