



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



**CEO Notes**

**BAS sponsorship of Vets to attend CPD**

**Winter feeding - Acidosis Risk**

**Survey from Scottish Government**

**YAG Autumn Events**

**BAS Board Blog**

**BAS Autumn/ Winter Webinars**

**Event Diary**

**Show Diary**



## CEO NOTES

### **New Affiliate Trainers**

A reminder that if you are interested in becoming an Affiliate Trainer you need to request an application form from Duncan and return it by 31 October to be included in the next round of training.

### **BAS National Show 2023**

At the time of writing there are Gold, Silver and Bronze pen sponsorship packages not yet taken. If you would like to take one of these packages please let Duncan know before 31 October 2022.

### **AGM Zoom Link**

For those of you that like your diary entries sorted well ahead of time the AGM Zoom link is:

Topic: BAS AGM

Time: Nov 2, 2022 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88307420688>

You can contact me about the above or anything else using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

*Duncan Pullar*

BAS CEO 07496 578781



## BAS Sponsorship of British Vets to attend Camelid CPD

The British Alpaca Society (BAS) have recognised that there is a deficit in camelid-specific training among vets in the UK and that the costs of CPD may be a barrier to vets completing training in a species that may only cover a small proportion of their workload. BAS have therefore decided to try and bridge this gap by offering subsidies to help offset the costs of training. Last year we trained 20 vets and would like to do that again this year.

BAS are pleased to announce a partnership with Claire Whitehead at Camelid Veterinary Services Ltd to offer subsidised training to up to 20 UK-based vets per year to attend a Camelid Health Course for Vets. This will be run initially as an online course with a practical half day session at the end of the course to consolidate learning. Subsequent course occurrences may include an alternative format “traditional” physically present 1.5 day course if demand exists.

### **LET YOUR VET OR VET PRACTICE KNOW ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY**

The next available course will be starting January 2023. Live sessions take place weekly and recording will be made if the delegate can't make it then..

For more information email: [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com). After BAS have confirmed that you are successful in gaining a place, complete the course registration and pay in full at [www.ukalpacavet.com/courses](http://www.ukalpacavet.com/courses). You must complete a separate registration for each delegate: Practice discounts for multiple vets are not available if using this offer.

Vets can send this form, when completed, to [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

Name	
Name of Vet Practice	
Address (Town, County)	
Number of years qualified	



## Winter feeding - Acidosis Risk

### Winter feeding - acidosis risk

Through the winter alpacas are mainly reliant on the supplementary feed offered. As pseudo-ruminants they are adapted to live well on forage (grass, hay and haylage) but given the season that may be in short supply.

Many owners will feed concentrate, **which is fine in moderation**, to top up energy and protein, and supply vitamins and minerals.. But excess feeding of starchy and sugary supplements can risk acidosis, which in some cases can be fatal.

If an alpaca has a large meal of highly fermentable feed (starchy grains or sugary feeds) then the microbes in the fore-stomach ferment the feed very quickly causing an excess of volatile fatty acids to be produced (hence the name acidosis) which the alpaca cannot metabolise quickly enough. Subclinical cases can result in damage to the lining of the fore-stomach and liver abscesses. The alpaca may go off its feed and have diarrhoea.

Clinical cases will have various symptoms that can include, but are not limited to, the alpaca going off its feed, confusion, abdominal pain and unsteadiness (sometimes described as looking wobbly). The alpaca may be found lying down in pain and the onset of symptoms is often very quick having looked fine a few hours earlier. Urgent

veterinary intervention is required to restore the pH of the rumen. The normal supply of energy from the liver is disrupted.

Things to consider that will help avoid acidosis include:

- Avoiding the over feeding of concentrate based on starchy and sugar products.
- Using fibre products, certified by the Laminitis Trust, which are low in sugars
- Feeding in a way that makes sure the dominant animals, in a group, can't hoover up all the feed.
- Making sure clean forage (hay or haylage) is available at all times.
- Making sure your concentrate store is alpaca proof in case you have a break out.
- Being aware that alpacas might find feed designed for other livestock, which could present a risk. e.g. chickens or sheep



## Survey from Scottish Government for owners in Scotland

<https://sruc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/sruc-camelids-survey-2022>

The Scottish Government is keen to understand more about the camelid sector, how it works, and which issues are most relevant to sector members. Alongside this, there is a desire to maintain animal health and welfare to the highest standard, and to ensure Scotland fulfils requirements in relation to recording and monitoring of animal health, to align with best practice in other developed countries.

