



BAS Weekly Newsletter
Timely Advice & Current News



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CEO NOTES

Alpaca Farm Day

There are 40 farms opening over the weekend of 3rd and 4th September and we have had some success with getting features on local BBC Radio and in local Newspapers. Thanks to everyone for getting behind this initiative and hopefully it will go well for everyone involved. Remember to take some high resolution pictures for use in the magazine and Newsletter.

No grass in the south

Having just travelled the length of the country on holiday it was quite far north before I noticed any greening of the grass. I started in Buckinghamshire and got to Lancashire before I noticed a change. For many in the Southern half of England full winter rations have been the order of the summer as grass growth has dwindled and then stopped. Assuming we do get some rain there will most likely be an "autumn flush" of grass so you can expect hay consumption to fall back for a few weeks before the colder weather slows grass growth down. This autumn flush can cause scouring, so be prepared to restrict access if it happens.

Intermediate Alpaca Assessment in NI

Please let me know if you are interested in an Intermediate Course based In Northern Ireland. We think we have enough to run a course but a few more would be helpful to the economics of the event.. No date fixed yet but before Christmas would be the aim. Most likely a Friday Saturday Sunday event.

Art of Fibre Summer holiday

Art Of Fibre's UK laboratory will be having a well earned summer break from 12th August to 5th September. Any urgent testing can be sent to the EU lab in Ireland. Moyaliffe House, Ballycahill. Co. Tipperary, E41HX59. Republic of Ireland. **Phone:** [+353 \(0\) 852581669](tel:+353(0)852581669) **Email:** info@artoffibre.com

BAS Board Blog

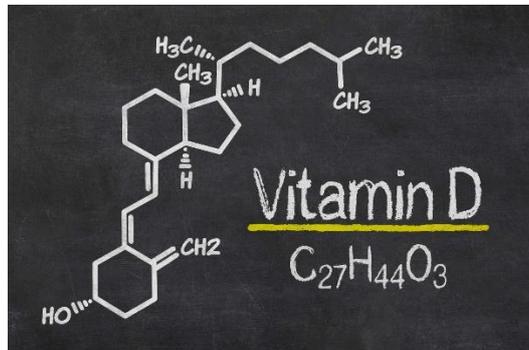
This week Elaine Clark reflects on the introduction to alpaca assessment course she hosted. You can find her most recent blog and others from Board members on the BAS website <https://bas-uk.com/alpacapedia/the-bas-board-blog/>

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

Duncan Pullar

BAS CEO 07496 578781

Vitamin D



VITAMIN D SUPPLIES UPDATE!

From Claire Whitehead

Happy Days! The long-awaited injectable vitamin D product that I've arranged with a wholesaler to be imported to supply UK camelid breeders is coming!!! The wholesaler says she hopes it will be in the country by the end of August, so you can start getting your vets to arrange their SICs (special import certificate - required as this is an unlicensed product in the UK) and place your orders with your vets.

OWNERS: If you haven't already done so, please calculate how much product you will need for the coming season and get your order in to your vet ASAP. The recommended dose is 1000-2000 IU of vitamin D per kg of body weight given every 2 months during the winter months (October to April). This will be equivalent to 0.1-0.2ml of this product per 10kg of body weight. The product will come in 100ml bottles and you should ideally only keep bottles for one month after first using the bottle (after this the product deteriorates in quality and can harbour bacteria).

*** Please do NOT over order as we need to make sure that there is enough to go around. If you find you need more during the course of the season, order sooner rather than later because there has to be a minimum order quantity of 500 bottles for any further orders. ***

*** [Please note that owners cannot order directly: you must go through your vet.]***



HoEAG Fleece Show

A reminder that the HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show Entries close on **Friday, 2nd September** or when the entry limit is reached, and can be found on the BAS website, via 'Manage Your Herd' at a cost of £20+VAT per entry (to include the £2 levy). The prizewinning fleeces will be eligible to enter the **Champion of Champions – National Fleece Show 2023**

Art of Fibre have kindly agreed to perform the mid-side micron sample testing for the judging for the HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show. Entries, which close on **Friday, 2nd September** or when the entry limit is reached, can be found on the BAS website, via 'Manage Your Herd' at a cost of £20+VAT per entry (to include the £2 levy).



Is it time for a re-seed?

Well-managed grass is the cheapest feed for your alpacas, so it pays to make the most of it. Renewing pastures regularly is important for maintaining productivity and feed quality.

WHY?

