



# MAPACA

Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

## Newsletter

March, 2005

Volume 5, issue 3

### President's Message:

**NEW LOGO** – Hope everyone likes the new look. Thanks to Kit Hower for all her efforts in bringing this about. Kit lobbied for a change for many years – nice job!

**JUBILEE STATUS** – I am personally very glad I gave everyone forewarning regarding an early sell-out. Many of us waited until the end of registration or gave some pens back to try to accommodate everyone but it was still not possible. Our sincerest apologies for those of you who may not have gotten registered. Hope you come and enjoy the show anyway.

At last count the approximate numbers were: 389 farms, 836 pens (our maximum), 811 attendees for the auction on Saturday, 4 major donors, 31 Diamond donors, 23 Platinum donors, and 56 Gold, Silver, Bronze, Show or Championship sponsors! 1,594 halter entries and 171 fleece entries. All and all the makings of another great show!

**SPECIAL EDITION JUBILEE NEWSLETTER** – This year we will be printing 1,000 copies of the Jubilee Edition of the newsletter. It will be on colored paper and will be distributed to attendees and members of the public coming to the show. It is an excellent opportunity for some great distribution. We are not charging any more for this edition unless you have us print it, in that case it is \$90 additional. You will need to have 1,000 copies of what you want inserted, as well as the appropriate check, sent to Alice Brown for receipt no later than April 10. Any inserts not received by Alice by that date may not

be able to be inserted. DISTRIBUTION OF ANY MATERIAL AT THE JUBILEE IS LIMITED TO YOUR DISPLAY AREA ONLY. Any other form of distribution is not fair to those paying for it, and may result in not being eligible for future Jubilees.

**CONDOLENCES** – Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Sam Perez and his family on the recent sudden death of Loretta, his spouse and best friend of 44 years. Sam and Loretta started Fork Bridge Alpacas in Southern New Jersey about 3 years ago. Wishing you serene thoughts and fond memories at this time of grief.

**MAPACA ELECTION CANDIDATES 2005** – Alice Brown will again be acting as recruitment chairperson for the MAPACA Board of Directors. It is a 2-year term and requires donating time in the form of 6 to 8 teleconference meetings and about 3 “face to face” meetings each year. If you feel you would like to get involved please let Alice know by the conclusion of the Jubilee.

**MAPACA PIZZA SOCIAL AND MEETING** – Hopefully we will see you all at the Pizza Social and meeting on Thursday evening April 21, 2005. We look forward to your input and sharing ideas with you.

See you at the Jubilee!

Paul Connor

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#### **BEAR ATTACK!**

The NJ Farm Bureau just reported on a bear attack in Sussex County New Jersey. A farm there lost a 250 pound pony to a large hungry bear. The attack took place in Andover Township. The pony had it's neck broken and was dragged through two fences and up a hill and was found by the owner 400 yards into a nearby woods. For those in bear country, the NJ Fish and Wildlife representatives urge caution at this time of the year when bears awake from hibernation and come looking for food with little vegetation to find in the woods.

## MaPaca Board of Directors

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## Jubilee Coordinator's Message:

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual MAPACA Eastern Alpaca Jubilee is now less than a month away. This year's show will be the largest Jubilee to date with about 400 farms and 1600 alpacas participating this year.

Registration got off to a rocky start because of some glitches in the new online system. We appreciate everyone's patience while those things got worked out, thanks to the efforts of Jovi Larson and the computer tech folks. Once things were up and running, the show sold out very quickly.

The alpaca community came together, as it so often does, to help many who didn't get pen space be able to take part and show some of their animals. We sincerely appreciate all the farms who gave up, or are sharing, pen space with those who were shut out. There were too many to mention here, but you all know who you are. Thank you, every blessed one of you.

Our industry has seen tremendous growth in the last several years. That's a good thing, but even the best things have a downside to them. The downside here is most shows are filling up early and many breeders are being left out. The six pen limit didn't relieve the problem for our show. I'm not sure even stricter limits will help much, either. Facilities can't be made larger and we can't squeeze more animals in. We can only judge so many animals in a given time frame and I feel we're already way past what might be a healthy population density of animals under one roof.

