



BAS Fortnightly Newsletter
Timely Advice and Current News



CEO Notes

BAS Apprentice Shearers Scheme
Champion of Champions Fleece Show
Fibre Zone Competitions
RVC research -point of correction
Bluetongue update (Kent & Norfolk)
Rare Human Infection
2023 Event Diary
Show Diary



CEO Notes

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Merry Christmas to all BAS members from the BAS Board. Thanks to all who have helped the Society continue to grow and develop.

Xmas Comeptition - Get the picture

– identify the word(s) from the pictures.... 6 answers....

... and win a prize (Bottle of Craft Gin) - draw made from all correct answers emailed to Duncan by 5.00pm 2 January. ceo@bas-uk.com use "Xmas Comp" in your email subject line

1.	
2.	
3. Two words	
4. Two words	
5.	
6. Two words	

Duncan Pullar

BAS CEO 07496 578781



BAS Apprentice Shearers Scheme

BAS are pleased to announce a pilot scheme to train more shearers. Working with Colin Ottery as the course lead tutor the aim is to recruit and train people who already have some shearing experience with alpacas, sheep or goats. The course will cover alpaca techniques, the equipment needed and how to make the most of the alpaca fibre.

Colin says "Understanding how the quality of shear affects the value of the fleece is very important. You need to see the whole picture." .

There are a limited number of places so if you are interested please email or call Duncan Pullar, BAS CEO to get your name on the list. 03453 192468 or ceo@bas-uk.com



BAS National 2024

*Champion of
Champions Fleece
Show*

*Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

*Just a polite reminder, after all the
festivities are over:*

*Entries Open: 2nd January 2024
and*

Close: 14th January 2024.

Any questions, please contact Julia Corrigan-Stuart

Email: julia@csalpacas.co.uk

mobile: 07803726464

British Alpaca Society National Show 2024

Fibre Zone Schedule

The BAS National Show will once again be hosting the hugely popular Fibre Zone to showcase the diversity of our wonderful alpaca fleece.

[Details available on the National Show website](#)

[Fibre Zone Competitions : British Alpaca Society BAS National Show](#)

This year's schedule is in a revised format to encourage budding new crafters as well as providing some exciting new projects to support our loyal exhibitors.

All items must be at least 50% British alpaca except our yarn classes which must be 100% UK alpaca.

Section 1 – 2024 Exhibitors Craft Challenge

A fun, new introduction to encourage our alpaca exhibitors to “dip their toes” into the wonderful world of fibre craft.

Class 1 A Woollen Gnome

£5 entry fee including Craft Kit and Instructions



You will need to source your own alpaca wool to add variety to the class.

This class is open to Alpaca Exhibitors only!

RVC Research

Point of Correction from Eggs-Port

submitted by Sheila Eggleston

Eggs-Port Ltd

The paper regarding alpaca husbandry highlighted in the last newsletter has recently been published in the Veterinary Record.

Whilst this article is very interesting in general it includes some gross inaccuracies concerning our Triple D product and we wish to alleviate any consequent confusion and misapprehension amongst users.

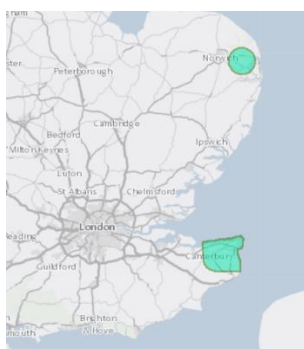
Eggs-Port Triple D paste contains 5000iu Vitamin D per ml.

It is recommended to be fed to a 75 kg animal at 15 ml/animal the total administered will be $5000 \times 15 = 75,000\text{iu}$.

The paper states References 12 and 20, that the recommended Oral dose is 1000iu per kg bodyweight, so the dose instructed is exactly as per this recommendation.

Also Table 6 of the Paper states several levels of vitamin D which bear no resemblance to our products contents.

The authors of the paper have been advised of the above and we await their response.



Bluetongue update (Kent & Norfolk)

Bluetongue cases confirmed in Norfolk

Following active surveillance in the north-east Kent Temporary Control Zone (TCZ), a further 5 cases of bluetongue in cattle have been identified on a holding in the Sandwich Bay area.

The holding is situated in the existing TCZ.

All 5 animals will be humanely culled to minimise the risk of onward transmission. The TCZ is not being extended and movement restrictions continue to apply to cattle, sheep and other ruminants in the Zone - **THIS INCLUDES ALPACAS.**

This brings the total number of cases to 19 on 8 different holdings. There is currently still no evidence that bluetongue virus is circulating in Great Britain. Surveillance is ongoing.

