

FABA NEWSLETTER

Oct. 26, 2014

Dear Members,

This letter is long overdue. This is the first of a monthly newsletter that will come your way. Your FABA Board would like to let all of you know what has been going on with your Florida Alpaca Breeders Association lately.

STAYING CONNECTED

There are several things in the works for our membership that we hope will benefit all of us. We have a new email address!!! flalpacabreeders@gmail.com Please keep this address in your contacts. We want to hear from you any time you have a question or suggestion. We are your organization!

ALPACA PEOPLE ARE A COMMUNITY

One thing we have discovered about alpaca people is that we are fun! We all like to talk about anything alpaca. We all like to share our experiences and knowledge. We all have funny stories to tell. We are here for each other. That's the focus of the Florida Alpaca Breeders Association. We are a community.

SUNSHINE STATE ALPACA EXPO

We are in full swing with the planning of our Sunshine State Alpaca Expo. After reviewing several bids submitted we have contracted the services of Tammy Limer to be our Show Coordinator and Patty Fuller to be our Show Superintendent. Both of these women bring new ideas, experience and enthusiasm to the planning of our show. We have also found a wonderful facility in Newberry, near Gainesville, to have our show this year. The Canterbury Equestrian Center has all that we could hope for and more as our venue. We realize that not everybody is interested in showing their alpacas, however, the show brings not only breeders from other states to our show, but also highlights our organization and what we all do to the general public. What we would like to do this year is have a FABA Fiber Arts Booth where each of you can display the items you make for sale. Also, you can bring your raw fleece!!! We would like to have the public come to our show and be able to purchase our wonderful alpaca fleece as well as our alpaca products. More information on how to prepare your fleeces and submit items for sale will be coming soon. We will be having a Herd Sire Breeding Auction as well. More information on all things show related will be coming in the months ahead. Please check out our website and follow along as new items are posted. Our show is not just about our alpacas.... it's the Fleece too!

ON THE WEB

Our website has been updated and is ready for you! www.flalpacas.com If you have any articles or items of interest for your farm that you would like to have on the website just contact us! We will be implementing a Featured Farm of the Month as well. The Sunshine State Expo website has also been updated. www.fabaexpo.com Another member benefit that will be starting in the next month is continuing the email newsletter. It will also be posted on the website. We'd like to hear from you on anything interesting that has happened on your farm. Have you had an unusual thing happen with your herd that you would like to share? Are you planning an event on your farm that you would like us to share? Do you have an outstanding herd sire you would like to tell people about? Have you found a new way to use your fiber? We have ways to get the word out on things happening at your farms. Just call or email us with anything you would like us to post on the website or publish in the newsletter. FABA is here for you, without you there would be no FABA!

WANNA HELP?

On that note....Are you interested in helping us help each other? We are putting together an Education Committee that will work to set up various education opportunities. We would like to have seminars for shearing prep, fiber skirting, fecal testing, herd health and parasite management to name a few. We are looking for places to hold these classes as well. If you would like to host a class at your farm please let us know and we will do the rest. If you would like to teach a class on something in which you have expertise let us know that too. Do you spin? Do you weave? Do you knit or crochet? What special talent do you have that we can all benefit from? We know that there are a lot of talented members out there and we would like to hear from you. Do you have a new idea for barn set up or pasture management? We have some unique issues with our Florida climate and geography and we would like to know what solutions you have found that work on your farm. Shearing, breeding and cria season is just around the corner and we want to help everybody be prepared.

We also would like to start organizing volunteers for the show. Many of you expressed a desire to help at our annual meeting. Please send us an email and we will contact you personally to see where you would like to help. One of the main focuses at this years show is FUN! Nobody likes to work hard and not have fun doing it. We want the show to be exciting, rewarding and most of all fun for everybody! So let us hear from you as soon as possible and we will get this ball rolling.

Thank you,

King Fowler
President

Faith Fairbrother
Vice President

Deborah Mas
Secretary

Debbie Pettis
Treasurer