



LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America
Late Summer Edition 2025





LANA NEWS

Late Summer Edition 2025



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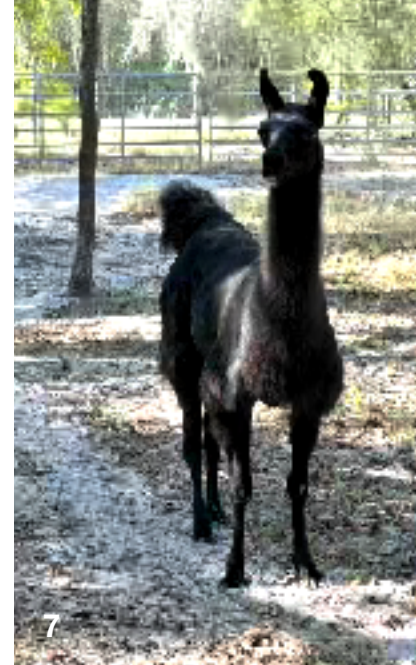
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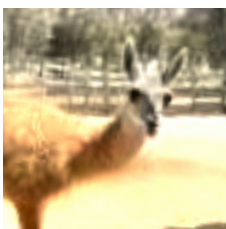
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LANA volunteers help with litter removal and share their llamas with the public

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Please contact the LANA Business Office for
Member Services, Advertisements, Event
Calendar updates, and any llama-, alpaca-, or
LANA-related questions you may have.

Visit LANA at: www.lanainfo.org
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THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

Thank you to the following for their contribution to this newsletter

Dr. Shannon Brighenti, Rebecca Kern-Lunbery, Susan Rich, Cali Roberson, Kathy Stanko, and Tracy Weaver

Editor's Message:

Goodbye Summer and hello Fall. I'm looking forward to the cooler temperatures, aren't you?

In this newsletter, enjoy the article by LANA member Tracy Weaver of Lotsa Llamas in Hudson, Florida. Read how she got started in llamas and what she's doing now.

Read about Dr. Brighenti's experience in Peru working with the local people and their llama and alpaca herds. Thank you GALA Newsletter and the author for permission to reprint.

Celebrate the recent winners of the LANA Youth Award of Excellence. These young individuals stood out among their peers for their outstanding efforts, volunteerism, sportsmanship, and serving as youth ambassadors of the llama community.

There's a short article about the Great American River Clean-Up, along with a few pictures. Due to circumstances at home, I rarely have the chance to participate in llama activities off the ranch. I enjoyed taking my llama out for the afternoon and doing some community service.

Board of Directors Susan Rich and Cali Roberson took their 4-Hers to Potato Ranch Llama Packers in Sonora, California, to meet Chaco the Guanaco. Enjoy Susan's article about their day.

Learn about the macro nutrients that our llamas and alpacas require for healthy living. Thank you RMLA Newsletter and the author, Rebecca Kern-Lunbery, for permission to reprint.

A BIG thank you to Kathy Stanko, RMLA's Newsletter Editor, for her support and sharing her computer knowledge with me.

Kathy

From the President

LANA held a special meeting to discuss its role in supporting camelid research. Our Research Liaison, Stephanie Pedroni, will be reaching out to the Llama community to explore potential research studies that LANA could fund, either partially, in whole, or co-sponsored. Stay tuned for updates.

Thank you, BOD Lee Beringsmith, for organizing the llama folks for another year at the Great American River Clean-Up. Volunteering to help the community, catching up with friends, and promoting llamas made it a truly great day. I was happy to be a part of it this year.

BOD Margaret Drew, is hosting a Fall Fiber Clinic at her ranch, Stonehenge Llamas, in Vacaville, California, November 1st. Her clinics are always a hit - educational, creative, and super fun! Lunch will be a potluck, so bring your favorite dish. Contact LANA to reserve a spot.

It's always a sad day when we lose someone from our llama community. With a heavy heart, I regret to tell you that we lost two friends, Greg Sykes and Dennie Hansen.

Greg was a supporter of LANA and helped out at various events, including Expo and the Hobo Show. He was heavily involved with Call-ILA and served on their Board of Directors. I enjoyed watching him show his gelding Sterling in performance. They were quite the pair.

Dennie was a huge fiber enthusiast and worked with the Feather River Fiber Co-op. She was also on the Cal-ILA Board for many years and served on the State Fair committee. She supported LANA, helping out at the first youth show. She showed llamas and was my travel buddy to many shows, including the ALSA Nationals.

Our hearts are with Greg's and Dennie's families during this difficult time.

