

SeAA News and Notes

January, 2007

Southern Select Approaches

We are fast approaching the Southern Select Alpaca Show which will be held on March 3-4, 2007. The festivities will commence on Friday, March 2, when trailers full of alpacas will once again move into the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and begin discharging their precious cargo. Check-in for health certificates and color checks will begin about noon at the front gate of the Celebration right in front of the Calsonic Arena. The next crucial deadline is January 29, 2007 which is the deadline for entries to be postmarked. So decide which of your animals will get the outing and get your health checks, BVD checks, and start practicing best behaviors.

Again this year, one of the highlights of the show will be the Herd Sire Auction as a Live Auction on Saturday night after our dinner. Charlotte Goldston reports she has some excellent males who are anxious to participate via the good graces of their owners. They can't wait to donate their services since the money collected will be donated, in large part, to alpaca research just as has been done in the past. So call or email Charlotte if you have a spectacular male you haven't offered yet, one who will bring those big bucks donations.

Another feature of the show will be our first ever gelding class with prize money to be awarded the winners in the color groups. Listen for announcements about this very important class when you get to Shelbyville.

Marketing Ideas

Here are a few thoughts for your farm based on farm news from some of our members. The Goldstons and some of their High Meadow alpacas were featured in the Leiper's Fork, TN, Christmas Parade this year. And Alpacas of the Smokies spent two days in May at an animal fair sponsored by a 4H group where 900 elementary school children got their first close and personal encounter with alpacas and llamas. Community festivals such as Heritage Day Festivals, Chili Cook-Offs, and other such events are popping up all over the Southeast. Why even the Rose Parade welcomed llamas for the first time. So be creative and volunteer for these local events to show off your animals and promote your farm. You may be planting the seeds for a future alpaca farm in that 10 year old who just loves your critters.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunshine State Alpaca Expo—Feb 9-11
TxOlan Spectacular—Feb 15-18
Carolina Alpaca Celebration—Feb 17-18
Southern Select—March 3-4
Palmetto Alpaca Classic—April 7-8
Kentucky Classic—March 31-April 1
SeAA Annual Meeting—August 11, 2007.
Fairyland Club, Lookout Mountain, GA

Handcrafter's Spin-Off 2007 — Silent Auction

This is one thing to remember for shearing day, 2007. The entries for the 2007 Handcrafter's Spin-Off have been in the hands of Cathy Songer, our Spin-Off Judge, for several weeks now. Thus, for entries in Spin-Off competitions, you need to plan well in advance. Plan to enter the Spin-Off for next year and pull those 2 oz. samples soon after shearing day this spring. Then you'll have them ready for the deadline next fall and all you'll have to do is fill out the entry form and send in the samples.

Just keep the samples dry and clean, and you're on the way to success in the Spin-Off.

Another feature of the Southern Select to remember is the Silent Auction. Contact Karen Cross to donate to this important event, wakerobinalpacas@gmail.com. She has some great donations already. Advertise your farm by donating. The proceeds go to alpaca research also.



www.SouthernSelectAlpacaShow.org

The official show site of the Southern Select is the website which is the headline for this article. Go there to see the wonderful group of farms who are sponsors of the show. There also you will find registration forms, entry forms, fleece show tags, and other information which is vital for you to read and know before the show. If you didn't get a show entry book, there is the spot where you can download forms for the show. Especially important this year is the requirement for BVD testing before you bring animals to the show grounds. Read those Health Requirements. The Class Information Sheet is posted there also with information you will need in filling out the entry forms.

There, also, you will see the new Donor Hall of Fame for those farms donating herd sire

breedings to our Herd Sire Auction/Live Auctions for the past two years. That will be up in the next few days.

The Southern Select website is also the spot where you can find show results after the event. As soon as those results are compiled, we'll get them posted.

SeAA Type Conference

The Southeastern Type Conference held in Athens, GA, on September 30, 2006, was informative and educational. Moderator Dr. Brett Kaysen from Colorado State, led a diverse group of speakers. Over 43 alpaca farms were represented and some future alpaca owners were also in attendance as participants in the workshop sessions. The speakers were specialists in genetic research, animal science, livestock management, veterinarian education, show judging, and fiber processing.

The participants formed working groups studying the body, head, and fiber characteristics of both Suri and Huacaya alpacas and came to a summary conclusion at the end of the conference as to what the individuals in attendance considered to be the ideal characteristics of alpacas.

By now—Winter, 2007— we have all received the first of the compilations of all the breed type conferences from AOBA. You were asked to comment prior to a final presentation. So do exercise that request for your input. Read what AOBA has put

forward and express your opinions on the wording and concepts. It is your industry, so be informed about the potential for changes.

****Reminder****

Remember you need tickets for the Saturday night dinner. But you are invited to the Live Auction even if you do not eat dinner with us.

<p>The Southern Select 2007 BE THERE!</p>
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