

The Alpaca Lifestyle

Alpaca Owning and Breeding from Topknot to Toenails

Magical Farms, March/April 2003

Hmmm...

The low, pulpy clouds of Ohio's winter have certainly shared their bounty with the farm this year. Crias bounce through chest-deep pasture drifts leaving behind their own version of snow angels, while their more conservative moms watch from single-file footpaths and walk deliberately into the brilliant white mornings or through crystal cold evenings. Trees swaying along the fencelines crackle and creak in protest of sub-zero temperatures and the wind, in spite of these formal objections, simply laughs and continues to pile snow at their feet.



Punxsutawney Phil, Pennsylvania's famous weather forecasting groundhog, saw his shadow on February 2nd and predicted six more weeks of winter weather. I now agree with the lumping of these little North American marmots into the general "vermin" category.

Sometimes, though, the harshest conditions seem to bring out the best in people and animals. The alpacas wait patiently as we dig out pasture gates or break up frozen water buckets, watching intently with their own special mix of curiosity and appreciation. Mothers help their little ones into the straw-lined warmth of the shelter, while as a herd they huddle up to combine body-heat and share insulation in preparation for another long and cold February night. While I would love to wax poetic on the awesome power and serene beauty of winter, I'd be lying if I didn't say that I was looking forward to the warming days of late March, some sunshine, and April 6th's priceless contribution of Daylight Saving time. I daresay the alpacas feel the same.

It is time to dust off the Hawaiian shirts, pull out the BBQ and ready the blender drinks -- we're almost out of the woods! *Enjoy the spring, -Ty Forstner*



MFI PERUVIAN LOGAN

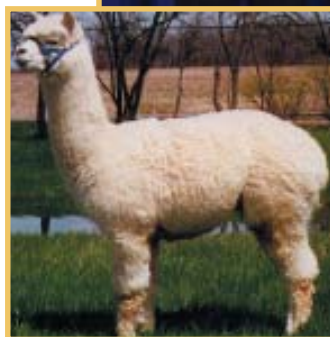
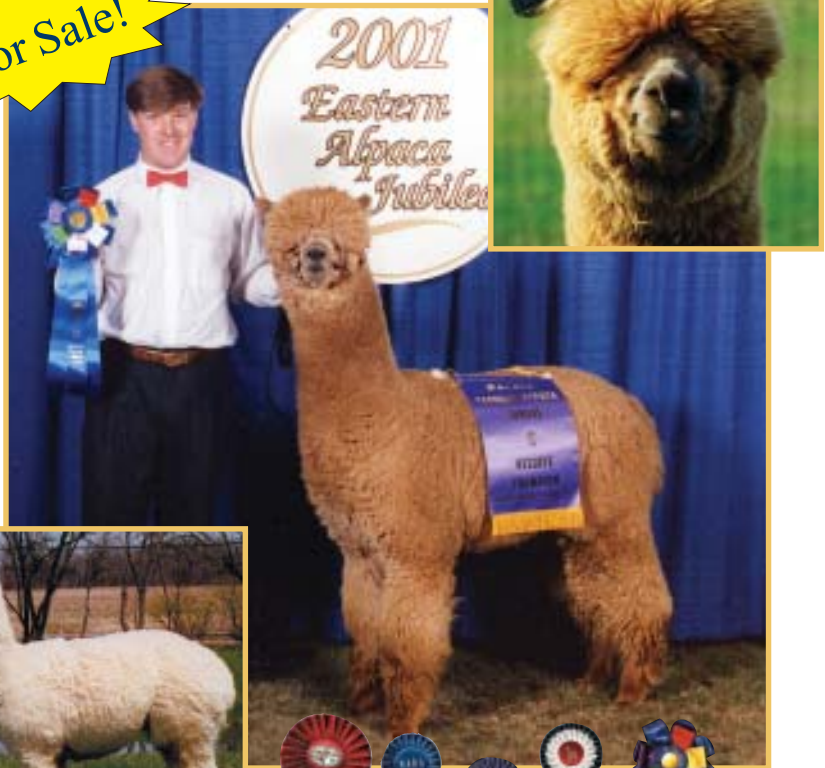
This incredible male will be offered for sale at this year's Breeder's Choice Auction at Magical Farms October 11, 2003 - visit our website www.alpacafarm.com for more information on Logan and other animals in the upcoming auction!

