



Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About....

March 2022

Michigan Llama Association

Volume 27, Issue 1

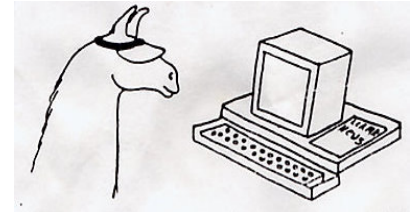


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Llama Living



517-857-4626

GRJax7@springcom.com

MLA ZOOM Board Meetings

February 21, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

March 7, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

To join future ZOOM meetings
contact Denise Fehrenbach

Cover photo courtesy of Janet and Gary Brant, Star Llama Company, - site of the MLA sponsored Marty McGee Bennett Clinic in 2022.

Michigan Lama Association
Web Site - www.michiganllama.org
Facebook Page - Michigan Lama Association

Bittersweet Farm



Suzanne Hockin Frambes
Ken Frambes
GRJax7@springcom.com

*Next
Llama Living
Deadline*

May 15, 2022

MLA COMMITTEES

As you can see all of the MLA Committees have been brought back into the fold, which means there are some vacancies.

If there is an area you are interested in or an area where you could make even a larger contribution by being a committee chair, please contact MLA President, Denise Fehrenbach, to learn more and to see if it could be a fit for you.

The MLA runs on volunteers!

Michigan Lama Association 2022 MLA Board

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Denise Fehrenbach
231-590-8549
denise@fehrenbachfarms.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Amanda Olszewski
269-422-6063
solszewski@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Carmen Hartwig
231-357-6999
hartwig@torchlake.com

TREASURER

Pat Schneeberger
517-627-6562
pschne1059@aol.com

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Katie Jo Hodgen
402-540-0861
jennie.hodgen@gmail.com

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517-655-5988
dktopliff@gmail.com

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517-627-6562
pschne1059@aol.com

Lloyd Lash (1 of 3)
517-403-2394
Uniqueanimal@aol.com

Bob Minto (1 of 2)
231-388-0421
bobminto@gmail.com

Suzanne Hockin Frambes (1 of 2)
517-857-4626
GRJax7@springcom.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CARTING - Vacant

EDUCATION/MEDICAL - Vacant

FALL FUND RAISER - Vacant

HOBO HOOTENANNY

Bob Minto - 231-388-0421
bobminto@gmail.com

LAMAFEST - Vacant

LIBRARY - Vacant

MARKETING

Renee Hobbins - 231-228-6128
hobbins@centurytel.net
Julia Tarsa
Sara Wolf

MEMBERSHIP/DIRECTORY

Pat Schneeberger - 517-627-6562

MID MICHIGAN SHOW

Carmen Hartwig - 231-357-6999
hartwig@torchlake.com

NEWSLETTER

Suzanne Hockin Frambes
GRJax7@springcom.com

NOMINATIONS/ELECTION - Vacant

PACKING - Vacant

POLICY/PROCEDURES - Vacant

SCHOLARSHIP

Ken Frambes - 517-857-4626
GRJax7@springcom.com

SHOW/EVENTS - Vacant

SPRING NEWSLETTER FUND RAISER

Annette Aldrich - 517-675-7705
raaldrich@tds.net

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Jennie Hodgen - 402-540-0861
jennie.hodgen@gmail.com

WEB MASTER

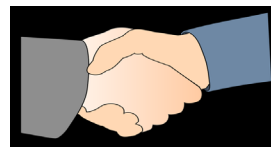
Denise Fehrenbach - 231-590-8549
denise@fehrenbachfarms.com

WOOL

Nel Vickers - 231-675-7893
nelwoodone@gmail.com

Humm Dinger Returns

The Humm Dinger award is returning for 2022! Do you know someone who is deserving of this award? The award was first established on November 9, 1997 and reads: "The Humm Dinger Award was established to recognize an outstanding MLA member for their contributions during the previous year."



Each year's Humm Dinger Committee is comprised of its last three winners. This year's committee members are Bob Douglas, Renee Hobbins, and Tim and Stephanie Douwsma. The award was not presented in 2020 due to COVID and the cancellation of Lamafest due to COVID and again not presented in 2021. If you know of someone deserving of this award for their contributions during the previous year, contact one of the current Humm Dinger committee members.

Previous recipients of this award are Jerry and Sheila Miller, Shelley Vince, Suzanne Hockin Frambes, Bob and Judy Minto, Dar Snyder, Jack and Donna Bowman, Bev Souva, Marv and Kathy Larson, Glen and Margo Unzicker, Don and Cheryl Topliff, Bruce, Carol and Don Onweller, Patti Biernbaum, Pat Schneeberger, Judi Brook, Corky Dubois, Dorane and Terri Strouse, Tricia Schneeberger, Sheila Miller, Gary and Bev Surratt, Tim and Stephanie Douwsma, Renee` Hobbins and Bob Douglas. □



2022 MLA Kathy Larson Scholarship and Laurel Baumesel Scholarship

Application deadline - May 1, 2022

The Michigan Lama Association is currently accepting applications for both of these scholarship opportunities. To qualify you must currently be a member of the MLA (*no age limit specified*) or the child of a MLA member family and meet the requirements. Information and an application packet can be obtained from a link on the Michigan Lama Association web site (www.michiganllama.org).

Submit your application to the MLA Scholarship Chair,
Ken Frambes
14775 Peckham Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

You can also contact Ken at GRJax7@springcom.com with any questions.

Calendar Of Events



May 15, 2022

Deadline for Llama Living

May 21, 2022

ORVLA Show - Ohio

JUNE

June 4-5, 2022

Allen County Fair Llama Show

Allen County Fairgrounds Carroll Rd.

Ft. Wayne, IN

Dual Sanctioned, ILR/ALSA Show. No youth ALSA non-membership fees

Contact: timothyylpn@gmail.com

June 4-5, 2022

Tip Of The Mitt Fiber Festival

Boyne Mountain Resort

Boyne Falls, MI

Contact: nelwoodone@gmail.com

See article in this issue of Llama Living

June 17-19, 2002

Youth Jamboree - Indiana

www.youthjamboree.net

June 24-26, 2022

The Gathering of Friends and Champions

Iowa Equestrian Center

Cedar Rapids, IA

ILR-SD National Show, The Gathering Sale and ILR-SD Futurity

www.ilrsdthegathering.com

JULY

July 21-23, 2022

Ohio State Fair

Ohio State Fairgrounds

Columbus, OH

AUGUST

August 15, 2022

Deadline for Llama Living

August 17-21, 2022

Michigan Fiber Festival

Allegan County Fairgrounds

Allegan, MI

Contact: staff@michiganfiberfestival.info

MARCH

March 25-27, 2022

March Llama Madness

C-Bar-C Expo Center

Cloverdale, IN

Double ILR Halter Show, Performance, Single Fleece, Showmanship, Judging Contest, Olympic Futurity, Prospect Futurity and Sale of Champions

