



## Alpacas~ Lifestyle of Choice, Fabric of Dreams!

As we celebrate the 233<sup>rd</sup> year of our independence, we can draw on the incredible vision and perseverance of our founding fathers. We would not be where we are today if it were not for their resolve and determination to change the future. They overcame the most formidable objections and not only embraced change, they made it happen. Let us embrace change where it can make us better.

The board would like to personally thank everyone for the significant efforts you make each and every day to overcome obstacles, create a vision and help move our industry forward.

To bring you all up to date on the progress of the associations endeavors:

- OABA welcomes Jana Lee-Harris as our newest Director at Large. Jana fills one of the three new positions approved by the membership and we are fortunate to have her share her talents, passion and dedication to help OABA continue to grow.
- The board is working on ideas to improve the execution of the membership directory as well as reduce our expenditures. Plans are in progress to release the 2010 Membership Directory on a CD as well as through our website.
- An OABA magazine style publication that would include advertising opportunities as well as member information is in the infancy stages of being developed. Ideas are always welcomed.
- As always OABA strives to improve the web site. With the welcome addition of Bill Goebel to the board and the continued dedication of Dennis Radesic, we continue to get closer to creating a product that will serve the membership by providing the most up to date information on our industry and organizational events.
- We continue to utilize grass root efforts to promote the Ohio Alpaca Industry. The Ohio Alpaca Brochures were distributed at the Best of the Midwest show as well as at the National show in Cleveland. With the added press received from this show in Ohio our state really had a chance to shine.
- Our education and membership committees, lead by Bill Moats and Kathy Klay, organized a fabulous meeting in March featuring Brett Kaysen. Brett shared with our members a deeper understanding of EPD's and the benefits of record keeping to our breeding programs. We are lucky to have an active youth program in Ohio and Brett elaborated on the relationship of these programs with the future of the Alpaca Livestock industry.

Plans are underway to bring the membership a day long program at the end of September focusing on the fiber end of our industry. The seminar would bring in a panel of experts to share their knowledge on how to sort, grade and move your fleece through the final product process.

The committee would like to ensure we are bringing educational topics to the forefront that would meet your needs. Please contact Bill Moats (330) 666-1836 with any ideas.

- AlpacaFest planning is on schedule and should be on our website to register in the very near future. It will be held at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio on November 6, 7, 8th.

We are dedicated to upholding our reputation for conducting a first class show while recognizing our responsibility to be mindful of the expenses. We are evaluating options for the Friday Night Meet and Greet venue as well as an appropriate location for the Fleece show judging so additional stall space can be available at the Bricker Building.

Due to the elevated cost of grass, we have planned to utilize astro turf for the show ring and cardboard for the stalls. We appreciate your support and encouragement as we work diligently to serve your needs.

- Grand Sponsors will receive a \$300 Early Bird Discount through August 15, 2009  
Our goal is to have all Halter entries received by October 5th, 2009 so make sure you have this on your calendar to attend!
- We are proud to present the 2009 Judges Lineup, some of the most recognized senior judges you will find at any level 5 show in the alpaca industry:  
Jude Anderson: Huacaya Males  
Tim Lavan: Huacaya Females and Performance  
Amanda VandenBosch: Suri Males/Females and Performance
- The 2009 AlpacaFest will once again be the forum for OABA's store to sell Ohio made Alpaca products from our very own member farms. Following a successful venture at the National Show this spring we welcome all of our membership to participate this fall.  
Please reach out to Char Johnson, (614) 939-0027, to find sign up to display your products in 09.
- The 2009 Fleece Show is on target to be the largest ever for OABA!  
Spin-Off deadline is August 3, 2009  
Early Bird Fleece Entry Discounts of \$5 per entry are available through September 7  
Fleece entry deadline is October 5, 2009 with mail in entries accepted  
Fiber Arts and Skein entry deadline is October 5, 2009 as well

*New in 2009*-Sunday at 12N in Center Ring the fleece judges will proudly present oral reasoning on the fleece entry winners.

- WE NEED YOUR HELP! It takes an entire organization to host the premiere Alpaca Show in our industry. We are in need of volunteers to work in a myriad of jobs. The more of us that volunteer our time, the less burden it will be on everyone. Please contact Nora Custer 216-235-0367 to give of your time for this event.

We hope you enjoy a relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Joe Osborn~Christi's Dream Weaving Suris

Laura Lee~Buckeye Country Alpacas

Bob Danielson~ M & M Alpacas

Bill Goebel~ Renaissance Farms

Jana Lee-Harris~Gentle Meadow Alpacas