



NEWSLETTER

April 2010

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COMMITTEE LIASONS

SaskInDemand - Gill Weber

Shows - Lloyd Ottenbreit

Promotion - Guy Jean

Education & Workshops -

Jane Wortman

Membership - Gill Weber

Newsletter - Polly Schindel

Website - Polly Schindel

Updates from the AGM and Progress since!

President Lloyd Ottenbreit welcomed everyone to the **AGM** held in Regina March 6, 2010. There was an excellent attendance—12 farms were represented and there were 6 guests.

Membership Report - Gill Weber - we had 31 members last year as of newsletter publication there are 33 farms paid.

Website Report - Polly Schindel reported that Larry Horne has retired and Trudy McCall has replaced him. The website no longer uses SaskTel as its provider as we have found a more cost effective one, and is being updated with more information. Members get one free ad with a picture a year. Members can also put photos on the website and we are requesting that members submit photos for the website. With our billboard initiative it is critical that we have an attractive website!

Education - Jane Wortman reported that the Shearing and Sorting Workshop

on May 1 and 2 will be held at Woody Acres just outside of Saskatoon. Sorting your fibre helps maximize your fibre harvest and makes the most of your fibre. There are still a few openings so please call Gill Weber at 374-6737 to register ASAP!!

Farewell to Jane Wortman whose term is up and is stepping down from the SABN board of directors. Jane has graciously agreed to remain working until the Sorting and Shearing Clinic is completed since she has been instrumental in organizing it and assuring its success. Thank-you for your dedication these past years Jane!

Welcome to Aaron Ciepliski, Ambrosia Alpacas, Bienfait, SK who has volunteered to join the board!! There is still one opening for another board member, please contact Lloyd Ottenbreit, President, if you would like to do your part in keeping the SABN a progressive network of alpaca owners!

FIBRE COMMITTEE REPORT -

by Cathy Merkley on behalf of committee members Polly Schindel and Elaine Wyatt

In order to maintain the purebred breeding stock industry, we must develop the fibre industry to create a commercial alpaca stock industry. We all know this is true, so how do we get there?

A Bit of History

Canadian Camelid Fibre Co-operative Members voted to dissolve the co-op in December 2009 due to inability to meet financial commitments. The CCFC had great success in a number of areas, but due in part to the complex nature of the organization, the number of tasks, the huge amount of work done by a few volunteers and the lack of participation by alpaca breeders, the CCFC could not continue operations.

The successes that CCFC achieved were establishing a world class sorting and classing system, determining products appropriate for each class of fibre, establishing mill protocols and product specifications, developing products where quality was second to none, serving members who submitted fleece and/or purchased product for retail.

The Current Situation

Most alpaca breeders have said that they want someone to purchase their raw fleece at the farm gate and do not care to be involved in processing or retailing product.

Individual producers stockpile fibre, sell raw fleeces or carded fleece to hand spinners, have small lots processed at mini - mills or pool fibre over a number of years or with other small breeders and have yarn or socks or other products made that they then sell at the farm gate or craft shows. These individuals seem to be in the minority among alpaca producers.

Lack of manufacturing is an obstacle that producers face. Mini-mills and others are overwhelmed with demand for processing.

Several mini-mills report 12 -18 months wait times for processing.

Most people who sell product report a high demand, high level of repeat customers and extremely effective word of mouth advertising for alpaca product, with socks being the number 1 seller.

Canada does not produce enough fleece to sell raw or classed fibre in the world market. No one is purchasing fibre on any large scale in Canada. Mini-mills, community mills and midsize mills rarely buy fibre, but offer custom processing.

Investment of time and money is higher to take the fibre to the retail ready product, but profits are much higher than the sale of raw fleece. Many producers bring alpaca products in from Peru to sell when unable to supply their market with Canadian product.

Filling the Gap

With the demise of the CCFC, a void has been left in the alpaca fibre industry. CLAA purchased classed sock yarn from the co-op and made a

batch of socks, with orders pre-sold. The sock manufacturer was the one hired by the CCFC in the past and all of the purchases were run through the CLAA office, with the labelling, packing, invoicing and shipping done by volunteers. The CLAA will follow that with a second sock run and if they can purchase appropriate yarn, a third. The yarn is purchased from a Canadian company, the socks are produced in Canada and can be marketed as Canadian made. They are equal in quality to the CCFC socks, are produced in two styles- terry and casual- and retail for similar price to CCFC sock. The CLAA will continue this process as long as there is a demand for socks from CLAA members.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The CLAA has established a fibre committee with John MacLeod, Alice Groeneveld, Shirley Krause, Polly Schindel, Elaine Wyatt, Cathy Merkley and Daniel Eslake as the CLAA board committee liaison.