Kathy

LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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You may contact any of the directors at lanquestions@gmail.com

Mission Statement:

Established in 1981, the Llama Association of North America (LANA), serves the camelid community by sponsoring medical research specific to llamas and alpacas; providing current and accurate information about camelid health and care; advocating for pro-camelid legislation and access to public lands; encouraging, educating and mentoring camelid enthusiasts of all ages in their interactions with camelids; supporting rescue for camelids in distress; and hosting a variety of activities including youth programs, hiking trips, shows, parades, fiber clinics, educational events and more.

Calendar of Events

Bold type denotes LANA sponsored events
*(asterisk) denotes discount for FOL Sponsors or LANA members

2KC INVITATIONAL LLAMA SHOW
ILR-SD CHAMPION SHOW
October 10 - 12, 2025
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, Georgia
contact: llamajudge@gmail.com

SOUTHEAST ALSA REGIONAL
October 10 - 12, 2025
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, Georgia
contact: kdevaul2@gmail.com

LAMAPALOOZA
October 11 - 12, 2025
Austin, Minnesota
contact: [adde\\$llamas@yahoo.com](mailto:adde$llamas@yahoo.com)
midwestlamaassociation.my.site.com

OREGON FLOCK & FIBER FESTIVAL SHOW
October 18 - 19, 2025
Linn County Fairgrounds & Expo Center
Albany, Oregon
contact: llamacollection@msn.com
oregonflockandfiberfestival.com

CALIFORNIA CLASSIC ALPACA SHOW
October 24 - 26, 2025
Glenn County Fairgrounds
Orland, California
alpacashopro.com

GOLD COUNTRY GATHERING ALPACA SHOW
October 24 - 26, 2025
Glenn County Fairgrounds
Orland, California
alpacashopro.com

GALA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
October 30 - November 2, 2025
Wyndham Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio
<https://galaonline.org>

LANA FALL FIBER CLINIC
November 1, 2025
Stonehenge Llama Ranch
Vacaville, California
www.lanainfo.org

LANA YOUTH ART & ESSAY CONTEST
Due date: November 1, 2025
contact: susan.rich9631@gmail.com
www.lanainfo.org

NORTH AMERICAN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW
November 7 - 9, 2025
Kentucky Expo Center
Louisville, Kentucky
contact: hpool@rockcreekllamas
www.northamericanllamashow.com

CAMELID NEONATAL SEMINAR
November, 8, 2025
Littlefoot Ranch
Clarksville, Ohio
contact: Dr. Walker 419-306-9522
registration: Michelle 513-706-6138

WINTER WONDERLAND LLAMA SHOW 1 & 2
November 21 - 23, 2025
Noble County Fairgrounds
Kendallville, Indiana
contact: kelsimatthew@icloud.com
<http://hlaa.us>

If you have an event you would like added to LANA's
calendar, contact lanaquestions@gmail.com

What's Happening in LANA

Another fun day planned

LANA's Fall Fiber Clinic

BOD Margaret Drew is hosting a fiber clinic at her Stonehenge Llama Ranch in Vacaville, California, on November 1, 2025. There'll be a variety of projects to choose from, such as needle felting and wet felting. And don't forget to bring your favorite dish for the potluck lunch! If you're interested, contact LANA to reserve your spot.



LANA's Board of Directors

Two positions open



Lama friends, if you've got something to share with the lama community, ideas or a desire to help, but you're not sure where to start or who to reach out to, consider running for the LANA Board of Directors. There are two positions open for 2026 and a term is for three years. You must be a LANA member to be eligible. So, if you're ready to make a difference, this is your chance! Send your candidate's statement to susan.rich9631@gmail.com by December 1, 2025.

LANA's Youth Writing & Art Contest

Deadline Is November 1st

Hey Youth! Do you love drawing or painting your favorite camelid? Or maybe you're a llama or alpaca enthusiast and enjoy writing about them? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Gather your creative energy and send in your entries to Susan Rich. The winners will receive cash awards. And guess what? You don't need to be a LANA member to enter - any youth is welcome! Look for the flyer in this newsletter.



Lotsa Llamas



Bria, age 26

TRACY WEAVER
HUDSON, FLORIDA

WELCOME TO FLORIDA!

Specifically Central Florida, Pasco County, Hudson My home at Lotsa Llamas

By Tracy Weaver

My journey began in Kentucky, where I lived for 25 years. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture/Agriculture at Eastern Kentucky University and a Masters' degree in Education at the University of Kentucky. I moved to Pasco County, Florida, for my job as an Agriculture teacher. There, I married and raised a family. The American dream!

One would think I was busy enough, in those days, to be blessed with 2 ½ acres of property, a house, a job, three children and a husband. But then to add to the mix, we decided to bring llamas into our lives. We dabbled in chickens, goats, sheep, and cattle during those beginning years, mostly for the children to show in our local fairs.

