



HIDDEN GEM NEWS

November 2009

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch

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Interesting items

#1 cause of lameness in alpacas – Overgrown toenails!

A human blood glucose meter can tell you if your cria has nursed.

It's time to get ready for winter! Start watching your crias and older animals for signs of being chilled. Have your alpaca coats ready. Call us if you'd like to purchase some.

Visit us on our website:

www.hiddengemranch.com

Tax Planning

We know that taxes are an unpleasant part of life, but it is something that we all need to do if we don't want a special visit from Uncle Sam. We aren't tax professionals and can't give any specific advice, but since most businesses operate on a January to December year, it is time to consider a few things prior to year end.

Most people and businesses want to avoid paying anymore than necessary, so it is beneficial to take advantage of any special programs available. The most talked about program for alpaca farmers is the section 179 of the tax code. You can write off business expenses against other income and perhaps reduce your tax liability. For 2009 the deduction has been raised to \$250,000. It is beneficial to know prior to the end of your fiscal year to know where you stand and what actions would benefit you.

If alpacas are raised for profit, all the expenses attributable to the endeavor can be written off against your income. Expenses would include not only feed, fertilizer, veterinarian care, etc., but depreciation of such tangible property as breeding stock, barns and fences, all of which can help shelter current cash flow from tax. Refer to IRS publication #225 (The Farmer's Tax Guide) for more information. If you can reduce your tax burden through investing in your business, you have a win-win situation. Combine this with the purchase of a bred female alpaca, and you are going to generate income potential in future years. Please consider Hidden Gem Ranch for your year end purchase. We provide up to 2 years free financing with longer terms available and have a variety of incredible animals to choose from.

Of course, not all of us can just go out and purchase alpacas or other business items. In this case, there are still other ways to reduce your tax obligation that should be considered. These include taking advantage of any tax deferred retirement plans, deferring your income until next year, use your flex spending plan, pay your January 1st mortgage before December 31, prepay taxes, take advantage of the governments energy credits, and make charitable donations. Always check with a tax professional to understand your individual options.



Class & Seminar notes

Upcoming activites

GAA show
November 21-22

Next issue

GAA show results

Happy Holidays

Last month Melissa attended the SAFF fiber festival in North Carolina where she gained additional knowledge and confidence in spinning, crocheting and felting. She also attended the SEAA class by William Gholston DVM covering vet procedures that you can perform on your farm. Melissa & Alex learned about giving shots, taking blood, performing physical exams, cria care, checking for parasites, breeding advice, and general care.



Happening at the Ranch

This month we will be participating in the GAA show on November 21-22. We will be taking 4 of our weanlings and are excited to see how they compare against the other entries. We are looking forward to the “quiet time” of the winter season.

Featured alpaca(s)

This month’s featured alpaca is Pumpernickel Fanfare. He is our new Suri herdsire as we have sold all of our other Suri males. We wanted some new genetics and to add color to our herd. He is an award winner and is black with very lustrous fleece. He has settled his first females and is ready to go to work for you, too.

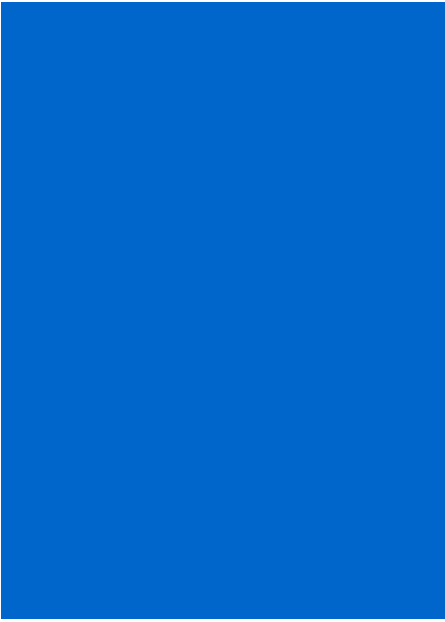


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