

AMERICAN

LLAMA

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Promoting our Industry

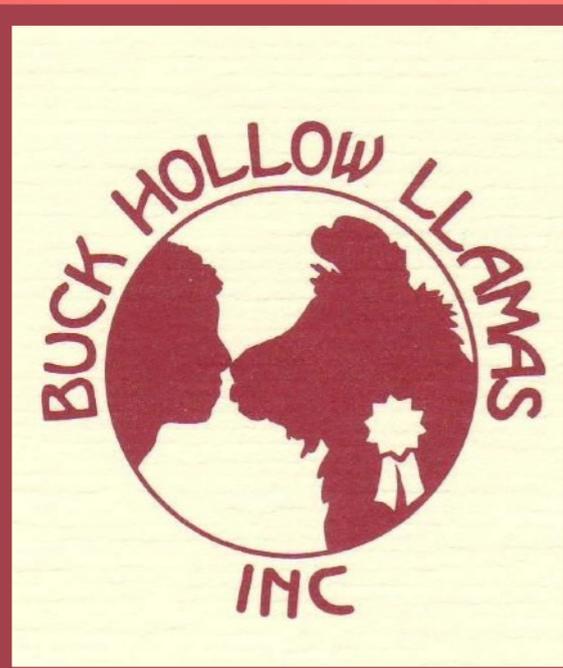
Issue Two
March 2019

Photo: Eskaado



THE SMALL FARM WITH A BIG REPUTATION

ESKALERO OFFSPRING



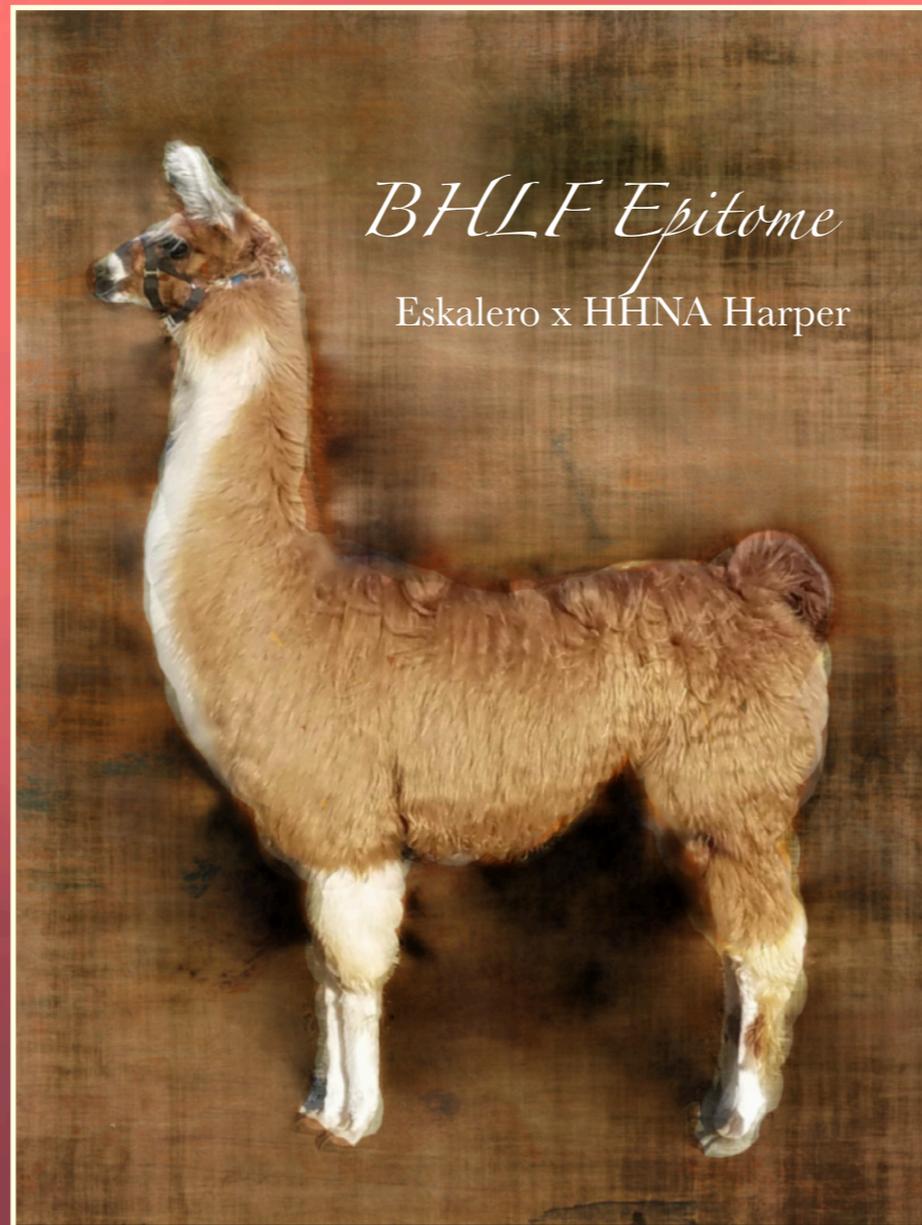
Carol and Doug Reigh

Birdsboro, PA

Email:

Carol@buckhollowllamas.com

www.buckhollowllamas.com



We are proud to offer one of our very best, BHLF Epitome to this years MLM Sale of Champions. She is a direct daughter of our legendary herdsire Eskalero.



March 2019

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Letter from the Editor

It has been 7 months since we released our first issue and I have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and encouragement from the llama community. I started this magazine with a hunch that it was time for the llama industry to have a trade publication again and it seems that many people agree with me.

We are extremely grateful to all of the advertisers and article writers who took a chance on our first issue, stepping up to support a project without having seen the finished result. We hope we made you proud.

Our rookie effort was not without error, however. In one of the articles we published we inadvertently used photos from Niki and Jeff Kuklinski's website without giving them proper credit. We apologize for this error, we have corrected issue one for future downloads and have taken steps to avoid mistakes like this in future issues.

In issue two we have repeated many of the most popular ideas from the first issue with many new additions as well. We would like to thank our issue two advertisers as well as our sponsors: Carol Reigh, Sonya and Clark Salisbury, Steve and Sue Rolfing, March Llama Madness and the Cascade Llama Sale. With their support we plan to do some exciting things in the issues to come.

-Kyle Mumford

About the Editor

Kyle Mumford and his wife Jerrika live in Ridgefield, WA and own Volcano View Ranch, a herd of approximately 25 llamas. The Mumford family has owned llamas since 1980.



Before We Begin...

A few notes about this new magazine

See a Llama website
you'd like to visit?
Click on a link and it
will take you there!

Our current plan is to do two issues per year.

September issue dates:

Article/Advertising Submission: 9-1-19

Publication Release: 9-22-19

This magazine is free to download and therefore is supported solely by our advertisers and sponsors. If you like what you see and want to help support future issues please consider advertising in our next issue. A business card ad is only \$10, a half page is \$25 and a full page is \$50.

Opinions and ideas expressed in articles, advertisements or other content belong to the various authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of American Llama Magazine or its editor. Letters of disagreement are always welcome.

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American Llama Magazine LLC can not be held responsible for veterinary or business decisions recommended in this issue. Always consult with a vet or a financial advisor prior to making changes to your practices.

DOUBLE S



Llama Ranch

Sonya & Clark Salisbury
7450 CR 216, Clyde, Texas 79510
(325) 668-8606 clarksalisbury@ymail.com

OUR FUTURE HERD SIRES

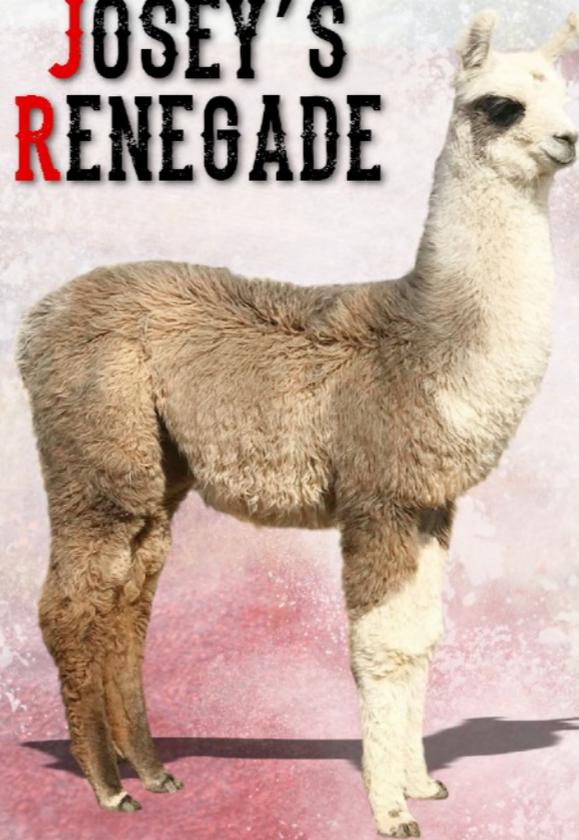
**GNLC HIGHTOWER'S
DARK PHANTOM**



**DSL R HIGH
PLAINS DRIFTER**



**DSL R
JOSEY'S
RENEGADE**



GHLC QUIET RIOT

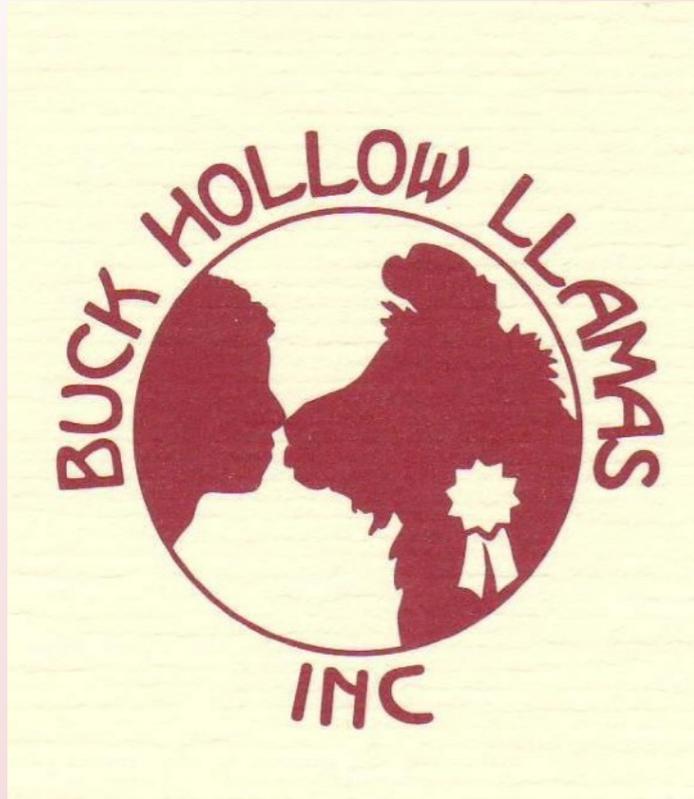


NUT'N BUT SASSY
Sire: LAMS Nut'n Like a Party
Dam: TVR Ritzy's Sec Sea
Offering one of our best!
A fabulous girl with a great pedigree!

AVAILABLE AT
MLM SALE
OF CHAMPIONS

BREEDING CONFORMATIONALLY CORRECT HIGH QUALITY LLAMAS

About Our Sponsors



Carol Reigh has owned and raised llamas for over 21 years. She is committed to a herd size not exceeding 35 animals which she has maintained every year except the first breeding year she owned Eskalero. Her focus is on well conformed animals with trusting dispositions and desirable fiber. Carol has a small store with exquisite yarn made from her animals. She has served as President of the PA Llama and Alpaca Association and has served on the GALA board for 9 years not to mention other committees. Committed to educating people to camelids, she has co-chaired at least 5 GALA conferences and has just recently attained her judging certification. Buck Hollow Llamas is also known for the best vetting/grooming chute in the industry. To say that Carol loves llamas and the people in the industry is an understatement. www.buckhollowllamas.com



Sonya and "Sal" (Clark) Salisbury established the Double S Llama Ranch in Clyde Texas in August 2017. The Double S Ranch was created in part thanks to "Steve the Llama" a large white male classic llama who spent most of his life alone, abandoned on a farm in Baird Texas. Steve was gifted to Sonya by her sister Kim in late 2016 and the foundation of the Double S Llama Ranch was laid. The rest, so they say, is history!



Steve and Sue Roling have raised llamas for show and packing in northwest Montana since 1979. You can read about the history of their program and see photos of their beautiful ranch in Issue One of American Llama Magazine.

www.gnranch.com



Darrell and Merlene Anderson will be holding their 7th annual MLM sale and show on April 5-7 In Cloverdale, IN. In addition to this event Darrell continues to be the auctioneer for llama sales across the country as he has done for many years. To see their llama herd or to find out more about MLM visit www.solidrockllamas.com



Jacob and Meggan Mumford are organizing the 13th annual Cascade event. The sale and show will be held in conjunction with AgFest in Salem, OR on April 27th and 28th. www.cascadellamashow.com

Current Events

Shows and other
events in the llama
community

If you help run a show or
event please consider
sending a few photos and a
100-500 word recap to
llamamagazine@gmail.com

2018 ALSA Grand National Champions



Light Wool Male

Champion- Foothills Caspian, Larry and Deanna Lewellyn
Reserve- 2-Bit-2 Coat of Many Colors

2018 ALSA Grand National Champions



Suri Wool Male

Champion- GNLC Sabrego, Rick and Sharon VanHooser
Reserve- Smoke and Mirrors CTW, Gayla and Tim Self



Suri Wool Female

Champion- HHNA China's 'Shall B', Chris and Venesa Carter
Reserve- New Leaf's Snowflake, Sarah McGovern

2018 ALSA Grand National Champions



Medium Wool Male

Champion- Spicey's Gallant Pride, Rick and Sharon VanHooser
Reserve- LUA Wave's of Prayer, Tami and Lloyd Lash

Medium Wool Female

Champion- HF Valerie, Tami and Lloyd Lash
Reserve- CVL Pride's Fancy Princess, Chris and Venesa Carter

2018 ALSA Grand National Champions



Heavy Wool Male

Champion- MSF Show Stopper, Tami and Lloyd Lash
Reserve- SRLT Tyrone, Chris and Venesa Carter



Heavy Wool Female

Champion- Pride's Marquis Dymond, Chris and Venesa Carter
Reserve- New Leaf's Diorissima, Sarah McGovern

WOL Chirí Tumalo



The future of Wild Oak Llamas
is WOL Chirí Tumalo

WOL Chirí Rondo X WOL Far Niente'



Rick and Mary Adams

Bend, Oregon

www.WildOakLlamas.com

March Llama Madness

Show and Sale Preview

By Darrell and Merlene Anderson

The anticipation is building for the March Llama Madness Sale of Champions. It will be held at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Saturday, April 6 at the C-Bar-C Expo Center in Cloverdale, Indiana.

Once again this year, the consignors have dug deep in their keeper pens and are offering an incredible group of young show prospects - both male and female. This sale has grown in quality each year, and llamas sold in the previous six years have earned more than 100 Championships in shows from coast to coast. We once again have llamas that are out of National Champions, and some have already been selected as Champions and Best of Shows.

If you are not able to attend the sale, but would like to bid on one or more of the animals in the sale, feel free to contact Darrell D. Anderson (Cell: 765.427.8551) to set up phone bidding. Once again this year, the Futurity Show and Sale will be live-streamed. To find the link to the live-stream webcast go to our website:

www.solidrockllamas.com



MARCH LLAMA MADNESS SALE OF CHAMPIONS

FEMALES



CVL PRIDE'S MARQUIS DYMOND
ID 290922 FEMALE
DOB JUN 1, 2017



HARD ROCK'S BEAUTY QUEEN
ID PENDING FEMALE
DOB JULY 21, 2018



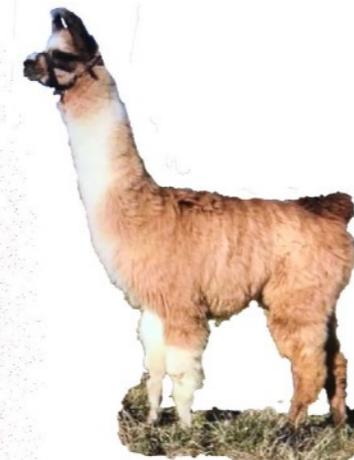
OLLENDICK FARMS ZARIAH
ID#: 292211 FEMALE
DOB: JULY 29, 2018



NUT'N BUT SASSY
ID# 291511 FEMALE
DOB MAR 30, 2018



BHLF EPITOME
ID#: 292328 FEMALE
DOB: May 25, 2018



ERF'S MAEBE IT'S MAEBALINE
ID#: 291329 FEMALE
DOB: JUNE 30, 2017



ERF TEDDY'S ELECTION GIRL
ID#: 292173 FEMALE
DOB: AUG 11, 2017



SRLN NEMEIA
ID#: 292254 FEMALE
DOB: JUNE 27, 2018



GHLC WHAT A WONDERUL
ID#:292517 FEMALE
DOB: SEPT 30, 2018



MSF PURPLE REIGN
ID#: 290877 FEMALE
DOB: APR 23, 2017



GHLC WHATADAY
ID#: 292525 FEMALE
DOB: SEPT 26, 2017



SHE'S MAGIC RTC
ID#: 292464 FEMALE
DOB: SEPT. 20, 2018

MARCH LLAMA MADNESS SALE OF CHAMPIONS

MALES



OLLENDICK FARMS CUSTOM MADE
ILR: PENDING MALE
DOB: JULY 6, 2018



MSF MURPHY
ID 291208 Male
DOB Nov 14, 2017



MSF BIG BLUE
ID#: 292049 MALE
DOB: SEP 2, 2018



MSF BLUE GENES
ID 290875 MALE
DOD MAY 30, 2017



HHNA SHERACCA
ID: PENDING MALE
DOB: MAY 24, 2018



FREEDOM REIGNS
ID: 292279 MALE
DOB: JUL 4, 2018

SUCCESSFUL BIDDER
CAN CHOOSE

SUCCESSFUL BIDDER
CAN CHOOSE

Here's a brief look at the March Llama Madness Show and Sale of Champions **schedule of events:**

Thursday, April 4 - C-Bar-C Expo Center, Cloverdale, Indiana

1:00 p.m. Earliest arrival of llamas at the facility

Friday, April 5:

1:00 p.m. Llama Halter Judging Contest (competition for individuals and 3-member teams)

5:00 p.m. Free nacho bar for exhibitors - Complements of MLM

6:00 p.m. Meeting for all exhibitors and sale consignors

6:30 p.m. Best Dressed Uniform (Walking Fleece, Best Uniform-Shorn) (Dirty Laundry)

6:30 p.m. 3-on-3 Tournament in Ring #1 (Exhibitors enter their best three head, any wool type, any age, either sex)

7:30 p.m. Futurity Prospect Show Ring #1 (Features the llamas that are consigned to the Sale of Champions)

7:30 p.m. Jackpot Performance in Ring #2 -Youth and adult divisions



MLM Schedule of Events Continued

Saturday, April 6:

8:00 a.m. Olympic Futurity Show Ring #1 - Judged by a committee of 5 judges with Olympic Style Judging
(Seven classes with guaranteed premiums of \$1,000 per class)

8:00 a.m. Single ILR Performance Show in Ring #2

*Performance Classes consist of Advance, Senior Youth, Intermediate Youth, Novice and Junior Youth in each of the 3 divisions

8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. - Continuation of Best Dressed Uniform (Walking Fleece, Best Uniform-Shorn)

11:00 a.m. Double ILR Halter Show in Ring #1

Youth Breeding Halter Show
Rookie Classes

5:00 p.m. Estimated break for Prospect Futurity Sale of Champions

6:30 p.m. ILR Show Showmanship Classes

Sunday, April 7:

8:00 a.m. ILR Halter Show Continues in Ring #1

Bred and Owned pair (any sex any age)

Best "Sixth Man" Female (one selected by each Referee)

Best "Sixth Man" Male (one selected by each Referee)

Best of Show Female (one selected by each Referee)

Best of Show Male (one selected by each Referee)

8:00 a.m. Performance in Ring #2

Obstacle - Continuation from Saturday, if need be
Pack

2:00 p.m. Final Presentations of awards

Head for home



Unanimous best in show female and auction high seller 2018,
Ollendick Farm's Baba Sue.

Who will be the excitement this year?

We hope you can join us!



JOIN US FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL MARCH LLAMA MADNESS APRIL 5-7, 2019



FEATURING:

JUDGING CONTEST

YOUTH BREEDING HALTER SHOW
YOUTH FLEECE SHOW
ROOKIE CLASS
ILR DOUBLE HALTER
PERFORMANCE
FLEECE SHOW
OLYMPIC FUTURITY
JACKPOT PERFORMANCE

PROSPECT FUTURITY AND SALE OF CHAMPIONS WEBCAST



www.solidrockllamas.com

APRIL 5-6, 2019

5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME

C-BAR-C EXPO CENTER

CLOVERDALE, IN



FOR PHONE BIDDING



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Four Ladies & Me Farm

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Meet a Few of our Herdsires



Indiango Merlot

Best of Show Winner



SRLM Mandarb

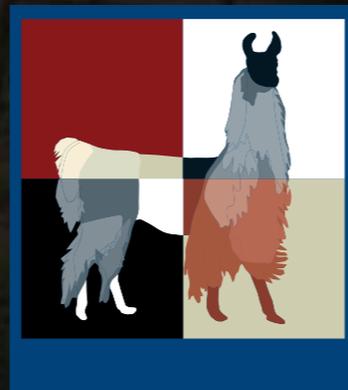
World Futurity Champion



Co-owned with New Leaf Farm

Nastaza's Raphael

3x National Champion



Michael and Patricia West
East Bend, North Carolina

www.fourladiesandme.com



PVL Scorpion King

Sire of Champions

Cascade Llama Show and Sale Preview



Cascade XIII
April 27 and 28 2019

Held in Salem, Oregon in Conjunction with Oregon AgFest
Our ILR-SD judges are Deborah Yeagle, Venesa Carter, Bob Wooldridge (obstacle)
The judge for our popular fun/informal obstacle classes is Megan Miller

ILR SD Show - Fun/informal show - Fiber show
13th Annual Llama Auction - includes 20 or more llamas from top farms across the western states!

Online bidding Starts Monday April 22nd on Justin Timm's website: www.justintimmauctionservice.com

Please join us online or in person!
Need more information? Call or text Jacob at 360-901-1073

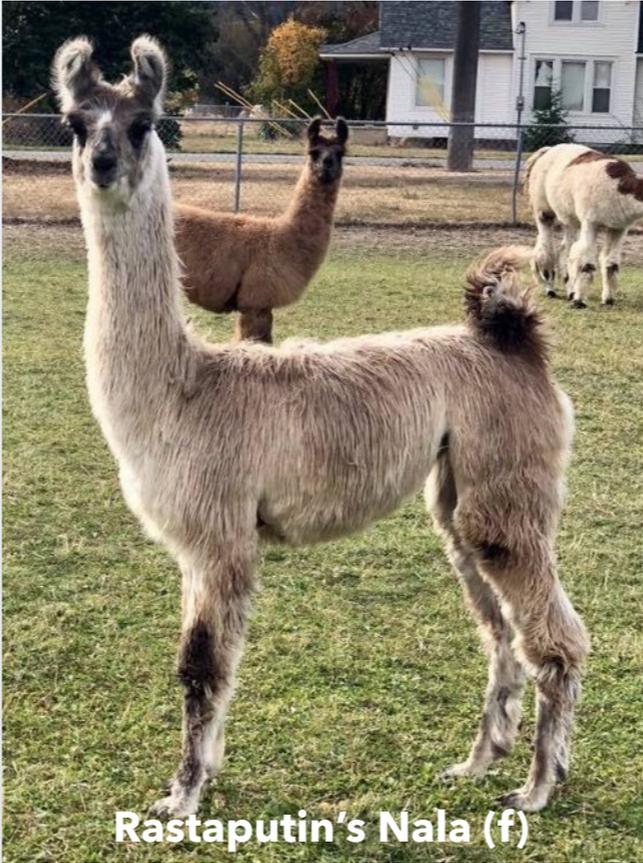
See our early entries in the following pages and watch our facebook page and website to see all of the entries as we approach sale day!

www.cascadellamashow.com - Still accepting entries for the show and sale!

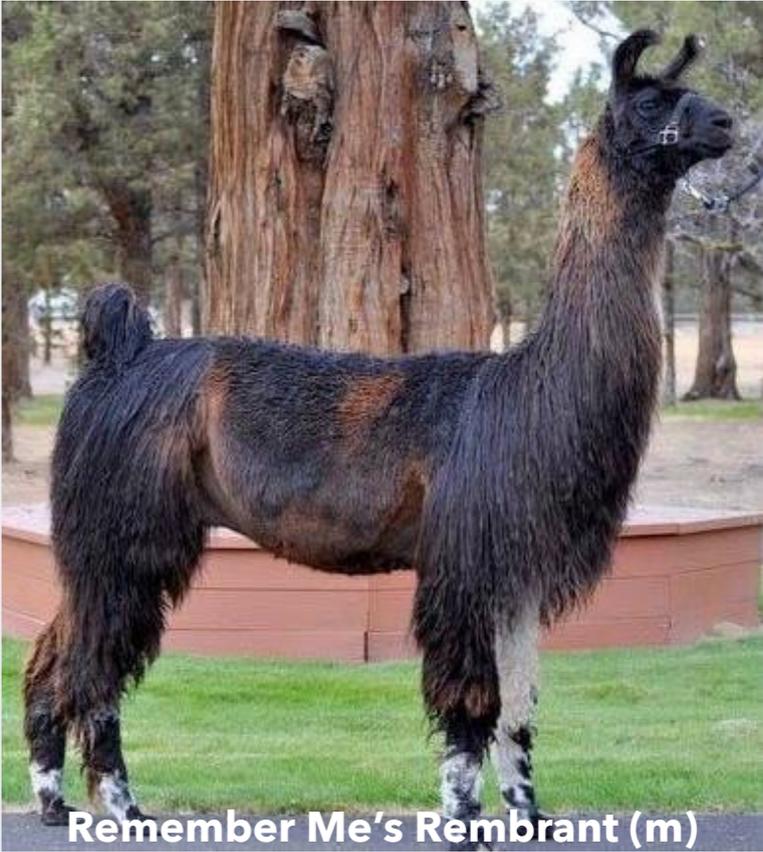
Cascade Llama Show and Sale Preview



Forget Me Not (f)



Rastaputin's Nala (f)



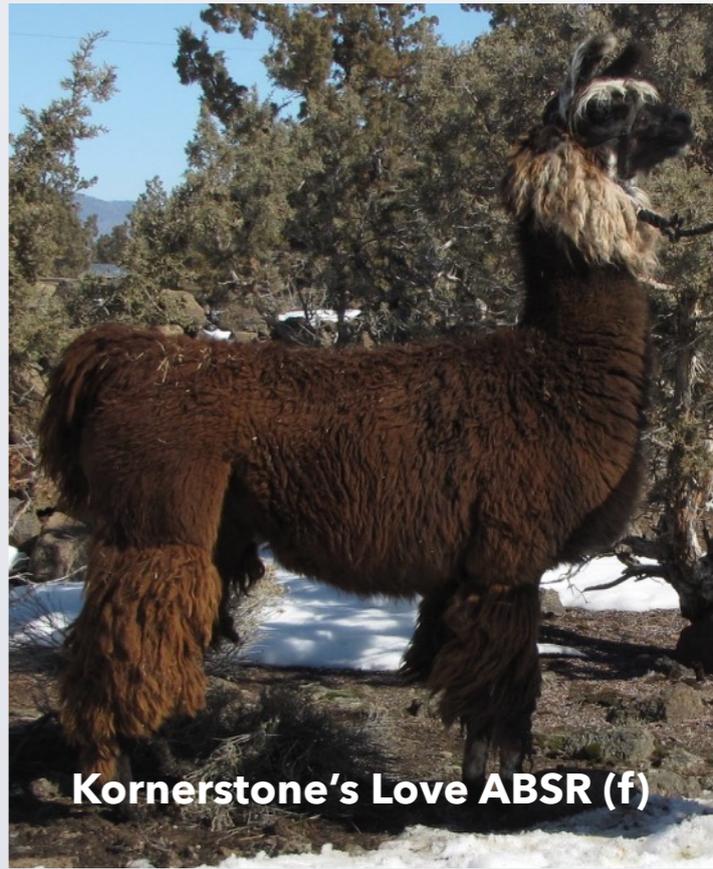
Remember Me's Rembrant (m)



Argentine Lumberjane (f)



A Star is Born (f)



Kornerstone's Love ABR (f)

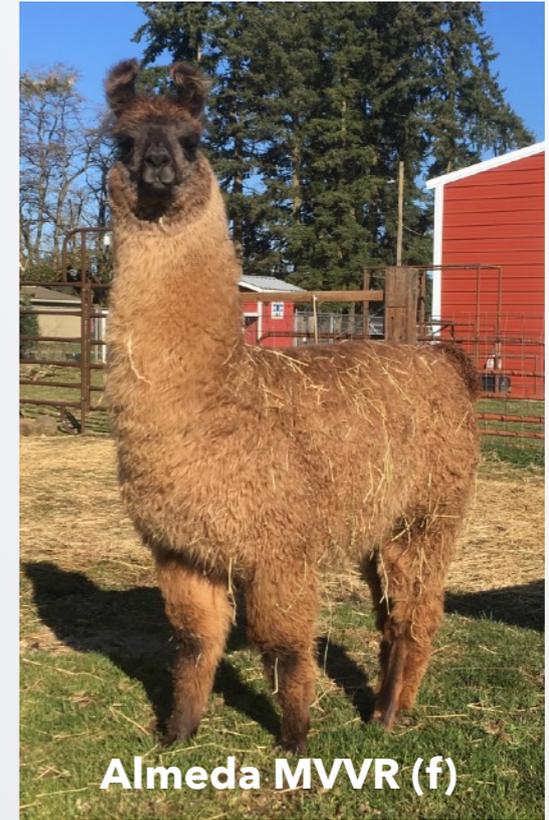
Cascade Llama Show and Sale Preview



Ohana (f)



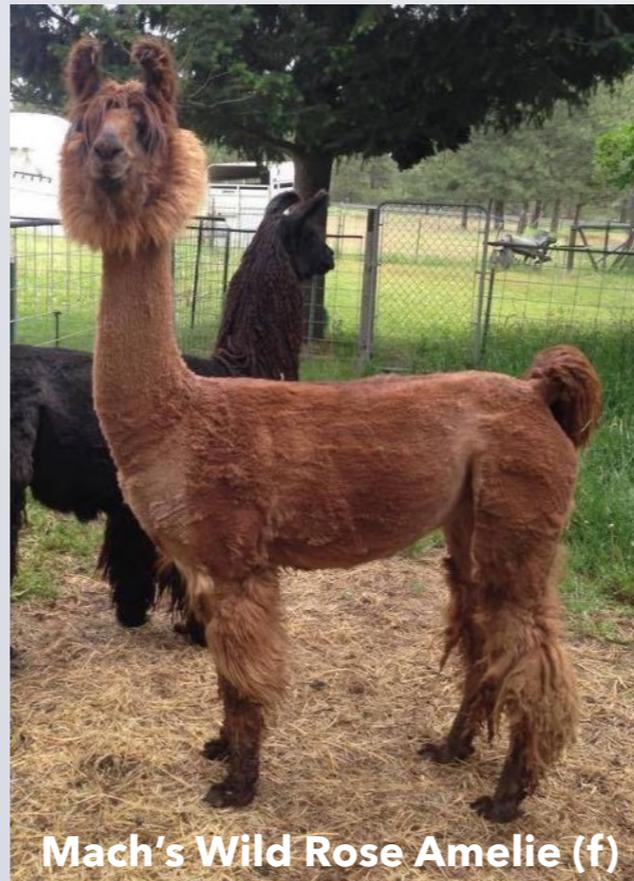
HOLR Vigilante's Trinity (f)



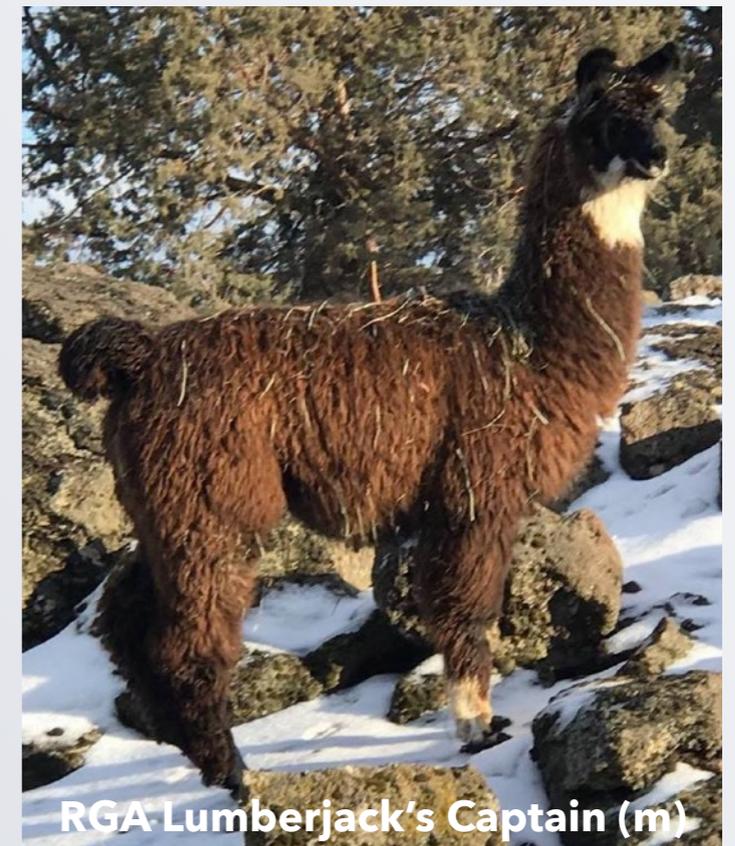
Almeda MVVR (f)



Wild West Creme Brule (f)



Mach's Wild Rose Amelie (f)



RGA Lumberjack's Captain (m)

Cascade Llama Show and Sale Preview

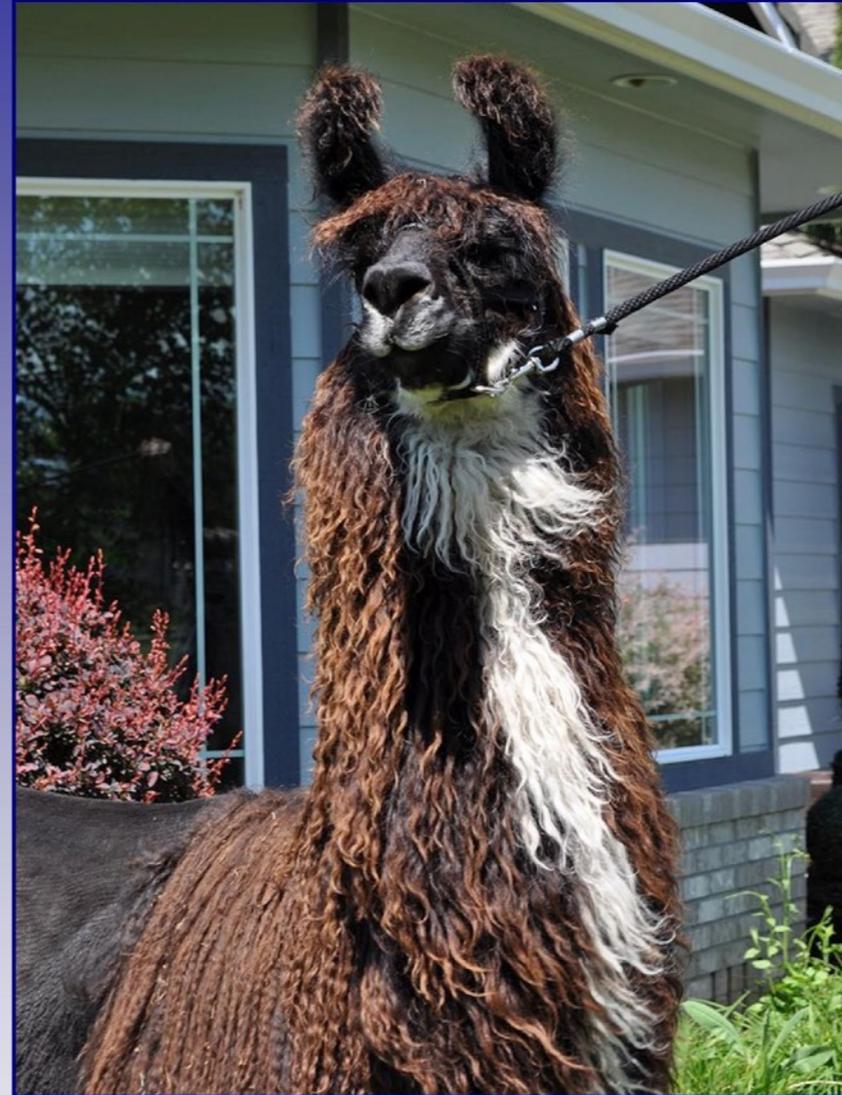


Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch



CTF Renegade's Vigilante
(BAL Renegade x CTF Princess Delaney)
2008 Herdsire

Co-owned with
Steve & Sue Roling of Great Northern Ranch



Eskaado
(Starr Fyter x PL Eskala)
2014 Junior Herdsire

Visit us online at
www.HiddenOaksLlamaRanch.com



Wil & Sherri Tallmon
30645 SE Currin Road
Estacada, Oregon
503.710.7541 or 503.630.5173
hiddenoakslamaranch@msn.com



GNLC Tenkara

GNLC Hightower X GNLC Adorn

Standing Tall at On the Fritz Farm

We are proud and appreciative to Steve and Sue Roling for allowing us to purchase GNLC Tenkara, an amazing Hightower son to add to our herdsires. This gentle giant was 45.5" at withers and 72" at poll at 15 months! He combines the best attributes of size, bone, conformation, athletic build, and fiber that we love.