My school students participated in the local fair, exhibiting animals, and some even showed at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. And that is where I watched my first Llama Show. I was hooked!

After becoming interested in llamas, I spent a year visiting llama farms in Florida. Most of owners I visited suggested the Pearsons' Farm in Georgia for a larger selection of llamas. In 1995, I visited Pearson Pond Farm and bought three llamas: a mother, her cria, and a nine-month-old male. At its peak, our herd consisted of 15 animals, providing ample options for my three children to participate in shows at the Florida State Fair and other llama shows while enrolled in the Pasco County schools' Agriculture programs.



The Trio at the "Ask Me" station at the Florida State Fair

I now had five years of observing and being around llamas; I wanted to learn and be more involved. In 2001, I signed up for a llama judges' workshop to learn more about these wonderful creatures. From that point, my thirst for more carried me forward to participate in more classes to become a certified llama judge for halter and performance.

After a few years, I went a few steps further and added judging alpaca classes to the mix. One of my instructors and mentor, Deb Yeagle, who raised alpacas, encouraged me to take some judging classes to become certified in that area. I also met Brenda Crum, a wonderful woman who raises alpacas at Golden Spirit Alpacas. Not only are these animals beautiful, but oh, that fiber! I went into a pen of alpacas looking and feeling beautiful fiber. Again, I was hooked!

I have been judging animals and fiber around the U.S. for 24 years, and I've enjoyed the times spent with the animals and people that appreciate camelids for the joy they bring into our lives.



Left: 2018 Florida State Fair Youth Champion of Champions Program

Right: Mary, Louis, and Tracy taking a break between classes at 2025 Florida State Fair

Lower Left: 2023 Florida State Fair Youth Award Recipients

Lower Right: At the 2023 SSLA Conference Fiber Workshop



Now, 30 years later, I have one llama still with me named Bria. She is 26 years old and does okay eating and getting around. Just like any elderly animal, there are signs of slowing down. We've given her a soft food mixture because she's lost some teeth, and she had an eye infection that caused some sight loss in one eye. She still stands at attention when dogs or other animals go by her fence line. I'm hopeful she will pass easily when the time comes.

After retiring from my job as an Agriculture instructor for Pasco County Schools in 2014, I applied to take a course offered with the Pasco County Extension-Horticulture Director to become a Master Gardener Volunteer in 2016. The course consisted of 65 hours of classes over the summer, held one day a week for eight weeks. Additionally, I had to complete a written test and identify various plants related to the area.

For the past nine years, I have been a volunteer with the extension agents, working to inform and collaborate with the citizens of our county to enhance their knowledge about gardening, whether it's lawns, trees, fruits, or vegetables. I speak around the county on various subjects: Florida Coastal plants, Florida soils, houseplants, terrariums, and my favorite subject, bats, the mammal! It is a wonderful experience to share two worlds — Plants and Llamas and Alpacas!

MEETING MACROS FOR LLAMAS

By Rebecca Kern-Lunbery, MS, MBA, PAS Animal Scientist

Reprinted with permission from the *RMLA Newsletter* and the author

Just like the protein buffs at the gym, llamas and alpacas have macronutrient needs that must be met to support body condition, pregnancy, lactation, growth, and fleece production.

- Protein helps build muscle and supports fleece production.
- Energy fuels animal activity and production performance.
- Fiber keeps the digestive system healthy and functioning and is a component of energy.

So how can you ensure your animals are getting the protein, fiber and energy they need? It starts with understanding their nutritional requirements, evaluating your forage, and providing non-forage supplemental feeds only when necessary. Forage should make up the bulk of the llama and alpaca diet with other feeds such as formulated pellets or kibble being fed to meet nutritional gaps in the forage.

Understanding protein and energy requirements

The first step is to determine your animal's daily nutrient needs. Table 1 outlines the protein and energy requirements for llamas and alpacas based on physiological stage. These values assume animals are in a dry lot.

Grazing requires more energy because the animal is exerting energy when walking across the field or pasture to consume forages. Energy in a pseudo-ruminant diet is represented by total digestible nutrients (TDN). Energy comes from digestible carbohydrates, fiber broken down by gut microbes, and fat

However, it is key to keep in mind that llamas and alpacas have a limited gut capacity relative to beef cattle and sheep. So, their dry matter intake (DMI) remains constant even when they are grazing and therefore need more energy and protein. These animals do have the ability to graze preferentially, so they will typically select a high protein, high energy diet when the option is available to them when grazing.

