



HIDDEN GEM NEWS

June 2011

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch

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Upcoming activities

National Alpaca farm days
September 24 & 25

Fleece, Fleece, Everywhere

As summer is upon us, most alpacas should have been shorn. Now what to do with all of that fleece? We have bags and bags full!

Will be evaluating and processing the fleece. We weigh the fleece to see how much each animal produced and we evaluate the characteristics. This helps us determine breeding

decisions for next year. Since we won't have many more crias due this year, we can begin the processing phase. We process most of our own and send some to the mill for processing. We have our own drum carder and spinning wheel. Melissa has gotten pretty good at spinning the fleece and we have been selling it through our store and other outlets. It is still a slow process and will probably take until shearing time next year to process it all. But working with the fleece has also taught us what to look for and become more knowledgeable in various qualities and characteristics.

If anyone is interested in a demonstration or learning how to process the fleece, we would be happy to work something out.



Happening at the Ranch

Summer has arrived on the mountain and school is out. As reported in last month's newsletter, Alex has graduated High School and he will turn 18 this month. He still isn't sure of what he is going to do, but we don't think it will be alpacas! He will be participating the FBLA national championships again this year, with the hopes of another 1st place win and maybe even some prize money. We wish him well with whatever he chooses and are sure that if he can't find anything, that he can always scoop the poop!

As for the alpacas, we had more crias born and have only a few more due this year. Crias born include a dark fawn girl on the 19th, a white boy on the 20th, and a light fawn boy on the 28th. We also supported our local fire department's 30th anniversary by exhibiting some of our animals and we

made a trip to Florida to pick up Trinity who has been confirmed bred to Twist-N-Shout! We want to wish everyone a happy summer.

Featured alpaca(s)

This month's featured alpacas are Poppy(Papillion) with her new cria, Alora and one of our new herdsires, Caezar. Poppy is full of Snowmass genetics and has now proven she can produce colored crias. Caezar is from Magical Farms and we plan on breeding these 2 to add some "Magical color to Snowmass fleece"!



Poppy & Alora



Caezar

Dennis & Melissa McFail
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