

Your

ALPACA ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

Welcome!

Hope summer is finding everyone happy and healthy. Even though we all realize that haying chores, baby introductions and breedings, etc. don't wait for anything, they all seem to take us by surprise anyway.

We hope most of you had the opportunity to participate in our Spring 2018 Alpaca Ontario Show. It proved to be a spectacular show. Everyone appeared to be quite impressed with the facility and the show, in general, and the vendors, even though the weather proved a bit chilly at times, did extremely well with their sales. We encourage everyone to try to be there next year. There are plans well in the works as we speak to expand many segments of the show and to introduce even more new and exciting offerings. It is our absolute intention to make this a "must attend" event for all. Back by popular demand, we're pleased to report that our show judges for 2019, Jill and Wini, have accepted our invitations to return.

The following is a brief rundown of what's been happening and what's going to be happening in the alpaca world and for Alpaca Ontario specifically in the months to come. We are busting at the seams with activity and future plans.

July

- 7 Black Sheep Festival of Contemporary Textile Art, Elora, Ont.
- 13-15 A.O.A. Natural Extravaganza, Nashville, TN., USA
- 14-17 Alpaca Fibre Classer Course, Part 2, at Meadowview Alpaca Farm, Bruce Mines, Ont.
Call Denise Martel (705-785-3388) for info.
- 18-19 Classing days to follow.

August

- 1-2 The Suri Network All Suri Fleece Show, Loveland, CO., USA
- 9-12 The Navan Fair 2018, Navan, Ont.

- 10-11 PAOBA Fleece Showcase, State College, PA., USA
- 17-19 Twist Fibre Festival, Montreal, Quebec
- 22 Upper Canada Fibreshed Roundtable Conference, Lakehead, Univ., Orillia, Ont.
- 22-27 Camelid Dynamics with Marty McGee Bennett, Arriba Linea Alpacas, Lindsay, Ont.

September

- 11-13 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, Woodstock, Ont.
- 18-22 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo, Pain Court, Chatham/Kent
- 21 -23 Basic Alpaca Fibre Sorting & Grading, Part 1, Canadian Comfort Farms, Fenwick, Ont.
- 29-30 Farm Days, Canada and USA

October

- 2-8 Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show, Simcoe, Ont.
- 7 Rockton World's Fair Alpaca Show, Rockton, Ontario
- 13 Woodstock Fleece Festival, Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, Ont. 9a-5p
- 20-21 New York Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, New York, USA
- 27-28 Fiber Expo, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

November

- 2-11 The 96th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, Ont.
- 9-10 NEOBA Alpaca Fall Spectacular, Syracuse, NY, USA
- 10-11 Empire Alpaca Association Extravaganza, Syracuse, NY, USA

December

- 8-9 VAOPA Alpaca Expo, Doswell, VA, USA

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January

- 7-12 Grey Bruce Farmers' Week Seven Day Agricultural Conference, Elmwood, Ont.
Note: This is a new event for A.O. Grey Bruce Farmers' Week is a 7-day agricultural Conference featuring a program dedicated to each of the major commodity groups of the area and beyond. It is held annually in January in the village of Elmwood and has been running for 52 years. Alpaca Ontario will be one of the exhibitors in the 2019 line-up. It is definitely time to let farmer know more about our herds and the fabulous fleece produced by alpacas.
- 23-24 Chatham-Kent Farm Show, John D. Bradley Convention Center, Chatham-Kent, Ont.

February

- 15-17 Txolan Sweetheart Fleece Spectacular, Fort Worth, TX, USA

March

15-17 A.O.A. National Alpaca Show, Denver, CO, USA

April

26,27,28 ALPACA ONTARIO SPRING SHOW, Grassie, Ont.

27 Toronto Knitters Show, Japanese Canadian Cultural Center, Toronto, Ont.

ON SHEARING:

As many of you know or have recently experienced, getting a shearer lined up for the upcoming year is difficult and sometimes, nearly impossible. Folks in Ontario have recently been holding teaching courses in an effort to bulk up the list of possible shearers we can call upon in years to come. Following is a partial list of names to be called when a shearer's services are required. If you know of anyone else who offers this service, please be sure to let us know -- we're all ears and will add them to the list for the next Newsletter:

KAREN CHILDS
519-333-8474, tendertouch@cogeco.net

ROBERT GREEN
(AB,SK,MB,ON,CQ,NS Bilingual Service)
519-718-3849, rob@agrshearing.com

PAUL MOORBY
613-386-7379, pmoorby@cogeco.net

BEN RABB
613-407-3957, Benjamin.rabb@hotmail.com

TOM REDPATH
(ON & QC Bilingual Service)
905-630-6341, shearmaster@hotmail.com

JOSHUA TERRY
(ON & QC Bilingual Service)
613-808-3885 or 705-507-5152, dare2dreamalpacaafarm@outlook.com

LATEST MEDICAL INFORMATION ON ALPACAS:

The absolute goal for Alpaca Ontario is to keep its members informed on everything and anything that comes our way relevant to disease and health conditions with our animals along with recommended treatments. Therefore, we intend to

1. Educate our members regarding:
 - a. common diseases found in alpacas
 - b. the proper administering of drugs and vaccines
 - c. the proper storage of drugs and vaccines
 - d. help in designing a biosecurity and disease prevention program for each farm

2. To update members to current changes to Antimicrobial/Drug Regulations by Health Canada/OMAFRA/CFIA/CVO via monthly blogs (when required), via educational blogs and seminars.