There are no easy answers but we'll have to find ways to deal with it. My guess is we'll have to go to a series of "local" points shows where the alpacas who win enough points move on to regional and national level shows, similar to what the Llama guys are using now. I know many won't like hearing that, but things are changing almost daily and like it or not, we can't go back. Making room in the show system for the new guys and keeping the "old guys" on board, too, will be quite a challenge. I think we'll be up to it, though. Discussion, suggestions, and ideas are most welcome.

I'm looking for a source for pellets, either woodstove or bedding, so we might have them at the complex for everyone to use in their pens. Both work very well. Woodstove pellets are less expensive and come in larger bags, but they're a seasonal item and may be hard to procure, so we may have to use bedding pellets. Using pellets in your stalls should help control the urine odor and reduce the chances of your alpacas developing respiratory problems. If you have, or can get, pellets at home, please bring some with you to the show. I'm not certain we'll be able to find the quantities needed so anything you can bring will be a help.

We still need about ten volunteers to help with marking the floor layout in the Expo Hall and the Equine Arena at the farm show complex on setup day. We will start about 7:00 AM on Wed., April 20<sup>th</sup> and it will take all day and a good part of the

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evening to complete. This is a very important task that **must** be done before anything else can begin. If you can give a day of your time, or even a few hours, to help us in Harrisburg, please call or e-mail me ASAP. My phone number is 410-549-3224 and our e-mail is [middle8farm@aol.com](mailto:middle8farm@aol.com). Thanks.

I'll see everyone in Harrisburg.

Andy Schneider

Nick Melfi

## **Auction Liaison Message:**

The Jubilee is just around the corner and we have a sold out show, The auction is full as well. There will be a total of 64 lots and this will include the 3 lots of donated animals. There will also be a breeding donated to a grey suri herdsire who sold for over 100k! The excitement is building, we expect over 800 attendee's, last year we had about 650. While speaking to Tim Vincent of Celebrity Sales he made mention that "the consignments are real nice and this should be a great sale". So get those elbows greased up and prepare to get your hand up in the air.

Again I would like to give special recognition to these breeders who give back so much to our great industry.

**Sharon Brown & James Webb**—*Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Company*

**Tim & Gwen Smith**—*Smith Haven Farms*

**Karen Byram & Hugo Ulloa**—*Alpacas de la Patagonia*

**Breeding donated by:**  
**Jack and Jill Reinhart:**

## **Editor's Ramblings:**

As I sit here contemplating the Newsletter, the spring rains are drumming on my barn roof, while two females, slightly overdue for their crias are snug under that roof, trying to be as comfortable as late pregnancy will allow them. Yes, the last few weeks of pregnancy are hard on everyone. The momma's roll occasionally, perhaps positioning the cria within. Often they are seen laying in odd positions trying to be more comfortable. Sort of reminds me when I was there and, "Done that!" They have my empathy!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at this years Jubilee. Please look for me if you have any news to share. We will have a little display set up for our farm, but Fred and I have both volunteered to help out, so there's no telling where you will find us. I always welcome more articles for the Newsletter. Next month we will have a special edition printed on colored paper to celebrate the Ninth Annual MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee. We are printing extra copies of this issue to be handed out to people as they come in to the Jubilee. The deadline for April's issue will be April 13th in order to have the Newsletter in the mail before the Jubilee.

Also, I have again been asked to be the Chairman of the Nominating Committee this year. If you or anyone you know would like to run for the MaPaca Board of Directors, please let me know. We can discuss any possible candidacies at the Jubilee. I will be at the Thursday night General Membership meeting, taking notes as usual. Please come and participate. Offer your comments and suggestions! Feel to talk to me afterwards if you would like. I will be available.

There is much being discussed in the greater alpaca community with elections for AOBA and ARI on the horizon and possibly Breed Standard panels being formed. As MaPaca members I'd like to encourage you to share your ideas on these issues as well. We are all in the same boat together, let's make sure that our larger boat is being sailed in the direction that will benefit the greater majority of breeders. Take time to research issues, contact candidates if you are not sure how they stand on a particular issue. Sometimes candidate statements do not tell the whole story. Sometimes voters need to dig a little deeper and ask the candidates their views on other issues that may not be readily apparent in their prepared candidate statement. Please don't just go with the flow and vote how you think everyone else is voting. Don't vote for the person who seems the most popular. Take some time to find out what all the issues are and make an informed decision. I would like to urge every MaPaca member to do that. Then, most of all, make sure when you receive your ballots that you take CAREFUL NOTE of the VOTING DEADLINE DATE and make sure that you get your vote mailed in on time. Don't put your ballots in the "to be handled later" pile of mail. Rather put your ballot in a prominent place where it will not be lost or forgotten. Do your reading and research. Then get your ballot in the mail as soon as you feel you have made an informed choice. Remember, your vote counts. Don't think that not voting is a vote against something. It is not! Please vote for the candidates of your choice.

