



**President’s Message:**

**Breed Standard – Done deal?**

I previously reported in the June Newsletter about my attendance at the AOBA National Conference in Utah this June. I reported on the affiliate’s Presidents meeting with the AOBA Board. I reported that the AOBA Board agreed to poll the membership specifically on whether they wanted to pursue a Breed Standard. They have not done so. The AOBA Board did withdraw the scheduled “Type Conference” in November. Instead, they decided, to do 10 or so, regional meetings with “professional facilitators” in charge. I personally do not know of any paid professional facilitators that ever left an event not having facilitated what he or she was paid to do?

The AOBA Board listens to whoever shows up at shows and conferences. If you don’t go to shows or conferences your voice will not be heard unless through the people who you elected to your local affiliates. I hope you are paying attention.

The following is a reprint from the actual “monkey survey” that was taken:

**86. Should the AOBA BOD appoint a task force of diverse industry experts to develop a proposal to the membership for alpaca breed standards?**

	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
<b>Yes</b> _____	<b>37.8%</b>	<b>442</b>
<b>No</b> _____	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>Don’t Know</b> _____	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>1169</b>
<b>Skipped this question</b>		<b>151</b>

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In the August 24<sup>th</sup> email that presented the results of this AOBA survey – the introduction tells us “The survey was completed by a total of 1320 members which represents more than one quarter of the entire AOBA membership. Due to the high response rate, the survey results are very accurate with a reliability of a ± 3% at a 95% confidence level.”

The AOBA Marketing Committee survey, sent out by email on August 24, tells us that over 25% of the membership responded to the survey earlier this year. With the information from the respondents they say the survey is accurate within 3%. These are not questions that can be extrapolated out like a political poll. There is an inherent understanding of the subject matter needed. Judging from the members who responded to the survey – 24% (319 votes of 1320) admitted they didn’t know, and 11% (151 votes of the 1320) couldn’t even be sure if they didn’t know.

What the results of this survey say is that 34 “more” breeders who had an opinion voted yes as opposed to no. Of the total of 1320 respondents in this survey, that means 2.5% “more” of the respondents thought “the AOBA BOD should appoint a task force of diverse industry experts to develop a proposal to the membership for alpaca breed standards”. When taken in the context of the 1320 respondents representing just over 25% of the total membership - **this 34 breeder margin is less than 1% of the “total” AOBA membership that stated that they want to “appoint a task force of diverse industry experts to develop a proposal to the membership for alpaca breed standards”, more than those who don’t want it.**

At the AOBA affiliate’s meeting I said that if you (AOBA BoD) want to convince the membership to consider a “Breed Standard” you should explain what the reasons are. I asked specifically, “Will this cause insurance rates to go down? will this enable us to do something easier, faster, more correctly, as regards anything? We should explain to our memberships what the benefit is. One of the AOBA Board member’s only explanation was “the judge’s need the Breed Standard since they don’t know what to do without it.” Needless to say a mild uproar ensued. I heard of one estimate of \$12,000 to \$15,000 for a regional meeting of up to 500 breeders. You do the numbers for 10 or more meetings. Seems to me like an awful lot of money for 3,000 of us to sit down and determine what an alpaca should look like. I thought the judge’s were doing all right up to now. I must be missing something.

I certainly hope everyone is staying awake out there. (To be continued)

**Paul Connor**

*This message is a personal editorial and does not necessarily represent the opinions and views of the other MAPACA Board members.*

