



Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

AUGUST 2016

Letter from Our President

Show season is upon us. I hope you have taken the time this summer to learn a new fiber technique or a new fiber craft at our FALA Fiber Day in June or by attending a class at local ranch or fiber guild throughout the state. I know Tracy Weaver has been holding fiber classes for youth getting them ready for the Florida State Fair's fiber project; what an endeavor. Thank you to all the teachers who have shared their knowledge and love for fiber!

Some items of note are our upcoming FALA election in November, calendars are wrapping up so place your order as they make a very nice present. We are working on the educational seminar as well and need your input. Please attend the next meeting on September 18th at Jean Riley's ranch, Alpaca Magic in Homosassa. I hope to see you there.

Claire-Marie Warner, FALA President

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Karisma and yarn from his fiber.
Turtle Run Llama Farm

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Pasture Parasite Control Tip

Interesting information from a recent conversation among SELR Coordinators about parasite treatment. Someone brought up torching poop piles and pasture rotation:

I have personal experience with torching and pasture rotation.

Torching: At that time I had Nematodirus. As I also do fecal analysis, I performed an experiment. I torched (propane) the area around the poop area about 2' and collected the then exposed beans. I can personally tell you that superficial torching (which may burn the thatch and expose beans) desiccates the exterior but the eggs in the interior survive. To kill/desiccate those interior you need to focus/aim the propane for enough time to burn to the middle of the bean.

Pasture rotation : Years ago I learned from our agricultural co-op about pasture rotation – they recommended it because animals pastured on smaller plots grazed all the forage vs. just picking what they liked off larger pastures. Then, rotating allowed the prior pasture(s) to recover (recommended not to graze lower than 2”). This has helped me get the most from my pastures. After bringing them off a pasture, I mow to 3 ½”- 4” to cut down weeds and fertilize with urea or 10-10-10 prior to a good rain. I weed whack around the poop area down to the dirt – you will be surprised to find how many beans are outside the target area!

Don't till the pasture under! Especially Nematodirus eggs can live for years – you are just burying them for future hatching.

FALA is in the process of planning our next camelid health seminar at the University of Florida for next year. Our organizers are asking for help for selecting topics and speakers. If there are particular topics that you would like addressed, or if you have heard a topic and/or speaker that you think would benefit or draw participants, please email them to Bruce Volling at vollingvalley@aol.com. Once several topics are received, we plan to present them to the members to vote for the ones they would like to hear. We will then try to secure speakers for the top topics.

RESCUE RUMINATIONS



All of the fifteen llamas from south Florida are adjusting to their new homes and doing wonderfully. The picture included here is of Holly and her friend. Holly is one of the group of Moms and crias that went to Cyndie Nicholson in Starke.

I have a number of people who are looking for a llama or two for guards or a buddy. I have nothing to offer them right now. If you know of any llamas for sale or needing a home I can put you in contact and assist with screening the homes.

There is a lady wanting to trade an intact male Peruvian alpaca for a female guard llama to guard her male goats. She really needs to get him a home as he is trying to breed the goats. Her name is Robin Schwarz and her number is 407-925-3770.

~Claudia Hammack



RESCUE RUMINATIONS



Southeast Llama Rescue has developed an Emergency Checklist for our foster/adoptive farms when they need to assess medical issues. This checklist has been reviewed and approved by a camelid vet.

Emergency Diagnostic Checklist

Date: _____ Name: _____ Age: _____

Reason for Exam:

Diagnostic	Goal	Findings	Notations
BCS	5 on scale of 1 (thin) to 10 (fat)		
Temperature	Llama: 99 - 101.8 °F Alpaca: 99.5 - 101.5 °F		
Eyes /Conjunctiva (Inside bottom lid)	Evenly sized pupils; Lids Watermelon Pink		Uneven pupils = possible spinal trauma Reference baseline for animal re: eyelid color White/light = anemia
Gums	Slick; pink Capillary re-fill w/in 3 seconds of pressure release		Tacky gums = possible dehydration White gums = possible shock or anemia Blue gums = no oxygen Slow capillary refill = hypotension, poor circulation
Weight	Gain/loss re: previous wt.		Also relative to BCS; Tell vet if used weight tape vs. scale (they may need more precise weight for dosing with certain drugs)
Fecal	fully formed beans; note clumping		Observation or take sample
Rate, rhythm and quality of breathing	60 - 90 breaths per minute		Listen over the ribs or trachea; note bpm Check for nostril flare, any airway swelling
Rate, rhythm and quality of heart	10 - 30 beats per minute		Listen just past elbow on left side; note bpm
Skin	Smooth, supple; no obvious sensitivities		Note any areas of crustiness, scabs, thickening of skin, wool loss, open wounds
Breath	Sweet		Sour breath can be a sign of digestive issues
Check gut sounds; verify cud chewing	Should hear viable sounds of rumination; see movement/ chewing of cud		Lack of gut sounds could signify serious issues requiring immediate intervention - ensure the vet is aware!

