

# The NMAB Quarterly

The Official Newsletter of the  
New Mexico Alpaca Breeder  
Summer Edition July 2007

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## NMAB News and Reminders

### *Newsletter Announcements*

We hope this issue reaches you during an eventful and productive summer! Thanks to our contributors for this issue, and if you didn't have any news to share this time around, then please consider submitting an item for the October issue. This can be news from your farm, awards your animals have received, interesting industry news, want ads, and so on. Remember, this is the newsletter of the membership.

Cynthia Daly, Editor, Milagro Moon Ranch

### *Next NMAB Meeting*

July 14 is the next NMAB meeting at Aspen Ridge Alpacas of Northern New Mexico way up in the Jemez Mountains. Our main focus for this meeting is the NMAB-Sponsored Alpaca Show at the New Mexico State Fair, September 22 & 23. In addition, Joann Becenti, a Navajo alpaca owner from the Gallup area, will give a PowerPoint presentation. Be sure to arrive around 11 for lunch and socializing. If you have something to donate for the NMAB raffle, bring it with you. Six tickets cost only \$5.



### **September 22 & 23, 2007**

This is the most important event all year for New Mexico Alpaca Breeders – don't miss out!

**Halter Show, Performance Classes** (we're hoping for adult participation this year) and new for 2007 a **Herdsire Showcase** on Saturday evening. We've also moved the **Meet & Greet** to Saturday night to give us a better opportunity to get to know the other folks at the show.

Go to [www.newmexicoalpacobreeders.org/fair07.htm](http://www.newmexicoalpacobreeders.org/fair07.htm) for more info and registration forms

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## Alpaca Industry News, Opinion and Comment

### *National Alpaca Farm Day-September 29-30*

Members of the NMAB Marketing committee are working hard to promote National Alpaca Farm Day, September 29-30, 2007 here in our own great state of New Mexico. The nation-wide goal of this campaign is to increase the public's awareness of alpacas. A full report will be presented at the NMAB meeting on July 14th. Be sure to check out the AOBA website [www.nationalalpacaфарmday.com](http://www.nationalalpacaфарmday.com) The site offers a link to your farm website along with the farm phone number. Remember, there is a \$25.00 fee to have your farm listed on the website which is over and above your regular AOBA membership dues. You can contact the AOBA office at 615-834-4195 or email [member@aobamail.com](mailto:member@aobamail.com) to get your farm listed. – Leslie Stoddard

*Don't forget the State Fair Show...* Two things are essential for the success of our show – participants and volunteers. Please look at the classes that are offered and try to find a way to participate as much as possible. If you are not interested in competing in the performance classes, maybe you have friends with children who would enjoy it – or contact a local youth group at your church or neighborhood school, perhaps a scout troop or 4-H chapter. The more the merrier and since this is our best opportunity to represent our industry to the public – maximum merry is in order, doncha' think!

We also need for EVERYONE to volunteer – there are lots of things to do and we need all the help we can get. It doesn't matter if you are an "old hand" at alpaca shows or don't know the first thing about it – there is something you can help with. It is actually a lot of fun and a great learning experience if you've never done it. We can't do it without your help, so let us hear from you.

-Anne Stallcup

*For the the Board of Directors and State Fair Steering Committee*

### *Ian Watt's article continued from the January issue*

**Alpacas need shelter. True** - most animals benefit from shelter and alpacas are no exception. Shelter from wind and rain is essential for younger animals, especially newborns. Shade from the sun is essential for pregnant dams as excessive heat can form deformities in the unborn and place enormous stress on the cooling system of the dam.

**Alpacas are camels and do not need much water. False** – while alpacas are members of the same family as camels, they need as much water as any other specie of farm animal. Clean, fresh and plentiful water is essential for healthy alpacas.

**Alpacas need teeth and feet trimming. True** – especially where they are run under 'improved' growing conditions ('improved' is where pastures have been upgraded, soils

are damp and stone free and animals have an easy time of it). Foot trimming once or twice a year is normal practice whilst teeth may need to be trimmed annually depending on the type of feed being fed. Both operations can be done on farm by the owner and are not difficult.