Peruvian Logan quite simply speaks for himself. His beautiful color, perfect conformation, and incredible head certainly stand out from a distance. One look at his picture will tell you why people are stopped dead in their tracks when they spot this magnificent male! It is only when you get up close and get into his fleece that you see how truly special Logan is.

Peruvian Logan is the proud son of the famous Accoyo Peruvian Augusto, who was purchased by Five Star Alpacas for a world record huacaya price of \$226,000 at the Breeder's Choice Auction in October 2000. Augusto's offspring have certainly made their mark in the showing, and Logan is no exception:

- Reserve Grand Champion, 2000 International Fleece Show, BC Canada
- Reserve Color Champion, 2001 MAPACA Jubilee
- First Place Composite, 2001 Big "E"
- First Place Halter, 2001 MAPACA Jubilee
- First Place Fleece, 2000 International Fleece Show, BC Canada
- First Place Fleece, 2000 International Fleece Show, Alberta Canada
- First Place Fleece, 2000 OABA AlpacaFest

For Sale!



Logan's famous sire
Accoyo Augusto



The American Alpaca Industry

- Jerry Forstner

When I was asked to write about the future of the American Alpaca Industry, I was delighted. The outlook could not be brighter. We have a very large number of different trends, some specific to our industry and some in general in America, that cumulatively insure the future of the American Alpaca industry. Some of these are:

1. Demographics. We have in America a very large population of people who are known as baby boomers that will be reaching retirement age during the next decade. These are highly mobile people, with a lot of wealth that might be retiring from their current employment, but want to remain active. They want something to do, something with meaning - why not Alpacas?

2. More Demographics. We have another major demographic shift in our country and that is movement from the cities to the countryside. We are moving by the thousands. When we get to our little piece of heaven in the country, we want something to do, we want to raise something. What is better than the earth friendly alpaca that we don't kill, won't kill us, and can be raised on very small acreage. This shift was well on its way before 9-11-2001 but accelerated after that tragic date, as people became even more fearful of the cities.

3. Taxes. The tax system the United States has become more and more restrictive to businesses and individuals of means. Each year once cherished deductions are disappearing, having the effect of raising our taxes. This is NOT SO for our nation's farmers. Farmers are still one of the largest voting blocks in America and they have seen more benefits, not less. We are able to depreciate our animals over the very short period of five years, have the availability of section 179 small business accelerated depreciation and until September 11, 2004 an additional 30% depreciation for the first year that one acquires new capital assets which includes alpacas. Add these Federal tax savings to the very favorable tax treatment that farmland enjoys in most states, lowered state sales taxes, and the ability to deduct ongoing expenses such as your truck, computer, equipment, etc.

4. Loss of confidence in our financial markets. It is a very sad reason for a bright outlook for the alpaca industry, but the truth is that the investing public in America has been shaken to the core. Our market barometers, the DOW, the NASDAQ, and the S&P500 have all suffered through the third year of catastrophic losses. Add to this a deep seated mistrust of our country's large business accounting practices, a loss of faith in our accounting profession, and a "back to the mattress mentality" of saving, and the result is a population that needs to invest in something tangible, something that they can touch, and have control over. *Along comes the Alpaca.* These beautiful creatures give us a sense of pride in accomplishment, of oneness with the earth and universe, and a satisfaction not easily achieved in other endeavors. If you have never had the opportunity of watching young crias romp in the fields playing their version of "tag you are it", or watching a birth, or working with a fleece, or walking into the showring with something that you have created to show the world that this divine alpaca is indeed from your farm, then, in my humble opinion, your life is incomplete.