Additionally, if your llamas or alpacas are overweight, then they will need to be at an energy deficit to lose weight. This is achieved by reducing TDN intake slightly while still meeting protein and mineral needs. Weight loss goals to improve body condition should be achieved gradually over several weeks or even months.

If they need to gain weight, then extra protein and energy may be required to put on body mass, not just fat. Using body condition scoring and monitoring weight over time can help you fine-tune the feeding strategy. Consulting with your veterinarian or a seasoned livestock nutritionist can help ensure you are feeding to meet your animal's body condition goals.

Table 1. Nutrient Requirements of Llamas and Alpacas¹

Physiological State	Dry Matter Intake (lbs/d)	Crude Protein (% Dry Basis)	Total Digestible Nutrients (% Dry Basis)
Maintenance	1.8 - 3.8	9.2	54
Gestation	2.2 - 6.0	9.0 - 13.0	54 - 73
Lactation	2.3 - 5.5	11.0	57
Growing	1/4 - 3.4	8.5 - 13.0	53 - 80

¹*Adapted from NRC (2007) Nutrient requirements of Small Ruminants*

You can look up your protein and energy requirements on a table such as the one referenced. To make this process easier, I have also deployed an app to help producers easily look up these requirements:

<http://lunberprofessionalsservices.shinyapps.io/LlamaAlpacaRequirementsCalculator>

Understanding Your Forage Report

Once you know your animal's needs, the next step is comparing them to your hay. Forage reports can be overwhelming, but focusing on a few key values makes interpretation easier. A sample report follows.

1. Moisture

Optimal moisture for most hay is between 14-18%. Higher moisture levels between 18-22% have moderate combustion risk when stacked and are also more likely to foster an environment for mold and mycotoxins. Moisture greater than 22% is high combustion risk.

Most hays are below 14%, which poses no risk for spontaneous combustion or mold. However, it is typically more brittle and can sometimes have reduced quality due to leaf loss in the raking and baling process. So, for llamas and alpacas, we would like to see moisture between 14-18% but less than 14 is also acceptable.

2. Crude Protein

When we look at the parameters on our forage report, we want to compare everything on a dry basis. For this example, let's say I looked up my llama's nutritional requirements and they needed 9.2% crude protein. I would look at my report and if it is at or slightly above 9.2% crude protein on a dry basis, then this hay would be a good match for my animals. If it were less than my 9.2% value, then I would conclude that protein supplementation with non-forage high protein feeds will be needed. Often this would be pelleted formulated feeds.

3. Energy Expressed as Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN)

Energy is another value that we will need to compare to our animals' specific nutritional needs. For this example, let's say my llamas need 52.9% TDN. Again, if the report value on a dry basis is equal to or slightly above this value then requirements are met or exceeded and if the value is below this value supplementation will be needed.

4. Amylase-treated Neutral Detergent Fiber (aNDF)

Llamas need fiber for gut health. However, too much fiber can reduce dry matter intake (DMI) which limits the total amount of nutrients these animals consume per day. While the forage report may appear to meet requirements on a percentage basis, llamas and alpacas may not receive the nutrients they need in terms of lbs/d because of reduced DMI due to too much fiber. We always need to remember we compare percentages for ease of understanding, but animals require specific amounts of nutrients daily.

Amylase-treated Neutral Detergent Fiber represents the indigestible and slowly digestible portion of a feed. The detergent fiber system washes away all other portions of the forage leaving behind only the fibrous long chain carbohydrate portion of the feed associated with DMI and rumination time. An enzyme, alpha-amylase, is used during lab analysis to solubilize starch, ensuring it doesn't interfere with the fiber measurement and falsely inflate the value.

The ideal range for aNDF is between 30 – 60% to ensure a healthy gut without DMI. When aNDF is more than 60% it takes the animal longer to digest the material, spending more time ruminating and less time-consuming feed, therefore, reducing intake and in some cases resulting in weight loss and other nutritional disorders.

Along with aNDF we also may want to examine neutral detergent fiber digestibility at 48 hours (NDFD48) and lignin. An average value for NDFD48 is 45 for alfalfa. NDFD48 above 45 is considered more digestible than average. Lignin is the most indigestible portion of the forage. Lignin being especially high (>8.5 % dry basis) may contribute to reduced digestibility of the fiber and conversely lignin being low (<4% dry basis) can increase digestibility of the fiber.

Increased digestibility of the fiber can contribute to increased intake as well as providing more energy in the form of TDN to the animal.

5. Ash

Ash is the total elemental content of hay. It is measured by burning the hay at extremely high temperatures in a lab, usually around 600°C. Organic matter such as the fibers, protein and fat is removed leaving only inorganic residue. This is the plant elemental compounds and the dirt or sand that is in the sample.