FIBRE COMMITTEE REPORT Cont'd

Meetings began prior to the vote to dissolve the co-op with discussions regarding the achievements and failures of the CCFC, what can be done to build on the achievements and avoid repeats of the pitfalls and how best the CLAA and/or a new co-op could best serve the needs of alpaca producers in Canada. After the dissolution of the CCFC, past board members were invited to join the CLAA Fibre Committee as members of the committee or to provide input. Jill MacLeod has joined the committee. The CLAA fibre committee sent a list of questions to Deb Griffey, owner of Shears to You Mill in Ontario. It is a mid-sized mill that has been operating for a number of years. She answered the questions from her perspective and has offered to act as an industry consultant to the committee.

The committee is investigating various scenarios for starting up a new generation co-op and has consulted with an expert from the Alberta provincial government. The CNASF group has offered to pay to have a business plan for a new organization prepared. It may be that a new co-op will not resemble the old one that tried to be all things to all people. It may more likely be a corporation run by investors that may focus on one or two small areas in an attempt to create financial success and build from there.

Individual producers can carry on as they have been. Private groups, regional clubs, or provincial networks could start pooling fibre and sending it for processing in larger lots than individuals could achieve. This might be a proactive step to prepare for a future potential processing or sale of fibre. Please forward your input or suggestions to the SABN or the CLAA

Fibre Committee. We need ideas for developing the fibre industry, up and coming milling opportunities, individual initiatives, co-operation on a regional, provincial, or national level and any other aspects for the future of the alpaca fibre industry in Saskatchewan and Canada.

Saskatchewan Fibre Mill Update

Tara Jaboeuf has acquired machinery from Prairie Fibre Mill in order to do the front end work of washing etc. Tara will work in cooperation with Sheila at Prairie Fibre Mill and is anticipating being ready for production in September. Tara is located near Saskatoon at Dalmeny and is confident that Sheila and she can look after transportation of fibre from one mill to the other for producers' convenience.

SaskinDemand - Lynn Hilderman reported that the show has been cancelled for 2010. Discussion about having our own Fibre in Demand show somewhere followed. Lynn Hilderman will chair the committee to coordinate some kind of show with other fibre producers to showcase fibre in Saskatchewan. Committee Volunteers are Cathy Merkley, Cathy Newby, Tara Jaboeuf, Polly Schindel and Rachel Vos.

CRYSTAL

SPRINGS

ALPACAS

Robert and Joyce Ferrari, Box 94
Livelong Sk, S0M 1J0 306.845.2411
crystalsprings@littleloon.ca

**Registered and non-registered
alpacas for sale
Also Raw Fibre, Hand-knit
Articles,**

SABN / U of S ALPACA FIBRE PROJECT

Dr. Satya Panigrahi Department of Engineering, Agriculture and Bioresource Engineering, U of S, suggested SABN take advantage of a research project in fibre processing and blending that his department is interested in pursuing. As a result a committee was formed and has since applied for funding to do this. Volunteers for the committee are: Polly Schindel, Cathy Merkley, Tara Jaboeuf, Rodney Weber and Guy Jean.

Objectives identified in the proposal are: Scientifically study the processing of alpaca fibre and research improvements for mechanical processes.

Develop a protocol for best methodology of washing and drying alpaca fibre.

Research blends of alpaca fibre using other natural fibres such as flax and hemp that will improve the finished product and make it more marketable as well as more affordable to the consumer.

Optimize the natural fibre blending with Alpaca.

Develop a standard processing and blending procedure for alpaca and other animal fibres.

Investigate the impact of blending on processing of fibre and the resulting yarn.

The U of S is eager to have producers begin to supply fibre for the project (which they will give back processed to whatever stage they are capable) in the near future. We will keep you posted!

The Secondary Products Initiative

Rob Blom has been researching the alternatives to fibre production in Alpaca Ranching. Here are some of the results:

Not all of our alpacas are going to have great fibre for their entire lives. Although not every producer is in favour of a meat/hide industry there is a need to have this discussion.

Presently there are a number of people that are selling meat in various forms, such as sausage, whole butchered meat and restaurant high-end meats--all of which helps to get the idea across of Alpaca being a new lean meat alternative to the more traditional meats. Most alpaca meat that is sold is being butchered at a gov't-inspected abattoir. Which is required to sell to consumers.

