



**BAS Weekly Newsletter**  
**Timely Advice & Current News**



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## CEO NOTES

### **Alpaca Welfare**

BAS has a strong remit for alpaca welfare. There is the direct approach, where members are involved in a direct intervention. This mostly happens because good owners become incapacitated or sometimes because there are “bad” owners who are negligent.

In recent weeks and months this kind of activity has included re-homing alpacas because the owner had died and the family did not have any alpaca skills, we have arranged some emergency shearing because the owner did not understand this husbandry practice, and we have helped with a herd where breeding control was non-existent.

The in-direct approach is education in husbandry matters which is delivered in a variety of ways including the BAS affiliates, Webinars, the BAS websites, and BAS hosted Chat forums, to name but a few.

Good alpaca care is natural to the vast majority of alpaca owners. BAS is here to help all alpacas, member owned or not. So please remember that Regional and National contacts are here to help if you notice, or are made aware of, a welfare problem near you.

### **BAS Board Blog**

Clara Boulton contemplates haymaking and attending shows <https://bas-uk.com/alpacapedia/the-bas-board-blog/>

You can email about this or anything else using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

*Duncan Pullar*

BAS CEO 07496 578781

## Cria Shearing

I have had a few enquiries from members new to alpacas about the value of cria shearing and when and how it should be done. Assuming that is a “tip of an iceberg” I have surveyed some experienced breeders for their thoughts and have come up with the following points which are designed to put the welfare of cria and dam front and centre of this husbandry operation.

Cria shearing must be an individual decision for each breeder in their consideration of welfare & development of their youngsters.

### **Why cria shear?**

- Cria shearing is suited to cria born early in the year who may be considered to be at risk of heat stress and who have sufficient time for enough regrowth to protect them from inclement winter weather.
- It also has the effect of removing the brittle, curly tips (they behave like Velcro) that collect contaminants. The 11/12-month fleece will be useable & more organised which will improve value and processability.

### **When cria shear?**

- The consensus is that the ideal is 3 to 4 weeks old. Late born cria may need to be younger to fit in with shearer availability and completion before autumn.
- Going earlier is possible, with care, but there are potential problems that need managing including:
  - In the first week of life cria have less capability to regulate their body temperature so fleece is important. Don't do it if the weather is bad or the cria is not thriving.
  - You may interfere with the bonding between dam and cria by separation and removal of the fleece. The risk of rejection of the cria by her dam is small but one that needs

careful consideration of the implications to you as a breeder should rejection occur. You can prepare for this by:

- Shearing the cria with the dam present (don't shear the bonnet or tail – unless the tail is scoured).
  - Putting coats on your cria the day before shearing, so the dam is used to it and the coat smells right, and then using the SAME coat after shearing so the dam is not confused and the cria is warm.
  - Retain the shorn fleeces in individual named bags which could be then used to rub on or attach to a cria if the dam might reject the cria after shearing.
  - Have a small area ready to place the dam and a friend together with the cria in question to encourage bonding to take place.
  - Make sure the oil lubricating the shears is scentless.
- Other things you need to think through included:
    - Do you have a wet nurse?
    - Do you have time & ability to bottle feed 7 days a week throughout daylight hours?
    - Can you detach yourself especially from male cria to avoid over friendly/berserk males?
    - Cria should remain with the herd whenever possible even if rejected.
  - Young cria are relatively fragile so need considerate handling to avoid damage to their joints and limbs.

The earlier in the cria's life you attempt to shear the more care you need to exercise because more complications are possible. So be aware of your situation, what might happen, and what you can cope with....

# Yorkshire Alpaca Group -

## Zoom education

The Yorkshire Alpaca Group are holding a series of events in the next few months and we'll be publishing our events calendar soon. If you are NOT already a YAG member, then we are offering people who have NOT been members in the past a VERY special offer – Join now and your first years membership is FREE!

Membership fees (Per household) are £ 25 a year for Breeders and £10 for non breeders/pet owners/people without alpacas. Please go to <https://www.yorkshirealpacagroup.co.uk/membership-form/> if you want to join. With all that we have coming up, being a member is definitely worthwhile!

Now is the time of year that you will be making those all-important breeding decisions; with a gestation of over 11 months, it's a long time to wait for your cria and the decisions on which male to mate with each female are of vital importance to your herd.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER	COST
29 <sup>th</sup> June Zoom 7- 8pm	Making Breeding Decisions - Conformation	Judge and highly successful breeder	<b>Minimum</b> Donation to Quechan Benefit (covers both events)
6 <sup>th</sup> July Zoom 7- 8pm	Making Breeding Decisions – Fleece	<b>Barbara Hetherington</b>	YAG Members £10 Non Members £20 (Collected by YAG) <b>Please give more if you can</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> July Zoom 7- 8pm	The Practicalities of Breeding; different “types” of stud service; the alpaca reproduction processes etc	Former Judge and breeder <b>Liz Barlow</b>	<b>Free to YAG Members</b> £ 5 for non members

Book a space by e mailing/text/what's app/phone: **Liz Barlow** - [liz@livanti.com](mailto:liz@livanti.com) or **07976 671701**.  
The zoom link will be sent to you once your donation/fee has been received.