Most plants have 4-6% endogenous ash content. Most hay samples will be between 8-12% ash on a dry basis. Hay with ash levels above 15% are contaminated with soil. I have seen hay samples with more than 26% ash content!



When evaluating hay quality, it is best to avoid samples with more than 12% ash, especially for llamas and alpacas. As pseudo-ruminants with small, compartmentalized stomachs, they are more vulnerable to problems from soil-contaminated forages. Chronic consumption of high-ash hay can reduce dry matter intake and may even lead to serious digestive issues like gut impaction.

Supplementation

If the forage analysis shows the need for protein or energy supplementation, then the addition of cereal grains, co-products or formulated pellets may be necessary to ensure your llama or alpaca meets their nutritional requirements. Typically, energy deficient hay should be supplemented with grains such as corn or oats, but caution should be taken to avoid over supplementation and acidosis risk. Protein and energy deficiency can frequently be resolved through supplementation with dried distillers' grains or soybean meal, but long-term diets need to consider risks associated with sulfur toxicity and other issues feeding these by-products as well. Always work with your veterinarian to determine which supplemental feeds and how much will be best suited to your hay and your animals. It is the best practice to always provide a free choice mineral supplement as well.

Keys to Meeting Macronutrient Requirements

1. Understand the animals' needs. Nutritional requirements vary with physiological stages such as growth, maintenance, pregnancy, and lactation. Knowing these needs provides essential context for the rest of the diet.
2. Test your forage. Forage typically makes up most of the diet. A forage report helps assess protein, energy, fiber, and other key characteristics to inform feeding decisions.
3. Supplement when necessary. Use non-forage feeds like pellets or cereal grains, or co-products such as beet pulp, soy hulls or distillers grains to fill gaps between forage quality and the animal's nutritional requirements.

In conclusion, protein and energy requirements for llamas and alpacas are variable and depends on their weight and physiological status. Ensuring those requirements are met is key to ensuring healthy productive animals. It is easy to evaluate forage to determine when supplementation is needed.

About the author: Rebecca Kern-Lunbery earned her M.S. in Animal Nutrition from the University of Wyoming with a collaborative project with the US Meat Animal Research Center. She is an active member of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. With a passion for producer education, she is a regular contributor to Progressive Forage Magazine. Currently, she serves as the Immediate Past President of the NIRS Forage and Feed Testing Consortium (NIRSC).

LANA

Youth Writing & Art Contest



LANA invites youth of all ages to submit original work for a contest:

- a piece of writing OR:
 - an article on any camelid-related topic of interest to the youth OR
 - a fictional story involving camelids OR
 - a poem about an alpaca or a llama or a herd OR
- a piece of original artwork with camelids included

NOTE: Please just one submission per youth per contest.

Written pieces should be 1000 words or less. If the author chooses to include images (illustrations or drawings or photographs), there should be no more than four to accompany the writing. The images that accompany a piece of writing will not be considered for the Art contest; they will be seen as a part of the written submission. If completed on the computer, written pieces should be written in Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double-spaced, with the author's name on each page in the header.

Pictures or scanned artwork should be submitted as .jpeg files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. The content should be the original work of the youth author/artist. Artwork does not include "wearable" fiber projects, such as knitted or crocheted scarves or sweaters.

Submit written pieces and scanned artwork electronically to Susan Rich at lanaquestions@gmail.com. The deadline for the annual contest is November 1.

One winner for the written submission and one winner for the art submission will be chosen for each of the four age categories (sub-junior; junior; intermediate; and senior). Winners will receive a cash prize and written pieces and artwork will be published in the LANA newsletter and posted on the LANA website.



GET CREATIVE

Josselyn Moen
LANA Youth Medallion Winner

Judge Joe Ruzicka awarded Josselyn the LANA Youth Medallion of Excellence at the 2025 Orange County Fair Show held July 18th - 20th in Costa Mesa, California.



Kaycee Lusk

LANA Youth Medallion Winner

Kaycee was awarded the LANA Youth Medallion of Excellence at the 2025 San Diego County Fair Show by Judge Amanda Wick. The show was held June 13th - 15th in Del Mar, California.



Josselyn Moen

LANA Youth Medallion Winner

Josselyn was awarded with the LANA Youth Medallion of Excellence on July 27th at the 2025 California State Fair Show in Sacramento, California, by the LANA Board of Directors.



Brooke Moen

LANA Youth Medallion Winner

Judge Terese Evenson awarded the LANA Youth Medallion of Excellence to Brooke at the 2025 ALSA Western Regional Show in Lancaster, California, on September 28th.

