



EAA Newsletter

June 2007

Letter From the President

Greetings! This looks like another exciting newsletter – lots going on! Inside you'll find information on the Extravaganza, our first announcement (and what an announcement it is!) on the 2008 Symposium & Fleece Event, articles on the upcoming election and ballot initiatives, and a warm, heartfelt tribute to Ed Boyd, one of the pioneering legends in both the business world and the alpaca industry.

Three items in this newsletter that I am particularly proud about are the survey results, EAA's funding two UMass students' trip to AOBA Nationals, and the 2008 Symposium. We had 105 members respond to our online survey. The board has used this information to make a number of decisions over the past few months and we appreciate your input. My thanks to Ann Merriwether who spearheaded the survey. You can view the survey results online also at the EAA web site. When you login into the member section (you'll need your ID & password), you can click on the survey results link.

We all are too familiar with the shortage of large animal vets. As an industry, I believe it is in our best interest to encourage vets and students interested in specializing in large animals (particularly camelids). EAA had an opportunity to fund two UMass undergraduate students to attend the AOBA National Conference in May. Both of these students are in the camelid program and one has already been accepted to vet school. You can read about their AOBA experiences inside. By the way, the UMass Camelid Program was one of the top 4 projects members in the survey wanted EAA to support.

Lastly – the 2008 Symposium! Dr. LaRue Johnson will conduct a neonatal seminar complete with a wet lab! We hope to be able to accommodate 75 to 100 people for the neonatal labs. This is very exciting – mark your calendars: March 1 & 2, 2008.

The nominating committee finished their work and have 6 candidates for the upcoming election. My thanks to Sue Watts and the members of her committee for taking charge of this.

When I became president last November, one of the items I wanted to accomplish was a regular schedule of newsletters. Fortunately, Sue Zelazny stepped up and took charge of putting the newsletter together. This is our third issue. Thank-you, Sue, for getting these out – you are doing an excellent job! I would also like to encourage members to submit articles or stories for YOUR newsletter.

Happy Summer!

~ Steve McCarthy, Spruce Ridge Farm

EAA Board of Directors:

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Spruce Ridge Farm

Vice President:

Richard Jonassen ~ 518-568-3005
Alpacas of Raindance Pond, LLC

Secretary:

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Sunset Ridge Farm

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Riverside Alpacas

Members at Large:

Ann Merriwether ~ 607-785-8226
Nyala Farm Alpacas
Susan Wissick ~ 585-526-6308
Oh, My! Alpacas
Sue Zelazny ~ 585-798-0867
Andes Dandies, LLC
Newsletter Editor

2008 Winter Symposium and Fleece Event to Feature Neonatal Class with Dr. LaRue Johnson!

~ Steve McCarthy, Spruce Ridge Farm

Your board is busy at work on the 2008 Winter Symposium and Fleece Event. Of course many items and speakers are still not finalized at this early date but we did want to let you know what we do have. It is incredible!!!

The number one request we consistently receive on evaluations and surveys is that the members would like to have EAA host a neonatal seminar. A few years back, the board tried to work out a series of neonatal clinics across the state but unfortunately, our partner on it had to back out. Now we have booked Dr. LaRue Johnson, the best known camelid neonatal vet, to conduct our session at the Winter Symposium. Dr. Johnson has conducted 112 neonatal courses already. The EAA course will consist of a day of neonatal lectures on Saturday and then on Sunday a series of 2 hour "wet labs" with actual alpaca crias (see related story requesting crias). In my opinion, a hands-on neonatal class is the most important class an alpaca owner can attend.

The Symposium will feature lectures on other topics as well and the Fleece Event will feature a fleece show, spin-off and fiber arts competitions. We will again conduct the optional fiber arts workshops on Friday and have a session for vets on Friday with Dr. Johnson.

We have "booked" The Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center in Saratoga Springs (www.thesaratogahotel.com). Saratoga Springs is a lovely town about 30 minutes north of Albany with lots of restaurants, shopping and other things to do.

