

2010 OABA Accomplishments

Greetings fellow OABA members,

This year has been a year of challenges for the Ohio Alpaca Breeders Association. Facing the toughest economy that the nation has experienced since the 1930's, we have had to be agile and creative, as we continue to push forward with our continuing mission goals for the organization and the Ohio alpaca industry. Despite the challenges, 2010 has seen progress and advancement on many fronts in meeting our commitments to our members. Here is a brief re-cap of some of the important accomplishments for this year.

- Introduction of Ohio Alpaca Life, the official OABA magazine. This magazine enables OABA to provide educational content to you about pastures, animals, farm stores and shows, to name just a few important topics covered. It also places an important emphasis on the topic of alpaca fiber. In addition to the article content, the magazine serves as the official membership directory, allowing this information to be updated and provided on a more frequent basis than the former membership directory, which was only published once a year. The magazine also provides a low cost vehicle for you to advertise and promote your farm business in. Because the magazine is published online, the member's directory e-mail & website links can bring people right to you with a single click, as well as providing an expanded readership reach for members and advertisers alike.
- In the spring, OABA became a co-sponsor of the bi-annual International Camelid Veterinary Conference. In conjunction with this event, a full-day series of seminars was offered to farm owners at a significantly discounted rate to OABA members. This day provided the participating farms an opportunity to learn from the leading camelid vets in the world what the latest facts are regarding a range of alpaca health & reproductive issues.
- In June, a day-long hands-on seminar was held in conjunction with the June quarterly members meeting, providing valuable training on skirting fleeces. Numerous trainers were on hand and multiple skirting tables were set up to demonstrate proper techniques. Discounts on entries for AlpacaFest fleece were provided to those bringing fleeces for the demo. The discounts and the training led to a very successful fleece show being held at the 2010 AlpacaFest, with 125 fleeces being submitted.
- This year's AlpacaFest added a new feature – a children's training & education day, led by David Barboza. This event was a big success, with over 20 children participating, laying the ground-work for the development of the next generation of alpaca farmers.