My Experience with the Nuñoa Project in Peru

By Dr. Shannnon Brighenti, DVM

Photos submitted by Dr. Shannon Brighenti, DVM

Reprinted with permission from the GALA Newsletter

This past January, I had the privilege to be part of a team of veterinarians working with farmers in the Peruvian Andes through the Nuñoa Project. The Nuñoa Project sends a small group of veterinarians and students to Peru twice a year to work with alpaca and llama farmers in the Nuñoa region.

During these trips, we do what we can to help the farmers, while in turn learning from them. In the Andes, the farmers have no access to veterinary care, so they do what they can, with knowledge passed down through the generations, to take care of their herds.

When I arrived in Peru on January 13, I met up with the other members of my team: two veterinary students, the two veterinary team leaders, including a Peruvian veterinarian who did most of the coordination with the farmers, and her dog. The five of us did some sightseeing in the Sacred Valley for a day to start acclimating to the altitude prior to continuing to Nuñoa (elevation 14,000 feet). A giant Suri alpaca statue greeted us as we drove into the town of Nuñoa, which is known as the Suri capital of the world. After stopping briefly in town for lunch, we continued on for about an hour, passing by some flamingos in a lake, to arrive at the research station where we were staying for the first week.



It was a small complex of buildings, with no running water, no heat, and one gas burner in the kitchen, but the views were spectacular. There was one alpaca farm out behind the buildings, and that was the only other dwelling you could see. I'd get up early every morning and take my overnight oats and a cup of tea outside, and watch the sun rise, as smoke drifted up from the herder's hut, and the alpacas slowly made their way out of their corrals and up into the mountains to graze. The land was treeless rolling hills covered in short grass, rock, and the occasional cacti.

Most farms we visited in the mornings. The farmers would keep their animals corralled for a little longer than normal, then let them out into the mountains after we were done. Alpacas were more common than llamas, and many farms also had some sheep. The farmers were kind, hardworking people, who took great pride in their herds, and did their best to make a living in the harsh environment.

At the farms, the farmers would point out which animals they wanted looked at, and we would ultrasound females for pregnancy, evaluate the males for reproductive soundness and quality, body condition score, look at fleece quality and assess conformation. Most of the herds that have been working with the Nuñoa project for years had good reproductive rates, and many crias already on the ground. Most were also in very good body condition. Their fiber quality varied a bit, but the farmers are paid only on weight, not quality, of the fiber, so there is little incentive to breed and cull based on quality. In addition to fiber, selling animals for meat is a small part of their income.



As we were there during their birthing season (winter here is their summer), we witnessed many births while we were working with the animals, only assisting with a couple. For the most part, moms gave birth unassisted wherever they happened to be, and the herders would just monitor from a distance. A couple of farms would put cria coats on the the smallest crias to help protect them from the weather. Even though it was summer, they still had passing hailstorms and downpours coming through most evenings, and the nights got cold. A lot of cria mortality comes from exposure to these conditions. Most of these herders move their herds over large regions of mountainside to graze their animals. When driving through the area, it was common to see alpacas dotting the hillsides.

After spending a week in Nuñoa, we then traveled to the town of Ichuña (12,400 feet above sea level). This was the Nuñoa project's first time here, and we were there to try and establish the project with the farmers. In Ichuña, we ended up staying in the town itself, which was nestled in a valley, and the surrounding hills were covered with terrace farming. From here, we would pile into two pickup trucks driven by members of

the local government and drive up and down windy dirt roads, often for close to an hour, to visit the farms. Most of what we were driving through was alpine desert and the quality and quantity of forage for the alpacas was worse than in Nuñoa.



In contrast to Nuñoa where farms were individual and spread out, here there would be small clumps of farms, making little villages with some herds being a mix of animals belonging to different farmers. There were also more roofed shelters for the alpacas.

Here, we would often only look at and ultrasound a few animals in each herd, showing the farmers what we do, and talking to them about their herds, and their needs. Their animals tended to be a little thinner than in Nuñoa, and we also saw quite a few ticks on them. One morning after visiting the farms, our team leader presented a birthing lecture to the farmers, to give them tips for when to intervene, and how to help with dystocia, as there is no one for them to call if there is an emergency.

Overall, it was humbling to see this completely different way of life, inexorably tied to the alpacas and llamas, that we typically view as pets. The people were a pleasure to work with, and the landscape is beautiful. If you would like more information on the Nuñoa project, please visit nunoaproject.org

SAVE THE DATE!

GAMELIDS ROCK!