The dates are: Friday February 29, 2008 for the vet session and optional fiber arts workshops and Saturday and Sunday, March 1 & 2 for the Symposium and Fleece Event. More information will be available as we have it. Mark your calendar now - don't miss this event!

Board to Propose By-Law Amendments

~ Steve McCarthy, Spruce Ridge Farm

For the first time, the EAA election ballot will include some proposed amendments to the EAA by-laws. A couple of the amendments are administrative/housekeeping in nature, while one is more important in scope.

When EAA was created, the AOBA by-laws were used as the basis for the EAA by-laws. Included in both organizations' by-laws is the provision that amendments to the by-laws have to be ratified by 2/3 of the members entitled to vote. This provision has been a nightmare for AOBA, resulting in lawsuits and the inability to amend AOBA's by-laws. We want to avoid a similar situation for Empire.

As an organization grows and as times change, it is critical for an organization to have the ability to amend its by-laws. Unfortunately, a large number of members do not vote and that impedes an organization's ability to change. Even at EAA, as we have grown, the percentage of eligible voters (farm members) who actually vote has decreased; in the 2006 EAA election, less than 60% of the EAA eligible voters actually voted.

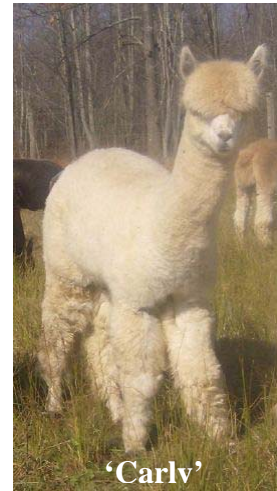
The 2007 election ballot will request a by-law change requesting future by-law amendments to be approved by "2/3 of the voters" rather than "2/3 of the members entitled to vote." This is an important issue for the future of EAA; we hope that you will support this change and vote affirmatively for it.

**2007 Extravaganza
October 20 & 21
NY State Fairgrounds - Syracuse NY
Judges:
Amanda VandenBosch - Diana Timmerman
Sara Jane MacLennan - Harold Herbolt
Online registration opening on August 15**

Update: The Alpaca Genome Project

~ Ann and Andy Merriwether, Nyala Farm

Over the past three years, Dr. Warren Johnson at the National Cancer Institute has completed the first map of the alpaca genome. It is a collection of markers spread across all 37 pairs of chromosomes in the alpaca genome. Think of these as road signs marking locations in the genome. The next step is to sequence the entire genome of an alpaca. In recent years geneticists have been sequencing the entire genetic content (genome) of a variety of species. Of course much attention has been paid to the mapping and sequencing of the human genome, but many other species have been completely sequenced as well (mouse, chicken, dog, chimp, frog, as well as lots of bacteria and viruses). You can see a list of the organisms whose entire genomes are currently being sequenced or are completed at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/WGS/WGSprojectlist.cgi> Clicking on the organism tells you more about it, as most of us don't know the scientific names of organisms.



Knowing the entire sequence of other species can be invaluable in understanding the genes that cause genetic diseases or traits in any species of interest. Dr. Wes Warren at Washington University St. Louis is about to begin sequencing the alpaca genome. This means we will know the entire sequence of one alpaca, and not just the road map.

