

**Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.**

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

LATE SUMMER 2018

## Letter from the President

Hot, hot, hot! There is no other way to describe the weather. When the heat of summer wears on, we must be mindful how our woolly critters are doing. Heat stress and heat stroke can be deadly. Look for signs of sluggishness, walking like they are drunk, dragging their toe nails when walking, if you have sand you can see the long lines associated with this sign. It is best to prepare for them now and make your little ones as cool as possible throughout the summer. Have fans to circulate the air. Just keeping the air moving even if warm is good. Have sprinklers and misters available for cooling relief, these can be set up to run off a timer while you are at work. Kiddie wading pools are always enjoyed by the ones who love a long soak. Just be sure to change the water frequently and keep the pool in the shade. Plant trees in the pasture, and put up sunshades. There are so many ideas that will make your summer a success. If you have anything that you have tried and want to pass along to the other ranches, please write it down and email to Claudia Hammack.

I hope to see you at the September 16 meeting at Jean Riley's Alpaca Magic in Homosassa.

**Claire-Marie Warner, FALA President**

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We had a grand time at Martha and Charlie Seward's home in Ocala. Thank you for hosting our July meeting.

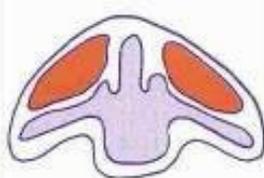
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# FALA Fiber Day 2018



# Body Score Chart

Here is a nice graphic that illustrates body scoring your camelid. It's difficult to withstand the summer heat if your llama/alpaca has too much padding!

	<p><b>BCS1 - EMACIATED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-very steep angle along spine &amp; curves inward</li> <li>- ribs are very easily felt</li> <li>- hard bony v-shaped chest</li> <li>- very increased space between rear legs</li> <li>- very little muscle &amp; absolutely no fat</li> </ul>
	<p><b>BCS2 - THIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spinal slope more that 45 degrees</li> <li>- ribs can be easily felt</li> <li>- hard chest with a slight v-shape</li> <li>- some increased space between rear legs</li> <li>- some loss of muscle</li> </ul>
	<p><b>BCS3 - OPTIMAL (for adult camelids)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- about 45 degree angle along spine</li> <li>- ribs felt with slight pressure</li> <li>- firm muscular chest</li> <li>- chest makes straight line between front legs</li> </ul>
	<p><b>BCS4 - OVERWEIGHT (for adult camelids)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- convex shape between the backbone &amp; upper ribs (ideal for adolescent huacaya alpaca under one year old)</li> <li>- ribs felt with some pressure</li> <li>- somewhat rounded soft feeling chest</li> <li>- inner thighs smooth &amp; less defined</li> </ul>
	<p><b>BCS5 - OBESE (for adult camelids, normal for Suri-type adult llamas and alpacas, and in cria &lt; 6 months old)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- backbone looks flat</li> <li>- firm pressure needed to feel ribs</li> <li>- rounded soft feeling chest</li> <li>- large area of contact between rear legs</li> <li>- little or no definition on inner thighs</li> <li>- may have difficulty walking properly</li> </ul>

# 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

<b>Neurologic:</b>			
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)
<b>Down:</b>			
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

# CAMELID CLASSIFIEDS

## Vintage Hard Wood Loom:

Weaves 40"  
6 treadle  
4 shaft  
Steel heddles

### PLUS EXTRAS:

Storage bench  
Warping board  
Shuttles  
Bobbin Winder  
Instructions  
2 reeds  
Yarn

Location: The Villages  
Clare: 209-712-7496




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I wanted to let you know we have a few Suri female alpaca available to buy at extremely reasonable prices. If you hear of anyone or know anyone interested we'd be glad to donate 50% to SELR of what someone would buy them for. All very healthy, nice personalities. If interested, I can forward the doc to you with pictures and description. Most importantly they go to homes with proper shelters, access to Vet, and good hay.

Debbie & Narvel  
Sweet Blossom Alpaca Farm  
Dade City, FL



## 2018 Calendar of Events

**September 16— FALA Meeting — Sunday, 2pm**

Alpaca Magic, Homosassa, FL

**National Alpaca Farm Days**

Check our Farm/Ranch Locator on [Falainc.com](http://Falainc.com) for a FALA member farm near you!

### FALA MEETING

Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018

Time: 2:00

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.

