

OABA Quarterly Meeting
Swisher Creek Farm
June 5, 2010

Present: Pete/Judy Klein, Rick/Char Johnson, Karen Biscella, Kathy Williams, Reba Matern, Kate Wilkins, Richard/Kaye Sanderson, Cindy Mergo, Dennis Radesic, Marlene/Mike Peltier, John Francis, Tom Lee, Michelle Dirksen, Angie Dapore, Rod Beckstedt, John/Judy Everett, John/Peggy Curtis, Kathy Klay, Rick/Annette Paulus, Gary Slater, Laurel Shoumlin, Brenda Ward, Jeff Bradford, Laura Lee, Louise Goebel, Marilyn Wentworth, Mary Reed

President, Jeff Bradford, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Everyone introduced himself/herself and told a little about their farms.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Johnson

Rick handed out the OABA budget. We have \$140,023.68 in Checking and \$100,000 in a Money Market Account. We will incur many costs to put on the AlpacaFest show in November. Right now we have a balance of \$137,110.69.

Membership Committee: Judy Klein

There are 132 members. 32 new members have signed up since March. We are still seeking new members or renewals by former members. Memberships are good until July 1, 2011. We will send out notices next April to remind people to renew.

Ohio Alpaca Life Magazine: Laurel Shoumlin

Everyone is very pleased with the first edition. The magazine is designed specifically to serve the Ohio alpaca community. Laurel would like people to submit articles and photos for consideration for the next (second) issue. We need to help get more advertisers; contact Laurel or Laura Lee. We will print 1000 copies of the next (second) issue so that 500 can go to farms and 500 will be available to hand out at shows. People can purchase extra copies for \$4.00 (+S&H) each if they want extras to hand out on their farms. The magazine is a good venue to make people aware of the Humane Society of the United States and its mission to stop farmers from raising livestock for slaughter. They want everyone to become vegans. It was suggested that we have an article in the next issue to raise public awareness and suggest action we can take.

OABA Website: Jeff Bradford

The website is now working very well for all members. He introduced Dennis Radesic and thanked him for his hard work in repairing the site.

We should all be taking advantage of its advertising power. We can link to our own websites, advertise herdsires and alpacas for sale, stay informed on current events, locate farms, and keep informed about upcoming shows.

AlpacaFest: Jeff Bradford

The next AlpacaFest Show sponsored by OABA will be in November at the Champion Center in Springfield, OH. We will have a renewed focus on fiber with all fiber related judging taking place before the show. The winners will be announced at the Friday evening Meet and Greet.

New Officers Needed: Jeff Bradford

Jeff asked members to consider serving as a board member. The work contributes to the entire Ohio Alpaca Community and really doesn't demand that much time. We would like to have a 5 – 7 year transition to focus on fiber products as well as shows. We will form a Nominating Committee very soon to fill the following positions:

President, Vice President, and Secretary
Job Descriptions will be in the next issue of Ohio Alpaca Life

Fleece to Florida: Jeff Bradford

Many people worked very hard to organize and ship thousands of pounds of alpaca fleece to help with the oil spill clean up in Destin, Florida. We gained lots of good PR from these efforts. Unfortunately, BP is using its own chemicals instead of the fleece. But the Native Americans in Florida are using the fleece in their own efforts to help save wetlands and beaches.

If you donated fleece, give Jeff Bradford your name and he will send you a statement so you can use the loss of the fleece revenue as a tax deduction.

Should OABA Give Its Mailing List to Other Entities?: Jeff

There have been discussions regarding giving the list of members and their contact information to commercial entities who are also OABA members. Folks at this meeting thought it was a benefit to all. We voted on the issue and it passed.

Leads list from OABA

Members would like to purchase a "Leads List" from OABA. This would require potential buyers filling out information files first. The Board took note and said this is a good project for the future.

Fiber Study: Louise Goebel

The AOBA Fiber Committee is working on proving that there is scientific data to back up the qualities which we attribute to alpaca fiber. E.g., Alpaca is less flammable than wool has been proven to be true.

Fiber Committee: Louise Goebel

Louise thanked Karen Biscella, Cindy Mergo, Michelle Dircksen, and Kaye Sanderson for their help with the committee.

People who stay to skirt fleeces this afternoon signed a list and to receive \$10 off of the cost of registration for the AlpacaFest fleece show for that fleece. They will pay \$30 instead of \$40. They still need to mail in the fleeces.

Louise then handed out a survey asking what the members would like to see in the future for the activities of the Fiber Committee. Those who completed it gave it back to Louise for the committee's consideration. She will post the results on the OABA website.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50.

Lunch was served.

Fleece Skirting was the topic of the afternoon. Many members brought fleeces to skirt. Laurel Shouplin, Mary Reed and Kathy Klay discussed and demonstrated proper techniques. Members had very lively discussions throughout the event.