



# HIDDEN GEM NEWS

August 2011

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch

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## Upcoming activities

SEAA meeting - Aug. 13

TAA meeting - Aug. 20-21

National Alpaca farm days  
September 24 & 25

## Summer Ramblings

We have been busy this summer and did not have a July issue. We just couldn't think of a "new" topic this summer, so this month's topic is just some "random" thoughts.

This summer is turning out to be as hot as last year. It would be appropriate to have our usual summer heat issue, but

hopefully all of the alpacas out there are keeping cool. June's topic was on fleece and hopefully you had a chance to take a good look at it. It is time to begin selecting animals for the fall shows and/or determine fleeces that you want judged. Summer is also a good time to make farm visits and see what is happening.



## Happening at the Ranch

We finished this year's spring breeding on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We had made a decision last year to try to have only spring crias.. Any open girls will have to wait until next spring for their dates, although we are considering a couple fall breedings at this time. We are going to try to install water lines out to the main pastures so we don't have to carry water to the animals this winter. Alex won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the FBLA national competition in computer operating systems. School starts for Brian on August 5<sup>th</sup>. We are planning our farm event for National Alpaca Farm Days at the end of September and selecting animals for entry into this falls show circuit.



## Featured alpaca(s)

As the fall breeding season is approaching, we are featuring 2 of our dark males (1 suri and 1 huacaya). Alpacaria's Pumpnickel Fanfare is a dense, true back suri with “drippy” locks. We will be showing his first 2 offspring this year. Blacksmith AS Peruvian Blacksmith also has very dense fleece that spins very easily. His first cria will be arriving next spring and we can't wait to see what he produces. You may want to consider these animals for your breeding program or add to your herd.

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