**Cria are high maintenance. False** – by far the large majority of cria need minimal maintenance and care. These are very hardy animals that usually need minimum human intervention to survive and do well. It is humans who ‘see’ a need for intervention that create (no pun intended!) situations and fears that require help. A careful eye at birthing, treatment of the umbilical cord with an iodine compound and checking to ensure that the airway is clear is all that is usually needed at birth. Close scrutiny to ensure that the cria is getting essential colostrum in the first 24 to 48 hours and adequate milk supply in the following weeks should be normal management practice. Of course, there will be occasions when intervention for more serious reasons will be essential but these are not frequent.

**Alpacas spit and kick. True** – these are natural defense reflexes that are not usually aimed at humans but are often hurtful or embarrassing when they are!

**Alpaca fibre is seven times warmer than wool. False** – alpaca fibre is thought to be as much as three times warmer than the same weight of wool which makes it a highly sought after knitting alternative to wool. There is much made about the supposed hollowness of alpaca fibre but the reality is that there is not much hollow fibre but there are other features which make alpaca such a desirable alternative.

**Natural coloured alpaca fibre does not fade. True** – as with all naturally occurring colours in fibre, they will not fade thus giving alpaca a unique place in natural fibres.

**Breeding like colour to like colour will give like colour. False** – while breeding to this recipe enhances the chances of a predictable colour outcome, the fact is that breeding for colour is still something of a crapshoot. Breeding like to like will, in most cases, enhance the chances of a specific colour outcome but not guarantee it.

**Commercially, the fibre processors want white colour. True** – the international demand is for white fibre. Colour enjoys a unique niche market but in a commercial sense it will be many, many years before there are sufficient quantities of any one colour to justify commercial processing runs.

**Spinners and weavers are looking for colour fibre. True** – this market is huge and must be unsatisfied at this time. However, it is a niche market that requires much more individual effort to discover and encourage.

**Alpacas in America are a sustainable industry. True** – there are many advantages America has to sustain a large alpaca industry including population, land, wealth and lifestyle. Enthusiasm for all things alpaca remains unabated with record numbers joining the industry marketing body, AOBA, record auction sale clearances – and prices sometimes – strong farm gate sales and keen consumer interest in fibre products. As the national herd grows there will be a separating of prices based on quality with lesser quality animals becoming more and more affordable. The future looks really bright and more-or-less assured with the usual caveat that buyers should do their research really well

before entering what is still essentially a risk industry.

Never before has so much information about alpacas been available to new entrants (or existing stakeholders for that matter) and not for a long time have so many Americans been open to lifestyle changes that these animals can bring.

As with all things, investing money in lifestyle brings about its own set of issues that need to be researched, considered and acted upon. Alpacas are no exception. When considering these wonderful animals, look beyond the hype and glossy marketing material, ask the questions and research the responses. Only then can you make the investment confident in the outcomes as you enjoy these animals and your involvement in the supportive and caring world of alpaca owners and breeders.

**\*Ian Watt** is the principal of **Alpaca Consulting USA** and **Elite Alpaca Breeding Systems**, an independent specialist consulting company based in Morro Bay, California. He is also Editor and Publisher of "The International Alpaca Handbook" and conducts education and training seminars/workshops on fibre appreciation and breeding programs.

**[www.elitealpacabreedingsystems.com](http://www.elitealpacabreedingsystems.com)**  
**[www.alpacaconsultingusa.com](http://www.alpacaconsultingusa.com)**  
**[www.alpaca handbook.com](http://www.alpaca handbook.com)**  
**email: [alpacaconsult@earthlink.net](mailto:alpacaconsult@earthlink.net)**

## Farm News and Events

### *News from Llano Soleado*

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Llano Soleado won two ribbons for halter entries at the Level V GWAS: MerryMelody won a second (class of 10) in her juvi white female class, and Pavane a third (class of 11) in her juvi light brown female class. Nathan (age 9) and Abby (age 6) had a great time showing in the Performance and Showmanship classes: Nathan & Presto won a 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12 in Jr. Youth Showmanship, and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Jr. PR class. Great results for our first GWAS!

Soleado's Bandelier is featured on page 57 of this month's Hobby Farm Magazine! "The Alpaca Advantage" a very nice article written by Adrian Stewart of Mulberry Alpacas located in OR where Bandelier was born. Look for this handsome male at the State Fair in September!

We had exciting news that our herdsire Snowmass Andean Night's juvi true black son Snowmass Andean Midnight took a 2<sup>nd</sup> at the prestigious and ultra-competitive AAA Futurity! Andean Night's babies are starting to hit the show circuit and doing very well!