Stephen and Tammy Fritz

Greensboro, North Carolina

stephenfritz@aol.com

www.OnTheFritzFarm.com

WHAT WAS THAT JUDGE THINKING? By Mark Smith



Let me start off by giving you a little background about myself so you know what makes me tick. I have spent my entire life on a grain and livestock farm tagging along with my father since I could barely walk taking care of our beef herd, swine and sheep flock. One of those chores was selecting our own replacement females or going to other farms selecting herd sires. This helped me develop my “eye” for livestock selection at a young age.

I am from a rural farming community where our small school had 300 students K through 12. All 7th and 8th grade boys were required to take an agriculture class where we were taught livestock judging. I’ve always remembered what my teacher, Mr. Thompson stressed, “Go with your first impression and it will serve you well”.

I continued to develop my “eye” while judging livestock in high school as an FFA member. It was during this time my younger brother and I started our purebred Southdown sheep flock. Within a few short years we produced our first national champion. A few years after that I was selected by the membership to judge our National Show, this was my first show to ever officiate. One of those classes at the North American Livestock Expo had 70+ head in it where I had to place every one from first to last!

Twenty five years ago Susan and I purchased our first llamas so it was only a matter of time before I would start judging llama shows too. Over the years I have been fortunate to judge llamas or sheep in 28 states and 4 foreign countries. I am going to share with you what I am looking for during the different stages of a halter class. Every judge develops their own process that they like to follow. I have also included a few hints that will help your llama show its best.

Waiting to Enter the Ring

Showing your animal successfully starts before you step foot in the ring. When I am showing there is a few things I think about as I am in the makeup area waiting to enter the next class. I like to observe which showmen are paying attention to their llama and who is not. I take note of those that let their llama sniff the others by letting them have a long lead and generally not paying attention or being courteous to their fellow competitors. I definitely do not want them following directly behind me when we enter the ring. I like to walk my llamas at a fairly brisk pace, so if possible I will enter the ring first. If there is another exhibitor in my class who walks slower than I like to I try to enter the ring before they do.

Entering the Ring

It is important to make a good first impression so you want to walk in the ring with your llama's head held high and with a confident look on your face to give the judge that initial good look. When I'm judging it is during this first lap around the ring that I look at each llama's pasterns to see if any are soft or spongy as they move. I am also looking to see how fluid they are striding out, and looking for heads or tails that are bobbing indicating a movement issue.

I am also taking notice if they have a low tail set. If they do, many times their rear legs will reach too far forward under their body as they walk. Do any appear to be post legged? Generally, do all the body parts work together to give them a smooth gait? This is why we have llamas walk so much during the class. Some llamas look totally different when they are set up squarely and head held high than they do on the move where their faults will be hard to hide.



What Was That Judge Thinking?

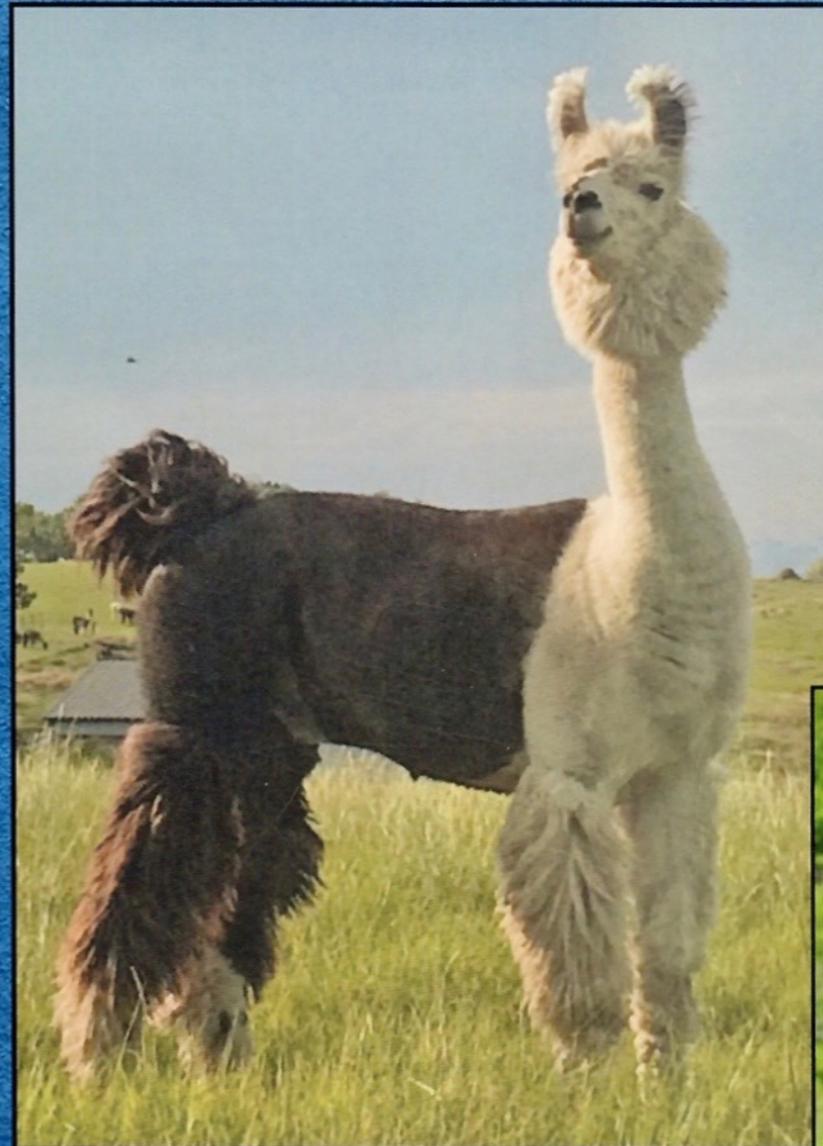
Once the class is done circling the ring I like to see them stop on the side profile with the four legs set at the four corners of their body. Give the judge the best look you can because by now most judges are starting to formulate in their minds who is going to be at the top of the class and who will not. Also at this time I am looking at total balance: is the neck coming straight out of their shoulders or do they appear u-necked? How level is the topline?

Something we do at home is determine what it takes to make each llama look its best. Some llamas have a tendency to drop their topline if their head is held too high. Others may drop their topline if they hold the same position for a while. If that is the case make them take a step forward or back to keep their topline more presentable. We all like to have a llama that stands perfectly still once they are set up but sometimes that isn't necessarily a good thing.



American Llama Magazine

RTC Llama Ranch



Sugar Man RTC

Toocoolo RTC x Sugar Plum RTC

Herdsires

- ♦ Argentine Fresco
- ♦ Argentine Don Macho
 - ♦ MGF Olympus
 - ♦ Revelation RTC
- ♦ Argentine Pascual
- ♦ Sugar Man RTC
- ♦ GNLC Scorcher
- ♦ Argentine Pisco RTC



Argentine Pisco RTC

Argentine Pascual x Argentine Moreno

www.rtcllamaranch.com



Individual Walk

By now I have my top llamas in the class identified. Now I just hope they will have the correct leg and foot movement to keep them at the top but that doesn't always happen. I have had some where I just knew they were going to win but they turned out to be absolute train wrecks as I evaluated them on the individual walk.

When I watch each llama individually walk to and away from me it is imperative that you walk straight toward me and straight away from me if you want a correct assessment on how your llama walks. One of the biggest mistakes, and other judges will agree with me, is not walking in a straight line especially going away from the judge. If you start curving away from the judge to get back to the end of the line there is no way we can see the movement of the rear legs. Believe me, if you have been on your feet all day the last thing a judge wants to do is chase after you to see that movement. If you are told to walk to a certain spot...do it!

During the individual walk what specifically is the judge looking to see?

- I start by looking at the head including the ear set, color of the eyes and if it's an older male or female I am seeing if they are masculine or feminine looking.
- Next I look at the width of chest. Do they carry that same width down through their legs and placement of their feet? In other words, are they base wide or base narrow? Are they knock-kneed? Do I see adequate daylight between their legs for their body size? I do not expect a 5 month old to have as much width as an adult.
- I look at the front feet. Do they pick them up and set them down with their toes pointing straight forward? Do they wing their feet out as they walk with their toes angled out or in?
- As they walk away it is the first opportunity I have to see the male's testicles or female's vulva. If I can't see them I make a mental note of it and inspect them during the hands on.
- Looking at the rear legs does the llama set their feet down with the toes pointing forward or are they angled out? If that is the case chances are they are close at the hocks too. Am I seeing enough daylight between those rear legs for their body size?
- I like to see the handler give the llama a little extra lead rope during the individual walk so that the llama will have more of a natural stride instead of holding a short lead pulling them through the walk. Again it helps to practice walking them at home and have someone watch to see how they move best. Most walk better at a faster pace but some seem to do better at a slower pace.
- Each individual walk typically only takes 20-30 seconds and during this time you have the judge's undivided attention, so make it count!

Hands On

Next while the class is still standing head to tail I do my hands on portion for each llama. I always start out by asking the age, especially on the juveniles and yearlings. There can be quite a size variance during this fast growth period in their lives (7 months age difference for juveniles and 12 months possible age difference for yearlings). I inspect the head closer if there was anything I might have questioned during the individual walk.

I lay my hand just in front of the withers at the neck/shoulder junction in case fiber may be hiding any dip or U-neck. Running my hand down the back I am checking for overall body condition, strength of topline and levelness of the hip. Lastly at this time I like to inspect the feet and legs one more time.



American Llama Magazine

"Where every youth is a star!"

American Youth Jamboree



National Youth Show & Conference for 4-H, ILR, & ALSA Youth

What's On Our Agenda?

Three Complete Youth Shows	Skillathon	Take-A-Chance Showmanship
Sweepstakes Obstacle	Vet Clinics	Many Fiber Workshops
Best Of Show Prizes	Poster Show	All Star Challenge
Showing Seminars	Llama Laffle	Farmer Olympics
Youth Fiber Show	Versatility Awards	Youth Judging
Cash Premiums	Funny Money Auction	Prizes Galore
Photo Show		Entry Gifts

21st - 23rd June *New!*

- Blue Star Raffle
- Take-A-Chance Halter
- Mystery Entry Envelopes

See Our Website For More Details Sponsorships Appreciated

Save The Date!
Cash Premiums, Ribbons, Prizes, & Too Much Fun!

June 21st - June 23rd, 2019
Noblesville, Indiana (by Indpls.)
www.youthjamboree.net

One Low Entry Fee

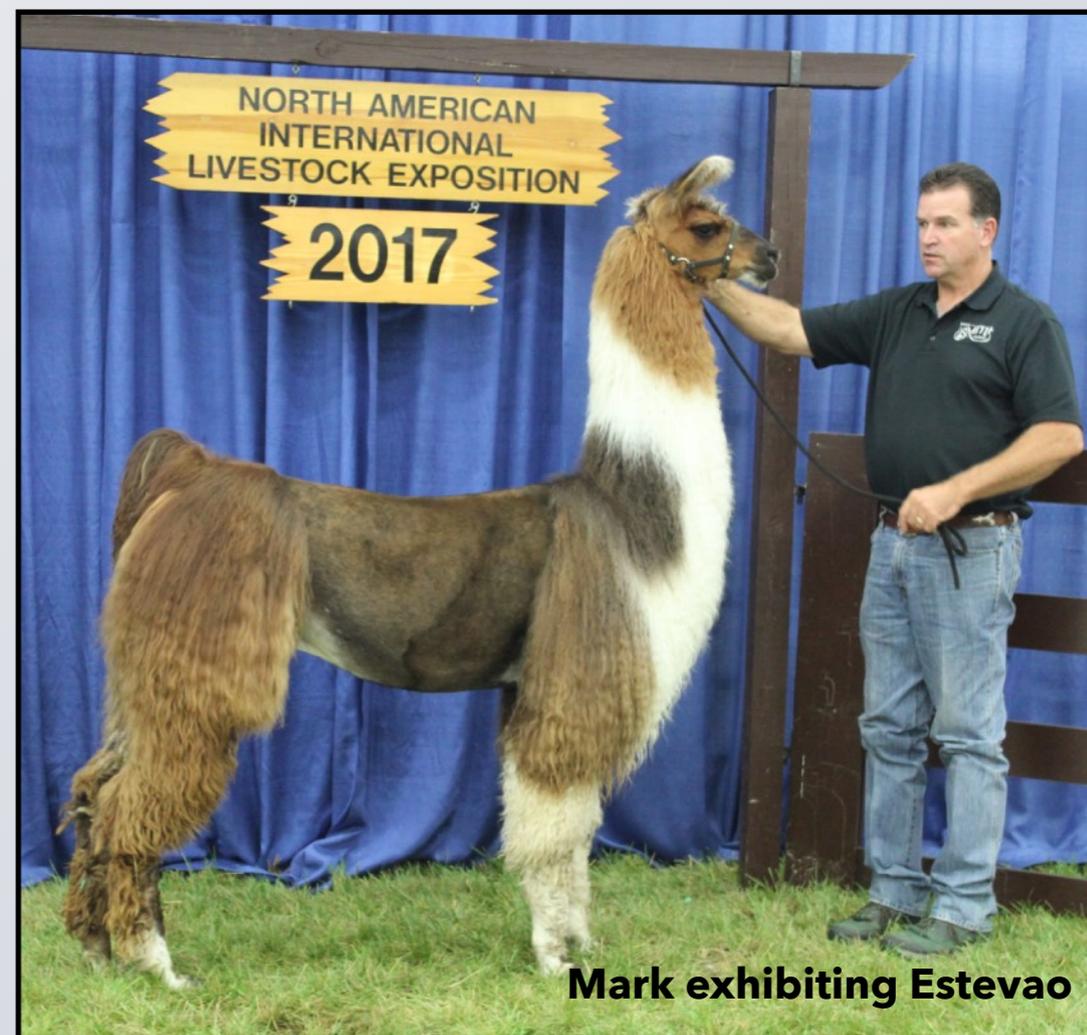
Wrapping It Up

Sometimes I may need to see a llama or pair walk again because they have not cooperated to give me a good look earlier. Many times I may want to see the whole class circle the ring one more time before making my final placement. We all know how cantankerous juveniles can be so I like to give them one more chance. I like to give each llama in the class an equal amount of observation time so that no one leaves the show ring thinking that they did not get a good look.

As you can see a judge has so much to inspect, evaluate and remember during the short amount of time for each class. It is my wish that this article has given you some insight on what judges are looking for during a halter class. I look forward to seeing you in the show ring in the future whether I am wearing my judge's hat or as your competitor.



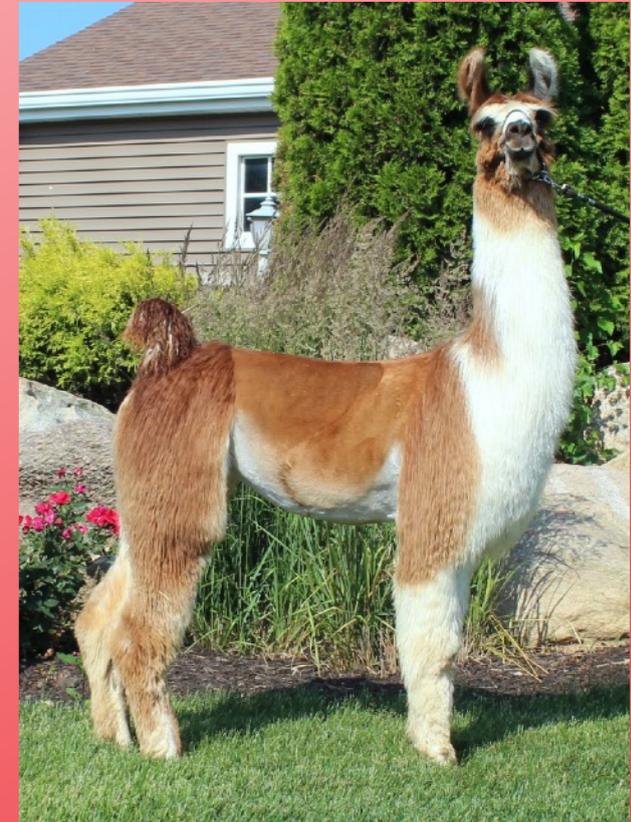
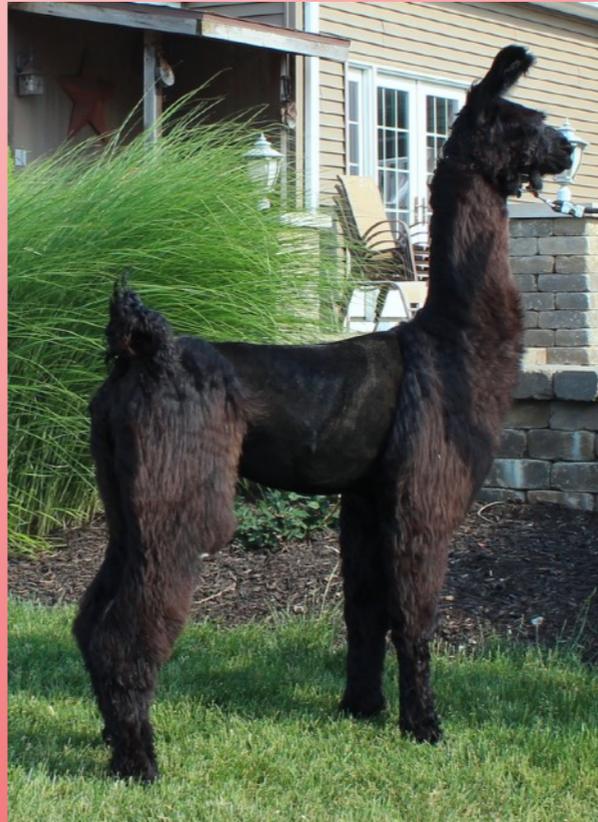
Mark Judging in New Zealand



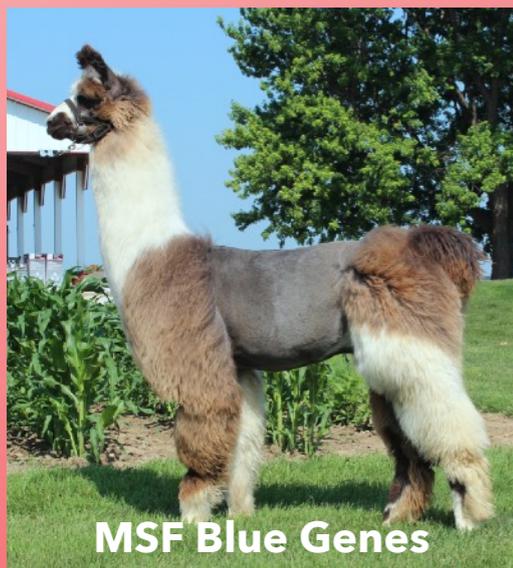
Mark exhibiting Estevao



Thank you to all of the buyers, bidders and those that attended our Diamond Anniversary Sale!



But wait - there's more!

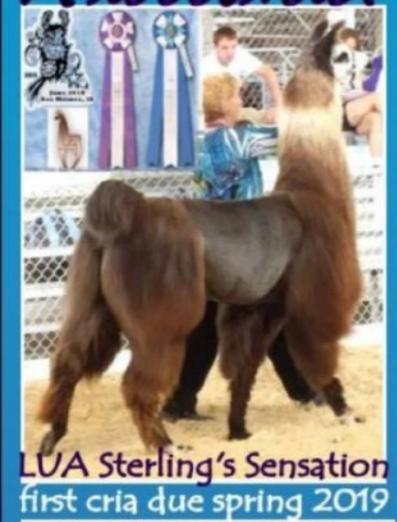


Check out our lots at the MLM sale of champions: MSF Murphy, MSF Purple Reign, and a buyers choice between MSF Blue Genes and MSF Big Blue.

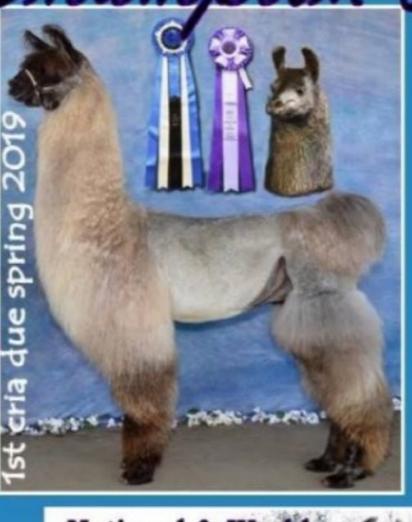
All the animals pictured are sired by the great GNLC Crocket

Continuing our tradition of High Standards *at work* National Champion Herd Sires in the Breeding Pen & in the Show Ring!

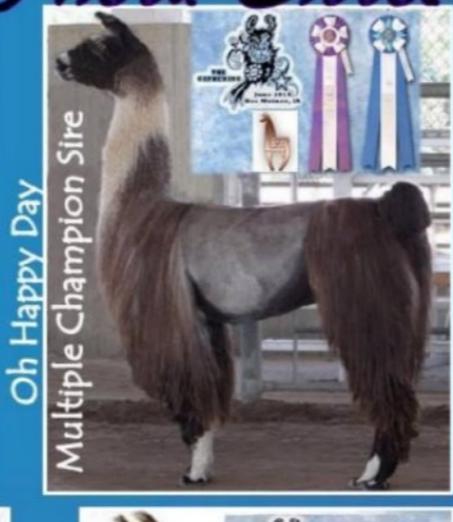
suri, silky, light, medium, heavy wool Llamas, we Llove them all



LUA Sterling's Sensation
 first cria due spring 2019



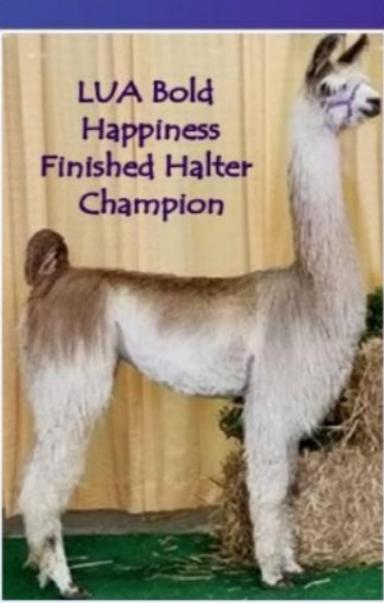
MSF Show Stopper
 1st cria due spring 2019



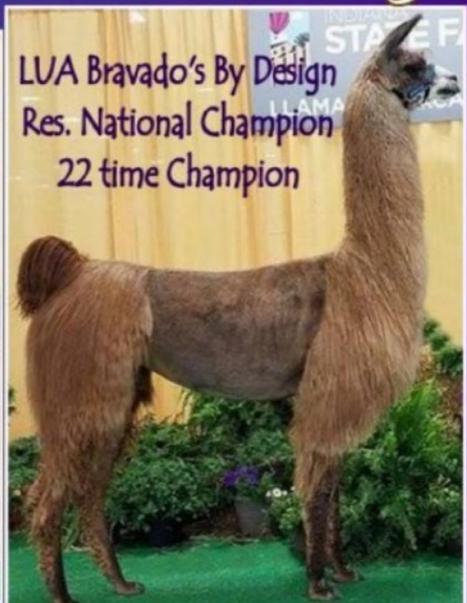
Oh Happy Day
 Multiple Champion Sire



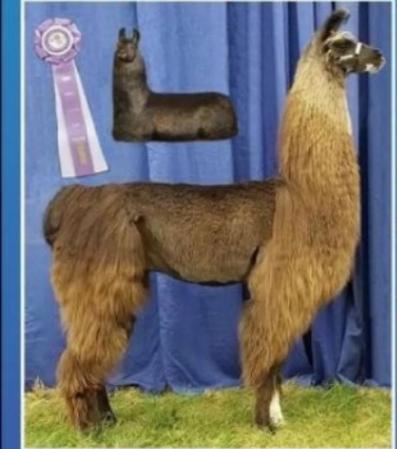
NORTH AMERICAN
 INTERNATIONAL
 LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION
 LUA Wave's Of Brilliance
 Multiple Best Of Show
 Champion



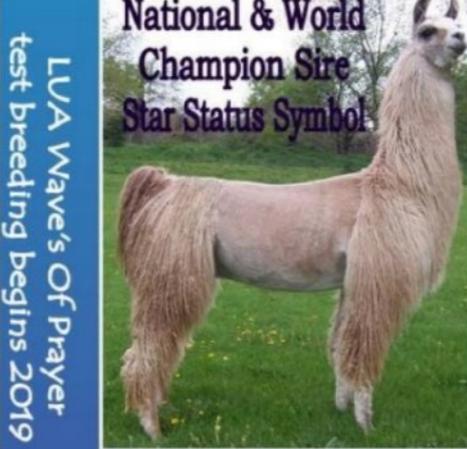
LUA Bold
 Happiness
 Finished Halter
 Champion



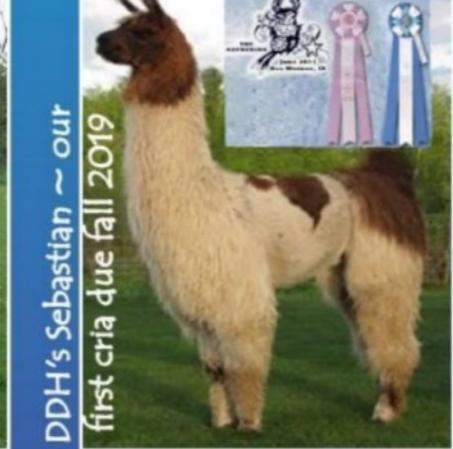
LUA Bravado's By Design
 Res. National Champion
 22 time Champion



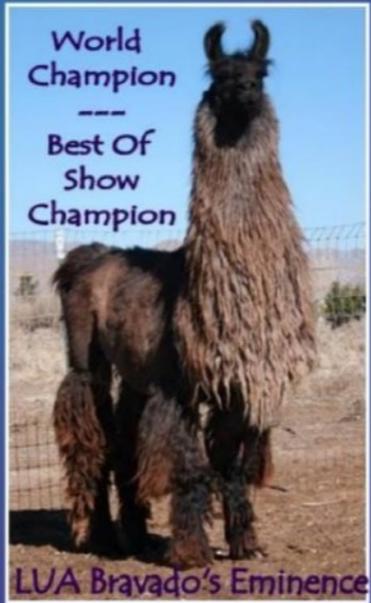
LUA Wave's Of Prayer
 test breeding begins 2019



National & World
 Champion Sire
 Star Status Symbol

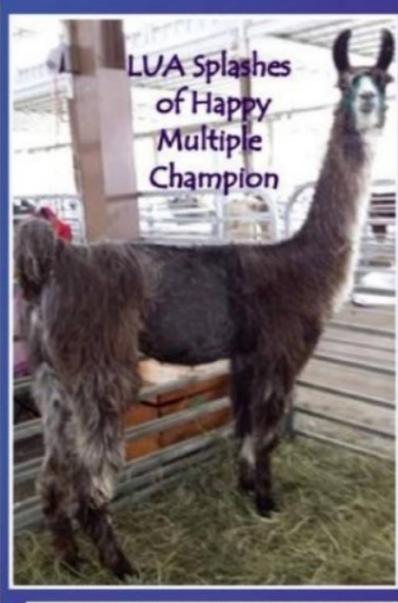


DDH's Sebastian ~ our
 first cria due fall 2019



World
 Champion

 Best Of
 Show
 Champion
 LUA Bravado's Eminence



LUA Splashes
 of Happy
 Multiple
 Champion

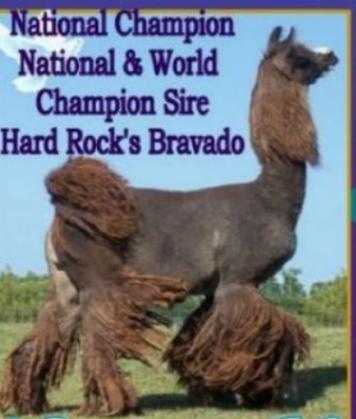


LUA My Darlin Status
 Multiple Best Of Show
 Champion

CHAMPION bred offspring AVAILABLE
 Contact us for Exciting Opportunities!

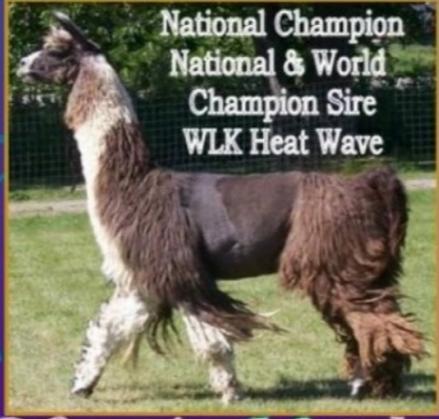
*Champion & Champion Producing daughters of
 Bravado, Heat Wave & Status Symbol in Production*

YOU can own one too!



National Champion
 National & World
 Champion Sire
 Hard Rock's Bravado

Thank You to ALL
 of our Friends and
 Customers throughout
 the years! Together we
 Celebrate Your FUN
 & Future with these
 Amazing Animals!



National Champion
 National & World
 Champion Sire
 WLK Heat Wave



Often imitated, never duplicated
 National Champion Llamas & Little Aussies www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com

The First American Llama Auction

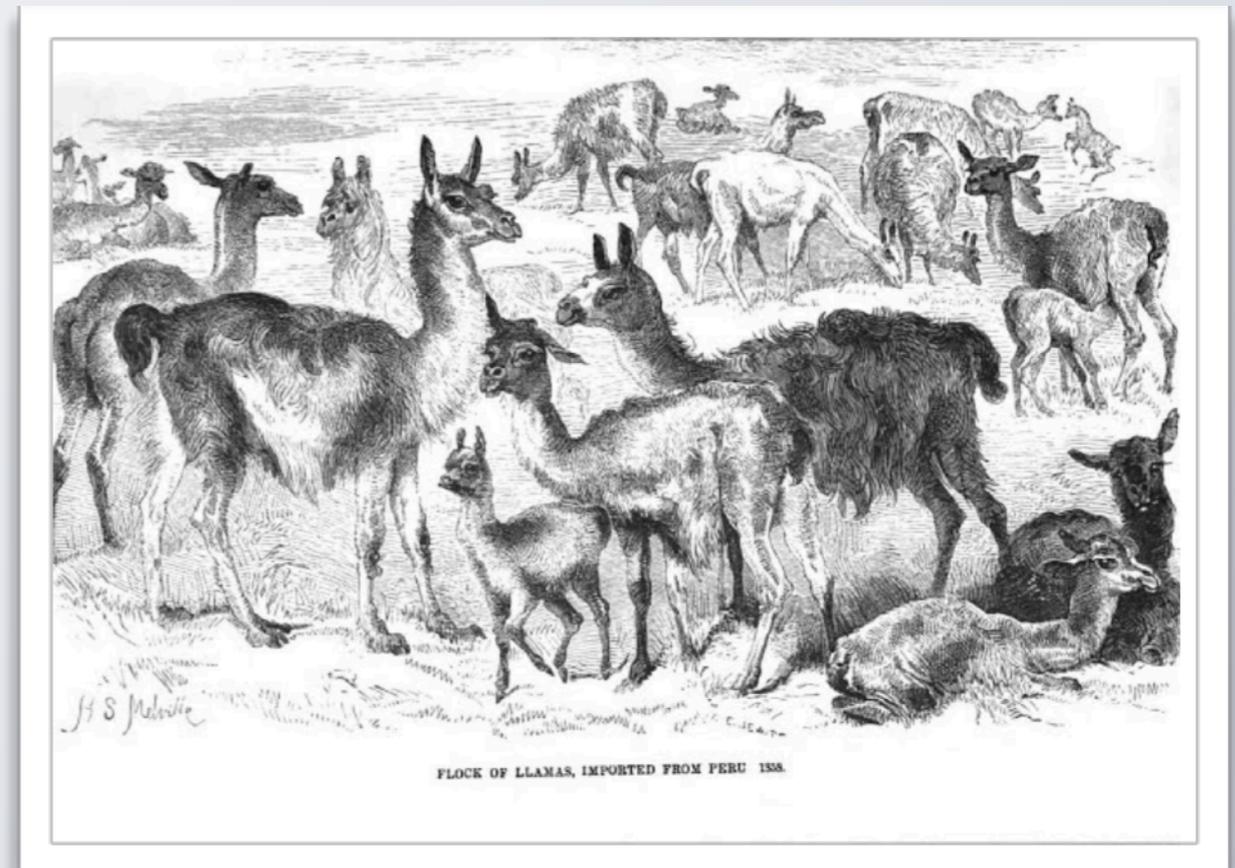
By Kyle Mumford

WM. DUMONT, Auctioneer,
No. 4 Wall Street, New-York.
38 Peruvian Llamas, Male and Female,
For Importer's Account.

WM. DUMONT will sell at Auction on Saturday, March 20, at 11 o'clock, at the Dyckman farm, near Tubby Hook, 38 Peruvian Llamas, male and female, in fine order, in lots to suit purchasers. Terms at sale.

