



BAS Weekly Newsletter
Timely Advice & Current News



CEO Notes

EBV Programme

Alpacas in the News

Cria Shearing

Yorkshire Alpaca Group

Scottish Alpaca Group

Event Diary

Show Diary



CEO NOTES

AGM 2022

An early notice that the BAS AGM is scheduled for **Wednesday 2nd November at 7pm by Zoom**. A link will be made available nearer the time. The usual business will be conducted. If you are interested in standing for election as a Board member then, at the time of writing, there will be two places available. If you want to register your interest or find out more about how the Board works please do make contact with me or the Chair for a chat.

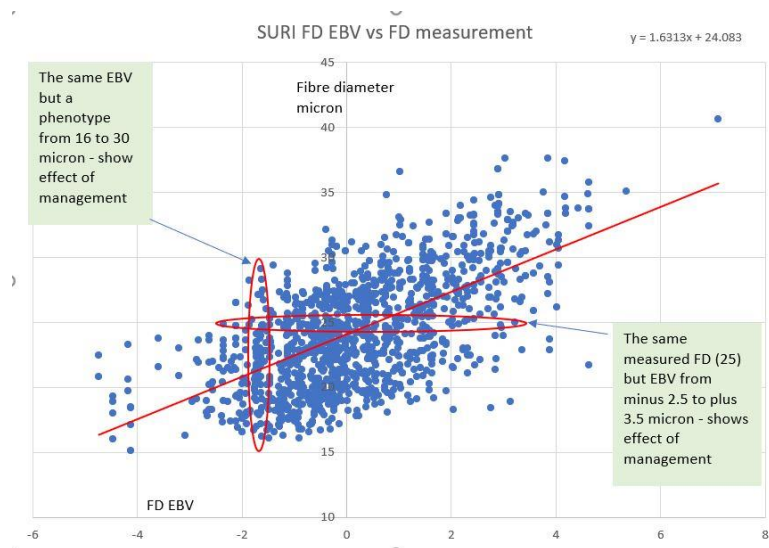
National Alpaca Farm Day

Thanks to every one who has signed up so far. We now have 40 farms involved this year. Its not too late to join the fun if you wish. Just send me an email asking to be part of the event.

You can email about this or anything else using ceo@bas-uk.com

Duncan Pullar

BAS CEO 07496 578781



EBV Programme

In the last 2 years we have seen very successful start to the BAS EBV project with 40 herds contributing data from 6,000 alpacas. The data collection will carry on this season. If you would like to join in with this development project then you can. Any member can join anytime.

You can bring some proven science to your breeding for fleece quality.

What you need to do is weigh your shorn fleece and get a mid-side-sample analysed. Art of Fibre are project partners and offer preferential rates for participants in the project.

Duncan can supply you with a template spread sheet for the data. Phone or email to register your interest or just discuss what is involved. ceo@bas-uk.com / 07496578781

More information on the BAS Website [here](#)



Alpaca Husbandry

The BAS website has a whole host of resources to help members with their husbandry both routine and emergency.

Check out the husbandry video here [BAS Caring for Alpacas Videos – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](https://www.bas-uk.com/resources/videos)

There is also a growing series of videos from the BAS webinar series that go into a bit more detail on specific subjects.

YouTube links for Webinars:

Libby Henson, Using the registry and App https://youtu.be/sas_w6ljEpA

Dr Kylie Munyard – Colour genetics in alpacas <https://youtu.be/ShuwaozkmbA>

Victoria Barret, Camelidynamics <https://youtu.be/lleZEpK3fjg>

Neil Payne, Diversification <https://youtu.be/Xoph2hzXNsE>

Paul Vallely, Fleece Analysis <https://youtu.be/x61SOhudTMQ>

Tim Hey, preparing for Shows <https://youtu.be/3piyyaokGHY>

Sue Loach, Basic Husbandry https://youtu.be/V8h_ho9x2uI

Sarah Caldwell, Preparing for Birthing <https://youtu.be/WcTeACCBsZI>

Duncan Pullar Estimated Breeding Values <https://youtu.be/qnuHyMdfjBU>

Kate Brookes, Make Alpacas your business <https://youtu.be/wlwbJctTzPo>

Ami Sawran, Alpaca Parasites https://youtu.be/ABab_fSXFGI



Alpacas in the news

Residents at a care home in Leicester have been surprised by two unexpected guests - a pair of alpacas.