Contact: www.solidrockllamas.com

APRIL

April 9, 2022

Hillsdale Hobo Hootenanny MLA sponsored lama show

Hillsdale County Fairgrounds

Hillsdale, MI

Contact- www.michiganllama.org

See ad in this issue of Llama Living

April 23-24, 2022

Millennium Magic Spring Fling

Onsted, MI

ALSA, ILR SD Dual Sanctioned

Contact: Uniqueanimal@aol.com

See article in this issue of Llama Living

April 30, 2022

Daffodil Classic - Ohio

MAY

May 1, 2022

Deadline for MLA Kathy Larson and Laurel Baumel Scholarship applications

May 7-8, 2022

MLA Mid Michigan MLA sponsored lama show

Eaton County Fairgrounds

Charlotte, MI

Contact Carmen Hartwig - 231-357-6999

May 14, 2022

Ohio River Valley Llama Show

ILR Sanctioned

Contact: Janicekschilling@gmail.com

Continued on Page 6

Calendar of Events

Continued

SEPTEMBER

September 2, 2022
Fulton County Llama Show
Fulton County, OH

September 3-4, 2022
Lamafest - MLA sponsored lama show
MSU Pavilion
East Lansing, MI

September 10-12, 2022
Camelidynamics Clinic with Marty McGee Bennett
Star Llama Company
Dundee, MI

This MLA sponsored Camelidynamics clinic will be the only state side clinic Marty will be holding in 2022.
More information to come.

September 24-25, 2022
Northern Michigan Fiber Festival
Aplex Events Complex
Alpena, MI
Contact: nmfiberfestival@yahoo.com

September 17-18, 2022
Millennium Magic Hobo Harvest
Onsted, MI
ALSA and ILR-SD, Dual Sanctioned
Contact: Uniqueanimal@aol.com
See article in this issue of Llama Living

September 30 - October 2, 2022
HLAA Fall Show
Lebanon, IN
Contact: hlaa.us

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

November 4-6, 2022
North American Llama and Alpaca Show
Louisville, KY
www.northamericanllamashow.com

November 15, 2022
Deadline for Llama Living

DECEMBER



We Want YOU!!

We are looking for fresh faces to become part of some AWESOME committees within MLA!!

You DO need to be a member, but you do NOT have to live in Michigan. You DO need to hold an interest in the Camelid community!

Wool Committee

Education and Medical

Shows and Events

Youth Fundraiser

Nominations

Policies & Procedures

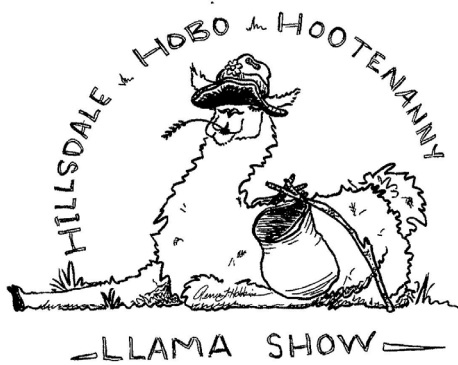
Packing

MLA Library

Carting



Job titles include: working with other llama/alpaca crazed people, helping to plan extraordinarily fun things!, Committee meetings on ZOOM, help to organize fun activities, reporting to Board and membership, occasional write ups for Llama Living magazine. Interested? Contact Denise : 231-590-8549



Hillsdale Hobo Hootenanny!!!

We are itchin' to see ya'll at the 2022 Hillsdale Hobo Hootenanny!
Member... groomin' and shearin' ain't required!!

Judgin' by:

Halter- Cathie Kindler

Performance- Tricia Schneeberger and Deb Yeagle

Forms are available at www.michiganllama.org

Did you know ALSA allows one show without bein' a member?? Get
cher llama down to the Hootenanny with your free pass!!

Dress fer the occasion! Secret spy judges is planning' on pickin' a king
and a queen fer our fancy event! No show clothes? No problem!

Questions???

Contact Bob Minto itsbobminto@gmail.com

Denise Fehrenbach at denise@fehrenbachfarms.com

MLA Spring Fund Raiser



May 7, 2022
Mid Michigan Lama Show
Eaton County Fairgrounds
Charlotte, MI

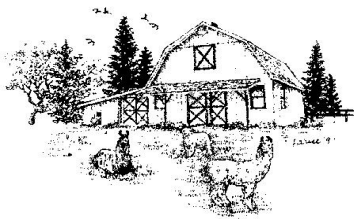


This fun annual lama related drawing benefits the publication of the MLA newsletter, Llama Living. The drawing will be run again this year on Saturday during the show by Annette Aldrich who has done a fabulous job over the years.

You can bring your lama related items to the show early on Saturday morning, May 7th, or make arrangements to get them to Annette earlier.

There are always such interesting lama items offered in the drawing and silent auction. The drawing will take place towards the end of the show on Saturday.

Annette Aldrich
(517) 675-7703
raaldrich@tds.net



WHITE AND NATURAL-COLORED ROMNEYS
WHITE AND NATURAL-COLORED BLUEFACED LEICESTERS
TEESWATERS • REGISTERED CLASSIC LLAMAS

BREEDING STOCK • FLEECES
TRAINED PACK AND GUARD LLAMAS
PELTS • ROVING • MEAT LAMBS

CINDY CIECIWA • MARGARET VAN CAMP
4190 W. COOK ROAD
SWARTZ CREEK, MICHIGAN 48473
810-655-4091 (H) • 810-814-3406 (MOBILE)
PITCHFORK@USOL.COM • WWW.PITCHFORK.ORG

PITCHFORK RANCH

The Alpaca Store
ARTISTIC FIBER DESIGNS

NEL VICKERS
3551 Reynolds Road
Interlochen, Michigan 49643
nelwoodone@gmail.com

Coming September 10-11 and 12, 2022

*MLA Sponsored Camelidynamics Clinic
with Marty McGee Bennett!*



Star Llama Company
Dundee, MI



This will be Marty's only state side clinic for 2022 and spots will be going fast.

Look for further information in the next Llama Living and soon on the MLA web site (www.michiganllama.org) and Facebook page (Michigan Lama Association), along with Marty McGee Bennett's web page (www.camelidynamics.com) and Marty's E-Newsletter.

Wondering how to let
people know that you
have llamas, alpacas,
and/or other products
for sale?

Advertise in Llama
Living....where lama
owners are already
reading about what you
have to sell!



Doing Nothing (Sometimes Called Counting Potatoes) As A Training Technique

By Marty McGee Bennett

I am working on a new edition (3rd) of “Llamas and Alpacas as a Metaphor for Life” coffee table book which has been out of print for about 10 years. The “Metaphor” book includes lovely photos of llamas and alpacas being adorable and stories of my adventures and misadventures on the road.

One of the stories in the book is about a llama, “Stanley, that arrived late to a clinic because he wouldn’t load.

“Stanley” (not his real name) was a former public relations llama now clearly on strike. To say his owners had problems loading him in an understatement. It took a couple of helpers several hours to load him and the spit flew freely. The whole loading scene was very unpleasant for everyone, especially Stanley. Everyone involved needed a second shower that morning, arriving very late and in quite a state.

