

MAPACA

October, 2004

Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 10



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

MaPaca

Officers:

President:

Paul

Connor,

Vice

President:

Jovi Larson,

Treasurer:

Andy

Schneider,

Secretary:

Fred Brown,

Members at

Large:

Frieda Good-

rich, Nancy

Johanson,

and

Nick Melfi.

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

President's Message:

IMPORTANT ISSUE. For this issue I am presenting an article that Tilly Dorsey of DAFI Alpacas in Maryland has asked me to reprint. Tilly has been a great help to myself and scores of other Breeders over the years. As a past President of ARI and a dedicated alpaca breeder who I feel has always had the best interests of our alpacas in mind, I am asking the MaPaca membership to please read this article in it's entirety. What is done at this juncture in time can have a lasting impact on our industry and all members should be completely aware of the implications. Opposing or additional points of view are always welcome.

Paul Connor

Table of Contents

President's Message: pg. 1, 2 and 3.

Registry Creator's Condemn ARI

Action: pg. 2-3

Jubilee Coordinator Message: pg. 3

Along for the Ride: pg. 3

Art Contest Winner!: pg. 4

Alpaca Trick or Treat: pg. 4

Editor's Ramblings: pg. 5

Classified Ads: pg. 5

Camelid Humor: pg. 6

Bright Idea!: pg. 6

Calendar of Events: pg. 7

Nation Animal Identification Sys-

tem, NAIS: pg. 8

Letter From Tilly Dorsey, DAFI Alpacas, Butler, MD:

Following is an article that appeared in LlamaLife II, and I ask that it be shared with other MaPaca members. Our industry is in jeopardy because of the problems with ARI. Although the ARI BOD tells us to be patient, that things will soon be better, breeders tell me that they continue to experience multiple problems concerning registrations, the data, the financial accounting and lack of service. Certainly, these things have plagued me, and I cannot get any response from the ARI office—where ever that may be right now.

The following article calls for the ARI BOD to move the office back to the ILR. We did not have the kinds of serious problems we now face when ILR was the service provider, and I do not believe we can afford any more lengthy "transitions" or uncertainties. The integrity of our entire business rests on the competent administration of our data base, the correct and prompt issuing of cer-

(Continued on page 2.)

Time to Renew for 2005

All Membership Renewals must be in the hands of Andy Schneider **by December 31, 2004** for members to receive the 10% discount on pens at Jubilee 2005. Please fill out the enclosed form or go to www.mapaca.org and fill out the renewal form. Print out the form and send it with a check made out to MaPaca to:

Andy Schneider
13097 Old Annapolis Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771

President's Message:

(Continued from page 1.)

tificates and transfers, and timely resolution when there is a problem.

It is time members speak up and demand that ARI conduct its business, our business, in a responsible manner, according to commonly accepted practices and according to the laws of governance. Let's put ARI back with ILR and get our industry back on track.

All my best, Tilly Dorsey

Tilly Dorsey is a past ARI BOD member, having been elected to two terms on the ARI BOD and serving as ARI President in her last year of service..

Registry Creators Condemn ARI Board Action

By Cheryl Smith

Eric Hoffman, who authored the Alpaca Registry in 1988, and Susan Stackhouse, who supplied ideas and edited the original document, have condemned the latest ARI board decision to name Gordon A. Anderson the new administrator of ARI. Stackhouse was the registry's first chairman when it was known as The Alpaca Registry Screening Committee (ARSC). All total, Hoffman and Stackhouse represent more than fifteen years' service and experience in setting in place many of the founding principles and policies of the Alpaca Registry.

"I'm really saddened by recent ARI board decisions," said Hoffman. "The Alpaca Registry had the highest integrity for so many years. The data it kept and the manner in which it operated was replicated around the world. Now, what's at jeopardy is the registry itself. I doubt new people to the alpaca business realize how precarious this situation is. As its author, I can tell you the Registry was designed specifically to house authentic genetic information, nothing else. It was to be a resource for breeders that would be untouched by politics or marketing pressures. Without the ability to quickly fix the mess created by Association Management Group, the board's last choice, we won't have a registry. The registry is the underpinning of the alpaca business. We need an entity like the ILR with a proven record and ability to do the job, not another experiment with political overtones."

