



**Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.**

[www.falainc.com](http://www.falainc.com)

FALL 2020

## Letter from the President

*Happy Fall Ya'll,*

**Okay so maybe it doesn't feel that way yet but I'm holding out hope for sometime soon.**

**Our Annual Meeting will be coming up in November once again in Dade City at the Withlacoochee River Park—details will be out soon. We will be having a Social Distanced Hike and possibly a fund raiser for Southeast Llama Rescue that is fun and exciting.**

**The yearly calendar is underway and will be available at the meeting.**



**Please stay vigilant with your critters; it has been a long hot Summer and the threat of heat-related issues continues.**

**Thank you all for you support, stay safe and do take care.**

*Mary Rose Collins*

### Inside this issue:

Announcements	2
FALA 2020 Health Seminar	3
FALA Annual Meeting Flyer	4
Fiber Exhibit FSF 2021	5
Alpacas Could Be the Secret Weapon Against COVID-19	6
Fiber Corner	8
Calendar of Events	9

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **FALA Election News, November Meeting and Calendars**

Claudia Hammack is the Election Chairperson and we currently have nominations for **President**, **Vice President** and **1 BOD**. If there is anyone interested in running or nominating someone, they should contact Claudia by no later than October 1, 2020. Vetting for those nominated will be from 10/2-10/14.

Voting will begin October 15 through November 8, 2020. Claudia will send out the voting ballots on that date. Contact Claudia if you need another type of voting instead of email.

If you do not have a current email, or know a member that does not receive emails, please contact myself or Claudia, so we may get other means of communication set up.

Current members are listed on our website at [www.falainc.com](http://www.falainc.com). Nominate someone or yourself for a position!

Also, as a side note and to help us prepare for the November meeting, we will need 1 or 2 persons to help organize the food for lunch. If you are interested in helping coordinate that please let Mary Rose know by responding to the email below. We also will be having our exciting llama/alpaca/handler HIKE through the Withlacoochee trails.

The FALA 2021 Calendars will be ready by the November meeting, so **pre-order NOW** to let us know how many to hold and order for you. Send your name and number of calendars to order to: Mary Rose at [MRC604@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:MRC604@tampabay.rr.com)

# FALA 2020 Health Seminar



We had a good, safe turnout for our annual seminar in July. So nice to see new camelid owners, as well! Brenda Crum demonstrated shearing, skinning, and techniques for preparing fiber for usage. Charlene Braun and Claire-Marie Warner had the crock pots going demonstrating processes of dyeing fiber throughout the day. Dr. Jessica Paris spoke to us about parasites in camelids. Mary Rose Collins presented the always-popular handling techniques in a variety of situations you will encounter with your animal. The participants exchanged helpful information to make things easier on the farm. Join us next year!





**FALA Annual Meeting**  
November 8, 2020  
Withlacoochee River Park  
12449 Withlacoochee Blvd  
Dade City, FL  
9am -- 4pm  
8:30am if you are walking/hiking

We will begin the day at 9am with an easy 2 hour walk/hike with or without llamas/alpacas. If you like, bring the animals' packs/blankets to get them accustomed to something on their backs. Those not walking may certainly come early—bring your chairs, spinning, weaving or checkerboards to relax & enjoy the wonderful park scenery!

We are planning some very fun hiking activities for members and llama/alpaca youth exhibiting at the Florida State Fair. What a great opportunity to try out your pack and some natural obstacles!

We will all meet back for lunch at noon with the meeting to follow, approximately 1pm-3pm.

To help us prepare for the November meeting, we will need 1 or 2 persons to help organize the food for lunch. If you are interested in helping coordinate that please contact Mary Rose at [MRC604@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:MRC604@tampabay.rr.com)

# Fiber Exhibit Florida State Fair 2021

Brenda Gregoroy is beginning to work on the information books for the Fiber Arts Areas of the FSF. I know it has been a long time.....but if you remember anything that you thought about, or we discussed that can help make the registration, submitting, or picking up items easier for all of us, please send me an email so I can submit to Brenda to make those changes.

I am also looking for ideas and your thoughts to coordinate some type workshops that will help all of us with each of the 5 areas as examples or beginning projects for the new youth and adults interested in entering the Llama/Alpaca Fiber Arts areas. ( Weaving, Spinning, Knitting, Crochet, & Felting)  
If you have some thoughts in this area PLEASE help me create some interest.

I just don't think we are going to be able to hold a group hands on demonstration as we have in the past years. So, if there is a video on YouTube that you would like to share, or you are interested in doing your own video, by all means please share with me. I believe I can get these areas posted onto the FSF websites for us to pull from to use for ideas in creating Fiber Arts Products.

We had 15 Youth and 8 adults participate in our Alpaca/Llama Fiber Arts last year- a total of 38 items entered! Let's make a bigger splash this year....share to everyone you know and get them involved!

I am not sure if you can still pull up the Youth and Adult Fiber Arts Rules on the FSF website, but reach into the depths and send me some ideas and thoughts on information rule changes and/or ideas for demonstrations.

