

*Missouri Llama Association
Newsletter
March 2016*



Yes this is the Missouri Llama Association Newsletter, so why is there a picture of a man and a chicken on the front cover?? This picture is actually Llama related, go to page 16 to find out more.

Table of Contents

3. Missouri Llama Association Membership Form
4. Meet our Advertisers
5. Ozark Llama Classic Show and Sale
6. Disclaimer / Market Place
7. Meet our Board of Directors
8. Note from the Editor
9. Fiber & More - Assorted Pictures
10. - 11. An Epic Learning Experience Part 1 by Donna Marietta
12. Llama Play Day - Ozark Arkansas
13. Mirrored Fern Patter - submitted by Donna Marietta
14. - 15. The San Angelo Llama Show by John Fant
16. - 19. Chicken Save the Day - Shane Hancock Southern Cross Llamas Australia
20. Making Sausages by Donna Marietta
21. Alpaca Fiber Insulation - A Green Alternative to Tradition Home Insulation
22. Missouri Llama Association Financial Statement
23. Fiber Retreat 2016
24. - 27. Report on the U S Animal Health Association 2015 Annual Meeting
28. MLA Lending Library

Missouri Llama Association

2016 Membership Form For Renewals and or New Memberships

Thank you for your support of the Missouri Llama Association.

Your dues support:

The Missouri State Fair Premier Exhibitor -Additional Judges Fees (Mo State Fair) -The Morris Animal Foundation - Information Booths at various events - The Quarterly Newsletter, National FFA meeting & Youth Day - I.C.I.
Only \$25.00 per calendar year (per household)

Each member receives: the quarterly newsletter, a free marketplace ad in each newsletter and On the web, use of the MLA Lending Library and access to loads of information about llamas.

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (with area code) _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Make check payable to Missouri Llama Association:

Mail to:
Liz Harrison
Busy Bee Acres
13046 Hwy U
Odessa, MO 64076

Newsletter advertisement Mail ad information to:

Tim Kohloff
196 Wedgewood
Buffalo, Mo. 65622 or
tkllamas@gmail.com

Meet Our Advertisers

Advertising Rates Per Year

Business cards: \$20.00

1/4 Page Ads: \$20.00 includes business card in 1 issue

1/2 Page Ads: \$40.00 includes business card in 2 issues

Full Page Ads: \$80.00 includes business card in 4 issues

As always our advertising rates are based on a one year subscription and are good for both members of the Missouri Llama Association and non members.

Llama Hardware
Gear for the Working Llama
Richard W Galloway
1385 Tutuilla Rd
Pendleton, OR 97801
Richard@llamahardware.com
406-890-0109

llamahardware.com



*J and P
Howling Moon
Farm*
Booneville, Ark.
479-597-0173
*Reg. Llamas and
Hair Sheep*

Southeast Llama Rescue

Missouri
www.southeastllamarescue.org
Tim Kohloff
Coordinator for Missouri
196 Wedgewood
Buffalo, Mo 65622
417-839-3974
tkllamas@gmail.com



Zellama Farm
Zelma Cleaveland, Owner
P.O. Box 846
Chillicothe, MO 64601
Spinning Fiber * Handspun yarns * Hats * Scarves * Purses * Shawls * Mittens
Phone: 660-646-5233 E-Mail: zkllamas@aol.com



OZARK LLAMA CLASSIC

SALE AND SHOW

SEDALIA, MO

April 29, 30 & May 1

4 BEST OF SHOW WINNERS

One of the best paying premium shows

Contacts:

Larry Kisner LKllamas@aol.com 314-580-5315

Steve Smith LLamatail@aol.com 314-954-3738

For consignor information or to receive a Sale Catalog please call or email.

www.OzarkLlamaClassic.com

Meet our Board of Directors



Debra Kohloff acting president,
Buffalo Mo.

dkohloff62@gmail.com



Denise Hollingshed acting vice president,
St. Louis Missouri

dhollinshed@att.net



Liz Harrison still treasurer & acting secretary,

Odessa Missouri

llamamama42@hotmail.com



Venesa Carter acting board member,

Rogersville Missouri

Crivenllamas@aol.com



Zelma Cleaveland committee member,

Chillicothe Missouri

zklamas@aol.com



Tim Kohloff, editor of the newsletter,
Facebook Page Manager, Webmaster.
Coordinator for Southeast Llama Rescue (SELR),
Buffalo, Missouri.

tkllamas@gmail.com Phone: 417-839-3974 (call or
text)

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Missouri Llama Association, the editor or the board of directors. The information contained in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional advice. We advise that you always consult your veterinarian in medical matters and behavioral issues as they pertain to your animal. The Missouri Llama Association belongs to a network of approximately thirty camelid associations. Therefore, articles published in the MLA newsletter may be reprinted in those association newsletters and we may reprint articles from their newsletters. If you write an article that you do NOT wish to have reprinted in those publications, please indicate that when you submit the article and it will be identified as non-reproducible. If you prefer to grant individual permissions for reprint, please indicate that when you submit your article.