## MaPaca Board of Directors

- President:** Paul Connor  
Big Sky Alpacas, NJ  
856-223-0570  
[paul@bigskyalpacas.com](mailto:paul@bigskyalpacas.com)
- Vice-President:** Jovi Larson, PhD MBA  
FiberGenix Suris, NJ  
908-806-6255  
[info@fibergenixsuris.com](mailto:info@fibergenixsuris.com)
- Treasurer:** Frieda Goodrich  
Angel Wood Alpaca Farm, LLC,  
NJ  
908-852-7204  
[info@angelwoodalpacas.com](mailto:info@angelwoodalpacas.com)
- Secretary:** Fred Brown  
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ  
856-697-8127  
[AandFBrown@aol.com](mailto:AandFBrown@aol.com)
- Jubilee Coordinator:** Andy Schneider  
Middle Eight Farm, MD  
410-549-3224  
[middle8farm@aol.com](mailto:middle8farm@aol.com)
- Members at Large:** Nancy Johanson  
Alpacas of Brookhollow Farm, NJ  
973-335-3393  
[alpacas@brookhollowfarm.com](mailto:alpacas@brookhollowfarm.com)
- Nick Melfi  
Melfi Farm Alpacas, NJ  
908-369-3276  
[melfifarm@aol.com](mailto:melfifarm@aol.com)
- Newsletter Editor:** Alice Brown  
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ  
856-697-8127  
[fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com)



## Jubilee Coordinator's Message

Hello Fellow MAPACA members,

I hope everyone is surviving this terribly hot summer we're having. It seems like I've done nothing but turn on fans, hose down legs and bellies, and fill kiddie pools since early June. I'm sure it hasn't been much different for anyone else. It looks as if that pattern is finally breaking and giving way to more reasonable temps. I know I'm ready for that.

Things with the Jubilee have been fairly quiet but that's going to change quickly now. It's time for the Jubilee Committee to start meeting on a regular basis to make plans for the tenth annual MAPACA Eastern Alpaca Jubilee.

We need lots of volunteers. It's the only way this show can happen. I know many of you volunteered to help last year and were never actually called on. For that, I apologize. We're trying to develop a better system to coordinate volunteers so things like that don't fall through the cracks. Monica Kline, A Suri Farm, Myers-town, PA, has graciously taken on the duties of volunteer coordinator. If you can help out before or during the show, please contact Monica or myself.

I envision creating two new positions on the show committee. One is Hospitality Coordinator for the judges, speakers, and superintendents. That person will insure that transportation and lodging arrangements are made and that they all have whatever they need to get their jobs done and have a pleasant stay. The other will be a Sponsorship Coordinator. That person will see to the needs of the sponsors and insure they have everything they're supposed to have for their specific level of sponsorship.

All but one of the judges has been contracted for 2006. So far, we have Amanda VandenBosch, Kristin Buhrmann, and Tim Lavan for halter and Jane Tellier has agreed to judge fleece.

We'll be using straw in the pens for '06 because we have to be moved out and cleaned up by midnight Sunday night. It takes three or four days to clean the Expo Hall when we use sod and there's a horse show moving in at 6 AM Monday morning. Remember to bring mats if you don't want your animals lying directly on straw. This requirement may have a bearing on some other things we have to do

That's about all for now but there will be plenty to come as things start to get busy. Enjoy the cooler weather. See you somewhere on the circuit.

**Andy Schneider**

## Editor's Ramblings:

How many alpaca breeders really practice good biosecurity methods? When you come back from a show or bring auction animals home, do you just put them out with the rest of the herd? Do you allow visitors to walk around through your herd without washing their hands and without putting on protective foot wear or walking through a foot bath? Do you have a quarantine area for your animals that includes its own poop management system, its own feed buckets, its own waterers? Do you wear the same shoes out and about town, or any where else, that you wear on the farm? The list goes on.

Over the last few years I have heard of examples of animals coming in sick to a farm and infecting other animals, especially crias on some farms. We have a lot to think about, including Corona Virus, Johnes Disease, West Nile Virus, Vesicular Stomatitis, and BVD (Bovine Diarrheal Disease). We need to be protecting not only our own herds, but the national herd as well or we are headed down a road that is going to lead to increased and more severe problems.