There are many reasons why a re-seed might be the right approach. It could be that:

- The pasture has been damaged through excessive footfall or machine traffic causing compaction (compaction is where the soil structure is crushed so solid that the grass roots can't penetrate deep enough into the soil and has to be broken up by ploughing)
- Severe drought or water logging has killed the grass
- Weeds have taken over and out-competed grass

WHEN?

Successful re-seeding relies on enough rain to get the sown seeds to germinate and grow on and a lack of frost so that the tender young shoots are not killed. This means the most successful times for a re-seed are later spring, when frost risk has passed, or early autumn, before the frost risk is back again!

	Spring	Autumn
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater window of good conditions for establishment • No heading in first season • Better opportunity to outcompete weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less impact on field availability • Seedbed has time to settle over the winter allowing good structure to form
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lose peak growth • Shorter window for soil to settle before alpacas are introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed competition can be significant with late reseeds • Narrower window of good establishment conditions

HOW?

There are two basic approaches to re-seeding which can be used depending on the situation. The least disruptive is “slot seeding” within an existing pasture because soil preparation is limited. The second approach is a full seed bed preparation where all the existing pasture plants are killed and then a seed bed is prepared. Slot seeding is fine if the weed burden is not very high and there is no compaction. A full cultivation is better if weed species are extensive and the soil has become compacted.

“Slot” seeding

Step 1: You need to get the existing grass under control through very hard grazing so the paddock is nearly bare. (You could use chemical suppressants as well but you need to remove as much foliage as possible)

Step 2: Depending on what is available you could use a light harrow or disc to break-up the surface a little and then broadcast the seed (and then harrow to cover the seed) or a disc drill that makes a channel to drop the seed in and then closes the channel and firms the soil (often called a direct drill).

Seedbed preparation

Removing most of the herbage is a good start but not essential. You can graze down or spray off. The seed bed can be prepared by ploughing or heavy discs. If another pass is needed to get a fine seedbed then use a power harrow/ rotavator or discs. If you have a compaction layer you need to get deeper than that layer to break it up.

A fine seed bed is needed to stop grass seeds falling too deep between big lumps of soil.

Drilling

Although seeds can germinate at any soil depth, a shallow sowing depth is critical for successful establishment. As the plant has limited energy stores in the seed, the seedling needs to reach

the soil surface and start to produce leaf material in as short a time as possible before it runs out of energy. For best results aim to sow seed within 1–2cm of the soil surface. For very small seeds, such as clover, a sowing depth of less than 1cm is necessary to ensure emergence.

Rolling

Consolidation of the seedbed after drilling is extremely important as it helps to ensure good seed-to-soil contact, reduces water loss and may help control pest issues.

	Pros	Cons
Ploughing or heavy discs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good seed soil contact • Can remove compacted layers in topsoil • Achieves a level and even seedbed • Buries pests and trash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive due to the number of cultivations • Deep ploughing removes nutrient-rich soil from surface • Light soils can dry out quickly • Disturbs seed bank of weeds in soil
Minimum cultivation, eg discing, one-pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheaper than full plough • Fertile soil remains at surface • Limited disturbance of soil structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to remove trash • Decaying trash can release organic acids hindering germination
Slot seeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to maintain existing sward • No cultivation reduces costs • No disturbance of soil structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard for new plants to compete against existing sward • Not suitable for dry, hard ground

Which grasses?

There are lots of different grass species that are successfully used around the UK so local knowledge is important. Which ones are right for your situation will depend on your weather and soil type, how you want to use your paddock (grazing or cutting or both) and your use of fertilizer (or not). Most grazing swards are sown with a mixture of grass species and may include clover and “herb” species.

The main species include:

Perennial ryegrass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishes rapidly, even from autumn sowing ○ Produces dense and persistent swards and is useful for long-term leys and establishing permanent pasture
Hybrid ryegrass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good winter hardiness and disease resistance ○ Yield improves in second and third year ○ Quite drought resistant
Cocksfoot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drought tolerant ○ Hard wearing ○ Good summer production especially in dry conditions ○ Lower feed quality than rye grasses
Timothy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grows at lower temperatures than ryegrass, so can be good for early season grazing, especially in cold, late springs ○ Good mid-season growth ○ Good winter hardiness and ground cover ○ Can be slow to establish and yields are likely to be lower than rye grasses
Meadow Fescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A long duration grass that is often sown with timothy to provide hay or grazing. ○ For longer term leys it is an alternative to <i>perennial ryegrass</i>, especially in upland areas. ○ more persistent and drought tolerant than perennial ryegrass but slower to establish
White clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red clover is not very suitable for grazing. ○ White clovers are categorised on leaf size. Larger leafed varieties tend to be higher yielding but are less tolerant of grazing and compaction ○ For grazing choose small-leafed varieties. ○ Clover helps grass growth by fixing nitrogen ○ Excess clover can cause bloat so don't let it take over