5. Alpaca Registry. The Alpaca Registry is not trend but a fact. The Alpaca Registry, known as ARI, closed its doors to imported alpacas on December 31st, 1998. At the same time, America's only high security import station, known as HISTAC, was closed by the US Government. These two actions, taken together, have made for a very strong, stable U.S. market. Our registry is a very integral part of the industry, as each animal's pedigree is DNA verified. New buyers, as well as old, can assure themselves that the progeny they are purchasing are indeed from the sire and dam that is recorded in the registry. With the countries of Peru and Bolivia no longer able to export animals to the United States due to lack of quarantine stations, we have a very stable market. As of this writing we have some 37,000 alpacas in the United States and some 300,000,000 people. I am asked over and over whether we will soon reach the saturation point, to which I reply, whether we have 2,000 farms or 20,000 farms we still have only 37,000 alpacas to share among the farms. This

simple fact is lost on some current alpaca owners. We all know that our beautiful alpaca only produces one cria per year, thus assuring very slow and steady growth long into the future.

6. AOBA. The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association, our breed association, had the very good fortune of being created in the early years of the alpaca industry by some very astute business and marketing savvy people. (I was not one of them as I am late comer to the industry). Even early on in AOBA's existence, with very limited funds, our national organization founders recognized the simple fact that in order for the industry to survive, the members would need marketing support on a national level. Early assistance was limited to marketing brochures that could be produced in large quantities to provide members with quality brochures at affordable prices. This has evolved into national ads in high profile magazines and currently to a full-scale television campaign. While the budget is not huge, the campaign is raising alpaca awareness within the American public, resulting in a lot of interest in the alpaca. AOBA is a very strong, well funded, member supportive organization. It is a relatively young organization experiencing some growing pains; however, this growth is proceeding in a very positive direction.

7. Breeders. Alpaca breeders themselves are the largest single reason that our industry has been stable for the past 18 years and promises to be for decades. The American alpaca breeder is comprised of a highly educated, computer literate, upwardly mobile segment of the American population. We donate tens of thousands of hours each year in volunteer time to ensure the success of the industry. Our life experiences reach every aspect of American life. We are farmers to be sure, but we are also educators, medical doctors and nurses, computer wizards, lawyers, accountants, machinists, entrepreneurs, sales people, time study and manufacturing experts, housing and commercial construction experts, financial advisors, stock brokers, bankers, insurance brokers, court reporters, housewives, and politicians, just to name a few. This is a very diverse group of highly motivated people who love their animals and will keep the alpaca industry alive and well long into the future. We would love to have you join us.

Magical Farms Wins Cleveland's Weatherhead 100!



Since 1987, Cleveland's Weatherhead 100 has showcased the fastest growing companies in northeast Ohio. Qualifying companies must show continuing growth over the last five years. This list, created annually, has become a meaningful record of businesses to watch in the area. Magical Farms is awarded the Weatherhead 100 award as #48 of Northern Ohio's 100 fastest growing companies! This is the first time to our knowledge that a farm has achieved this recognition.

We are honored to be a part of this prestigious group, and we would certainly like to thank all of our customers, staff, and of course, our alpacas for making such an honor possible!

What do you use to Vaccinate?

STUDY OF CLOSTRIDIAL VACCINATION SITE REACTIONS IN LLAMAS AND ALPACAS

Paul Ramsey, Daniel Linden, and David E. Anderson.

Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio 43210

There are currently no Clostridial vaccines (7 or 8-way) on the market labeled for specific use in llamas and alpacas and a wide variety of vaccines are made by a multitude of different manufacturers. Feedback from owners and veterinarians indicate significant variability in vaccine reaction rates in llamas and alpacas. We hypothesized that there would be a marked difference different vaccine manufacturers in terms of vaccine reaction severity. This project was designed to examine the size and frequency of vaccine site reaction of 6 different 7-way and 7 different 8-way Clostridial vaccines by different manufactures. The vaccine dosage was administered at the manufacture's recommended sheep dosage or, when a sheep dosage was not available, the cattle dosage was used. Following the injection of these vaccines, the height and width of the reaction sites were measured on Day 2, 7, 14, and 28. Analysis of graphs of the means of the reaction sites, the BarVac 7 vaccine caused the smallest vaccine site reactions among the other Clostridial 7-way vaccines. The Agrilabs 8 vaccine caused the smallest size of reactions on average among the Clostridial 8-way vaccines. Although the results of this study suggest that either BarVac 7 or Agrilab 8 would be preferred for clinical use, the relative efficacy of these vaccines to stimulate antibody production was not evaluated. This information is needed before a final recommendation can be made.