At the seminar I attended Dr. Shari Silverman of Abbey Rose Veterinary Services in Flemington, NJ and Dr. William Pettit of Peticote Veterinary Clinic, Southampton, NJ, shared their expertise on the subject of Biosecurity. Dr. Silverman has had many years of Camelid experience and has worked with both Dr. David Anderson and Dr. Nealy. Dr. Pettit is somewhat new to Camelids, but he has a lifetime of experience in the dairy industry and knows a lot about Johnes Disease and BVD.

Are you one who has not paid much attention to implementing Biosecurity measures on your farm because all the other farms that you know don't practice much in the way of Biosecurity measures and they don't seem to be having a problem. You might want to rethink this issue for the sake of your herd and for the sake of all the herds who may come in contact with your herd in the future.

Vaccination is on the top of the list of Biosecurity measures. Most of us already vaccinate. Keeping our pastures and barns clean is next on the list of keeping our animals healthy. Feeding good healthy food is next, an animal that is underweight is more prone to illness. Dr. Shari Silverman stressed keeping the area where our alpacas crush very clean on a daily basis. Don't allow animals to put their feet in the water buckets. If you have one that does this, raise the water bucket so they cannot reach it with their feet.

When showing, here are some things to think about. How is the air flow in the facility? Dr. Silverman said that the MA-PACA Jubilee facility has had good air flow, however some show venues have not had such good air flow and stagnant air can cause the spread of disease. Dust in the air at shows should be minimized. Nose to nose contact at shows should be AVOIDED. Isles between pens and/or curtains to separate the pens of different farms would help.

On returning home from a show, put your show animals in a quarantine pen. If you only have one animal that was shown, put an older gelding in with that animal. Older animals are less likely to be susceptible to diseases. The same is true of any animals coming onto your farm. The quarantine area

should have its own separate field or pen. It doesn't need to be large. They will only be there a short while, but it should have at a minimum, 10-12 feet separation from the rest of the herd. If possible, 100 feet separation would be ideal! If it is dry lot, that is good because you can sanitize it with Chlorox solution after use.

Dr. Silverman said to follow these rules:

1. Know who you are buying from.
2. Always do a pre-purchase exam.
3. Quarantine ALL new arrivals 2-4 weeks.
4. Do fecals on animals upon arrival and worm if needed.
5. If you note any problems, run a CBC.
6. Test fecal again two weeks after worming.

Always tend to animals in the quarantine area last and use separate shoes and clothes. Wash hands frequently between areas. This was stressed by Dr. Silverman. Use a foot bath if necessary.

If you have to send your females out for breeding, know where you are sending them. When females come in for breeding, make sure they go in the quarantine area first. Mobile breedings are good if you do the breeding in a neutral area where alpacas have not been kept.

In general keep your farm clean. When visitors come, ask them to put on shoe covers or walk through a foot bath and have them wash their hands before touching any of your alpacas. At least use a handsanitizer. Rotate your pastures, as permanent pastures breed parasites. Parasite resistance is a FACT! More disease and deaths are occurring from Nematodirus than from Meningeal worm infection. There are no easy answers and each farm must have its own prevention program tailored to their conditions. Younger animals and geriatric animals are most at risk. Animals with poor body score may indicate parasites. Identify at risk animals through fecal egg counts. Make sure that you are weighing your animals before dewormers are used so that you know that you are giving the correct dose. Underdosing can lead to parasite resistance. After deworming, recheck fecal in two weeks to evaluate the effectiveness of the dewormer. To see if your animals are becoming reinfected, recheck fecals in 4-6 weeks. Avoid over crowding.

Dr. Pettit brought out that although BVD is a problem it can be controlled through testing and diligence. Johnes Disease is another story. There is no cure. It results in chronic diarrhea. He feels that all alpacas should be tested for Johnes Disease.

We have A LOT to think about! I walked out of the seminar shaking in my boots. I took it as a wake-up call and I hope others will too. I have seen too much in the way of being relaxed about Biosecurity measures in alpacas. I have seen avoidable tragedies. Don't laugh at those who are working to implement Biosecurity measures. Look at them as good examples to follow and start taking measures at your farm if you have not already. If you have the opportunity to attend a seminar on Biosecurity measures, do go!