Thanks, and my best to all, Alice

# Food for Thought Part 4

By Ingrid Wood Stormwind Alpacas, Columbus, NJ

A recent telephone conversation with another breeder led me to question the use of certain nomenclature as it pertains to breeding alpacas. The voice on the other end of the phone had sounded perplexed. “Why wouldn’t you want to see a breed standard?” she asked me. Before I could answer, she stated emphatically, “I’ve worked in industry and am accustomed to seeing **production standards**. They’re **specifications for excellence**.” She added, somewhat sharply, “Shouldn’t we all strive for excellence in our breeding programs, and don’t we need to determine what it is we’re aiming for?”

Good questions! Let’s examine the first issue raised by this obviously concerned breeder: A call for industry specifications. We commonly refer to our collective farms as the “alpaca industry.” It is therefore entirely appropriate to examine the term industry specifications in its possible application to alpacas.

Geneticists and others interested in raising and/or breeding livestock differentiate between feral breeds, landrace breeds, standardized breeds, and **industrial stocks**. The latter, much more so than any of the other groups, are bred and selected by corporations according to the strictest **specifications**. Just like in any other industry, a **standard of excellence** is formulated and followed. The genetics behind these standards are highly regarded corporate secrets. In order to fulfill the industry’s mandate of excellence, each product (read animal) of an agricultural industry’s population must be phenotypically uniform.

This is how your cuts of beef, your pork roast, your holiday ham, your Thanksgiving Turkey, and your chicken breast arrive at the supermarket in the uniform sizes, shapes, and quality you’ve come to expect. Physical uniformity, a **standard of excellence**, is further important for the efficient processing of meat at slaughterhouses.

Sounds good, doesn’t it? Another example of human triumph over nature’s caprices and lack of efficiency, right?

Well, there are a few little matters to consider. Let’s be clear that phenotypical uniformity of an entire species or breed translates into a severe reduc-

tion of genetic diversity. Genetically uniform populations are extremely vulnerable to environmental stresses. Industrial stocks, the most uniform populations due to **standards of excellence**, are by far the most vulnerable. For example, Avian flu has affected more than a third of all flocks in China’s provinces. Biosecurity is a key issue for all industrial agricultural operations in this country as well. There are **NO** casual “visitors” to the animal “factories” producing industrial “quality” beef, pork, or chicken. Workers don garments similar to those worn by surgeons in an operating room.

New research has identified MHC (major histocompatibility complex) genes. Similar to blood types, these genes are involved in immune responses to infection and are also linked to the ability to resist parasite infestations. Breeding animals with similar or identical MHC genes produces populations with compromised immune systems, hence the extreme precautions taken by livestock industries with **specifications of excellence for production standards**.

Producers of industrial stocks push for maximum production. Standards of excellence are modified according to consumer demands, not what is healthy and beneficial to the animal’s comfort. For example, the standard for turkey calls for more breast meat than is normally found on these birds. It is therefore physically impossible for toms (males) to copulate with hens. In this particular livestock industry, AI (artificial insemination) is a necessity to achieve the goals as set forth by the **specifications of excellence for production standards**.

Industrial stocks are raised for consumption (meat, hides, fiber, milk, etc.) Treatment of the animals does not take their welfare into consideration – only their ultimate destiny as a consumer item. Beef cattle are fed large amounts of grain for fast growth and must be administered drugs to prevent acidosis. Cows are injected with hormones to increase milk production. Geese are force fed to develop the large livers that are sold as a delicacy in high-priced food stores. After all, consumers demand **specifications of excellence for production standards**, don’t they?