Said Stackhouse, "The Alpaca Registry has been like a child to me. I was there making suggestions when it was barely in the idea stage, participated in its creation and nurtured it through its early years. I have never understood why the ARI was placed in the administrative hands of Association Management Group, Inc. (AMG) and was relieved when the ARI board announced recently that it was terminating its contract with AMG. However, their next action, the naming of Gordon Anderson as successor administrator, is totally outrageous to me and has caused me to speak out to the alpaca community for the first time in several years."

"I would like to see registry operations returned immediately to the offices of the ILR and the ARI Rules and Regula-

tions not tampered with for a period of two years unless required by law. We need to give the next administrator the opportunity to correct the many errors of the previous one and restore the efficiency and credibility that the registry enjoyed until it was removed from the ILR. To do other wise is asking for complete disaster. The registry is the life blood of the North American alpaca industry; we cannot afford to risk it further."

After an avalanche of complaints from ARI members all over the United States and Canada, the ARI board terminated its relationship with the Association Management Group, Inc. (AMG). The ARI board chose and promoted AMG less than a year ago after removing the registry from the International Lama Registry (ILR), where it had been successfully housed since its inception in 1988. Complaints against the Association Management Group's running of the registry ranged from registered alpacas disappearing from the registry data base all together, a board member meddling in the computer programs for the registry, to delays of eight months or longer for processing a certificate. Breeders also received certificates with erroneous co-owners listed on them, incorrect breed and sex designations, and birthdates. The reasons stated to move the registry by then ARI president Libby Forstner were refuted by ILR chairman Jan Wassink. At various times during the last year, Forstner responded to the growing frustration of breeders who were unable to register their animals with e-mails promising that a smooth running registry was just around the corner.

With the announcement that Forstner would not seek another term on the registry board many experienced breeders in the alpaca business assumed the board would move the registry back to the ILR which was second in bidding (first among those bidding with registry experience) amongst a half a dozen companies wanting to run the registry. Instead, the remaining board has appointed Gordon A. Anderson to be the Registry's new administrator. Anderson is a former AOBA board member with business experience in "pension and investment plan administration," according to a release sent to most ARI members by the ARI BOD.

Anderson is seen by many former ARI board members as a partisan political entity with ties to some of the power brokers in the alpaca business, some of whom have participated in moving the registry to Association Management Group. The current ARI BOD stated in an e-mail sent to many ARI members that part of the reason Gordon Anderson was chosen had to do with his residence being relatively near Geneseek, the current testing firm chosen by the ARI board. Geneseek is located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Hoffman has worked as a consultant on other camelid and equine registries around the world. He said, "All of the good registries have professionals running them. They employ people who have the technical expertise to do the job and maintain the highest level of professional integrity. Personnel are not involved in marketing the breed they register. This is important as it allows the registry to avoid being used to achieve the desires of powerful marketers. If the registry data is corrupted due to incompetence or other reasons, the registry loses

(Continued on page 3.)

(Continued from page 2)

its integrity – and its reason for existing. It's that simple. With computers, proximity of the registry to the blood analysis lab is a nonfactor. UC Davis in California, was the genetic lab for more than ten years when the registry was run by the ILR in Kalispell, Montana. Often where a registry is housed and where blood is analyzed aren't in the same place."

Both Hoffman and Stackhouse have written the ARI board and bluntly stated they view Gordon Anderson as a poor choice as an administrator. "I see Gordon as a political entity with no proven expertise in running a registry. After the debacle caused by the ARI board decision to move the registry to AMG, a company with no experience, you would hope they had learned from their mistakes. The board needs to adequately explain why it moved the registry in the first place and why it won't move it back to where we know it will be handled correctly. If there is to be a future for this registry it must remain a resource with absolute scientific integrity. If the registry continues to lose credibility so will the entire business," concludes Hoffman.

(Article reprinted with permission of LlamaLifeII—Registry Creators Condemn ARI Board Action—LlamaLifeII Autumn 2004 * Issue No. 71—pages 6 and 9.)