**Alice Brown**

## **NEW STUDY PROVIDES POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN STRESS AND FATTY LIVER DISEASE**

*By Patricia Craven, PhD, President of ARF and owner of Cherry Ridge Alpacas, Creekside, PA*

**June 2005** – Christopher Cebra, VMD, MS is an Associate Professor of Large Animal Internal Medicine at Oregon State University and an ARF funded investigator. He is particularly interested in the role of stress hormones in the excess mobilization of fat in alpacas. Excess mobilization of fat can result in clinically serious disorders such as hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver) and hyperlipemia (excess fat in the bloodstream). These disorders, although not common, are often fatal and expensive to treat in alpacas

Recently Dr. Cebra and his collaborator, Dr. Susan Tornquist, DVM, PhD published the results of a new study in the American Journal of Veterinary Research. The following lay description of their findings was written by Dr. Cebra.

The purpose of this study was to try to link stress hormones to fatty liver disease. The actions of stress are frequently attributed to hormones, but prior to this project no real link has been found.

Fatty liver is frequently thought to relate to inadequate nutrition or feed intake, but many of the affected alpacas that we see have adequate food available or do not appear to have any particularly extra demand for nutrition, such as pregnancy, or milk production. Our previous research has also demonstrated that fatty liver is extremely difficult to induce in camelids simply by reducing their available food. We know that affected alpacas have increased amounts of fat in their blood, and often sugar, but the cause of these has been elusive.

In this project we tested epinephrine, otherwise known as adrenaline, one of the important stress hormones. We investigated whether epinephrine induced changes in the blood similar to what we see with fatty liver. The results were very convincing. A single dose of epinephrine, which had no outward effects on the alpacas, caused dramatic increases in three different blood fat fractions. These increases were beyond those caused in another study by four weeks of reduced feed intake. Thus we conclude that fatty liver in some cases may be more due to a stress response than anything revolving around calories.

We also tested whether insulin counteracted these effects. Much of our recent research has centered around adult camelids' low insulin production, and the relation of this to disease states. In this study, insulin strongly counteracted epinephrine's ability to increase blood fat and sugar, and hence we conclude that insulin treatment

may be helpful in the prevention or treatment of fatty liver in alpacas.

### **References**

Cebra, CK, Tornquist, SJ. Effects of Epinephrine and Insulin on Blood Biochemical Constituents in Llamas and Alpacas. Am J Vet Res 65,1692-1696, 2004.

Tornquist, SJ, Van Saun, RJ, Smith, BB, Cebra, CK, Snyder, SP, Hepatic Lipidosis in Llamas and Alpacas: 31 cases (1991-1997) Am J Vet Med Assoc, 214, 1368-1372, 1999.

Anderson, DE, Constable, PD, Yvorchuk, KE, et al, Hyperlipemia and Ketonuria in an Alpaca and a Llama, J Vet Intern Med 8, 207-211, 1994.

Van Saun, RJ, Callihan BR, Tornquist, SJ, Nutritional Support for Treatment of Hepatic Lipidosis in a Llama, Am J Vet Med Assoc 217, 1531-1535, 2000.

Cebra, CK, Tornquist, SJ, Van Saun, RJ, et al, Intravenous Glucose Tolerance Testing in Llamas and Alpacas, Am J Vet Res, 62, 682-686, 2001.

Cebra, CK, McKane, SA, Tornquist, SJ, Effects of Exogenous Insulin on Glucose Clearance in Alpacas, Am J Vet Res, 62, 1544-1547.

Note: Abstracts of these and other published studies can be found on PubMed, a website that is available to everyone free of charge through the National Library of Medicine, USPHS. Just go to the ARF website at [www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org](http://www.alpacaresearchfoundation.org) and click on Links to find a link to PubMed. Dr. Cebra can be reached at [christopher.cebra@oregonstate.edu](mailto:christopher.cebra@oregonstate.edu).