The survey should only take between 5 and 15 minutes, depending on the answers you give. If you are happy for us to contact you and perhaps join in further discussions about this work, you can **choose to** provide your email address at the end of the survey. This is **completely optional**; you are under no obligation to provide your email address and your answers will contribute to the survey results regardless.

All your answers will be kept **anonymised** – we won't know who they came from, and each completed survey will only be identified by a number.

**If you do click on the link below to start the survey then we will consider that you have given your consent for us to collect the information requested by the survey, in anonymised form.** By clicking the button and entering the survey **you will not be giving permission** for us to contact you again – that is only the case if you choose to provide your email address.

<https://sruc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/sruc-camelids-survey-2022>

If you have any questions about this work, please contact [madeleine.henry@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:madeleine.henry@sruc.ac.uk).



## YAG Autumn events

	EVENT	SPEAKER/PANEL	COST	BOOKING REF
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 75 minutes 18.50 for 19.00	<b>Running a diversified alpaca business –</b> Zoom talk by successful business owners with lots of ideas and tips.	Neil & Michelle Payne	£ 5 for YAG members £ 10 for Non members <i>A proportion of the fee will be donated to a</i>	DAB 4



			<i>charity of the Paynes choice</i>	
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>YAG CHAT - Open forum on Alpaca Trekking &amp; Farm visits</b> share ideas and expertise with other members including a Q & A session with experienced members	Debby, Julie, Jacki & Members	Members ONLY Zoom - Free	OFAT5
26 <sup>th</sup> November 10.30 for 11 to 15.00	<b>What can I do with my fleece? At Wetherby Town Hall</b> 11 am to 13/13.30 followed by LUNCH Ideas on the different options for using fleece; selling, hand spinning, making products. Please bring along a product made from Alpaca	Speakers and demonstrations	Face to Face with a social lunch Cost <b>including lunch</b> £ 15 for members and £ 20 for non-members	FIsoc6

To book any of these events, please contact Liz Barlow - [Liz@livanti.com](mailto:Liz@livanti.com) or 07976 671701



## **BAS Board Blog from Ken Freivokh**

### **A trip to Peru in 2011**

Board members keep sharing events at their farms, and I thought to stretch time and location to reach beyond the local patch and, in this blog, go back as far as 2011 and our first trip to Peru shortly after we started looking after alpacas in Sussex.

Referring to a 'first trip' may be somewhat misleading, as I was raised in Peru and lived there until circa 1970. However, one thing is to have lived in a country where seeing an alpaca is an everyday event, and quite another going back to be amongst them following a commitment to look after quite a few, aware of the need to understand and appreciate what alpaca ownership entails.....

The 2011 trip started in Puerto Maldonado, in the Peruvian jungle. I could mention Orinoco crocodiles (largest living reptile), jaguars, pumas or cougars but, what left an indelible memory, was a short evening walk with a guide within the grounds of the lodge, to come across huge spiders, scorpions and ants which we were blissfully unaware of earlier on the same patch....

The Amazon experience was followed by a full factory alpaca experience in Arequipa, then overnight at Colca Lodge to ensure we could arrive at crack of dawn at Colca Canyon to witness amazing sights of massive condors rising with the sun. As for alpacas, they were pretty much everywhere, yearlings cutely shown by young girls in Chivay's village square.

Puno was next, with a visit to Mallkini Ranch – an unforgettable experience, learning about their incredible breeding programme, alpaca shearing (I had a go!) and seeing



some quite amazing huacayas and suris which had been selected for the Fiesta. A further and highly worthwhile visit was to Rural Alianza's experimental alpaca farm in Macusani – with over 12,000 alpacas and perhaps the highest alpaca farm at 4,315m above sea level..... Of course, we could not leave Puno without a visit to lake Titicaca and its many floating reed islands, let alone some of the local nightlife!