I’m not sure I like the term “alpaca industry.” Quite frankly, the idea of breeding alpacas by using

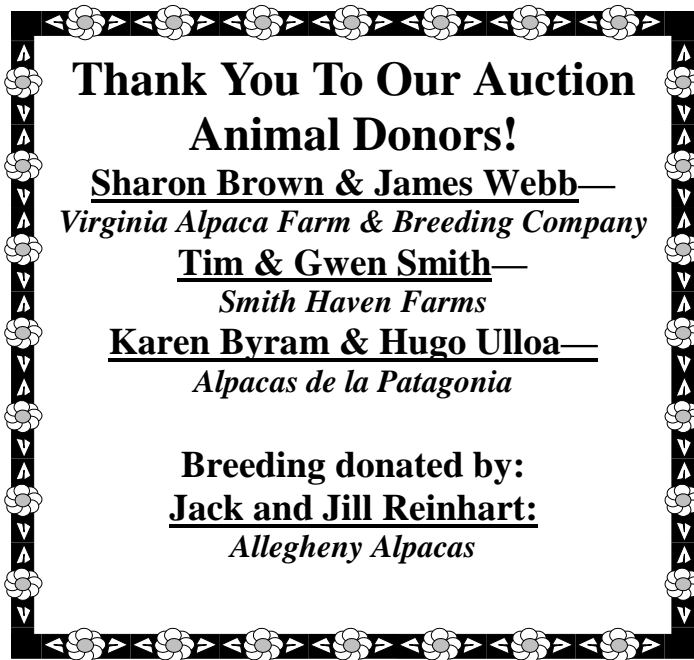
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**specifications of excellence for production standards** as is the norm in other agricultural industries nauseates me.

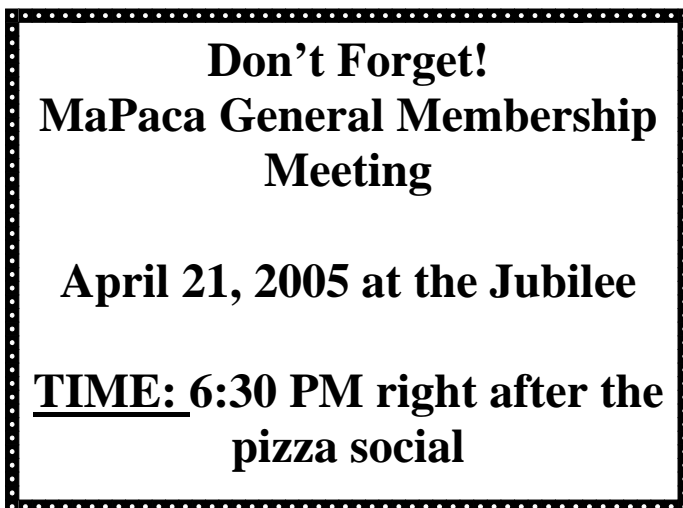
I finally also figured out why the comments and questions expressed by the other breeder chilled me to the bone. There had been no indication that this breeder thought of her alpacas as living, breathing creatures. She may as well have been talking about a standard for the perfect kitchen stove – well built but disposable at any time consumers' whimsy dictates that **specifications of excellence for production standards** should be changed.

**Read, think... and decide what's best for your alpacas.**



**Thank You To Our Auction  
Animal Donors!**  
**Sharon Brown & James Webb—**  
*Virginia Alpaca Farm & Breeding Company*  
**Tim & Gwen Smith—**  
*Smith Haven Farms*  
**Karen Byram & Hugo Ulloa—**  
*Alpacas de la Patagonia*

**Breeding donated by:**  
**Jack and Jill Reinhart:**  
*Allegheny Alpacas*



**Don't Forget!**  
**MaPaca General Membership  
Meeting**

**April 21, 2005 at the Jubilee**

**TIME: 6:30 PM right after the  
pizza social**

## **Part 2: Managing For Poisonous Plants**

*By James E. Perry, Ph.D., PWS, Ambler's Alpacas,  
Lanexa, VA*

To protect your animals from potential poisoning by plants, it's not necessary to remove all the non-pasture plants from your ranch. In fact, our ranch is surrounded by many different species of non-pasture plants, particularly trees. We currently have several very old white oaks and loblolly pines in my pastures that we let our animals use for shade. However, we do not put our crias or pregnant moms in those pastures unless there is plenty of grass or hay nearby for them to graze on. I also often remove large downed tree branches before the leaves wilt, since wilting tends to concentrate any toxic compounds.