N. B. The Hudson River R. R. cars leave Chamber-st. at 8½ a. m., for Tubby Hook, and return at 2½ p. m.

March 4—w31*



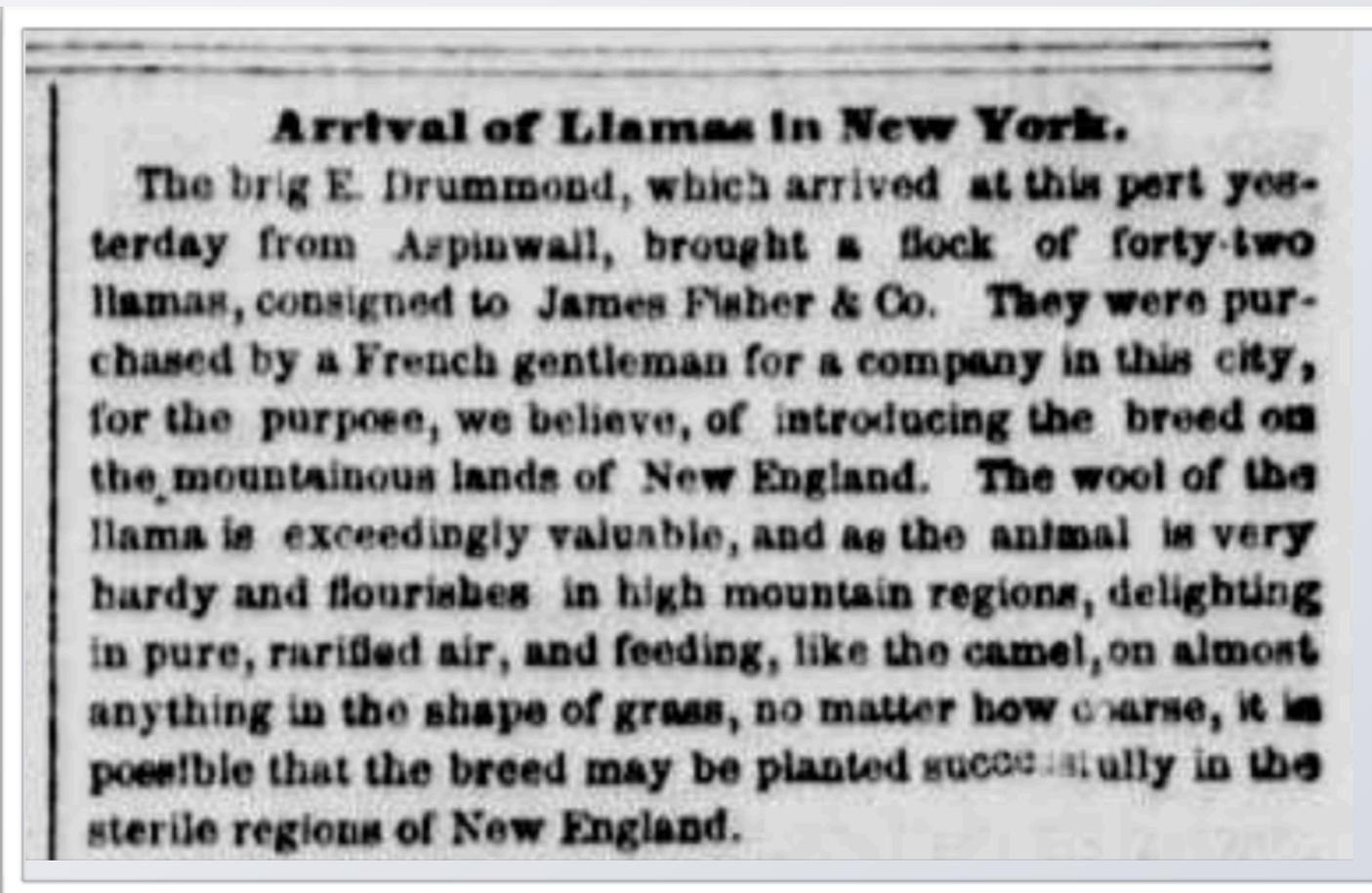
Spring is here and the first llama auctions of 2019 are already upon us. I have long believed that the first llama auction in the United States was arranged by Fred Hartman in the mid 1980's. It turns out that the first American llama auction actually took place more than one hundred years before Mr. Hartman first auctioned llamas in Nebraska. Recently my brother, Jacob, sent me a small advertisement from an archived newspaper that led me on a wild goose chase to find the story of America's first llama auction.

In 1857 James Buchanan was sworn in as the 15th President of the United States; to come in the following decade was the election of Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, and the ratification of the 13th amendment. Meanwhile, on December 16th, 1857 a newspaper article on the front page of the New York Herald announced the arrival of a herd of llamas.

Before we go further it is important to note that while I consider this story to be extremely interesting, it is not a very happy story. The importers did not seem to be particularly concerned or knowledgeable about the care of the llamas. The New York Tribune would go on to describe the llamas' journey from South America to New York as a "chain of misfortunes" after the auction in August 1958:

"If we are not mistaken, the shipment was made from a Chilean port- (we understand exportation of llamas is prohibited from Peru)- by a steamer to Panama, and consisted of seventy-two head. They were detained some three weeks at Panama, awaiting a vessel at Aspinwall for New York; and although in the charge of a (South American) shepherd, eighteen or twenty of the flock fell victims to Panama snakes, scorpions, poison herbage, and other Isthmus casualties in the hottest part of the season. The remainder were then brought over in cars, and shipped upon a brig too small to afford comfortable accommodation, with a bad provision of food, and therefore it is not a wonder that only forty-two out of the number reached New York alive. It is a wonder all did not die, and that only four of the weakest lambs died after they were landed, since the whole of them were in such a miserable plight, that it was thought unwise to offer them for sale."

The Tribune believed this to be the first importation of llamas to the United States.



The New York Harold Front Page - December 16, 1857

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

A lack of information on llama care certainly played a role in some of the losses. It was believed at the time that the llamas needed poor quality/coarse feed to eat. This idea came from the llamas diet on the altiplano, where they would clean up whatever weeds and shrubbery could be found in addition to grasses and alfalfa. Knowing what we know now, we all realize that it is a terrible idea to send llamas (or any other animal) on a long stressful trip with only small amounts of the lowest quality feeds (1). But you will soon see that the small handful of people who wrote articles about the llamas, who were no more knowledgeable about their care, felt that the importers were incompetent and perhaps negligent (1,3,5).



The Dyckman farmhouse, site of America's first llama auction

Photo is in the public domain

The following March advertisements for the auction of the remaining 38 llamas began to appear in a New York paper called *The Country Gentleman*. W.M. Dumont of Wall Street was to be the auctioneer, and the auction would be held at the Dyckman farm. (An interesting side note: The Dyckman farm would later achieve historical status and is still standing today amongst skyscrapers in Manhattan.) *The Country Gentleman* then published that they received several inquiries asking what type of llamas were to be sold. The correspondences show that at the time the word "llama" was seen as a synonym for alpaca, vicuna, and guanaco. A response was later printed that "the recently imported llamas are the kind that produce the alpaca wool- that they are shorn twice a year, producing 16 to 20 lbs at each shearing- that they breed every nine months, and attain the age of 18 years". (2)

THE LLAMAS.—Mr. LOHMAN writes us that the recently imported Llamas are the kind that produce the Alpaca wool—that they are shorn twice a year, producing 16 to 20 lbs. at each shearing—that they breed every nine months, and attain the age of 18 years.

The Country Gentleman - Issue 11, 1858

After you have finished laughing at the misinformation surrounding this miraculous creature that somehow produces 40 pounds of wool annually you will probably start to question whether this was the first American llama sale or the first American alpaca sale. It is a fair question that I don't believe can be answered with any degree of certainty. Throughout my research this group of animals is regularly called "llamas" but I think it's reasonable to assume that there were some huarizos or perhaps pure blood alpacas in the group as well. However, I don't think the exaggerated description that the salesman provided offers much proof that this was a group of alpacas. In the NY Tribune article published shortly after the sale they described the animals as follows:

"One of the herd offered for sale was exhibited with loaded packs as he would be upon a journey. All of them even a lamb, a few months old, are broken to halter, and are very docile and tractable. Their countenances exhibit marked expressions of intelligence; their eyes are very bright and keen. The colour is generally that of brown or black sheep, some of them pretty nearly jet black; some of the males are grey or nearly white with white faces. The shape of the head, face, ears, and neck is like that of a native sheep, except the neck is more elongated. The cloven hoofs are larger and the legs longer than the tallest sheep, and the body, though longer do not appear much larger than some of the tall varieties of sheep. The anatomy is curious in this, that the thigh seems to proceed from the hip joint with but little connection with the body. The fleece is from four to six inches long, fine and soft within, the coarse hairs thinly scattered through it, and projecting beyond the mass. It very much resembles the fleece of a black sheep, we should judge the average weight of fleece might be about 10 lbs. The bellies being generally bare, and the value is greater than wool."

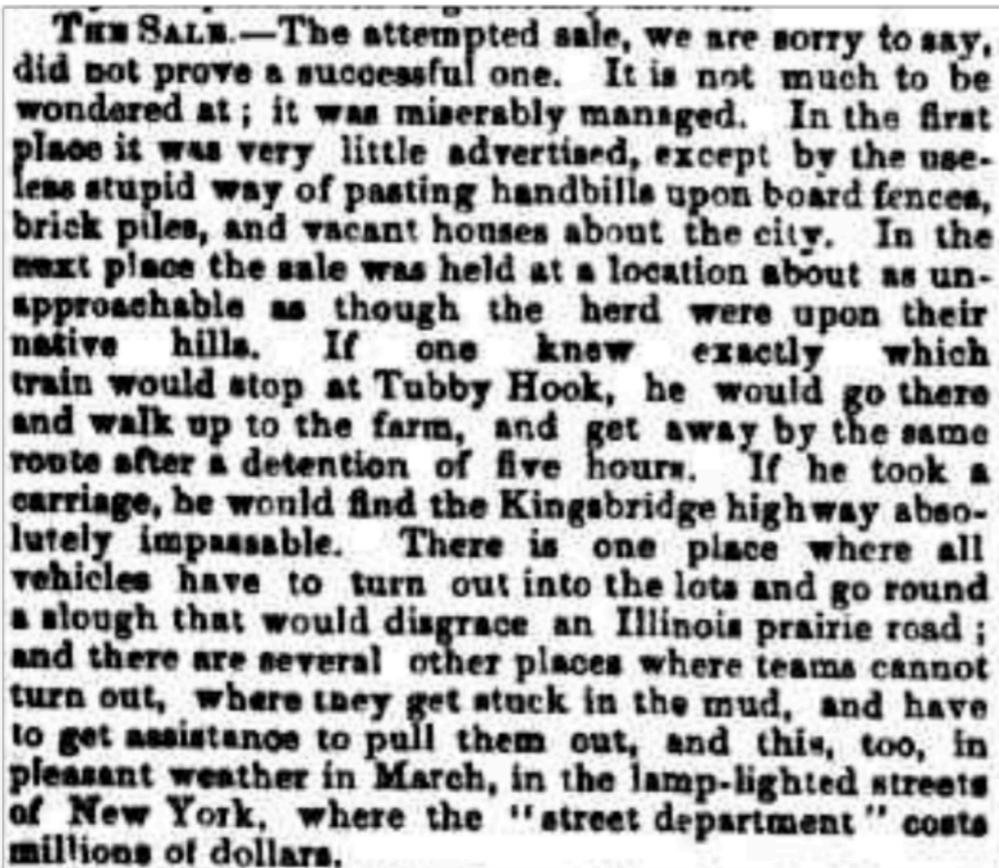
a footing. One of the herd offered for sale on Saturday was exhibited with loaded packs, as he would be upon a journey. All of them even a lamb, a few months old, are broken to halter, and are very docile and tractable. Their countenances exhibit marked expressions of intelligence; their eyes are very bright and sight keen. The colour is generally that of brown or black sheep, some of them pretty nearly jet black; some of the males are grey or nearly white, with white faces. The shape of the head, face, ears, and neck is like that of a native sheep, except the neck is more elongated. The cloven hoofs are larger and the legs longer than the tallest sheep, and the bodies, though longer, do not appear much larger than some of the tall varieties of sheep. The anatomy is curious in this, that the thigh seems to proceed from the hip joint with but little connection with the body. The fleece is from four to six inches long, fine and soft within, the coarse hairs thinly scattered through it, and projecting beyond the mass. It very much resembles the fleece of a black sheep, we should judge the average weight of fleeces might be about 10 lbs., the bellies being generally bare, and the value is greater than wool. The excellence and durability of alpaca cloth is generally known.

New York Tribune - March 23rd 1858

Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

Exactly what species was sold at the first U.S. llama auction may be up for debate, but regardless of what was put up for sale the auction took place on March 20th 1858. The NY Tribune provided a fabulously colorful description of the event:

“The attempted sale, we are sorry to say, did not prove a successful one. It is not much to be wondered at; it was miserably managed. In the first place it was very little advertised, except by the useless stupid way of posting (flyers) upon board fences, brick piles, and vacant homes about the city. In the next place the sale was held at a location about as unapproachable as though the herd were upon their native hills... There is one place where all vehicles have to turn out into the lots and go round a slough that would disgrace an Illinois prairie road; and there are several other places where teams cannot turn or, where they get stuck in the mud, and have to get assistance to pull them out, and this, too, in pleasant weather in March, in the lamp-lighted streets of New York, where the “street department” costs millions of dollars.”



THE SALE.—The attempted sale, we are sorry to say, did not prove a successful one. It is not much to be wondered at; it was miserably managed. In the first place it was very little advertised, except by the useless stupid way of pasting handbills upon board fences, brick piles, and vacant houses about the city. In the next place the sale was held at a location about as unapproachable as though the herd were upon their native hills. If one knew exactly which train would stop at Tubby Hook, he would go there and walk up to the farm, and get away by the same route after a detention of five hours. If he took a carriage, he would find the Kingsbridge highway absolutely impassable. There is one place where all vehicles have to turn out into the lots and go round a slough that would disgrace an Illinois prairie road; and there are several other places where teams cannot turn out, where they get stuck in the mud, and have to get assistance to pull them out, and this, too, in pleasant weather in March, in the lamp-lighted streets of New York, where the “street department” costs millions of dollars.

New York Tribune - March 23rd 1858

Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

Clearly the attendees were not in a great mood as they settled in for the auction. The Tribune writer felt that poor advertising and a hard to find location was at least partly to blame for sub par attendance. Two men in attendance, who probably scoffed at the other attendees' complaints of traveling through mud and winding streets, were R.W. Cameron and B.W. Gee who had traveled to the sale from Australia. Their story was told by George Ledger in an 1861 book called The Alpaca: Its Introduction to Australia and the Probabilities of its Acclimatization There.

Ledger wrote: “These animals were offered for sale, having been previously exhibited at the Crystal Palace, in New York. The poor animals, from the long distance they had travelled, were in a very bad condition at the time they were brought into the market. The proprietor of the flock, who was a Frenchman had the modesty to ask \$100 each for them, but at that time dollars were very scarce in New York, as it was during the monetary panic.”

The NY Tribune reporter at the event described the sale as short lived; and explained that rafter bids were used while attempting to rob Peter to pay Paul:

“The auctioneer was William Dumont, of Wall Street, and he soon commenced the sale with lot No. 1, consisting of one male and three females, which we thought a good fair average of the whole. The first bid was 50 dollars each, and it was run up pretty rapidly by the bid of ‘Peter’ to 95 dollars, when Peter stuck, and Paul would go no further, though 95 dollars was offered, and declined; it was 100 dollars or nothing; and as no one would give that, the lot was knocked down to ‘no sale,’ and the sale closed, notwithstanding a gentleman immediately offered to bid 120 dollars each for a single pair that he would select. This offer was made by R.W. Cameron, an Australian shipping merchant... who wished to send them out as a present to the New South Wales Agriculture Society, a member of which, Mr. Gee, was present. It was said that Mr. Gee had offered for the whole herd before the sale; but the price they were held at, being 300 dollars each, was considered quite too high, though it is said it will not pay cost and charges upon the adventure. At private sale three sold. Mr. Dumond dismissed his audience by announcing that the llamas would be on private sale at his office hereafter, and in reply to the question at what price, said he could not exactly say, but would venture to say 200 dollars each.”

Mach's Crown Prince

Argentine Mach One X PH Lily



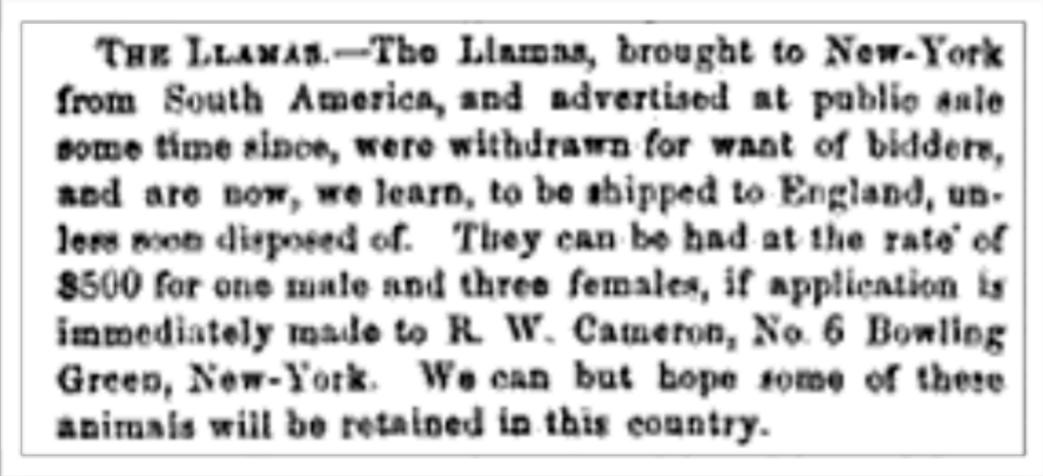
Offering our magnificent stud, Mach's Crown Prince for sale. Prince is a stunning black and white paint with distinct heavy wool! His high quality fiber is a spinners delight! He has been finished in halter and has a list of Halter Championships under his belt. He is a very classy, finished show champion and well-tempered. He has been handled by young children and is quite docile. He is 13/16th Argentine and a herd sire. He is a proven stud and is due to have his first offspring on the ground the first week of May 2019. Due to our commitment to full Argentine bloodlines and the closeness to some of our female herd animals, we are offering this high-quality proven male. We are located in Longview, Washington.

For any questions or further information, please email us at bonniesfarm2703@gmail.com.

It may be of some interest at this point to discuss the value of these amounts in 1858, \$100 in 1858 is equal to approximately \$2,900 today, so an asking price of \$200-\$300 per animal was fairly steep at the time. This was also a few months after the "Panic of 1857" which shuddered New York banks for nearly two months. The New York Tribune piece ends discussing the group of three purchased by Mr. Cameron, and what may happen to the rest of the llama herd:

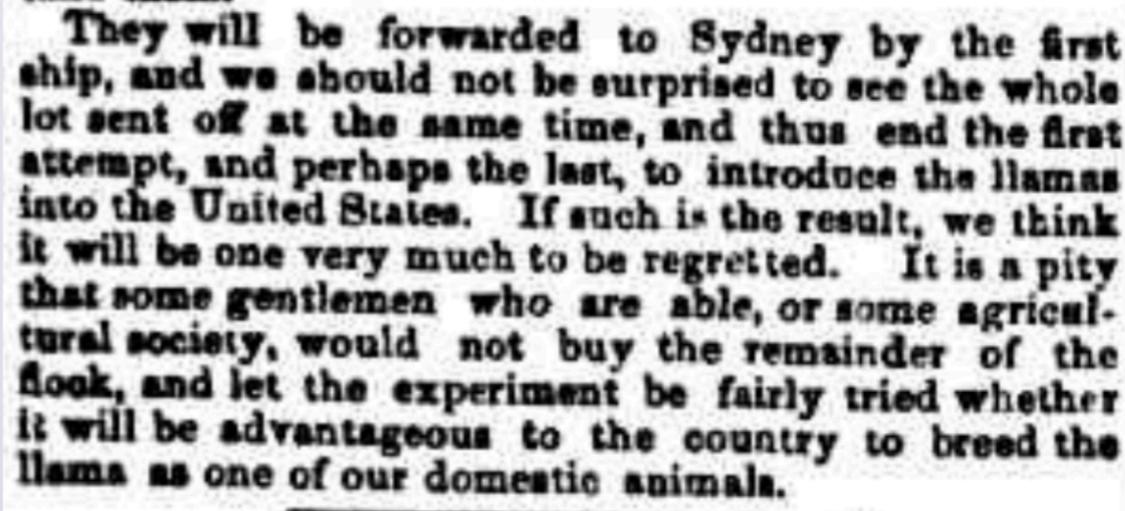
"They will be forwarded to Sydney by the first ship, and we should not be surprised to see the whole lot sent off at the same time, and thus end the first attempt, and perhaps the last, to introduce llamas to the United States. If such is the result, we think it will be one very much to be regretted. It is a pity that some gentlemen who are able, or some agricultural society would not buy the remainder of the flock, and let the experiment be fairly tried whether it will be advantageous to the country to breed the llama as one of our domestic animals"

In a later letter published in The Country Gentleman the readers were updated on the results of the auction, "The Llamas, brought to New-York from South America, and advertised at public sale some time since, were withdrawn for want of bidders and are now, we learn, to be shipped to England, unless (they are sold soon). They can be had at the rate of \$500 for one male and three females, if application is immediately made to R.W. Cameron, No. 6 Bowling Green, New-York. We can but hope some of these animals will be retained in this country."



THE LLAMAS.—The Llamas, brought to New-York from South America, and advertised at public sale some time since, were withdrawn for want of bidders, and are now, we learn, to be shipped to England, unless soon disposed of. They can be had at the rate of \$500 for one male and three females, if application is immediately made to R. W. Cameron, No. 6 Bowling Green, New-York. We can but hope some of these animals will be retained in this country.

The Country Gentleman - Issue 11, 1858

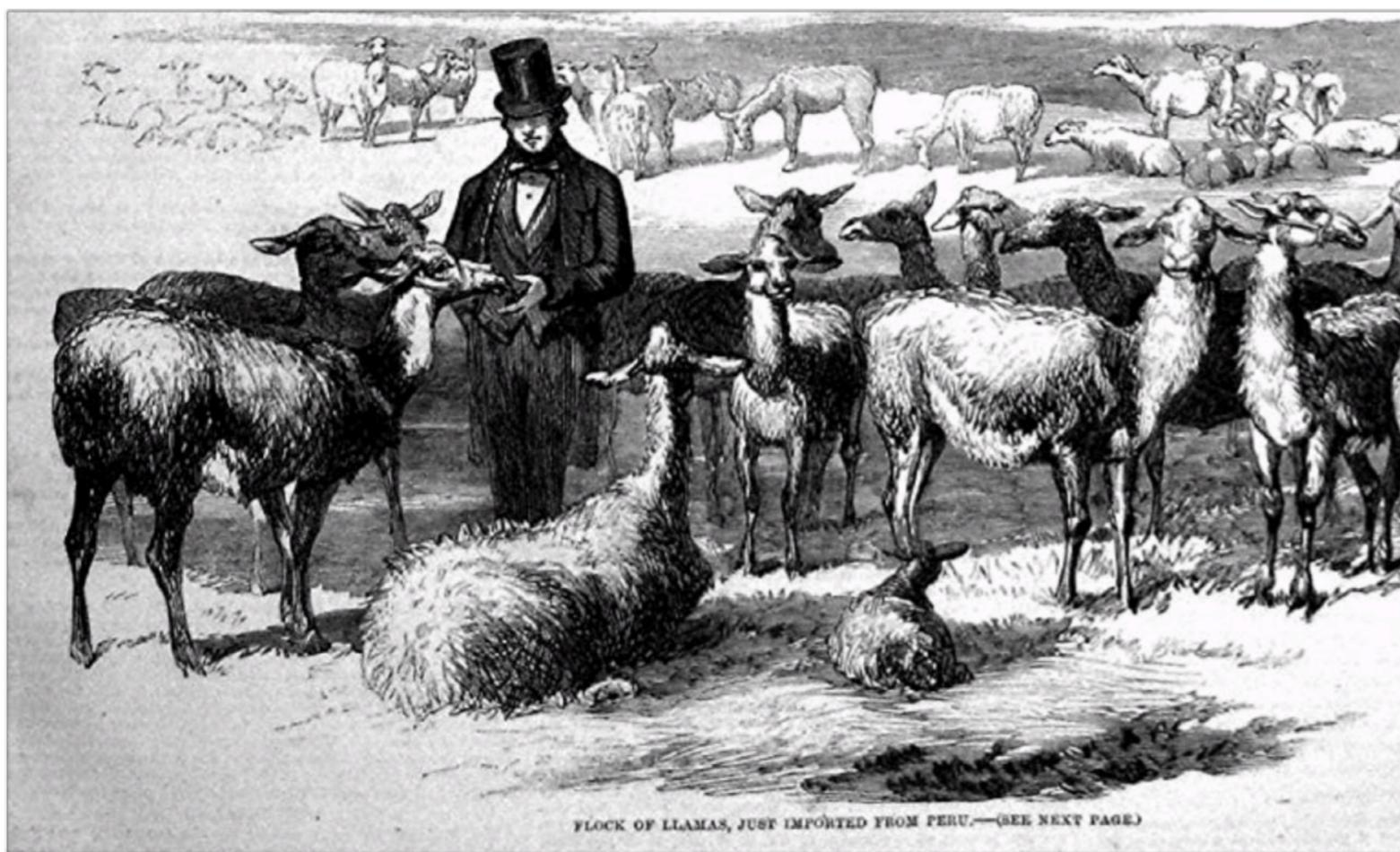


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New York Tribune - March 23rd 1858

Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

You may have noticed that the contact person in the last Country Gentlemen article was the very same Mr. Cameron who was said to have purchased three at the auction event. In later published sources B.W. Gee, another Australian man present at the sale, emerges as the owner of the herd (3,6). It is unclear whether Mr. Cameron and Mr. Gee were in partnership on the deal, or if Mr. Gee purchased the herd. After giving American buyers a chance to purchase some of the herd he then shipped them to Europe, with their first stop being Glasgow, Scotland. In contrast to their previous disastrous journey from South America to New York, it is believed that no llamas died while being transported across the Atlantic. While the American importers believed they could get by with cheap, low quality feed, the Australian buyers provided them with corn and grass hay (3). Once in Europe he made multiple stops where the animals were put on display and an entrance fee was charged to view them. A photo published in the *Illustrated London News* shows the llama herd after their



The auction llamas upon arriving in England

Published in the Illustrated London News, July 1958

arrival. Though this artist is clearly a novice at drawing llamas, I would place the photo in my evidence file supporting the idea that it was, in fact, two-L llamas that sold at the first American Llama auction. Eventually they were pastured in Acton, England and put up for sale by private treaty.

The llamas once again garnered interest from residents of Australia, and the argument continued over whether these were llamas, alpacas or a mix of the two. Australians at the time were primarily interested in llamas and alpacas as fiber producers, to supplement their wool production and make use of land unsuitable for sheep. They were well aware that alpacas would be the better choice for fiber production, and thus hopeful that these llamas might actually be alpacas or huarizos.

In a letter to the editor published in a Melbourne, Australia newspaper called *The Argus*, an Australian man named Edward Wilson tried to convince his fellow countryman to purchase the herd. Mr. Wilson, after making his best pitch for purchasing the herd, went on to give his opinion of the genotype of these llamas:

“The next question is, whether they are the true alpaca. In reply, I beg to say that I have seen Mr. Thomson, the superintendent of the Zoological Gardens, on the subject, and have been favored with the best information from him. Mr. Thomson was for several years at Knowsley, had the charge of the alpacas long kept there by the Earl of Derby and is thoroughly competent to give an opinion. He has seen these animals, and pronounces them a cross between the llama and alpaca. They will produce a good wool, very inferior, of course, to that of the true alpaca.”

Perhaps due to Mr. Wilson's urging, the entirety of the herd was purchased in four separate groups and shipped to Australia. The largest group, of 23, was purchased by Mr. Wilson and two partners (3).

After their arrival in Australia a man named Charles Ledger (whose brother, George, wrote the previously quoted Australian Alpaca book) joined the conversation on the genetic makeup of the herd. Mr. Ledger had become the foremost authority on alpacas in the Australian colony and was named the “Superintendent of Alpacas”. In his letter published in the Sydney Morning Herald, Mr. Ledger said, “I unhesitatingly declare that no indication of alpaca blood exists in the llamas hitherto arrived in that colony.” (4)

Based on the two drawings I've seen and the descriptions I've read, I am inclined to agree with Mr. Ledger that these were pure blood llamas. With that being said I also think it is safe to assume that the majority of the herd was purchased to be crossed with alpacas for fiber production. It is clear that this was Mr. Wilson's intent when purchasing his group of 23, and all literature I have found on the herd is featured among paragraphs and chapters about Australian alpacas. Whatever their future breeding production might have been it is nice to know that the llamas finally settled into a new home and never saw the inside of a ship again (3).

The next question is, whether they are the true alpaca. In reply, I beg to say that I have seen Mr. Thomson, the superintendent of the Zoological Gardens, on the subject, and have been favored with the best information from him. Mr. Thomson was for several years at Knowsley, had the charge of the alpacas long kept there by the Earl of Derby, and is thoroughly competent to give an opinion. He has seen these animals, and pronounces them a cross between the llama and alpaca. They will produce a good wool, very inferior, of course, to that of the true alpaca; but in the event of these being reared out and increasing in number, the securing at some future day a few male animals of the pure alpaca would enable the colonists to breed back to the best stock; and Mr. Thomson says that three crosses would be sufficient entirely to eliminate the llama element. We might then send these forward as the nucleus of our future flocks, and strain every nerve in future years to obtain the few pure-bred males necessary to restore the whole stock to a perfect condition.

Letter to the Editor- The Argus - October 1858
Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

As you have read, this first American llama importation and auction did not have the best results. The American importers were profiteers who didn't adequately see to the animals care causing many deaths, the auction itself was canceled after the first lot didn't reach their minimum bid, none of the animals stayed in the United States, and the llamas who eventually made their way to Australia were likely mixed into Alpaca breed-stock to increase their fiber production(1,3). Thankfully the llamas finally settled on one continent after trying out three others, and didn't have to spend any more time inside sea vessels (3). All accounts from Australia reported that the llamas adjusted well to their new homes, and no additional loss of life was reported. While some parts of this story are unfortunate, I found it altogether interesting and thought the recount of the auction itself was quite entertaining. The NY Tribune article ended by saying it would be regrettable if this sale turned out to be the first and last attempt to introduce llamas to the United States. For llama enthusiasts everywhere I am thankful for the responsible American llama owners who came in the following century to successfully launch the U.S. llama market.

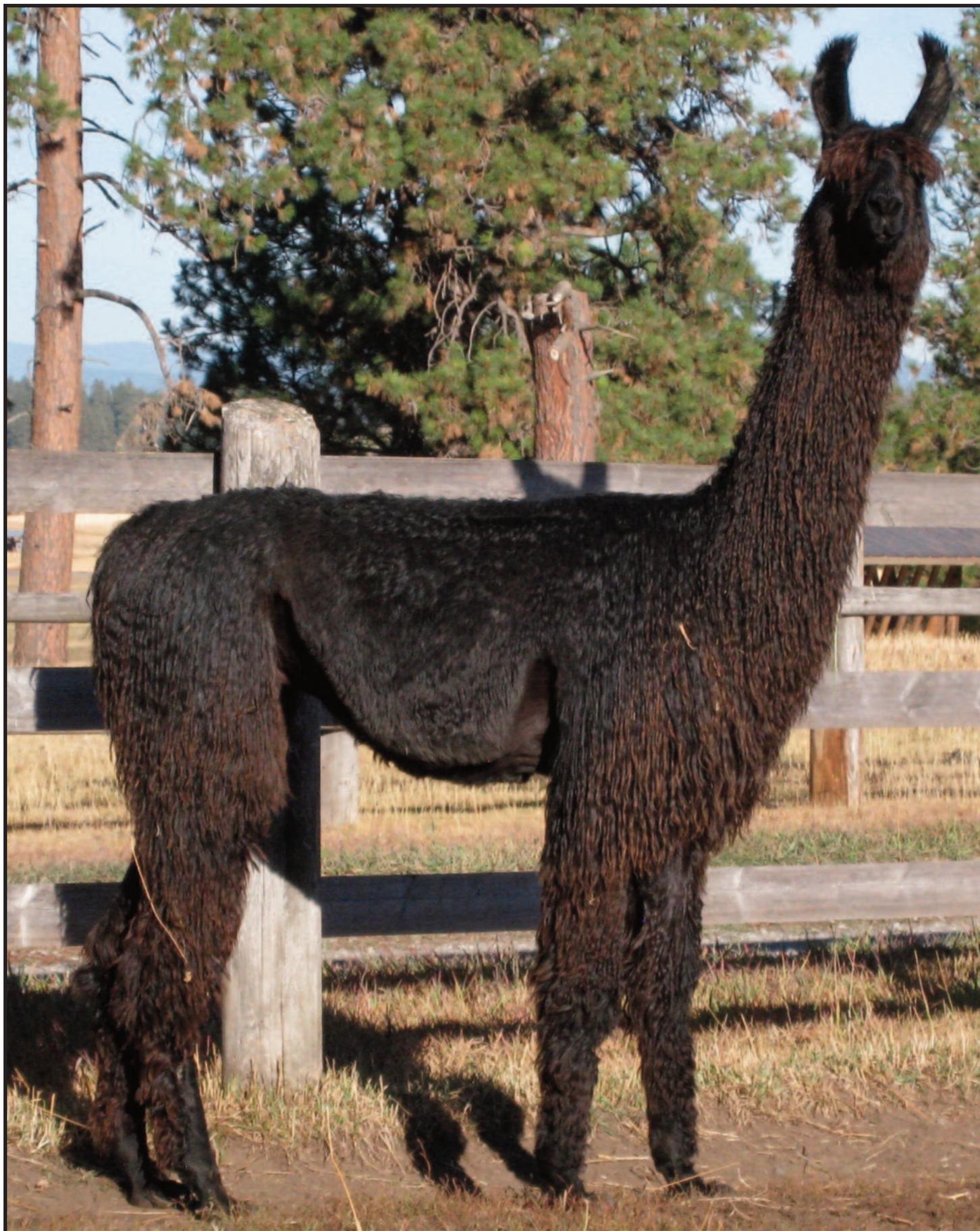
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About the Author

Kyle Mumford and his wife Jerrika live in Ridgefield, WA and own Volcano View Ranch, a herd of approximately 25 llamas. The Mumford family has owned llamas since 1980.





GNLC BRUNELLO

**GNLC MERLIN X
GNLC VALENTINA**

**OUR LAST-BORN MERLIN SON,
BRUNELLO'S HALLMARK DAM LINES
ARE NINE GENERATIONS DEEP
ON OUR RANCH.**

**AT 82" HIS DAM, VALENTINA
(MADDIX X GNLC LADY LUCK),
IS OUR TALLEST.**

**BRUNELLO IS AN ATHLETIC
76" X 48" AT 20 MONTHS.**



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BREEDING BEAUTY IN THE BEAST SINCE 1979

HIDDEN OAKS LLAMA RANCH

A FARM TOUR AND INTERVIEW

WITH SHERRI TALLMON

By Kyle Mumford





“What are llamas good for?”

