



HIDDEN GEM NEWS

February 2011

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch Alpacas

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IMPORTANT NOTE!

If you are planning to take crias to the Southern Select Show- please wean them and halter train them now. Get them used to being handled.

***** If you haven't registered for the show- do it now! It's going to be better than ever this year.**

Alpaca breeding facts:

Breeding is done in the cushed position.

Females like to breed next to a fence or gate.

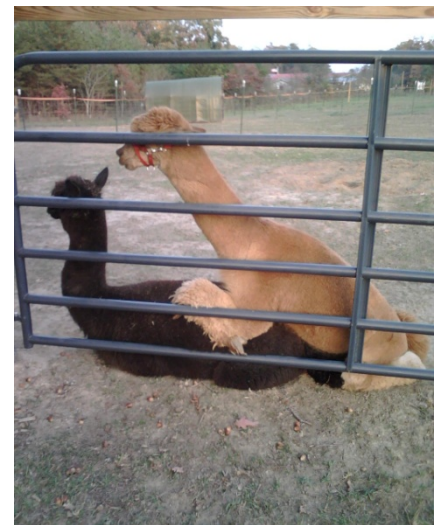
Males will usually sing to the female with a throaty sound called orgling. Research tells us that orgling helps induce ovulation.

A blood-tinged discharge from the female is common right after breeding.

Breeding

Spring is almost here, which to us, means preparing for crias and determining breeding pairs. Last year we made a decision to breed primarily in the spring due to the summer heat we experienced. Pregnancy just adds too much stress to that already present due to the heat. We will have 10 animals to breed this spring. We try to select the breeding pair on conformation, fleece characteristics, and color. We always consider the genetics when breeding to avoid inbreeding.

During last year's SEAA meeting, we learned about determining color from geneticist Andy Merriweather and will use that information to assist us in selecting the proper pair to advance our herd in the direction we are going. We have built our herd to give us a variety of genetics and colors, and are always happy to share our knowledge with all alpaca owners.



Happening at the Ranch

Since the last newsletter, we have a new metal roof installed on our house, traded in our old tractor for a new one, and have selected our entries to the Southern Select which will be held on March 5-6 in Shelbyville, TN. We will wait to publish next month's newsletter until after the show to share our results. Feel free to visit us and our stall at the show. The BIG sale continues this month. Be sure to check out our prices on our website, Openherd or Alpacanation.

Featured alpaca(s)

Upcoming activities

Southern Select show
March 5-6, 2011

Next Issue

Southern Select show results
Cria Time!

Since this month's topic was Breeding. We chose to feature all of our breeding age "open" females. Purchase them now as part of our BIG sale and you can select the herdsire. Prices range from \$5625 to \$9000. We will be breeding them in late March or early April. Refer to our website for photos and more information.

Huacaya Females include: Amber, Kobria, Dominique, Juliet, and Bella
Suri Females include: Angelia, Ruby, Trinity, and StarDust. Click on a pic to go directly to their information page.



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