

The Canadian Oregler

The official newsletter of Alpaca Canada

March 2015

Canadian Alpaca Farm Days – 2015

What better time to think about the crisp mornings and warm afternoons of September than right now while the snows of winter build up around our doors and fill our driveways. Okay, maybe that is stretching things a bit, but it is the perfect time to think about participating in the 2015 Canadian Alpaca Farm Days.

CAFD – 2014 went over so well, with nearly three times as many farms participating as in the previous year, that the same format will be followed. To refresh your memory this includes:

- a) CAFD – 2015 will encompass the entire month of September. This means you can feature your farm during the week, pick one weekend and go solo or get together with other farms in your area and have a ‘farm festival.’
- b) Once again there will be no registration fee.
- c) The AC Board/Office will prepare and provide you with a media release you can give to your local newspaper/radio/community television station ...

OR

You could provide the contact information, complete with names and phone numbers, to the AC office and it can be attended to from there. If the office does this for you, you will be provided with a copy of any emails exchanged with the media.

- d) Three Alpaca Canada t-shirts and six copies of the Alpaca Canada Guide will be sent to each participating farm.
- e) The list of participating farms will be uploaded by mid-August and remain active until the end of October. Changes or additions to the information can be made up to mid-September.

- f) The Poster – Each year a new poster is prepared, using an image provided by an Alpaca Canada member, and a .pdf is sent to you for you to reproduce in whatever size best meets your needs.

We do ask one more thing of you: Lots of pictures from your 2015 Canadian Alpaca Farm Days! If you are unable to take them, please talk a friend into taking them for you, bribing them with the promise of

We need an image for this year's poster so send us the picture you feel best captures your life with alpacas... beyond the toenail clipping and poop scooping.

The image should not be cropped or photo-shopped in any way, largest size possible and at least 300 dpi. The deadline for poster photo submissions is May 31st. One image will be selected for the 2015 Canadian Alpaca Farm Days poster.

Email your image to: alpacacanada@nucleus.com

chocolate or home-baked goodies if need be. Then, when you finally have a minute, go through the images, select the twelve best and email them to the AC office, along with a brief report (if you wish) on how things went at your farm, and we will create a CAFD – 2015 photo album for the website.

Classified Ads

For a trial period, classified ads, to a maximum of forty (40) words, may be carried in the Alpaca Canada newsletter, “The Oregler.” The advertiser must be a member in good standing with Alpaca Canada and have either:

- a) An Industry Membership,
- b) An Alpaca Canada Owner Membership, or
- c) An Alpaca Canada Associate Non-Owner Membership

As long as the membership condition is met, there will be no charge for the placement of the ad.

These same conditions apply when submitting an ad for placement on the Alpaca Canada website in the “Fibre Focus” section for:

- a) Certified fibre classers and sorters,
- b) Canadian halter class and fleece judges,
- c) for Canadian veterinary associations and schools, and
- d) alpaca shearers

Under the “Shop Alpaca” section, this same condition applies to boutiques and affiliated services, which includes mills and transporters.

Within the “Fibre Sources” section, anyone with yarn, fibre, rovings or socks for sale may advertise, as long as they are members in good standing with Alpaca Canada.

Please note that ads will be removed from the website after thirty (30) days.

* Like Alpaca Canada on Facebook!



Why sanction your show?

Many clubs struggle with the decision of whether to sanction their upcoming shows. There are some excellent reasons why sanctioned shows are a benefit to both organizers and competitors alike, making the decision to sanction a win-win situation.

- Sanctioning a show adds credibility to the show results, and assures competitors that approved show rules will be strictly followed.
- Alpaca Canada advertises all sanctioned shows, ensuring the entire membership is aware of all upcoming sanctioned shows, thereby giving all members an opportunity to participate.
- The winners of all sanctioned shows are showcased in The International Camelid Quarterly Magazine and on the Alpaca Canada website.

Member's Corner

There's a reason Canadians like to talk about the weather...it's loaded with drama! We have blizzards, tornados, hurricanes, mud slides, flooding, wicked heat and frigid cold. So depending on what ground you call home, alpaca farming is a whole different game, with it's own set of challenges and victories!