Market Place

LLAMAS FOR SALE: Show, Pet, Companion Also, stud services available; 6 proven males to choose from: 3 full Argentine. Visitors welcome. Dark Hollow Llamas, Fulton, MO. ***573-642-6382.*** E-mail: defin@socket.net Web: www.DARKHOLLOWLLAMAS.com

FIBER PROCESSING ACCESSORIES: Hardwood, lathe turned one-of-a kind Spinning Wheel Orifice Hooks and Bottle Stoppers, Hardwood Looms for Sale: small to large table style, Frame Looms 6 various sizes (squares, rectangles and triangles). Endless possibilities of fiber designs: hot pads, scarves, shawls, vests, ponchos, wraps, blankets, etc. Country Home Llamas, Gail O'Bryan ***660-646-2230. gailobryan1@gmail.com***

Llamas For Sale: Chris, Venesa & Emily Carter. CriVen Llamas, Rogersville Missouri. Pets, guardians, Breeding stock & Show Animals available. ***Phone: 417-425- 3159***

Spinning Fiber & and Yarn! Llama, silk, mohair, and other natural fibers! Variety of colors and styles. Llama yarns, cleaned rovings, finished items. Consider a fiber gift for friends who crochet/knit/weave Contact: Zellama Farm, ***660-646-5233***
Zelma Cleaveland, zklamas@aol.com

For Sale: A reserve Grand Champion (Tulsa Show) 1 1/2 year old male. Black with a little white on lip, medium wool. Grandson to Western LFA Champion Lookoutø Homerun. Asking \$800. Contact John or Phyllis Fant at Howling Moon Farms. ***479-597-0173***

Blade Sharpening Service: fast turn around. Call for pricing. Contact John or Phyllis Fant at Howling Moon Farms. ***Phone: 479-597-0173***

Note from the Editor



Did anybody read the December 2015 issue of the Missouri Llama Association Newsletter? If so did you notice anything incorrect with the cover page? I proof read that newsletter a couple of times and didn't realize something was not right until a few days ago (January 4, 2016) when I was working on this newsletter. There is a picture and a caption at the bottom but no heading or date telling that it is the Missouri Llama Association

Newsletter. This newsletter belongs to the members of the Missouri Llama Association, so if you (or anyone reading it) notices something not right please let me know.

I also urge *anyone*, especially members of the Missouri Llama Association to send in articles, pictures, memories, events, etc., to me that is Llama and/or fiber related. Without Facebook we probably wouldn't have this newsletter, *A LOT* of information that is in this newsletter either came from Facebook, Facebook friends or was from a lead from Facebook. So, without Facebook we would be hurting for information for this newsletter. So Please, if you have anything that is Llama/fiber related please let me know about it so we may put it in the newsletter, just because you think what you do with your Llamas is not interesting others may be very interested.

As all of you probably know by now the Llama show at the Missouri State Fair was cancelled this year due to lack of interest/participation. The only Llama show to my knowledge that will take place in the state of Missouri this year is the Ozark Llama Show & Sale (OLC) on April 29, 30 and May 1st. As always it promises to be a GREAT show and always has Llamas from many states. I believe last year there were Llamas from nine states.

I hope all of you will take the time to pay your dues to the Missouri Llama Association as soon as possible. If you have already done so then we thank you. For information on where to send your dues please see the bottom of page three of this newsletter or contact me at tkllamas@gmail.com or call me at 417-839-3974 (call or text).

Fiber and More



Left: Ok, I know this is supposed to be a Llama Newsletter, however this is a fiber page. Montey an 8 week old (in this picture) black tort English angora. His owner Christine Dietz who is an elementary school teacher in Tully New York is a beginner spinner, shown here is her Country Craftsman spinning wheel. She also has angora goats and alpacas.

Right: Renee Forney of Oshkosh Nebraska spins on her Scharht Matchless spinning wheel in her lady bug slippers. She has just learned to spin, she is spinning Llama here but also spins alpaca and wool.



Left: Debra Kohloff of Buffalo Missouri and member of the Missouri Llama Association works with her triangular loom.

An Epic Learning Experience

Part One

By Donna Marietta
Member of the Missouri Llama Association

It all started out by my wanting to learn how to knit lace and follow charts. Little did I know what was involved, but it was going to be exciting. Eunny Chang has a lace knitting class on Craftsy and I was enthralled from the first session. It was a great success.

Now, knowing how to read the charts, I searched for an appropriate selection of fibers to spin a lace weight two-ply yarn. Having squirreled away some gorgeous Mooritt Merino and the blanket cut from Winston's shearing two years ago I then needed the perfect pattern for a lace scarf. Rummaging through the book [Heirloom Knitting](#) by Sharon Miller, I chose the "Mirrored Fern Pattern" located on page 90.



Dehairing Wilsons Fiber

Beginning in March of 2015, I began the arduous task of removing the grease from one pound of the Merino to blend with one pound of Winston's fur. The colors are harmonious and look well together. For the first time ever, I used the "sausage" method of scouring the wool by wrapping locks of the wool in netting, rolling them up and tying with cotton string and placing them in a stainless steel pot to scour the grease away. The temperature of the bath was 150-160 degrees with a squeeze of Dawn liquid and carefully watched off and on for 30 minutes. Because the Merino wool was so rich with grease, I needed to do the bath twice for each load. Two rinses per load with a final rinse with a small amount of white vinegar were needed to make sure the grease and soap were removed. It took about 10 loads to clean the entire pound. Believe me, the results are fabulous!!! Winston's fiber was just simply washed and rinsed because it was very clean.



