

Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

SUMMER 2022

Letter from the President

Well Happy Summer, FALA Folks!

I hope this finds you all well and figuring your way through the summer-time. We are so looking forward to the August Seminar and Hot off the Press, Daniela Luethy, DVM, DACVIM from UF Large Animal Hospital had agreed to be a speaker at the seminar. On our last conference call there was much discussion about also doing a series of Roundtable Discussions with specific farm best practices. Since



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we always try to reach all levels of experience, we will do some hands-on demonstrations on wellness checks and the basics of handling to get the job done.

Please continue to keep our great network going of information exchange and concerns. Mentor those prospective or new owners as much as possible. There are several unscrupulous folks promoting and selling llamas and alpacas and we need to continue to spread the word about their practices. On the same note, if you have animals available for sale or re-homing please let us know so we can send folks in your direction knowing it will be a win/win instead of a loss most literally for the camelid.

Stay safe and as cool as you can, hopefully we will see you all soon.

Mary Rose Collins
FALA President

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Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

LLAMA & ALPACA EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

WHEN

August 6th 2022
8am – 5pm

*8am-9am Coffee Social

WHERE

**The Realtor Association of
Citrus County**

714 S Scarboro Ave, Lecanto, FL 34461

ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS WELCOME

- ❖ Agritourism
- ❖ Emergency Planning
- ❖ Round Table
- ❖ Animal Demonstrations
- ❖ Wellness/ Health check

REGISTRATION

\$25 Non-members

*2022 FALA complimentary membership
included

\$ No Cost for Members

LUNCH

\$5.00– additional cost

RSVP by July 30th if you will be attending to:

davidandie@msn.com

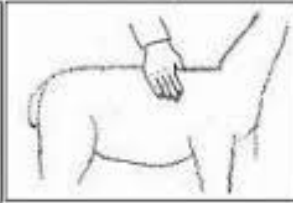
Provide how many attending and lunch count.

Paddock Card - Body Scoring



Alpaca condition or body scoring, a health check

Quick & simple to do & can easily be done on a regular basis



- ✓ Check the spine as per diagram
- ✓ Keep a record of each body score
- ✓ Check the ribs at fibreless area behind elbow
- ✓ Look at upper rear legs
- ✓ Feel the chest
- ✓ Look at front legs and chest

Score 1 requires vet inspection asap. Score 4 and 5 may require nutritional advice, or just a diet (no extra feed). **Beware of sudden changes in BS.**

	1	EMACIATED -very steep angle along spine & curves inward - ribs are very easily felt - hard bony v-shaped chest, sternum extremely boney - very increased space between rear legs - very little muscle & absolutely no fat
	2	THIN - spinal slope more than 45 degrees - ribs can be easily felt - hard chest with a slight v-shape, very little fat covering sternum - some increased space between rear legs - some loss of muscle
	3	OPTIMAL (for adult huacaya) - about 45 degree angle along spine - ribs felt with slight pressure - firm muscular chest - chest makes straight line between front legs
	4	OVERWEIGHT (for adult huacaya alpaca) - convex shape between the backbone & upper ribs <i>(ideal for adolescent huacaya alpaca under one year old)</i> - ribs felt with some pressure - somewhat rounded soft feeling chest - inner thighs smooth & less defined
	5	OBESE (for adult huacaya alpaca) - backbone looks flat <i>(normal in suri and crias < 6 months)</i> - firm pressure needed to feel ribs - rounded soft feeling chest - large area of contact between rear legs - little or no definition on inner thighs - may have difficulty walking properly

Llama Wash

As each of us know, in the hot months llamas and alpacas for the most part loved to be cooled off by water hitting their belly and legs. Well, after a few years of doing this daily, but never feeling like I was accomplishing much of anything else and going through the gambit of trying soaker hoses, hose stands, and most everything else under the blazing sun, I got to thinking, and the llama wash was born of necessity. I called it the llama wash as we had only llamas as that time. The concept is simple to create and our first one was merely attached to the fence. Now we actually have covered stations with concrete pavers as flooring so we do not erode the soil, pretty “cool”.

The items you will need are

- 2 oscillating sprinklers
- 2 short hoses (about 15')
- 1 Y hose diverter connector
- 1 multi-programmable water timer
- 1 “U” shaped wooden frame sunk upside-down across from other sprinkler

The idea was to put an oscillating sprinkler on a fence line about mid-thigh on me, top of the leg for most of the llamas' heights. Just opposite this create a U shaped wooden frame that you will sink into the ground upside-down. This will hold another oscillating sprinkler. Set the sprinklers to only rotate from the ground to the center

line (which will be shooting straight across to the other sprinkler). So, in actuality, one will oscillate from left to center and the other will oscillate from right to center. I use alligator clips and straps to hold the sprinklers in place on each end of the sprinkler as we do have some leaning leaners. From one sprinkler a short hose is run under the ground in the direction of the other sprinkler and meets up with the other short hose at a Y hose diverter connector that remains in the both on position, another single length of hose is then attached to the Y connector as the lead water line and goes to a multi-programmable water timer then connects to the facet.

We program the timer to turn on 4 times a day and run for anywhere from 15 minutes to 45 minutes depending on time of day (late morning vs. afternoon) and whether or not it is spring, summer, or the long humid days of late summer when the critters have been dealing with the humidity for such a prolonged time. We also provide wading pools and misters for those who prefer them. But the llama wash has by far made an impact in the running of this operation. The llamas and alpacas line up for the llama wash when it activates. Some of them even dance in the moving, driving water. Due to the close proximity of the sprinkler heads about 8' feet apart, the water really is pressurized and does penetrate to the skin instead of just wetting the top layer. They love it!

Doug & Claire-Marie Warner



FALA Members having fun in the show ring



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.

CAMELID CLASSIFIEDS

Two beautiful and healthy males for sale. We love them, however their pasture mates are not fond of them. I don't have another pasture to put them in, and re-homing the others isn't going to be an option. They are in with goats and a donkey. I paid \$4500 for the pair and would be willing to sell for same. They were both just shorn a few months ago and had their feet done, as well as vaccines. Located in Englewood, Fl. One 5-yr. old, registered, gelded male and one 8-yr. old intact male.

Contact Nicole Stiver at (941) 468-3027



Two signs for free. Nice if your llamas are next to a road. Please contact Claudia at llamachick@yahoo.com and I will put you in touch. Free shipping.





2022 Calendar of Events

August 6— **FALA** 2022 Llama & Alpaca Educational Seminar, 8am-5pm
See page 2 for more information

- ★ Need to re-home a llama or alpaca? Contact Claudia Hammack, llamachick@yahoo.com
- ★ Youth interested in showing a llama or alpaca for FFA, 4-H, or for fun? Contact Tracy Weaver, lotsallamas@earthlink.net