Since good cuts for human consumption would require the slaughter of young animals and fewer producers are willing to do this since that means losing prime fibre production, we have focused more on the use of meat from older or cull animals.

In talking with Spring Meadows Frozen Pet Food, near Saskatoon, they are looking to add a new variety of meat protein to their supply in the near future and they feel that alpaca would fit their company. At this time they use chicken, beef, elk and bison.

They require 1600 lbs of meat per run and an on the rail average weight of an alpaca would be approximately 50% of its live weight. An average weight of an alpaca is 150lbs so the on the rail weight would be 75 lbs, approximately. That would equate to approximately 20 alpacas/run. In the next month or two they would do a run of 20 alpacas and see what the demand is for the meat. They feel that they would need at least 100 alpacas/year if the demand were low 200 if it is high.

The Secondary Products Initiative Cont'd

At this time they feel that alpaca would probably be a mid-priced animal and so would pay between \$1.20-1.50 per on the rail pound. This is not an official quote for the price but would depend on demand.

One of the problems they would have at this time is a place to keep alpacas until slaughter. They do not have anything set up at this time but are working on it. They would not like any animals until the night before they are going to do a run or they would pick up the animals in the Saskatoon area on the day of the run. Once the initial run is done they would probably give us a regular date/week or month that they would want alpacas.

This would not be of benefit to those who would like to participate from further away unless there is a farm in the area that would hold their alpacas until Spring Meadows picks them up. There are some logistics involved with this, as the company only wants 20 animals at one time. But that could be easily solved if there were an adequate flow of alpacas to keep this venture going from year to year.

I asked them what they do with the hides and at this time they would give the hides back if people want them because they hate to see them wasted.

What we need now is a show of interest from the alpaca community before we can set up the first run of meat. Without a guaranteed supply we cannot pursue this venture and it would ruin any working relationship we might have in the future if we tried without the supply.

In regard to the hides, breeders have sent hides to be tanned either at Northern Tanners of Carrot River, SK or tanners in Winnipeg and Edmonton with satisfactory results.

Rob has located a person who would make mukluks out of the hides with fiber on and moccasins from the straight leather. There is a leatherworker in Lethbridge who makes gloves for \$8 a pair.

At this time individual farms are doing most of the work with the secondary products of alpacas. Until the market grows it will be difficult to get financing from government or private business to help it to move to the national level.

Please contact Rob Blom with questions or information you may have.
Nightskyalpacas@sasktel.net 242.6636