Donnas Patrick Green drum carder with Llama/merino fibers

Although I touch Winston several times a day, I was not fully aware what his fiber was like. Taking the fiber blanket out of the bag and really looking at it opened my eyes pretty wide. He has a double coat with darker brown guard hairs that I did not want in my lace yarn. Just the amount of guard hairs removed from the blanket filled a man's shoebox fairly full.

Winston's cleaned fiber is luscious and when drum-carded ½ ounce of llama to ½ ounce of wool for each blended batt is so soft and will spin well. I even bought a digital scale so I could be precise in preparing the batts and it has been a real joy to use. I need to drum-card two more batts before beginning to spin. So far I have filled up a huge box from my Shop-Vac and have two batts sitting to the side because I did not want to compress the batts and ruin the hard work already done.

Knowing that I have prepared way too much fiber for my project, I will experiment with the remainder as the need arises ó perhaps gloves and a hat?

From the guard hair I separated from Winston's coat, I think I will clean additional guard hair from some of my other llamas (eight in all) and all different colors for making something on my inkle loom. There are so many wonderful things to dream of.

Part two of this epic will be the actual spinning and plying the yarn. Part three will be knitting the lace scarf ó hopefully my round-tuit energy will carry through and the project will become a reality.



16 ounces of moorit merino weighed and bagged.



Guard Hair from Wilsons Fleece

I, for one, would love to see what others of you are doing with your llama fiber. It is such an inspiration to share beautiful projects and designs.

With good intentions and a big smile I will persevere.

Llama Play Day

Ozark Arkansas

May 7, 2016



This is an informal gathering of people interested in Llamas aimed at people in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Anyone, from anywhere, is welcome to attend with or without a Llama. It will be a time for information sharing and learning not only about our Llamas but about other Llama owners in the area. If there are issues or topics you would like to have addressed, please comment and we will attempt to have someone prepared who can cover your issue at the play day.

In addition, the PLTA (Pack Llama Trail Association) will have a Trail Certifier there to give a ðPack Primerö coarse for free. The coarse will teach the basics of packing with Llamas. The certifier will demonstrate how to saddle, put a load on a Llama, and show how experienced Llamas act on a trail. Plus, if there is enough interest, put on a Pack Challenge as well. This will give you the opportunity to see; with your own Llamas, what it is like to be on a trail through different obstacles.



There has been a resurgence on interest in Llamas in this part of the country but there are few opportunities for ðlocalö folks to get together. We hope this will be a beginning of a new support system for People who are excited about Llamas. *Can't wait to see you all there!*

Left: John Fant of Howling Moon Farms (PLTA certifier) will be at the Llama Play Day to demonstrate and answer questions about packing with Llamas.

If

an
Orta J/h-ar.Q

1

-dtl.

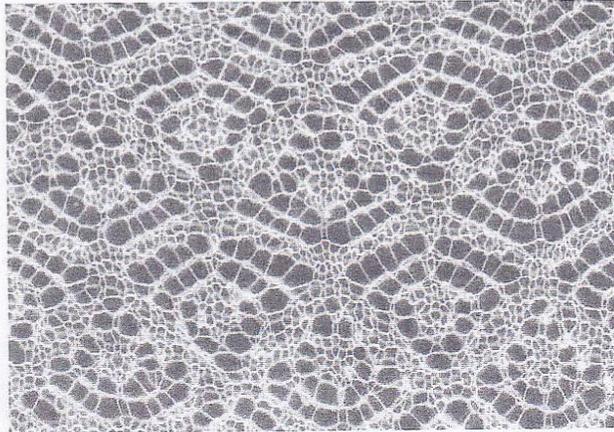
5 extra stitches on both sides for
garter-stitch border to prevent curl