As a youngster, Stanley would jump in a van, wow the nursing home residents and the school kids all day, tackling stair, linoleum, hospital rooms and any other obstacle that came his way. Sometimes Stanley visited two or three places a week. At about eighteen months of age, he began loading reluctantly and finally refused to load at all. He had to be folded up bodily and put into the van. Then he began to spit, bolt and rear while on his visits. He wouldn’t even get back in the van to return home without a scene. His owners were completely flummoxed. They couldn’t figure out who stole their wonder boy. They were truly frustrated. They had tried just about every tactic they could think of and were obviously doing the best they could.

I thought Stanley was started too soon and then overworked. His initial behaviors indicating the beginnings of adolescent burnout were missed. He was forced to cooperate and then punished for acting out - standard human approach to dealing with animals. My idea was to work him over some easy obstacles to regain his cooperation around loading. I will admit my ego can be a problem, particularly when I am being watched by 35 pairs of eyes. I had planned an obstacle session for Stanley - he decided it would be a lesson in humility for me. He began by cooperating. The obstacles we were playing around with were chicken feed for a llama with so much experience.

At the beginning of the session he walked over some plywood, but at the end of ten minutes he wouldn’t walk over a pole on the ground. The longer I worked and the harder I pressed him, the more recalcitrant he became. I was beginning to get very embarrassed, but I began to understand this guy. In order to get Stanley to trust me, he needed to know I would be willing to back off. All of my conventional conditioning around animal training cried out, “MAKE HIM DO IT. FORCE HIM. YOU HAVE TO WIN!” On the other hand, I knew where that tactic was likely to take us...to the showers! Time for some spin control. I explained to the audience that Stanley was asking me if I was listening. He wanted to know what I was going to do if he didn’t cooperate. His behavior had nothing to do with fear of the obstacles, his fear was of me and my control. Rather than fall on my proverbial sword over a pole on the ground, I decided to abandon the obstacles and try something completely different. We did some easy leading without obstacles. I massaged him mouth and ears, encouraged him to relax and called it quits. I felt all kinds of mixed emotions from the audience. I am sure many thought I rewarded him for misbehaving and that I allowed him to win. I didn’t think of it that way. I was more interested in creating a possibility for him to trust me.

My host enjoyed hosting the clinic, but didn’t plan on adopting a llama. Stanley had to go home at the end of the day, so of course, I offered to help load him. I am not thinking to myself, “There surely has to be an easier way to make a living.” Almost everyone decided to stay for the “loading show”. As I led Stanley over to the awaiting step-up trailer, people got busy rounding up some things I thought might be helpful; poles, bales of hay and plywood to make a makeshift ramp. Other folks were busy setting up their lawn chairs for what they thought would be an interesting experience. Stanley followed me to the trailer and jumped right in. He never hesitated as step. Sometimes not pressing your point is the best way to make it.

In addition to being careful not to ask too much of a willing animal, I have discovered that the secret to loading, and any obstacle in general, is waiting and being quiet. You basically create a vacuum. Therapists will do this to get their patients to talk. Giving a lot of signals on the lead, along with verbal encouragement, acts as a distraction and entertainment. Walk your animal up to the obstacle or trailer door and put slack in the lead. BE COMPLETELY quiet and do nothing, unless the animal tries to back up or look away from the trailer or obstacle. If the animal does try to back up, use a preempt sign with an immediate release to keep him in place at the edge of the obstacle. If he turns his head away, use a signal to redirect his

Continued on page 12

Doing Nothing As A Training Technique Continued

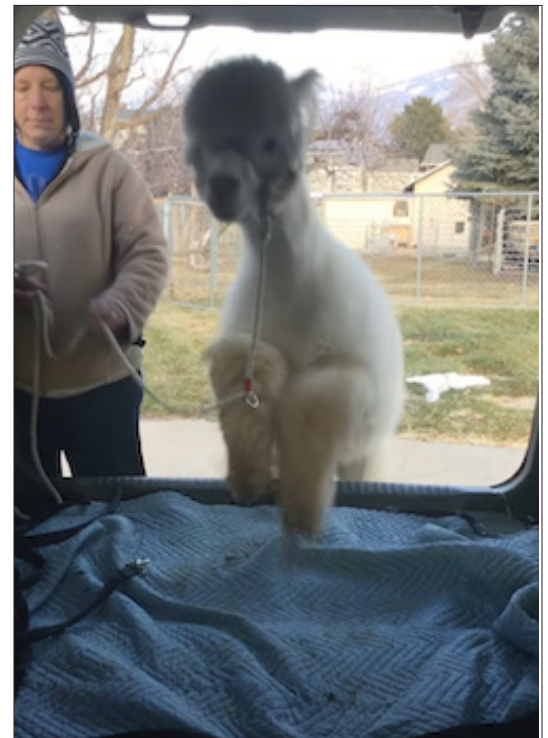
nose into the trailer and then put slack in the line. Look at your watch, remember to breathe and I will just about guarantee that the animal will be in the trailer or through the obstacle within 5-10 minutes. Ten minutes is actually not very long. Time is a funny thing, it goes by much more quickly when you are busy, cheer leading or pulling and pushing. It is important that the animal looks at the obstacle and doesn't engage in nibbling it and I do not put food inside the trailer. It is fine for the animal to look at, under, inside, but not away.

At a clinic in Vermont fifteen or so years ago a lovely young woman brought her alpaca to the clinic in the back of a Subaru Outback (Outbacks were much smaller with less head space in those days). I didn't see her unload the animal when he arrived and when she mentioned me watching her load him, I misunderstood and thought she wanted help. I was prepared to do the best I could to help fold this animal up and put him in this small car safely and do the best that could be done under the circumstances. When I said I would help, she said no, I just want you to watch. I was dreading it because it was a small passenger car and an adult alpaca. I thought for sure it would be a ____show. She opened the back hatchback of the car. Attached a long lead to the side ring on the halter, walked the animal up to the back of the car, climbed in and climbed out of the driver side front door. Waited quietly and within a few minutes her alpaca folded his front legs and scooted forward on his knees, folded up his back legs and settled in for the ride home! I was God smacked! I asked her how she taught him to do that and she said, "I read it in a column in your newsletter and the first time he loaded was this morning."

To learn more about Camelidynamics check out Marty's web site at www.camelidynamics.com, sign up for her e-mail newsletter, or register to attend her September clinic right here in Michigan. □



Using obstacles to create confidence.



Alpaca loading into a Subaru Outback.



CAMELIDynamics

**Sane, Safe Science Based Solutions!
Understand the Nature of the Beast**

- Does your llama or alpaca plant his feet and refuse to come forward?
- Are you having trouble trimming toenails?
- Is teaching your llama or alpaca to lead like flying a kite or dragging an anvil?
- Is showing your animal a drama?

Camelidynamics is:

- Empowering
- Uses the most positive, least intrusive methods
- Relies on an understanding of behavior and balance, NOT restraint and force
- Is a method that will work for you regardless of your physical ability.