That's all from us.  
Thanks,  
Regina

## *What's New at Albuquerque Alpacas?*

My first cria of the 2007 season was born in early May. A spunky 21 pound, light fawn girl who has continued to contradict all the standard alpaca rhetoric. She was born at 5:00 PM in the middle of a thunderstorm, thus the name Raindancer seemed appropriate. Tipping the scales at 42 pounds at one month old, she has earned the nickname "Mega Cria" and continues to rule the pasture with her antics.

Albuquerque Alpacas would like to welcome, Gretchen Werner, from Circle W Alpacas in Michigan. Gretchen is a small-animal veterinarian who has relocated to the Albuquerque area and is temporarily agisting her Suri and Huacaya alpacas with me while she looks for a ranch in the East Mountains. The "pink mode" continues at Albuquerque Alpacas as her lasts two crias born here have also been girls. Gretchen will be a wonderful addition to our breeders group.

I was pleased that my two Juvenile girls did so well at GWAS in Denver this year. Esperanza Rising lived up to her name and earned a blue ribbon in her color class. Lucinda, despite her naughty behavior in the ring still managed to walk away with a fourth place ribbon. At a big show like that, this little ranch in Albuquerque is not complaining.

Incidentally, in the last newsletter I wrote an article about putting coats on show alpacas. My judge noted in her oral commentary the fact that the animals had been jacketed but it did not stop her from giving me a ribbon. Knowledgeable people in the fleece world who looked at my animals at color check also commented that the fleeces were well-nourished. I plan to put coats back on my animals after the State Fair.

This show was not without its challenges. First trailer ride, first show, first shearing, and cold temperatures in the trailer on the trip back was a little much in the stress department for Esperanza. Greater love has no alpaca owner than to put their brand new, never worn, alpaca Red Maple vest on the alpaca and then let her ride on the laps of passengers in the backseats from Las Vegas to Albuquerque! Two compromised Alpacas occupied my back porch for over a week. This prompted the obvious need to close in one of my out buildings so I guess you can say that I officially have a barn of sorts. It definitely beats the back porch!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my dear alpaca friends for their wonderful cards, love, and support during my husband, William's illness and subsequent transition. It was such a comfort to see all of you at the memorial service. My animals have been a true blessing during these difficult times.

Leslie Stoddard  
Albuquerque Alpacas

*Coming this Fall at Aspen Ridge Alpacas*

**CATHY SPALDING'S GENTLE SPIRIT ALPACA BEHAVIOR & TRAINING CLINIC with FREE "Alpaca Talk" CD by Cathy Spalding**

**September 8 & 9, 2007**

**In the Jemez Mountains of Northern New Mexico**

CATHY RETURNS TO ASPEN RIDGE.

We are proud to host again Cathy Spalding, a truly gifted teacher who works with alpacas (from crias to behaviorally challenged alpacas) and their people. Her hands-on clinic includes behavior cues, catching, haltering, toes, entering a trailer, obstacles, and much more. Participants gain confidence from Cathy's coaching as they work with the alpacas.



Saturday: "Basics"

Sunday: "Refining your Techniques and Advancing Your Skills."

You may attend both days or one. Check out Cathy's website for an in-depth look at the Gentle Spirit Way. There's a wealth of practical information on her website. <http://www.gentlespiritllamas.com/>

Check-in will start on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9:00. Enjoy breakfast and get to know the other participants. The clinic will start at 9:30. At noon, we will break for a delicious lunch with time to talk with Cathy and others. The clinic continues until 4:00.

If you are coming from some distance, you will want to arrive Friday night.

Check out this website (<http://www.jemezsprings.org/>) for accommodations in Jemez Springs (about 25 minutes from Thompson Ridge where Aspen Ridge Alpacas is located) or La Cueva (about 15 minutes). In addition, there are many camping spots in the area. We are surrounded by a national forest.

We have received a number of inquiries and requests for this clinic. Unfortunately, space is limited. All registrations must be based on a first-received basis. Please register by August 24.

Call or email for more information. The registration form is on our website

<http://www.aspenridgealpacas.com/>

Aspen Ridge Alpacas of Northern New Mexico

Mickey Wright & Evelyn Simons  
790 Aspen Dr.  
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

(505) 829-3312

**email:**  
**info@aspenridgealpacas.com**

*Skirting for Success at Shows*  
*With Rosemary Metcalf*

Due to anticipated demand place your reservations early. Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 4:00 , and Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – Noon.