:stxs":tZ:13

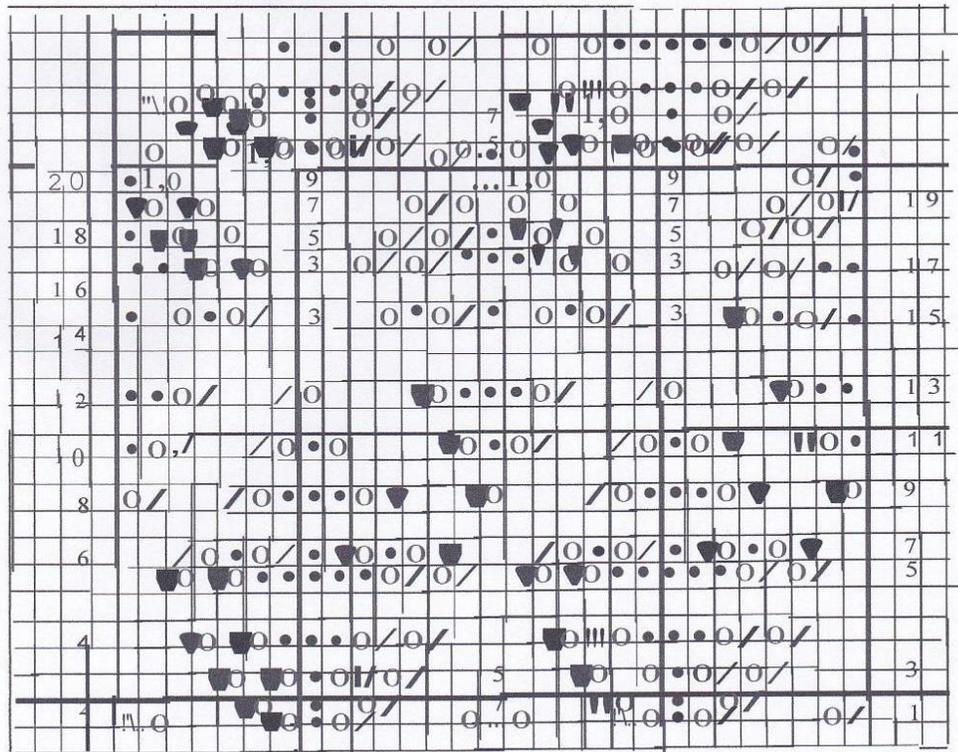
Mirrored Fern Pattern

- K2 tog
- Slip as if to knit
slip as if to purl
Knit through back loops
- yarn over
- Knit
- garter stitch
- Slip, knit 2 tog, pass slip
stitch over



Heirloom
Knitting
page 90

I made this pattern by experimenting with the fern motif and find it to be a useful centre for a shawl or scarf. It could be further adapted by moving the motifs nearer or further apart.



7 side stitches

Repeats of 14 stitches

8 side stitches

Experience ****

Cast on multiples of 14 stitches + 15 (7 + 8 extra stitches on each side) + 1

e.g. (14 x 10) + 15 = 155 stitches.

N.B. Cast on up to 5 extra stitches for each side. Include these in the above sum.

Above pattern was made and submitted by Donna Marietta, member of the Missouri Llama Association.



The San Angelo Llama Show

By John Fant

As a PLTA certifier, I am always looking for new ways to promote the PLTA (Pack Llama Trial Association). Also, what I had read in articles about this show, it was one I wanted to see. Hopefully, starting next year, we will compete there as well. What I found out it is a very good performance show!

To start off this journey of sorts, I contacted Diana Collins, she was the contact on the ALSA calendar for this show. We talked several times and discussed PLTA. She offered me some space to put out information and discuss PLTA. So I contacted the BOD of PLTA and was sent flyers to hand out. With this in hand, I designed my booth space and built what I needed.

The weekend before the show, another person reached out to me to help out. Alexa Metrick, the editor and owner of The Backcountry Llama magazine. If you are interested in packing llamas, this IS the magazine to read. There is good all-around llama wisdom as well in each issue. She sent me, free samples for back issues of the magazine. Being I subscribe to the magazine, I thought this was cool and loved the opportunity to help her out as well.

Finally the weekend of the show had arrived. I left right after work on Thursday and drove for 9 hours straight that night. I slept in the truck when I finally arrived at San Angelo Fair Grounds. I had to be checked in and set up by 1pm, which was no problem. I helped out anyone that could use the help that afternoon and evening. The people are friendly and treat very one with respect.

I will tell you now; they have a big performance show! This was very interesting to watch, I figured it would be like other shows, WRONG! How it was setup, they had obstacles and PR going at the same time for each level. You simply went to one area and to the next when done with the first. They ran through novice on up this way. That afternoon and evening was pack, every llama was in that as well. Altogether, there were over 70 llamas that was showing in everything!



Novice Pack competition at the San Angelo Llama Show

I was honored by meeting so many people and talking to them. There was a lot of interest in PLTA and BCL, and what was amazing several people did not know the two existed. So, the day was spent talking and watching the show. I handed out all my information that day. I was fortunate enough to be introduced to the SCLA president and some of their BOD. We discussed the possibilities of pack trials in Texas.



Novice pack winner at the San Angelo Llama Show

Then it happened, like so many times before, my work calls me. There was a problem with one device that I can only repair. So, by 7 pm I was packed up and heading back home. Not complaining, it usually happens to me.

For future reference, if you want a good; no - great!, performance show to compete in, this is it. You will also be surprised how little it cost as well. The youth program is out of this world as well. Honestly, the kids were the bulk of the competitors there. In the future, Phyllis and I will be competing there from here on out.

Like always, thanks for reading this article and have a good day.

John Fant

Howling Moon Farm

John & Phyllis Fant are members of the Missouri Llama Association, John is a certifier for Pact Trail Llama Association (PTLA)

Chicken Saves the Day

By Tim Kohloff - Editor Missouri Llama Association Newsletter



Above:

Shane Hancock with his Llama Loxley one of his long will boys On his Llama farm In Ipswich, Queensland Australia. The name of his farm is Noble Farm.



Above: Sandy and her new male suri cria Oscar get to know each other.

Shane Hancock lives in Ipswich, Queensland Australia just outside of their capital city of Brisbane. He works at Australia Zoo as an Ambassador and is the head of Department at Queens Land Department of Education and Training.

Shane recently purchased an abandoned dairy farm that had no infrastructure on it. He named the farm Noble Farm, it is named after the pioneering family it was purchased from and were the Noble family. They owned the land for over 100 years so they thought it was nice to maintain a link to the heritage of the area and it suited the noble nature of the Llamas too. So with no infrastructure meant basically starting from scratch, sheds and fences had to be built. Irrigation and waste treatment, power as well as building a home. They are completely off the grid right now even though they are only half an hour from Bisbane.