From the Jubilee Coordinator:

Hello fellow MaPaca members. Plans for the 2005 Jubilee are progressing and things will really start to pick up and get busy from now until after the show. We're getting a good response for volunteers, but we'll need many more to fill all the positions. If you would like to help with the 2005 Jubilee, please let me know.

As a reminder to everyone who wants to participate in the 2005 Show, we're expecting the show to be a sellout. With the AOBA Show moving west next year, the Jubilee will become a much higher priority for many exhibitors. Because of the sheer size of the show and the small volunteer staff, deadlines may be a little earlier and they will definitely be firm. There are only X number of pens available and when they're sold, that's it. We can't make the building any larger than it is. As an example, the recent Empire Alpaca Extravaganza was sold out before the early bird deadline. The same will likely happen with the Jubilee. Please get your entries in as early as possible.

Having mentioned the New York show, congratulations are certainly in order for the Empire Alpaca Association and its members for running an outstanding show. It was first class all the way. I have never seen more outstanding alpacas under one roof. The competition was very tough and the show was extremely well organized and run. Thanks to all the workers and exhibitors who made it happen. Congratulations to all the winners, too.

Stay tuned to this column. There's more to come each month. Have a great fall season.

Andy Schneider

Along for the Ride

Article by Sharon Roberts of Camillo Valley Alpacas, Dahlgren, VA

A few weeks ago I enjoyed a leisurely tractor ride as I mowed one of our fields. The morning was crisp with just the right mixture of sunshine and breeze. Far from the jingling of the phone and the myriad responsibilities awaiting me, I plowed along in mindless comfort. Suddenly, a grasshopper, against all odds, landed squarely on the hood of my John Deere. From his vantage point high atop the tractor, he surveyed his entire world, a view he had probably never seen and might never be afforded again. As he stayed with me for most of the ride, I could not help but ponder the similarities between that grasshopper and myself. (It seems early morning tractor rides bring out the philosopher in me. Who knew?)

What had inspired this grasshopper to make such a gigantic leap? While the other grasshoppers were making short, frantic sideways jumps to avoid the onslaught of the tractor tires, this grasshopper, without benefit of reason, took a leap of faith and ended up far above his peers, enjoying a sight and a ride they would likely never experience.

I am 55. I have led a grasshopper life, jumping from school to school for teaching assignments over my 29 years in education. I have scurried from one hobby to another, acquiring a great many skills, but using none of them to change my direction. Now, when I am admittedly in the throes of menopause, (and in serious need of psychiatric counseling if you ask my sons and my mom) I make a leap of faith, just like the grasshopper, and end up on the ride of my life. I am a new alpaca rancher, and I am along for the ride.

How that grasshopper must have felt riding that tractor, moving along effortlessly, faster than he had ever moved before, in directions he had never taken, to places he had never seen! He must have been exhilarated and excited and a little afraid. How like that grasshopper I am. It has been a whirlwind ride this year. In twelve months my husband and I have sold our waterfront home, bought land, built a new home and a barn, fenced in some of our 13 + acres, searched for and bought our foundation herd, found a vet with camelid experience, found a feed source, learned about and bought hay, researched our soil...and the list goes on. I can barely take in all the changes. No longer a teacher-I am a business owner, a rancher. Who ever imagined that now, with my life half over, at a time when most people retire and move to slower paced lifestyles, I would take this direction?

But if you were to ask me my feelings, they would mirror those I imagined the grasshopper had. I am exhilarated by the newness of it all. Every day I learn something more about alpacas, fiber or spinning and the teacher in me is still thrilled by learning. I am excited to have these wonderful, gentle animals to care for and share my home with, and excited also by the prospect of being able to introduce others to God's most perfect livestock. And yes, I am afraid, but each day lessens

(Grasshopper—Continued on page 4.)

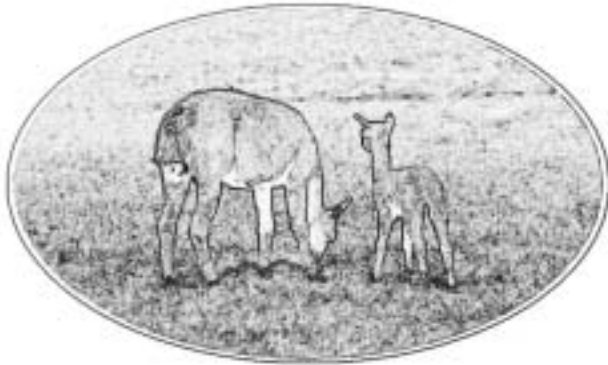
MaPaca Art Contest Winner

And the winner is.....