**DREAM CATCHER RANCHITO, 68 CALLE ENRIQUE,  
SANTA FE, NM, 505-474-4007**

Join us for a day and a half with Rosemary Metcalf from Windrush Alpacas in Clovis, NM. She and her husband Ric have been in the alpaca business since June 1998. They proudly boast award winning animals such as Enchantment Prince Regent and color champion Windrush Jennifers Zindel.

**WHY THIS WORKSHOP?** There is nothing like learning from those who have been in the trenches!

**Learn:**

- Why skirting is important especially if you can not go to shows.
- Selecting fleece for competition
- How an AOBA judge examines your fleece/Interpreting score cards
- Advantage of showing under different judges/Showing multiple times
- Spin off competitions
- Process of skirting/Hands on skirting

No matter what your experience in showing you will gain great knowledge and increase your confidence with this clinic.

Bring your own fleece and skirting table or come and share, but please let us know what you have and do not have before the clinic.

**Registration Fee:** NMAB Members \$60 per person, \$110 for 2 from same ranch, Non NMAB \$90 per person. Includes lunch.

**Accommodations:** Dream Catcher Ranchito 68 Calle Enrique, Santa Fe NM 505-474-4007. Includes breakfast. We have five rooms that will accommodate 2 people in each room. \$100 per night for NMAB members. Non NMAB is \$125.

*Alpaca Business Considerations, Herd Management Practices, &  
What do you do with their Fleece?*

**Date:** August 18, 2007, Saturday

**Time:** 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Sponsored by:** Enchanted Sky Alpacas of New Mexico & Four Pines Alpacas

**Cost:** \$55.00 per person or \$50.00 for NMAB members

**Save \$\$\$, if paid by August 4:** \$50.00 per person or \$45.00 for NMAB members

Contact Lynne Fatkin at 505-235-0305 or [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com) to register.

This seminar covers the basics for the beginner, those interested in learning more about the alpaca industry in the United States, or breeders wanting to learn more about what they can do with their fleece. We'll cover business considerations when owning alpacas, start-up costs, herd management practices, and the many options of what you can do with their fleece. We've updated our seminar to spend more time talking about alpaca fleece and products. We will also have hands-on time with the alpacas - learning how to evaluate alpacas for conformation and fleece characteristics. You will find answers to your questions at this seminar. The cost includes breakfast, lunch, and a notebook filled with materials on all our topics! Limited to 10 people so sign up today!

### *News from Milagro Moon Ranch*

The East Mountain Fiber Farm and Studio Tour, June 2 and 3, was a big success. The participating farms and studios all had a good turnout with many repeat visitors from years past. We were very excited to have our new female cria, Magnolia, born on Sunday morning of the tour; a dozen or so visitors got to see the birth firsthand – and thankfully everything went well! She is a winner, out of our girl Aussie Sweet Megan and our boy Jolimont Gold Dust. “Dusty” also fathered our new male cria, Milagro Cobre, out of our other foundation female, Lanark’s Isadora. We are extremely pleased with what he has produced for us.

We are also pleased that our boy Milago San Pedro, a Show Me The Money offspring, seems to have settled his first females – that second spit test will tell for sure! We expect great things from “Pete.”

And, finally, in addition to our AlpacaNation page, we have launched our website where you can learn all about our herd, meet the goats and order Milagro Moon Fine Soaps. Check us out: [www.milagromoonranch.com](http://www.milagromoonranch.com) - Jim and Cynthia Daly

### *Next Stop – Hollywood!*

Be sure to watch for a new show coming this fall on CBS – we have some budding stars of stage and screen, right here in northern New Mexico. *Kid Nation* is a new “reality” show featuring children as the competitors that was shot entirely just outside of Santa Fe (they refer to it as “wilderness” in the promos!) Episode 12 called for “critter” interaction and the director decided that alpacas would be just the ticket. Que Sera’s Little Lulu, AlpacaWorks Jacinta and Galisteo, and Diego Riviera, newly acquired by Blue Mesa Alpacas, got the job. I’m not too worried about them winding up on the cutting room floor; the cinematographer could hardly articulate how fabulous they looked on camera and, of course, they charmed the entire crew. I was told the show would run on Wednesday nights beginning mid to late summer, but the promos say fall, so I guess, fall it is. Isn’t it wonderful that this director knew that there were these creatures called alpacas that are warm, and fuzzy and cute and would be a nice addition to his show even though he’d never seen one in person? And I’m sworn to secrecy – I could tell you who won...but I won’t! <evil laugh>