Camelidynamics offers:

- The CAMELIDynamics Guild - online forum moderated by Marty, biweekly newsletter and training tip, and supportive online community
- Innovative, thoughtfully designed equipment made in the USA.
- Online Courses-self paced video lessons
- Hands On Courses:

September 10-12, 2022
Dundee, MI

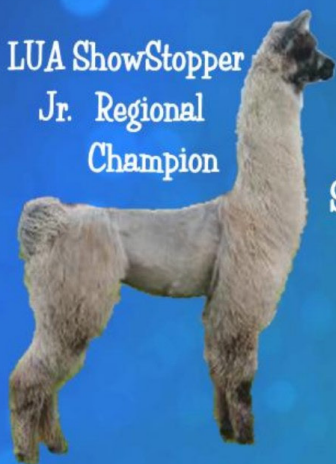
September 30-October 30, 2022
Germany

 CAMELIDYNAMICS™

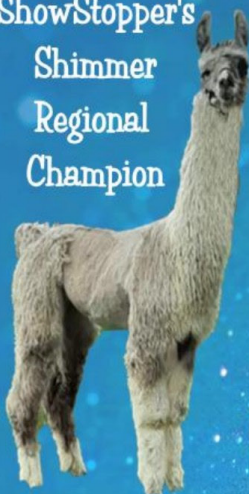
For a list of Marty's 2022 clinics, go to www.camelidynamics.com and click on **LEARN HOW.**

4 x National Champion MSF Show Stopper Surrounded by Champion Offspring

LUA ShowStopper
Jr. Regional
Champion



LUA
ShowStopper's
Shimmer
Regional
Champion



LUA ShowStopper's
Harmony
National Champion



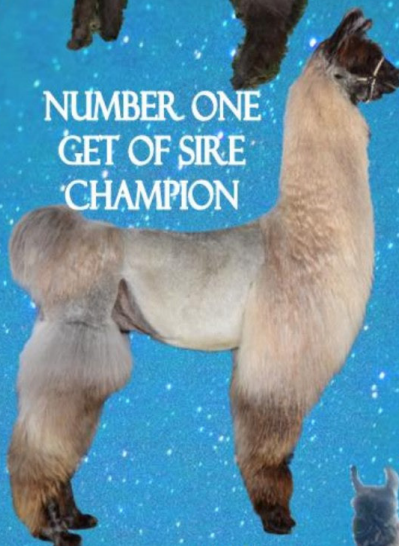
LUA ShowStopper's
Blue Violet
National Champion



LUA Son Of
ShowStopper
National Class
Champion



NUMBER ONE
GET OF SIRE
CHAMPION



LUA ShowStopper's
Marqueea
National Champion



LUA
ShowStopper's
Image
Multiple
Champion



LUA The
Big Show
Multiple
Champion

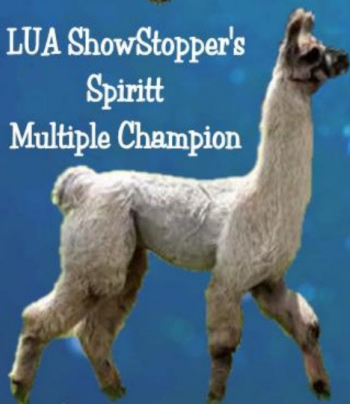


Show Stopper has earned 771 pts
National Grand Champion ILR-H
National Grand Champion ALSA-H
National Grand Champion ILR-Perf.
National Res. Champion ILR-H
He is a 4 time Futurity Champion

LUA Show-Girl
Regional
Champion



LUA ShowStopper's
Spiritt
Multiple Champion



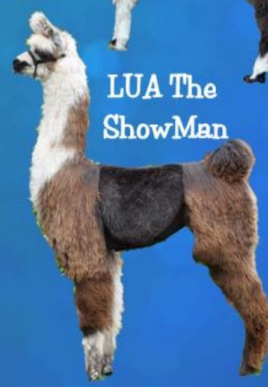
LUA Show
My Flash
Multiple Champion



LUA Spectacular
Show
BOS Champion



LUA The
ShowMan



A
CUT
ABOVE

CHAMPION Bred Offspring AVAILABLE

www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com

POWER IN
THE BLOOD

National Champion Oh Happy Day Surrounded by Champion Offspring

LUA Happy
Blessings : 672 pts.
Res. National
Champion



LUA Bold
Happiness
National Champion



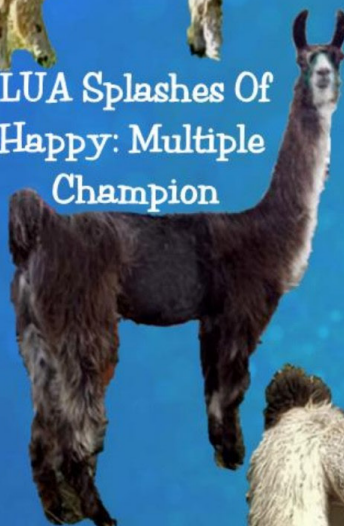
LUA Sprinkles
Of Happy
National Champion



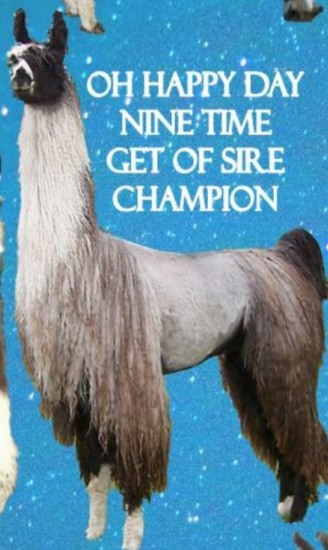
LUA Happy
Melody
National Champion



LUA Splashes Of
Happy: Multiple
Champion



OH HAPPY DAY
NINE TIME
GET OF SIRE
CHAMPION



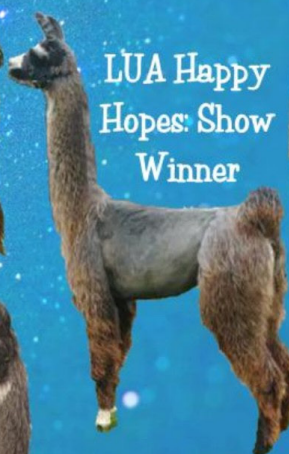
LUA Color Me Happy
Multiple Halter and
Performance Champion



LUA Notably
Happy: Multiple
Best Of Show
Champion



LUA Happy
Hopes: Show
Winner



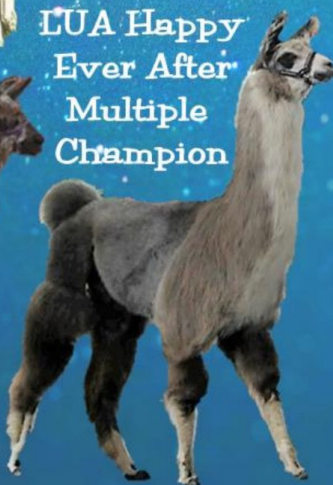
LUA Happy's
Amore
Multiple
Champion



LUA Be
Happy
Show
Champion



LUA Happy
Ever After
Multiple
Champion



LUA Justifiably
Happy: Show
Champion



LUA Happy
Victories
Show
Champion



A
CUT
ABOVE

CHAMPION Bred Offspring AVAILABLE

www.LashesUniqueAnimals.com

POWER IN
THE BLOOD

MLA Board Meeting

January 17, 2022

Submitted by Carmen Hartwig, MLA Secretary

EDITOR'S NOTE: The meeting was conducted over ZOOM. All MLA Board meetings can be accessed by members through a request to Denise Fehrenbach to be added to the meeting invitation list. The same applies regarding the MLA Message Board discussions.