Joining the train from Puno to Cuzco was quite an unmissable experience. The panoramic aft coach offered unrivalled views of the Andes and, if that was not enough, we were highly entertained by fabulous dancers and music groups on the train.

Cusco fully lived up to expectations, travelling through the Sacred Valley, Awana Kancha alpacas, the market at Pisac, Urubamba and Chinchero – another memorable day before returning to Lima and our flight back..... We promised ourselves we would return, and return we did five years later – perhaps material for a future blog.....?



## BAS Autumn/ Winter Webinars

Please find below the first confirmed webinars for the Autumn/ Winter series for 22/23.

Other titles will follow as they are confirmed. As we did last year the links are made available here to members so you don't need to register your interest. Where the presenters give their permission a recording will be made and posted on Youtube which can be accessed via the BAS Website members area. Click [here](#) to access previous Webinars.

### Thursday 17th November

Magdalena Sobula (Research Student supported in part by BAS)

British alpaca fibre for comfort textiles and its alignment with Slow Fashion

BA Hons Design for Textiles, MA Design for Fashion &

Textiles, (Research student supported in part by BAS), (Alpaca Auntie too!)

<https://www.artsthread.com/profile/magdalenasobula>

Topic: BAS Webinar - Magdalena Sobula

Time: Nov 17, 2022 07:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81921523829>

### Wednesday 30th November

Ami Sawran - Camelid Specialist from Westpoint Vets

Injection techniques and good medicine storage for alpacas

Topic: BAS Webinar - Ami Sawran

Time: Nov 30th, 2022 07:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88464539933>

### Wednesday 7th December

Sam Lane - Technical Manager at Cotswold Grass Seeds

**An introduction to Seed Mixes and Pasture Management for Alpacas**

Topic: BAS Webinar - Sam Lane

Time: Dec 7, 2022 07:00 PM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85066853719>

### January 2023

Mary Jo Smith- Breeder and BAS judge

**Introducing the new fleece judging system for 2023**

Date TBC

## 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) or go to the BAS website.

### Intermediate Alpaca Assessment

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

### Affiliate courses

Sunday	20th Nov	Affiliate Course- Glous
Saturday	26th Nov	Affiliate Course - Devon
Sunday	January 29th	Affiliate Course- Glous
Thursday	March 16th	Affiliate Course- Glous
Sunday	April 30th	Affiliate Course- Glous
Thursday	July 27th	Affiliate Course- Glous
Sunday	3rd Sept	Affiliate Course- Glous
Thursday	9th Nov	Affiliate Course- Glous

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.

#### Midlands Championship Halter Show

Date: 5th November.

Judge: Mr Nick Harrington Smith

Venue: **Avon Hall, Three Counties Show Ground, Malvern,  
Worcestershire, WR13 6NW**

Entry fee:£33

Entries Open: 1st September

Entries Close: 17th October

**Pen cleaning and Electricity hook-up £32 regardless of whether fans used or not.**

Organisers: **Roger Mount 07711044106, Jay Holland 07789257222, Iain**

**Sharp 07722953635**

[roger.mount@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.mount@btinternet.com), [jay@purealpacas.co.uk](mailto:jay@purealpacas.co.uk), [iain.c.sharp@gmail.com](mailto:iain.c.sharp@gmail.com)

**Northern Ireland Alpaca Group Halter Championship**

Date: **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Judge: Mrs Mary-Jo Smith

Entries open: **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Entries close: **-Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Maximum number of entries- **120**

Entry Fee: £20

**Northern Fleece Show**

Date: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Judge: Julia Corrigan-Stewart

Venue: Walkerburn Village Hall.

Entries Open: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Entries Close: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Entry Fee: £24.00 including the levy and vat

Entry limit: 70.

All fleeces should be delivered to Westyett Alpacas, Westyett Farm, Lanark ML11 8NT and arrive no later than Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**NEBAG Halter Show**

Date: 19 November 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Hexham Mart, Tyne Green

Entries open 20 Sept 2022

Entries Close: 10 October 2022

Fee: £30 in VAT and judge levy

Organisers: Paul and Debbie Rippon [info@barnacre-alpacas.co.uk](mailto:info@barnacre-alpacas.co.uk) 0790 334 7790

**2023**

**BAS National Show 2023**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Monkomb



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[Website](#)



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