Animals selected to be sequenced become famous in the world of genetics. We were pretty excited that one of our alpacas was chosen to be the representative for the alpaca genome. The lab knew that Andy raised alpaca and asked for 12 blood samples and chose the one that showed the least genetic variation. The alpaca chosen is a yearling light fawn female who happens to be full Accoyo in lineage. We thought it was pretty cool that she is a NY alpaca. Boy is she a New York alpaca! She was conceived in a trailer in the parking lot of the Empire Extravaganza, so we decided to name her Empress Carlotta. If she had been a boy we were thinking of Parker. Carly's contribution to the genome study has been to periodically donate blood, and from Carly's perspective they needed a lot (120 milliliters so far). When the alpaca genome is complete it will be easier to find and identify alpaca genetic disorders. It is likely there are genetic causes for problems like choanal atresia, wry face, polydactyly, heart murmurs, and crooked tails to name just a few. However some these conditions may be caused by environmental factors as well. Knowing the genome will make finding candidate genes a bit easier and help determine whether or not a given problem is genetic. Most of these conditions are found across species and the more genomes that are sequenced the more easily those genes can be found. Choanal atresia (CA) for example, is also found in people, although it is far more common in alpaca. There are 20 different human syndromes that feature CA, all of which are quite rare, and are likely caused by mutations in a number of different genes. Knowing more about the genetics of CA in alpacas may ultimately help understand it in people. Other than getting her blood drawn periodically, Carly's life goes on as usual. She plays with her younger sister and the new cria, and she is starting to flirt with the boys. Of course, she doesn't know or care that she is making an important contribution to the study of alpaca (and even human) health, but we are grateful for her contribution to science nevertheless.

New York to Participate in National Alpaca Farm Day

AOBA has designated September 29, 2007 as the "National Alpaca Farm Day in the USA" (NAFD) and the Empire Alpaca Association will be an active participant. EAA has requested an official proclamation from NY Governor Eliot Spitzer. The goal behind NAFD is to create a "National Event" where alpaca farms throughout the country open their gates and let the public in for tours, events and demonstrations. AOBA will be conducting a national marketing program including an online web site where people can search for a participating farm near them.

To register your farm with AOBA, go to AlpacaFarmDay.com and sign up. There is a \$25 fee to be listed on the AOBA NAFD web site.

Helpful Hints To Make Life Easier Around the Farm

~ Sue Zelazny, Andes Dandies, LLC

The following is a list of things I've found to be helpful along the way in making our barn run smoothly. Maybe some of these ideas will work to help you as well. If you have other great ideas, do send them to me at sue@andesdandies.com and watch for them in a future issue of the EAA Newsletter!

- Put wheels on your hay boxes to easily move them within the barn as well as from inside to outside. They also can be quickly slid up against a wall to create a catch area and prevent your alpacas from playing 'catch me if you can' indoors.
- Hang 'over gate' feed dishes from the mesh design panel gates: Use 2 'alligator' straps to make a loop horizontally in the mesh and hang the feeder from the loop. If the panel gate is between two pens, the back side of the loop can hang feeders for the other pen as well!
- Increase water consumption in hot humid summer or very cold winter by adding one scoop (provided in the can) of powdered Gatorade (ours like the Lemon Lime flavor) to 5 gallons of water. Make sure to offer some water without the mix in case some animals don't like it. Also be sure to completely empty and refresh daily as sugar and heat can = bacteria.
- You say your alpacas don't like to drink the water at shows? Add Gatorade as above to their home drinking water a few weeks before the show to get them used to the taste. Take the Gatorade powder to the show and add it to the water there to make the alpacas less likely to reject the taste of the water at the show.
- Put out more feed dishes than there are animals eating to make sure the alpacas at the bottom of the pecking order still get a chance to eat. Spread the dishes out as much as possible around the barn as well to prevent a 'piggie' from protecting several dishes.
- Use 'zip ties' to attach plastic snow fencing cut to size to mesh style panels and gates to prevent crias from getting their heads stuck in the openings of the mesh. This also works to make more private eating areas when feeders are hung on gates between stalls.
- Take advantage of 'the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence' mentality. Put hay feeders (large muck buckets work great) OUTSIDE your pens if you use tube style panel gates (attach bucket to the horizontal tube from the handle with an alligator strap to prevent it from being tipped over or moved). They're easy to fill, the alpacas can stick their heads through the gates to eat the hay, saving room in the stalls for animals and minimizing hay being made into bedding.
- Do you have an alpaca (or 2) who like to dip their DIRTY feet in the water buckets? Stop this nasty habit (and reduce the risk of spreading diseases and parasites like Coccidia) by putting water buckets outside of tube style panel gates – the alpacas can reach through with their necks but their feet can't!
- Use a 'white board' in your barn to keep track of upcoming due dates such as pregnancy, vaccinations, vet procedures, etc. Use WET erase markers rather than dry to make them last longer, and them can still be erased when needed with a damp paper towel. We use different colored markers for different lists on the board, one color for regular stuff like CDT shots, Dectomax shots due etc., another color (we use red) for the Vet list so nothing gets missed next time he's out, and another color to keep track of cria dates of birth and shots due in another area of the board. Keep a 'year at a glance' calendar in the barn too so you can easily determine follow up schedules that are X # of weeks in the future.
- Keep your vet's regular and emergency numbers posted in your barn, on your cell phone, and next to your phones in the house.
- Keep a list IN YOUR BARN of all your animals' dates of birth, microchip numbers, and due dates if pregnant. Most recent weight is not a bad idea either. Your vet will thank you for having that info at your fingertips in an emergency or when there for CVI's etc.
- If you have someone else doing chores for you while you're away, make up a sheet for each pen in your barn with the following info: Number of alpacas in each pen, pictures (shorn in spring/early summer, full fleece later in the year) and description of each animal with their barn name, gender, and due dates or which cria goes with which mother as appropriate. Slide the info pages into plastic sheet protectors to keep them in good shape in the barn.
- Tired of bedding being tracked outdoors on your alpacas' feet in the winter time? Buy the sand bags sold at hardware stores to put in the back of pickup trucks for weight in the wintertime and put them across the inside of door openings. The alpacas can easily step over them, poop carts easily roll over them, and they significantly cut down on the loss of bedding.