MLA Meeting January 17, 2022

Submitted by Carmen Hartwig, MLA Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by President, Denise Fehrenbach at 8:05 p.m.

SECRETARY REPORT/MINUTES FROM DECEMBER: No minutes for December's show discussion. But going forward, yes.

TREASURER REPORT WAS SENT TO EVERYONE VIA E-MAIL: Mention by Bob Minto and seconded by Don Topliff to accept the Treasurer's report as sent via E-mail to officers on Sunday, January 15, 2022. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

HOBO SHOW UPDATES: Updates: ALSA vs ILR, both? The show will be ALSA only. April 9, 2022. Logo - Bob has been working with Renee Hobbins to design a Hillsdale Hobo Hootenanny logo. Specific to this show going forward. Ribbons have been ordered. Updates on the "to do list". Denise has updated so that edits can be made by each board member. We can see here if there is help needed elsewhere or the status on each item. Discussion on barn space and stalls. Expo barn and quonset \$700 (off season). Marketing - Renee has designed a shirt. Grand/ reserve Grand Prize "moonshine jars" with etched imprint.

NEW BUSINESS

WEB SITE: Carmen spoke with Corky and received login information for web site. Lenny has not returned any phone calls. Carmen and Denise discussed that they are capable of updating and managing the web site. Discussion on making changes on the web site without board consent on every little thing. Lenny not answering. Corky has the contract. Corky has shared the password. Lenny E-mailed, no follow through.

NEED TO GET ADVERTISING: If we create a flyer, can go into MLM envelopes. Merlene is willing to put info regarding the MLA shows in the MLM participant packets. Facebook (need revamps). Hobo show blast ASAP. Discussion regarding Facebook posts.

MID MICHIGAN: Carmen as Super. Contract for Mid Michigan has been signed and returned along with the deposit. May 7 and 8, 2022. Need a "to do" list. Space needed in the barn for Spring Fund raiser.

LAMAFEST: Need to work on Super. Announcer is Don Topliff. Clerks are Don and Pat. Performance - Ask the Young family to do the Performance. Humm Dinger - Yes. Vendor row - possibly reach out to Sheila for help with this...Carmen will talk to her. Youth Judging - Will ask Renee if she is willing to take this on again. Marketing. Walking Fleece - Would mean an additional judge in some instances. Need to consider that Fulton Co. is on Friday. Scholarship announcement. Silent Auction is this something that Dee would be willing to continue. Denise will talk to her.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE; Caitlyn says, "No". Need other nominations. Katie Hodgins. Lloyd made a motion, seconded by Bob to appoint Katie Jo as youth representative. Motion carried.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION: Need to be created. Tad different from By Laws. We are a 501C-6 non-profit. Needed for banking - Credit card and Pay pal.

DBA

INSURANCE POLICY: Need a permanent solution for trailer. NWMLS removed.

LOGO: Logo submitted for MLA to be viewed. Discussion on proposed MLA logos that were designed by Renee Hobbins. Bob will report back to Renee regarding suggested changes. Poll on who likes which logo pending revisions.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS: Are we participating? Need vote. Suzanne makes a motion that we re-join. Bob seconds. Motions carries. Cost is \$125/yr.

MARTY MCGEE BENNETT CLINIC: Are we going to do this? If yes, get things into motion. Amanda made a motion to move forward with possible clinic. Suzanne seconds. Motion carries. Need to determine her facility requirements and minimum number of students, along with pricing.

VENDOR FEE: Haven't charged in past. Usually around 100-125 animals. Vendor fee is \$25.00

Discussion regarding ZOOM meetings and giving members the option of joining the meeting. General meetings open to the membership.

Upcoming meeting dates: Monday, February 21, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. and Monday, March 7, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Don to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Pat. Motion carries. Motion by Pat, second by Don to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

SUMMARY OF VOTES TAKEN BY THE BOARD VIA FACEBOOK MLA BOARD MESSAGE BOARD

January 3, 2022 - Don Topliff named as Past Immediate Member

January 8, 2022 - Vote to change MLA logo passed by the Board. Carmen Hartwig named Mid Michigan Superintendent.

January 19, 2022 - Katie Hodgen accepted offer to be Youth Representative. Approved by the Board. Jennie Hodgen accepted to be the Youth Chair. Approved by the Board.

January 23, 2022 - Ken Frambes offered to be the Scholarship Chair. Approved by the Board

January 26, 2022 - The Board passed a Lifetime MLA Membership opportunity for two adults, over 18 years of age, living in the same household. The cost will be \$250.

January 30, 2022 - The Board passed the MLA web site Farm Spotlight which reads.: Offer to MLA members for a Farm Spotlight on the MLA web site and referenced on the MLA Facebook page. Details: 1 - Farm must be a MLA member in good standing. 2 - Must throw their name in the hat (one pick per farm). 3 - Chosen farm must send bio, pictures, etc. to be added for a one month time slot on the Farm Spotlight. Twelve farms chosen per year (possibility of double if too many entries). The Farm Spotlight would be a perk for MLA members.

February 1, 2022 - The Board approved making the 2022 Mid Michigan show a double sanctioned show.

February 5, 2022 - The Board approved a printer for the MLA Secretary that is wi-fi compliant.

The MLA official minutes can be read in their entirety on Google Docs and the votes conducted on the Facebook MLA Message Board can be viewed there.

Great Escape Llamas

Gary & Bev Surratt
14919 Burton Rd
Clayton, MI 49235
(517)547-3524



gasurratt@tc3net.com
show-stud-fiber-guard -soil enhancers



Mid Michigan Llama Show

Returns to Charlotte, MI

May 7-8, 2022

**Don't forget the fun annual Spring Fund Rasier on Saturday,
May 7th to benefit your newsletter, Llama Living.**

**For more information check the MLA web site and/or the MLA
Facebook page.**

Deborah Yeagle

ASEA Bronze

Redox Signaling Molecules

419-680-1186

loftypine@yahoo.com

www.debyeagle.teamasea.com

2882 County Road 82

Lindsey, Ohio 43442



Michigan Llama Association

Summary Balance Sheet

As of January 30, 2022

Submitted By Pat Schneeberger, MLA Treasurer

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings \$16,758.64

Accounts Receivable - \$190.00

Total Current Assets \$16,566.64

TOTAL ASSETS \$16,568.64

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable - \$150.00

Total Current Liabilities - \$150.00

Total Liabilities - \$150.00

Equity \$16,718.64

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$16,568.64

President's Message

By Denise Fehrenbach

Welcome back to a new year and a new MLA Board! We are happy to say that our membership has already grown since last year and we are working hard to continue to bring in new members. We owe a HUGE THANK YOU to Corky Dubois and the outgoing Board of Directors who have worked hard for the past several years.

