



HIDDEN GEM NEWS

March 2011

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch

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Helpful Hints

Cria watch can be fun and stressful. The dams always wait until you're not paying attention. The fact of the matter is, you're probably making her nervous by watching all the time. When you leave, she relaxes long enough to deliver. So give your girls a break, invest in a barn/pasture cam or find a convenient window and watch from afar.

Upcoming activities

Valley Fest – Dunlap, TN
April 16-17

Best Valentine Surprise EVER!

Our friend Kevin pulled off a wonderful surprise for his lovely wife Wendy by having us deliver Hidden Gem Romeo's Juliet on

Southern Select Results

The Southern Select Alpaca show is the largest show in the Southeast and is also the closest one to our farm. We consider this to be our most important show due to the competition and its proximity to our farm. Most of our last year's crias are too young to take to this show due to us trying to move breeding time to the spring. There were almost 500 animals there this year. As usual, the weather didn't cooperate very much. Saturday was cool, wet, and windy with at least 2 inches of rain falling. Sunday was cold and there were occasions when snow was in the air. We didn't get the results that we hoped for but did have 2 second places (Cristo & Win) and one 4th (Cyrus). Plus Brian got 4th in the obstacle course with Cyrus. Win got a 7th in the obstacle course with his new friend Morgan.



Cria Time!

Spring is traditionally time for the new crias to make their appearance. We have our first ones of 2011 due this month with a total of 10 expected this year. Last year we decided to breed primarily in the spring due to the recent hot summers. Spring is an ideal time for birthing as it is usually less stressful on the mother and there is usually plenty of grass for grazing. We also sent Dominique off to be bred to Delta King! We won a breeding to him at the Royal Alpaca Challenge in November.

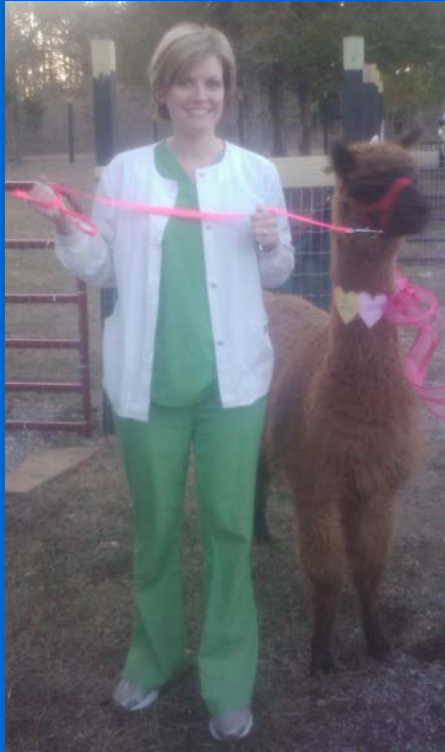
Happening at the Ranch

We are hoping that winter is over as it has been in the 60's for the last 3 weeks. There hasn't been much activity other than the Southern Select show. We are getting ready to seed some of the pastures and starting our spring cria watch. We are going to participate in Valley Fest, held in Dunlap, Tennessee, which is geared to showcase cultural diversity in the Sequatchie Valley. This is located about 30 miles from our ranch. Come out and (hopefully) enjoy the spring weather on April 16 & 17.

The **BIG SALE** continues this month! Females are 25% off and males are

Valentine's Day!

Wendy and Juliet have had a special relationship since Juliet was born so we are so happy they are finally together. Congratulations Wendy! and kudos to Kevin on an awesome gift!



50% off regular prices. Check out our website for current prices.

Featured alpaca



This month's featured alpaca is Bambi. Many of you may already know her as she was born on our farm almost 2 years ago and has been in several parades, etc. We just registered her and will be breeding her this spring. We just love her gray (almost blue) fleece and hope to use her as our huacaya foundation female for gray.

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