If you do not have trees in your pastures, I recommend that you leave them that way. Young saplings of almost all species are prime browse for curious cria. If you wish to plant trees in pastures, or around your ranch where camelids are allowed to graze, I would recommend choosing a species that have not been reported to cause toxicity in livestock. Conifers that have not shown toxicity include spruce, fir, and most pines (be careful with the pines!). Angiosperms that have not shown toxicity include the ashes, aspens, birches, honey locust (look for the thornless variety), magnolias, most maples (excluding the red maple and its varieties, it is known to be toxic to camelids and horses), tulip poplars, and willows.

While removal of poisonous or questionable plants should be done to protect the health of your animals, we should not go around cutting down or pulling out every plant in sight. Learn which plants may cause a problem and how they may be controlled. Don't be afraid to ask local vets, botanists, or extension agents if they know of troublesome plants in your area, how you can identify them, and how you can best get rid of them. Remember, plants are a natural part of our ecosystem and can add beauty and environmental value to our ranches. Please also note that it is extremely important to make sure your animals always have plenty of good pasture or hay. It is often the "hungry" animal that gets into trouble by eating a plant that it normally wouldn't be interested in. In order to learn more about poisonous plants I recommend the following web sites: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html> (Cornell University Poisonous Plant site) and [http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/poison?p\\_x=px](http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/poison?p_x=px) (Canadian Poisonous Plants Info. System).

(This article has been extracted and modified from "Managing Your Ranch for Poisonous Plants" by J.E. Perry, Camelid Quarterly, December 2003, pages1-6.)

## Volunteers Still Needed!

*If you would like to help out at the Jubilee and would like a great learning experience at the same time, please go to [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) and follow the directions on the volunteer form.*

**In appreciation for your time and effort you will receive an original FREE MaPaca volunteer T-shirt!**

Any questions—contact Debbie Hoff—  
**Debbie@warfordcreek.com** or  
**908-996-2128**

## Silent Auction & Raffle Donations Needed!

Greetings to All,

The MaPaca Jubilee is just around the corner. Between reserving pen space and halter training please think about donating a special item for the silent auction or raffle. We are accepting donations of all types. Your donation need not be alpaca related. What a way to advertise!! Your name and farm name will be displayed with your donation. Why not support the alpaca industry and promote your farm. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

**Contact: George or Marian Sykes –Alpaca Ridge, LLC. 973-827-3910 or [sykes-marian@hotmail.com](mailto:sykes-marian@hotmail.com)**

## MaPaca Meeting Schedule for 2005

**April 21, 2005 (At the Jubilee, 6:30PM after the pizza social.)**

**July 17, 2005**

**October 16, 2005\***

**\*Please mark your calendars for these dates and plan to attend. Watch the Newsletter and the web site for announcement of the meeting locations, as the locations will vary.**

## **Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?**

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

We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 ½” by 11” ad, on 24 pound paper or less, if you supply ALL the copies (they can be in color and two sided if you like). If your ad is on heavier paper than 24 pound, the cost will be **\$60.00**. If you would like us to copy your ad, supply us one copy and we will have it copied in black & white, one sided, for **\$70.00** total.

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

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

## Classified Ads:

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

1. Announcing **The Blue Ribbon Alpaca** by Susan Rosche (Pax River Alpacas). A delightful, beautifully illustrated, hard-cover children's book that promotes the alpaca. The story of an alpaca, her jealous companions, her awesome fleece and the children who love her. \$18.95. Bulk discounts available. **Information at <http://www.paxriveralpacos.com/>.**
2. Alpaca Art on Egyptian Papyrus. Unique. Original or custom designs. Reasonable prices. Additional information and samples at **<http://www.paxriveralpacos.com/>**.
3. **Going My Way?** - A Suri Farm, Ltd. Has trailer space available for anyone needing transport to the following shows: North American Alpaca Show, Springfield, MA March 31-April 3, 2005 and The Futurity Show and Sale, Indianapolis, In., April 15-18, 2005. **For details contact A Suri Farm - [Dogandcatnuts@aol.com](mailto:Dogandcatnuts@aol.com) or 717-514-0022.**
4. **Reserve your alpaca Chute, Scale, Panels, Gates, Shearing Table, Skirting Tray, & Hay Saver Feeders** now at Allegheny Alpacas for Pick-up at the 2005 MaPaca Jubilee. Visit [www.AllAlpacas.com](http://www.AllAlpacas.com) or call 724-940-4045.