Every llama owner has heard this question a few hundred times and we respond with a laundry list of things that some people use llamas for, “Packing, showing, community visits, 4-H projects, breeding, fiber products, cart driving, guarding and more!” Most of us specialize in a couple of these areas and know of other llama owners who are more knowledgeable in one or two of the others; each of us contributing our own niches to the larger llama community. Sherri Tallmon of Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch is one of those special llama breeders who seems to actively participate in every item on that list. Her entire llama herd seems to announce, “*This is what llamas are good for!*”.

Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch is located in Estacada, Oregon, a beautiful mix of old-growth trees and farmland 45 minutes southeast of Portland. Sherri and Wil Tallmon have had llamas since 1996. Their children, Logan and Kayla, grew up at this wonderful ranch with the llamas. Logan will be graduating from high school this year, and Kayla is married with two children of her own. The Tallmons maintain a herd of between fifty and sixty llamas, depending on how many crias are on the ground. Last November we made the trip to Sherri’s to tour the farm and talk with her about her family’s journey with llamas.

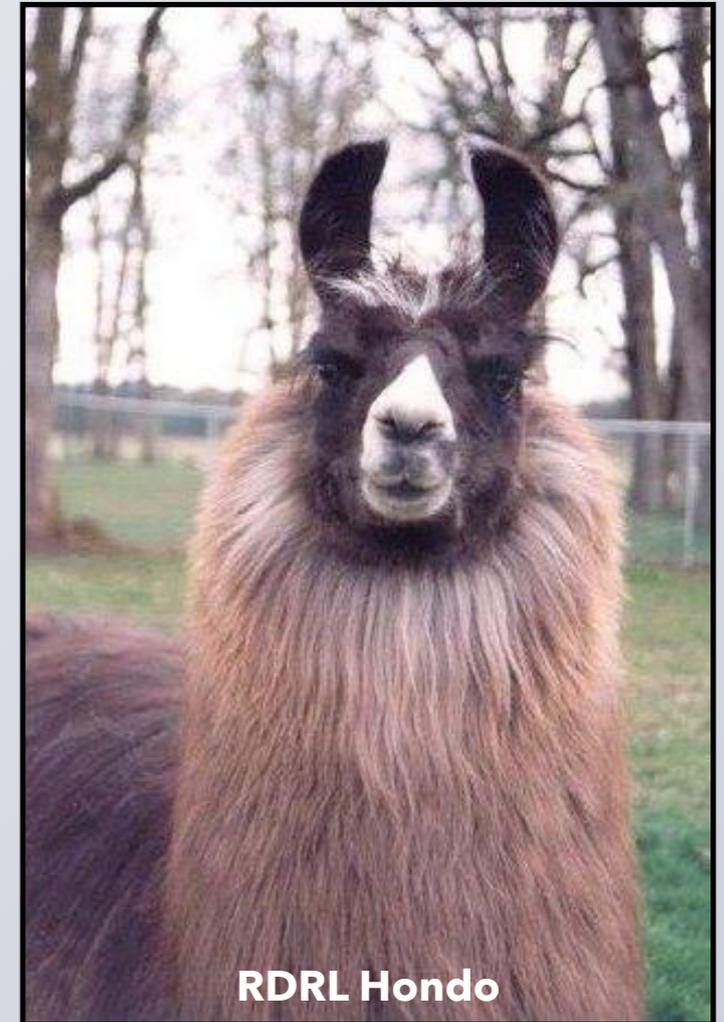
HOLR History

Sherri's first memory of seeing llamas was on family vacations to central Oregon, when they would pass by the Patterson Ranch and admire the llamas from the road. Sherri was introduced to Kay Patterson through the Arabian Horse breeding community to which they both belonged.

"I grew up with Arabian horses as our family bred and raised them for many years. This is where I first met Kay Patterson... Our family would pass the ranch each summer as we would go to central Oregon for a 10-day vacation. Every once in a while we would stop in so my dad could visit with Kay and I remember thinking how funny the llamas looked. Now, I look at horses and their heads seem so huge and they have tiny ears!"

Sherri's first up-close encounter with llamas took place by accident as she attended an Arabian Horse Breeders meeting at a hotel in Wilsonville, Oregon. Upon leaving the meeting she found that the banquet hall was surrounded by close to a dozen llamas groomed to perfection. The hotel was also hosting the WVLA stud auction that evening, and Sherri was face to face with some of the west coast's most beautiful llamas. Sherri remembers that she was sold on llamas right away, "I told Wil I needed to get a couple. And he just rolled his eyes and said, 'Oh yeah right.' But I started looking in the paper and I found some. The first farm that I bought breeding stock from was Rain Dance Ranch Llamas (Ken and Celia Austin). Ken's the one that got me hooked."

One of the early purchases the Tallmons made was a weanling male named RDRL Hondo, who would later serve as the first HOLR herdsire. Sherri said, "Hondo is pretty much what started Hidden Oaks and just last year passed at age 21. He was a farm favorite." The first Hidden Oaks Llama ranch was a 10-acre farm that Sherri and Wil had purchased from Wil's grandfather. Sherri remembered when they were considering the purchase of the 50-acre ranch where they live today, "Wil made the mistake of saying, 'We could have up to 20 llamas if you want!' So it didn't take long to do that." As Sherri described her early purchases I remarked that it seemed to be the differences between llamas and horses that attracted her initially. At first height and size were not a focal point, but rather calm personalities and beautiful silky fiber.



RDRL Hondo

Finding a Style

Eventually, Sherri's love of Arabian horses began to affect her llama breeding goals, as she looked for larger llamas with "a little bit of a spark to them" and the elegant long necks that her breeding program is known for today. Sherri explained, "My ideal llama has beautiful head and ears, presence, with that 'look at me' attitude, tall, stretchy neck, solid top line, has correct conformation, is well balanced, tracks well, has a good disposition and is smart."

Being young parents as they started to build their breeding herd Sherri and Wil had to stick to a budget as they made their early purchases. Sherri remembered Andy Tillman telling her, "That's not a bad thing, you scrutinize, you look at things differently than someone who just goes out and buys whatever they want." In the early '90s llamas regularly sold for \$10,000 or more, but by the late '90s bargains could be found in auctions and at farms.

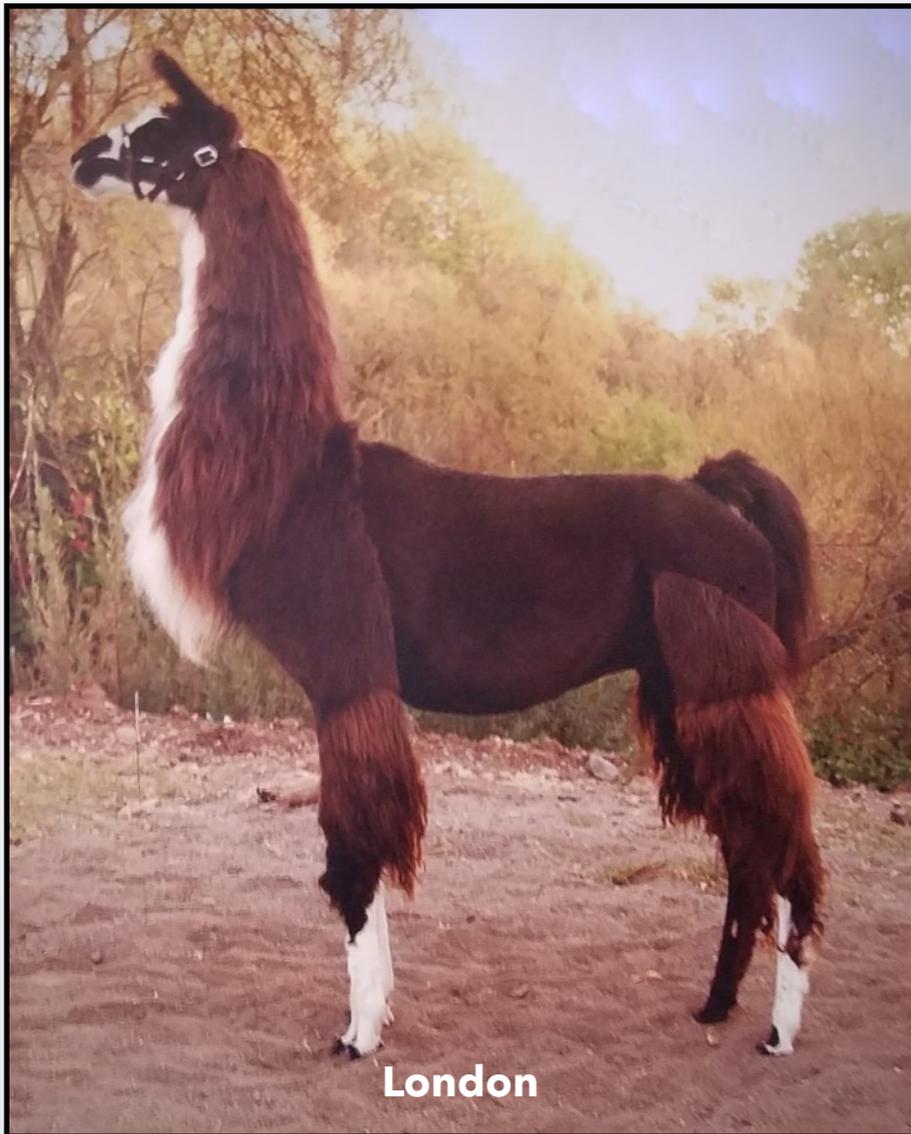
Among their early llama buying stops was a trip to Bob and Marilyn Wynia's of Sijama Llamas located in Mulino, Oregon. They selected a couple of females and Sherri's daughter Kayla, then a young 4-Her, chose out a young male to train and show at their county fair. "One of our very first successful llamas that helped our breeding program was Sijama Jaharee. My daughter had picked him out as a baby and wanted him as her 4-H project. Marilyn sold him to us at a pet price, and as he got older and we really liked him and wanted to use him as a stud we had to pay a little more which was fine. He was a big part of where we are today." Jaharee would go on to become one of the Tallmons' early lead herdsires, and Sherri listed Jaharee as among her favorite animals she has owned.



Sijama Jaharee

Sijama Jaharee had yet to reach maturity before another herdsire, London, joined the HOLR herd. London was a tall tuxedo male with a more traditional style. He was bred by Kay Patterson and was already an established herdsire for longtime llama breeder Toni Landis. This duo of herdsires would produce the majority of HOLR crias for several years until another proven herdsire arrived, GC's Inca Legend. Inca Legend was one of the most popular suri herdsires in the Northwest during his time with Justin Timm at Frog Pond Llamas and he continued to produce fabulous crias for the Tallmons. These three sires helped Sherri produce the type of llama I think of when I think HOLR: tall, elegant silkies and suris with strong pedigrees.

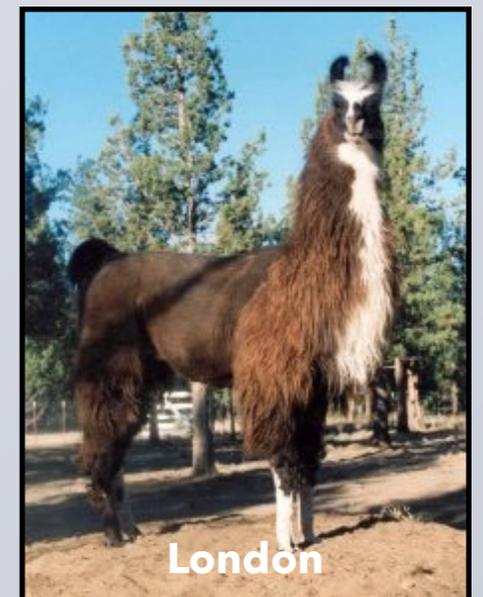
As I mentioned in the introduction, breeding is just one part of the Tallmons' multifaceted llama operation. They have bred show winners, sold llama fiber products, trained/started pack llamas, led a 4-H club, rescued/rehomed llamas in need, and brought llamas to countless events, parades and nursing homes. Sherri's specialty seems to be educating the public about llamas and creating countless new llama enthusiasts in the process. As we toured the farm all of these different llama-related passions were on display.



London



GC's Inca Legend



London

Show Time

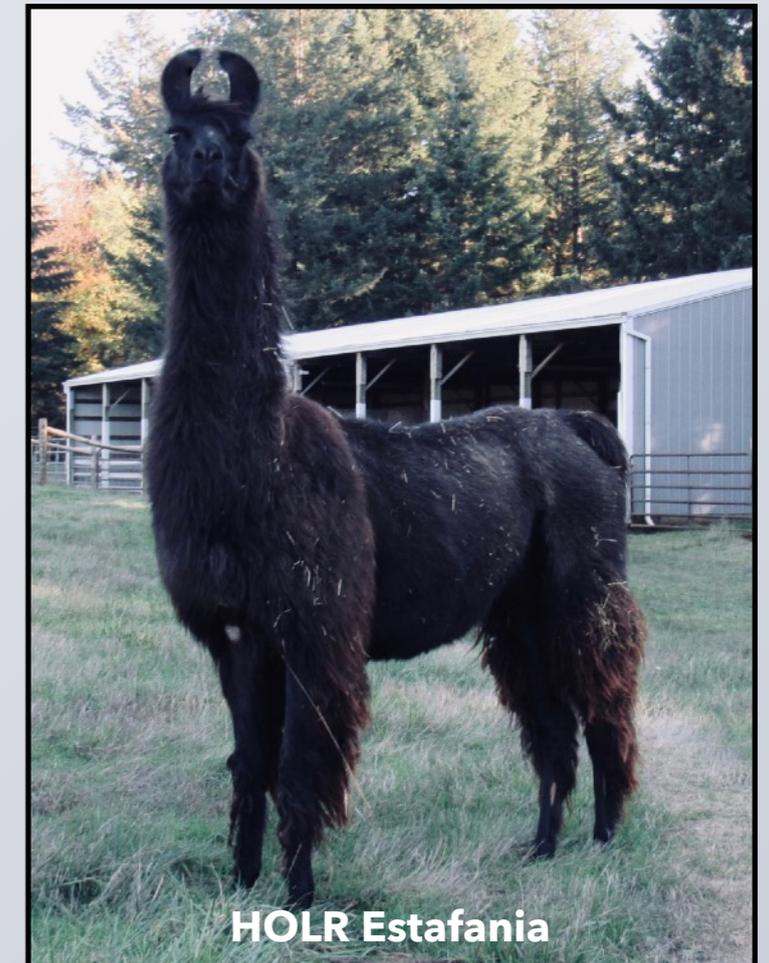
The HOLR herd is spread out among several large pastures with separate barns. We started with the farthest field, a mix of breeding females and older retired girls. The first female to greet us is an older female named East Fork Elle, who quickly finds Sherri to have her withers scratched. After meeting Elle, we were introduced to the rest of the field, which includes some excellent producers. Among the group is 3 generations of females from the famous “E Line”: PL Eskala, FPL Estacada, and HOLR Estafania. All three girls are black with athletic frames and long necks. Eskala was bred at the Patterson ranch and will be turning 20 years old later this year. She could pass for an animal half her age, though she has been retired from breeding for several years. Estacada is one of the last direct daughters of legendary sire, The Canadian. She shares her sire’s classic phenotype and has been bred to classic studs for her last few crias. Estafania is a daughter of Estacada, but she has flowing silky fiber from her sire, Starr Fyter. Estafania bears a striking resemblance to her grand-dam. She had an illustrious show career before moving into the breeding pen. In 2018 her first cria arrived, HOLR Nikolai’s Bandit, a black and white silky paint named for the dark mask across his face. Bandit already attended his first show last fall as he competed as a six-month-old juvenile.



PL Eskala



FPL Estacada



HOLR Estafania



Sherri and East Fork Elle

A love for exhibiting animals dates back to Sherri's childhood as she showed rabbits and horses in 4-H. Her family was also active in the Arabian horse show circuit. After the Tallmons purchased their first llamas they soon began attending llama shows. They have enjoyed regional and national success with their breeding stock and performance animals, including the previously mentioned HOLR Estafania who won a large futurity class and was named Best in Show at the 2012 Llama Futurity Association show.

When I asked why Sherri was interested in showing llamas, she didn't talk about promoting her breeding program or winning big awards, but rather sharing her love of llamas with other llama owners and the general public. "A lot of breeders I know don't like showing at the State Fairs because there's a lot of people. But that's part of the fun for me because you get to show the llamas to people that have never experienced them before. They get to ask questions and touch them. I know it's kind of frustrating at times but I think it's worth it." Sherri turned one of her connections at the Oregon State Fair into a llama centered relationship that has lasted more than a year. A woman named Lindsey met Sherri at the fair in 2017 and since then she has been visiting weekly to work with crias, clean barns and help care for the llamas. Sherri has helped turn Lindsey into a llama enthusiast, and you will see in the coming paragraphs that this is not an isolated story.

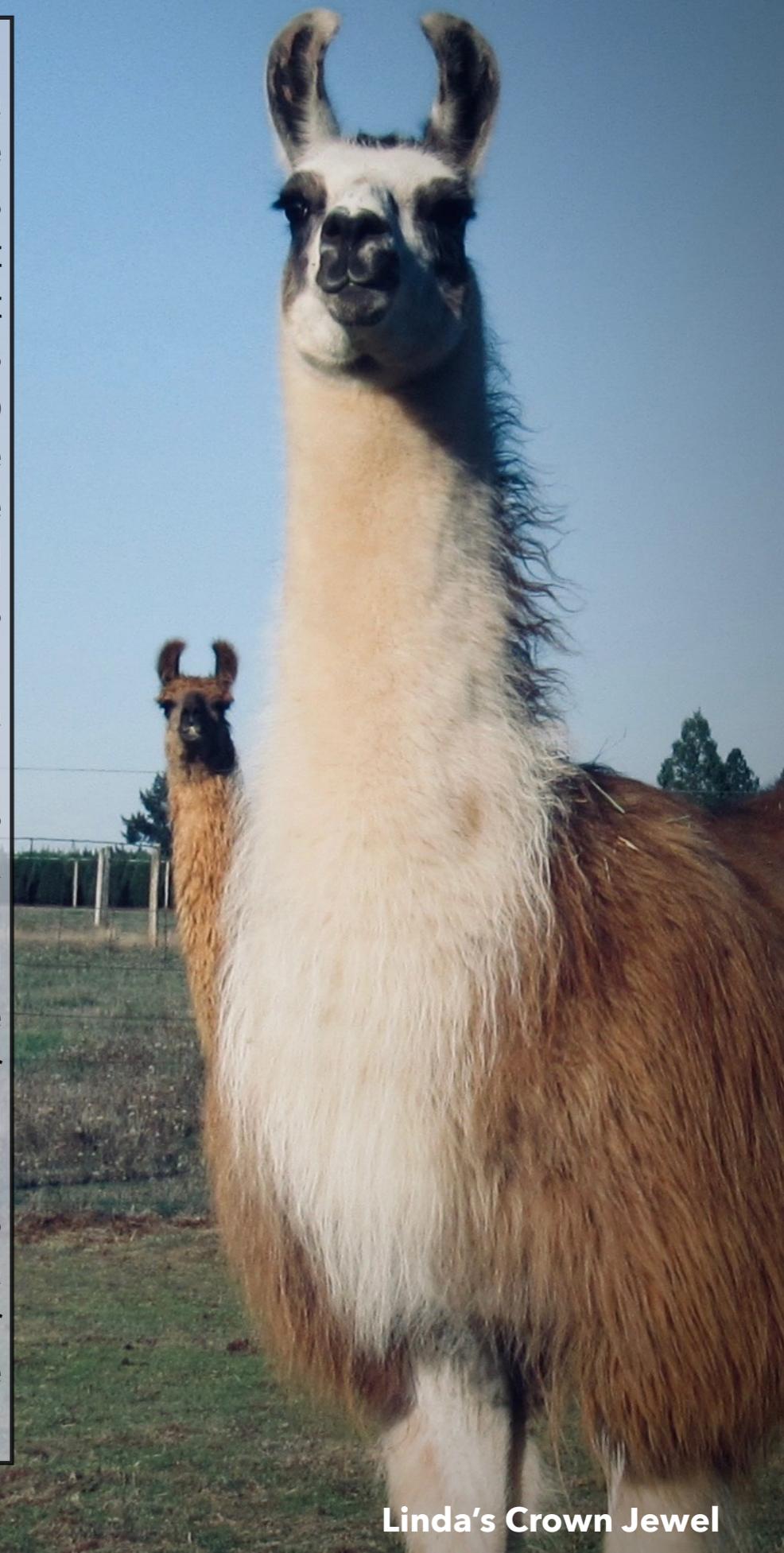


HOLR Estafania

Light Wool Classics

The next pasture we visit has a couple of proven breeders and a group of younger females that have been retained by the Tallmons. The highlight of this field is Linda's Crown Jewel, a large paint female who is alert and showy, but obviously very easy going as she walks up to greet Sherri. West coast breeders might know Linda's Crown Jewel as "that light wool female who keeps winning everything". She is just two years old and she has already won four best in show titles, in addition to numerous grand and reserve championships. This field, like all the others at HOLR, has a mix of classic, silky and suri llamas. This was the only field where the majority of the animals were classics. Sherri and Wil have kept several young classic and light wool animals in recent years in an attempt to meet the demand she has seen for this type of animal. Sherri's goal is to keep a 50/50 balance between her fiber llama program and her classic program in the future.

The classics were added to the HOLR herd in 2012 as the Tallmons visited Highline Trail Llamas in Wyoming, one of the top pack llama breeders in the country. "It was easy to fall in love with these llamas as I really admired their beauty, size, strength and athletic ability. The small amount of grooming is an added bonus!", Sherri said as she remembered the trip. "I had the opportunity to buy some of his younger stock and I bought a stud from him, Jack." HI TRL Jack O'Neil produced many outstanding crias for the Tallmons, including Linda's Crown Jewel, their show winning light wool female. Sherri views the light wool classics as a separate program from her silkies and suris. "To me, they have a style all their own," Sherri said, "Bigger bodied, tall, muscular, larger bone and have incredible stamina. They can go for miles in the mountains during the heaviest of snow and are true athletes!"



Linda's Crown Jewel

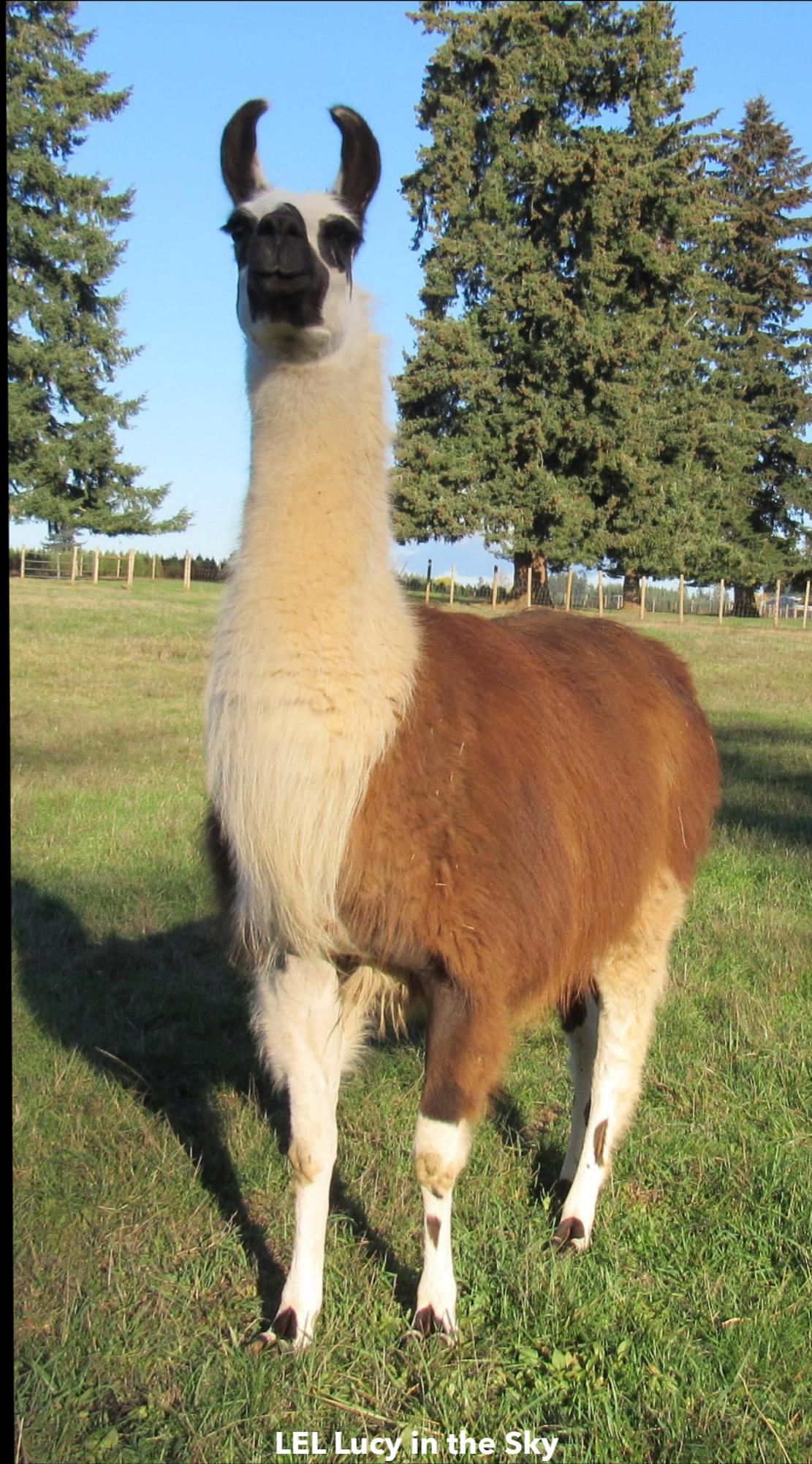
HOLR



HOLR Estella

HOLR Pistol Annie

HOLR Mariah



LEL Lucy in the Sky



HOLR Sierra Starr

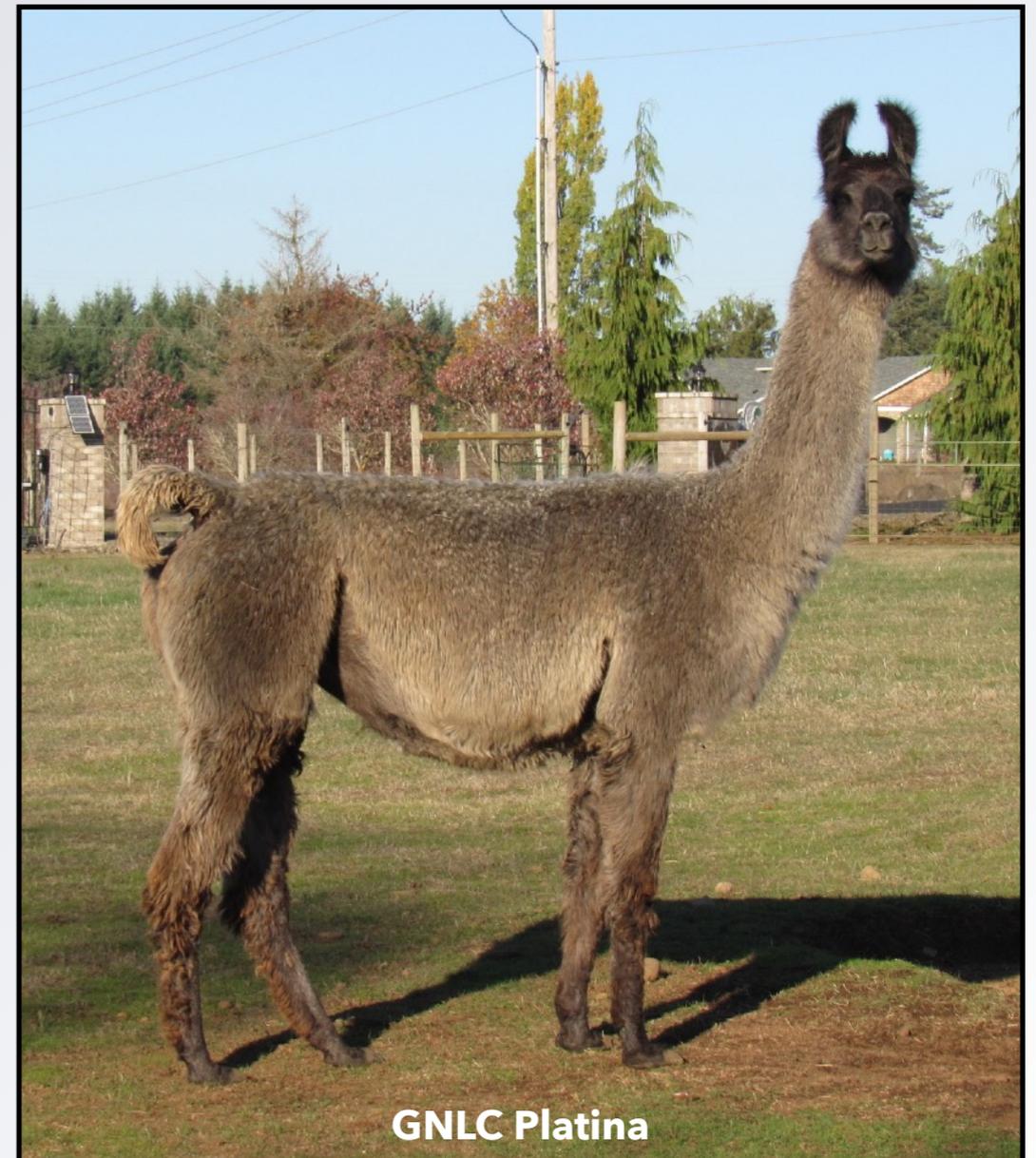
LEL Sophie

The strong foundation of the Highline Trail herd was a big perk for Sherri as she added this new type of llama. These animals are tall with big frames, and Sherri was pleased to see that many of the Ellis' animals had lived past 20 years of age and carried up to 10 crias without breaking down. They selected animals for several generations to carry heavy loads throughout the summer and fall, eliminating lines who weren't suited to the task.

While the Tallmons do occasional day hikes and an overnight trip here and there, they are not avid hunters or campers, and thus do not often load their llamas up with heavy packs. Rather than consistently utilizing their classic stock for packing themselves, they see their role as producing and training working animals for others. Sherri has always enjoyed training young llamas; she has found the demand to be very strong for her started pack animals, and now has a waitlist for available animals.

Standing Behind Her Stock

At our next stop, we see our first crias of the day. We find crias, mothers, and some weanlings mixed together. The crias start in this field with their dams, and gradually the mothers are taken out as the crias reach weaning age. By doing this the crias are in a familiar place with familiar faces as they go through the stress of weaning. A large silver suri catches my eye in this field, GNLC Platina. She seems to tower above us holding her head high. Her good looks run in her family; she is a full sister to GNLC Hightower and GNLC Crocket, among other fabulous siblings. Another female who has my attention is an impressive ccara, HI TRL Megyn. Megyn was a part of the Tallmons' original ccara purchases, and seeing her it's easy to imagine why they fell in love with this type. Also in this field is a small group of females and a couple of crias who recently arrived from a farm in Montana. The previous year the Tallmons had sold these llamas to some new llama owners. Tragically, they lost multiple animals to a grizzly bear attack and decided to disperse their herd and Sherri agreed to purchase them back.



It is not an especially rare occurrence for Sherri to be buying back llamas she has previously sold. In fact, she shared that in all of the HOLR llama sales contracts it is written that the buyer must contact Sherri first if they need to sell their llama. “Either I’ll help them sell, or under certain circumstances I may buy them back.” This part of the sales contract came from Sherri’s longtime involvement in helping to rescue and re-home llamas.

“Since 1996 we’ve sold over 500 llamas and close to 200 of those have been rescues,” Sherri said. “Some of them may just need to be re-homed. A lot of them need to be sheared, toes trimmed and cleaned up. You need to figure out what they excel at; not all llamas can guard, not all llamas can pack.”

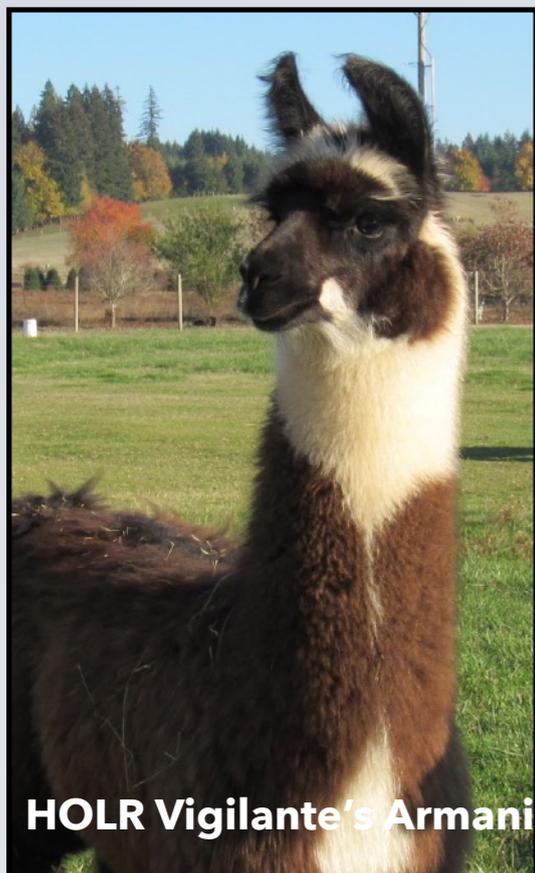
Sherri shared that her commitment to re-home llamas she has previously sold has improved her llama training practices. “If I’m going to take the animal back some day I want them to be handle-able,” Sherri said. “We start out by desensitizing the crias at birth and by around 3 months old they are wearing a halter and leading along with their mother. At weaning time they are doing obstacles, they allow their feet to be picked up for toenail trimming and are starting to wear a very small pack system. We feel it’s important to expose the crias to anything and everything possible, regardless of if they end up guarding, showing, breeding or packing.”



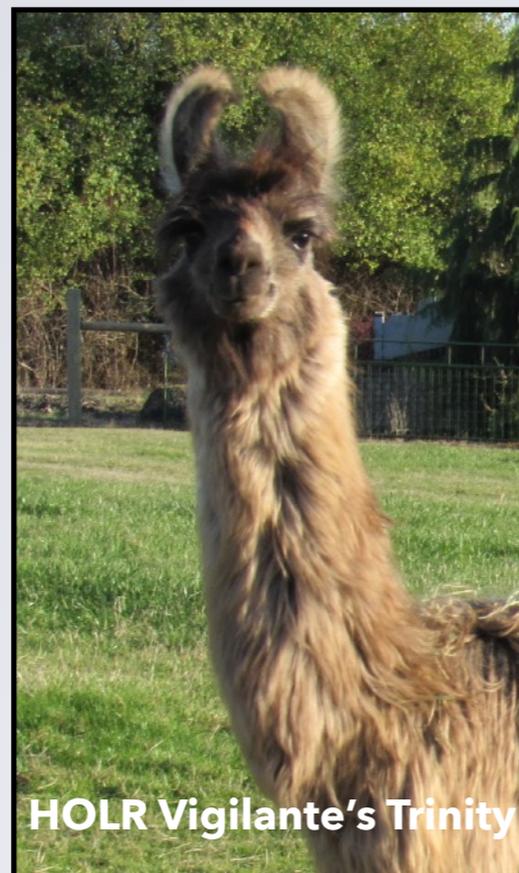
A Leap of Faith

We had one more female field to visit, with many crias at side. In this field, we found one of my favorite females in the country, a national champion daughter of Sipan, Acaisha. Acaisha was a part of the Hinterland foundation herd and was one of the high sellers at Kay Patterson's Walkabout Finale. She is tall and proud with striking colors and she has a gorgeous black and white male cria with her. Her son, HOLR Vigilante's Armani, is by the Tallmons' new lead herdsire CTF Renegade's Vigilante. There are two other crias by Vigilante sharing the field with Armani and Acaisha. One is a gray-brown suri female named HOLR Vigilante's Trinity. Trinity is a near carbon copy of her dam, Ollendick Farm's Tatyanna. The other, HOLR Vigilante's Leap of Faith, has the same "Vigilante look" as Armani.