Check if you're in a zone on the [bluetongue disease control zone map](#).

Legislation is now in place around movement of animals into and out of the [temporary control zone](#). For up to date information on the location of the control zone [visit the Defra website here](#).

Farmers can access and call the dedicated bluetongue hotline to get advice or ask questions linked to the current situation – call the bluetongue hotline on 024 7771 0386.

In the UK, bluetongue, including BTV-3, is a notifiable disease, so anyone suspecting the disease must take action and [report it](#) to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Further information on clinical signs and resources can be found here: <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus/>



Rare human infection contracted from alpacas

A BAS member wanted to alert members to the risk of a hard-to-diagnose disease that has been contracted by someone working on their farm.

The disease is Whipple's disease which is a chronic multisystemic disease caused by the gram-positive bacterium *Tropheryma whipplei*, first described by G.H. Whipple in 1907.

Affected patients present with weight loss, diarrhoea, joint pain, and arthritis. The very general symptoms are what make it difficult to diagnose but left untreated the disease can be serious and even fatal.

The infection is very rare, even though *T. whipplei* is ubiquitously present in the environment. *T. whipplei* is one of the Actinomycetes, and is a distant relative of the *Mycobacterium avium complex*, explaining in part why Whipple's disease is similar to the diseases caused by MAC bacteria. The disease is most common in farmers and those exposed to soil and animals, suggesting that the infection is acquired from these sources.

Treatment generally includes long term (at least a year) and possibly longer use of antibiotics.

There is some evidence that people with an immune system with underperforming T-cells are most at risk. This could be genetic or may be an acquired fault.

This disease is reported at less than 1 in a million of population each year.

2023 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.

Full listing of all affiliate courses available using the link below.(next 3 months shown here)

[Education – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](http://bas-uk.com)

BAS Affiliate courses

BAS Approved

Sunday	28 th Jan 24	Affiliate Course- Devon Modules 1, 2 & 3 www.mullacottalpacas.com
Saturday	3 rd Feb 24	Affiliate Course- Devon Modules 1, 2 & 3 www.clivewoodfarm.co.uk

Full details including description of module content:

[Education – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](http://bas-uk.com)

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

Show Diary



Champions and Judges from National Show 2023

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.

Full [Shows information 2024 – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](https://www.bas-uk.com)

2024

Northern Halter Show

Date: Sat 20th January 2024

Venue: Lanark Market.

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Entries Open: :1st November

Entries Close:: 15th December

WSAG Midland Show

Date: 27th January 2024

Judge: Jay Holland

Venue: Three Counties Show Ground, Malvern

Pre-booking: 1st Nov 2023

Pre-booking closes: 30 Nov 2023

Named entries open : 4th Dec 2023

Named entries close: 8th Jan 2024

Entry fee: £34 in VAT

Organisers:

Trish Tatchell - trishtatchell@hotmail.co.uk

ROGER MOUNT - roger.mount@btinternet.com

BAS National Show 2024

Dates: 22nd, 23rd, 24th March 2024

Venue: Telford International Centre

Judges: Mary Jo Smith and Shane Carey

NWAG Alpaca Championships

Date: Sat 6th April 2024

Venue: Borderway Mart, Carlisle, Cumbria.

Judge: Roger Clarke

Heart of England Spring Alpaca Fiesta

Dates: Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April 2024

Venue: Bury Farm Equestrian Centre

Judge: Mrs. Julia Corrigan-Stuart

South of England Spring Live Alpaca Halter Show

Dates: 20th and 21st April 2024

Venue: South of England Showground, RH17 6TL

Judge: Mr Rob Bettinson

Organisers: Tony and Hilary Monkcom, hilary@pinnaclealpacas.com

26th and 27th April 2025

SCOTTISH ALPACA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dates: 27th and 28th April 2024

Venue: Lanark Ag Centre, ML11 9AX

Judge: Tim Hey

Devon County Show

Dates: 16th, 17th and 18th May 2024

Venue: West Point, Clyst St Mary, EX5 1DJ

Judge: Tim Hey

Northumberland Championship Halter Show

Dates: 25th May 2024

Venue: Hexham, NE46 3SG

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Cornwall Fleece Show (CCA Members only)

Dates: 20th July 2024

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

Judge: TBC

Organiser: Sandra Muriel