## Scottish Alpaca Group - 2023 Halter Show

The Scottish Alpaca Championship Committee are excited & delighted to announce our judge for the 2023 show is New Zealand judge Molly Gardner.

Molly lives at Le Bons Bay on Banks Peninsula, in the South Island of NZ where she runs suri alpaca and Lowline cattle on her 60-hectare farm. Together with her sister Phillipa and mother Steph they have run Thistledown Suri Stud since 2002. Thistledown's focus is on producing the highest quality fleece in black and coloured suri. Their breeding programme is designed to encourage the positive fleece traits required for high end product made from suri. Molly is passionate about all alpaca fibre and the luxurious product that can be made from it.

She has been involved in numerous fibre projects and continues in particular to champion suri fleece around the world.

She has been a keynote speaker at many events in America and Europe, provides seminars and workshops on fibre production, selecting for fibre traits and breeding workshops at home and around the world too.

Molly is a AAA Australian Alpaca Association judge and an accredited Level 1 judge in Australia and NZ. She has been judging since 2009 in NZ, Australia and Europe and is currently one of the judge trainers in Australia, a role she finds rewarding.

In 2019 the British Alpaca Society were delighted to have Molly judge the National Show at Telford.

The SAG group look forward to welcoming Molly to our 1½ day show and extend our thanks to her for accepting our invitation.

# Conference by AOA (you can join virtually)

<https://www.alpacainfo.com/alpaca-conference>



Powered by Alpaca Owners Association

## NATIONAL EDUCATION & FIBER CONFERENCE

Held in conjunction with AOA National Fleece Show

### AOA NATIONAL FLEECE SHOW

**Fiber Arts & Skeins**  
Registrations due June 30  
Mail-in entries must arrive by July 5

**Innovative Fleece Assessment**  
Registrations due June 30  
Mail-in entries must arrive by July 9

**Fleece Competition**  
Early Bird Registrations due June 7  
Mail-in entries must arrive by July 9

*And...*

**FLEECE AUCTION**  
This auction will give members a market to sell their quality fleeces, and expose buyers to prize winning fleeces.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**CELESTE MALVAR-STEWART**  
Alpacas in Fashion:  
Creating Bridges



**DR. BRETT KAYSEN**  
10 Key Lessons Learned  
from a Farmer and  
Scientist's Quest to Make  
the Perfect Seedstock.

### ALSO OFFERING...

- Total Immersion Fleece Clinic
- Certified Sorting & Grading
- Hands-On Workshops

**JULY 15-17, 2022**  
BURLINGTON, KENTUCKY

[www.AlpacaConference.com](http://www.AlpacaConference.com)

## 2022 Event Diary



If you need information about any of the events listed below then please email Duncan using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

### Introduction to alpaca assessment

Jay Holland	Gloucs	Friday	1st July
Mary Jo Smith	Co Tyrone, NI	Saturday	13th Aug
Barbara Hetherington	Scotland	Saturday	27th Aug

Saturday 15-Oct Alpacas in therapy - Co Down, NI

If you would like your BAS, Educational or Regional group **event** included in this section (not shows) please send details to Duncan.



## 2022 Show Diary



Champions and judges from National Show 2022

### Make a note in your diary!

(New information in red)

Breeders considering entering more than one fleece show may need the organisers of one show to forward the fleece(s) to the next show the fleeces are entered for. Please could entries to multiple fleece shows advise the organisers of the plan to ensure they know those entries need to be despatched asap to the next show. Please ensure that all the necessary entry forms are included in the box separately from the forms for the first shows.

#### **CCA Cornwall Fleece Show 2022**

Date: 9th July 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Carn Tremayne Farm, Praze, Cornwall TR14 9PG.

Collection point - Sandra Muriel, Carn Tremayne Farm, Praze, Cornwall TR14 9PG Please mark boxes CCA Fleece Show

Entries to arrive at collection between 28th June and 5th July. Not Before 28th June.

Entry fee £18 plus £2 BAS levy and VAT. CCA members will receive a £3 per entry discount.