Vigilante was purchased in partnership with Steve and Sue Rolfing in 2017. He was bred by CarolAnn and Malcolm Tallmon (no relation) and sold at their dispersal sale. Vigilante caught Sherri's eye when the photos were posted, and she brought the idea to the Rolfings. She had a hunch he might sell at a respectable price but had no idea that he would reach the almost \$20,000 price tag where he finally sold. While talking about the flashy black and white Vigilante daughter Sherri said, "I named her Leap of Faith because of his whole story. Bidding on that llama was one of the most exciting, yet terrifying things I've ever done."



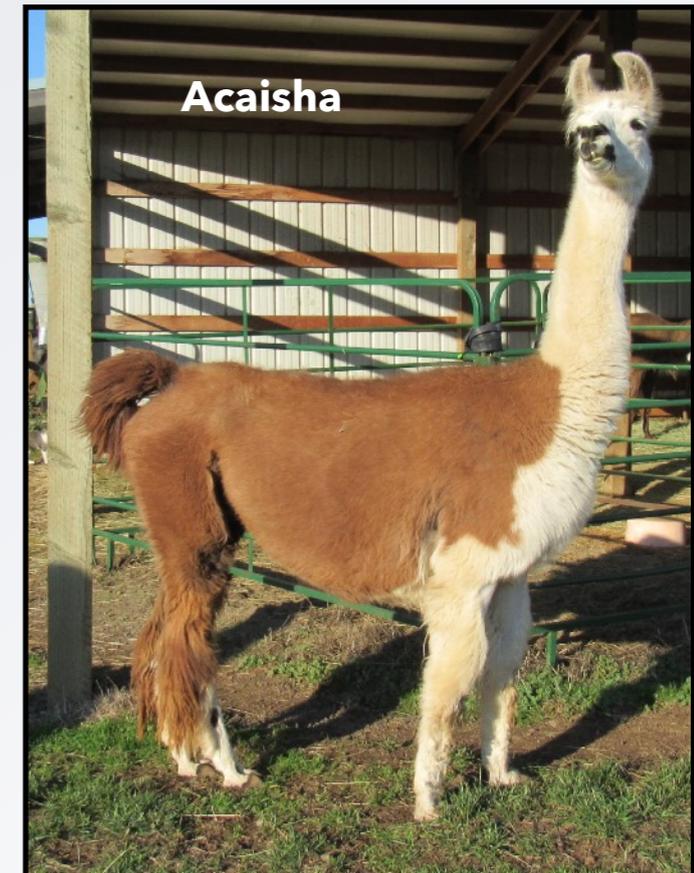
HOLR Vigilante's Armani



HOLR Vigilante's Trinity



**HOLR Vigilante's
Leap of Faith**



Acaisha

Sherri's leap of faith would end up paying off. In March the Tallmons consigned Armani and Faith to the March of the Llamas online auction. They were clearly the highlight of the auction as Armani topped the sale at \$11,000 and Faith trailed close behind selling for \$9,400. After the sale Sherri told me, "I was absolutely shocked they went that high and I am excited to see where the llama industry is going. It's really encouraging." The last of this trio of Vigilante offspring, Trinity, will sell in April at the Cascade Llama Sale.



HOLR Vigilante's Armani



HOLR Vigilante's Leap of Fatih



HOLR Vigilante's Trinity

After looking at Vigilante's crias we walked across the drive to see the stud himself. This was the second time I had seen Vigilante in 2018, as he was in Montana during our tour of Great Northern Ranch. On viewing him this time I was struck by how exotic he is. He has the bangs of a fancy suri and the lower leg wool of an Argentine on the frame of a working packer.

Having a well-known stud is not a new feeling for the Tallmons; over the years many industry legends have spent time at Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch.



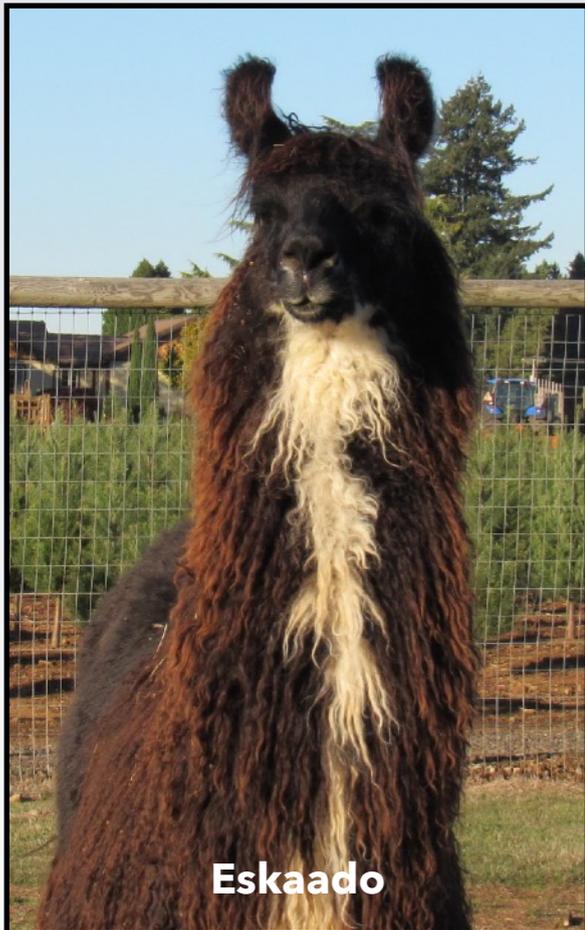
**CTF Renegade's
Vigilante**

Their lead herdsire prior to Vigilante was GNLC Silvertone. Silvertone was somewhat overshadowed by his close relative, GNLC Merlin, but he will always stand in my mind as one of the most impressive llamas I've ever seen. Silvertone returned to the Rolfings' in Montana in 2017. After settling a couple of females, Silvertone passed away in 2018 at eighteen years of age. Silvertone's legendary sire, MCF EtoI, also spent some time as a herdsire for the Tallmons. Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch served as the retirement home for Hinterland herdsires Liberator and Macho Macho after the Walkabout finale. Other regionally and nationally recognized males to spend time at HOLR include GC's Inca Legend, London, Baurenheim's Firedancer, Peruvian Precedent, The Royal Canadian, and Starr Fyter.



Making the Grade

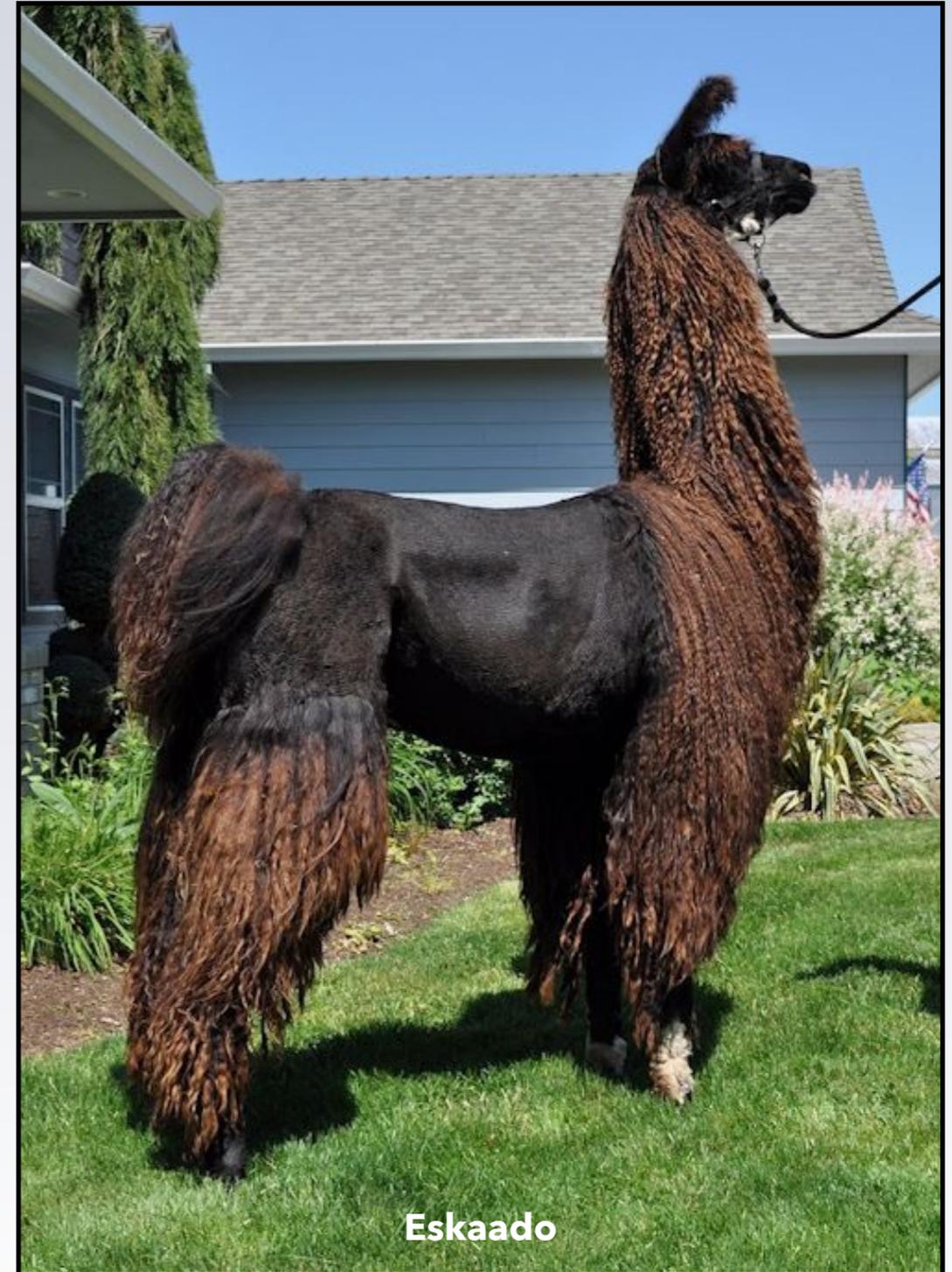
Next up was one of my favorite animals of the day and our cover model, Eskaado. Eskaado is a striking black and white tuxedo, bearing a strong resemblance to his sire, Starr Fyter, and his paternal grandsire, Fivestarr. His dam is the statuesque PL Eskala from earlier in the tour, making him a member of the famous “E line”. He glides around his pasture in large circles looking like an Arabian horse on a hot walker and he doesn’t seem interested in slowing down to have his picture taken. Finally, he stops and gives the three of us a long look head-on, allowing me to capture our cover photo. Eskaado is about to turn 5 years old and is still waiting for his first chance to prove himself in the breeding pen, partly due to the arrival of Vigilante. Given Eskaado’s powerful pedigree and stunning good looks, it’s only a matter of time before there are some beautiful tuxedo crias cleaning up in the show ring.



Eskaado



Starr Fyter



Eskaado

Eskaado will be retained as a breeding male, but Sherri believes strongly that most males should be gelded. “Not all males should be a stud,” Sherri said, “I put that in (our sales) contract, males that are sold as pets are to be gelded. A while back I started a gelding incentive program where I gave x amount of dollars back if they had them gelded at the appropriate age.” When I asked her why gelding was such a priority to her she said, “So there’s not so much breeding going on where the animal shouldn’t be used for breeding, fewer rescues out there. I’m just amazed at some of the stories I’ve come across where people have males and females living together and are shocked when they have a surprise baby.”

It was clear that some of Sherri’s geldings are among her favorite llamas. One of her proudest llama related moments was, “Getting to show an amazing gelding named Jorjio!” Jorjio was trained by Tracy Ames and owned in partnership with two other farms. “He was one of a kind; he did it all and was so much fun!” Jorjio had a great deal of success with Sherri over the two years she exhibited him, receiving ALSA Nationals grand and reserve championships in non-breeder halter, driving and master performance. Jorjio was also the reserve champion in 2010 and the grand champion in 2011 for the LANA non-breeder versatility award. “We’re trying to promote geldings. There are so many things that they can be used for.”



Sherri with Jorjio at ALSA Grand Nationals



Sherri and Jorjio

The Gelding Group

Our last field of the tour put Sherri's emphasis on geldings on display. The Tallmons keep a herd of approximately ten geldings for their 4-H club and public relations events. Sherri grew up in the 4-H program exhibiting rabbits and horses, and her children followed in her footsteps showing llamas. Sherri explained, "Our daughter Kayla went through the 4-H program showing llamas and now my son, who is a Senior in High School, is on his last year of 4-H with llamas. I've been a llama 4-H leader off and on for ten plus years and most recently we have around six to eight members in our Llama Lovers Club. Many of the members lease from our gelding group, as they don't have a place to keep a llama or they want to learn more about them." Sherri's 4-H members who lease llamas pay a monthly fee to help cover feed costs and attend monthly meetings.



All of the 4-H members exhibit their llamas annually at the Clackamas County Fair.

In addition to showing her llamas off to the public at various shows, Sherri also takes her llamas to parades, nursing homes, birthday parties and weddings. In this field are three registered therapy llamas whom Sherri takes to these events. A few years ago Sherri took a pair of llamas to Schoolhouse Electric, a posh store in downtown Portland, Oregon that used to sell Llama Fiber Cooperative rugs and blankets. More recently Sherri has taken her youngest registered therapy llama, a wild colored appaloosa named Ace, to elementary schools and businesses in her area. Sherri said, "I love sharing llamas with people and enjoy seeing their faces light up when they first see one." Who knows how many future llama owners Sherri has sparked with her many PR visits.



An athletic paint gelding, HOLR Tomahawk, is boarded by the Tallmons. His owner, Nancy Carpenter, lives in Portland and found Sherri's website in 2011. She was interested in the llamas and emailed Sherri about coming to the farm for a visit. Since then, Sherri and Nancy have become close friends and Nancy comes out regularly to work with the llamas. She has also become a member of the llama community, visiting other farms and attending llama shows with Sherri. In 2012 she purchased Tomahawk, her first llama, from the Tallmons. She has trained him to pack and successfully showed him in various performance classes. In 2016 she purchased her second llama, HOLR Jackson, a light wool classic who also lives in the HOLR gelding field. Nancy is now a true llama enthusiast and a llama owner thanks to Sherri.



Sherri, Nancy, HI TRL Jack
O'Neil and HOLR Tomahawk



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 - Germany July 6-8
 - Austria July 13-15



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There are a couple of veteran show animals in this field, one being a dark, solid colored male named Midnight Illusion, aka “Magic”. Magic stands among the most special llamas at HOLR. Sherri explained, “We have one girl in our 4-H club that’s special needs and she has balance issues. The first year she used Magic, who has been with several different 4-Hers; he’s going to be 18 next month. She’s improved so much over the last 3-4 years with him, it’s incredible. They loaded in a van once and she, because of balance, had trouble climbing in the van. Magic waited as long as it took for her to get in the van, and then he got in. And then he waited for as long as it took for her to get out. I just thought it was so amazing. Every summer it just brings us to tears to watch them. Her mom used to have to hold her hand for balance when doing obstacles, but now she does the whole course on her own.”

This field of geldings is truly a gift to the Tallmons’ community. The Tallmons invest a lot of time and resources to make them available to their 4-Hers and the hundreds of people they encounter each year at various public outings.

As we wrapped up the tour we talked for a while longer in the chilly sunshine about upcoming llama events and who Sherri might be showing in the spring. Eventually, we thanked Sherri for spending the day with us and started the beautiful winding drive back to the interstate.



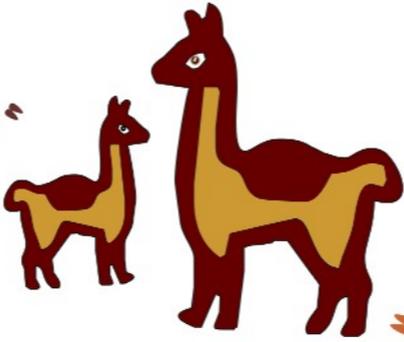
Above: Magic with Sherri at a Holiday Parade



Right: Magic with Logan Tallmon at ALSA Grand Nationals 2012

There is so much to admire about the way the Tallmons run their llama ranch: their exceptional breeding and show program, their ethical and forward-thinking business practices, the boldness to add a new type of llama in 2012, and their extensive community visits to name a few. Our time with Sherri inspired us to try a few new things in our llama program, I hope that this article has the same effect for you.



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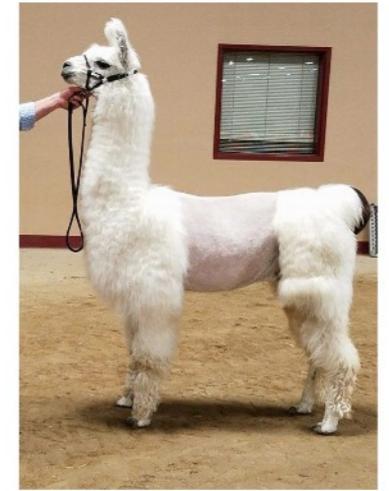
Nastaza's Raphael
(Co-owned with Michael West & Tor Sorensen)



GNLC Full Tilt



Sijama Zambelli



KVF Timone's second addition (Co-owned with Tor Sorensen)



A few of our best females:



New Leaf's Herculina



Miss Kit Kat



New Leaf's Azure



Heylee



New Leaf's Diorissima

Pack Llama Trail Association

By Tom Seifert

Across the United States there are a number of different llama organizations dedicated to showing llamas, breeding llamas for packing, and breeding llamas for fiber, but there is only one that I know of that is dedicated to setting a skills standard for working llamas. The Pack Llama Trail Association (PLTA) has developed a wonderful evaluative tool for prospective owners of llamas who want to know if the llama being purchased is pack worthy.



During the 1990's, llama owners in the Idaho area organized and formed Western Idaho Llama Association (WILA). Early members with the names of Russell, Sheehan, Hammons, Rais, Northey, Landis and others wanted to bring llama owners together to test their llamas in the back-country. Not as competition with each other, although, I suppose bragging rights were always involved, but testing your llama on hikes that involved carrying a specific weight, walking a specific distance, elevation gain included, and numerous obstacles found in the back-country, and all of it according to a llamas age and weight. In time, the WILA organization evolved into the PLTA, which now has members from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida and several other states, with our most far-reaching member in Australia.

So, what actually does the PLTA do? We do operate under written by-laws with a board and quite specific written summaries for how a trial should be undertaken. A trial is the actual designing of a course with obstacles. Obstacles are not generated to make a llama fail, but designed to practice what that llama and handler will see in the back-country. From the basic level to advanced, master and elite, the llama and handler will gradually work up to longer distances, greater elevation gain, and more complicated obstacles with an emphasis on safety for all.

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Using the advanced level, let's look at what this llama must, on three multiple day walks, accomplish. First; the llama must be a minimum of 36 months old. Second; manageability tests would be observed by the certifier. They would include, haltering, loading and unloading from trailer, placement of saddles and panniers, how the llama reacts to being picketed on an approximate 20' rope or strap. Third; the load requirement will be 15% of llamas weight. In comparison, an elite llama would be carrying 25%. Third; there will be 10 obstacles for the llama to complete. Examples of this would be: duck-under, rock rubble, deadfall, trail traffic (dogs, horses, hikers) and crossing water.



The four levels of certification

They are available at both individual and "string" (team) applications.

Trials are regulated by stringent written standards available on the PLTA website.

Multiple trial repetitions are required before a llama earns its certification at a given level.

The **Basic** llama adequately performs the skills required of a light duty packer on easy terrain for short distances with light loads.

The **Advanced** llama is trustworthy for well defined, easily negotiated backcountry travel.

The **Master** llama is capable of cross-country backcountry travel in rough terrain at distances required by an outfitter guide.

The **Elite** llama is fit for long distance travel in extreme terrain.

When my wife and I started with llamas nearly 25 years ago we spent very little to purchase them. Several of these had never been haltered or saddled which my broken nose can attest to. Before hitting the trail, we had to put some time and practice into them or we would have had one back-country rodeo. Today not all of my boys are perfect and they can get out of line once in a while, but putting them through the different trial levels we have eliminated many of the issues that could come from poorly trained llamas.

There are many things to keep in mind when purchasing a new llama, especially a pack llama. Is it registered with the International Lama Registry? Does it have a proven pedigree? Is the seller honest and reputable? You must also consider the training level of your llama, particularly if you aspire to pack with it. Can you easily halter and saddle the llama? How does it walk while you are leading it? Is it breathing down your neck and pushing? Wandering side to side? Stopping every time something new pops up on the trail?

This is where the PLTA comes in. If your purchase is a llama that has gone through the different certification standards, you are on the right track. I would never tell one, “rest assured” because one must always be working with, training and walking with your llama. But, if you have the opportunity of purchasing llamas that have gone through PLTA training, your travels in the back-country will be much more of a reward than a headache.

“A future owner of llamas should not get caught up in the size of your llama. One does not need a 52” llama (at the shoulder) to pack gear. If you want something big, buy a horse. A llama will be far gentler on the environment, and on your foot if he/she steps on it. They are great companions, all with their own personalities. I have had what one might refer to as shorter llamas pack just as well as some of my taller ones. Learn and pay attention to conformation, length of back, pasterns, hocks, overall balance, temperament, and owner knowledge and reputation when purchasing.” -Tom Seifert, PLTA Secretary



The PLTA has a great informational website at packllama.org. Visit the site and scroll around because there is a great deal of information contained regarding our mission statement: “The PLTA’s prime objective is to discover and recognize llamas that can fulfill the llama packer’s needs on the trail by performing in a manner consistent with the demands of actual packing conditions.” The intent is not to confront the llama with unrealistic or trick problems, rather it is to test the llama’s ability and acquired level of training and conditioning. PLTA certified pack llamas are expected to possess a defined set of abilities that enable them to serve as valuable packing companions.



Many non-registered, untrained llamas can become wonderful companions on the trail with some sound coaching and practice. The PLTA is there to help you. Attend a pack trial, observe what is taking place, the attention to safety first, the camaraderie and sharing of ideas and networking that occurs. If one is a bit apprehensive testing your llamas in a trial, another opportunity would be the Challenge Program. Usually, the Challenge Program is held in conjunction with the Trial. It is much more low-key, no stipulation to distance, elevation, pack weight. In fact, you can just lead your llama with no saddle. The group just goes for a hike and any member can call out an obstacle and ask if anyone wished to attempt it. Challenge points are earned and tabulated at the end of the year. Another opportunity is the PLTA Mileage Club. It is a great way to get you and your llamas in shape for the summer/fall hiking or hunting season and recording your miles is a wonderful motivator.

The PLTA Board and current members believe there is a real demand for the PLTA within the packing community and those soon-to-be llama owners. We are always looking to add members, enhance the programs offered, and put on Trials wherever our members are located. Please check out our packllama.org site and if there is something you are not finding or just have a few questions, don’t be afraid to contact the PLTA.

About the Author

Tom Seifert is a retired teacher and basketball coach (38 years in the West Ada School District, Idaho) His wife is also retired from a career with the State of Idaho Water Resources and Energy Division. They have been working llamas for the last 20+ years. They only work with males, several of them are used for stud services. During the summer they pack, in fall, they use the llamas for hunting season.



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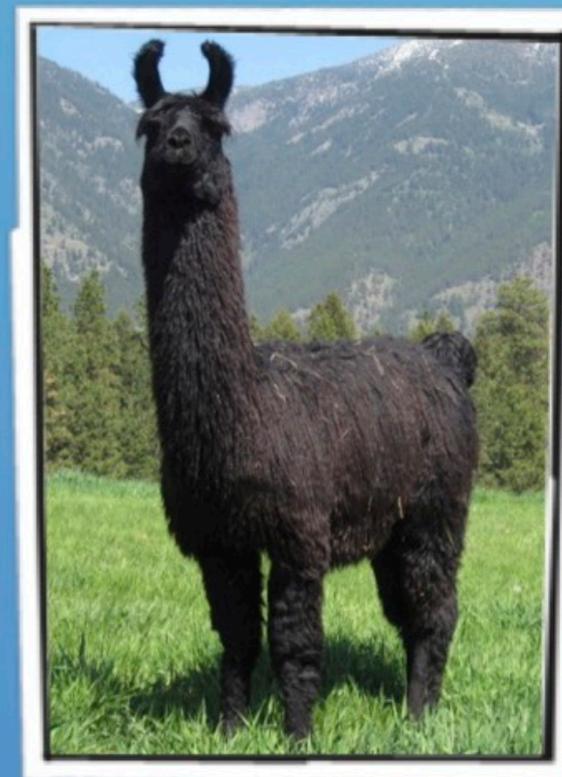


ARGENTINE LUMBERJACK
ARGENTINE STRYDER X ARGENTINE FRENCH MAID (ET)
BORN - MARCH 3, 2013



ARGENTINE MACH ONE (ET)
ARGENTINE HILDALGO (ET) X ARGENTINE MACHI
BORN - JULY 9, 2008

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GNLC BLACKHAWK
MADDIX X GNLC DIVINA
BORN - JUNE 28, 2015

Ron & Gail Wilkinson
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Website: www.rgacres.net
Email: rwilkinson@bendcable.com
Phone: 541-410-9447

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ARGENTINE LLAMA DREAMS

OUR ARGENTINES ARE WINNING IN HALTER & FLEECE

ARGENTINE DESERT GOLD



DOB 9-6-2016

Sire: Arg. Simpatico (ET)
Dam: Arg. Autumn Dream

“Pattie” is already an ILR Fleece Champion, and in the 2017 Top Ten Fleece-On. He also won Grand Champion Argentine Male (out of 15) in the COLA Argentine Extravaganza. We are expecting his 1st Crias in 2019

ARGENTINE TUACA



DOB 9-7-2016

Sire: Arg. Iroquios
Dam: Arg. Kambra

Tuaca has been a ILR Grand Champion in Shorn Fleece (single w/crimp). He was ILR 2017 Top Ten Shorn Fleece. He also has 3 firsts, 3 seconds and 2 Reserve Championships in Extra Heavy Wool Male in Halter. We are expecting his first crias in 2019.

ARGENTINE TOURMALINE



DOB 10-11-2015

Sire: Arg. Simpatico (ET)
Dam: Arg. Black Pearl

Tourmaline is an ILR Fleece Champion and 1st place in ILR 2017 Top Ten Shorn Fleece . She has Top halter placings in Extra Heavy Wool. Being bred to Tuaca in fall of 2018.

ARGENTINE ANTONELLA



DOB 9-2-2015

Sire: Arg. Mach One (ET)
Dam: Arg. Paiva

Antonella is an ILR Halter and Fleece Champion, 1st place in ILR 2017 Top Ten Fleece-On, and 6th in Top Ten Shorn Fleece Being bred to Tuaca in the fall of 2018.

ARGENTINE

CARMEL SUNDAE



DOB 9-26-2017

Sire: Arg. Mach One (ET)
Dam: Arg. Tippa Rari
COLA 1st place in Shorn Fleece, single w/o crimp

Website: LlamaDreams.com

Gene & Betty Moe

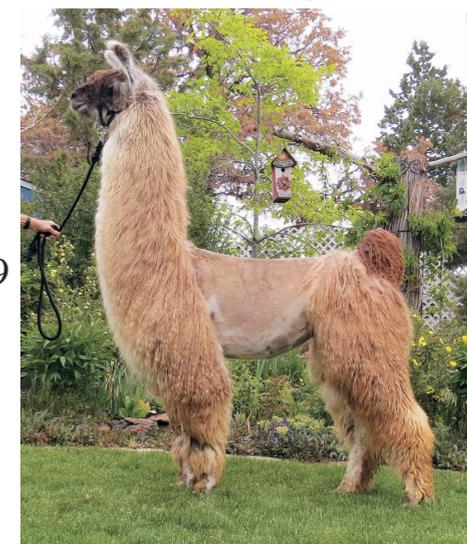
DOB 9-20-2014

Sire: Arg. Mach One (ET)
Dam: Lucky Flush ABSR
Macarena is an ILR Halter Champion. Bred to Arg. Desert Gold for 2019

Email: lamabetty@aol.com

541-548-4158

MACH'S MACARENA



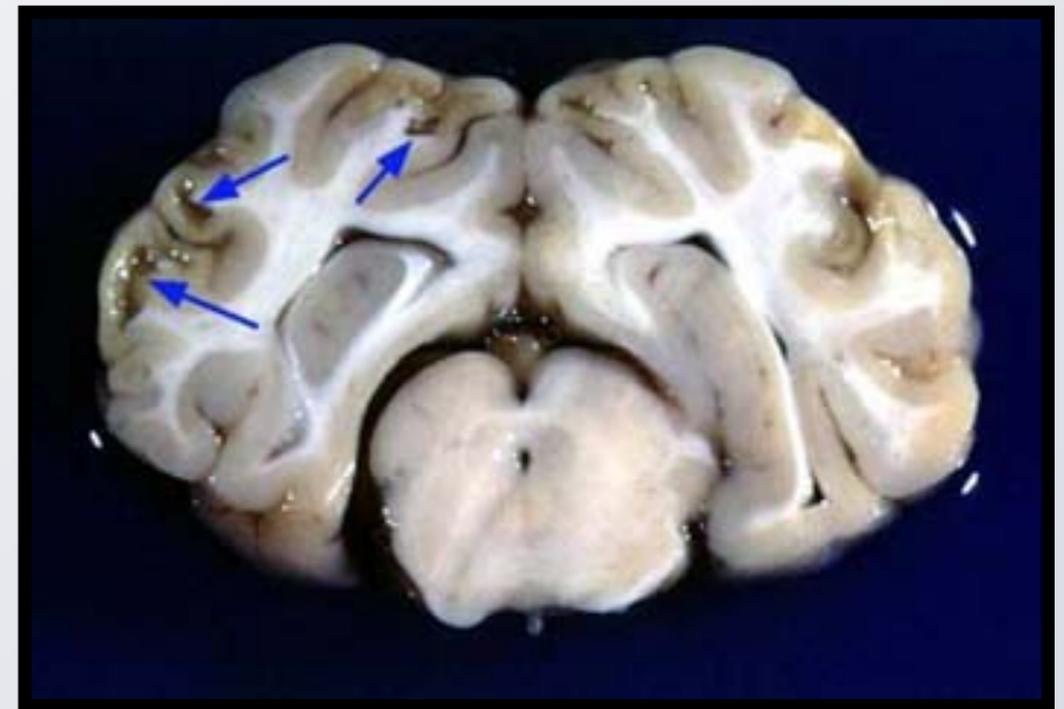
PEM

POLIOENCEPHALOMALACIA

By Char Arendas, DVM

Polio is one of the major neurologic diseases afflicting camelids and other ruminant livestock. Although you may be thinking of the type of polio that humans get, the two diseases are actually quite different! Human Polio is caused by a virus and is extremely contagious. It is known as POLIOVIRUS and can affect the brain and spinal cord. Ruminant Polio is NOT a contagious disease. It causes tissue death in an area of the brain known as the cerebral cortex, which in turn causes brain swelling that quickly affects vision and other neurologic functions. If we examine the root words of Polioencephalomalacia: POLIO (gray) - ENCEPHALO (brain) - MALACIA (softening)...it literally means “softening of the gray matter of the brain!” Necropsy photos of this disease literally show liquefied areas of the brain’s gray matter.

Major Symptoms: Polio symptoms can vary quite a bit, but the MOST COMMON symptom is a sudden onset of blindness. Other NEUROLOGIC symptoms can include mental dullness, ataxia (drunken walking), wandering aimlessly, muscle tremors, rapid eye movements (called nystagmus), head pressing, lockjaw, coma, and even seizures. Other NON-SPECIFIC symptoms you can see in this disease (and nearly any camelid illness): head & neck arched back, decreased appetite, drooling, weakness, and staying kushed or being unable to stand.



Necropsy of a PEM brain showing liquefied areas of gray matter

Photo credit: vet.uga.edu

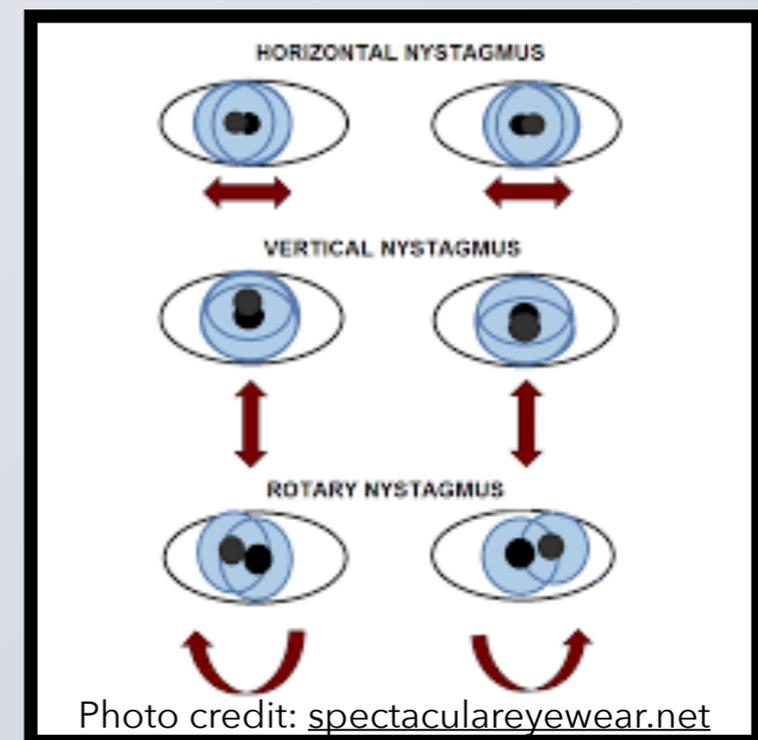


Photo credit: spectaculareyewear.net

Nystagmus is a rapid eye movement that happens with neurologic diseases affecting the brain and can occur in different directions.

Causes: Polio mostly occurs when we inadvertently cause THIAMINE DEFICIENCY by administering medication to treat coccidial infections. Sulfa-based drugs such as Corid (sulfadimethoxine) or the antibiotic SMZ-TMP (Sulfamethoxazole-Trimethoprim, Bactrim) both alter the way in which the body metabolizes thiamine. Some cases of polio have even occurred in camels given high doses of the anti-coccidial drug Amprolium for multiple days. Additionally, chronic exposure to high sulfur/sulfate levels in the water (>1000 ppb) or even in the feed (>4000 ppb) can also induce polio. Situations that cause water deprivation, salt poisoning, or heat stress have even been known to cause polio. Another potential source can be lead exposure from animals having access to leaky car batteries and lead-based chemicals or paints.

Treatment: Although this is an article is medical in nature, it does not substitute for consultation from your regular vet. While I won't get into specifics about dosages, a VERY HIGH dose of IV (intravenous) Thiamine should be given initially by your veterinarian. Then, one would typically follow that up with SQ or IM injections multiple times a day for several days. While Thiamine is a B-vitamin and is typically found in over the counter B-complex injectable products, it is TOO WEAK of a concentration to be of much use in a polio case! For example, a typical Vitamin B-Complex injectable has 100mg Thiamine per mL (per cc)...for an average llama that could mean 30cc per dose! Your veterinarian should have a much higher concentration Thiamine-only injectable on hand.