As we are looking towards 2022 with the hope of returning to a bit of more normalcy, the new Board has decided it is time to step out, step up, and to start fresh! You will notice the new logos that have been created for not just the Hobo Show and the Mid-Michigan Show, but also for the MLA itself! The amazing artwork was created by the talented, Renee Hobbins, a long time MLA member. Thank you Renee!!! You will see that the Board is a creation of new faces and also the faces of many wise, long term members who have a deep commitment to the MLA. We are currently working on many projects and have new and exciting announcements weekly!

We are currently looking for interested members who are interested in either joining a committee or even running a committee! We have an extensive list of ideas that we are wanting to offer to our members: Take advantage of our new Member Spotlight page on the web site; Sign up for the Marty McGee Bennett's Camelidynamics workshop happening this fall at STAR Llama Company (Thank you Gary and Janet Brant for graciously hosting this event!!); Advertise in our Llama Living newsletter. Did you know that members get discounted pricing? Join a committee; Become involved!! Get your friends involved! Hats off to our new Board and to the excitement that is getting us started in a new and positive direction for 2022!!! Here's to having an amazing year, new llama friends, and to living the llama/alpaca dream!



Introducing The New MLA Logo!



Millennium Magic Spring Fling 2022

April 23-24, 2022 - ALSA and ILR-SD - Dual Sanctioned, Dual Shows.

By Tami Lash

Join us in Southern Michigan for a Fun-Filled Weekend! Expect an exciting weekend FULL of llama showing and FUN!! Showmanship, Halter, Group Classes and Obstacle on Saturday. Public Relations, Pack, All Performance Championship on Sunday. FULL HALTER, YOUTH PERFORMANCE SHOW!! Novice requirements are the same for both ALSA and ILR-SD!

See show forms for updated information. We have two of the top judges! A YUMMY food truck! Tack shop on grounds. Seventy-one Classes, three Sub. Jr. classes, four Best of Show awards, ribbons 1st -6th place and champions too, 1st place and champion prizes! Affordable host hotel within eight miles of the show.

Contact Tami Lash for more information. 517-467-2709 Uniqueanimal@aol.com

Millennium Magic Hobo Harvest 2022

September 17-18, 2022 - ALSA and ILR-SD -Dual Sanctioned, Dual Shows

By Tami Lash

Join us in Southern Michigan for a Fun-Filled Weekend! Expect an exciting weekend FULL of llama showing and FUN! Showmanship, Halter, Group Classes and Obstacle on Saturday. Public Relations, Pack, All Performance Championships on Sunday. FULL HALTER, YOUTH AND PERFORMANCE SHOW!! Novice requirements are the same for both ALSA and ILR-SD!

See show forms for updated information. We have two of the top judges! Tack shop on grounds, Seventy-one classes, three Sub Jr. classes, seven Best of Show awards, ribbons 1st - 6th place and champions too, 1st place and champion prizes! Affordable host hotel within eight miles of the show.

Contact Tami Lash for more information. 517-467-2709 Uniqueanimal@aol.com ☐

Tip Of The Mitt Fiber Fair

By Nel Vickers



We are happy to announce that the Tip Of The Mitt Fiber Fair, 2022 will be held at the Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, Michigan. The weekend hasn't changed, June 4 and 5, 2022. We will be in the convention space with restaurants and lodging on site. More lodging is available minutes away in Boyne City. Also, campsites 20 minutes away. Boyne is a beautiful new venue for us. We hope to see you there.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Nel Vickers, Operations Manager. nelwoodone@gmail.com. □

New Perk for Members!



What can we offer you??

We are now offering **FARM SPOTLIGHTS!!!!**

Starting on April 1, 2022, we will be putting one of our member farms into the SPOLIGHT!!! We will holding a random drawing yearly to set up spotlights for your members on a spotlight page on our website.

The cost?? **FREE!!!**

What is expected from YOU... you need to be a member in good standing (dues paid) by March 1st of 2022. You will need to write a little bio about yourself, family, farm, interests, etc and send in pictures that you would like to showcase. (A few critters, your farm, the family, etc). Selections for 2022 through February 2023 will be picked by a randomizer around March 15th. Farms will be notified which month they were chosen for to allow time to get items together. Your page will go up on the first, and stay for your month (changes on the last day of the month, or as close as the web master can get to it). Plan on seeing links to the Spotlighted farms on our Facebook page as well! We would **LOVE** to hear from you! Interested?

Email Denise: denise@fehrenbachfarms.com and get your name list to be chosen!!

Composting Your Camelid Manure 101

By Karen Nicholson, Stepping Stone Farm Alpacas

Human society and its agriculture depend on the health of the soil and water. Your alpaca manure can either be an asset to your farm or a contaminant to the environment. By employing simple on-farm composting techniques you can easily turn your manure into a marketable product or integrate it back into your farm in as little as 120-360 days.

IDENTIFYING A COMPOSTING SITE ON YOUR FARM

The quality of your composting site will have a significant impact on the ease of pile management and the quality of the compost produced. Considerations in choosing your site:

- ♦ What will you be composting (manure, hay, other?) and where on the farm will that material be coming from? Obviously, the shortest distance to travel with the materials is desired. If you are composting material other than the waste from your farm, it may require a permit.
- ♦ Will you compost throughout the winter or have an active summer pile and a winter stock pile?
- ♦ You will need enough space to begin a pile that is mountainous in shape with a convex top, 3-8 feet high and 6-15 feet in width at the base. The pile will be turned over the course of several weeks so that the entire pile has been turned over itself and is now in a new location.
- ♦ Will you turn your pile by shovel or bucket loader? If a bucket loader, then you will need space to move about with the equipment.
- ♦ A sunny location speeds up the process.

FOLLOW THE MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- ♦ Min. distance to bedrock: 3-6 feet
- ♦ Min. to ground water: 1-1/2-3 feet
- ♦ Distance to property boundary or public roads: 100 feet unless permission is obtained.
- ♦ Distance to wells, springs, surface waters or wetlands: 25-100 feet upslope and 300 feet downslope of the pile. A site should not be located in an area with potential for flooding.
- ♦ Site slope: 2%-3% grade is ideal, 1.5%-6% tolerable.

THE RECIPE

You are striving for approximately 60% moisture content and a ratio of 25-30 parts carbon per 1 part nitrogen (C:N-25-30:1). This will create the habitat and diet for your decomposer populations (earthworms, microorganisms, etc.). While it is important to understand how the recipe is arrived at, I don't recommend going through a six-page worksheet of calculations to create compost on your farm. Below is a simplified version of how the recipe is arrived at followed by a very simplified estimate of what you want your hay/bedding to manure ratio to be.