**West Shires Alpaca Group - Three Counties Fleece Show**

Date: 23rd and 24th July

Judge: Jo Bridge

Entries open: 14th May

Entries close: 2nd July

Max entry 150

Entry fee: £18

**Fleece delivery to Julie Cattell, Crabtree Orchard Alpacas, Willow Road, Martley, Worcestershire, WR6 6PS Email:**

[crabtreeorchardalpacas@gmail.com](mailto:crabtreeorchardalpacas@gmail.com) Mobile: 07970169895

Organisers **Roger Mount, Jay Holland, Iain Sharp, Trish Tatchell**

[roger.mount@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.mount@btinternet.com), [jay@purealpacas.com](mailto:jay@purealpacas.com),

[iain.c.sharp@gmail.com](mailto:iain.c.sharp@gmail.com), [trishtatchell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trishtatchell@hotmail.co.uk) 07711044106 –

07722953635 -07789257222 -07989183126

**Ellingham and Ringwood (Short Fleece Halter Show)**

Date: 13th Aug 2022

Judge: Shirley Bettinson

Venue: Somerley Park, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3PL.

Entries open: Mon 20th June 2022

Entries close: Monday 1 Aug 2022.

Entry limit: 120

Entry fee £20 inclusive of levy and VAT.

Organiser: Di Davies [didavies@alphaalpacas.com](mailto:didavies@alphaalpacas.com), 07739 382483 or 01308 488661

**East of England (Fleece) Show organised by EAG**

Dates: 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Limit on entries: 120

Judge: Mr Roger Clarke

Venue: Essex Young Farmers Centre

Entries Open: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Entries close: 31st July 2022 or when full

Entry Fee: £16 EAG members: £22 non-members (prices include the BAS Show levy & VAT on the levy). Fees collected by EAG who will invoice exhibitors direct, [treasurer@easternalpacagroupuk.org](mailto:treasurer@easternalpacagroupuk.org)

Fleece Delivery: Harley Laver, Elmlea, Cold Norton Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HP by 11 Aug 2022.

Organiser: Harley Laver - [harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk](mailto:harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk) / 07934 463342

### **Westmorland Show 2022**

Date: Wednesday 7th September 2022

Judge: Shirley Bettinson

Venue: Lane Farm, Crooklands, Kendal, Cumbria, LA7 7NH

Organisers: Steven / Tracey Ellershaw - [lythebrowalpacas@yahoo.com](mailto:lythebrowalpacas@yahoo.com) / 07710957107

### **SWAG Halter & Fleece Show**

Dates: 17th & 18th September 2022

Venue: The Somerset County Show 1@ Taunton Racecourse

### **HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show:**

Dates: Judging 29th/30th September. Results announced Sunday 2nd October 2022

Judges: Mrs. Mary Jo Smith and Mrs Barbara Hetherington

### **East of England Show organised by EAG**

Dates: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Limit on entries: 140

Judge: Mr Jay Holland

Venue: Beechwood Equestrian Centre, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8DY

Entries Open: 1<sup>ST</sup> July 2022

Entries close: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 or when full

Entry Fee: £31.20 EAG members: £36 non-members (prices include the BAS Show levy & VAT on the levy GRASSROOTS WILL COLLECT FULL

AMOUNT AND MEMBERS WILL BE REFUNDED THE DIFFERENCE BY EAG)

Extras: Pen Cleaning £40 compulsory but will be refunded if pen is cleaned. (EAG to collect fees)

[treasurer@easternalpacagroupuk.org](mailto:treasurer@easternalpacagroupuk.org) ; Electric Hook ups £35 (EAG to collect fees)

Arrivals are on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 between 15.00 & 17.00. Arrival is the day prior to the show only (except in exceptional circumstances)

Organiser: Harley Laver - [harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk](mailto:harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk) / 07934 463342

### **Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show**

Dates: 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October

Judge: Mr Tim Hey

Venue: York Auction Mart.

### **Welsh Alpaca Show**

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022

Judge: Julia Corrigan Stuart

Venue: Welshpool Livestock Market

Entry fee: £20 + vat

Entries open: 15<sup>th</sup> August

Entries Close: 8<sup>th</sup> September

Organisers: Susan Myerscough 07796 678637 and Michael Henderson 07793 081388

Email: [susan@alpacas.wales](mailto:susan@alpacas.wales)

### **Midlands Championship Halter Show**

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### **NEBAG Halter Show**

Date: 19 November 2022

Judge: TBC

Venue: Hexham Mart, Tyne Green

Organisers: Paul and Debbie Rippon

## **2023**

### **BAS National Show 2023**

Friday 17th, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th March 2023  
Telford.

### **NWAG Alpaca Championships**

Saturday 1st April 2023  
Borderway Mart, Carlisle, Cumbria.  
Judge Mrs Julia Corrigan-Stuart

### **HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta:**

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th April 2023  
Judge: Mr. Roger Clarke

### **Scottish Alpaca Championship**

Dates; 22nd and 23rd April 2023  
Venue: Lanark Auction Market  
Judge: Molly Gardner  
Entries Open: 17 Feb 2023  
Entries Close: 6th March 2023  
Organiser Stuart Ramsay



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