For those interested in helping fund continuing research into vaccinology of camelids, tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the "Camelid Research Fund", c/o Susan Kelly, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, 601 Vernon L Tharp Street, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

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VISIT THESE HELPFUL WEB-SITES:

<http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/docs/ClinSci/bovine/index.htm>

<http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/docs/ClinSci/camelid/index.html>

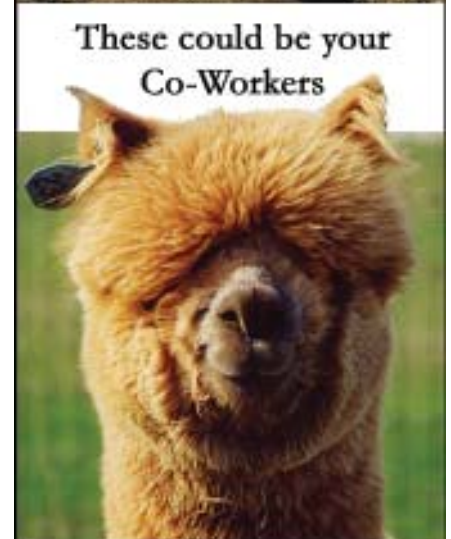
<http://www.internationalcamelidinstitute.org>



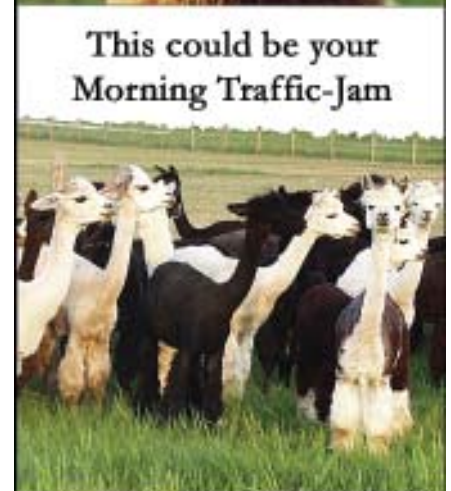
Below is the ad that also won an honorable mention at the award banquet!



This could be your messy
Desk



These could be your
Co-Workers



This could be your
Morning Traffic-Jam

Think About It

ALPACAS



magical
farms Inc.

www.alpacafarm.com

5280 Avon Lake Rd. Litchfield OH
(330)667-3233 info@alpacafarm.com



Magical Farms, Inc.
 5280 State Route 83
 Litchfield, Ohio 44253
 (330)667-3233
www.alpacafarm.com
info@alpacafarm.com

Jerry Forstner

will be running in the upcoming election for the **AOBA Board of Directors**. According to the most recent Hummer newsletter, ballots will be mailed to eligible voting members on March 17th. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the candidates and their visions for this important responsibility. Your vote counts! AOBA is the members' organization, so most importantly, be sure that you

VOTE!

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- 3) More helpful research disseminated by the ICI
- 4) Alpaca Special of the Season!

Mark your calendar now



October 10,11&12 2003!

Newsletter Sale Special!



Special!

GYPCY WOMAN

Gypcy Woman is a spectacular dark fawn female with dark features on her face and vicuna-type markings. She has a history of excellent female crias. To date, the only offspring from Gypcy that we have been able to hold on to is her most recent female and that is only because she has not yet been weaned. This year we have bred Gypcy Woman to our multiple award winning Matador son Peruvian Black Mesquite (pictured at right - for more information on him and his outstanding black fleece see our website www.alpacafarm.com). We can only imagine the quality of a black cria from this pairing and we would look forward to seeing it in the show ring along with Mesquite's other



Born: 01/01/1996 ARI: 804270 Due: 11/17/2003

stunning offspring. Gypcy Woman is currently listed for sale for \$21,900 - mention this newsletter special and save \$1000 off of her purchase price! You'll be on your way to a beautiful **Gypcy Woman x Black Mesquite** cria in November of this year!