CARBON TO NITROGEN RATIO - BEDDING TO MANURE RATIO

- ♦ Manure - what is the carbon/nitrogen makeup of your manure? You can have it tested or you can approximate C:N-16:1.
- ♦ Bedding - this is usually a carbon component (paper, hay, straw, cardboard). Again, you can have it tested or estimate it to be C:N-45:1.
- ♦ Ratio of bedding to manure. From the above you can see that your manure already has a high level of carbon as does the bedding. Now you just need to get the right mixture. After factoring in moisture content to the above two figures the calculations would bring you to a ratio of about .32 pounds of bedding to 1 pound of manure (or Bedding; Manure - 32:100). Simplified even further this comes out to be roughly 1 part bedding to just over 3 parts manure. In the summer months this means you will need to add (1 part) bedding to (3 parts) manure if scooped directly from pasture piles. Although it would seem that your winter pile would have too much bedding and not enough manure, remember that you are adding moisture/urine. The winter mix will likely be correct, but after monitoring it can be amended.

MOISTURE CONTENT

This is critical to the pile health and a good method of determining if you are getting your C:N ratio correct. To monitor, dig 12" deep into the pile and grab a handful of material and squeeze. If it is:

- ♦ Dripping = too moist (about 65%+ moisture content, want 60%)
- ♦ Damp and glistening = Ideal 60%
- ♦ Crumbling = too dry (below 60%)
- ♦ Sniff - if it has a gassy smell, it is too moist or too much Nitrogen (manure)

TURNING

You should plan on turning the pile about once a week. Turn pile 1/4 at a time by taking material from the side and dumping it on top. Your pile should, again, be a mountainous shape with a convex top after you have turned it. Continue turning 1/4 at a time until the pile resembles loose, crumbly, dark soil. It should take about 3 months in the spring/summer months. An alternative to turning it yourself would be to pasture pigs with your pile. They'll be in hog heaven and you will too as they do the turning for you!

PILE MONITORING

- ♦ Temperature - You want it to reach 130 degrees w/in a few days to a week. It will need to stay at this temperature for several days to kill pathogens and seeds. You can monitor with a 3' probe thermometer or dig in and, if too hot to touch, you're over 120 degrees. If it is excessively hot, you are killing your decomposers.
- ♦ Moisture - Look at the pile and reach in and take a handful and squeeze. Is it dripping, glistening, crumbly? Add more bedding if too wet or manure if too dry. Open top to allow rain in if too dry.
- ♦ Odor - Smell the pile as you work it and inspect for moisture. It should smell earthy. If it doesn't it means it is either too low in carbon (bedding) or low in oxygen (too moist or too dense).
- ♦ Visual Inspection - Dry? Damp? Crusting on the surface (reduces available air in pile)?

THE FINISHED PRODUCT

- ♦ Curing - After composting is finished, allow your pile to cure for 1-3 months. Make sure it is covered.
- ♦ Testing - You can test your finished product so that you know how you did or what you are spreading on your pastures or to aid in commanding an excellent price for it.

IDEAS FOR SELLING

Bag it in used feed bags and sell to local gardeners or place an ad on Craig's List for someone to buy and take away the whole pile. Top dress your pastures in the fall and you will have lush pastures in the spring. Just price a bag of "Moo Doo" (composted cow manure) and you'll know how valuable your composted manure is!

SIMPLIFIED INTO 5 EASY STEPS

- 1 - **Recipe** - Pile your manure and bedding in a mountainous heap with a convex top in a ratio of 1 part bedding to a little more than 3 parts manure.
- 2 - **Turn** - Turn your pile over itself 1/4 at a time once a week for 3+ months til done.
- 3 - **Monitor your pile** - Feel, look, smell to see if you have the right mix.
- 4 - **Harvest** - Use or sell this valuable resource generated by your farm's waste! And feel good that you "Did the Rot Thing" for the environment by composting!
- 5 - **Cure** - After you have made "dirt", cover it and let it cure for 1-3 months depending on the time of year.

Reprinted from the Mid West Llama Association Newsletter, Spring 2020. Originally printed from The Vermont Llama and Alpaca Association Blog. □



"There is no fundamental difference between man and animals in their ability to feel pleasure and pain, happiness, and misery."

- Charles Darwin

Hospice Care For Camelids

By Dr. Char Arendas DVM

Hospice care is also known as “end of life” care which we are familiar with in the human world. Typically, when people go into hospice care, it is not long before they pass away. Likewise, when an animal has a terminal condition, we can provide hospice-type care for them as well.

Hospice care in animals may last longer than it does in people. When we make the decision to start hospice care, it means we are not focused on RECOVERY, just COMFORT. That may be because recovery is impossible, but it could also mean that recovery would only be possible with drastic, invasive or extremely costly procedures.

Whatever the reason, an owner and their veterinarian may decide that it is appropriate to allow an animal to continue to live their natural life without actively treating its terminal condition.

It is important to note, however, that conditions can change quickly. Keep in close contact with your veterinarian to help assess quality of life, as euthanasia should always be an option.

COMFORT

In a sick camelid, one issue that can arise is an animal that is down, or unable to stand. In an end-of-life situation, we need to provide a clean comfortable area for the animal to lie. Urine and feces can quickly cause skin irritation and infections if it continues to contact the animal's skin. This may require laying the animal on its side daily to remove manure, soiled bedding, and cleanse the skin. Old couch cushions, pillows, or towels can be used to add cushioning under the animal, especially if pressure sores are forming.

If the animal has trouble staying sternal, you could also utilize bales of hay on either side to help support them upright. If the animal is mobile, but injured, try to bed the stall with safe, but stable footing. You might need to restrict their access to a small paddock instead of the entire pasture.

Consideration should also be taken for the temperature - does the animal need a blanket? A fan?

PAIN CONTROL

Several medications can be used to help control pain in camelids. Certainly we are all familiar with injectable Banamine, an injectable anti-inflammatory. On a longer term basis, meloxicam tablets can be used in the animal's grain. I have also used gabapentin capsules orally in camelids for additional pain control.

Butorphanol is an injectable opioid that controls pain, but can also cause sedation. It is not generally used on an on-going basis and, because it is a controlled substance, your veterinarian may not be able to leave you with doses to give on your own.

NOURISHMENT

We normally think of human hospice care not involving eating or feeding tubes. However, as an animal hospice situation may be longer term, they may be eating on their own. This will need to be fine-tuned to each situation.

The animal may or may not be able to reach a dish of grain or bin of hay. You may need to elevate the food and water, or you may need to actually hold it up to their lips. Sometimes, animals with dental disease may need their hay shredded or pulverized if they have trouble chewing.

If the animal begins to refuse all food and water, then it really may be time to consider euthanasia.

Reprinted from Topline, September 2021, Volume XXXIX, Number 3. □



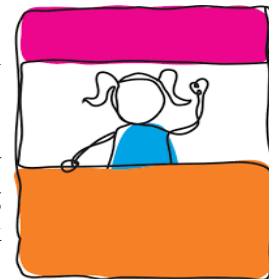
Tips For Setting Up A Vendor Booth

By Lee Ann King, Midwest Fiber Farm

Whether you're putting up an informational farm display or selling our products, an appealing space will always draw more interest. Here are a few tips to help you be more successful.

