

Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

SPRING 2019

Letter from the President

Hello FALA Folks,

First, thank you to all who participated in the Levy County Fair — it made for a really fun day with exhibitors, spinners, and fiber folks. Special thanks to all who helped before during and after the Fair to make it all possible.

The weather has bought us summer super early so I have three words for you all: shearing, fans and cold water. Be prepared now, it is going to be a long hot summer. When in doubt, cool them down.

We have started planning a day-long meeting in July to cover everything from the basics, parasitology, handling tricks, fiber processing, eye injury treatment and agritourism. If you have other topics of interest let us know. Contact Andie Frederick. We are presently looking for a location centrally located. Finalized dates and location will be out in early May.

On a personal note, thank you all for your support and it is wonderful the folks we have met in the Llama World who have been a great source of strength and support.

Mary Rose Collins

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A new herd spotted at the last meeting



Thank you to Paige and John Previte for hosting the March meeting.

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Levy County Fair Llama Show



FLEECE — IT TELLS OUR STORY OF OUR HERD OF CAMELIDS

The fiber of our animals is beautiful and usable, and it is visible and available for the marketing of our llama or alpaca.

We, as the herds person, must remember to provide the animals with adequate nutrition, pastures, and herd management programs to keep the fiber in its best condition.

In saying that, let's get marketing our fleece to provide more advantages for our animals and its products. What better way than to promote opportunities with shorn or walking fleece and finished product displays, whether at local venues, fairs, and shows. Let's make the opportunities happen for you and your farm and animals!

There are some favorable occasions that are forming and happening to promote shorn, walking fleece and finished products in the llama/alpaca world through some of the organizations that you may be affiliated with; SSLA, FALA, FSF, FABA, ALSAand if you are not, there are local civic organizations that would relish to have you bring your animal and or products to display! Remember, this is the year of the Camelid.....

A quote from our SSLA President Kim Kyst: "Finished Product competition would be a fabulous addition to the Georgia National Fair. It's a great place to showcase not only our critters, also the products created from their wonderful fiber."

Of course, we would like to expand upon this idea, and try to have our products, shorn and walking fleece at all SE shows!

SSLA Fiber Committee is beginning its deliberations to acquire new opportunities for Fiber persons to achieve recognition for their finished products that are being displayed at particular vendor shows or exhibits...more information on that as it unfolds!

The starting point is our local community exhibits, events, and activities. Adults, as well as youth, interested in using and promoting the fiber is an excellent outreach for our animal and its marketability, with its fleece as a product.

A few local activities to pounce upon and join us in helping to promote the fleece and its products:

Locally:

*Levy County Fair
Williston April 6, 9am-5pm Llama/alpaca show with Fiber products displayed and the Spinners' demo area.

*Grand Concourse Railroad Easter Egg-stravaganza
Safety Town—April 19-21 - 11919 Alric Pottberg Rd,
Shady Hills FL 33610

*FALA Fiber Day
Cagan's Crossing Library—June 8 - Clermont FL
10am-1:45pm

*Youth & Adult Finished Product Workshop
Wesley Chapel HS, August 24th - 9am-3pm

*April/May our local FABA organization has some tentative plans for fiber skirting and a fiber craft day—check the website for updates.

"Remember, as you are shearing your animals this spring, keep in mind all the fun activities going on this year and the products that you can create from that luxurious fiber. SSLA is excited to launch its new programs that will allow you to showcase your fiber and finished products. We will keep you updated with new information this summer," adds Lynn Wright, SSLA member and apprentice ALSA halter/fiber judge.

"You will soon have dear friends willing to share their knowledge and experience with you, simply because they want to spread the joy of working with fiber." (June Black, Discover Llama "Fiber-Love at First Touch," 2007)

My passion has become not only advocate these versatile and beautiful animals, but to educate about the products that can be made from their fleece.

Lets keep our Fleece visible, available and marketable!

Tracy Weaver
Humming Happily With Llamas ☺☆

YOU AND YOUR TRAILER

Thanks to Gary Kaufman, who posted the original article on his Roads End Llamas Facebook page. It has been edited here to apply llamas.

For many the show season is in full swing and your llamas are moving to and from, here and there, with hardly a care in the world. For others, the beckoning wild blue yonder is calling us and your llamas, and after a long hot summer, many are getting ready for that first of many road trips with animals quite literally in tow.

With that in mind, it's time to think SAFETY and so below please find the following article written in 1997 by Gerrit Rietveld- Animal Care Inspector/OMAF and posted on the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website.

For the purpose of this article, the word "horse" has been changed to "llama" (or you can think "alpaca" as well).

Most llama people are very conscientious when it comes to the training, care and maintenance of their llamas; but are they as meticulous when it comes to ensuring that their llamas arrive at the show safely? Transporting llamas can be a very traumatic and potentially dangerous experience for both the llama and owner if some practical steps for care and consideration are ignored.

Follow these steps to make sure your show day is a success from the start to finish.

Animal Welfare

Asking a llama to enter an unfamiliar, cave-like structure instinctively tells him that danger must surely lurk ahead and he should not enter. Spending a few hours a week prior to transport can overcome this fear and result in a llama and handler that are much more relaxed during the trip. A calm llama will perform better than one which has had a distressing trip on the way to a show. *Tip:* Often "spooky" llamas will feel more confident traveling with a partner. Suspending a hay net (within reach but not too close for entanglement) for the traveling llama will provide him with a nourishing distraction for a longer trip.

The interior of the trailer should be free of any projections or holes which may cause injury to the llamas, as they are often moved about involuntarily during transport. Partitions, breast and tail bars should be padded for the comfort of the llamas.

Reluctant llamas may load easier on a trailer which has a lightly colored interior, rather than one which is dark. Battery operated interior lights are a good idea and can be obtained at minimal cost.

It may also be advisable to check the insurance policy for your llamas to determine if they are covered while in transit.

Tip: Carry all buckets, forks, shovels, etc. in a compartment separate from the llamas.

Points to consider

Undercarriage:

Check closely each year prior to use for cracks in frame, axle brackets, excessive rusting of components, etc. ALWAYS check, clean and re-pack wheel bearings twice a season. Replace the seals and any other worn parts. *Tip: Carry along a replacement bearing and tools to install it.*

Floorboards:

Over time, whether a trailer is used regularly or sitting idle, floor boards deteriorate to the extent that they can pose a very real threat to the safety of the llamas on board. Floorboards should be replaced if they show signs of deterioration. Hardwoods, such as oak, are a good choice for replacement. *Tip: If a screwdriver or a pocket-knife can easily be pushed in to the boards more than a quarter of an inch, consider replacing the boards.* It is also suggested, as an added measure of insurance, to tack-weld a sheet of expanded metal fabric to the frame of the trailer before installing the floorboards.

Rubber matting installed over the boards will help to extend the life of the boards and provide better footing for the llamas. *Tip: Always provide bedding to absorb moisture.* Clean the trailer upon arrival at your destination.

Doors and ramps:

Regularly lubricate all hinges and latches to prolong their life. Check these prior to departure to ensure they are functioning properly.

Brakes:

MOST trailers are fitted with their own braking system, others are not. It is not advisable to disconnect trailer brakes, as it is better to have the trailer braking the truck than to have the truck providing all the stopping power for the trailer potentially causing a "jack-knife" in the event of an emergency stop. Ensure brake controller is properly adjusted and maintained. It should not "lock-up" and it should release freely. *Tip: Adjust to suit change in the seasons, i.e., summer/winter and total weight of the animals being transported.*

Routinely check trailer brake components for signs of wear.

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YOU AND YOUR TRAILER

Tires:

Tires should be well matched, properly inflated, and be in good condition. As trailers are often parked for long periods of time, the tires may show good tread, but the sidewalls should be checked regularly for cracking. *Tip: Ensure that the spare is in good condition and full of air. Also ensure that all the tools are available to change the tire.*

A “roll-up” block is a handy alternative to a jack system for two axle units. Simply roll the good tire (next to its flat mate) up on the block, suspending the flat tire in the air.

Hitch:

Does it lock securely? Are the safety chains heavy enough, well fastened, and in good condition to hold the trailer in an emergency? Nothing less than a two inch ball should be used. CHECK YOUR RECEIVER for missing or loose mounting bolts, cracked welds, and cracked or sagging receiver assemblies.

Lights:

Check all lights prior to departure. Other drivers require ample warning of a trailer stopping or turning. It is crucial those running lights are functioning properly, as often a portion of the journey may be made at night. Swap out old lights for LEDs.

Emergency Kit:

An emergency the kit should include:

- Two flashlights with extra batteries (may be used as taillights if trailer lights fail)
- Lead ropes for each llama.
- A 100 foot length of rope
- Flares
- Red warning triangle
- Jack for trailer or “roll-up” block
- Electrical tape
- Duct tape
- WD-40
- Stockman’s knife
- Blocks to stabilize a stationary trailer
- Two well stocked first-aid kits (one for humans and one for the llamas)
- Extra blankets
- Food
- Change for pay phone

Tow Vehicle:

The vehicle chosen to pull the trailer must be appropriate. A well-mated truck and trailer combination will have the trailer riding level to reduce strain on llamas during transit. A good towing vehicle for a large llama trailer should be equipped with

- Heavy duty suspension
- Good quality brakes in good repair
- Transmission cooler
- Heavy-duty radiator
- Good quality tires
- Dual gas tanks (or supplementary tank in the back)
- Cell phone with emergency numbers list
- Current registration and license and insurance

And finally:

Become familiar with backing and driving the trailer when it is empty. Beware that a trailer containing several 350 lb llamas does not handle like an empty trailer. *Tip: Place a glass of water on the dashboard of the truck and try not to spill a drop while you are driving. This will encourage smooth starts/stops and corners which your llamas will appreciate.* Plan your route before leaving to select the way with the least amount of traffic, starts/stops, and sharp corners.

Perform a “circle check” each time the trailer leaves the farm to ensure that lights, brakes, hitch, safety chains, etc., are in good working order and the doors are securely closed.

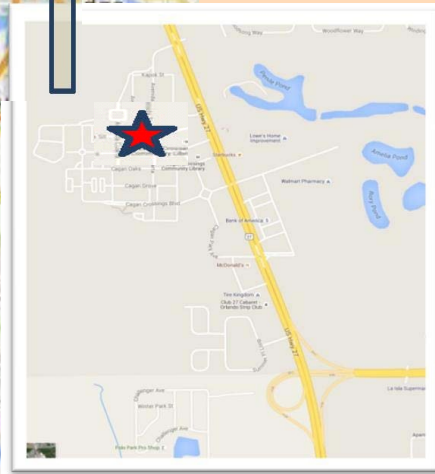
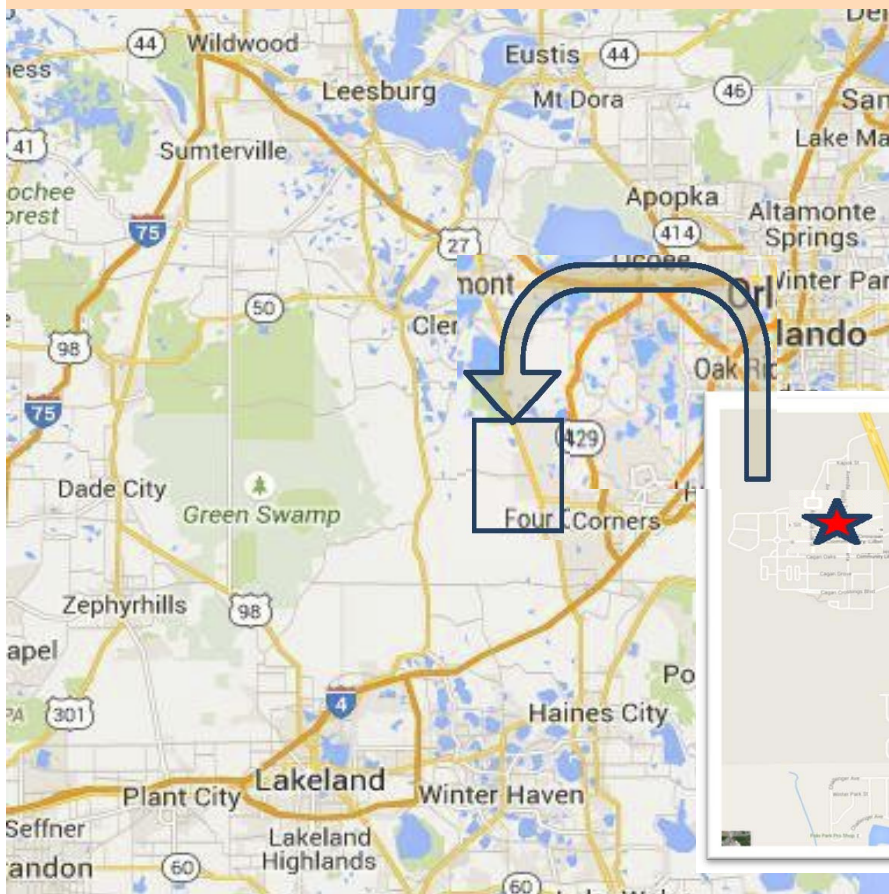
PS check ALWAYS for wasp/bee nests that might be in the trailer BEFORE loading up your animal.

Another excellent trailering article with even more references may be found at: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/llamas/facts/info_trailering.htm

Fiber Day! Florida Alpaca and Llama Association Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM - 1:45 PM

The Florida Alpaca and Llama Association will be having their annual "Fiber Fun Day" on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at Cagan Crossing's Library located on South Highway 27 in Clermont, FL. It will be a chance to learn how to crochet, knit, weave, spin, felt and other fun things to do with fiber. The library is open from 10:00-2:00pm on Saturday, and our program will run from 10 till 1:45pm. We hope to see you there. Please RSVP to **Claire-Marie Warner at 407-427-4570** if you want more information. Thank You!

Location:
Cagan Crossing's Library
Meeting Rooms A& B
16729 Cagan Oaks
Clermont, FL 34714
Phone: (352) 243-1840





2019 Calendar of Events

May 19 — FALA Meeting

Mike and Sheila Temple, Sun Spiced Alpacas
Social 1pm—2pm Meeting 2pm

May 25-26 — Northeast Tennessee Llama Show

White Pines, TN

June 8 — FALA Fiber Fun Day

Cagan's Crossing Library, Clermont, FL
10am — 1:45pm

FALA MEETING

Date: Sunday, May 19, 2019

Time: Social 1pm-2pm Meeting 2pm

Location: Sun Spiced Alpacas
5420 South Farm Pt.
Homosassa, FL

Bring snacks, chairs, and a great alpaca/llama spirit!