## **2006 MAPACA Art Contest \$500 for Winning Design! November 1, 2005 Entry Deadline**

See your artwork up in lights!!

Actually, it will be on the Jubilee show catalog, auction catalog, the website, T-shirts and maybe a few other places.

MAPACA members and their children are eligible to enter.

Go to [www.mapaca.org](http://www.mapaca.org) for entry form and rules.

# Camelid Working Group News Release

## Questions Answered on Current and Future Microchipping of Camelids

Comments from several llama and alpaca owners concerning how microchips currently in use in camelids will fit into the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) provided additional impetus to a previously scheduled teleconference between several members of the Camelid Working Group (CWG) and Dr. John Wiemers, USDA's liaison to the CWG. A summary of the June 1 discussion with Dr. Wiemers follows each question.

Can the microchips currently in common use in camelids, i.e. the 9, 10 or 12-character, 125- and 128-kHz microchips, be grandfathered in as a means of official identification in the NAIS for the lifetime of the animal?

Yes, if these microchips are **currently** implanted in a **registered** camelid, they can be grandfathered in for the remaining lifetime of the animal, and implantation with a second 134.2- kHz microchip will not be necessary. Several conditions, however, will apply to grandfathering in these microchips. For example, the owner will be responsible for ensuring that the microchip is functional and for providing a scanner capable of reading the microchip if the animal is transported interstate. Whether or not these microchips could be grandfathered in for unregistered camelids has yet to be determined.

Neither the 125- or 128-kHz microchips have the requisite 15-digits with the USA country code, so how could they be used for official identification?

A breed registration number is currently one of several forms of official identification approved for participation in government programs and interstate movement of livestock. For the NAIS, the grandfathered microchips would be considered a supplemental form of identification secondary to the breed registration number. (It is important to note that permanent identification of animals will eventually be required by each state for intrastate transport of livestock as well.)

Here is how the 125- or 128-kHz microchips would be used as official identification in the NAIS: the animal must be registered, the microchip number must be on the registration certificate, a copy of the certificate listing the microchip number must accompany the animal during interstate transportation, the microchip in the animal must be functional and match the microchip number on the registration certificate, and a reader capable of reading the microchip must be available during transportation. For NAIS tracking purposes, the NAIS database would record the breed registry number as the primary form of identification and the microchip number as an alternate method.

Why might grandfathering of the 125- or 128-kHz microchips be limited to registered camelids?

The breed registration number is the official means of identification that links the microchip number to a specific animal. A 125- or 128-kHz microchip is not recognized as official identification, so without a registration number, unregistered animals have no form of official identification. The CWG needs to determine if there is a way the microchips in unregistered animals could also be grandfathered in, perhaps, for example, by listing them in the International Lama Registry database.

If an animal doesn't currently have a 125- or 128-kHz microchip and the owner implants one in the future, will they be grandfathered in also?

Ongoing use of 125- or 128-kHz microchips is problematic, and there is no clear answer to the question. If the microchips were implanted recently, or will be in the near future, they will likely be grandfathered in.

### *Can camelid owners continue to use 125-kHz microchips indefinitely?*

As it stands now, it does not appear that owners can continue to implant 125- or 128-kHz microchips in camelids indefinitely and have them grandfathered in for use in the NAIS. When participation in the NAIS becomes mandatory, which is expected to be in 2008 or 2009, it appears that only 15-digit 134.2-kHz microchips will be acceptable. The CWG will need to develop a timeline for phasing out the use of 125- and 128-kHz microchips as new

(Continued on page 8.)