TABLE COVERS

Each table should be covered nearly with the cover sides nearly touching the ground. Now you can hide your totes and miscellaneous items. I like plain colored covers with each table having the same, preferably not wrinkled. This makes a cohesive look to your space. Table cloths work better than sheets.



DISPLAY PIECES

Depending on the amount of space you have for your display, you may need to build upward to show your things. It's nice to be consistent with your display by using all wood or all metal. A mishmash of items can be distracting to the eye causing visitors to your space to miss seeing what you are really promoting. Also, by growing your space high makes a sort of "shop" like look that keeps people focused in your booth and not your neighbor's. Stand-alone wreath hangers make great substitutes for mannequins. Woodland Marketing in Wisconsin has many wood display options to check out.

PICTURES

Visitors to your space love to see pictures of your farm and products. They like to see how you live and what animals you have. They love to hear the "story" about how you make your product or what you do with your animals.

Pictures should be placed strategically and not take up the entire space even if you are promoting your farm and not selling products. Remember, YOU are the best picture of your booth. You want people to engage with you personally.

MARKETING TOOLS

If you can afford business cards and/or brochures go for it! Place these items in two or three places around your booth. Purchase a stand-up holder for your brochures so they're more visible. A business/farm sign is also great and eye catching. Be sure to plan ahead on how you'll display your sign. Many places don't allow you to hang anything on their walls or if you're outside the wind might be an issue. Offer a dish of candy or mints. This is always a draw card.

SHELF TALKERS

This is a way to give your visitor more information while they are looking at your products. For example: all our yarns are hand spun by Susie Spinner using the fiber from our own herd of Yaks. Or ask us about patterns that work with our yarn. Shelf talkers should be in large print and placed in an upright position near the product.

These are just a few tips to help you get started. Pinterest is always a great for more ideas and photos. Visit a farm tour or festival to see what others do. Ask questions too, because most vendors are very willing to share their ideas.

Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, November 2021, Volume XXXVII, Number 4. □



Expecting The Unexpected

Too Cool For Wool

By Linda Taggart

Last week my mom tripped and fell, breaking two ribs and a vertebra. She is going to be OK, thank goodness, but I spent most of the last few days an hour away taking care of her and my dad. On top of the worry and stress, this also affected the farm.

As the farmer here, I'm the one who feeds and cares for the flock. I am really lucky that, in a pinch, my husband will go out and do chores - if given explicit step by step instructions. But when I got the call, I didn't have time to write everything down. Thankfully, I'd already put together the instructions for a previous time I was away and he was able to do chores with minimal fuss (and minimal fussing from him, too).

But it started me thinking. What would happen if I didn't have him to step in when something comes up? How would I handle the animals? Would I call a neighbor? Or would I reach out to another local alpaca farmer?

Have you thought about this? Do you have a plan for those times when life happens? If not, I challenge you to write one out. Discuss it with your family or maybe a friend you trust. What happens if you get sick or have a day job that requires you to be away for a business trip?

It's not fun to think about possible difficulties, but I promise it'll be a whole lot less difficult if you have a plan in place. If you'll forgive the trite phrase here, failing to plan is planning to fail. And when we fail as farmers it's our animals who suffer for it. The good news is it's not hard to put together such a plan.

Start by writing down all your daily, weekly, and monthly chores. Be as specific as possible, including where you store tools, feed, and medicines. Include dosage for meds, if necessary, animal by animal. You may even want to include where to get more of a supply if you're out - like the address of your local feed store. If anyone else does any of the chores, pick their brain and make sure their tasks are listed too.

Then think about who will do these chores. If something takes more than one person to accomplish (for instance, I cannot trim toes without help), make sure it's noted on your list. If there are special requirements (like the ability to lift a heavy feed sack or run the tractor to move hay bales), write those down.

Then start reaching out to your network. I mean, it's great if you have a partner or spouse who's willing to help, but what happens if you both have to leave suddenly because of a family emergency? Or if you both catch the flu at the same time?

Talk to your mentor, if you have one, or the farmer down the road. One of the things about farmer friends is that they may not have camelid-specific experience, but they'll know when to call the vet or how to run a tractor. See if can be each other's backup. If they get called out of town suddenly, you can cover for them. It's win for all involved!

If you're uncomfortable asking someone, you can also look into farm sitters. I will say that a good farm sitter is worth their weight in gold-covered platinum and can be just as hard to find. You may need to again talk to people (eek!) to get recommendations for someone trustworthy and reliable. Other places to look for farm sitters is your local agriculture college. They may keep a roster of students willing to farm sit. You could even try reaching out to your county extension and see if they can point you in the right direction.

The down side to hiring a farm sitter is they can be pricey, especially if you need them on short notice or for more than a day or two. It's also completely nerve wracking to leave the farm in the hands of someone you may not know. Be sure to check references and meet with them before you ever need them. See how they do around your animals. If you don't feel comfortable with them, you don't have to hire them.

The most important thing, though, is to have a plan of action ready for the day - and it will come - when you have to put your farm and animals in the hands of someone who is not you. By planning and preparing for that day, you'll make it so much easier and whatever the reason you're gone, you won't be worrying over the farm while you're away.

Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, Volume XXXVII, Number 4, November 2021. □



Don't Forget

MLA dues for
2022



Find your forms at

www.michiganllama.org

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Llama Living is a quarterly newsletter published by the Michigan Llama Association.

The opinions and articles in the MLA newsletter, *Llama Living*, are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the MLA or the newsletter editor.

Newsletter deadlines for articles, classified ads, and traditional advertisements are February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th.

Ads and photos may be sent by e-mail as an attachment in PDF format to GRJax7@springcom.com. Ads appearing in the online version only of *Llama Living* will be in color.

All ads submitted must be positive print ready (no film negatives). For compatible advertising sizes, see next column under, "Advertising Rates". Any ad not meeting listed sizes will be adjusted to accommodate the page.

A discount for multiple ad placement is available. A 10% discount is offered on advertising run for a minimum of two or more issues in the same calendar year. This offer is valid for any size ad, but **MUST** be ordered and **PAID** for at the same time to receive the discount.

All current *Llama Living* accounts must be paid in full prior to the placement of future advertising. Send all checks for advertising, made out to the Michigan Llama Association, articles, classified ads, and camera ready advertisements to:

Llama Living
Suzanne Hockin Frambes, Editor
14775 Peckham Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

ADVERTISING RATES

PRICING

Half Page Back Cover (horizontal 4-3/4 x 6-3/4)	\$55
Full Page (9-1/2 x 6-3/4)	\$40
Half Page (vertical 3-1/4 x 9-1/2) (horizontal 4-3/4 x 6-3/4)	\$25
Quarter Page (4-3/4 x 3-1/4)	\$15
Business Card	\$ 5
Insert (8-1/2 x 11)	\$70
<i>(Check for number required)</i>	

Classified Ads - A minimum of \$5 for up to six lines. \$1 for each additional line.

Llama Living

c/o Suzanne Hockin Frambes
14775 Peckham Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

Return Service Requested

TO:

