



Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

SUMMER 2025

Letter from the President

Hi FALA members and future members,

The weather is hot and so are our upcoming events. Next month we will have our FALA Educational Seminar which is a great sharing and caring event for new and experienced Camelid ranchers. We hope you can join us for our jam-packed event. More details on the next page.

✱ **FALA Educational Seminar – Saturday, July 19 | Lecanto, FL**
Hosted by the Florida Alpaca & Llama Association (FALA)
Realtor Association of Citrus County, 714 S Scarboro Ave, Lecanto, FL

✱ **Summer & Storm Safety Tips**

Florida summers bring intense heat and storm risk. Protect your camelids with these key steps:

- ✓ Provide **shade, fans, and cool water**
- ✓ Ensure they are **shorn before summer**
- ✓ Keep **JumpStart/electrolytes** on hand
- ✓ Check **FAMACHA scores regularly (both eyes)**
- ✓ Run **fecal tests** to monitor parasites

✱ **HURRICANE SEASON REMINDER:**

Whether you stay or go, **HAVE A PLAN**. Prepare early, secure transport, and have shelter options. **You can never be too prepared.**

✱ **Save the Dates – Upcoming FALA Events!**

- **Sunday, November 9 – FALA Annual Meeting & Llama Walk**
Join fellow members and their camelids for a scenic and social experience.
- **Weekend of January 17 – 5th Annual Florida Winter Classic**
New Location with enclosed arena and stalls!
The board is finalizing details—we're planning our **biggest show yet!**

We can't wait to see you in Lecanto and at all the events ahead!

As always, if you have any questions about these events or anything FALA, reach out to me or any of our board members,

Warmly,

John Previte
FALA President

Inside this issue:

2025 FALA Educational Seminar & Schedule	2
Camelid Books	4
Crias!	5
Understanding Llama Thermoregulation	6
Llama Association of North America Youth Writing & Art Contest	8
Calendar of Events	9

Thank you to Marjorie Hendon and Lisa Dreggors, Sunstate Llamas, for hosting our May meeting!

*The information printed within this publication is for informational purposes only. Always rely on your veterinarian for advice and treatment. The opinions expressed in articles, letters, ads and editorials are solely the opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily express the views of FALA. Acceptance of advertising/bulletin board items does not imply endorsement of products or services. Articles, letters, pictures and other contributions are welcomed.



LLAMA & ALPACA EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

JULY 19, 2025

8AM - 4PM

WHERE THE REALTOR ASSOCIATION OF CITRUS COUNTY

714 S SCARBORO AVE, LECANTO, FL 34461

***WE HOPE YOU JOIN US FOR THIS FUN
EDUCATIONAL EVENT!***

SPEAKER

**Dr. Lisa Edwards
University of Florida
Large Animal Internal Medicine**

**ALL EXPERIENCE
LEVELS WELCOME**

Vet Tech Tips

**Practical Fecal
Analysis**

**Intro to Llama Pack
Trials**

**Intro to Needle
Felting**

**Camelid Experiences
from a Youth
Perspective**

**Florida State
Diagnostic
Camelid /
Livestock
Findings 2024-25**

REGISTRATION	NAME	COST	ATTENDING
Non-members		\$25	
FALA Members		FREE	
Lunch additional cost \$10.00 *Dietary restriction_____		\$10	

Checks to be made out to FALA – DEADLINE JULY 12, 2025

Mail Complete Form and payment to:

Mary Rose Collins 4211 S. Old Floral City Rd., Inverness, FL 34450

You're Invited!

Join us for a full day of learning, fiber fun, and camelid community at our **FALA Alpaca/Llama Educational Seminar!** Whether you're new to alpacas and llamas or have years of experience, this seminar will offer fresh insights, hands-on activities, and professional guidance to support your journey.

This event is:

- **FREE for FALA members**
- **\$25 for non-members** (includes access to future 2025 FALA events)
- **\$10 for Publix lunch** – or feel free to bring your own
-

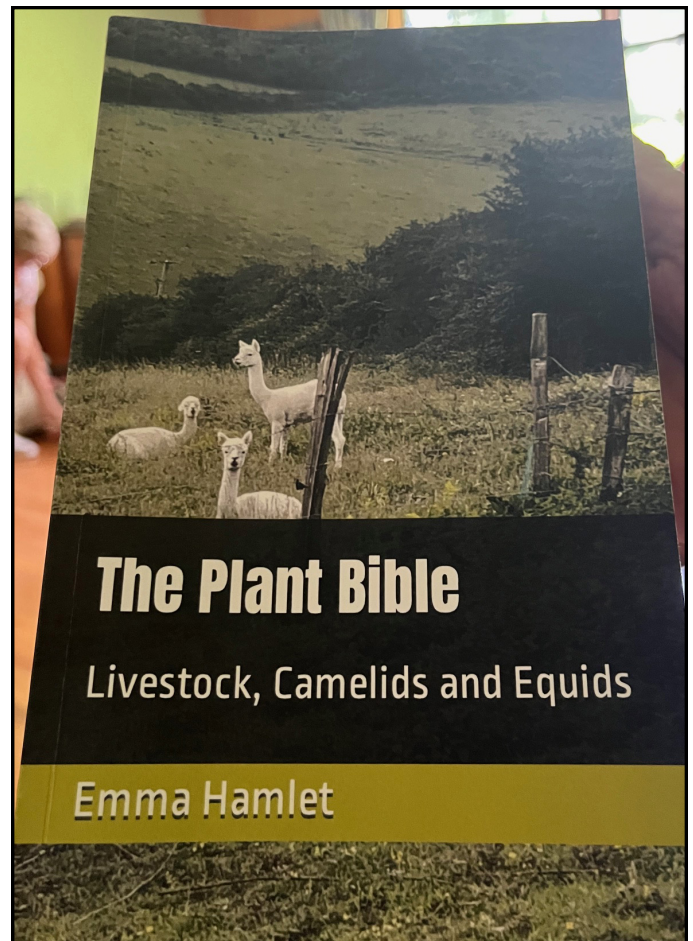
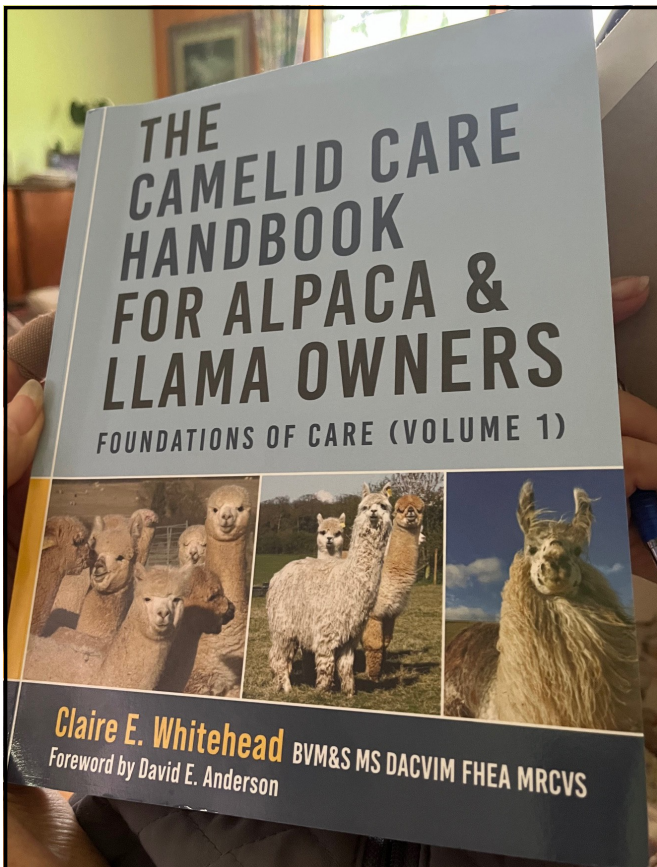
RSVP today to reserve your spot and lunch!