Thanks to you all,

Tracy Weaver  
FSF Youth Superintendent and Fiber Arts Liaison for  
Alpaca/Llama FSF Show 2021

# Alpacas Could be the Secret Weapon Against COVID-19

18-Jun-2020 8:25 AM EDT, by [University of Kentucky](#)

**Newswise — LEXINGTON, Ky. (June 18, 2020)** — Alpacas Big Boy, Blue Eyes and Emperor may hold the key to combating COVID-19. Their antibodies could offer a defense against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease.

University of Kentucky College of Medicine researchers are using the special antibodies made by alpacas, called nanobodies, to help understand the novel coronavirus and potentially develop a treatment that could protect people from being infected.

Nanobodies are smaller and more stable types of antibodies taken from the immune systems of camelids — which include camels, llamas and alpacas. Nanobodies could be more effective at fighting the disease because their tiny size gives them the ability to fit into spaces on viral proteins that regular antibodies have a hard time penetrating.

“The idea is that nanobodies are small enough to access small pockets on SARS-CoV-2’s spike proteins, which is the part of the virus that attaches to host cells. A nanobody that could block the binding of the spike protein to its cellular receptor could be an effective treatment for COVID-19,” said Sidney Whiteheart, who is co-leading the study with Lou Hersh, both professors in the Department of Molecular & Cellular Biochemistry.

With the help of Big Boy, Blue Eyes and Emperor, Hersh and Whiteheart’s research team is generating nanobodies that can bind to the spike protein and therefore, neu-

tralize the virus.

The alpaca trio have been immunized with isolated proteins from SARS-CoV-2 and then researchers collect samples of their blood containing nanobodies produced by their immune systems. In the lab, the nanobodies are extracted, tested, and reproduced at a larger scale for use in research and for therapeutic development.

Virus-binding nanobodies from the alpacas can confer passive immunity in humans and thus help fight a SARS-CoV-2 infection. While passive immunity from a disease is shorter-lived compared to the protection one’s own immune response would provide, it helps protect right away—something that could be valuable as we wait for a vaccine, Hersh says.

“Nanobodies have many qualities that make them ideal for therapeutic development, particularly for COVID-19,” said Hersh. “They are small and stable, making them easier to manipulate, and they can be produced more rapidly and in large quantities at a low cost. They are also easily tolerated by the human immune system and could potentially be inhaled for rapid delivery to the lungs.

Given their special properties, nanobodies are not new to the fight against disease, with researchers—including those at UK—investigating their potential against HIV and other viruses for many years.

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## Alpacas Could be the Secret Weapon Against COVID-19 *continued*

The UK team, including Martin Chow and Craig Vander Kooi along with Hersh and Whiteheart, have shown that the alpacas are producing antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, and anticipate having nanobodies in the next few weeks. They



In the past three years, the alpacas have helped UK researchers generate more than 50 nanobodies to target proteins involved in a variety of human diseases including cancer, diabetes and neu-

rological disorders. will then begin testing these nanobodies as therapeutic agents by testing for their ability to prevent SARS-CoV-2 from interacting with its target cells.

Big Boy, Blue Eyes and Emperor have contributed to UK's nanobody research for more than three years.

While the three come to UK's North Farm twice a year to get vaccinated and have blood drawn, they live at [River Hill Ranch](#), an alpaca farm near Richmond. The partnership with UK is a win-win situation, says farm owner Alvina Maynard.

The trio are favorites among those visiting Maynard's farm for alpaca-themed field trips, camps and yoga lessons. And as part of her herd, their fleece is also used to make artisan socks, scarves and sweaters.

"They are supporting local business and we are supporting groundbreaking and potentially lifesaving research," says Maynard. "I'm beyond thrilled that our alpacas can serve this greater purpose."

rological disorders.

The current COVID-19 nanobody research is funded in part by a pilot grant from UK's [COVID-19 Unified Research Experts \(CURE\) Alliance](#) and the [Center for Clinical and Translational Science \(CCTS\)](#). The goal is that data from the project will support more grant funding for additional research.

UK researchers also plan to share the purified nanobodies with colleagues pursuing related COVID-19 research. Those nanobodies that bind to the spike protein could also help scientists understand more about the virus itself and how it is structured. This could aid in the development of other novel types of treatments.

## FIBER CORNER

I watched a video titled “ Foundations of Spinning” by Amy King. I found it on the Blueprint, now Craftsby again, site. Amy King is a renowned fiber artist, author and owner of Spunky Eclectic, a fiber studio and online community for artists. This is a good class for the beginner or as a refresher. Amy is a good teacher, covering the basics, easy to understand, and breaks tasks down into steps. I learned a lot and encourage you to discover Amy King. Her website has several tutorials for spinning, dyeing and weaving.

~Claudia

<https://amykingteaching.com/>





## **2020 Calendar of Events**

**October 23-25, 2020 — ALSA SE Regional & SSLA Fall Llama Show**

Rabun Arena, 100 E. Boggs Mountain Rd, Tiger, GA

**November 8, 2020 — FALA Annual Meeting and Llama Hike — 9am—4pm**

Withlacoochee River Park, Dade City, FL

Llama Hike at 8:30am, Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1pm

See flyer on Page 4 for more information.