ATTENTION! RENEWAL NOTE REMINDER!

In an effort to streamline the EAA membership renewal process, starting in January 2007 **all membership renewals** were changed to have an annual renewal date of **June 1st**. To accomplish this, the amount due from each farm varies depending on when your farm's normal renewal time was, but hereafter the dues will be the same for every farm and will be from June 1 through May 30th each year.

The Survey Results Are In!

~ Ann Merriwether, Nyala Farm

As you know we recently asked the membership to complete a survey, and the results of that survey are now being used to help plan our future events and policies. We had a great response and invite you to view the multiple-choice responses yourselves at on the Empire site in the members section. We had many helpful open-ended responses too (although as some were very personal and others were signed by their authors we are not making them available to the membership).

Some survey demographics to consider. Our typical survey responder is a fifty-years young woman who has been in the alpaca business for about 4-5 years. She and her spouse or partner have a herd of about 20 huacayas which they show (especially in halter). They don't have children at home.

We did of course have a range of responses to the answers on all the questions. We are (as we already knew) an organization with a diverse membership, with diverse opinions. In addition to our two-adult families, we also have a strong representation of families with children under 18 (28%). We have a strong vital new member base (over 20% of the folks responding have been in the business for two years or less). We also have the wisdom and experience of older farms (15% have been in the business for 9 years or more). We are an educated membership. For example, most of the respondents have read the huacaya breed standards (77%!) but we are very mixed as to how we feel about them (22% would vote yes, 28% would vote no and 49% are unsure). As you can imagine having diverse points of view, does make for tricky planning to meet our memberships needs.

One of the things that came up with the survey results is of course that it is very challenging to meet the needs of such a diverse membership. For example, the newer folks would like future events to cover topics on some of the more basic husbandry issues, while the experienced farmers want more advanced

educational experiences. As with anything; you cannot please all the people all of the time. One of the questions your Board was most curious about was where folks wanted to have the fleece show. Given the survey responses, it will be staying with the Symposium (32% preferred the fleece show at the symposium, 21% preferred the fleece show at the Extravaganza, and 38% didn't care where we had it). We were excited that so many of our responders valued the symposium fleece event as an event that highlighted the fiber end of alpaca farming. We also know this will disappoint other members but we will continue to do our best to try to hear everyone's voice and keep communication open.