Shane works as a teacher and does not draw an income from the farm. In the near future Shane hopes to add cabins to his 80 acre farm for people to stay at a Llama farm close to a major city. Since their home and infrastructure are still being established the cabins and farm stays are part of a five year plan.

Llamas are quite rare in Australia with only an estimated 3500 animals in the entire country and with only 100 suriø in existence. As a comparison, alpacas are very common with 100,000 plus. Most people confuse the two so they actively do public displays to educate people about the differences. Consequently Llamas get a lot of attention at these public displays.

Shane is the national president of the Llama Association of Australasia Inc. His herd is the largest in Queensland with only 60 animals. His Llamas are paddock pets and stud stock and he knows them all by name.



Above: Cheap, Shane's Isa Brown hen (an ordinary egg production breed of chicken) greets the new cria to the world.

As Shane and the other Llamas were waiting patiently they didn't realize that the possibility of death was very close by. As Shane, the other Llamas (just barely out of the picture) and Cheap were there on that beautiful day a Eastern Brown Snake, the second most deadly snake in the world was only two feet behind him and poised to strike. At that instant Cheap jumped in Shane's lap and they jumped towards the snake. This of course alerted Shane to the immediate danger that he, Cheap and ALL of the Llamas were in.

Laying nearby was an eight foot fence post, ordinarily Shane would have had to struggle to pick up the heavy post, but with adrenaline pumping he picked it up effortlessly. It literally would have bitten him and possibly any of the Llamas also, Shane had no choice in the matter, he threw the post on the snake and killed it. If it hadn't been for Cheap the Isa Brown hen Shane probably would not have survived the deadly snake bite.



If you look closely at the snake just below the neck, you can see where the post impacted and broke the snake's neck and killed it.

Shane plans to establish a Llama walk venture on the farm to complement the farm stay. He mostly gives the fiber away to anyone who is interested in cleaning and spinning it. Even though it is a by product right now it may become valuable in the future.

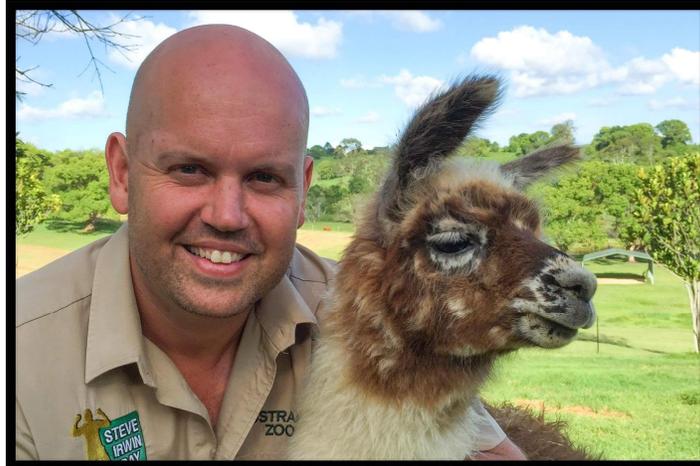
Australia doesn't have enough Llamas to sustain a showing schedule. Each state branch of the Llama Association is small, meaning that they all know each other's animals. Not to mention since Australia is so big travel between each state is difficult just to justify a show circuit.

It is mid summer in Australia right now, there are many dangerous creatures that roam in Australia. On January 13 of 2016 Shane was watching Sandy after she delivered her new cria. It was a beautiful day and they were in short grass so Shane didn't think there would be any danger lurking around, however that wasn't quite right.

Sandy had done a great job of delivering Oscar, Shane was sitting in the grass watching as the newborn cria was drying off and the mother was waiting to deliver the placenta. There were other Llamas waiting just a short distance away waiting to meet the newcomer to Noble Llama farm.



Above and Left: Sandy and her male cria Oscar getting to know each other. Oscar is the first suri to be born on Shane's farm. He is genetically important, his unusual colored fleece makes him even more special. There are approximately one hundred suris in all of Australia.



It was something I'm sure that Shane will never forget, he will also never forget the chicken that not only saved his life but also the live/lives of his Llamas. Shane is sure that if he hadn't been there at least one of the Llamas may have been bitten by the world's second deadliest snake.

Not long after the ordeal Shane found out that snakes bite nine people in Queensland in thirty six hours. Wow!!

Pictures:

Top: Shane in uniform, he is an Ambassador at Australia Zoo.

Bottom: Southern Cross Llamas is the breeding name that Shane uses.

I first saw Shane's post on Facebook with Cheap and I had thought I would put their picture in this newsletter, but then after I contacted Shane I found out there was much more than just a picture to be shared. One night in January of this year Shane called me from Australia and told me first hand about his farm, life, Llamas and hopes for the future. Shane is a GREAT person and I am glad he has a GREAT guard chicken looking after him and his Llamas.

Making Sausages

By Donna Marietta

Member of the Missouri Llama Association

This is entire method for using the “sausages” - it has worked perfectly for me. I, however used a white netting, not colored.



Shown here is a grease Polwarth fleece, a wool very nearly as fine as Merino. One “sausage” is complete, one needs to be tied, and one is just started. Step by set instructions are below.

[Return to Wool Washing](#)

1. Cut some pieces of nylon netting (illusion or tulle) about 15 inches/40 centimeters by 36 inches/1meter
2. Lay one piece on a flat surface.
3. Along one of the short edges, place 2 or 3 locks of wool taken from your fleece, tip to tip, about 1 inch/3centimeters from the edge.
4. Fold that edge of nylon over the wool, then roll the wool up a bit so it's all encased in netting.
5. Lay another row of wool locks, roll up so its all encased. Keep doing this until you're a couple of inches from the other end.
6. Roll the rest of the netting up.
7. Secure the ends tightly with string-- making sure you don't tie on thop of the wool.
8. Tie another string loosely around the “sausage” where the tips of the locks meet -- one time in the center if you're laying two locks end to end, two times, dividing the sausage in thirds., if you have three lockes end to end.

You may now wash the wool in very hot water, or even dye it using immersion or microwave techniques, without having to worry about felting or waste due to the locks becoming disarranged. The nylon netting will not be melted or otherwise harmed by boiling water temperatures. When you're done, just dain or spin out the excess water, hang or lay out to dry, cut the strings, and unroll the wool. The washed or dyed wool is ready to comb as soon as it dries.

This method may be used to prepare other fine fibers for washing or dyeing-- for example, I've dyed angora rabbit fiber this way, with excellent results.

[Many thanks to the members of Fibernet, Ron Parker's email list devoted th the fiber arts, for suggesting this arrangement for washing fine wools.](#)

[Return to Wool Washing](#)

Alpaca Fiber Insulation — a Green Alternative to Traditional Home Insulation

by Jill Sell

This article originally appeared in the Plain Dealer. It comes to GALA from Topline, the Ohio River Valley Llama Association's newsletter.

Alicia Rocco, owner of Alpaca Spring Valley Farm in Minerva, Ohio, recalls the time she was away from her herd of 22 huacaya alpacas when an unusual rainstorm struck. She hurried home and found the alpacas in their pasture "drenched like rats." "We were apologizing to them all over the place, even though it didn't really rain long and it turned into a nice sunny day," said Rocco "We checked on them a few hours later and they were all fluffy and dry. It looked like someone dried them with a hair dryer."

Alpaca fleece is naturally water-repellent. Fleece, and the fiber into which it is made, is soft and silky, warmer and lighter weight than sheep's wool and hypoallergenic. For centuries the durable fiber has been used for clothing, blankets, purses, rugs and more.

And more recently of home insulation. Rocco incorporated her Alpaca Fiber Insulation Company of Ohio in January 2014 after working with independent testing labs to document the fiber's superior R-value. (The "R" value is a rating that determines the insulating material's ability to reduce heat flow.)

And more recently of home insulation. Rocco incorporated her Alpaca Fiber Insulation Company of Ohio in January 2014 after working with independent testing labs to document the fiber's superior R-value. (The "R" value is a rating that determines the insulating material's ability to reduce heat flow.)



Rocco has attended many builder trade shows where her product (in shades of gray or brown and not at all prickly) has attracted many in the industry, especially serious green builders.

"Our problem right now, and which we are overcoming, is that in the United States there are about 250,000 alpacas. In Peru, there are about three million. There is no problem getting fiber from South America. But here it is a little different," said Rocco, who runs her business with her niece, Tonya Prosser. "Most alpaca farmers would like something for their fibers. We are using mostly scraps that they would normally throw away. We are trying to find an avenue where we can give them something and still make a profit. We want to get our price down to a more reasonable cost."

Currently the cost of alpaca insulation is a bit more than many traditional fiberglass batt and roll, blown-in rigid board, expanding spray or pour-in-place insulations, But Rocco said families who are looking to retrofit or build homes that are healthy and safe for those with asthma, allergies or other conditions feel it is well worth the extra cost. "We had a contractor install our insulation in one of our barn-like buildings, " said Rocco, who also owns Natural Approach Farm Store. "He told us how easy it was to install, how wonderful. He didn't need special protective clothing, anything over his face and just used long staples to staple it to the walls. It called it a godsend compared to what he used to do. It is easy. If I can do it, anyone can."

Rocco said the fledgling alpaca insulation industry will eventually help all of Ohio's alpaca farmers. She believes many "have fibers they don't know what to with." Some trying burning it, she said, which doesn't work well.

Now there is another opportunity for them. (The Ohio Alpaca Breeders Association re-ports that Ohio has the highest population of alpaca of any state. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ohio is third behind Colorado and Washington for "alpaca activity.")

"We also have a llama whose fleece is similar to an alpaca's. We will probably start using some of that fiber as well for our insulation. We'll keep our same company name, though, just because we started with our alpacas. (For more information about alpaca insulation, visit www.alpacainsulation.com)

Reprinted from GALA newsletter February 2016.

Liz Harrison Financial Report

Starting Balance 2015:

\$ 1666.36

2014 Newsletter	\$ 129.60
State Fair Fiber Class	\$ 22.00
2015 Newsletter	\$ 173.55
State Fair Judge	\$ 25.00
Brett Snead State Fair Premier Exhibitor Award	\$ 100.00
Secretary of State Renewal	\$ 20.00
Service Charge	\$ 36.00
Membership Deposits	\$ 675.00
Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$1835.21

By Treasurer for the Missouri Llama Association Elizabeth Harrison

Fiber Retreat 2016

Fiber Retreat in Jefferson City Missouri this year was as usual a success although many people there say there were fewer people attending than in previous years. Never the less the eagerness to learn various methods of working with fiber was in the air.