GALA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025
THE WYNDHAM HOTEL, Cleveland Ohio

Oct. 30-Nov.2, 2025

<https://galaonline.org>

CAMELID NEONATAL SEMINAR:
Caring for your Pregnant Dam and New Cria
and Correcting Dystocia's

Hosted by Littlefoot Ranch – The Langhammer's
1991 Middleboro, Clarksville OH 45113
November 8, 2025

Presenter: Dr. Pam Walker
Camelid Care Veterinary Services
Class fee – \$250

- 9:00 AM Meet and Greet
- 9:30 AM Care of Dam – Information and tips on what to do BEFORE it is time to think about breeding
- Brief review of breeding
 - Nutrition and pre-breeding medical care for dam
 - Stages of labor
 - Signs that “something” may be wrong – i.e. uterine torsions
 - Post partum care (after the birth)
 - Then taking care of the cria!! - Critical steps on how to have a successful newborn - some need more help than others!
 - Review of congenital problems
- 12:30 PM Lunch – a sandwich lunch and drinks will be provided
- 1:30 – 5 PM Hands on Dystocia (difficult birth) wet lab – using obstetrical simulators and crias to learn the normal AND be able to recognize the abnormal. What to do next.....
When to help and how to correct malpositioned crias, when and how to tube feed a cria.
AND when to stand back and let them be moms!

Class notes will include an updated copy of Dr. Walker's Camelid Medicine Guide

Contact Dr. Walker at 419 – 306 – 9522 or
Michelle Langhammer at 513 – 706 – 6138 to register



A young guanaco stands in a dirt enclosure, looking towards the camera. It has a light brown body and a white face. A wooden fence is visible in the background.

Chaco the Guanaco

Chaco the Guanaco

By Susan Rich and Sierra 4-H Llama Project kiddos

My friend, Cali Roberson, and I tag team a 4-H llama project in Oakdale, California. In addition to meetings focused on training for obstacle courses and showmanship, grooming, toenail trimming, and herd health, we enjoy outings: Ag Days at elementary schools, hikes, petting zoos, and field trips to other llama owners' ranches. Just by happenstance and just up the hill from us, Greg Harford and his wife, Diana, own the Potato Ranch Llama Packers in Sonora. This llama ranch specializes in the big boys, the tall, long legged, short fibered llamas who are bred and trained to head into the back country on the Pacific Coast Trail for weeks at a time.

Greg is part of a larger network of llama breeders, also "Ccara" llama enthusiasts, who are trying desperately to maintain genetic health in their herds by deepening the gene pool. This is no easy task. The majority of llamas "in the industry," as it were, are bred for longer fiber, eye appeal, and, although not necessarily the intention, they tend to be shorter and not as athletic. This network stays in communication, buying, trading and co-owning animals across state lines in pursuit of DNA breadth.

In an attempt to bring diversity to the herd and avoid crossing genetic lines, Greg decided to add a guanaco to his herd. The guanaco is the undomesticated, South American camelid still roaming the Andes Mountains and is the ancestor of the domesticated llama. In order to find such an animal, Greg visited a guanaco ranch in Southern California.

While there, disaster struck. In the night, several dogs came onto the ranch and killed or injured over a dozen animals. Greg was the first to come upon the fallen animals in the early morning. His decision to acquire a guanaco was fueled by the desire to help the devastated owners of the ranch and the presence of a newly orphaned male, just a few months old. And so, Chaco the Guanaco, came to reside in Sonora.

Greg assumed that he would somehow have to bottle feed the animal, supplementing with goat milk as Chaco was so young at the time of his mother's death. Greg laid in stores in preparation. But the young animal preferred hay and pellets. Bottle feeding was not required.

I had seen photos of guanacos. And I had seen some pretty grizzly footage, courtesy of the Disney Channel, of guanacos being hunted by puma in the high mountain ranges of Peru. In appearance, guanacos could easily be mistaken for llamas. They have the same build and camelid features. Unlike llamas, they have minimal variation in color, being primarily reddish/brown with a gray head, and a white chest and underbelly. Each member of a guanaco herd looks pretty much the same as his herd mates. But I was dying to see one in the flesh. And I was deeply curious about how this wild animal might behave compared to his domesticated cousins.

So up the hill we went.

And there he was. Chaco was living with the females and younger llamas about his same age, around eight months or so. He was insatiably curious. He persistently ventured as close as he could to the toddler we had with us. He came in close to smell whatever we might have in hand. I was surprised at his willingness to come so close.



Greg shared the story of his entry to the llama herd. His new owners just let him be for the first month. They let him watch the goings on with the other animals. But then, Greg and his team of youth handlers/trainers worked with Chaco just as they did with all the young llamas. At first, the animal was very skittish, and at the first hint of anything unusual or a quick movement or an unexpected sound, he would run off. There was some rodeo with the first haltering. But he settled into the herd, and the adult females learned to tolerate him, after spitting at him for a few days. He could be haltered. He could be led down the street. He would try out the obstacles that Greg has built into his paddock.