Billboard Initiative

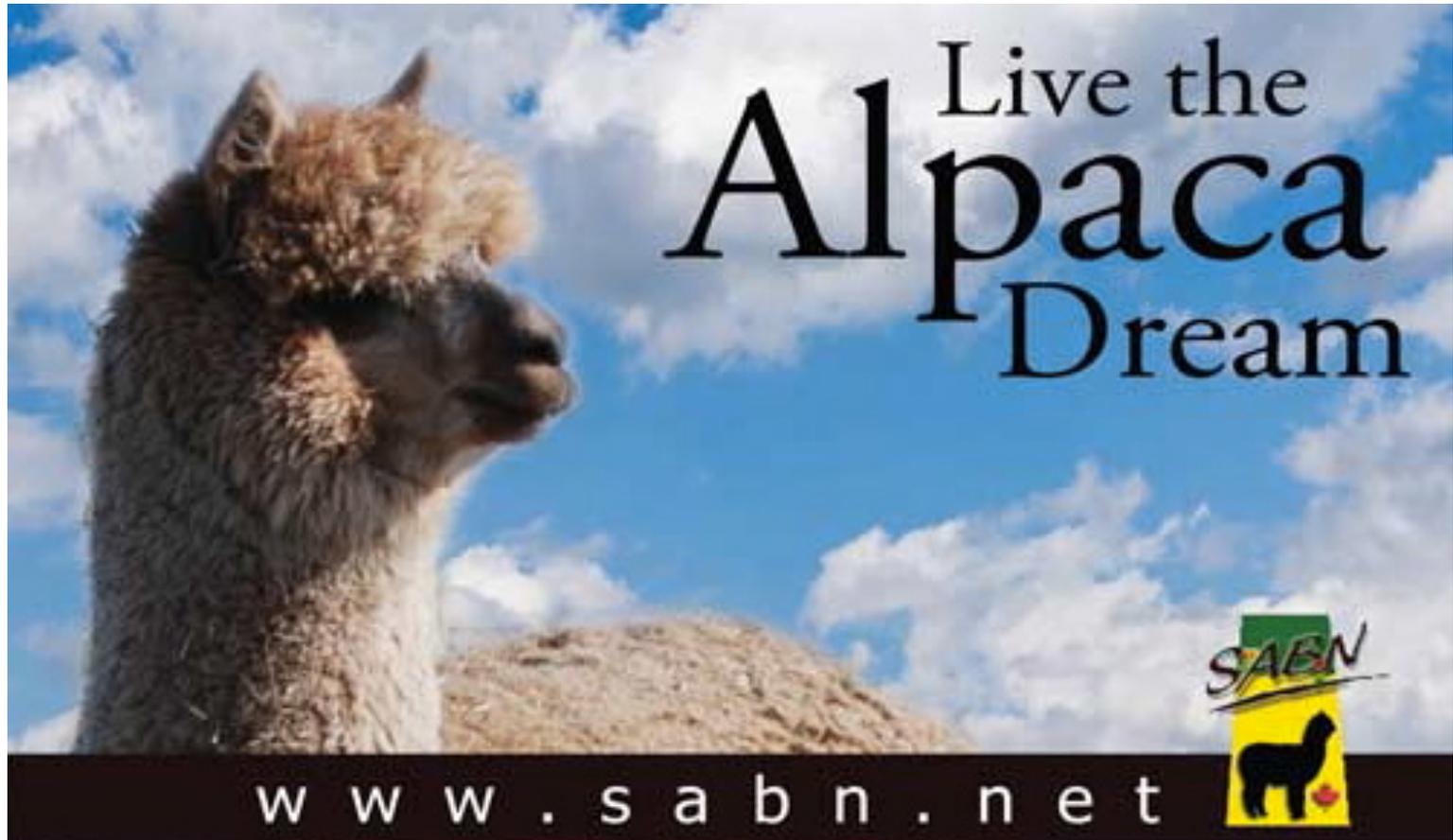
In order to promote the alpaca industry SABN has been discussing taking a leap in spearheading some marketing. We propose two billboards directing people to the SABN website with one located on each major highway going through our province--#1 and #16. It was suggested that similar small signs could be produced by individual members that would direct people to your farm. The marketing program would have a standard sign that could serve as a "treasure map" to alpaca producers belonging to the SABN. SABN could sell digital signage to members for their use. A committee made up of volunteers Keith Molder, Aaron Ciepliski and Hans-Peter Vos was formed to move it forward. Since then SABN has decided to go ahead with the first billboard at a cost of \$1500 to get it created and \$500 rent for the first year. It will be placed on Highway #1 East of Mclean on the North side of the road to be viewed from the West. The following page shows what it will look like.



FIBRE WEEK 2010

June 25 - July 2

Check it out at www.oldscollege.ca/programs/ContinuingEducation/trades-career-studies/fibreweek/

Billboard Initiative Cont'd**SABN CLASSIFIED ADS**

Add these outstanding studs to your 2010 breeding options: RFA D'Arcy-one of Canada's top successful studs!! DLH Country Vistas Nicholas - Grand Champion consistently siring Show winners!! RGA Graham - one of Canada's finest Grey Sires!! Check out these or any other of your young, ready to work boys at Country Vista Alpacas website www.cvalpacas.sk.ca

Lynn Country Vista Alpacas Discover Us!
ph: 306 725-4337 cell: 306 725-7243

FOR SALE: Ashford Joy Spinning Wheel - NEW - never been used & still in original box \$375.00. Alpaca Halters - S-M-L. \$15.00 each c/w with lead. Shipping extra. Contact H.Westgard at 306-873-449

We are Prairie Fire Alpacas and raise 26 alpacas on our farm, we are located west of Saskatoon. We are offering CLAA/ARI registered alpacas for sale in various colors/bloodlines!! As well as luxurious alpaca fibre products such as socks, yarns, rovings, felted wall hangings, blankets, mitts, toques, etc. Call Dennis or Karen @ 306-237-4442 for more info or e-mail dkpashovitz@yourlink.ca

NOW OPEN Alpaca And..Fibre Studio Dinsmore, SK 308-846-2002 Wide variety of products made from certified classed alpaca fibre, Denise knitting needle system and accessories, Top quality Emu oil products, Fibre arts workshop, Rooibus tea and **Alpacas** for sale, lots of colours, diverse genetics, various ages and prices. Check us out - Cathy & Jack at Just Choice Alpacas ph 306-846-2163 or email at jcalpacas@yourlink.ca

