

NSAA's First 2015 Newsletter

Thinking Spring!



Table of Contents

[NSAA Education Seminar #1](#)

[NSAA Board Election Results](#)

[NSAA Survey Results](#)

[Alpaca Shearer Coming to You](#)

[Upcoming Alpaca Events](#)

Dear Friends,

Looks like spring may just be around the corner! Surely not for others on the east coast, please keep them in your thoughts that it will be warm and sunny soon. Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter of 2015, our new schedule will have future newsletters out to you in the months of May, August, and November this year.



NSAA's 1st Educational Seminar for 2015! Alpaca Medical Emergencies/Cria Birthing Education Seminar

Saturday, April 18th, 10am - 4pm

Cost: \$50.00 per NSAA Member or \$ 75.00 non-Member

Location: Puget Sound Veterinary Clinic in Mount Vernon, WA.
2115 Old Highway 99 S Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Includes a Breakfast snack and Lunch with drink.

Come join NSAA members & fellow Alpaca farmers from all over the NW! The day will be filled with valuable education we all need to learn as Alpaca farmers, provided by our local alpaca veterinarian, Dr. Jackie Waltner from Puget Sound Vet Group.

This class will be action packed, and cover topics such as basic Herd Health, Emergency Procedures, Treat at Home versus Call the Vet, and Which Medicines/Vaccinations to Use &Why/When. Vet Jackie will also cover Birthing Assistance with hands-on learning labs and newborn Cria Care, just in time for baby season around the corner.

This class is not just for the New Alpaca owner! Even experienced alpaca farmers can learn some new tricks from Jackie, all while you network with other alpaca owners in your region.

****Space is limited, so please Register no later than April 6th 2015****

An announcement will be sent out once registration is open via the NSAA website, until then, please email Marlene Presser with questions:

marlenepresser@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing ya there!

NSAA Election Results

Board Voting results are as follows; out of 9 farms that voted, Marlene received 8 votes, Ed received 5 votes, and Maggie received 5 votes. As there were two board positions currently open, with a third position recently vacated, all three members will now be serving on the Board.

Congrats and thanks to each candidate for volunteering their time and energy to help the NSAA continue moving forward. The next election will be occurring this summer when three positions will be voted on, more details will be provided via the May newsletter and member emails.

Our ideal voting scenario in the future will allow each Farm to vote in an anonymous manner online, while maintaining the Board's ability to know which Farms have voted to date from an accounting perspective, but without knowing each Farm's individual response. The Board will be making every effort to have this new voting capability in place prior to this year's Summer Social Elections. Please start thinking of this year's nominations!

NSAA Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in our January member survey that was posted on the website and handed out in person at the Winter Social. The survey results and your feedback provides the Board with direction from you the members. We'll be reaching out to the individuals who indicated they are willing to host seminars/socials as well as those who are interested in helping with Fiber Fusion or the NSAA Board. Here is a summary of the other responses:

- The top three requested educational seminars are 1) *Herd Health, Medicinal Uses, & Emergency Procedures*, 2) *Best Practices on the layout of your farm and Barn/Pasture Maintenance*, and 3) *In-region options for what to do with your fleece after shearing*. As announced above, please join us at the first scheduled seminar requested by you the members!
- Five of our member farms will be attending two or more Halter shows this year, with three farms attending two or more Fleece shows as well. The number one reason preventing folks from attending more shows is the Cost, with Transportation being a distant second.
- At least five farms are interested in sharing the cost of a professional shearer this year. Read on to find out how you can have your animals sheared on site or at another member's farm.
- Two farms utilize both EPD's and Histograms in their breeding programs, with an additional two farms using only histogram data. We feel there is a lack of documentation on how EPD's are calculated over time, and how they can best be used by the breeder, and are working with AOA on how to obtain the answers to our questions.

Get Sheared by the Best!

Matt Best that is. He will be making a trip to western WA again this year in mid-June and NSAA has worked out a deal for our members. Any new customer who schedules Matt to visit their farm and mentions this newsletter blurb, will receive one alpaca sheared for free! Matt is charging \$25 per animal plus a \$50 farm visit for each location visited, please contact him directly to schedule your shearing date/time.

We are working on creating a day while Matt is in town where animals can be brought to a central location rather than Matt traveling to you, more details will be communicated in the May newsletter or via a direct membership email.

Matt Best (603)304-5555 alpacashear@yahoo.com
<http://www.bestalpacashearing.com/best-alpaca-shearing/>

Upcoming Events are linked below, hope to see you there!

NSAA Summer Social is being planned for late July 2015, details soon!

Interested in helping with Fiber Fusion? Contact the Board!

2015 Alpaca Events

[Alpacalooza Show](#)
[March 28th-29th](#)

[CABA Classic Show](#)
[May 9th-10th](#)

[Fiber Fusion](#)
[Oct 17th-18th](#)

For questions, please email or call us, we love to hear feedback and suggestions from our members.

Sincerely,
Marlene, Ed, John, Alex, & Maggie

info@northsoundalpacas.org |
<http://www.northsoundalpacas.org>

PO Box 1131
Stanwood, WA 98298