Bill & Juanita Crake from Ridgeview Farm Southern Suris.

The 2005 Annual MaPaca Cover Art Design Competition has come to a close. The panel of judges had a tough time deciding on a winner from so many deserving entries. We wish to thank all the members who participated in this inaugural event and hope you will all begin thinking about your creations for next year. Look for the art in all the promotions for the 2005 Jubilee and make plans now to purchase an event Tee Shirt with this unique design.

The Art Committee



(Grasshopper—Continued from page 3.)

those fears as I grow in confidence. At first I was afraid of the financial commitment and the risk. What if we *never* sold an alpaca? Now, I feel confident the likelihood of that happening is small. Thanks to the efforts of organizations like AOBA and MAPACA, alpaca raising is quickly becoming an industry worth investigating and, judging by the number of new farms, will afford many opportunities for sales and growth. Besides, we continue to follow the advice of our mentors, the Fredricksons, and will continue seeking their counsel as we pursue our alpaca adventure. Even if we never did sell an alpaca, how is that bad? We will have gained friendships and a new home in a peaceful valley that we get to share with our alpacas. We will get to experience births, alpaca kisses, and the frolicking of the youngsters. Each morning my husband and I will look out at our fields and feel proud of what we have accomplished as the autumn of our years approaches. Not a bad life.

Yes, like the grasshopper, I am definitely along for the ride and enjoying the sights and life only the boldest grasshoppers will ever enjoy.

Alpaca Trick or Treat

By *Kate Perez of Mount Airy Alpaca Company,
Mt. Airy, MD*

This is the time of year on our farm when we practice our alpaca obstacle skills. Most Wednesday nights in the summer and the early fall find me standing in back of our barn with my own two children and my neighbor's two, practicing alpaca obstacles, quizzing the children on the names for parts of the alpaca body and holding a "treat" bowl full of grain for those kids who need to reward their compliant alpacas. It's quite literally, trick or treat time because, if the alpacas do the trick, we give the treat. And, to make the Halloween metaphor even more perfect, there are even costumes involved.

Our obstacle course is home-made from things like fence posts, pvc pipes and cinder blocks. We use one of those ladders that folds over like a monkey bar set to hang curtains or streamers on and make the children walk their alpacas under it and through the scary, blowing material. We keep a 3 ft. square of heavy fabric for the kids to practice throwing over their alpacas' backs like a cape. We also have a bridge, two jumps, a circle made of black plastic drainage pipe (this, for the alpacas to be made to do a kind of pirouette inside) and an aisle made of fencing through which the children back up their alpacas. Frequently, the most dreaded part of the course is a shiny, bright blue tarp onto which the alpacas must be made to walk.

To many of us, this obstacle course sounds quite familiar but for beginners, it is hard to know what to practice until you have seen a few different shows. Even when you have, you will still find that there are always unexpected elements in the obstacle and public relations classes. One year at the Great Frederick Fair Alpaca Show, we had to hold our alpacas while they were "scared" by the "Milk Thing." The Milk Thing is a person with his arms, legs and head sticking out of a huge milk carton. This would be a great Halloween costume but this outfit is apparently used to promote the dairy industry at agricultural events. It's not clear to me how scaring alpacas sells milk but the crowd loved it.

Another time, during our public relations class, we were asked to lead our alpacas while delivering a pizza. Car horns, waving umbrellas, rattling trash cans and even balloons, I can see as a valid public relations obstacle, but when would I ever be called on to deliver a pizza with an alpaca at my side? At the Jubilee one year, we were asked to load the alpaca into a mini-van and back out again. Now that's an obstacle that really does come up in the lives of many alpaca breeders! Unfortunately, it didn't go far enough because the contestants were not asked to somehow secure the alpaca inside, close the door and then get inside the van and drive. Here are some more realistic obstacles I'd like to see but probably won't:

1. Give each contestant a baggie or cup and let them try to collect a urine or "bean" specimen from their alpaca as it crouches over the poop pile.
2. Make them pull their 175 pound male off of a female who is cushed and willing, and drag him back to

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

his own field and then try to remove his halter while his angry, male, pasture-mate charges up and tries to kill him

3. Have contestants place their 1-month-old cria into a sling and lift the sling above their head with the struggling cria in it so as to fasten the two small rings of the sling onto the very small hook of the hanging scale. This must be done by one person and any contestants over the age of forty **must** remember to write down the weight before releasing the cria back into its pasture.