TnC Farms is pleased to announce that TnC BB King o` the Hill, our multiple champion black male is now co-owned by TnC Farms, Tiger Lily Ranch and Spruce Park Alpacas. He will begin his breeding season in 2010, but outside breedings are limited. To book your BB breeding, call Cathy at 306-825-6265 or e-mail at tnc.barn@bellevista.ca

Woody Acres Alpacas. Visit my website for a great selection of alpacas and alpaca products. David Wood, Saskatoon, SK. Phone:306.373.4949 www.woodyacresalpacas.com

SABN CLASSIFIED ADS Cont'd

For Sale-Registered and non-registered alpacas, raw fibre, hand-knit garments and pet beds. Call Crystal Springs Alpacas, Livelong, SK. 306.845.2411

The AlpacaLoft Fibre Studio are dealers for Ashford dyes, spinning wheels, looms and carders. If you are interested in receiving our newsletter and receiving information on upcoming fibre arts workshops, send us an e-mail and we will add you to the list. We also carry a complete range of alpaca product including the best teddy bears on the market. We sell probiotic paste, toenail trimmers, and the best-fitting braided halters and leads that we have found. Call Cathy at 306-825-6265 or e-mail tnc.barn@bellevista.ca.

For Sale: 4 stud male alpacas (SB Pomacocha Bridge, Coyo Destini, Anderson, SB Jackson offspring in white and fawn colours. Three are full Peruvian), 4 fibre males (Coyo Destini, JP Giacomo, Centauso bloodlines in white, fawn, brown colours) and alpaca halters. **For Sale or Trade:** huacaya and suri breedings. **For Free:** 1 black male kitten. Contact Gill or Rodney Weber at (306) 374-6737.

SASKAPACA: Fibre, pet and breeding stock for sale. Visit our on-farm store to purchase fine hand-made fibre products, see the fibre workshop in action and enjoy some country hospitality. Off Highway #49--7 KM south of Lintlaw and 3 KM East. Bob and Polly Schindel: Phone 306.325.2075 or visit us online at www.saskapaca.com or www.premieralpaca.com

Sunnyview Herd Reduction Sale Halter trained registered huacaya alpacas from proven quality bloodlines. Many multiple award winners included. Herdsires, junior herdsires, bred females, maidens, & companion alpacas. Boarding/agistment, starter packages, & discounts for multiple purchases. Nature's Blend Mineral mix, custom shearing, & retail/wholesale products. Inquiries welcome. Ph: 306-374-2636 sunnyv@sasktel.net

Wanted: Fawn or light brown maiden or 3 to 4 year old bred female. Reasonably priced or willing to trade for a female or breeding male of same quality. Contact Laurie and Jeff at circlealpacos@gmail.com for more information.

Lake Breeze Alpacas Located on beautiful Last Mountain Lake, south of Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park! Raw fibre and custom quilt display stands for sale. Purebred, double registered, alpacas for sale occasionally. Please contact Sherry Mochinski H. 403-948-3131 C.403-370-8131 E-mail torco@telusplanet.net

Tiger Lily Ranch has some great alpacas for sale! Also - Tiger Lily Gabby Ice will be offered at the CNASF in April, 2010. Gabby is a beautiful light brown female that is from our famous herdsire "HCLA Bolivian Ice Man" and her dam is a solid black female. Gabby is bred to Sculpture Alyst for a cria in August 2010. For more info on Gabby or any of our other alpacas please visit our website at www.tigerlilyranch.ca or call Carol at 306-397-2993.ca

Quality double and single registered alpacas for sale ranging in all colors at reasonable prices. Contact Kelly @306-272-4223 or rokell@sasktel.net **For Sale 12 Bred Female Alpacas, 3 Breeding** Males, 2 Females & 1 Male under 1 year of age. These alpacas are all Double Registered.

Our reason for selling is we want to retire. Crocus Hills Alpacas Barry & Isobel Sample 306-442-4200

Proven stud for sale: Levi of Living Sk is four years old with numerous awards. Offspring have outstanding stats. Pictures on AlpacaNation.com LS Shahkell now resides at her new home of Battle River Alpacas, congratulations to Ernie and Denise Gamroth! For more information contact Living Sky Alpacas at 306-771-4598.