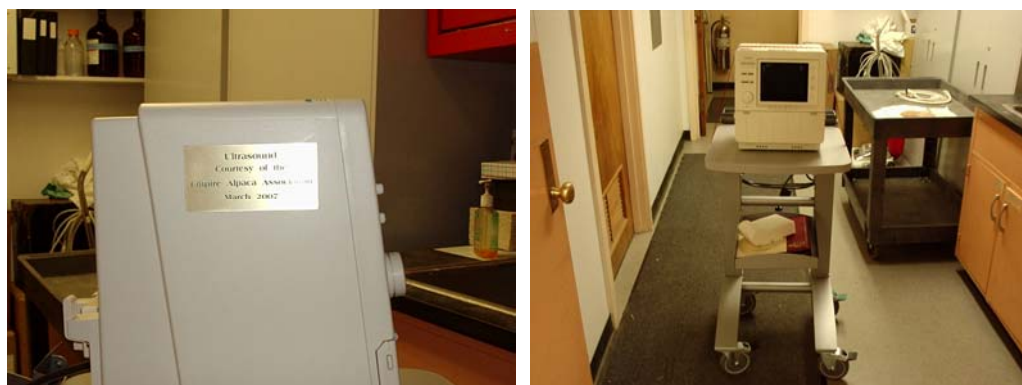
The open-ended responses were extremely helpful. We have a great list of speakers for educational events. We have some wonderful constructive suggestions for improving the Extravaganza and the Symposium. Some changes have already been put into effect by the survey results. We are in the planning stages for both the Extravaganza and the Symposium. The topics most desired by respondents were neonatal labs, reproductive issues, nutrition, genetic disorders, parasite management, color genetics and fleece preparation. You can expect that these topics will be represented at our upcoming educational events. As most respondents wanted us to endorse the National Alpaca Day to be held the end of September we will be doing just that. Several folks asked for more communication and you can expect the Newsletter to now be coming out quarterly. We will also be moving the Symposium from the Turning Stone and after exploring many options, the 2008 Symposium will be in Saratoga.

More than a few folks described how great the Extravaganza is and how proud they were to be Empire members. Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey by taking the time to do this you have helped to make our great association even better.

Your Dollars at Work at Cornell

“The Empire Alpaca Association generously donated an Aloka SSD-500V ultrasound machine with a linear human prostatic scanner. This new machine will allow obtaining better images and thus better diagnostic capabilities when performing an ultrasound of the reproductive tract of alpacas. More importantly, the linear prostatic scanner is much safer and comfortable for transrectal use in alpacas than the linear probes that are typically used for transrectal ultrasound in large animals. All of us at Cornell University Hospital for Animals want to extend our most sincere appreciation for this gift to all the members of the Empire Alpaca Association.”

~ Sylvia J. Bedford-Guaus, DVM, PhD, Dip/ACT, Assistant Professor, Theriogenology Section, Cornell University Hospital for Animals.



Upcoming Election for EAA Board of Directors

~ Sue Watts, Nominating Committee Chair

Election time is coming up again later this summer. The terms of three of our EAA board members are up: Richard Jonassen (who is ineligible to run again, having served for two consecutive terms), Steve McCarthy, and Susan Wissick. A minimum of two nominees are required for each open position, and the nominating committee has recruited the following slate of six nominees: Jeannine Anderson, Cindy Cuykendall, Mark Gilbride, Todd Gruenhagen, Steve McCarthy, and Susan Wissick. Thank you to each of these candidates for their willingness to be of service to our association.

Candidates can also be nominated by petition. The petition requires the signatures of three EAA members in good standing and must be delivered to the nominating committee no later than July 31, 2007. For more information, please contact Sue Watts at sue@calidadalpacas.com.

Ballots will be sent to all voting members by about the end of August, and the results of the election will be announced at the Empire Alpaca Association's annual meeting at the Extravaganza on October 20, 2007.

Thank you to all the members of the nominating committee for their work in nominating this year's slate of candidates. The nominating committee members are Wayne Jarvis, Dave Serino, Cindy Vars, Sue Watts (chair), and Karin Young.