Some people may think that these “obstacles” might be too hard but most of us do them on a routine basis and, amazingly, we all manage to get them done. Many of us do far more difficult and complex physical tasks with our alpacas and, despite some frustration, fear and the need for a good dose of Ibuprofen, we get those done too. I think that’s one of the great “treats” of being an alpaca breeder – the chance to attempt the unusual and adventurous and find out that we are stronger, smarter and braver than we thought we were.

Editor’s Ramblings:

By Alice Brown

Do alpacas give hugs? I recently witnessed one of my new mothers doing what I would consider hugging her cria. The mom was in the barn eating hay and the two week old cria was no where to be found. Shortly the mom started to hum a little loudly, perhaps calling for her cria. The cria came running in the barn and the female stretched out her neck as the cria approached and actually wrapped her neck around the little one in an embrace as she drew the baby toward herself. To me this appeared like a hug, as if to say, “Hey, where were you, I missed you, please stay close.”

This mom has been a particularly doting mother and her cria is as sweet and cute as they come. These animals never cease to amaze me!

I just happened to have three cria born within five days of each other this fall. Actually, two were born within 45 minutes of each other on the same morning. All three cria are varying shades of brown, one has a beige marking on her chin and one has a white patch on her nose and forehead. The one little male is chocolate brown with a striking vicuna pattern. I call them the three musketeers. They are such good friends together. It is interesting to watch their development. For example, within a day or so of each other, they all started chewing their cud and trying to spit at each other. I love watching them puff air at each other. They get all the movements right, except in miniature! Hope you are all enjoying your fall crias as much as I am. If you have any stories about your experiences, please send them along to me. I would love to print them in a future Newsletter, with all due credit.

My best to you all, Alice

Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a one sentence description and contact information.. We will run your ad for one month, if you do not sell the item and wish to run it again, let me know. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

1. **Vet Quality Alpaca Chute**— This chute is in excellent condition and comes with pull-down sides, belly slings, wheels and other handy features. I paid \$1,300 for it several years ago, and I would like to sell it now for \$750. Photos are available, and please call or e-mail if you have any questions. **Nancy Lake Infor@alpinealpaca.com** , 301-393-5878, Hagerstown, MD
2. Announcing **The Blue Ribbon Alpaca** by Susan Rosche (Pax River Alpacas). A delightful, beautifully illustrated, hard-cover children’s book that promotes the alpaca. The story of an alpaca, her jealous companions, her awesome fleece and the children who love her. \$18.,95. Bulk discounts available. **Information at <http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/>** .
3. Alpaca Art on Egyptian Papyrus. Unique. Original or custom designs. Reasonable prices. Additional information and samples at **<http://www.paxriveralpacas.com/>** .



This picture should have appeared with last month’s article:

SEPTEMBER 11 - BLESSING

By Kit Hower, Blankstone Farm Alpacas, Coopersburg, PA

Camelid Humor:

By Rick Horn, All American Alpacas,
Murrieta, Ca.

Bright Idea!

by Andy Schneider, Middle 8 Farm Alpacas, Mt. Airy,
MD.