-Anne Stallcup  
Que Sera Alpacas

## Show Corner

2007 Great Western Alpaca Show

GLR CONDOR'S CHAKU

2<sup>nd</sup> Place / 1st Place Fleece Comp

GLR BLACK EYED PEA

2<sup>nd</sup> Place / 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Fleece Comp

SAGEBRUSH ZIGGY POP

1<sup>st</sup> Place

ANNIE'S GIRL TWIGGY

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

2007 AOBA NATIONAL

GLR CONDOR'S CHAKU

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

GLR BLACK EYED PEA

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

SAGEBRUSH ZIGGY POP

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Ziggy is still for sale.

Inferno's 2nd cria was born this morning, a 21.4 lb. True Black Female. His 1st cria was a 17.11 lb. True Black Male. We are certainly pleased. Breedings available.

Brenda Mosier, Desert Moon Alpacas, Santa Fe, NM

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## Classifieds

FOR SALE

BLACK ALPACA GROUP of THREE with cria due, too: **NOCHE VIEJA**, (TB, DOB 12/31/97). Her Shockwave baby is due August 2007. She produces black crias like her daughter **LEILANI**, (TB, DOB 7/23/06, sire: Crescent Moon's Shockwave). Her son **KONA BEAN** (TB, DOB 8/2/05, sire La Buena Vida's Sandman out of Dom Lucilio) is near breeding age. Price: \$21,000. Owners Bill and Carol Faturik are eager to sell. Come see at Aspen Ridge Alpacas. (505) 829-3312 [Aspen.Ridge.Alpacas@hughes.net](mailto:Aspen.Ridge.Alpacas@hughes.net)

NOW FOR SALE...A PINTO SURI who received high marks from Carrie when she was grading and sorting his fiber. **ROY ROGERS, KING OF THE COWBOYS** is absolutely full of personality, too. DOB 10/7/05 Dam: Full Peruvian GENOA Sire: KING KONG Price: \$7500

Contact: Aspen Ridge Alpacas of Northern New Mexico 505/829-3312  
[Aspen.Ridge.Alpacas@hughes.net](mailto:Aspen.Ridge.Alpacas@hughes.net)

**BOARDING:** When you need a place for your alpacas to stay, please consider Enchanted Sky Alpacas of New Mexico. Your alpacas will be pampered at our luxury resort & spa. They can indulge in daily treats, drink plenty of fresh water, & we'll clean the poop almost as fast as they make it! We're conveniently located outside Albuquerque in the East Mountains. Contact Lynne at 505-235-0305 or [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com) or find more info at [http://www.alpacanation.com/alpaca-services/03\\_viewservice.asp?name=12362](http://www.alpacanation.com/alpaca-services/03_viewservice.asp?name=12362)

**ALPACA COVERS:** We have taken over for La Buena Vida Alpacas as the distributor for Matilda Alpaca Covers. The covers were developed in Australia. They are made from a breathable material which is tough enough to stand up to the daily life of an alpaca. Why use covers on your alpacas? To reduce skin temperature in hot weather, to prevent discoloration of fleece and make it **softer**, to reduce the amount of vegetable matter in the fleece, and to keep your show animals looking tip-top and ready to compete with alpacas from all over the United States (It's **not** against the show rules). Alpaca Covers come in many sizes to fit most alpacas. It is important to get the right size for your alpaca. Contact Lynne at Enchanted Sky Alpacas for more details: [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com), 505-235-0305, or check out our website at [http://www.alpacanation.com/alpaca-products/03\\_view\\_product.asp?name=105500](http://www.alpacanation.com/alpaca-products/03_view_product.asp?name=105500)

**Barns, buildings, and storage sheds:** We have quality Morgan buildings for sale. We offer a variety of choices - from small storage sheds to large barns. See for yourself at [morganbuildings.com](http://morganbuildings.com). We can help you find the right building to fit your needs. **Discounts for NMAB members.** Contact Al Fatkin of Enchanted Sky Alpacas at 505-235-8511 or [enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:enchantedskyalpacas@yahoo.com) for more information.

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