



# HIDDEN GEM NEWS

February 2010

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch Alpacas

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## Interesting items

The BIG sale is in full swing and we have sold several great animals at AWESOME prices. If you have been thinking about or are interested in purchasing some quality animals at or near half price, be sure to contact us. This sale is almost over.

We haven't received much response to setting up a fleece party to spend time together learning and sharing ideas on using fleece. If this is something that is of interest, we can set up a date. Contact Melissa with your preferences and we will try to work something out.

Visit us on our website:

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

## Show season preparations

Show season is upon us and our first show for this year is the Southern Select. The Southern Select is the closest show for us and is also the largest one in the Southeast. This year's show is March 6-7, and we hope to have a repeat of last year with 2 blue ribbons(or more!). We are now more experienced in the showing process after participating in 2 shows last year. We invite all of you to visit or participate in the show and don't forget to stop by and see us while you are there.

Participating in shows is relatively easy and there are a few items that you can do to make it easier. The first is to create a list of things you need to take with you. There are several lists available on the internet, you'll want to customize one for your needs. Once you have your list, be sure to save it and add to it based on your circumstances. Of course, long before you start packing you have to determine which animals you are taking, get them BVD tested and register them for the show. Now, as for the animals, you don't want to take any juveniles that haven't been weaned and halter trained. We work with our animals a few times every week for training and try to keep them relatively clean. It is against show regulations to perform any grooming as it disturbs the fleece. The fleece counts as 50 or 60 percent of the overall score and is to be in natural pasture condition. The main thing is to have fun! Even though the show is a competition, it is a SHOW. Shows are to be entertaining and educational. You can see and visit a large number of animals, speak to different owners, attend classes, and of course watch the show and listen to the judges' comments for valuable insight. Another great way to learn more about shows and showing is to volunteer at a show. Help is always needed and much appreciated. Contact the barn manager at your show of choice for more info. No experience necessary.



## Upcoming activities

*Southern Select show*  
March 6-7, 2010

## Next issue

Southern Select show results  
Cria Time!



Our Majacraft Pioneer!  
Come on over for a spin-in!

## Happening at the Ranch

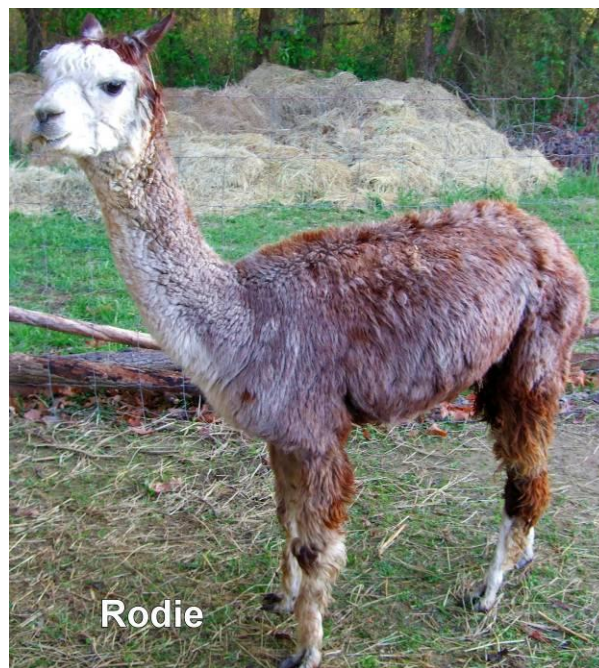
-We are preparing for the Southern Select alpaca show the first weekend in March. Our first cria for this year isn't due until after the show. We are looking forward to Spring's arrival.

-Melissa purchased her first spinning wheel and is practicing her new-found hobby. The wheel is a Majacraft Pioneer and spins like a dream.



## Featured alpaca(s)

This month's featured alpaca is Rodie. She is rose grey, currently bred to Romeo, and is due March 25. Romeo placed first in the fleece spinoff and 2<sup>nd</sup> in halter at last year's Southern Select. She is a good mother and passes her fineness to her crias. Through this breeding to Romeo, we hope to add extra density and crimp. We can't wait to see the results! She is included in our BIG sale and can be yours for **only \$3000**. Her fleece stats for 2008 were MFD: 26.0 SD 5.6 CoV 21.6%  $\%>30u$  15.8 That's lasting fineness!



Rodie



Last year's cria Vintage Roadster. (SOLD) See him at Southern Select in March!

Dennis & Melissa McFail  
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