You Know You're an Alpaca Breeder

When:

- *You study poop piles and consider it to be normal behavior.
- *You talk about how large Sandi's teats are and your wife doesn't get mad.
- *You brag about the size of Vivace's testicles and your husband doesn't get mad.
- *When someone mentions the President, you think of Libby and Amy, and get confused if someone says George.
- *You're comfortable bragging to the local sheriff that you bought some great grass.
- *If someone says Missouri, you think of alpaca feed.
- *You call your alpacas "people."
- *You think that 30 minute breedings are normal.
- *You don't remember that LOL once dealt with laughter.
- *You have your VCR set to record the new ilovealpacas.com commercial.
- *You've passed on the new Harley so you can buy that nice suri.
- *You can't afford an alpaca sweater because you just bought a beautiful huacaya.
- *You're a male and use the terms fawn and burgundy.
- *You're a female and don't remember what color chartreuse is.
- *You've tasted mineral supplements or electrolytes.
- *CV and SD don't mean constant velocity and San Diego.
- *You find it amazing that not everyone knows how small a micron is.
- *You don't think of Hemingway as an author.
- *You forget that there was once an ape named King Kong.
- *Your wife wouldn't let you name your son "PVA Nick", so you settled for just Nick.
- *When you want up to the minute news, you go to alpacasite.
- *You can easily locate Peru, Bolivia, and Chile on a map, but don't know where Arkansas is.
- *You know Cantano's ARI number, but can never remember your fax number.
- *When someone doesn't know what they're talking about, you say they're full of spit.
- *You try to modify every blonde joke to make it about an alpaca farmer.
- *Sports illustrated and/or Good Housekeeping magazines are below the Alpacas Magazine.
- *You hide the Alpacas of America auction catalogue from your spouse.
- *Your spouse hides the Magical Farms auction catalogue from you.
- *You find hidden auction catalogues in your spouse's bathroom.
- *You've tried to mimic an orgle.
- *You've laughed at any of what you just read!

Here's a suggestion for transporting ribbons to shows for your farm displays. As I was packing up for the Empire Show last week, I was gathering some ribbons to hang on our farm display. I was looking for a box to put them in so they wouldn't get twisted up and creased. My wife, Kim, suggested I use a garment bag to hang and carry the ribbons. I hung the ribbons on hangers, three or four to a hanger, put them in the garment bag, and hung them on the hook in the truck, just as I would a suit. When I arrived in Syracuse, the ribbons were as straight and smooth as when I packed them. Same for the trip home.

Several people commented on the idea as I was carrying the ribbons in to put them on my display. Frieda Goodrich suggested I include it in the Newsletter for other members. Just another of those little ideas to help us all look our best. If it works for you, great!

Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

No ads will be accepted that include the PRICE of animals for sale. Stud Service prices are acceptable.

We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 1/2" by 11" ad, on 24 pound paper or less, if you supply ALL the copies (they can be in color and two sided if you like). If your ad is on heavier paper than 24 pound, the cost will be **\$60.00**. If you would like us to copy your ad, supply us one copy and we will have it copied in black & white, one sided, for **\$70.00** total.

If you know any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers, that would like to place an insert AD in the MaPaca Newsletter, you can recommend them if you are an existing Lifetime MaPaca Member. The costs for businesses would be an additional **\$100.00** added on to the regular member fee for an insert AD. Thus it would be either **\$140.00, \$160.00, or \$170.00**. Please send copies, along with payment, to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360 by the 20th of the month you want your ad inserted. Make check payable to **MaPaca** and include check with inserts.

If you have any questions, email Alice Brown at fpalpacas@aol.com or give me a call at—**856-697-8127**.



Members Events Calendar

November 6, 2004-Alpaca 101 Galion Ohio. "Foundation for Success" Seminar. Featuring Dr. Claire Whitehead-Ohio State University-Jim Loy, CPA. Full day hand on session and workshop \$70.00/person, \$135.00/couple. Breakfast and lunch and materials included. Contact Patrick Cassese 866-668-1308, farmerpat@aol.com or www.glengaryfarmalpacas.com.

November 6-7, 2004—ABC Alpaca Buyers' Clinic and Dr. Johnson's World-Famous Neonatal Lab. Sponsored by Fireweed Alpaca Farm and Rock Chimney Farm Alpacas to be held at Fireweed Alpaca Farm in Richmond, VA. **Saturday Clinic, taught by 4 experienced alpaca breeders and assisted by Dr. LaRue Johnson, covers hands-on herd management, business plans, evaluating alpacas, working with fiber, etc. Cost: \$99/person, \$179/couple. Includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and book and handouts.** Sunday, Dr. LaRue Johnson offers his Neonatal Lab. This is an extensive, hands-on seminar on alpaca reproduction, birthing, and neonatal care, as well as breeding strategies, stages of pregnancy and birth, routine care of newborn cria and dam, hands-on experience with problem births, passive transfer issues, and comparisons of methods for confirming pregnancy. Cost: \$225/person, \$350/couple. Includes breakfast, lunch and handouts.
Contact: Teri Phipps 804-556-2526.

