



ALPACA ONTARIO
SPRING EXPO 2022
Virtual Conference

Session Highlights

*Confirmed at time of release subject to change

Keynote Opening Session – *Alpacas Worldwide – European Perspective* – Robin Näsemann – Germany

Robin comments on the world of alpaca from a global perspective. The alpaca industry is changing like never before. Hear first-hand how the global alpaca community is responding. An inspiring way to start the day-long event!

Session 1 – *In the Show-Ring* – Robin Näsemann, Germany

Show Judging includes years of training and certification. Join Robin as he outlines his approach to show-judging alpaca from around the world. Everything you need to know to ready an alpaca for the show-ring! Q&A to follow

Session 2 – *Fibre & Fleece* – Robin Näsemann, Germany

A look at the adjudication process when judging fibre & fleece. Learn to benchmark your fleece against others in this rare opportunity to be up-front and personal with an international fibre judge. Q&A to follow

Session 3 – *The Business of Farming* – OMAFRA, Canada

Grants and other government programs for the alpaca farmer are discussed in this informative presentation outlining what's available from the provincial government, including financial support and business planning tools and resources. Q&A to follow

Session 4 – *Sanctioned Shows in Canada and the Role of Alpaca Canada* – Paityn Eidt – President, Alpaca Canada, Canada

What is the status of in-person sanctioned shows in Canada and what role does Alpaca Canada play in those shows? Hear from Paityn Eidt, President of Alpaca Canada, as she outlines the value of membership in this national organization. Q&A to follow



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Session 5 – *Geronimo! The Most Famous Alpaca in the World!* – Heather MacDonald, United Kingdom

For all the wrong reasons – Geronimo is a headline-hitting story that needs to be shared. Hear from Geronimo’s owner about the alpaca unnecessarily put to death by the UK government. A story of caution for all alpaca owners! Moderated Q&A to follow

Session 6 – *All About Yarn* – Nancy Carr, Canada

An exploration into the complexities of alpaca yarn including what yarn weights are suitable for what grade of fleece, explaining terms such as ply, yarn weights/grist, yarn labels, communicating with a fibre mill, and how to market yarn.

Q&A to follow

Session 7 - *COVID-19 and the Link with Alpaca* - Benjamin Murrell, Assistant Professor, Sweden

An alpaca’s bloodstream may seem like an unlikely place to search for COVID-19 treatment, but Swedish researchers say their unusual approach has uncovered a minuscule antibody with the ability to block coronavirus from entering human cells. Join Dr Murrell the Author of the research paper in this informative session. Moderated Q&A to follow

Session 8 – *Alpaca 101 – An Introduction to Alpacas and Alpaca Farming* – Heather Candler, Oak Hills Alpacas, Canada

Considering raising alpacas and want to know more? Join Heather Candler, a 13-year alpaca farmer who has helped more than 25 farm families launch their alpaca farms to learn more about why we raise alpacas, basic care, shelter, nutrition, breeding, and how the business of alpaca farming works. Q&A to follow.