

FALLEN OAK LLAMAS



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Home of Argentine Corvo

The Imported Argentine Herdsire for the West

A *Toast* to the New
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Champagner
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grandslam09@ymail.com
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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**



Sharon & Jerry Williamson
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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...

Show Me State Mini Llamas
"take two, they're small!"

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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 argentinians 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:
Argentine Paco x Argentine Malin
ILR #203993 - DOB: 7-20-98

The majesty and awe as presented by **Argentine Gustavo**. He is a 40 inch foundation Argentine direct from South America. As fiber quality is a priority for Monastic Fleece, we decided to utilize his outstanding qualities in our breeding program. His fiber is crimpy but fine, and so dense that you can hardly get your fingers through it! Gustavo has a great personality; calm, easy to handle and always at attention as the Argentines are infamous for. His conformation and presence is awe-inspiring and commands you take notice. This male is known for settling females in just one breeding. Gustavo provides one of the greatest Argentine bloodlines, as described by Lynda Carothers in the summer 2008 issue of LamaLink.com magazine. Gustavo is available for limited service. Please contact Monastic Fleece for reservations/information: Shepherds@MonasticFleece.Com

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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.

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Argentines, Minis, and Pygoras, Oh Yes!

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Argentine Narnia



Juvenile Mini llama TWF Buffalo Bill Cody



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