September Husbandry

- Select future breeding animals
- Scan pregnant females.
- Finish cutting hay and haylage.
- Use selective weed killer on buttercups, thistles, burdocks, nettles etc if used
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.
- Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease
- Wean and insert microchips in cria who are now 6 months old and get them logged onto the registry via 'Manage your Herd' in the on line herd book or by asking the registry office to send you a paper application form . registry@bas-uk.com
- Feed pregnant and feeding dams extra protein.
- Vaccinate against liver fluke/lungworm if appropriate.
- Look out for fly strike

2022 Event Diary



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

Intermediate Alpaca Assessment

Tim Hey/ Jay Holland Dunchurch Fri/Sat/Sun 2/3/4 Dec

Affiliate courses

Saturday	10th Sept	Affiliate Course - Devon
Saturday	17th Sept	Affiliate Course- Surrey
Saturday	15 th Oct	Affiliate Course- Cornwall
Sunday	16 th Oct	Affiliate Course- Cornwall

Other courses

Mon to Thurs	September 5th-8th	Working with Alpacas and Llamas in Animal Assisted Therapy -Worcester
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.

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 close: 24th August

Organisers:: prwinsor@icloud.com 01934 732324 07540

124768

didavies@alphaalpacas.com 01308

488661 07739 382483

South West Alpaca Group Fleece Show

Date: 14th Sept for judging, display 17th and 18th at Somerset County Show

Judge: Mrs Jo Bridge

Entry Limit: 60 **Now full**

Organiser: Judith Newman

Fleeces must be delivered to Judith Newman, Apple Tree Farm, Bason Bridge. Highbridge TA9 4RF by no later than 12 noon on the 13th September, 2022. No exceptions.

Dates: Fleeces will be judged on the 14th September 2022 and there will be a display of winning fleeces at the Somerset County Show at Taunton Racecourse on the 17th & 18th September, 2022.

HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show 2022

Judges: Mrs. Mary Jo Smith and Mrs Barbara Hetherington

Judging on Thursday 29th September and Friday 30th September

Entries open: Monday, 1st August 2022

Entries close Friday, 3rd September 2022 or when the entry limit is reached.

Entry Fee: £20+VAT (includes judge levy)

Fleece delivery to CS Alpacas, Wootton Underwood, Bucks, HP18 0RL by Sunday 18th Sept

Results announced via Zoom on Sunday 2nd oct - details to follow.

East of England Halter 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

Name entries open 1st Sept to 7th Sept

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

Onsite catering & evening meal & quiz - details to follow

Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show

Dates: 15th & 16th October

Judge: Mrs Jo Bridge

Venue: York Auction Mart, YO19 5GF.

Entry fee: £27 inc VAT and judge levy

Entries Close: 4th September

Maximum of 200 Entries

There will be a compulsory clean up fee of £20 per herd payable direct to the YAG. This will be invoiced once entries close and payable before the show starts. There will be a minimum of 3 entries per herd. The show will be running over 2 days. Judging will commence at 10am on Saturday 15th - we hope to end the Show by 4pm on Sunday 16th.

Arrivals from 3pm on Friday the 14th October - 8-9am on Saturday 16th October.

Organiser: James Stanger jameslstanger11@gmail.com 07757687378

Fan hook up £25 per hook up (2 fans per hook up)

There will be a compulsory £20 clean up fee payable direct to YAG group. There is a minimum of 3 entries per herd. Arrivals from 3pm on the 14th October.

Welsh Alpaca Show

Date: 22nd October 2022

Judge: Mrs 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

Venue: Telford.

Judges: Mrs Barbara Hetherington, Mr Roger Clarke, Ms Amanda VandenBosch and Mrs Natasha Clark

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: Mrs Molly Gardner

Entries Open: 17 Feb 2023

Entries Close: 6th March 2023

Organiser Stuart Ramsay

South of England Spring Live

Dates: 22nd and 23rd April 2023

Venue: Ardingly

Judge: Tim Hey

Organiser Hilary and Tony Monkcom



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Website



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