



HIDDEN GEM NEWS

September 2011

An informational newsletter published by Hidden Gem Ranch

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Upcoming activities

Tracy City Mountaineer Days
September 10-11

National Alpaca farm days
September 24 & 25

Ketner's Mill
October 15-16

Kentucky Classic show
October 22-23

SAFF
October 22-23

Royal Alpaca Challenge
November 5-6

Fall show season arrives!



We thought that we were busy over the summer (see last month's newsletter), but it is nothing compared to the fall! The show season is slower in the summer as most animals have been shorn and the fleece characteristics cannot be adequately determined. We have decided to participate in 2 local shows this fall and have selected our lineup! The first show that we will be in is the Kentucky Classic held in Frankfort on October 22-23 and the second show is the Royal Alpaca Challenge held on November 5-6 in Conyers, Georgia. In addition to going to the shows this fall, we have been asked to participate in the Sequatchie County Fair at the beginning of the month (Aug 30 – Sep 3), Tracy City's Mountaineer Days on September 10-11, and Ketner's Mill craft show on October 15-16. In between all of these events is National Alpaca Farm Days held on September 24 & 25 and Melissa will be attending SAFF in North Carolina on the same weekend as the Kentucky Show (October 22-23)!

We enjoy showing our animals, learning new things, and promoting alpacas and alpaca products to the community. We hope to see you at any or all of these events! You can find participating farms for National Alpaca Farm Days at www.nationalalpacaфарmdays.com We will also be using facebook to update you on where we are and what is happening.

Happening at the Ranch

The fall show season article above gives you an idea of what is happening on most weekends between now and Thanksgiving. All of our "remaining" time is spent on working with our show lineup and preparing product for the community events. Our son Brian spent his summer going to band camp,

learning to play the saxophone. He's now marching and playing in the Grundy County High School football games! We are so proud. He is also teaching himself to play trumpet. So different from him brother but just as talented on a completely different front.

*Just a quick word from Melissa... If you've never been to SAFF (Southeastern Animal Fiber Festival) and you have any interest in spinning, knitting, crochet, dyeing, felting, or anything (and I mean anything!) related to fiber, you MUST go! It is 3 days straight of everything animal fiber. They have a live sheep/goat/llama show and a fleece show & sale. There will be LOTS of workshops, classes and vendors for every fiber craft. Honestly, I like to call it an "estrogen-fest" because it is 90% women attending. Plenty of us girls use it as the perfect excuse to shop and vacation with "the girls" but there are men that attend and participate, too. Although the vendor spots are sold out for this year I believe there is still space available if you would like to bring your fiber animals and showcase/network/advertise your farm.

If you decide to go, look me up. I'll be racing from workshop to workshop all three days but the evenings are for relaxing with my fibery friends. For more info on SAFF go to <http://www.saffsite.org>.

Featured alpaca(s)

This month's featured alpaca is Nasawan (31375337). She is a show-stopper at our farm with her stately presence, perfect conformation, and very fine fleece. Her fleece analysis just came back at MFD: 22.9 microns, SD: 4.8, CofV 20.8%, 6.1%>30 microns at 2 1/2 yrs old.

Nasa was never shown but we feel she could have easily taken banners in any major show.

She is bred to Alluring Touch of Crème, who has won 1st places in both halter and fleece.



Dennis & Melissa McFail
Hidden Gem Ranch
464 S. Industrial Park Rd.
Coalmont, TN 37313
WWW.HIDDENGEMRANCH.COM