Mail form and payment to Mary Rose Collins, 4211 S. Old Floral City Rd. Inverness, FL 34450

EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

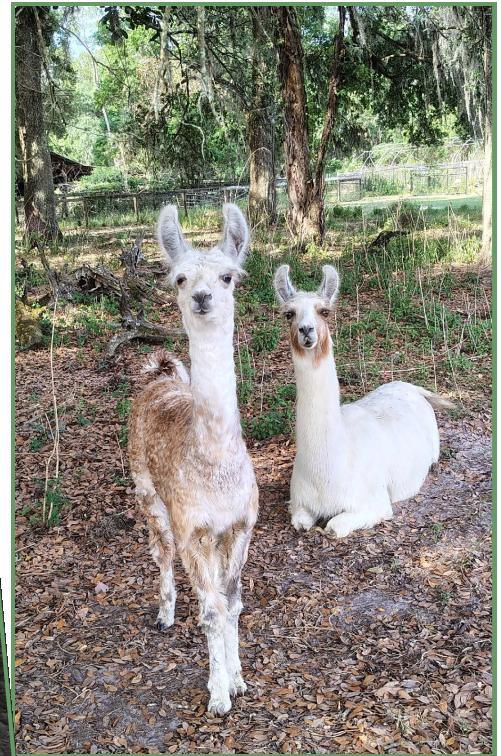
- **8:00–8:30 AM** | *Check-in* – Coffee & Danish
- **8:30 AM** | *Needle Felting & Fiber Dying* – Claire Marie Warner & Charlene Braun (continues throughout the day) (Kits \$15 and Roving that can be dyed for \$8 /oz)
- **9:00 AM** | *Internal Medicine for Camelids* – Dr. Lisa Edwards, University of Florida
- **10:30 AM** | *Camelid Disease Diagnostics* – Dr. Reddy Bommineni, FDACS
- **12:00 PM** | *Lunch & Youth Panel* – Young handlers share their camelid stories
- **1:00 PM** | *Llama Pack Trials Overview* – Mary Rose Collins
- **2:00 PM** | *Practical Fecal Testing* – Sarah Strautmann (**bring your microscope!**)
- **3:30 PM** | *Wrap-up & Depart*

These are the camelid information books that were discussed at the May meeting.





Shearing and crias, it must be Spring at Lisa Dreggor's Sunshine State Llamas!



THE GALA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025 9

Ask the Vet: Understanding Llama Thermoregulation and How These Remarkable Animals Beat the Heat

by Joe Menicucci DVM MBA, Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Llamas, with their thick luxurious fleece, might seem ill-equipped to handle the heat of summer. Yet these animals have evolved fascinating mechanism to manage their body temperature, whether in the blistering heat or the biting cold. Understanding these mechanisms is crucial for llama owners, ensuring the health and well-being of their animals year round.

Is this true for alpacas as well?

Yes, many of the thermoregulation mechanisms described for llamas are also applicable to alpacas. Both species have evolved to manage their body temperatures in similar ways, utilizing their fleece, behavioral adaptations, and physiological processes to cope with varying environmental temperatures.

The Importance of Shearing

Shearing llamas is essential to prevent heat stress. Their fleece, while perfect for insulating against cold, can cause them to over-heat in warmer temperatures. Here's a deeper dive into why shearing is necessary:

- **Heat Dissipation:** The thick fleece traps heat close to the body, making it difficult for llamas to dissipate heat effectively. Removing this layer through shearing allows heat to escape more easily.
- **Comfort and Health:** Without shearing, llamas are at risk of severe heat stress, which can lead to conditions such as hyperthermia, heat stroke, and even death. Shearing not only prevents these conditions but also makes the animals more comfortable during hot weather.
- **Timing:** It's best to shear llamas in the spring before temperatures rise significantly. This timing ensures they have time to adjust to the shearing before the peak of summer heat.

