



# HIDDEN GEM NEWS

July 2010

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch

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Watch your male's testicles for swelling this time of year. Too much heat causes this swelling and also can make them sterile!

Most alpacas love baths with the hose. Only hosing down their legs and bellies cools them without causing a sauna effect.

Let your alpacas roll! Dust baths help them stay cool and keeps flies off.



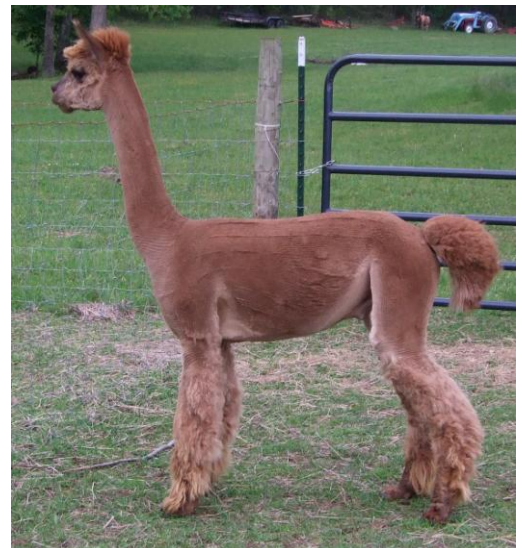
## Why alpacas?

### Why Hidden Gem Ranch?

This newsletter has 2 purposes. It is intended to inform and educate our customers and those interested in alpacas. However, since it also is distributed to members of the SEAA, it also serves to introduce Hidden Gem Ranch and our alpacas to other farms. This article is directed at other farms with the intention to “re-introduce” ourselves and our products (the alpacas). So, Why Alpacas? Because they are unique, easy to care for, have tax advantages, have potential for profit, provide a product without slaughter, and of course they are sooo cute. We have enjoyed our time learning about these animals and believe that we are now in position to provide an excellent range of alpacas to

those interested.

So who are we and why should you chose to buy from Hidden Gem Ranch? We are Dennis & Melissa McFail and we purchased our first alpacas in December 2006. We are a small farm, currently with 30 alpacas (both huacaya and suri), operating on 9 acres in Coalmont, TN. Our farm has grown along with our knowledge and love of the animals. We attend many seminars, are active in associations, and participate in shows. We have mentored new alpaca owners and are often consulted by experienced breeders. As we are now in our 4<sup>th</sup> year of breeding alpacas, we feel



that we have demonstrated that we are knowledgeable in alpacas and have earned the respect of other farms. We live in a modest home in a rural part of Tennessee which allows us to keep our prices low. Melissa is home full time which allows her to know each animal individually and can provide full farm support. We don't specialize in any particular breed, genetics, or color – but try to offer a wide range of high quality animals to choose from. We have huacaya genetics from Snowmass, Acero Marka, Silvio, Karrington, Hemmingway, Felix, Don Julio and suri genetics from Macgyver, MFI Conquistador, Ricardo, Ameripaca's Commander, Acero Marka's Sergio, & AABC Admiral. We have award winning animals and offer very good terms. We offer 2 breedbacks to all of our females and 2 year free financing. We can also offer longer term or creative financing on an individual basis and will match any other farms terms. Stop by for a farm visit or check out our website for more information. We can be reached almost anytime.

### Upcoming activities

National Alpaca Farm Days  
September 25 & 26

Royal Alpaca Challenge  
November 20-21

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## Happening at the Ranch

We breed so that no crias are born in the middle of summer but we can't wait until the next one that should arrive in early fall. We continue to work with the spring crias and are trying to decide who we want to take this year to the Royal Alpaca Challenge.



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## Featured alpaca(s)

This month we are featuring a female that we had the fortune to recently purchase. She is from the Snowmass line, is very dense and sheared over **10 pounds** of **23 micron** fleece this year. We are making her this year's first **Hidden Gem!** Our Hidden Gems are alpacas that we believe will add quality to America's herd. Also if you mention that you found the **Hidden Gem** in our newsletter, you get 15% off of anything we sell (valid thru August 31, 2010). Let us introduce **NorthCoast Pablo's Papillion** (ARI 309360110), we call her Poppy. We've bred Poppy to our great black Silvio grandson Sally's Nightout for a spring 2010 cria.

**Contact Us**

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