**Please Note:  
April's Newsletter will be done  
and in the mail before the Jubilee.  
Please have all submissions to me  
by April 13th. Alice Brown**

## Calendar of Events

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

**May 7-8, 2005: Fifth Annual "Everything's Coming Up Alpacas,"** Ballston Spa, NY (30 minutes North of Albany) Join Kelly and Paul Zanella of Spa Alpacas and guest speakers as they share their alpaca knowledge and experience. Seminar on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Reservations required. \$90 per person or \$160 per couple (includes continental breakfast, lunch and presentation booklet). Open House on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (rain or shine). Contact: Kelly & Paul Zanella 518- 885-0585, [pjzanella@aol.com](mailto:pjzanella@aol.com) or [www.spalpacos.com](http://www.spalpacos.com) .

**May 13-15, 2005—Star Events' 2005 Spring Fling Alpaca & Llama Auction,** WoodsEdge Wools Farm, Stockton, NJ. The Spring Fling will feature the Suri Symposium II on May 13. The Spring Fling Auction on May 14 will have a group of spectacular animals from across North America. Take part in the Shearing Festival to be held on May 15. Free educational seminars by industry professionals and world class entertainment. For more information contact Star Events at (609) 397-2212 or [www.stareventsllc.com](http://www.stareventsllc.com).

**June 5, 2005—Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Halter Show and Sale**—For Shorn Alpacas Only! Springfield Veterans Memorial Park, Springfield, NJ. Entries limited to 60 alpacas. Judge: Judith Korff. Only \$50/alpaca. Limit 4 entries per farm. Entries close April 15, 2005. A Hot Show for Cool Alpacas!! Go to: [www.AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) for more information or contact Ingrid Wood, Show Superintendent at 609-261-0696 or [alpacos@uscom.com](mailto:alpacos@uscom.com). \*

\***Please note:** Notice of change for the Alpaca Heritage Bare Naked Show—Scott McKelvie will be in charge of the catalog. Please contact Scott if you wish to advertise.

## Hypocalcemia (Milk Fever)

Compiled by Alice Brown

Hypocalcemia is an abnormally low level of calcium in the blood and has been reported in alpacas. According to *The Merck Veterinary Manual*, acute hypocalcemia often occurs in postpartum females in association with lactation. "Hypocalcemia most likely results from the loss of calcium into the milk and from inadequate dietary calcium intake."

*The Merck Veterinary Manual* describes symptoms as follows: "Panting and restlessness are early clinical signs. Mild tremors, twitching, muscle spasms, and gait changes (stiffness and ataxia)" as observed. This "life-threatening condition usually seen at peak lactation,... may also occur during parturition and may precipitate dystocia." "Heavy lactational demands from large neonates... are often noted."

"Diagnosis is often made from the ...clinical signs, and response to treatment." "A pretreatment serum calcium concentration confirms the diagnosis." (*The Merck Veterinary Manual*).

Treatment in severe cases requires "slow IV administration of 10% calcium gluconate." "This usually results in rapid clinical improvement within 15

minutes. Muscle relaxation should be immediate." This treatment must be administered by your veterinarian. However, in a life and death situation it has been reported that giving oral calcium gluconate while you wait for the vet to arrive may save a life. (Check with your veterinarian as to dosage.) Keeping a tube of calcium gluconate in your store of emergency supplies may be wise. "Owners should be warned that this condition is likely to recur with future pregnancies." (*The Merck Veterinary Manual*.)

This web site, <http://kinne.net/hypocal2.htm> is written for goats, but has some good suggestions that may apply to other small ruminants such as alpacas. Providing a good mineral mix is essential in helping to prevent hypocalcemia according to this web site as a balance is needed between the different minerals to prevent calcium from becoming unbalanced. Feeding some alfalfa along with their regular grass hay, for heavily lactating animals, may also help in reducing the risk of hypocalcemia in lactating females, especially heavy milkers.

**References:** *The Merck Veterinary Manual, Ninth Edition, pages 808-811 and pages 449-450.*  
<http://kinne.net/hypocal2.htm>

Comments about the Newsletter, or any contributions, send to Alice Brown at [fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com).

As to the evil which results from a censorship, it is impossible to measure it, for it is impossible to tell where it ends.

— *Jeremy Bentham*



### Camelid Humor!

**Obie 1:**  
(two weeks old)

**"Spit Happens!"**

**Obie 1:**

**"If I can just dig my toes in to stop the slip-**



*Photos by Alice Brown, Forever Precious Alpacas, Vineland, NJ*