November 13, 2004: Fiber Seminar, 10AM-3:30PM. Topics include shearing, show-fleece preparation, breeding and feeding for superior fiber, color genetics, and similarities/differences between huacaya and suri fiber. \$45 per person, lunch included. **Make checks payable to Alpaca Heritage Events and send to Ingrid Wood, 1862 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd., Columbus, NJ, 08022. Information: www.AlpacaHeritage.com or 609-261-0696, or alpacas@uscom.com .**



Members Events Calendar

November 20, 2004—AAA-Alpacas, Advice, and Apple Cake—free seminar (apple cake included)—a presentation on alpaca ownership and breeding practices for the small breeder—1PM-4PM—Columbus, NJ—easy access from Rt. 206, 295, and NJ/PA Turnpikes. Please **RSVP 609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com**—for farm information and directions visit www.StormwindAlpacas.com .

April 3, 2005 Second Annual Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper Halter & Fleece Show. West Friendship, MD, Howard County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Alpaca Heritage Events, Inc. Free seminars, parking, and admission. Entry fee \$50/alpaca—unlimited class entries. Limit of 2 pens/4 entries. No stall fees, bring your own panels. **Contact: Ingrid Wood, 609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com Kate Perez, kperez@erols.com or www.AlpacaHeritage.com.**

April 21, 22, 23, & 24—MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee 2005— The MaPaca Jubilee will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg, PA. See the MaPaca web site at www.mapaca.org and read your MaPaca Newsletter, to keep abreast of current Jubilee information.

Veterinary News for the East Coast:
National Animal Identification System NAIS
<http://usaip.info>

The USDA solicited comments on implementing its National Animal Identification System (NAIS) in the last few months. The deadline for accepting comments was October 3, 2004. Thus far the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has offered no new information on the proposed NAIS.

The stated purpose of the NAIS is to protect American animal agriculture by safeguarding animal health. Building on previously established and successful animal health and animal identification programs, an industry-state-federal partnership, aided by the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA), was formed in 2002 to coordinate the NAIS. The resulting plan was presented in October 2003.

In order to control any disease threat, whether foreign or domestic, the NAIS will allow for identification of individual animals or groups of animals, the premises where they are located, and the date of entry to that premises. The plan is to make retrieval of that information available within 48 hours of confirmation of a disease outbreak and to implement intervention when necessary.

The species currently supported by the United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) includes: bison, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, **camelids (alpacas and llamas)**, horses, cervids (deer and elk), poultry (eight species including game birds), and aquaculture. Implementation will be in three phases: Phase I involves premises identification; Phase II involves individual or group/lot identification for interstate and intrastate commerce; and Phase III involves retrofitting remaining processing plants and markets and other industry segments with appropriate technology that will enhance the ability to track animals throughout the livestock marketing chain to protect and improve the health of the national herd. Initially the USAIP will focus on cattle, swine and small ruminants. All cattle, swine, and small ruminants should possess individual or group/lot identification of interstate movement by July, 2005. All animals of the remaining species/industries must have similar compliance by July, 2006.

According to the USAIP website, the standards will apply to all animals within the represented industries regardless of their intended use as seed-stock, commercial, pets or other personal uses.

The entire USAIP Plan can be found at:http://usaip.info/US_AIP_Plan_Draft_092903_Ver_4_0_Master_.pdf

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
or any
contri-
butions,
send to
Alice
Brown at
fpalpacas
@aol.com .

**When chill No-
vember surly
blast
Made fields and
forests bare.**

*—Robert Burns,
Man Was Made to
Mourn.*



New Born Cria Amidst Falls Leaves

Photo by Angela Davis

Angela Davis visited our farm recently and sent this great photo of one of our female crias, Forever Precious Emerald, just one day old.