EAA Provides Grant Money for Drug Research

EAA will provide funding to study the use of Dobutamine during general anesthesia on camelids. Dobutamine is a blood pressure drug that has been used in other species but has not been evaluated in camelids. The goal of this study is to evaluate the beneficial effects of Dobutamine on blood pressure, heart function, oxygen delivery and blood flow in healthy adult alpacas undergoing general anesthesia. The study will be conducted by Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and additional funding will be provided by the National Institute of Health.

Call for Crias for EAA Neonatal Course

Losing a cria is a terribly tragic event for any farm. We hope that by offering a neonatal class and wet lab at the 2008 Winter Symposium, we can reduce the number of crias lost due to dystocia. To make our wet lab effective, we will need at least 12 deceased crias. If you have an unfortunate occurrence and lose a cria, we hope that you will be kind enough to donate your cria to EAA so that others may learn and hopefully prevent future deaths.

If you would like to donate a cria, please put the cria into a cushioned position, place in a heavy duty trash bag, secure with duct tape, freeze it for at least several days, pack with dry ice or ice packs and then ship it to me by **overnight mail**:

Steve McCarthy
Spruce Ridge Farm
434 Route 13
Old Chatham, NY 12136

I would appreciate a call (518-794-6294) or email (Spruceridgefarm@aol.com) to let me know the cria is coming. To help compensate you for your shipping expenses and loss, EAA will give you a \$50 discount on the 2008 Symposium if you wish. Farms donating crias will be kept confidential if the farm wishes.

U Mass Students Thank the Membership

The following letters of thanks were received from the two Pre Vet students from U Mass who were sponsored by EAA to attend the 2007 AOBA National Convention:

“My name is **Gregory Hoyt** and I am a junior in the Commonwealth College Honors Program at the University of Massachusetts, majoring in Pre-Veterinary and Animal Science. I am pursuing my ambition to become a veterinarian to better the lives of animals. I was accepted in 2006 to the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine Bachelor’s/D.V.M Early Acceptance Program for the class of 2012. I am the President of the UMass Pre-Veterinary & Animal Science Club and a participant and organizer of the Annual Bay State Livestock Classic. I am a very active student and have gained much experience as a member of the UMass student-run Goat Herd, the UMass Belted Galloway Group, and the UMass Wildlife Society. I have been involved with the UMass Camelid Studies Program since the beginning and was one of the students who traveled to Peru last summer. I am planning to complete my honors research project and thesis working with Dr. Purdy on vaccination of alpacas to prevent meningeal worm disease. I very much appreciated the generous contribution of the Empire Alpaca Association to the UMass Camelid Studies Program which allowed me to attend the AOBA national conference in May. I very much enjoyed seeing the high quality alpacas, working with the vets on call, and attending educational seminars. Thank you again for your support and I hope to see some of you in the future as a camelid veterinarian.”

“My name is **Carolyn Emery**, and I am a junior at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and a student of the UMass Camelid Studies Program. First off I would like to thank the Empire Alpaca Association for sponsoring my trip to the AOBA show. It was a delight to meet the owners and breeders across the entire country. Riding along with Dr. Evans and Dr. Lips to learn about all of the different cases was an excellent educational opportunity. Talking with people one on one resulted in a more personal experience for me and helped me to understand the various parts of the alpaca industry. I have worked with alpacas for close to a decade now, and I am barely twenty-one years old. From a very early age I knew I would like to work with animals and because of that most of my life has revolved around animals. I will graduate from UMass in 2009 with a B.S. in Pre-veterinary Science in the Animal Science Department. I hope to attend a graduate school to earn a D.V.M. in Veterinary Medicine and specialize in large animals, including alpacas. I would like to thank you again for your generous donation because our program is solely funded on private donations.”

EAA continues to strive to find ways to promote the health and well-being of our alpaca friends and we embraced the opportunity to advance the education of these future vets interested in camelids. This is just one more example of how your organization is looking to the future and supporting the industry.