Prognosis: Unfortunately, many animals do succumb to polio and won't respond to treatment. This is mainly because the symptoms set in so quickly and brain damage occurs fast. HOWEVER, if it is caught soon enough and Thiamine is administered, a rapid recovery IS possible, and many times improvement is noted within hours. REMEMBER, WITH POLIO, EVERY MINUTE MATTERS! Fast treatment can mean life or death.



Prevention: Although one may read this article and be tempted to regularly supplement their animals with extra Thiamine or B-complex vitamins, that is not necessarily the answer to preventing PEM. In fact, studies have shown that prophylactically giving Thiamine while treating with amprolium (Corid) can decrease the efficacy of the Corid! B-vitamins (Thiamine is B-1) are water soluble, which means that any excess is excreted by the body quickly and they are not stored (If you have ever taken a B vitamin, you may have noticed your urine turns a darker yellow). The sheer volume and frequency at which you'd need to regularly supplement with B-complex or Thiamine to try and prevent PEM makes it illogical to do so. Additionally, if your water or feed sulfur/sulfate content is too high, constant vitamin B supplementation may mask symptoms and you will be overlooking a major risk to your herd. Don't forget that constant injections will also increase the risk of injection site abscesses. The key to preventing PEM is to recognize neurologic symptoms early and treat ASAP.

We discussed sources of high sulfur which can induce PEM, such as water, feed, and medications. Let's not forget the forage (hay/pasture)! Polio can occur in camelids grazing poor pastures which are low in protein. Typically, this occurs in late summer or early fall when fields can become dry and overgrazed. It can also happen when they are fed large amounts of grain/concentrates without adequate roughage. The key point here is to remember that our camelids need a high fiber (roughage) diet with minimal grain for many aspects of health, not just polio prevention. The only way to know what you're putting into your animals is to test - your feed, water, hay, and pasture.

****CONSULT WITH YOUR REGULAR VET ON THIAMINE DOSING AND TO SEE IF YOU CAN KEEP A BOTTLE ON HAND FOR EMERGENCY USE****

Sources:

Fowler, Murray E. *Medicine and Surgery of Camelids - 3rd edition*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. Cebra et al.

Llama and Alpaca Care. Elsevier, 2014.

About the Author

Char Arendas is a veterinarian in Ohio. She got her first llama as a 4-H project in 1995, and her family's herd is currently home to 40 llamas and 16 alpacas. She and her mom have run the Lucky Llamas 4-H Club since 2001. Char is on the board of directors for the Llama Fiber Co-op of North America and is the president of the Ohio River Valley Llama Association.



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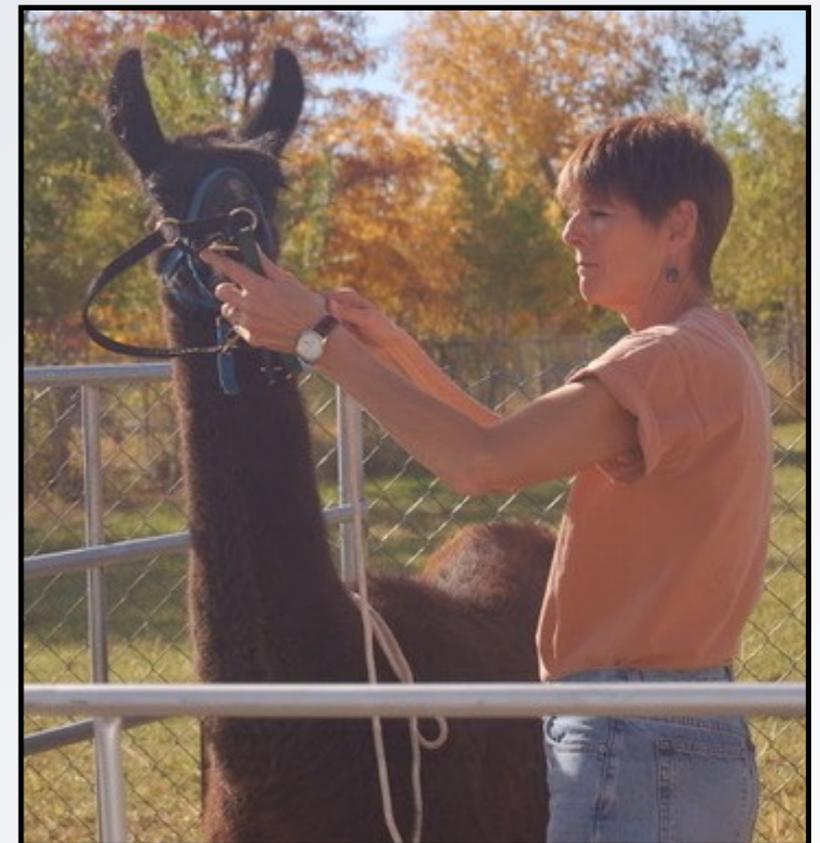
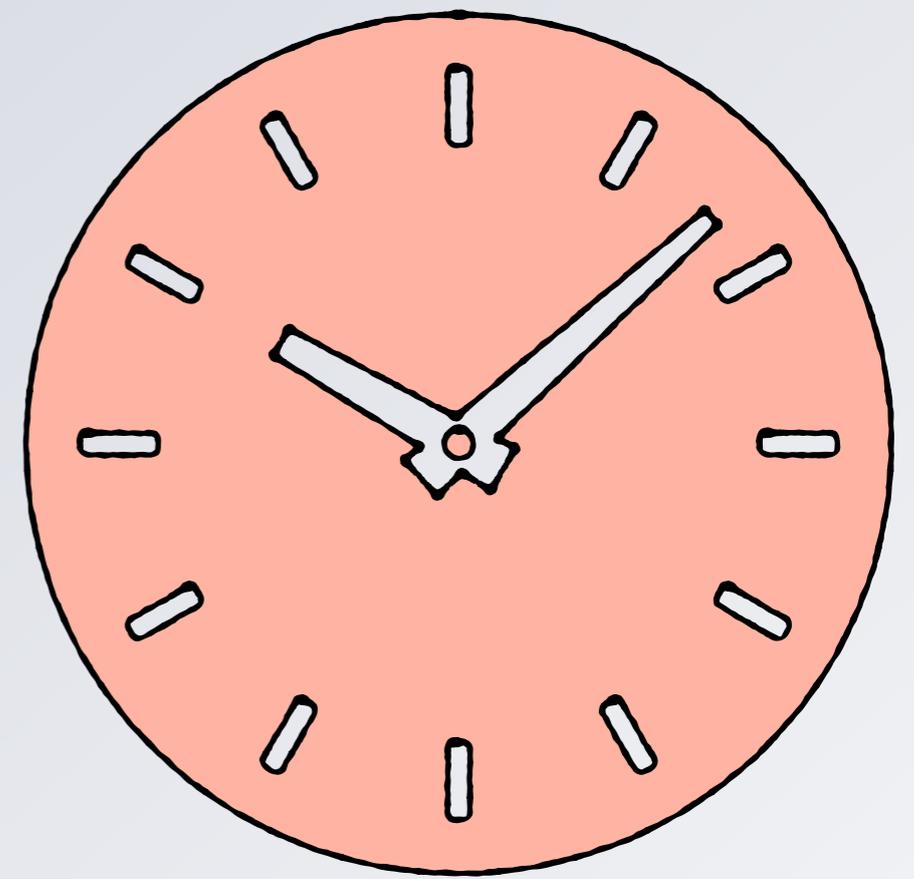
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Solving Major Behavioral Problems In *Thirty Seconds*

By Marty McGee Bennett

I am only partly kidding. If you are having trouble with one of your llamas, but haven't paid very close attention to **halter fit**, you may be able to solve the problem in thirty seconds. I have worked with hundreds of difficult llamas that were difficult only because they were in fear for their lives every second they wore a halter. I have seen problems from kicking to kushing evaporate because I changed or adjusted a badly fitting halter.

Red, blue, black, brown, polypropylene, nylon, leather, X-style fixed noseband, three way adjustable, there are a lot of halters to choose from. It is **CRITICAL** you understand and appreciate how important halter fitting is to your llama. Your success as a handler and trainer depends on it. Paying attention to halter fit is easy, and there are few other changes that can make such an immediate and dramatic difference in behavior.



The issue is not only what type of halter you select, but how it fits. Many owners believe that if a halter can be attached to the llama's head— it fits. NOTHING could be further from the truth.

Llamas are semi-obligate nasal breathers. This means that they CANNOT survive if forced to breathe solely through their mouths. Anything that compromises the nostrils or the nasal passages is not only uncomfortable, it is life threatening. When compared to other animals the nose bone in camelids is comparatively short and drops off sharply.

Add this to the awesome leverage that a camelid's long neck affords, and it is easy to understand why llamas are often reluctant to allow us to halter them. Haltering and halter fitting is further complicated by a camelid's horizontal head set. Because a llama carries his head with the nose oriented horizontally rather than vertically (like a horse) a halter that slips off the bone must literally overcome gravity to return to its original position.



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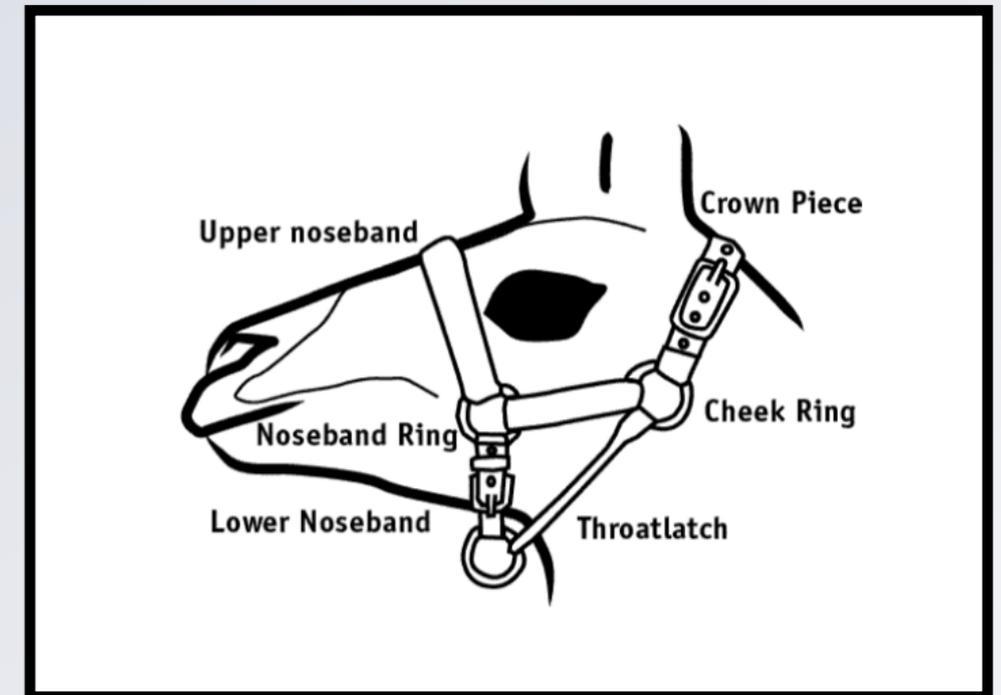
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The Elements of Halter Fit: The Big Three

Safety

A properly fitted halter's noseband not only rests on the bone but stays on the bone NO MATTER WHAT. It isn't enough for the halter to start out on the nose bone, it must stay there when the animal pulls back, bucks, rolls, grazes, steps on his lead rope, breaks away from the handler dragging his lead, or scratches his face with his foot. The smaller the animal the shorter the nose bone and the trickier the animal is to properly fit.

It is particularly important to understand the dynamics of halter fit if you intend to use your halter for any type of restraint ton include being tied. It is incredibly frightening for an animal to be tied or restrained, in a halter that feels as if it could slip off the nose bone. Animals that have been restrained in an ill-fitting halter never forget the experience.



Comfort

Preventing harm to your camelid is the highest priority of halter fit. From your llama's point of view the second most important aspect of wearing a halter is comfort. Your llama should be able to do everything with her halter on that she does with her halter off. These activities would include eating and grazing, drinking, ruminating and yawning.

Well fitting halters do not rub raw spots or create calluses on your animal's head even if left on for a few days. Once the halter is adjusted properly your llama should quickly forget that it is even there until you use it to communicate with him.

Effectiveness

The halter is the most important piece of equipment you own. Horse people have a variety of tools to communicate with their horses. They have a choice of bits and other tack as well as their legs and seat with which to signal their requests. Dog owners also have a variety of tools for communication. Essentially llama trainers have a halter and a lead rope. It only makes sense to select a halter that is truly effective as a tool of communication.

Types of Halters

When the camelid phenomenon first began, it was a challenge to find a halter—any halter—that would remotely fit a camelid. Many people had their own halters made or used modified sheep or foal halters. Now the reverse is true. It is just as frustrating these days to pick and choose from all the types of halters available. There are three types of halters with variations on these basic themes: fixed noseband, x-style and adjustable.

Fixed Noseband:

This type of halter features a continuous loop for the noseband that cannot be adjusted. The crown piece may be adjusted but any variation in the noseband is achieved only by changing to a different halter in a different size.



X-style halter: A halter in which the crown piece and the noseband form a continuous loop. It is not possible with an X-style halter to adjust the noseband and the crown piece independently from one another. Loosening the crown piece provides slack in the noseband; tightening the crown piece takes up slack in the noseband.

Adjustable Halters: These halters can be adjusted in both the crown piece and the noseband. These two elements can be adjusted independently of one another. (There is also a three way adjustable halter which I find adds confusion without increasing the elements of proper fit)

Another important aspect of a halter is the way in which the possible adjustments can be made and how they fasten. Some halters have a slide arrangement others feature buckles and holes and still others use “Fastex” or spring loaded clips. Halters usually come in nylon, leather or polypropylene, in a variety of widths.

X-style halters are fine for animals that already know how to lead. They are usually comfortable and do a good job of staying put on the nose if they are the correct size and are properly adjusted. They fit a wide variety of animals. On the down side they don't convey signals from the handler to the animal as well as a halter with an independently adjustable noseband. If you choose to use an x-style halter it is especially important that the crown piece be tightened properly, and the noseband be snug toward the eye. If an x-style halter is loose fitting it is almost certain that it will slide down the llamas nose.

I do not like or use halters with fixed nosebands. They are more often than not unsafe, uncomfortable and do a poor job of communication as well. These halters are inexpensive to manufacture and are quite prevalent especially for smaller or young llamas. This is very unfortunate in that a smaller head makes it even more important to have an adjustable noseband.

I want a halter that is safe, comfortable and is effective as a tool of communication. I use the following criteria to choose a halter that fits this bill:

- I want a halter that has a wide variety of small adjustments and can be adjusted easily **without** taking the halter off the animal.
- I want a halter with a short cheek piece and one in which the throat-latch and the noseband travel through the same ring under the chin. These two features taken together encourage the halter to stay further back on the nose bone where it is safe.
- I want a halter that includes rings on the noseband allowing me to lead from the side ring and increasing the clarity of signal as well as leverage.

A two-way adjustable halter—a buckle halter that can be adjusted in both the crown piece and noseband—meets these criteria better than any other type of halter I have found. A proper halter is one thing, but how you adjust it on your animal is everything. The same halter on the same animal could be safe, comfortable and effective, or it could be unsafe, uncomfortable and useless. The outcome is totally dependent on how the handler adjusts the halter.

Putting Your Halter on and Making Adjustments

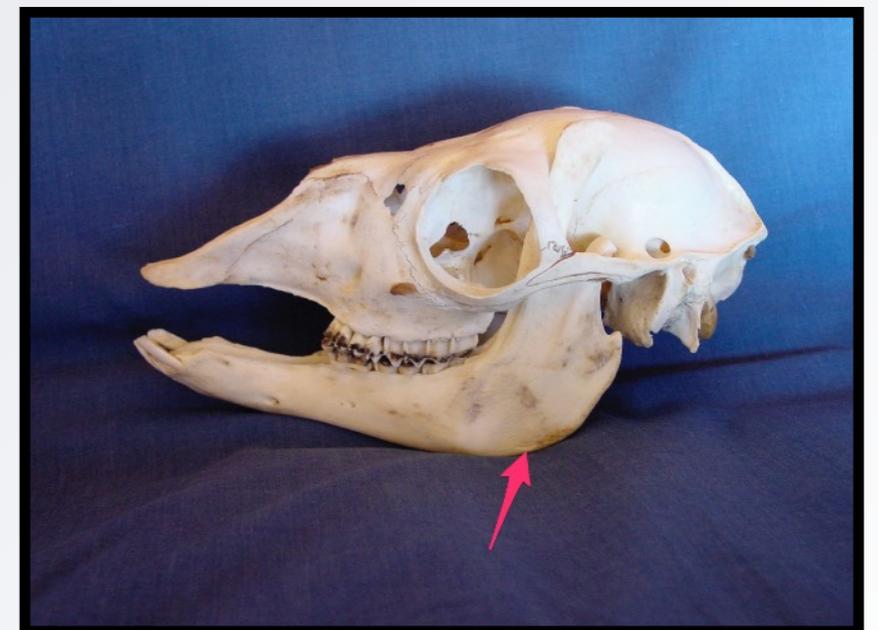
Before putting the halter on the animal adjust the noseband opening so that it is bigger than you think you need. A good rule of thumb is to open the halter to within one or two holes of its largest adjustment. Adjusted this way the noseband will easily slide up the nose close to the eye and will still have slack available. If there is no slack available when you attached the crown piece, you are not allowing for normal movement of the jaw or mouth. It is quite common for owners to literally tie their animal's mouth shut. A noseband that fits this way is usually unsafe as well because it is prevented from sliding all the way up the nose bone.

Snug up the crown piece. The crown piece must be tight enough so that the noseband cannot slip off the nose bone—even when significant forward pressure is applied to the noseband. Given that the nose bone even on large animals is something less than an inch means the crown piece must be snug and when haltering young animals even more so.

Next, take extra slack out of the noseband. Leave enough room for your animal to ruminate and eat comfortably. A noseband that has more slack than needed is not a safety concern so more slack is better than less when it comes to the nose band PROVIDED the crown piece is nice and snug.

The most common adjustment I make on a halter, which is improperly fitted, is to loosen the noseband significantly and tighten the crown piece to take up the slack. The net effect of these adjustments is to cause the noseband to slide further up toward the nose on firmer bone. From a safety standpoint, I would rather err on the side of adjusting the halter too close to the eye and a tad snug in the crown piece than to allow the noseband to slide too far down the nose. This is especially true if your animal has not been led before or you intend to use your halter for staking out, tying or restraint.

Finally check that the throat-latch of the halter is on the jawbone. If the halter is not properly proportioned and is too big, the throat-latch can slide completely off of the jawbone and in this case if you tighten the halter the throat-latch could be pressing on the windpipe.



Dynamics of Adjusting the Halter

Many llama owners are unaccustomed to seeing a halter noseband this close to the eye and are reluctant to adjust the halter this way. Concern for the eye is misplaced. Once on the face a halter cannot poke an animal in the eye and the graduated wedge shape of the nose prevents the halter from slipping up into or over the eye.

For smaller or young llamas you simply do not have a choice. In order to be firmly on bone and to be safe the halter must be very close to the eye. This is true for virtually all llamas under the age of six months. Halters high up on the nose bone disappear from the animal's view and are less obtrusive than when they are closer to the front of the nose.

It is my belief that llamas and alpacas are distracted and annoyed by halters that rest in what I call the danger zone—the middle area of the nose bone. When the handler puts forward pressure on the halter as in leading it feels as if the halter could slip off the bone. The animal is literally waiting for the ax to fall. Animals wearing halters with the noseband in the danger zone may become extremely resistant to wearing a halter, kush when asked to lead or will bolt or panic suddenly as if for no reason.

When discussing halter fit owners always ask me to quantify how to do it. They want to know how to adjust the halter in terms of numbers of fingers or inches, how much room to leave in the noseband and the crown piece, and where exactly on the nose bone the noseband should rest. I cannot make quantitative guidelines that will work for all animals. You must think about fit **proportionately**.



This halter fits. Notice that the nose band fits well up on solid bone and there is room in the noseband so that the animal can use his jaw.



This halter looks like it fits but it is actually too far down the nose bone and the nose band is very tight preventing the animal from ruminating etc. To change this to a properly fitted halter you would loosen the noseband and tighten the crown piece.

The Crown Piece

The adjustment of the CROWN piece is what determines how far the noseband can slip forward. How much room you should leave in the crown piece is totally dependent on the length of the nose bone. This means that the crown piece can be looser on a big llama than it can be on a small or young llama. It also means that a very short nose bone requires a very snug, if not tightly fitting crown piece. The length of the nose bone is different for adults versus weanlings or babies and for llama and alpacas. The portion of the nose bone in front of the eye might be less an inch long on a weanling alpaca and 2-3 inches in length on an adult llama. Young animals whose heads are simply too small to fit both safely and comfortably in any halter, need to grow some more. I think it is only fair to wait to put a halter on until you can satisfy both requirements.

The length of the nose bone also varies from individual to individual. I have palpated nose bones and found that they were much shorter than I expected them to be. In many cases these llamas exhibited extreme behavior related to haltering.

Nylon stretches up to 33% and halters tend to stretch when warmed up by the animal's body heat changing the way a halter fits. On a big llama halter, stretch is of little consequence, but on a weanling llama tied to a fence it can be extremely significant.

The Noseband

Adjusting the noseband has far more to do with comfort than it does with safety. The noseband must allow the llama enough lateral movement to ruminate, eat and graze unencumbered. Again this varies depending on the size of the animal and his jaw.

Adjusting the halter so that it is close to the eye is not only safer it also means the noseband is much closer to the hinge of the jaw. When the animal chews there is less lateral movement at the hinge of the jaw than at the front of the mouth. Have a look at your animal while he eats. Because of this fact you can snug up the noseband close to the eye a bit more and still leave plenty of room for eating and rumination. A snugger noseband is more effective for communication.

Many people complain that they have a certain llama that is much harder to fit—these animals usually have a very steep nose bone and a shorter nose.

When haltered in the traditional way the halter slides right down the nose bone like a car on a steep icy hill. Adjusting the halter as I suggest also solves this problem.

The halter design

Many halters on the market are not proportioned to be worn as I describe. No matter how hard you try, you won't be able to adjust the halter so that it fits because the parts of the halter are not the right length. In some cases the noseband is simply not big enough to allow it to be worn close enough to the eye to be safe. Buying a larger halter with more room in the noseband may not solve the problem because the crown piece may be too long. Some halters have a cheek piece that is too long. A long cheek piece causes the crown piece to slip down the neck.

A low crown piece is not unsafe but a halter is most useful for communication when it stays at the poll—immediately behind the ears. With certain halters if you tighten the crown piece so that it is up behind the ears (where it should be), a cheek piece that is stiff and too long forces the noseband down into the danger zone.

Some halters feature a fleece lining under the noseband ostensibly for greater comfort. A fleece lining inside the noseband is no substitute for proper fit. Fleece lining on a noseband that is already too small only makes it tighter and more uncomfortable.

Adjusting a Halter

A properly fitting halter is safe and comfortable. The noseband rests firmly on bone and stays there NO MATTER WHAT. There is enough room in the noseband for the animal to chew without interference.

- Before you put the halter on always open the noseband so that it is larger than you think you need
- Snug up the crown piece, tighter for animals with smaller heads
- Take the slack out of the noseband, larger animals need more room
- Always carefully examine/palpate the length of nose bone before you put a halter on an animal you don't know
- Recheck halter fit after about ten minutes

If you have doubts about animals you have haltered after reading this article put your current halter on and adjust as usual. Really look at your animal. Does the halter interfere with the freedom of movement in the jaw? Does your llama have to struggle to get a mouthful of grain or hay? Do his nostrils flare more with the halter on than off? Take hold of both sides of the noseband of the halter and tug forward. If you can pull the halter forward off the bone, your animal can too and is in danger.

I did a clinic in Alaska some years back. We were working on leading techniques and one of the young males was impossible. He would walk along nice as pie and suddenly for no apparent reason go absolutely bonkers. He was difficult to halter and had a history of this type of behavior on the lead.

I thought the halter fit was marginal, but we were working in a field some distance from the barn. This guy took a while to halter the first time. It was close to the end of the day, and I didn't want to go to the trouble of taking this llama back to the barn and changing his halter. I remember thinking, "That llama has the brains of a gnat."

He was a young intact male, and I thought he was a nervous, high-strung, llama feeling his hormones. I watched as this guy blew up with several different people. I finally decided to take the time to change his halter. When I brought him back after changing his halter the group thought I had switched animals. The behavioral change was unbelievably dramatic. I almost couldn't believe it. He was a puppy dog on the lead and not only with me. Five or six different people led him over and under challenging obstacles.

This is one of many examples in my memory of positive behavior changes attributable to the simple act of equipping your llama with a properly fitting halter. If I have scared you about halter fit, it is for good reason. Paying attention to halter fit has a direct impact on the safety of your animals and your success as a handler. Use these guidelines and you can rest easy knowing your llama is comfortable and free from danger.

About the Author



Marty McGee Bennett's first llama jumped off the back of a pickup truck and into her heart in 1981. Since then, Marty has devoted her professional life to the well-being of llamas and alpacas and the education of camelid enthusiasts. Marty brings a variety of experience and qualifications to her work with camelids, including a B.S. degree in Animal Behavior and many years spent as a professional fiber artist. Marty's knowledge of the science of behavior, combined with 37 years experience with TTEAM and TTouch (The Tellington-Jones Every Animal Method) and the principals of balance and leverage has made Camelidynamics popular with owners and veterinarians alike. Her second sense with both animals and people make "Camelidynamics" the world's most enduring training/handling system for camelids.

Conducting hundreds of clinics in North America and around the world, including numerous trips to Australia, New Zealand and Europe have kept Marty on the road for much of the past 37 years. In 2005, Marty founded the Camelidynamics Guild that includes an online forum and the Camelidynamics Consultancy Program. For more information, log on to www.camelidynamics.com.



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Darlene Awarski

AMLA

5265 Norris Run Rd

Blacksburg VA 24060

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AMLA

GUIDELINES TO BE REGISTERED AS A MINIATURE LLAMA

To register your llamas with the AMLA - read all of the information under the "SPECIFICATIONS" tab on the AMLA website and complete the AMLA Registration Form.

A llama can be registered as a miniature any time after registration with the International Llama Registry. However, final miniature status is granted only to animals three years of age or older. Immature Status: A llama under 3 years of age may be registered only if its mother is a registered, mature, mini llama or the mother is registered foundation mini and the father is a registered mini llama.

GUIDELINES FOR ILR SANCTIONED

MINIATURE LLAMA CLASSES

If you have a show that offers miniature classes, the "SHOW GUIDELINES" state:

The llama must be registered with the ILR. The Llama must measure the following measurements at the withers to compete:

- *Juvenile Class - 35 inches and under**
- *Yearling Class - 36 inches and under**
- *2 Year Old Class - 37 inches and under**
- * Mature Class - 38 inches and under**

You can read more information on the AMLA site under "Guidelines



Picture of an adult standard llama vs an adult miniature llama

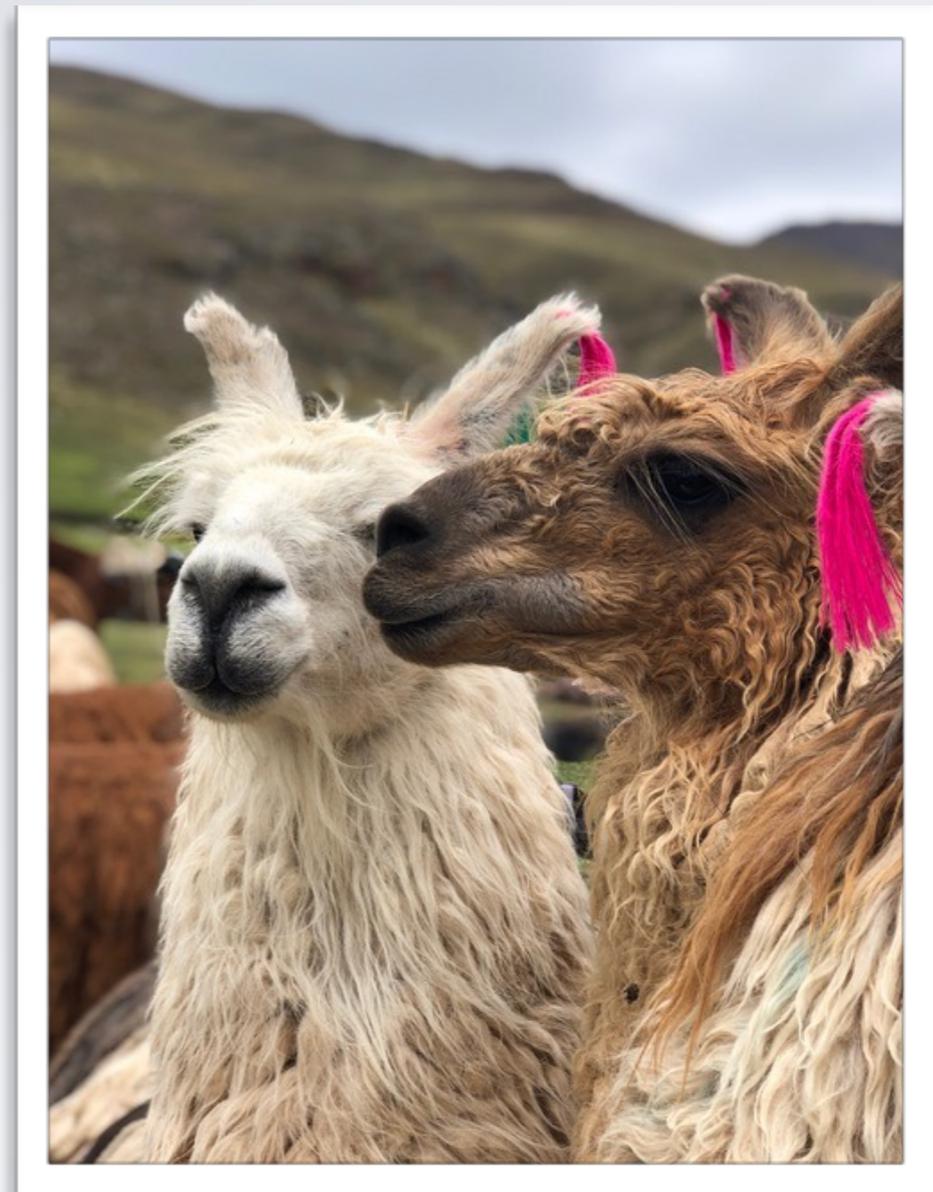
A TRIP TO PERU

Article and Photos by Laura Harrawood



Many of us who keep llamas have probably been to, wanted to go to, or are currently in Peru. An exciting pilgrimage of sorts to see the ancestral lands of our beloved llamas. A trip to Peru gives us just one more excuse to talk about llamas to our llama-less friends and bore the heck out of them.

Last year Bill Redwood, of Redwood Llamas in Colorado, began to assemble a 10 person trip to Peru. The trip was designed primarily for pack llama enthusiasts. Our group included, Bill Redwood, Nora Bell, Larry Kisner, Lois Bartig Small, Ed Small, Kendra Bartig, Margaret Van Camp, Cindy Cieciva, Joanne Kohlen and Laura Harrawood. We all met in Lima for a January adventure.

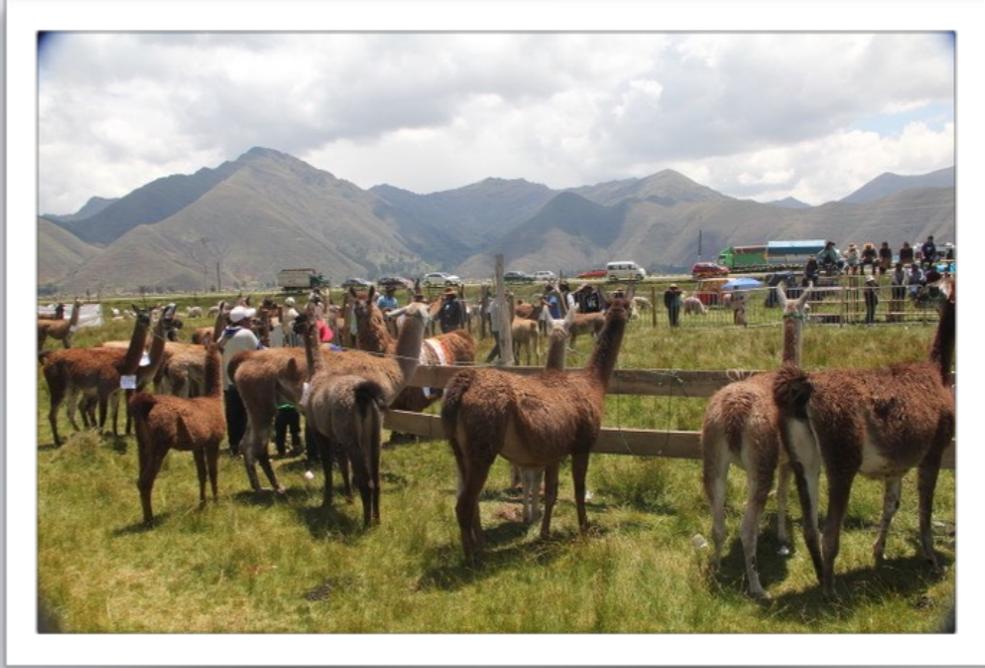
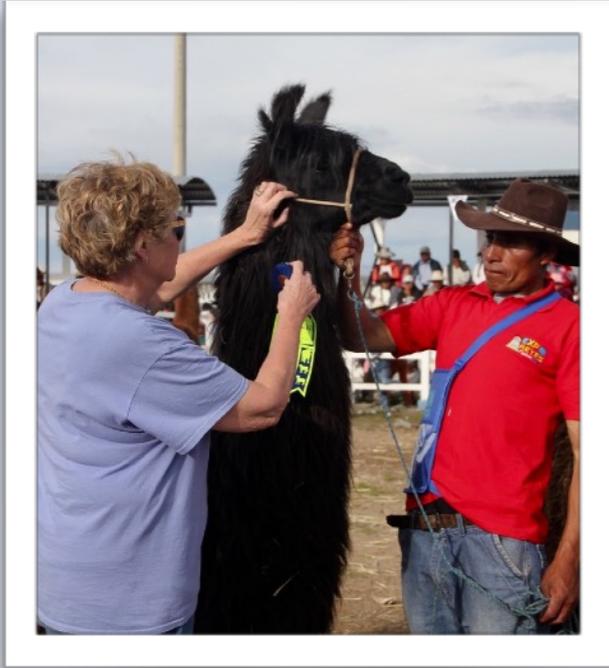


Of course our focus was llamas, but we saw our share of alpacas too. Naturally there was an alpaca shearing demonstration for us and shearing with a hand shears wasn't a surprise. The interesting part wasn't the actual shearing but the treatment of the fleece afterwards. Since I am a hand-spinner and felt maker, when I shear my sheep or llamas I always prepare my shorn fleeces for storage, display or competition. I carefully skirt the fleece and fold the dirty tip ends to the inside and continue to fold it up so the flesh ends show on the outside. The fleeces in Peru are prepared by laying it out flesh side up and rolling it up like a rug. Two people, one at each end, began to pull the fleece roll, stretching it and twisting it. They stretched and twisted until they couldn't anymore and then folded it back on itself. Like a big skein of yarn. DONE! It was such a good way to store the fiber bundle and has probably been done like this for ages.