## MAPACA Meeting Schedule for 2005

**October 16, 2005\***  
**This is the Annual Meeting**

**\*Please mark your calendars for this date and plan to attend. Watch the Newsletter and the web site for announcement of the meeting location.**

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

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

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

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

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

## **C**lassified Ads:

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

1. **Pocono Farms Products Oak Hay feeder**—holds 1 bale. Used, needs hay grid. See at <http://www.poconoalpacas.com/HusbandryAids/hayfeeders.htm> (new \$135.00) \$50.00 410-734-7084, Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.
2. **Leer Model #122 Truck Cap for 6ft Truck Bed.** Very good condition except for front window needs replacement. See details at <http://www.leer.com/caps.html>—(New over \$900.00) \$350.00 picked up at farm. 410-734-7084 Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.
3. **Team J W Alpaca Handling Equipment**—chutes, lightweight panels, gates, and Hay saver feeders of all sizes. Some discounted used equipment available. See [http://www.wildrosealpacas.com/alpaca\\_equipment/alpaca\\_equipment.htm](http://www.wildrosealpacas.com/alpaca_equipment/alpaca_equipment.htm) or call 410-734-7084. Wild Rose Suri Ranch, MD.
4. **Kubota L3020 4WD tractor**—purchased new in 2000; 30hp, hydrostatic transmission, turf tires, front bucket loader, and 6' heavy duty Woods Brush Hog. Lightly used. \$12,000. Call John for details 609-397-1149.
5. **Polaris Ranger 4x4**—purchased new in Nov 2003. Outstanding farm utility vehicle. Equipped with motorized dump bed to make manure clean-up easy. Bench seat comfortably seats 3 (great for farm visits). Front windshield. Very low hours. \$6,000. Call John for details 609-397-1149.
6. **MSA (formerly Team J&W) Alpaca & Light Livestock Equipment**—in stock chutes, feeders, panels, and shearing table. Can be shipped or picked up at our farm. Will be at the Empire Show with product to sell also. [www.lightlivestockequipment.com/](http://www.lightlivestockequipment.com/) or call Jay at (518) 524-0545 AuSable Valley Alpacas, Jay, New York.



## Calendar of Events

**September 10, 2005—The Eastern Extreme**, the Eastern USA's premier Alpaca Auction. Please come to bid on some of the finest alpacas offered for sale in the country at Sunset Hills Farm Alpacas, Butler, PA **724-586-2412**. In addition to Saturday afternoon's auction, the following Seminars will be presented: Dr. Norm Evan's—Costly Alpaca Management Errors/Nutrition to Maximize Alpaca Fiber.

Jamie and Kim Platt of Heaven Sent Alpacas—Alpaca Showmanship Skills Awareness. Wini Labrecque-Fleece Skirting Workshop. [www.easternextremeauction.com](http://www.easternextremeauction.com)

for on-line catalog and register!

**September 17, 2005—Happy Alpaca Farm Day & Seminars—Saturday 10AM-4PM, Fenwick Manor Farm, New Lisbon, NJ.**—Breeders seminars by Norm Evans, DVM. Dr. Evans will offer his expert view on the best way to keep alpacas happy and productive. Farm tours, fiber demonstrations, fiber clothing for sale. \$95 per person, \$145 per couple covers seminars, demo's, lunch, and parking. To register please contact: Katharine Thompson, [FMFalpacas@Fenwick.net](mailto:FMFalpacas@Fenwick.net)

**September 17-18, 2005—"Everything's Coming Up Alpacas,"** - Ballston Spa, NY. Join Kelly and Paul Zanella of Spa Alpacas and guest speakers as they share their alpaca knowledge and experience. Seminar on Saturday, September 17th from 8:30AM-4PM. Reservations required. \$90 per person or \$160 per couple (includes continental breakfast, lunch and presentation booklet). Open House on Sunday Sept. 18th from 10AM-4PM (rain or shine). Contact: Kelly & Paul Zanella **518-885-0585**, [pjzanella@aol.com](mailto:pjzanella@aol.com) or [www.spaalpacas.com](http://www.spaalpacas.com) .