A Fond Farewell to Ed Boyd

~ Michele Armour, Rose Haven Alpacas

On April 30, 2007, Edward F. Boyd of The Double E Alpaca Farm in Bethel, New York passed away. He died at the age of 92 from complications of a stroke suffered a number of months earlier. He lived a wonderfully full and noteworthy life; and that was prior to his alpaca journey which he began in 1994 at the age of 77! He was known in his professional life for breaking new ground, and so he continued that with alpacas.

For those of you who didn't get to know Mr. Boyd, you have missed a truly warm and generous man. He was an extraordinarily charming man, and another wonderful example of the interesting people who make up the alpaca business. Our farm is not far from the Double E and Rob and I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Boyd, his son Brandon, his daughter Rebecca, and his herd manager Jair. But we actually didn't meet him at their farm; we met him and his son at the Empire Extravaganza! I will always remember him chastising me that here we were neighbors but we had to come all the way to Syracuse to meet – we'd better change that - and we did. Sometimes I feel I know their farm as well as our own. Mr. Boyd would ride his golf cart over his property to check up on his alpacas. The Boyds were gracious enough to bring me along on a few of my first shows to show me the ropes and I will always be grateful for that too. It sure helps on those first shows to have a guiding hand to learn what to do.

Mr. Boyd always had a smile, a warm engulfing handshake, and always had something nice to say. He was the consummate gentleman. He always helped people in the alpaca business, and I'm sure that was a way of life for him. On shearing days he would bring out a school bus load of kids from the inner city to spend a day on the farm. Many of you may know the story of Maria Bravo being stuck with her 300 alpacas, and Ed took them all in! That's just the type of man he was.

Both Rob and I always thought there was more to Mr. Boyd than met the eye. Though we never asked the family about it, we just knew. It wasn't until right before he died that we started to find out about his interesting background. You have to look at his life's history, and some of his groundbreaking achievements. You can read part of his background in a recently published book, *The Real Pepsi Challenge*, but to give you some more insight into the life of Ed Boyd, here is an excerpt from Wikipedia:

Edward Francis "Ed" Boyd (June 27, 1914–April 30, 2007) was an American marketing executive who was responsible for the marketing of products specifically to African Americans in an era when racial discrimination was rampant and blacks had either been ridiculed or systematically ignored in advertising. His efforts for Pepsi-Cola pioneered the concept of niche marketing and allowed Pepsi to substantially increase its market share in the black community at the expense of Coca-Cola.

Boyd, an African American himself, was born and grew up in Riverside, California. After high school, he trained at a local opera company and wanted to be a diplomat. After graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1938, he enjoyed a short film career, playing minor roles, often as stereotypical singing and dancing roles which he resented...He later worked for the Screen Actors Guild, was the first African American to work for the Civil Service Commission in San Francisco, and then worked as a housing specialist for the National Urban League

Boyd's career continued over a variety of public and private sector jobs. He was a mission chief for CARE, worked with the Society of Ethical Culture, and helped to pioneer alpaca farming in the U.S.

Donald M. Kendall, retired chairman and chief executive of PepsiCo, said in a statement "Jackie Robinson may have made more headlines, but what Ed did - integrating the managerial ranks of corporate America - was equally groundbreaking."

We had no idea of his extremely interesting past. We just knew him as a really lovely man, a man that we liked a lot. He loved alpacas and respected all others who loved alpacas. A really fine man graced all of our presence. Our condolences go out to his family during this time. The family would like any memorial donations to be made to the Alpaca Research Foundation.

If you would like to read more about Edward F. Boyd see the following links:

http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200702/20070227_boyd.html

http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_F._Boyd

EAA Membership Survey At a Glance

~ Sue Zelazny, Andes Dandies, LLC

Listed below are responses from the recent EAA Membership survey on non-demographic questions that did not require an open-ended response. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Please feel free to access the EAA Website for FULL details.

OK, maybe you're not playing the ever popular TV game show, *The Family Feud*, but we're still going to preface this information with that famous line by Richard Dawson, "The survey SAID..."