Coco and Tufty visited Asra House residential care home as part of an animal therapy session.

Residents and families were able to feed, walk, stroke and interact with the furry guests from Anstey Alpacas in Cropston, Leicestershire. Managers said the visit was so popular they planned to repeat it as soon as possible. Karshandas Mistry, 87, one of the 42 residents at the home, said it was a "lovely surprise".

"I've never seen an alpaca before, but it was a really special experience," he said. "The alpacas were so friendly and gentle - and their fur is much softer than it looks." Sabbir Aswat, activities leader at the Sanctuary Care home, said: "This is the first time that we have had alpacas to visit, but it certainly won't be the last. "Everyone loved it - we were talking about our furry guests for days. "While moving into our homes is a new chapter, ensuring that our residents feel like they have a sense of purpose and like they are part of something special is so important.

"It was heartwarming to see the joy that the animals brought to our residents, and to have their family, friends and even grandchildren join in on the festivities was wonderful."

[Alpaca visit at Leicester care home 'really special' - BBC News](#)



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	BOOKING REF
				MBD 1
20 th July Zoom 7- 8pm	The Practicalities of Breeding; different “types” of stud service; the alpaca reproduction processes etc	Former Judge and breeder Liz Barlow	Free to YAG Members £ 5 for non members	PracBreed 2

Book a space by e mailing/text/what's app/phone: **Liz Barlow** -
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 key note 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.

2022 Event Diary



If you need information about any of the events listed below then please email Duncan using ceo@bas-uk.com

Introduction to alpaca assessment

Rob and Shirley Bettinson	Warwicks	Saturday	16th July
Jo Bridge	Essex	Monday	18th July
Nick Harrington Smith	North Bucks	Saturday	2nd 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.

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 Mobile: 07970169895

Organisers **Roger Mount, Jay Holland, Iain Sharp, Trish Tatchell**
roger.mount@btinternet.com, jay@purealpacas.com,
iain.c.sharp@gmail.com, 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, 07739 382483 or 01308
488661

East of England (Fleece) Show organised by EAG

Dates: 20th & 21st August 2022

Limit on entries: 120

Judge: Mr Roger Clarke

Venue: Essex Young Farmers Centre

Entries Open: 29th 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

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

Organiser: Harley Laver - 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 /
07710957107

SWAG Halter Show

Dates: 17th & 18th September 2022

Venue: The Somerset County Show 1 @ Taunton Racecourse TA3 7BL

Limit on entries: 160

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Entries Open: 11th July 2022

Entries close: 24th August 2022 or when full

Entry Fee: £25 in VAT

Organisers:: prwinsor@icloud.com **01934 732324 07540**

124768

didavies@alphaalpacas.co

m 01308 488661 07739 382483

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: 9th October 2022

Limit on entries: 140

Judge: Mr Jay Holland

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

Entries Open: 1st August 2022

Entries close: 11th 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 ;Electric Hook ups £35 (EAG to collect fees)

Arrivals are on 8th 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 / 07934 463342

Welsh Alpaca Show

Date: 22nd October 2022

Judge: Julia Corrigan Stuart

Venue: Welshpool Livestock Market

Entry fee:£20 + vat

Entries open: 15th August

Entries Close: 8th September

Organisers: Susan Myerscough 07796 678637 and Michael Henderson 07793 081388

Email: susan@alpacas.wales

Midlands Championship Halter Show

Date: 5th 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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[Website](#)



[Email](#)

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