While in Peru, our small group went to two fairs that had livestock shows. Of course the llama and alpaca shows were paramount. Margaret Van Camp from Pitchfork Ranch in Michigan and Larry Kisner from Catawissa Llamas in Missouri had been asked to judge the llama shows. What an honor and distinction to judge a llama show in Peru. They, and one Peruvian judge, shared the final decisions and since Margaret is a retired high school Spanish teacher the communication was easy. It was a huge responsibility to be judging the results of breeding which could impact the livelihood of local llama ranches.





While driving through the mountains and countryside, we would come upon herds of llamas, sheep and alpacas. We would notice, which was mind boggling, that an entire herd was managed by one or maybe two herdsman or herds-woman. They usually had a dog with them. Every day, EVERY DARN DAY, the herder gathers their food and water for the day and either leads or drives their stock up into the hills to do their daily share of grazing. There are no fences, no runaways, no escapees, no laggards and no drama. The llamas stay together and leisurely and magically go where they are supposed to go. Herds-women sit and monitor while the llamas graze. She spins yarn or weaves with a back-strap loom. While walking along with their herds they wear mantas and carry their burdens, which could be wood, cattle dung or children. As the day comes to an end the whole cohesive group heads back down the mountain.

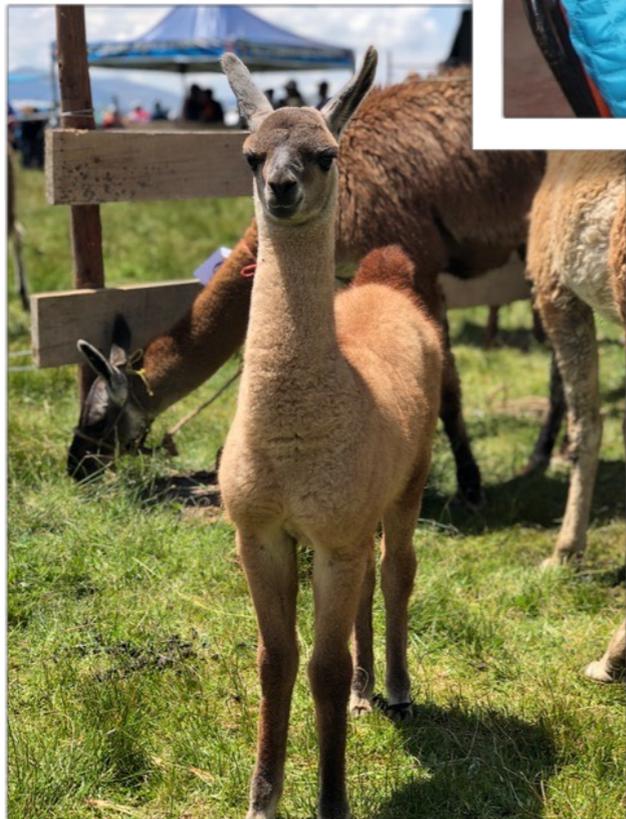
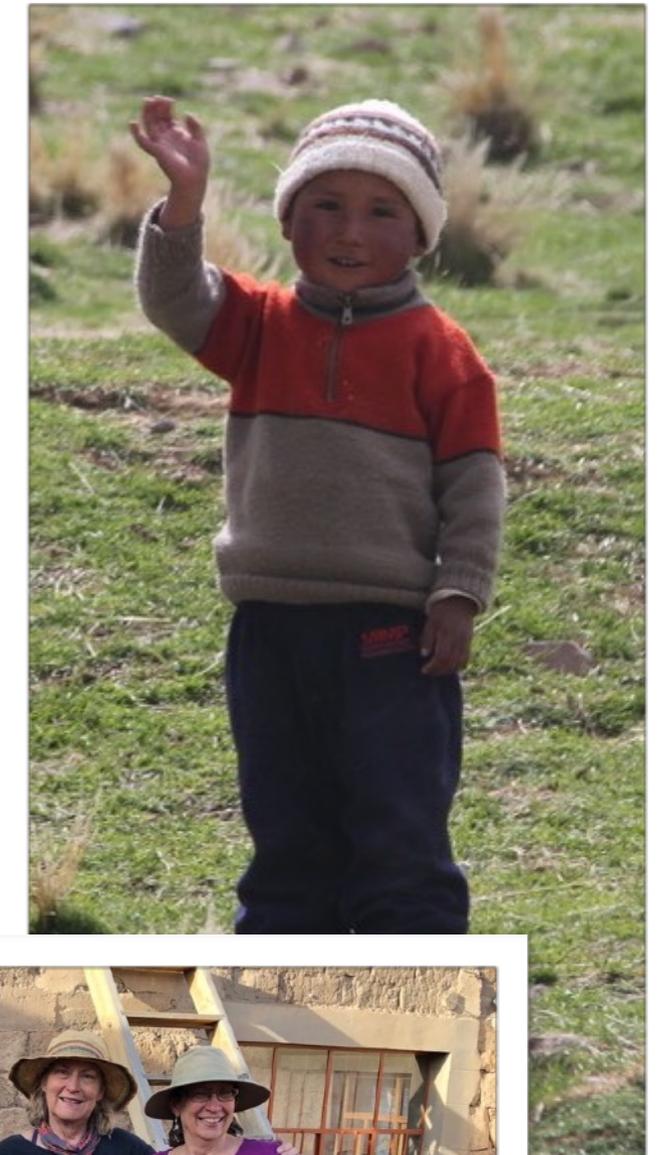
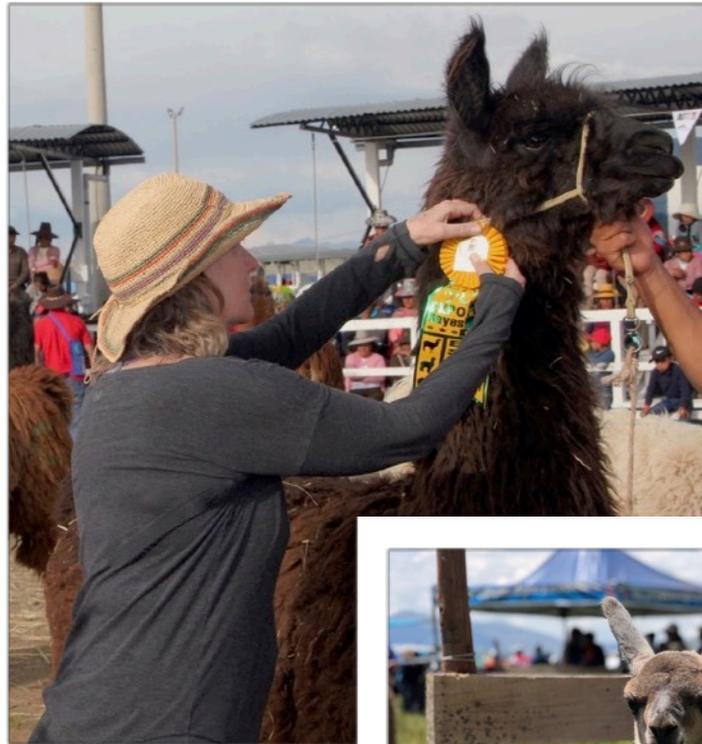




All Peru Photos Courtesy of Laura Harrawood

I consider our Peruvian adventure a trip of a lifetime. The altitude sickness memory will fade. The beautiful faces of the people we met, the hospitality of the Peruvians, and the gorgeous llama visions will remain.

Thank you, Bill Redwood for including me in this trip.



Our thanks to Laura Harrawood for taking the time to share her experience and photos of Peru

Larry Kisner of Catawissa llamas also contributed to this article. www.catawissallamas.com

Laura Harrawood

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Did You Know?

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If you help run a show or event please take a few pictures, including best in show animals, and write a short recap of what happened at your event. Email show recaps to llamamagazine@gmail.com

Did you do a farm tour, a walk-a-llama day, or bring your llamas to an event? If you think its noteworthy we want to hear about it! Please send a 100-500 word recap and a couple of photos to llamamagazine@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing about fall shows and events in the **September issue- submission deadline is 9-1-19**

Preparing Your Shorn Fleece to Show

By Terese Evenson



There are so many questions about showing a shorn fleece. Which one should I show, how do I start, do I body shear the llama, etc.? Once broken down into steps it is an easy process, and with a little practice it can be done quite quickly and smoothly.

The selection of the fleece is a personal preference. If the llama's fleece appeals to you, then you should show it. Those qualities that appeal to you will probably appeal to others. For a description of the various fleece judging components see my article on walking fleece in issue one of American Llama Magazine.

Ideally, your preparations would start several days before you shear off the fleece. If you have the opportunity, bathe your animal several days before shearing. This will be beneficial to both the fleece and your shearing blades. The fleece will be clean and will save you some time later in the skirting process. With the dirt removed, your blades will not dull as quickly. When bathing, use a mild shampoo, and try to allow the animal to dry as naturally as possible. This will give the fleece the opportunity to return to its "natural state" (suri curls, crimp/crinkle, etc.).

Unfortunately, bathing is not always available. If this is the case, hand grooming would be the option. You should not use any grooming products and try to be very gentle with your tools. Hand picking is preferred. Grooming products will stay in the fleece after shearing, and the tools will remove any structure in the locks.

You will want to have a clean place to put your fleece once removed from the animal (clear fleece bag, sheet, tarp, etc.). Once you're ready to shear, you will be collecting only the prime blanket. This is starting at the base of the neck, approximately half way down each side of the animal and extends back over the hips (not including the tail fiber). Try to keep each side of the blanket together as it comes off the animal. A lot of times, this happens naturally, making collection much easier. I typically roll the fleece up and put into a fleece bag.

Shorn Fleece

Now, you're ready to start the skirting process. Basically, skirting is removing everything that shouldn't be there. Ideally, you will be using a skirting table for this next step. However, if you do not have a table, you can use an old bed sheet, or even a tarp.

Here are some examples of skirting tables

Professional/Purchased (can be found online).



Available from www.lightlivestockequipment.com

DIY using hardware cloth and 2x4s



Photo Credit: Snowshoe Farm Alpacas

www.snowshoefarm.com

American Llama Magazine



You will want to lay the fleece out flat, so it is “cut side” down. If you were able to keep the blanket together, you will be able to see how it actually looked and grew on the animal. Now, you want to start removing “what shouldn’t be there”. Any vegetable matter you might have missed, manure tags, etc. When finished, look at the fleece and find where the top line/spine of the animal would have been. You want to remove that whole line. This fiber takes the brunt of the weather, sun and dirt. Once that is removed, stand back and look at the fleece overall. Do the edges look similar to the top line?? If so, then gently remove them.

Now you want to gently flip your fleece over, so the “cut side” is facing up. You will want to remove any second cuts. The second cuts happen when your clipper blades make a shearing pass but the blades were not flush up against the animal, leaving a short stubble. When you move back to get that pass flush, you remove the short stubble that remained. It is common, but you do not want them in your fleece.

Examples of debris to be removed



Example of fleece, cut side up



Again, you want to stand back and look at your fleece. Does it look smooth and shiny? If not, you will want to remove what you think shouldn't be there. When pulling from the cut side, you need to ensure you are only pulling out what you want removed. I always remind myself, the cut side is up against the animal, and usually that is the side that "holds together". You may be trying to only grab that little piece but could end up with so much more.

Something to consider -

Did your white llama surprise you with a couple black spots when you sheared off his fleece? If so, how many? If there are only two or three black spots, and they're small, you might want to consider removing them. Why? Because those two black spots will have to be judged as well when considering the fleece. Since colored fibers do not grow the same, or have the same consistency, as white, it will affect the consistency. One of the criteria for shorn fleece is consistency within the fleece and the exhibitor should consider whether it will negatively affect the score to leave them in.

So, now you've removed everything that you feel "shouldn't be there".



Debris pile from this fleece

Shorn Fleece

Once again, look at your fleece. It is a beautiful fleece, and ready for the show.

Your next step is storing your fleece until it is ready to enter at the next show. I store my fleeces in clear bags, with the top OPEN, and place them inside cardboard boxes. You do not want to seal the bags since that can cause condensation to develop and can ruin your fleeces (mold, fiber rotting, etc.).

It is also helpful to store a piece of paper with the animal's name, the shearing date and previous shearing date in with the fleece.

When storing your fleeces, be mindful that fluctuations in temperature can affect the quality of your fleece. Also, if you choose to store your fleeces inside your home, automatic room air freshener scents (misting/spraying or plug in) can migrate into your fleeces.

After your fleece has been judged, if possible, ask the judge if they could go over your scorecard with you. What qualities did they like about your fleece? Is there anything they could recommend about preparing your next show entry?

Lastly, if your show does not offer shorn fleece classes, talk with the show superintendent. Ask them if they would consider adding them. You may not be the only one interested in showing your fleeces!



About the Author

Terese Evenson lives with her family on her farm, Asgaard Farm and Kennels, in Northeastern Kentucky. She has been breeding and raising camelids for almost 20 years. She is a certified judge with ALSA and ILR-SD, having judged shows across the country and in Italy. She is also a former member of the ALSA Board of Directors. Her time away from judging is spent with her family, and especially her Granddaughter, hiking the numerous trails throughout her property. Her other hobbies include various arts and crafts, using the fiber her llamas produce.



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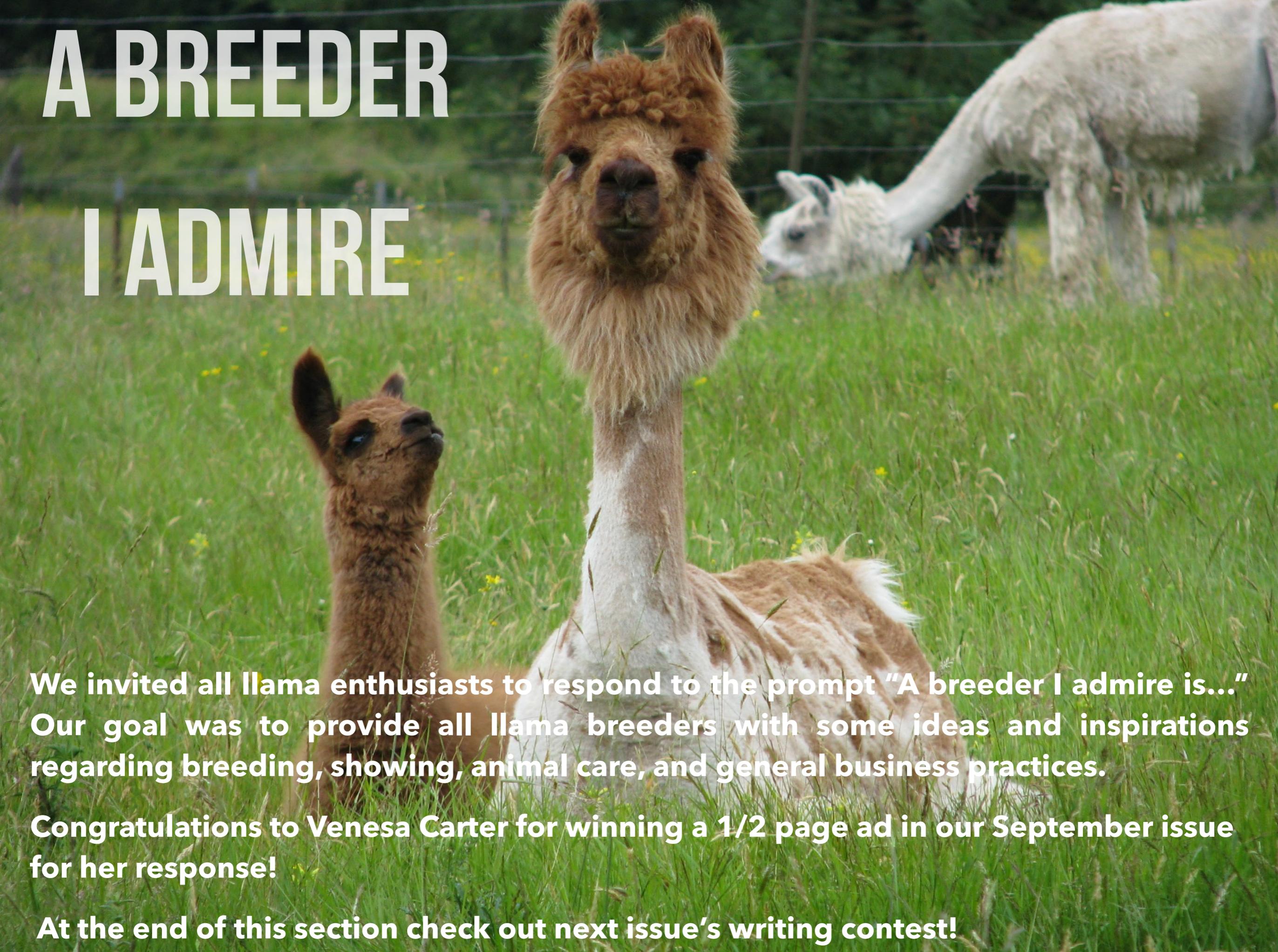
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A BREEDER

I ADMIRE

We invited all llama enthusiasts to respond to the prompt "A breeder I admire is..." Our goal was to provide all llama breeders with some ideas and inspirations regarding breeding, showing, animal care, and general business practices.

Congratulations to Venesa Carter for winning a 1/2 page ad in our September issue for her response!

At the end of this section check out next issue's writing contest!

A breeder I admire is Sijama Llamas. For many years they have been true to their type and style of animal. From day one, Sijama Llamas have bred for long necks, stretchy athletic animals with fine fleece. With many generations of consistent phenotype the Sijama animals breed very true to type. I admire Sijama Llamas because regardless of market conditions or popular fad, the Sijama llama remained the same the core.

Justin Timm, Justin Timm Auction Service

There are several farms that I have admired since we got into llamas. One that stands out in my mind is Fran and Ali Soukup's farm, Sugar River Llamas in Wisconsin. I clearly remember in 2003 when we were attending the very first LFA show and sale, seeing Ali show their Pioneer daughters. We didn't know much about bloodlines then but I noticed they had the kind of llamas I really liked. Through the years we have become good friends and I have continued to admire the quality of llamas they produce in their small herd year after year. To me, they are proof that you don't have to have endless money to produce consistent quality that can compete at any level. Both Ali and Fran are kind hearted and always ready to answer questions or just chat in general. I feel large and small breeders can benefit from their example.

Venesa Carter, CriVen Llamas

A Breeder we admire is Mike Gerken of Ohio. "Hey Darrell", he said as we walked down the corridor of the hotel. We stopped, chatted for a minute, then stepped into our room. My wife asked me who that man was. I replied, "That is Mike Gerken - I can't believe he remembered my name". That led to the establishment of a good and respectful friendship formed 20 years ago. The introduction of the Gerken family into our lives has been one of those that you knew from the onset - they were the real deal. We have grown to respect Mike, Wendy and Mandy for their knowledge, experience and genuine desire to serve and promote the llama industry. We have always admired their effort to establish a true breeding program, as they have demonstrated the value of studying pedigrees, and identifying outstanding bloodlines to incorporate into their herd. We purchased our first young herd sire from them, and his influence is still evident in our herd today. The importance of their integrity and commitment to the llama industry is evident in their third generation of llama enthusiasts. We thank them for the impact they have had in our lives, and wish them the best in all their future llama endeavors.

Darrell and Merlene Anderson, MLM and Solid Rock Llamas

A Breeder I Admire

I am very impressed with GNLC and what the Rolfings have done for the llama industry in the US. They have always pursued structure, athleticism, and beauty... "where Beauty and the Beast" become one... I could only hope to aspire to their legacy.

Sonya Salisbury, Double S Llama Ranch

A breeder I admire within the llama industry today would be Mark and Susan Smith, for the incredible quality of animals they consistently stamp out.

Isaac Beck, ILB Llamas

There are many breeders I admire, the subjects of our first two magazine farm tours among them. However, I didn't think this section would be complete without a mention of Kay Patterson. Growing up going to west coast llama shows it was fun to watch the 20 animal classes and difficult competition, but Hinterland animals were reliably at the front of the class. Over the years I've grown to appreciate her role as an industry pioneer in addition to her excellence as a breeder.

Kyle Mumford, Volcano View Ranch

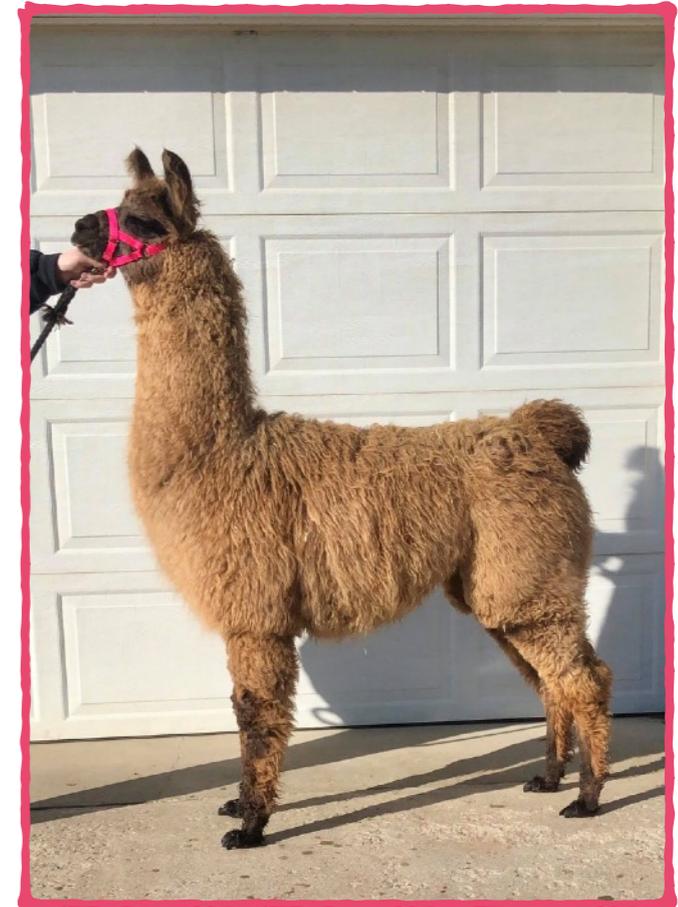
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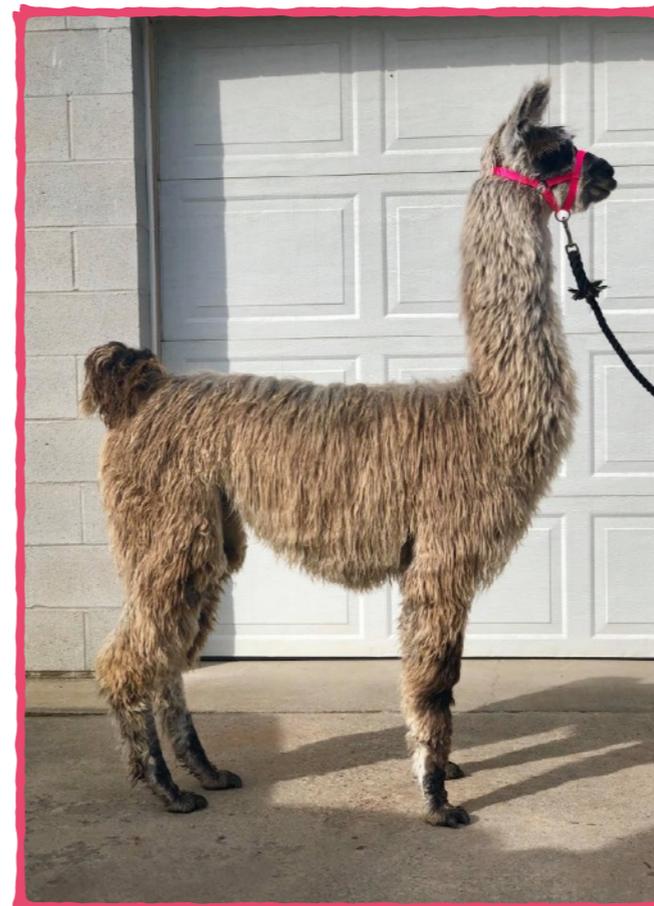
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Rastaputin (ET) X Double K Lady
Antoinette

DOB July 10, 2018



For Next Time:

My favorite llama is...

In the next issue we'd like to hear from you! We'd like to feature several short pieces written by our readers about their favorite llama. Aim for 100-500 words. Photos are encouraged, but please make sure the photo was taken by you or you have permission to use it.

You could describe its traits, its bloodlines, its personality, its training, or a specific story that shows why they are special. It is really up to you!

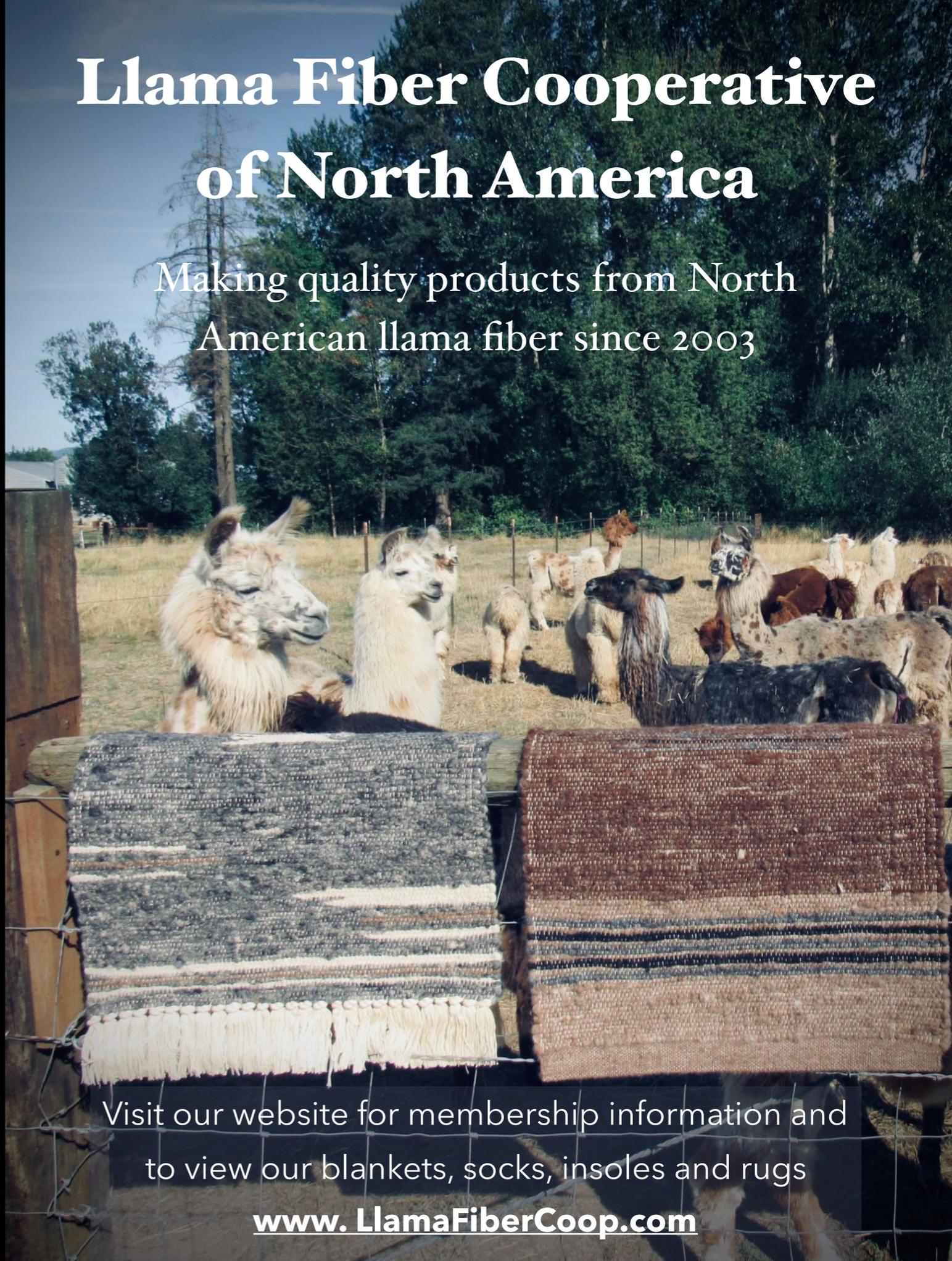
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A Brief and “Mitey” History of Llamas and Dung

By Alex Chepstow-Lusty

Like the best things in life, they happen by chance. Not part of some great plan or even funding.

Ever since a kid traipsing over the South Downs, I have always had an interest in natural history and history, which are often unknowingly interlinked. We frequently forget that some of the most beautiful landscapes have been shaped not only by nature over millennia, but also humans carving out patches for agriculture or to sustain their herds of livestock. When those people and their animals, and traditional practices disappear, nature soon takes over again, and the result is not necessarily the same as before humans arrived, or even predictable. And yet in some places those traditional people are still there, and provide a link with deeper time; in the Andes, particularly at the more extreme altitudes, locals depend on their llamas for many of the products necessary to sustain life in such harsh environments.

After a PhD in Cambridge studying fossil plankton from the oceans two million years ago, and still with a fascination for looking at small fossils to record big changes in the world, I wanted to do something different that allowed me to imagine landscapes and vegetation evolving through time, though with people as part of the puzzle. When a colleague told me about an infilled lake in Peru in the Cuzco area that he had been sent pictures of by a British archaeologist, and that he was looking for someone to help investigate, I was hooked. Soon I was reading up everything on the Andes and learning how to prepare pollen, which was what we would use to give us some insight into reconstructing the past vegetation and agriculture.

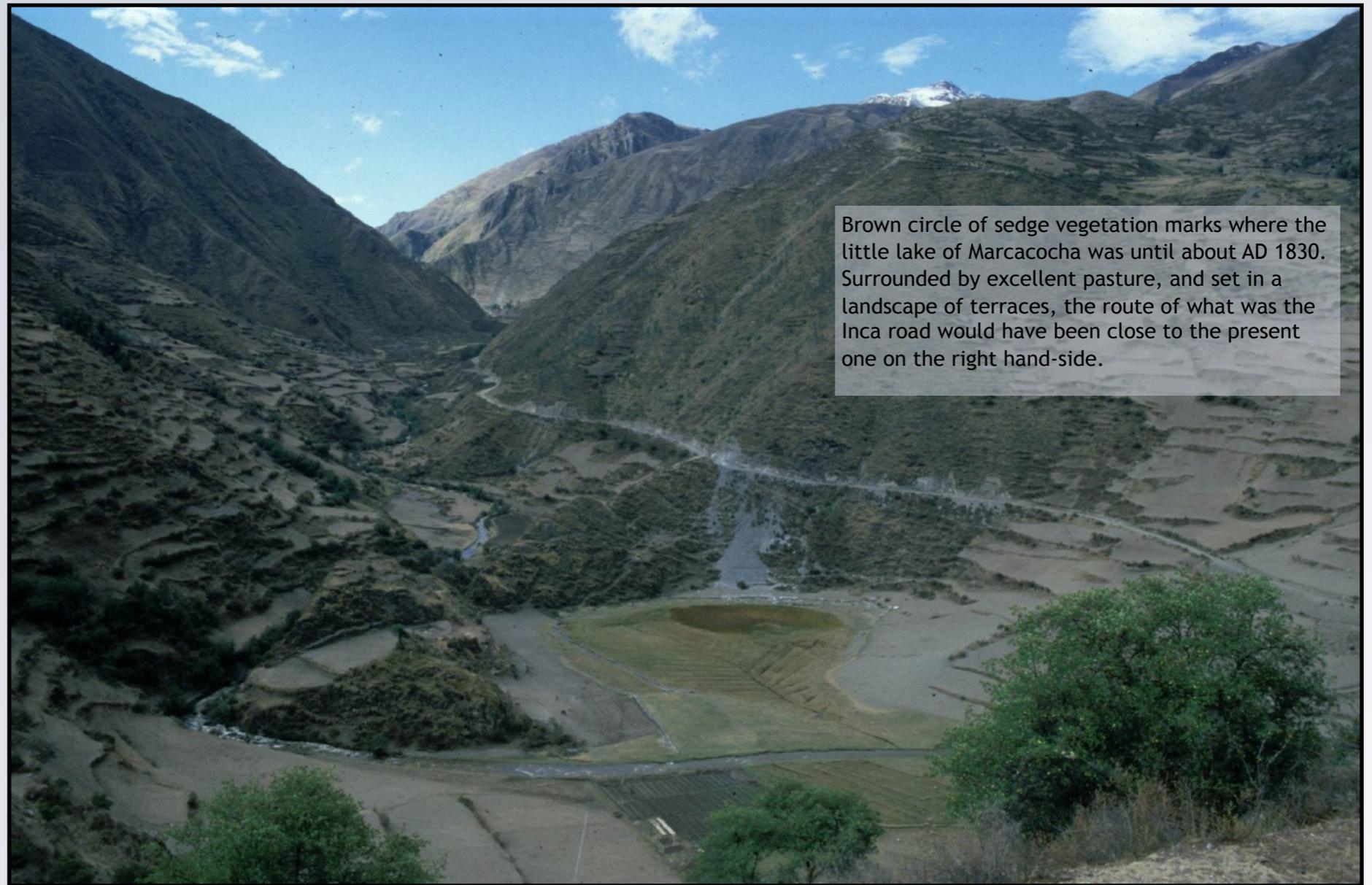
When we finally got the grant, I was with my wife-to-be following chimpanzees in a Tanzanian forest, left her, flew over to Peru via Cambridge, helped core the infilled lake of Marcacocha, brought the cores to Cambridge, flew back to Tanzania, and a few months later both of us returned and I was in a laboratory preparing my first samples. This was in 1993, and no-one had ever looked at fossil pollen from lakes in the Cuzco area, the heart of the Inca Empire (about AD 1400-1533), and which stretched from what is today near the modern Colombian border down to central Chile.



I had made a reference collection of pollen from plants in the Cuzco area, helped greatly by a local botanist, and over the years to follow, both down the microscope and enthused with occasional visits, I began to slowly piece together the changes in the local vegetation and landscape over a period of 4200 years, with a chronology for the highly organic-rich cores provided by radiocarbon dating. We could see developments such as the move to full-on farming from proto-agriculture and hunter-gathering about 2700 years ago, when maize was first introduced at high altitude, and there was a switch from crops such as quinoa and their wild relatives. However,

about 1000 years ago, a major warming began which allowed people to move higher up the mountains, and these were the predecessors of the Inca, planting nitrogen-fixing alder trees and putting in systems to prevent erosion, including efficient agricultural terraces and irrigation systems.

Later, it was my turn to follow my wife as she pursued a career in preserving crop diversity. Having moved to Montpellier, France-with some of my samples, and attached to the university, instead of playing with dangerous chemicals to extract pollen, I thought I would look at fresh material and just see what popped out. Under a low-power microscope, besides seeds and bits of charcoal, I was surprised and delighted to see little brown exoskeletons of mites suddenly appear, which I would pick out excitedly with my delicate paint brush onto microscope slides for closer examination.



Brown circle of sedge vegetation marks where the little lake of Marcacocha was until about AD 1830. Surrounded by excellent pasture, and set in a landscape of terraces, the route of what was the Inca road would have been close to the present one on the right hand-side.

I decided to count these in a systematic way, dissecting one centimeter cubes of sediment in little plastic transparent dishes-and see what, if anything, the abundance changes of mites might reveal. When plotted up, I was amazed to note a peak of mites at the height of the Inca Empire, and then they abruptly declined as did the Inca with the arrival of the Spaniards. But what did the mites mean and what were they recording? To understand this needed appreciating the lake of Marcacocha, from where the cores had come, which infilled about AD 1830 - and is surrounded by Inca and pre-Inca ruins, as well as agricultural terraces still worked by the local indigenous people.