Double "E" Alpacas has some great spring alpaca buys. *Over 20 double registered bred females to choose from - maidens, weanlings, diverse colors and winning bloodlines *Herdsires for sale -DEA Picasso (2 year old white unproven) -RFA D'Arcy (9 year old white proven) *9 weanling males, potential studs and fibre quality *breedings to DEA Genayo, Aztec Ignite, DEA El Camino and to Picasso & D'Arcy *raw fleece and finished products *contact Edwin or Elaine Wyatt 306 696-2882 doublealpacos@xplornet.com

SABN Education 2010

Shearing and Sorting Clinic

Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2, 2010

Woody Acres Farm, Saskatoon, SK.

Instructors: Shearing: Trudy McCall; Sorting: Cathy Merkley.

Fee: Member:\$250.00 Non-Member: \$300.00

Maximum attendance is 24 students divided into shearing teams and sorting teams. Students may take a combination of both clinics.

Committee contact: Jane Wortman (Sunnyview Alpacas),

sunnyv@sasktel.net phone 306-374-2636 for more information or to register

OVERVIEW: Workshop is for newcomers as well as experienced breeders/shearers. Participants will be taught to shear alpacas and/or sort the fleece to maximize the fleece harvest and minimize the stress on alpacas and people. There will be theory sessions followed by step-by-step demonstrations and as much hands-on practical training as possible. Toenail and teeth trimming will also be demonstrated.

Shearing supplies, including electric shears, will be available for use and/or purchase. Shearing tables, sorting tables, and alpacas for shearing will be provided for use. Participants may bring their own alpacas to shear with prior arrangement.

CAMELIDynamics Clinic

Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, 2010

Golden Willow Farm, Regina, SK

Instructor: Marty McGee Bennett

Fee: Member: \$325.00

Non-Member: \$375.00

\$25.00 discount of fee if registered by June 30th

Earlybird incentive: Entered for draw to win a Starter Kit (value \$100) and second prize Zeph'r halter. They can be viewed at www.camelidynamics.com and more info is available there for Marty's clinics. Committee contact: Polly Schindel (SASKAPACA) saskapaca@sasktel.net phone 306.325.2075 for more information or to register

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO ATTEND A CAMELIDYNAMICS CLINIC?

You will have fun, you will be challenged, and you will shake your head in disbelief at the changes you see in the llamas and alpacas that come to the clinic. You will participate in role playing exercises designed to help you get into the head of a llama or alpaca. You will be amazed at how much more you understand the animals in your life.

You will work hands on with a llama or alpaca that you bring to the clinic or one that is provided for you. We will cover a variety of topics such as: starting young llamas and alpacas, leading, trailering, obstacle training, catching and haltering, pros and cons of the use of food, picking up feet, grooming, shearing, wool issues, the Camelidynamics approach to behavioral difficulties and more.

You will learn management techniques (trimming toenails, giving injections, herding, catching) that will improve your relationship with your animals and save you loads of time.

You will see a variety of training tools demonstrated the use of a catch pen, the wands, halter training rope, the body wrap, some new grooming tools and you will get a chance to practice hands on using these tools and techniques with a variety of llamas/alpacas

Cancellation Policy: For cancellations made more than 30 days in advance of the training, a refund will be given minus a \$25.00 administration fee. For cancellations less than 30 days prior to the start of the training there will be no refund but you may apply this money to another training within 2 years of your cancellation date.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!


* Perfecting Color is Our Business *



Spruce Park Alpacas

Rob Blight * Kelly Kokoski
 Box 381
 Foam Lake, Sk.
 Phone:306-272-4223
 E-mail: rokell@sasktel.net

SABN Membership Registration Form

SABN Education Registration Form

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

SABN Member? Yes No New

SABN Membership Fee: \$40.00/yr _____

I would like to become a member please include my website link on the SABN site for an extra \$25.00/yr

Website address: _____

Clinic Registering for:

_____ **Shearing and Sorting** May 1-2, 2010

Fee: Member \$250.00 Non-member \$300.00 _____

_____ **CAMELIDynamics** September 25-26, 2010

Fee: Member Prior to June 30th \$300.00 _____

Member after June 30th \$325.00 _____

Non-member Prior to June 30th 350.00 _____

Non-member After June 30th \$375.00 _____

Total: _____

Cash/Cheque received by _____

Date Received; _____

Please mail your registration along with your cheque made payable to SABN to:
SABN c/o Gill Weber Site 600, Box 172, RR6 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3J9