Behavioral Adaptations

Despite being sheared, llamas often lie in the sun, which might seem counterproductive. However, this behavior serves several purposes:

- **Vitamin D Synthesis:** Sun exposure helps llamas synthesize Vitamin D, which is vital for their bone health and overall wellbeing. Vitamin D plays a crucial role in calcium metabolism and immune function.
- **Controlled Thermoregulation:** Post-shearing, llamas use the sun to regulate their body temperature. The sun's warmth aids in maintaining an optimal body temperature, especially during cooler parts of the day. This behavior showcases their ability to balance their need for warmth without the risk of overheating.



Why does a sheared llama lie full out in the sun when it is 95 degrees? A sheared llama lying in the sun at high temperatures may be engaging in a form of controlled thermoregulation. Even at 95 degrees, the sun can provide necessary warmth, especially if the llama is in a state where it needs to maintain its body temperature. This behavior is a balance between gaining warmth from the sun and preventing overheating, indicating the llama's ability to regulate its temperature effectively.

Sweating and Cooling Mechanisms

Unlike humans, llamas do not sweat to cool down. Instead, they rely on other methods:

- **Panting:** Llamas pant to help dissipate heat through evaporation from the respiratory tract. This process involves rapid, shallow breathing that increases airflow over moist surfaces in the mouth and nose, enhancing heat loss.
- **Blood Flow Regulation:** Llamas increase blood flow to the skin's surface to release heat. This vasodilation process allows more blood to flow near the skin, where heat can be lost to the environment. This process is significantly more effective after shearing as the fleece no longer insulates the skin.
- **Seeking Shade:** Llamas instinctively seek out shade during the hottest parts of the day to avoid direct sunlight and reduce their body temperature. Providing ample shaded areas in their environment is essential to support this natural behavior.

What is the difference between this beneficial panting and excessive panting you describe below as dangerous?

Beneficial panting in llamas is characterized by rapid, shallow breaths that help dissipate heat. To a human, this might look

continued on next page

Thermoregulation continued from page 6

like the llama is breathing quickly but still seems calm and in control. In contrast, dangerous panting involves more labored and frantic breathing, where the llama may appear distressed, drooling excessively, or showing signs of overheating, such as lethargy or uncoordinated movements. This indicates that the animal is struggling to cool down and is at risk of heat stress.

Are fans in the barns a good thing? And misting used as a way to cool them off, but then we heard it was not OK.

Fans in barns can be beneficial as they help circulate air, which aids in cooling llamas by enhancing heat dissipation. However, misting may not be as effective because it can dampen the fleece, leading to reduced insulation and potentially trapping heat against the body, which might increase the risk of overheating. It's crucial to monitor how llamas respond to these cooling methods to ensure they are helping rather than hindering their thermoregulation.

Winter Adaptations

In winter, the thick fleece that poses a risk in summer becomes a vital asset. The fleece traps heat close to the body, providing excellent insulation against cold temperatures. Here's how llamas adapt to winter conditions:

- **Insulating Fleece:** The dense woolly coat acts as a barrier against cold, trapping a layer of warm air close to the skin. This natural insulation is highly effective at preventing heat loss.
- **Behavioral Changes:** Llamas will huddle together to share body heat and reduce exposure to cold winds. They also reduce their activity levels to conserve energy and maintain warmth.
- **Dietary Adjustments:** Providing a high-quality diet with increased caloric intake during the winter helps llamas maintain their body condition and generate the energy needed to stay warm. This is especially true for older animals.

What about the use of blankets in the winter? Blanketing llamas in cold weather can be counterproductive if not done carefully. Their natural fleece is highly effective at insulating and protecting them from the cold. Adding a blanket may trap moisture and reduce the insulating efficiency of their fleece. However, in certain situations, such as with older or sick animals, blankets might be necessary to provide additional warmth. It's essential to assess the individual needs of each llama and consult with a veterinarian for personalized advice.