Fiber Retreat was March 11 - 13th. There were thirteen vendors on hand, breakfast, lunch and dinner was served, dormitories were available for people who did not wish to stay in one of the many nearby hotels.

There were a variety of classes from calculated spinning, needle felting, wet felting, dying, weaving, paper making using recyclable materials from home, felted hats, and much more to keep everyone busy.



Above Picture: There were 13 vendors were on hand to sell fiber related products and equipment.

Left: Glenda Hershberger from Mountain View Arkansas teaches how to process fiber from washing up to and including spinning.



Above: Zelma Cleaveland of the Missouri Llama Association teaches calculated spinning.

Left: two ladies in class spinning sheep wool.



Report on the US Animal Health Association 2015 Annual Meeting

Compiled by Karen Conyngham, ILR representative to the USAHA Board of Directors and Dr. Pat Long, Alpaca Owners Assoc.

The 119th annual meeting of the US Animal Health Association was held in Providence, RI October 22-28, 2015. Camelid veterinarian attending this years meeting was Dr. Pat Long, representing the Alpaca Owners Assoc. on the USAHA Board of Directors. Over 1,000 people attended this years meeting. The plenary session topic was "The Future of Livestock and Poultry: Food Security for the Next Decade".

USAHA is an international forum where producers join state and federal regulators and researchers/scientists from a wide variety of specialties to discuss issues affecting the health and welfare of livestock species and wildlife. The annual meeting gives the camelid representatives a chance to talk with state veterinarians, US Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Plant & Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) personnel and researchers about issues of concern to the camelid community.

Karen Conyngham would like to thank the officers and members of the Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Assoc. for their most generous financial support to the ILR Government Relations account in 2015.

Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids - Camelid Topics Presented at the 2015 USAHA Annual Meeting

***Chair: Chuck Massengill, MO.
Vice Chair: Pat Long, NE.***

Tuberculosis testing in Camelids—International update By Dr. Sunny Geiser-Novotny, USDA/APHIS/VS

Details of past reports of Tuberculosis in both Old World Camelids (OWC) and New World Camelids (NWC) along with clinical signs, routes of transmission and necropsy findings were presented. Current status of testing in other countries were presented. Details were given regarding sensitivity and specificity of serology testing options currently available in other countries. While there are very limited reports of Tuberculosis in camelids in the US, there are many reports of TB in alpacas in the EU and in OWC in the UAE, Africa and Pakistan. Research is needed on naturally infected and non-infected camelids with known infection status to determine true sensitivity and specificity of available tests. In the US risk of transmission to camelids is very low due to low prevalence of TB in cattle in the U.S and no wildlife reservoir (with the exception of MI). Reportable to state vets if [diagnostic] signs are consistent with TB.

Alpacas in the Food Chain, Food safety concerns
By Dr. Kristin Haas
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

The desire by alpaca owners to have their animals slaughtered for sale in niche markets and restaurants is increasing in the Northeast as fewer owners are interested in raising them for fiber and for exhibition/show. Alpacas are not amenable to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and they are not defined as exotic species by USDA-FSIS. As a result, the harvesting and processing of alpacas does not require state or federal inspection, but if that level of oversight is desired by the owner due to market demands, the processes fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of FDA. The FDA/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition is responsible for protecting consumers against impure, unsafe, and fraudulently labeled foods covered by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and for assuring consumers that foods are wholesome and produced under sanitary conditions.

The Vermont State Meat Inspection Program maintains an equal-to status and is one of the few in the country that provides state voluntary inspection for owners who wish to sell alpaca-origin food products to niche markets or restaurants that require inspection. There is a lack of regulatory, diagnostic and best management practice guidance to support alpaca slaughter, and the lacking infrastructure has ramifications for all parties involved, including state meat inspection programs, accredited veterinarians, camelid owners, and the consuming public. Administration of all medications, including dewormers, to alpacas is considered to be an extra-label use and must conform to ELDU requirements. There are no established meat withdrawal times for any of these medications, and there are no FDA-validated tissue residue tests available in the U.S. for use with alpacas. Since alpacas historically have not been considered food animals and their owners often do not have an agricultural background, there is a high likelihood that alpacas slaughtered for meat have not been raised in a manner that minimizes violative tissue residues. Since there are no validated tests that can detect violative residues, it is likely that alpaca meat produced under inspection is entering the food supply with inappropriate levels of multiple medications present in the tissue. This activity constitutes a potential food safety concern.

This situation results in the potential for increased liability for any state meat inspection program that is providing voluntary inspection for the slaughter/processing of alpacas. The collective public assumption is that meat food products that are produced under inspection and offered for sale at retail or in restaurants are unadulterated, wholesome and safe to consume; this may not be the case with alpaca meat. It is imperative that organized industry counsel alpaca owners about this issue and educate them about best practices associated with raising alpacas for food production purposes. Additionally, veterinarians treating alpacas for illness or providing routine preventative care should take into consideration the fact that some alpacas may end up being slaughtered for human consumption and medicate accordingly. The development of FDA-validated tests for detection of alpaca tissue residues would be ideal.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:
<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/InfectiousDiseasesOfCattleBisonAndCamelids.aspx>

Report of the Committee on Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses

Chair: Paul Gibbs, FL

Vice Chair: David Scott McVey, KS.

