

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Meeting January 11, 2010

Sue Caston	Patchwork Meadow
Steve McCarthy	Spruce Ridge Farm
Dick McCoy	Foxrun Farms Alpacas
Cindy Cuykendall	Song Meadows Alpacas
Ann Merriwether	Nyala Farm Alpacas
Barb Rossi	Bel Canto Farm
Sue Zelazny	Andes Dandies, LLC

Old Business:

Symposium/Fleece Event Update (Steve) We are doing well in comparison to last year we have 24 attendees registered, 9 vets, and in really good news we have 3 platinum sponsors and 1 gold sponsor. We have 82 spin-off entries. We have 19 fleeces but more fleeces will come in later. We have several vendors coming too.

We are going to have an informal meet and greet Friday night.

Fundraisers Herdsire Auction (2009 judges choice male) Herdsire Raffle (An elite selection of fine males all prices at \$500 for drive by breedings) (Barb) One e-mail has gone out about the fundraiser, a second e-mail will go out about herdsire raffle. We had originally planned on 10 males but are not going to limit it to just ten. We hope to get more than that. Then there will be e-mails with both fundraisers (auction and raffle). People will be able to enter the raffle for the driveby breedings up until Sunday morning. The auction for the 2009 judges choice male will end Monday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Farm Show and Empire Farm Days Participation (Cindy/Dick)

We had decided to cut these events due to budget constraints. The marketing committee asked us to re-visit this as it could be short sighted to not be visible at the two NY major farm events. We have already missed the deadline for the farm show but still could do Empire farm days. The concern remains does this really benefit the entire membership? We cut this from the budget and can only put it back if we do really well with our fundraisers. We will re-visit this after the symposium. This will remain on the agenda next month.

Rhinebeck Update We discussed having a presence at the NY Sheep and Wool Festival. Sue C will explore having alpacas in the alpaca barn. We also decided to at least try to put in a vending application to sell alpaca products at the NY Sheep and Wool Festival (Rhinebeck). Sue C. will get the material together for this and put in the application. We will know if our application is accepted April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Newsletter discussion (Barb) the marketing committee discussed taking over the newsletter. They currently felt they did not have person power to take this on. But Barb has found some very enthusiastic volunteers to take this on in the near future.

Website Progress (Barb) Sue Watts and Richard Jonnasen and the marketing committee and are working on revising the website.

Logo is also being re-designed and we will discuss the at the next meeting

New Business:

Approve Minutes from 12/14/09 Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes and Steve seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fiber Committee (Ann) we got three volunteers for the fiber committee June Preston, Robin Shatzkin and Jeanne MacLeod-Lang. They will be meeting at the Symposium to start planning some goals and activities.

Symposium 2011 The marketing committee wanted to know if Steve would continue organizing the symposium in 2011 when he is no longer a board member. Steve is interested in continuing.

Nominating committee needs a new head. Cindy will explore this.

Cindy made a motion to change the meeting from Mondays to Thursdays Barb seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue motioned to adjourned the meeting at 8:28 Cindy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.