Marcacocha is in a particularly sensitive location, and rather than a lake strictly speaking, was a deep circular pond in the past with a diameter of only about 35 m; any major changes occurring in the pasture next to it were recorded in the layers of its lake sediments. Situated only 12 km up the Patacancha Valley from Ollantaytambo, a major Inca settlement (through which 1000s of tourists pass on their way to Machu Picchu today), it has an Inca road nearby, the equivalent of a motor way in those times. This was used by vast numbers of llamas, as recorded by the Spanish chroniclers, transporting salt and maize from the Sacred Valley and returning from the tropical lowlands with products such as coca leaves and feathers. But what made Marcacocha special was that the pasture around Marcacocha remained green, being partly fed by melt-water even in the dry season, and thus provided great fodder for these caravans of llamas. And at this point we can return to the mites.

Mites, or in fact more precisely oribatid mites, about half a millimeter long, are detritivores, i.e. feeding on the broken down remains of plant matter. Llamas defecate communally, and this provides one of the most important resources in the Andes-for fertilizer, as a fuel once dried for cooking and heating, and can even be used for firing ceramics. Most of this dung was probably collected, but some no doubt fell or was washed into the lake, and particularly the largely aquatic mite populations would have expanded with this extra food source available-and that was what we were observing.

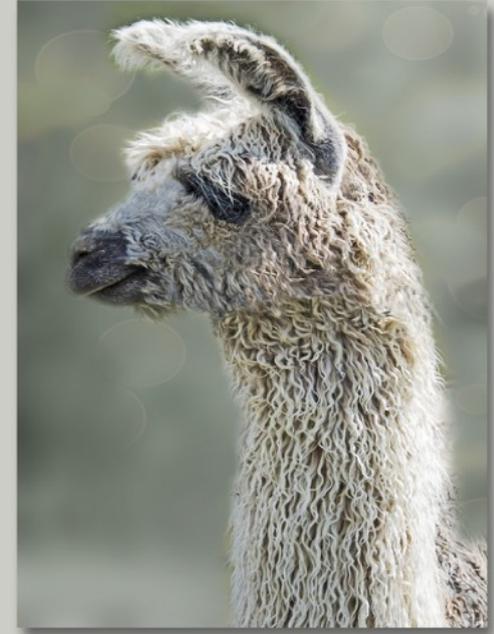


HYDROZETES ORBATID MITE (Credit: A. Baker, Natural History Museum)

Working with my colleague Michael Frogley from the University of Sussex, and historians in Peru, we learnt after the Spaniards arrived, that not only did the Inca people succumb to diseases on a massive scale, but even the herds of llamas contracted mange and were buried in large pits. Evidence elsewhere also suggests that the surviving alpacas and llamas were pushed up to higher altitudes when the Spaniards introduced their livestock from the Old World: cows, sheep, horses, etc.

Meanwhile, the oribatid mites were not fussy at Marcacocha about what they ate - and we can not only observe them responding to these new sources of broken down dung, but also use them subsequently for recording another human population collapse when a smallpox epidemic wiped out nearly all the surviving indigenous people in the valley around AD 1719, against the background of the coldest conditions of the Little Ice Age. As a result, few were available to look after the livestock-and as animals were not using the pasture around Marcacocha-the oribatid mites markedly declined again too, having lost their extra source of nourishment.

Having these historical events has allowed us to extrapolate and look back into deeper time, and in spite of the Inca or their predecessors not having a written language. One particular event we see is a major peak of oribatid mites 2700 years ago, when maize, as mentioned earlier, was introduced for the first time at these altitudes (Marcacocha is 3350 m above sea-level), and we speculate that this great agricultural shift would not have been possible if not for the vast quantities of llama dung available-probably supplying some of the best natural fertilizer in the world.



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So where are we now with our research? Over the last seven years, we have linked up with Anne Baker, a mite and tick taxonomist at the Natural History Museum. She has been able to show that most of our oribatid mites belong to the genus *Hydrozetes*, which is aquatic, and can reproduce by parthenogenesis, (i.e. asexually and rapidly) when food supplies in part derived from dung are abundant. She is currently working on the taxonomy of all the fossil mites we find, as well as modern specimens for comparison, collected in the wet pasture a few years ago- the latter are important as they keep their legs, which can provide useful taxonomic features.

This research is the first time that oribatid mites have been employed to reconstruct large herbivore populations in the past, and a recent comparison over the last 1200 years with spores, from the dung fungus *Sporormiella*, which have been commonly used elsewhere (and for examining megafaunal extinction, such as mammoths) show that oribatid mites appear to record large herbivore fluctuations better-at least at small lakes such as Marcacocha. These are still early days. And we need to investigate more little lakes in the Andes, or in other parts of the world.



Credit S. Crowhurst/F. Lusty

Now the next bit of our research shall be comparing these techniques further back in time in Marcacocha, but also we have preliminary data to show, using a type of fossil alga which indicates disturbance, that llamas are much less damaging to the landscape in terms of erosion than those animals introduced by the Spaniards. That can be a story for another time.

There remain many more surprises and potential lessons from the past to come out of the lake mud of Marcacocha, which have relevance for the local communities managing landscapes in the Andes today faced with climate change, manifested particularly by the rapid disappearance of their glaciers. These kinds of investigations can only reinforce the value of llamas for supporting the Andean rural economy, as these animals have done for thousands of years, and may help return them to their prominent position again, due to being arguably more sustainable and less damaging ecologically than Old World livestock.

I attach some links to stories from the Natural History Museum and the journal *Science* which may both interest and amuse you in connection with a paper we recently published

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/01/mites-feed-llama-poop-may-track-rise-and-fall-incan-empire>

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2019/january/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-inca-empire-is-recorded-in-llama-poo.html>

Until the next installment.

If anyone needs any more information, please contact me on alexchepstow@gmail.com

About the Author



Alex Chepstow-Lusty has travelled from the late Triassic to the Holocene using a variety of microfossils. To properly connect with his love of botany and history required moving from plankton to pollen. He is at his happiest when in the hills, by the sea or in the woods, but time traveling down a microscope is quite hard to beat, requires no aeroplanes and is only limited by the imagination. All the same he loves the Cuzco area, but does not always need a plane to get there. His latest paper can be found at the following link, and if you want to read it, he is happy to send it.

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305440318304990?dgcid=raven_sd_aip_email



Argentine Llama Aficionados (ALA) consists of a group of Argentine llama owners as well as those who just want to learn more about this rare and exotic llama. We think of ourselves as a fan club, fans who enjoy the Argentine type of llama – robust build, heavy bone, fine dense fiber and great disposition. ALA's goal is to promote the Argentine llama and to keep a directory of all pure Argentines in the USA and Canada.

Check out our website at:
<http://argentinellamas.com>

ALA - Argentine Llama Show Guidelines

Requisites for Llamas to show in Argentine Classes:

1. The Llama must be registered with ILR.
2. The llama must be at least 50% Argentine. Llamas whose traceable genealogy on either the sire or dam side, or a combination of both, is traced back, at a minimum total of 50% of the bloodlines, to Argentina as the country of origin.

Halter Classes:

Argentine halter classes should mirror the classes found in other llama divisions. The Argentine trait judging standards are to be judged as 25% of the total points with 75% on the confirmation of the animal. Keeping these standards is very important to preserving the Argentine type.

Judging Standards:

1. **Overall Appearance:** The llama should be symmetrical, well balanced and proportionate. Argentine llamas will have a broader neck, triangular head, heavy bone, and extreme fiber coverage.
2. **Bone Structure:** Heavy Bone structure should be evident below the knee and hock in proportion to the overall body. Argentine llamas will also exhibit larger feet.
3. **Head:** The head should be bold, with good width between the eyes. The muzzle should be short and compact, giving a triangular appearance.
4. **Body:** The top line should exhibit a strong, straight, back with high tail set. Argentine llamas should display a robust build comprising of a broad body cavity, shoulders and spring of rib.
5. **Front and Rear legs:** Argentine llamas will have larger bone density and broader feet. Front legs will often appear to be shorter, due to the extreme fiber coverage.
6. **Fiber:** Argentine llamas will have a fine dense full body and neck coverage. Fiber should also be abundant down to the toes, often covering them. The fleece should exhibit consistency throughout the body. Argentine llamas will include all fiber types.



"The Scoop"

By: The Wise Llama Farmer

"I heard they only use one pile"
I just shake my head and smile,
Perhaps when you have one or two,
But once you buy more than a few,
Each one has their own pile or two,
Let me tell you that's a lot of...

And put them on a new field of green,
Tall fresh grass and the field is clean,
I'll fill you in, don't be duped,
When nature calls they will not group,
They won't go somewhere it's easy to scoop,
In the most lovely, lush grass they...

Where do they agree the pile should be?
In the barn, of course, they shout with glee,
The place where they also eat and sit,
Until under the roof they barely fit,
So daily I clean and I can not quit,
Even though I'm sick of all this...

Llamas will all go to the potty in the same area. Sometimes they will stand in line.

About the Illustrator

Tani Adams

I live in a small town in the PNW. I traded my heels for muck boots in 2008 when my daughter was gifted an alpaca and we were introduced to the WSU 4-H program. Soon after I became a 4-H leader and the opportunity to meet with the amazing people in the world of llamas inspired my



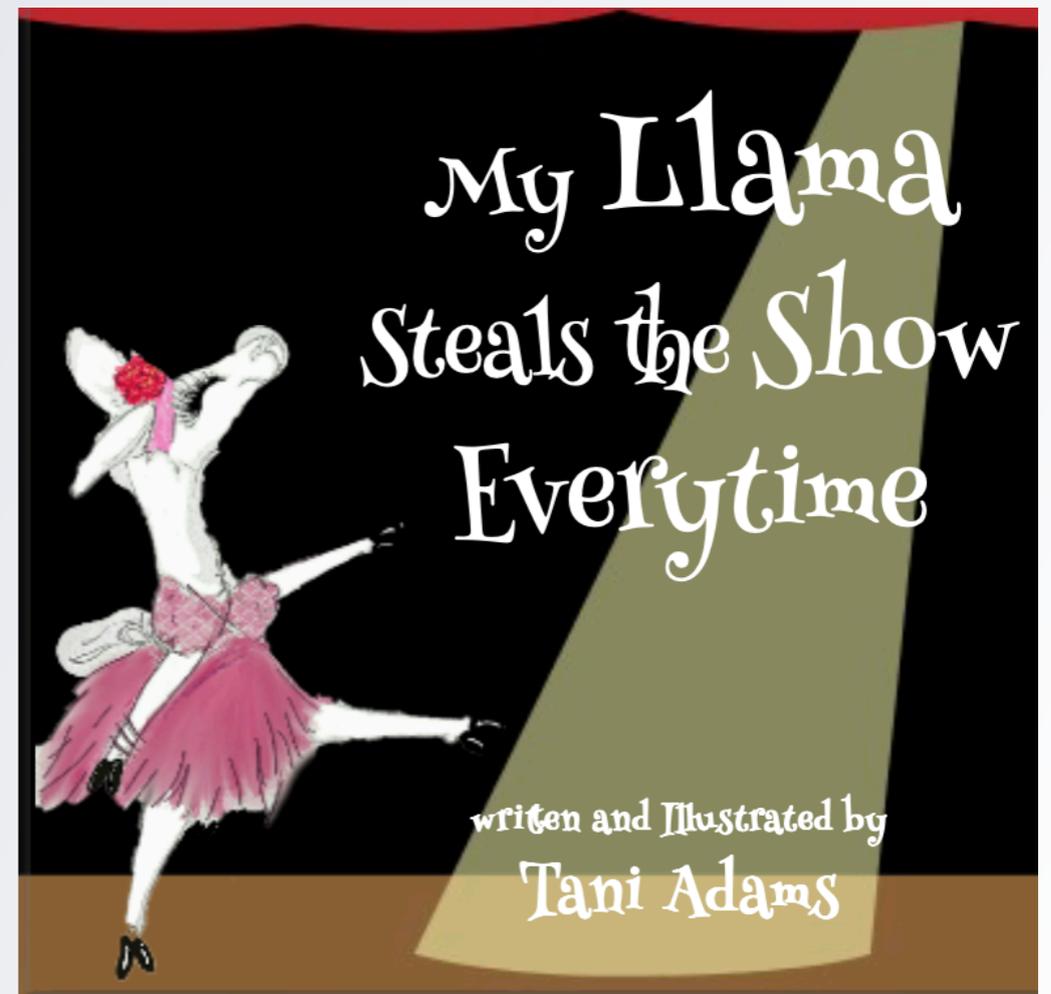
artwork. My style has a touch of humor with underlying truth about llamas. If you have any requests for my artwork or would like to commission me to draw one of your llamas please contact me at tanisllamas64@gmail.com.

Tani has published her first children's book, available at www.storyjumper.com/book/index/63136565

About the Author

Unavailable

Unfortunately the author of "The Scoop" was otherwise occupied at the time of publishing... something about pitch forks and carts. They were a little hard to understand as they kept trailing off at the end of every sentence.



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8.5 x 11 landscape

Contact Kyle for more information

llamamagazine@gmail.com

New To Llamas

A section for the uninitiated

How do you take care of a llama?

Llamas should have a three sided shelter to keep their feed dry and escape the weather when necessary.

Parasite prevention and treatment: this will change drastically based on your geographic location, so it is best to talk to a vet or an experienced llama owner in your area to get their advice.



Vaccinations: many llama owners choose to give CDT shots. Talk to your vet about a potential vaccination schedule for your llama.

Toenail trims: How often will vary from llama to llama, but toe nails should be trimmed so they are level with the pad.

Most llamas need annual shearing. This can be done by hand with scissors, but having a trained shearer do it will look better and take much less time (and less stress). Light wool llamas and ccara llamas can be sheared less frequently.

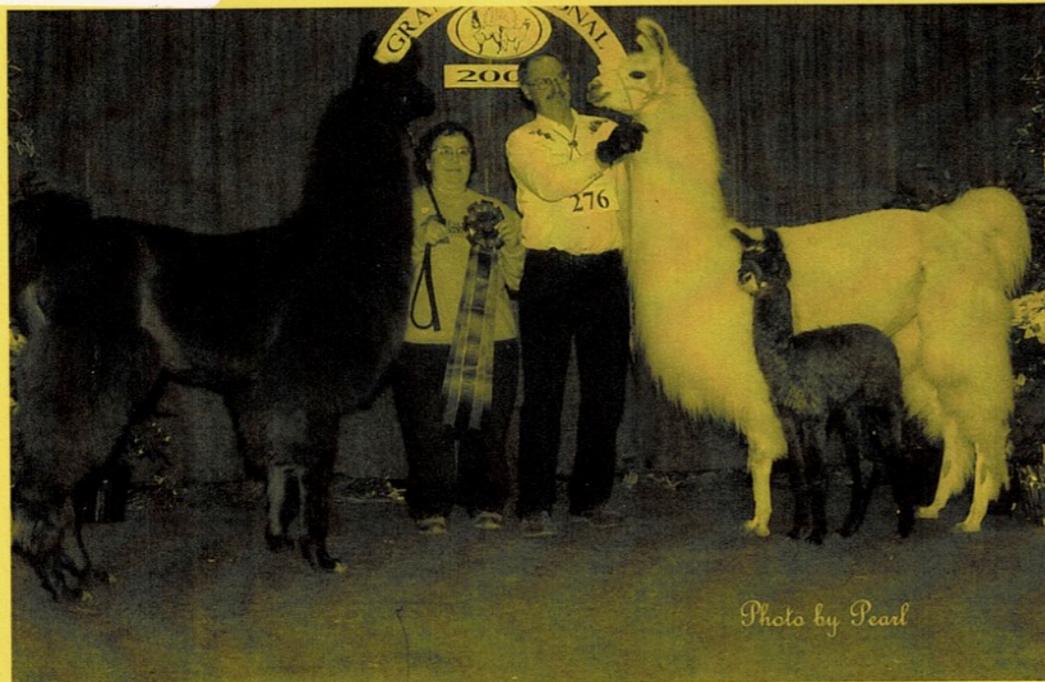
Unless you are breeding your llamas, moderate quality hay and pasture is all your llamas will need to eat. Grain is a good idea for an occasional treat as it makes catching them easier.

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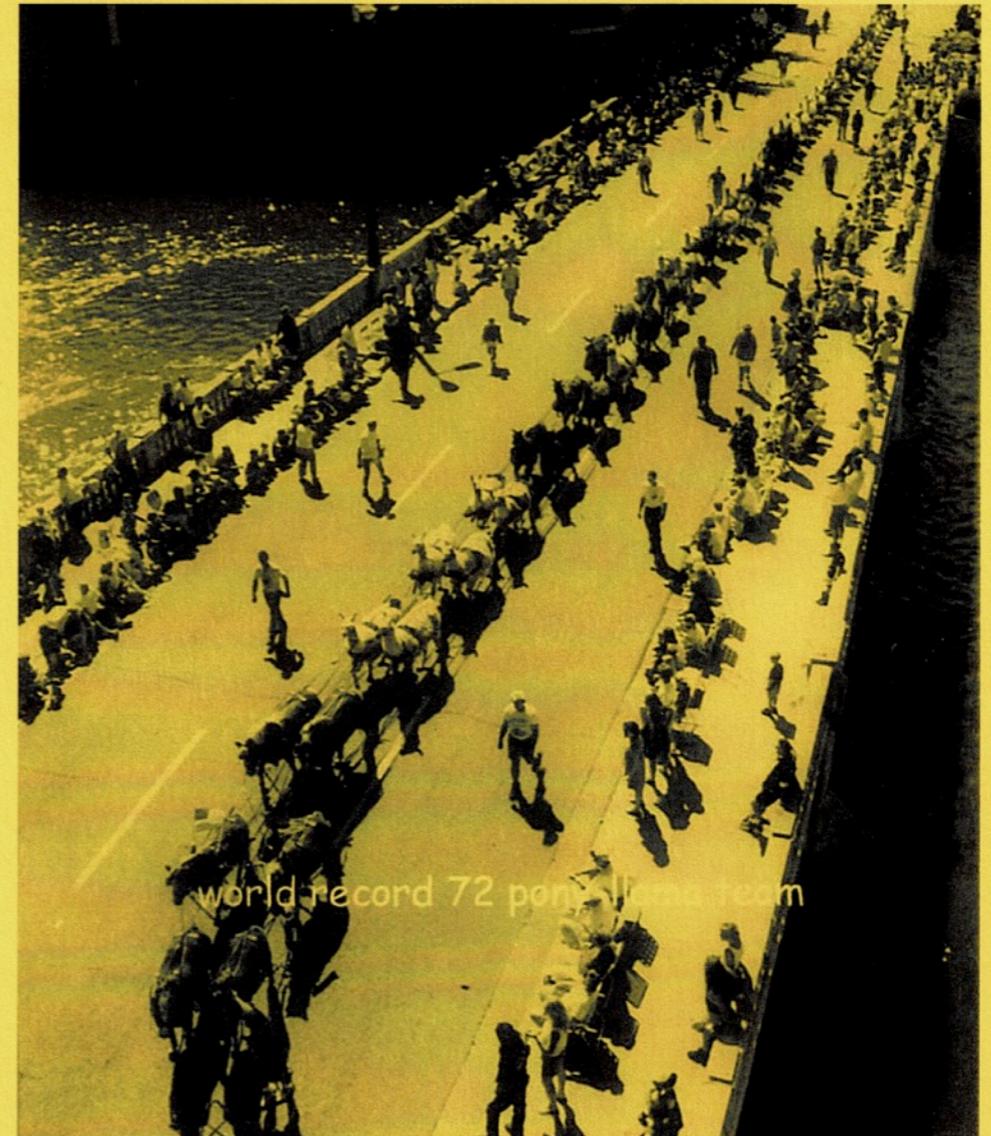
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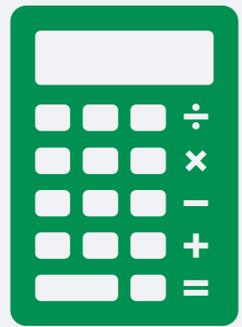
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TAX TIPS

WITH JERRIKA MUMFORD, CPA

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

The latest round of tax cuts are commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act or TCJA. The TCJA became effective in the 2018 tax year. Many of the provisions laid out in this article are set to expire in 2025, although congress can be unpredictable and many things could change by then. Many of your individual tax returns will look different than usual and have several changes, and farmers and ranchers will see a few big changes on their tax returns as well. Most farms are either Partnerships or Sole Proprietorships with their income reported on the owners' individual tax returns. When business income is reported on the owner's tax return, this income is often referred to as "pass through" income. While there are farms that are corporations, this article will focus on farms with pass through income.

Taxpayers should always consult a tax accountant about their specific situation before engaging in any tax strategy.

TCJA & Hobby Classification

Unfortunately, those whose farms are classified as a "hobby" rather than a business by the IRS are going to get hit worse than usual. The law has completely eliminated any deduction of expenses for hobbies, meaning they will be taxed on all of the income with **no deductions**. Hobby farms will also not be able to take the Section 199A deduction or either of the depreciation deductions discussed in the following paragraphs. It is more critical than ever that your farm be classified as a business in the eyes of the IRS.

Qualified Business Income

The new Section 199A deduction is a great benefit for farms and ranches. This new deduction is intended to lower the tax rate on small business income in order to be comparable to the new lower corporate tax rate. The deduction generally reduces the total taxable income on your individual tax return by 20% of the taxpayer's qualified business income (QBI) from a Partnership or Sole Proprietorship. This means



that your taxable income from your farm will likely be reduced by 20%. The 20% QBI deduction is available whether you itemize deductions or take the standard deduction. There are income and wage limitations with phase outs for higher income taxpayers, but this deduction should prove to be popular among small business owners and farmers.

Bonus Depreciation

Bonus Depreciation has been available as a deduction at different levels for many years. Regular depreciation splits the cost of capital purchases over the course several years. Capital purchases include machinery, equipment, production animals and livestock, buildings, and other large expenditures made by your farm. Bonus depreciation allows a business to instead take more of the cost in the first year the capital purchase was made. Varying from 30%-50% over the last several years and limited only to new property, 100% bonus depreciation on new **and used** property is available starting in 2018 and continuing through 2022. This means a business can take 100% deduction on the cost property purchased during the year, including livestock. If you have a very profitable year on the farm, the ability to deduct the entire cost of large purchases is a great way to reduce taxable income. If a business has more capital purchases than income, a taxpayer can also use bonus depreciation to create a loss on their business income. Though I often caution farms to be careful when taking losses on their tax returns to prevent being classified as a hobby.

Shortened Depreciation Lives

For those who opt out of bonus depreciation, farms now have a shortened depreciation life for equipment or machinery purchases, including livestock, as well as an accelerated rate, with more being deducted in the early years than the later years. Rather than taking the cost over 7 years, farms now take the cost over 5 years for new property. Used property is still required to use the 7 year life. This shortened depreciation life paired with an accelerated depreciation rate is advantageous when you consider the time value of money. The sooner you can deduct something, the sooner you save on your tax bill.

Tax Planning

Many of the changes in the tax law can be confusing and require proper planning. Consulting with your tax advisor is a great way to help plan for the future and get the most benefit of the above changes.

About the Author

Jerrika Mumford is a llama enthusiast and an owner of Volcano View Ranch along with her husband, Kyle Mumford. She is a certified public accountant in the beautiful state of Washington with a Master of Accounting from Washington State University.



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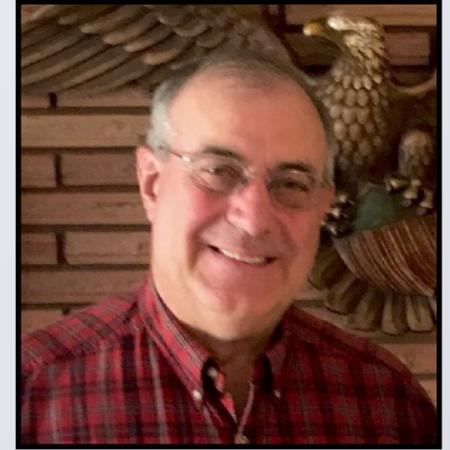
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Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Questions and Answers with the ILR

With Ron Wilkinson, ILR President



Note: A new feature of the American Llama Magazine is a question and answer segment with ILR President Ron Wilkinson. If you have questions that you would like answered in future issues of the magazine, please submit them to the editors who will pass them along.

I don't plan to show, so why should I register my animal?

All serious livestock breeders choose registered livestock as the foundation to their breeding program. The primary mission of the International Lama Registry is to maintain an accurate verifiable database of the genealogy, origin, and ownership of llamas, guanacos, vicunas, and alpacas. This is impossible to achieve if individuals fail to register their animals. An accurate and complete database serves the entire industry. We attempt to keep the fee structure manageable so it is possible for all to register. When selling prices of animals are lower some individuals decide not to register. When that happens those animals are lost from the database and the production records of their sires and dams are incomplete. Ultimately registering animals should increase their value as well. Registered animals have enhanced value because their pedigrees are recorded and more informed breeding choices can be made as lineage is traced. An accurate database serves us all and is the responsibility of all owners to maintain.

If I purchase an unregistered llama where I am uncertain of parentage is there any way to get that animal registered?

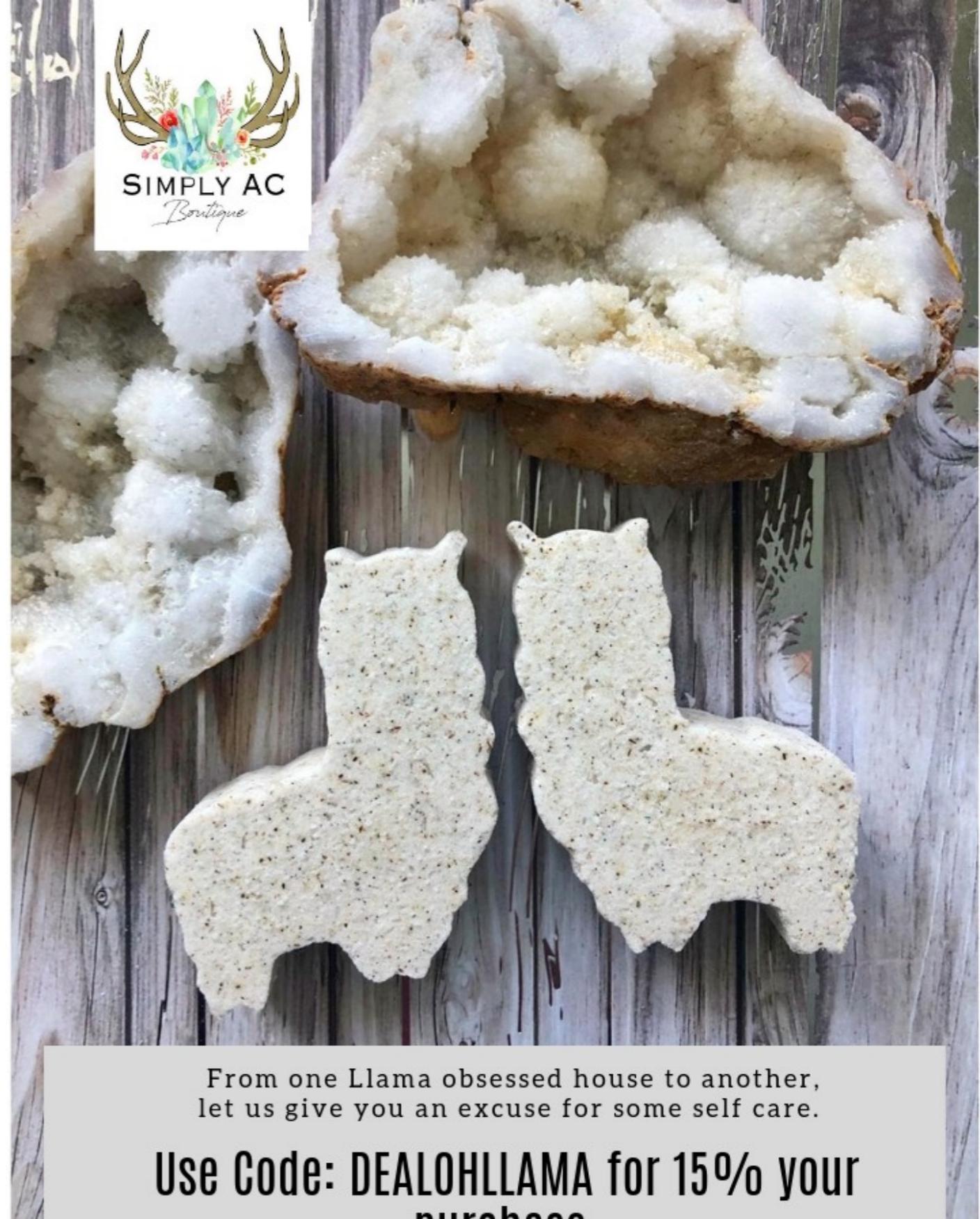
From the beginning, the ILR has offered a process of screening animals with unknown parents. This has been especially important for imported llamas. The ILR Board of Directors recently reduced the fees required for screening in order to make it a more viable option for all. Please review the specific procedures outlined on the ILR website. An animal that becomes registered through screening is so designated on its official listing document. Offspring of screened animals are eligible for regular registry when bred to a registered or screened partner.

Why should I bother to transfer an animal that may just become a pet or guard?

While registering animals is critical, transferring llamas is right behind the initial registration in importance for maintaining a comprehensive database. How many of you, like me, have spent hours on the ILR database researching an individual animal and its offspring or a particular line of animals only to find "animal sold but not transferred"? At that point there is no way to track down the offspring you were interested in checking out. Very frustrating! Transferring maintains the accuracy and completeness of the database. In addition it allows the Registry to have contact information for llama owners. Way too often animals change hands later and the new owner would like to transfer but the owner selling the animal does not have authority to transfer ownership.

Why is the transfer fee less when the seller or sale management pays the transfer fee?

The ILR Board voted about 2 years ago to reduce transfer fees significantly when the transfer fee is paid by the seller or the sales management. The goal is to begin shifting the culture within the llama community where transfers become an assumed responsibility of the seller. In many other species the norm is for the seller to assume responsibility for transferring ownership. In the llama community the norm had become to simply hand over the registration certificates to the new owner and let them be responsible for transferring. When the new owner fails to take action the database becomes incomplete or inaccurate. What also often happens is that the new owner forgets or delays transferring until the late fees become somewhat of a hindrance. I strongly encourage each llama owner and sale manager to make officially transferring ownership a routine final step in closing each transaction! It only makes sense for sale managers to send in the papers for transfer since they have all of the information for buyer and seller and usually have collected the ILR certificates in advance of the sale. Once payments have cleared the bank they will either send the certificates to the new owner, or better yet, send them to ILR to complete the transfer. The majority of our sales are now taking care of transfers. Some llama sales are now including the transfer fee as an added sale expense for the seller and others that simply view it as part of their sale expenses and cover it out of the commission. Either way works to assure the animal is transferred. The Board has set the fee low enough in hopes that it can be absorbed in the sales price.



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Why is there just one “I” in the name International Lama Registry, or is that just a misspelling?

It is not a misspelling. The ILR was established as a registry for the multiple animals within the “lama” genus: lama glama – llama, lama pacos – alpaca, lama guanacoe – guanacos, and lama vicugna - vicunas. The ILR maintains the largest accurate compilation of lama genealogical information in the world. It can be compared to a large library, a storehouse of information, with the goal always on the expansion and accuracy of the records.

Why is there a separate ILR- Show Division?

At the request of our members the Show Division was formed in 2009. The comments from the members through a survey, emails and phone calls were clear in that they wanted a show association that was responsive to its members, was relatively inexpensive, kept accurate records, and was non-political. The ILR-SD works hard to put the "Fun" back in showing by having simple inexpensive show venues that appeal to everyone. The added advantage of ILR’s Show Manager program allows for quick entry and processing of show results.

Why does it take so long to close out the UAP Awards Program each year?

The Universal Awards Program, which started in 2008, is designed to recognize llamas wherever they are shown. Although a running tally of “Top Ten” results for awards is available as soon as the results are entered, the final awards for the previous year cannot be tabulated until all ILR-SD shows are entered. Frankly, we are at the mercy of individual show superintendents to complete and submit their results for the shows they manage. There seem to always be a couple of shows that struggle to complete this task. The Board of Directors continues to consider strategies to encourage prompt reporting of results. For a nominal fee, the ILR offers a service of entering results, but is unable to do that if the results are not submitted in a completed form.





The Three R's of the ILR

- Registry
 - Accurate records based on verifiable genealogy
 - Promoting the value of registered llamas
 - Orderly, efficient, economical access to data
 - Member services in response to member needs
- Recognition
 - Universal Awards Program - recognizing achievements from all show associations
 - Camelid Companion Certification
 - Youth Pot of Gold Program
 - Youth Scholarship Program
- Relationships
 - The Gathering of Friends and Champions
 - Western and Eastern Championship Shows
 - Many committee and board opportunities
 - Connecting llamas with new owners

ILR-SD Giving Members What They Want

- * Established in 2009 at the request of the ILR membership
- * Flexible in show structure
 - * No mandatory classes
 - * Multiple fiber divisions with options for local show management to limit or combine divisions
 - * Recognition of regional differences in the llama industry
- * Economical to show
- * Accurate and timely results
- * Fun for all

For Upcoming ILR Events [click here](#)



Alone we Struggle; Together we Thrive!

[The International Lama Registry](#)

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For Next Time

September Publication date: 9-22-19

Advertising/ Article Submission Deadline: 9-1-19

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Think of something you want to see
next time?

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Show/Event Recap

If you help run a show or event please
write a recap of the event and send a
few photos. Best in show information
requested from shows.

My favorite llama is....

In the next issue we'd like to hear from you! We'd like to feature several short pieces written by our readers about their favorite llama. Aim for 100-500 words. Photos are encouraged, but please make sure the photo was taken by you or you have permission to use it.

You could describe its traits, its bloodlines, its personality, its training, or a specific story that shows why they are special. It is really up to you!

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AMERICAN LLAMA

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Regular Ad Rates: \$50 full page, \$25 half page, \$10 business card

WWW.LLAMAMAGAZINE.COM

AMERICAN LLAMA MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates and Sizes

\$50 full page (landscape)

\$25 half page (portrait)

\$10 business card

\$20 ad creation (waived if you create your own ad)

Email LlamaMagazine@gmail.com

for payment information and to
reserve your spot.

Full Page

\$50

Landscape Formatting 11x8.5

(Exact sizing is 14.22x10.67)

Half Page

\$25

Portrait
Formatting

Use 8.5 x 11

Business Card

\$10

Thank you for reading!

Thank you to all of our contributors: Mark Smith, Terese Evenson, Charlene Arendas, Alex Chepstow-Lusty, Ron Wilkinson, Marty McGee Bennett, Laura Harrawood, Larry Kisner, Tom Seifert and Tani Adams.

A special thank you to Sherri Tallmon for spending the day with us and allowing us to feature her ranch.

Thank you to our advertisers for supporting this project and making this issue complete with photos and information about their farms and businesses.

Thank you once again to our sponsors, Carol Reigh of Buck Hollow Llamas, Steve & Sue Roling of Great Northern Ranch, Sonya & Clark Salisbury of Double S Ranch, Darrell & Merlene Anderson of March Llama Madness, and Jacob & Meggan Mumford of Cascade Llama Show and Sale.

Please make plans now to advertise and make submissions to the spring issue, coming in March.

September 2019 Issue Dates

Article/Advertising Submission: 9-1-19

Publication Release: 9-22-19