Rabies in Alpacas by Dr. Sherry Smith, AO Board Member, Medical Committee Chair

On July 1, 2018, Section 2 of the Ontario Health Protection and promotion Act, Regulation 567, is being revoked and being substituted with the following:

1. Every owner or person having the care or custody of a horse, cow, bull, steer, calf, sheep or other livestock for which a rabies vaccine licensed for use in Canada is available shall ensure that each such animal is immunized against rabies.
2. Subsection (1) does not apply to a horse, cow, bull, steer, calf, sheep or other livestock that is accessible only to the person or persons who are responsible for the care and control of such animal.

Presently in Canada, there are no vaccines that are licensed for use in alpacas and llamas. However, alpacas and llamas are equally at risk for rabies infection as the above-mentioned animals. In December, 2016, I encountered a rabid llama in Canfield, Ont. The llama became suddenly aggressive and attacked the farmer, his son, and the family dog. The farm was placed under quarantine. Samples were sent for testing and once a positive confirmation was had, all animals on the farm, the farmer, the son and I were treated for rabies exposure.

Rabies is a rhabdovirus which attacks the central nervous system of mammals. It is primarily spread by bites from infected animals. The virus is found in saliva and other body secretions. Reservoir hosts include skunks, raccoons, fox, coyotes and bats. Rabies is zoonotic, meaning humans can be infected from rabid animals. Since 2015, 397 cases of raccoon-strain rabies and 16 cases of fox-strain rabies have been reported in Ontario. The largest number of these cases have been reported from Hamilton-Haldimand/Niagara Counties.

Early signs of rabies in lamoids include lameness, ataxia and hind end weakness. Incubation in alpacas is 15-34 days and infected alpacas usually die within 6-8 days after the development

of clinical signs. Early signs are usually followed by an aggressive syndrome (furious rabies) or a paralytic syndrome (dumb rabies).

Aggressive Syndrome: Animals become aggressive, attacking pen mates, offspring, people and themselves. They may also bite inanimate objects, chew foreign objects and become self-destructive by pushing over and into barriers, i.e., fences. Often body temps remain normal until aggression and excessive muscular activity become apparent. Other clinical signs include excessive vocalization, bloat, pruritus, muscular tremors, running aimlessly, sexual hyperactivity, recumbency, convulsions, coma and death in 1-4 days.

Paralytic Syndrome: Clinical signs include anorexia, depression, head droop, eyelid droop, straining to defecate, salivation, circling, facial paralysis, mild fever (39.4 degrees C), flaccid muscles (face, anus and bladder) and pharyngeal/laryngeal paralysis. Convulsions and coma may precede death, often occurring within 1-4 days following clinical signs.

If livestock are bitten by a suspected rabid animal or your alpaca is displaying the clinical signs listed above, call your vet immediately. Once clinical signs are seen, rabies is almost always fatal. The best protection against rabies for both domestic animals and people is to avoid contact with potentially rabid wildlife and to keep domestic animals updated on their rabies shots.

FIBRE:

As a Board, we are investigating ways to promote our fleece and products across Ontario. At our May 30th BOD meeting, we arrived at a figure of \$2,000.00 to be spent on attending events across Ontario in 2018/2019 that are fibre-related. You may apply for a maximum of \$250.00 per event as a representative of Alpaca Ontario if you intend to participate in one of these shows. We are already sponsoring the Upper Canada Fibreshed Conference at Lakehead University in Orillia which is one of these types of conferences.

MARY ANNE ENGLISH SPIN-OFF:

Barb Yarema and her committee encourage you to retain some of your fibre from your 2018 clip to enter the Mary Anne English Spin-Off this coming January. This event was canceled in 2018 due to lack of entries. If each of our members sent in 1 or 2 samples, we would have a more than adequate amount to bring back this worthwhile event. Please offer your support for this endeavour by saving a 2 ounce sample from alpacas you wish to enter. That's all it takes.

Wishing you a very HAPPY CANADA DAY (1867-2018)!!

Your Alpaca Ontario Board of Directors,

**Glen, Melinda, Dee, George, Lina, Lynda, Barb, Heather,
Dr. Sherry, Corinne, Becky and Doug Lilleyman, Office
Administrator and Treasurer**