- Additional:**
1. General appearance/demeanor/responsiveness
 2. When symptoms began to occur and time lapsed
 3. Last known food and water intake
 4. If not bearing weight: feel for heat or swelling from top of limb to bottom; check pads

Continued on next page

RESCUE RUMINATIONS



Emergency Diagnostic Checklist

Neurologic:			
Feel along spinal column	Signs of pain; inconsistent alignment		
Evaluate walk; navigational abilities	Note front/rear weakness; circling; turning to one side or another; trembling of head or other		
Place each foot upside down	Should immediately right the foot so pad faces ground		Leaving foot flipped signifies neurologic damage; note which foot is affected
Eyes tracking; Pupils	Both eyes track; pupil equal, round, reactive to light		One side smaller/larger can reflect neurological damage
Ears up? Swivel?	Should follow sound		If ears down (not pinned!) check inside for possible ticks, or foreign material
Check entire body for ticks			Potential tick paralysis; Check ears; non-wooly areas first but can be anywhere and can be small
If applicable, review M-worm protocol	Evaluate against list of M-worm symptoms (see separate "M-worm" document)		If in doubt, treat with "Buckeye Blast" immediately (See separate "Meningeal worm" document)
Down:			
Ensure sternal position			Do not allow to lay on side for extended period; prop with hay bales if necessary
Review basic diagnostics			Check for any nasal discharge; respiratory noises; foaming at mouth; Review M-worm diagnostics
Check for ticks			See Neurologic comments
Keep warm			Deep bedding; warm (not hot) water; blanket

Treatment of Lice for Llamas and Alpacas

By Susan Gawarecki, Pathfinder Farm

About Lice

Lice are a common skin parasite in llamas and alpacas. They can cause itching and secondary skin problems. They are often first discovered when an animal is sheared. The typical indication is the presence of “nits”—the tiny white eggs, about the size of the dot on an “i”—glued to hairs.

These are more easily seen on dark animals, but if one animal in your herd has lice, you should assume that all do, because they spread easily. To completely interrupt the lice life cycle, the animals should be treated two to three times.

Lice found on llamas and alpacas are limited to those species—they do not affect people, goats, sheep, cattle, equines, or house pets. They can ruin the fleece for use, as all fiber mills will reject fleeces contaminated with lice eggs.

Treatment Options

There are several products which may be used treat lice on llamas and alpacas (a secondary benefit is protection from flies). In general, products used for cattle with no milk-withdrawal period are suitable. Follow label directions for dosage based on weight. For pour-ons, be sure to spread them along the spine—do not concentrate the entire dose in one place. Remember, these chemicals are not labeled for use on llamas or alpacas, and if you have concerns about using them, you should consult your veterinarian. I am not a veterinarian. Three of these products are summarized below:

Ultra Boss Pour-On: Pour along back. Apply 1.5 mL per 50 lbs of body weight of animal up to a maximum of 18 mL for any one animal. For optimum lice control, two treatments at 14-day intervals are recommended. Ultra Boss is labeled for use on cattle, sheep, and goats.

CyLence Pour-On: Pour along back. For optimal lice control, an initial application followed by a second treatment 3 weeks later is recommended. CyLence is labeled for use on cattle.

Animal Weight (lb)	Dosage (mL)
100-199	2
200-399	4
400-599	6

Pemectrin II Spray: 1/2 oz (15 cc) in 3 gal of water. Spray to thoroughly cover entire animal. For lice a second treatment is recommended 14-21 days later. Pemectrin II is labeled for use on cattle, dogs, swine, birds, and their premises. My vet recommends a third treatment 21 days after the second treatment.

Weight and Dosing Tips

If you do not have a known weight of your animal, below are some general guidelines:

Average 2+ yr/adult alpaca – 125-175 lb

Average 2+ yr/adult llama – 275-350 lb

Adjust weight estimate if your animal is significantly taller, smaller, fatter, or skinnier than the average of your herd. Dr. Z's llama weight tape is an inexpensive tool to help you estimate the weight of your llama.

For application of pour-on chemicals, draw up dose into a 3-cc or 6-cc syringe with needle removed. Use syringe to apply chemical along the animal's back—do not concentrate it at one spot. If necessary, part the hair to ensure it is in contact with the skin. Repeat as recommended for the specific chemical. The syringe may be reused for application of this chemical only, but never reuse it for other medications.

A note about units: 1 cubic centimeter (cc) is the same as 1 milliliter (mL or ml). These units are often used interchangeably.



2016 Calendar of Events

September 3 & 4 — Heart of Dixie Halter, Performance, and Fleece Show
Willow Tree Farm, Ringgold, GA

September 10 & 11 — NC Mountain State Fair Llama Show
Western NC Agricultural Center, Fletcher, NC

September 18 — FALA Meeting 1pm at Alpaca Magic in Homosassa

FALA MEETING

Date: Sunday, September 18

Time: 1:00

Location: Alpaca Magic (Jean Riley)
4920 Grover Cleveland Blvd.
Homosassa, Fl 34446
352-628-0156

Jean Riley of Alpaca Magic USA has kindly offered to hold our next meeting at her lovely farm. You will enjoy her farm store full of wonderful fiber items. She also has plants for sale and, of course, an alpaca or two.