Dr. Eileen Ostlund of the National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, IA reported just one case of bluetongue in an alpaca from Idaho. The lab used polymerase chain reaction test; there was insufficient viral sample to do the virus isolation test that would have indicated which type of bluetongue this was.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:
<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/BluetongueandRelatedOrbiviruses.aspx>

Report of the Committee on Parasitic Diseases

Chair: Dee Ellis, TX

Vice Chair: David Winters, TX

Dr. Angela Pelzel-McCluskey, USDA/APHIS, reported on the 2015 vesicular stomatitis (VSV) outbreak.

As of September 30, 2015, a total of 527 VSV-affected premises (New Jersey sero-type) have been confirmed or suspected in eight (8) U.S. states; Arizona (36 premises in 3 counties), Colorado (270 premises in 27 counties), Nebraska (21 premises in 3 counties), New Mexico (48 premises in 12 counties), South Dakota (44 premises in 5 counties), Texas (3 premises in 3 counties), Utah (24 premises in 5 counties), and Wyoming (81 premises in 9 counties). At the time of this writing (October 2015), there were 104 premises remaining under quarantine in 6 states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). Weekly situation reports and maps from the incident are publicly available on the USDA-APHIS website. Although no camelid premises were affected, this disease can infect llamas and alpacas.

The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:
<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/ParasiticDiseases.aspx>

Report of the Committee on Sheep and Goats

Chair: Amy Hendrickson, WY

Vice Chair: Maggie Highland, WA.

Research Update -The Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Unit

***D. Scott McVey, Research Leader and Veterinary Medical Officer,
Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit.***

The Arthropod Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit (ABADRU) research mission is to solve major endemic, emerging, and exotic arthropod-borne disease problems in livestock. The Unit completed the move to Manhattan, KS in 2010 and now the ABADRU is well established at the Center for Grain and Animal Health Research (CGAHR). All ABADRU research falls under the ARS National Research Programs: NP103 and Animal Health and NP104, Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology. The areas of research range from vector biology to virus-host interactions.

The potential introduction of Rift Valley fever (RVF) virus (RVFV) is the most significant arthropod-borne animal disease threat to U.S. livestock. A number of challenges exist for the control and prevention of RVF in the areas of disease surveillance, diagnostics, vaccines and vector control. Understanding the epidemiological factors affecting disease outbreak and the inter-epizootic maintenance of RVFV is necessary for the development of appropriate countermeasures strategies. This includes the ability to detect and characterize emergent viruses. Outcomes of current research will potentially identify determinants of RVFV infection, pathogenesis and maintenance in mammalian and insect vector hosts.

Information derived from these studies will also support vaccine development. Vaccine formulations will be developed to improve immunogenicity, onset of immunity and stability to provide better response to outbreaks and prevent RVFV epizootics. The Unit also has a similar, collaborative program investigating Schmallenburg Virus. Note that all camelids are susceptible to RVF and Schmallenburg.

The viruses that cause bluetongue (BT) and epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) are of concern to livestock producers in North America because of 1) the emergence of new serotypes, 2) increased reports of spillover and clinical disease in cattle, and 3) increased spread and adaptation to new geographical areas. For camelid owners, points number 1 and 3 are important as llamas and alpacas are susceptible to bluetongue. The spread to new geographical areas (mainly due to changes in climate) bears careful monitoring.

***The presentations (PowerPoint files in .pdf format) are available at:
<http://www.usaha.org/Committees/SheepGoats.aspx> Research***

The information on pages 25 thru 28 was submitted by Karen Conyngham, ILR Representative to the USAHA Board of Directors.

MLA LENDING LIBRARY:

Librarian: Bruce Demurio Dark Hollow Llamas, Fulton, MO.
Phone: 573-642-6382. E-mail: darkhollowllamas@gmail.com

Members pay return postage for items checked out.

We have books and VHS tapes in the library on a variety of subjects ó health, fiber, training, new owners, etc. Complete information on available materials on the Missouri Llama Association Website: www.missouriLlamaassociation.org

If you have books, tapes, CDø etc. pertaining to llamas or fiber that you are no longer using, your Missouri Llama Association library would appreciate your donation to help others learn more about llamas!

BOOKS:

Stop Spitting At Your Brother Diane White Crane
Llamas For Love And Money Rosana Hart
So You Share Your Life With A Llama (2) Susan Peterson
A Guide To Raising Llamas Gail Birutta
Living With Llamas Rosana Hart
Llamas Are The Ultimate Doyle Markham
Medicine And Surgery Of SA Camelids Murray E. Fowler DVM
Llama/A Veterinary Lama Field Manual C. Norm Evans DVM
Spinning Llama And Alpaca Chris Switzer
Caring For Llamas Clare Hoffman DVM

"Spin Off" Magazines (5)

VIDEOS (VHS):

The Mallon Method, The First 24 Hours
The Mallon Method, Halter Training Basics
Llama Reproduction Part I La Rue Johnson DVM
Llama Reproduction Part II "
Getting Started With Team Marty McGee Bennett American Royal Llama Show 1997
Llama Biosensor
Training Llamas to Drive (2) - Bobra Goldsmith
2000 MLAø Spring Seminar
Llama Biosensor (2) CDø
Alpaca Field Vet Manual C. Norm Evans DVM
2000 MLAø Spring Seminar
Llama Biosensor (2) CDø