ABENAKI ACRES FARM

Summer 2010 Abenaki Acres Farm, LLC Newsletter

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Abenaki Acres Farm
Bill & Elizabeth Johnson
97 Yard Road
Stockton, NJ 08559

908-782-0025

www.AbenakiAcres.com

Alpacas@AbenakiAcres.com

Marketing in Action ……All Over NJ!

One of the aspects of making our alpaca venture a success is the visibility we strive for in our community. The Sergeantsville Farmer's Market, The New Jersey Grounds for Sculpture, Earth Day at Basil Bandwagon, the Treasures of the South Branch Watershed, schools, the 2010 Jersey Fresh Steeplechase & Dressage, the Hunterdon Art Museum (Knitted, Knotted, and Netted) , all contribute to that visibility. But, it continues to surprise us when someone pops up with the comment -

Abenaki Acres' billboard on wheels

"We've been to your farm, or we saw you at....." it provides us with direct positive feedback that our farm and products are remembered. Each of these venues represents an opportunity for us to attract farm visitors, product sales, and invitations to new venues - we fit our traveling show into a 10X10 space with canopy, alpacas, our farm product, and get it all into our van (shown above). It's work, it's fun, and it gives credibility to our answer to the question, can you make money from the fleece? Yes - if you work it, let people know who and where you are, and ensure you have maps to your farm, and a willingness to talk, talk and talk, about alpacas.

Hunterdon Art Museum, Clinton, NJ

Check out our Events list for specifics on each of our past and future events. Click on the link below for our calendar.

Abenaki Acres Events

Accident or Smart?

We have two run-in sheds in which a number of our females reside. We keep the top section of the Dutch door open and keep the lower section latched with a spring loaded latch that has a handle that twists to open. Hopefully, you can envision that, and of course, the alpacas look out from the door. Well, about a month ago, I was doing the evening feeding, and after feeding the girls in the run-in sheds, I went into the other section……then I noticed that the door was open and the girls were coming into the section where I was……I said, "What the heck!" and got everyone sorted out. I went back to the feeding and sure enough they did it again! So I tied the door closed, thinking that the latch was loose, and went back to feeding. Now, remember I said we have two run-in sheds, whoever was opening the latch went to the other door and opened that one! You tell me, an accident or smart? Both doors now have a slide bolt in addition to the spring loaded latch and they have not figured that one out yet….but I'm waiting and watching. See ANY guilty parties above?☺ Royalene and Liberty are likely suspects.

Royalene and Liberty looking over the door.

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The Alpaca Store at Abenaki Acres Farm

What's in there?!

Welcoming Party

September Seminars!

We decided that we needed more activity this September to warm up for National Alpaca Farm Day, so on September 17th and 18th we are hosting a seminar each day:

On **Friday**, Felting with Silk and Alpaca, where attendees will create a unique scarf by wet felting alpaca fibers (roving, yarn, threads) and a silk scarf. Four hours of fun and alpacas!

Abenaki Acres Events

On **Saturday**, Fiber Grading and Sorting, learn how to prepare your fiber for production runs at the mill, maximize the price you can get for your sorted and graded fiber. Bring 3 bags to practice with and learn the tools to make it happen. Both days will include lunch - come join the fun!

Click on Seminar Titles for Registrations Forms:

Alpaca & Silk Felting

Friday September 17 11am-3pm

Fiber Sorting & Grading

Saturday September 18 830am– 4pm

Males are Marvelous! (They had better be when you get a 2:1 Ratio!)

Well, the 2010 birthing season is over for us. We have been planning on moving all of our births to the spring and 2010 was the year we accomplished that. And the reward we got was 11 boys and 5 girls! We were happy that two of the girls were for clients; and we have come to appreciate the search for that next Great Stud! Those of you who are familiar with our breeding program, know that we love browns and and sometimes, like the little guy below, we get surprises!

Gluscabi is the product of a solid brown male & a solid white female. This year we definitely have some good browns and blacks and we're repeating a number of the same pairings for 2011. Always looking for better fleece!

With over 15 cria on the ground at the same time we're noticing other things too. We are enjoying watching the cria become a herd unto themselves; when the dams go in to eat their grain, the cria go off as a group and run and jump and generally explore the world without their moms (although there are a couple that have not yet left their mom's side). I also noticed today that while the dams are distracted eating their grain, we had a "freeloader" - a cria nursing off someone other than her own dam. Watch for these guys in the 2011 shows!

Garrison is For Sale! A Multi-Champion Producing Winners!

Abenaki Acres and Parris Hill have agreed to make Garrison available to those interested in a multi-Champion that is producing like quality in his offspring. Capable of carrying the dam's color while improving fleece and conformation. Over 8 Fleece and Halter Banners of his own and building a strong offspring record. 16 offspring to date; 12 have been in Halter and Fleece Shows and received 28 awards with 40% in Banners, 1st and 2nd.

GARRISON

Click here for more info