- In 2001, 13% of members attended the Extravaganza without showing, and 18% showed alpacas at the EAE.
- By 2006, 37% attended the EAE without showing and 62% showed alpacas.
- 31% have never attended the Extravaganza, and 22% have never shown at the EAE
- 10% of members show once a year, 25% show at 5 or more shows a year, while 17% don't show at all.
- 40% of members have never attended the Symposium, but 39% attended in 2007
- Location of Fleece Show preference: Symposium: 32%, Extravaganza 21%; No preference 38%
- Symposium Attendance:
 - 83% for informational seminars
 - 40% attended fiber workshops
 - 34% showed fleece
 - 29% competed in Fiber Arts
- Most Frequent Responses for Future education topic interests:
 - "Definitely Would Attend": Neonatal Lab: 48% and Fleece Prep 29%
 - "Strong Interest": 40% Parasite Management and Reproductive Health; 37% Biosecurity, 34% Genetic Disorders, 33% Color Genetics, 32% Nutrition, and 31% Pasture Management
 - "Some Interest": 33% Marketing and Basic Healthcare; 30% Show Handling; 27% Fleece Processing; 25% Hands-on Fiber Arts
- Breed Standard Proposal: 77% Read the Proposal, 28% would not vote for it, 23% would, and 50% "not sure."
- 52% trust the AOBA Board to do the best thing for the alpaca industry, while 30% aren't sure
- 73% trust the EAA Board to do the best thing for the membership, while 23% aren't sure
- Preference for potential projects to be funded/supported by EAA:
 - "Yes, definitely" nods go to ARF 67%; NY based research 63%; Cornell Camelid program equipment 54%; UMASS Camelid Studies program 38%
 - Yes, if there's money but not at top of priority list: Other National camelid projects 49%; ICI 47%; Cornell Vet students 44% Quechua Benefit 42%; Camelid studies at UMASS 38%
- Endorse "National Alpaca Day" 65%
- Endorse "I love NY Llamas and Alpacas Day" 23%

Call for Crias for EAA Neonatal Course

Losing a cria is a terribly tragic event for any farm. We hope that by offering a neonatal class and wet lab at the 2008 Winter Symposium, we can reduce the number of crias lost due to dystocia. To make our wet lab effective, we will need at least 12 deceased crias. If you have an unfortunate occurrence and lose a cria, we hope that you will be kind enough to donate your cria to EAA so that others may learn and hopefully prevent future deaths.

If you would like to donate a cria, please put the cria into a cushioned position, place in a heavy duty trash bag, secure with duct tape, freeze it for at least several days, pack with dry ice or ice packs and then ship it to me by **overnight mail:**

Steve McCarthy
Spruce Ridge Farm
434 Route 13
Old Chatham, NY 12136

I would appreciate a call (518-794-6294) or email (Sprucridgefarm@aol.com) to let me know the cria is coming. To help compensate you for your shipping expenses and loss, EAA will give you a \$50 discount on the 2008 Symposium if you wish. Farms donating crias will be kept confidential if the farm wishes.



434 Route 13
Old Chatham, NY 12136

“Showtime!” DVD Available!

In 2005, the EAA board commissioned EAA members Michele Armour and Rob Bruce of Rosehaven Alpacas to videotape the 2005 Empire Alpaca Extravaganza and produce a video that EAA could sell. Michele, Rob and their crew visited farms before the show to film and interviewed people at the show. They edited the footage and produced an amazing video entitled “Showtime!” In October, EAA distributed a free copy to all EAA members and started selling copies of the DVD.

We think Michele and Rob did a great job on this video. This video should be very helpful to people attending their first show and we encourage you to buy copies to give to your customers. Please remember that this video is copyrighted and should not be copied. Thank you to Michele and Rob for a superb job!

Additional copies can be purchased for \$20 by sending a check payable to “Empire Alpaca Association” and mailed to:

Steve McCarthy, Spruce Ridge Farm 434 Route 13 Old Chatham, NY 12136