The Orgler wants to hear about alpaca farming in your neck of the Canadian wilderness, and we want to share your stories with Alpaca Canada Members across the country! Articles and stories can be sent to: ulrich@northwesttel.net

Alpaca Farming in the North Sharon Ulrich, Northern Spirit Alpaca Farm Whitehorse, Yukon

Alpaca farming in the Yukon, with it's -40C winters, and endless daylight summers, is surprisingly easy. The long stretches of -40C weather in the far north are accompanied by short, but usually sunny and wind-free, days. Alpacas are perfectly adapted for not only surviving, but also thriving, in these extreme cold temperatures. With some straw for bedding to keep off the frozen ground, a basic shelter to stay dry, heated water buckets, and no wind to mess with the natural insulation of their thick coats, alpacas happily wait out the darkness of winter. Their fibre even seems to grow in thicker during the extra cold winters, which is a bonus at shearing time in the spring!

In our experience alpacas are not fond of deep snow, and the Yukon has a super arid climate, with no storms, and very little snowfall. This makes it much easier for the Camelid crew to remember where the bean pile is, so they're not always using the barn as a toilet! The seemingly endless darkness can be depressing for everyone though...whether alpaca, human, dog or cat, so a good yard light is essential. On winter solstice, from the time the sun goes down to when it comes up again 18.5 hours later, all the alpacas stay glued to the magic area under that beam of light!

The Yukon summers are short but powerful. Almost unlimited daylight, and temperatures that rarely get above 20C, make for an

alpaca paradise. Crias born from June-August in the land of the midnight sun, find themselves in a perfect camelid environment. Heat stroke is not a concern, the long hours of sunlight ensures plenty of vegetation to keep the browsing herd well fed, and the dry climate ensures summer storms are never an issue.

Extensive periods of cold weather during the winter kills off populations of parasites or pests trying to establish themselves, so alpaca farmers in the north don't have the summer pest problems that farmers further south encounter. Poisonous wild plants and animals are not much of a concern either. Mosquitoes and black flies are a constant plague though, so our fence is ringed with mosquito magnets, and we have copious amounts of NuStock on hand to slather on alpaca noses that get rubbed raw.



Now that's a winter coat!

Heads up for anyone contemplating alpaca farming in the north though...hay is unbelievably expensive! We pay \$12-\$15/ 50lb square bale for local hay, and although traveling south for less expensive hay is an option, it's a round trip of many days, with exorbitant fuel expenses and a huge time commitment. Human food is expensive here too!

Living in the isolated Yukon is definitely not for everyone, or every species, but our alpacas have definitely shown themselves to be well suited to tackle anything the north has yet to throw their way...

Alpaca Canada Introduces the Alpaca Appreciation Award of Honour Recognizing our industry heroes

Alpaca Canada wants to recognize those members that have gone 'over and above', while tirelessly investing their time and energy into the alpaca community. The award will be presented to those members whose activities have been central to the growth and prosperity of the Association, the breeders, and the breed.

Award Recipients will be profiled in the The Orgler, as well as on the Alpaca Canada website, and will receive an official Alpaca Canada certificate and letter of recognition.

The Alpaca Appreciation Award of Honour will be awarded quarterly.

How to nominate an alpaca Canada member for the Alpaca Appreciation Award of Honour:

- Candidates can be nominated by an Alpaca Canada member, or by the Alpaca Canada Board of Directors.
- Send to the office of AC a text of no more than 250 words promoting the candidate. If possible, please include a photo of the person you are nominating in a high-resolution format.

Welcome to the Most Recent Additions to the Alpaca Canada Membership...

Alpaga Wasi

Lisa-Louise Boucher, Louise Giroux et Justine Hobbs
Saint-Agapit, QC

Alpaga Zen

Anca Nottara & Sylvain Goyer
St Zenon, QC

Alpagas Des Hautes Laurentides

Daniel Therien
Lac-Saguay, QC

Alpagas des Neiges

France Jacob et Patrick Parent
St-Ferreol-Les-Neiges, QC

Alpagas d'Ici

Marielle Roy
Ormstown, QC

Blue Mountain Alpacas

Louise Watson, Bruce Squires
Feversham, ON

Chalet Alpacas: Niagara Fiber Farm

Gina De Souza & Elfie Holst
Niagara on the Lake, ON

Ferme les Cinq Saisons

Martin Duchesneau
St-Georges-de-Windsor, QC

Ferme LoVe Alpagas

Véronique Caron et Louis Girard
Pont-Rouge, QC

Forget The Paint Alpacas

Paityn Eidt
Edson, AB

Michel & Reine Aimee Nadon

Cache Bay, On

Charles Park
Ponoka, AB

Ranch H et J

Jessica Prevost
Labelle, QC

Starshine Alpacas

Joyce Nicholson
Flaxcombe, SK

Contacting Your Local Alpaca Association

Alpaca Livestock Producers And Cooperators Association

(A.L.P.A.C.A.)
Box 78098
RPO Collingwood
Edmonton, AB
<http://www.alpaca.ca>

Alpaca Ontario

Dug Lilleyman
Treasurer & Office Manager 519-986-1207
info@alpacaontario.ca
www.alpacaontario.ca