## Calendar of Events

**October 1, 2005—Fifth Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale—Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds, Route 77, Mullica Hill, NJ.—10AM-4PM.** Twenty breeders in one convenient location offering alpacas for private treaty sale. Free seminars, free parking, free admission. Demonstrations. Vendors. The Alpaca Heritage Sale animals for sale and directions can be found at: [www.](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com)

[AlpacaHeritage.com](http://www.AlpacaHeritage.com) .

Contact Alice Brown at **856-697-8127** or [fpalpacas@aol.com](mailto:fpalpacas@aol.com) .

**October 2, 2005—Neonatal/Cria Care Clinic**—Sponsored by the Maryland Alpacas Breeders Association. Buckeystown Veterinary Hospital in Buckeystown, MD (just south of Frederick). Includes neonatal lecture with Dr. Toni Cotton and choice of Hands-on Neonatal Lab with speaker Dr. Toni Cotton or Cria Care Lecture with speaker Dr. Gail Campbell. Light breakfast and great lunch included. Registration forms and additional information: [www.marylandalpacas.org](http://www.marylandalpacas.org) or Valerie Perrin ([Valerie@southmountainviewalpacas.com](mailto:Valerie@southmountainviewalpacas.com)), 301-371-0657 or Scott Gove ([cgove@prodigy.net](mailto:cgove@prodigy.net)), 301-865-3552. Limited to 30 participants, so may fill up fast.

**November 12-13, 2005—Breeding, Birthing and Aftercare—9 AM-4PM**—Rivanna River Farm, Ruckersville, VA, in association with ABFS, will host Dr. Norm Evans for this important 2 day seminar for new and experienced breeders alike. This course is ABFS accredited. Fee: \$350, two from the same farm, \$650 (includes continental breakfast and lunch both days). Register at [www.ABFS.CA](http://www.ABFS.CA) by October 12, 2005. For information, please contact Dee Dee Greer, 434-973-8312 or [info@RivannaRiverAlpacas.com](mailto:info@RivannaRiverAlpacas.com).

**Microchipping (Continued from page 5.)**

implants while making the transition to 134.2-kHz microchips. The timeline described in the NAIS Strategic Plan draft indicates “840 numbers” (USA country code) will be initiated in August 2005. USDA is on target for release of official animal identification numbers (AIN) in late summer 2005, and 15-digit 134.2 kHz microchips bearing official AIN should be available shortly thereafter.

**Note:** Only those animals leaving the farm or ranch to enter commerce (e.g. travel to another state, move to another farm for breeding or because they were sold, attend a show, etc.) will need to be microchipped; animals that stay on your farm will not require permanent identification.

The CWG will continue to keep the llama and alpaca community informed on development of the NAIS for camelids. Up-to-date information on the NAIS, including the recently released drafts of the NAIS Strategic Plan and Program Standards, is

available at the USDA web site <http://www.usda.gov/nais>. The camelid ID plan is still under development by the CWG. Please submit your comments or questions to the following CWG members.

Teri Nilson Baird at [teri@brokenwindmill.com](mailto:teri@brokenwindmill.com)

Karen Conyngham at [72040.3361@compuserve.com](mailto:72040.3361@compuserve.com)

Sheila Fugina at [bsfugina@presenter.com](mailto:bsfugina@presenter.com)

Dr. Julie Jarvinen at [jarvinen@iastate.edu](mailto:jarvinen@iastate.edu)

Marsharee Wilcox at [mwilcox@stpaultravelers.com](mailto:mwilcox@stpaultravelers.com) or [evllamas@bellatlantic.net](mailto:evllamas@bellatlantic.net)

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

**West Nile Virus Reported**

"The phenotype is an ephemeral thing, a character of the individual, more often than not tied to the environment of the moment, a fleeting thing which dies with the animal and is lost for all time.

But the genotype is an accidental combination of units which have their origin in antiquity and their future in eternity."

—Ralph B. Kelley  
*Principles and Methods of Animal Breeding*



**Breanne Brown and her friend Sapphire**

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