Best Practices for Llama Care

To ensure your llamas remain healthy and comfortable, follow these care tips:

- **Annual Shearing:** Shear your llamas before the onset of hot weather to prevent heat stress. Ensure that professional shearers perform the shearing to avoid injuries and stress to the animals.
- **Provide Shade and Fresh Water:** Always ensure access to shaded areas and plenty of clean water, especially in hot weather. Hydration is crucial for temperature regulation and overall health.
- **Monitor Health:** Watch for signs of heat stress, such as exces-

sive panting, lethargy, drooling, or uncoordinated movements, and seek veterinary care if needed. Early detection and intervention can prevent severe outcomes.

- **Regular Health Checks:** Maintain a schedule for vaccinations, deworming, and nail trimming to keep your llamas in peak health. Regular health checks can identify potential issues early and ensure timely treatment.
- **Nutritional Support:** Provide a balanced diet appropriate for the season, with additional nutritional support during extreme weather conditions. Consult with a veterinarian to ensure the diet meets all nutritional requirements.

References:

Bennett, M. M. and N. L. Richards (2015). "Camelid wellness." *Vet Clin North Am Exotic Anim Practice* 18(2): 255-280.

Cebra C., Anderson D., Tibary, A., Van Suan, RJ., and LaRue W Johnson (Eds.).

(2014). *Llama and Alpaca Care: medicine, surgery, reproduction, nutrition, and herd health*. Elsevier (St. Louis, MO).

"Thermoregulatory | International Camelid Institute." Retrieved from International Camelid Institute.

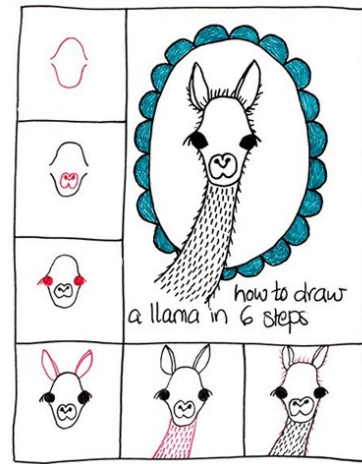
"Physiological and Behavioral Mechanisms of Thermoregulation in Mammals."

Animals | MDPI. "Overview of Llamas and Alpacas - Merck Veterinary Manual." Retrieved from Merck Veterinary Manual

Reprinted from the Fall 2024 RMLA Journal

LANA

Youth Writing & Art Contest



LANA invites youth of all ages to submit original work for a contest:

- a piece of writing OR:
 - o an article on any camelid-related topic of interest to the youth OR
 - o a fictional story involving camelids OR
 - o a poem about an alpaca or a llama or a herd OR
- a piece of original artwork with camelids included

NOTE: Please just one submission per youth per contest.

Written pieces should be 1000 words or less. If the author chooses to include images (illustrations or drawings or photographs), there should be no more than four to accompany the writing. The images that accompany a piece of writing will not be considered for the Art contest; they will be seen as a part of the written submission. If completed on the computer, written pieces should be written in Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double-spaced, with the author's name on each page in the header.

Pictures or scanned artwork should be submitted as .jpeg files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. The content should be the original work of the youth author/artist.

Submit written pieces and scanned artwork electronically to Susan Rich at lanaquestions@gmail.com. The deadline for the annual contest is November 1.

One winner for the written submission and one winner for the art submission will be chosen for each of the four age categories (sub-junior; junior; intermediate; and senior). Winners will receive a cash prize and written pieces and artwork will be published in the LANA newsletter and posted on the LANA website.



GET
CREATIVE



2024 Calendar of Events

July 19 — FALA Educational Seminar— 8:00am - 4:00pm

Citrus County Board of Realtors, 714 S Scarboro Ave., Lecanto, FL
See flyer and form on Page 2

September 21 — FALA Meeting

Casadellamas in Inverness, FL
Social 1pm, Meeting 2pm

November 9 — FALA Annual Meeting & Llama Walk

★ 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