Alpaga Québec Association

ca@alpagaquebec.com
www.alpagaquebec.com

BC Llama & alpaca Association

Craig Bacon, President
250-804-2611
info@tocinoalpacas.com
www.bclaa.ca

Manitoba Alpaca Club

Laurie Martens, President
204-752-2155
info@circleoalpacos.com
www.manitobaalpacaclub.ca

Saskatchewan Alpaca Breeders Network

Hans-Peter Vos, President
306-771-2040
hanspeter@sasktel.net
www.sabn.net

Yukon Alpaca Association

Sharon Ulrich
867-633-3831
ulrich@northwestel.net

A Few Facts About the Alpaca Canada Website...

During 2014 there were 33,300 visits to the Alpaca Canada website (www.alpacainfo.ca) which, given how specific in nature the information it presents, is quite impressive.

As you might guess, the pages most frequently visited were:

- Alpaca 101 – Why Alpacas
- About Alpaca Canada, and
- Alpaca 101 - Frequently Asked Questions.

These three were closely followed by each of the provincial 'Visit A Farm' pages. (These pages are automatically generated early in the year using the most recent data from the Alpaca Canada membership.) The number of visits ranged from the Yukon Territory with 1337 visits to Ontario with 2946.

Each page included in 'Fibre Focus' and 'Fibre Sources' received roughly 1500 visits despite their limited use by Alpaca Canada members. (To the right are the statistics regarding the AC website to February 28th 2015.)

The guidelines for advertising on the website, as well as in this newsletter, are being revised and we hope the changes will stimulate greater use of these two membership driven venues... which will result in an increase in the number of visits.

Stay tuned to the Alpaca Canada Facebook page to learn when the new guidelines have been uploaded to the website.

REMINDER:

Emails were sent on March 20th and March 26th advising Alpaca Canada members of changes to the Alpaca Canada Show System Rules. The changes were made to:

- Chapter 4/ Section 1 - Alpaca Eligibility Requirements (2015 only)
- Chapter 5/ B - Halter Class Divisions
- Chapter 7/ D - Ribbon Refunds (2015 Only)
- Chapter 8/ B - The Show Program

The ACSS Rules are in the process of being updated on-line.

Alpaca Canada Web Site Visits

2015	Feb	Jan
Month to Date	3125	3290
alpaca-101-why-alpacas.php	443	548
alpaca-101-faqs.php	297	386
visit-a-farm-ontario.php	232	234
alpaca-events-events-calendar.php	151	148
alpaca-101-buyers-tips.php	577	195
fibre-focus-fibre-overview.php	144	173
shop-alpaca-alpaca-boutiques	255	227
visit-a-farm-alberta	134	170
canadian-alpaca-farm-clays	210	264
visit-a-farm-quebec	141	130
alpaca-101-investment-potential	147	167
visit-a-farm-saskatchewan	149	123
alpaca-events-show-results	113	119
fibre-sources-raw-fibre	109	122
show-system	124	110
shop-alpaca-classifieds	113	109
agm-fleece-show	240	179
visit-a-farm-new-brunswick	102	104
fibre-focus-fibre-processing	108	115
visit-a-farm-manitoba	108	101
visit-a-farm-newfoundland	88	83
visit-a-farm-nova-scotia	104	112
fibre-focus-fibre-retailing	107	110
alpaca-101-fibre-facts	110	107
about-alpaca-canada-background	127	172
visit-a-farm-pei	95	90
alpaca-101-history	126	136
join-alpaca-canada	120	134
fibre-sources-socks	121	133
fibre-focus-fibre-harvest	107	103
shop-alpaca-affiliated-services	97	92
fibre-sources-yarn-rovings	95	116
visit-a-farm-yukon	89	88
visit-a-farm-usa	90	85
shop-alpaca	71	69
alpaca-shearers	103	115
canadian-halter-class-fleece-judges	78	82
canadian-veterinary-assns-schools	92	112
certified-fibre-classers-sorters	83	94
alpaca-fibre-processors	118	158