What struck me most about Chaco was the prominence of his eyes. Perhaps it is true that the face of the guanaco is proportionately more slim than that of a llama and hence the eyes are relatively bigger. Maybe the black outline surrounding the eye showcases this feature of the face more. But his eyes dominate his face even more than I am used to with llamas.



Greg would say that this is a grand experiment. And it may be a few generations before Greg knows if this new addition to the herd gets him what he hopes for genetically. He knows he will have to sacrifice height in the beginning, as Chaco will not be nearly as tall as his Ccara pasture mates. Will the taller females accept him for a breeding? All this remains to be seen. But at this point, Chaco is happily embedded in a herd and being trained for his part in the packing world.



Sierra 4-H Llama Project



2025

Llama Project Leaders: Cali Roberson and Susan Rich

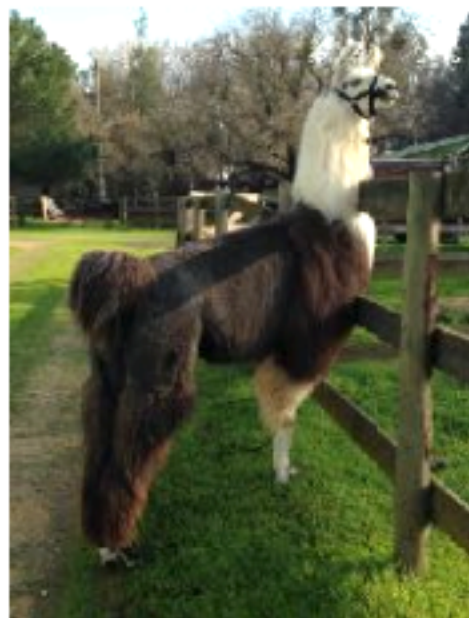
Llama Project Members: Audrey Roberson, Charlotte Roberson, Dominic Toste, and Kira Vessels

As always, our Sierra 4-H Llama project wants to say a sincere **Thank You** to the many supporters who encourage us and gift us with the resources to care for, show, and love on llamas. Thanks to Greg Harford for trusting us with his "foster boys." Thanks to the LANA Board for providing many opportunities, activities, and adventures. Thanks to our parents who drive us hither and yon!



LAMARAH

**Wilton, California
Kathy Nichols**



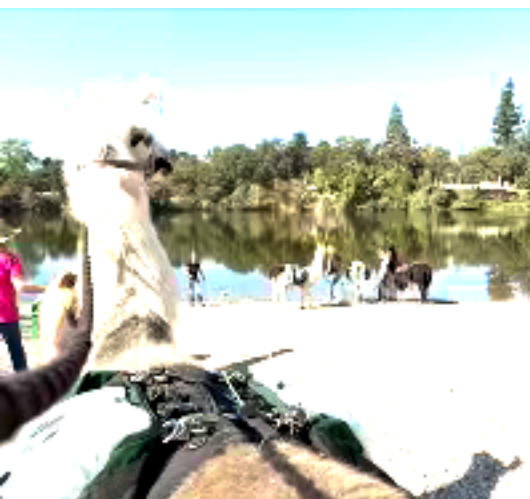


American River Parkway Foundation's **Great American River Clean-Up**

By Kathy Nichols



On September 20, 2025, the Great American River Clean-Up was held in the Sacramento and Rancho Cordova areas of Northern California. This annual event helps preserve the parkway for everyone, including wildlife, to enjoy. The parkway, spanning 4,800 acres, attracts over five million visitors annually. Bicyclists, walkers, and joggers make use of the 32 miles of paved pathways, while fishermen, rafters, and kayakers enjoy the waterway. Equestrians can explore the 23-mile network of dirt trails, with trailer staging areas available at select locations.



Six LANA volunteers, with their six llamas, joined the cleanup effort. Garbage bags in hand or in panniers, we set off in the morning to do our share. We frequently stopped to allow for pictures and answer questions. There were a few “Is this a llama or an alpaca” questions, but for the most part, people knew they were llamas.

Our usual route to the river was overgrown with brush and deep stagnant water. Many attempts to find alternative route were unsuccessful, and we had to turn back. Along the way, we picked up any garbage we could find. Finally, we were able to get to the river.

Some of our llamas were a little hesitant at first to enter the water, but eventually got in. We continued on a trail along the water way that brought us back to the starting point.

There were more curious people who wanted to visit and take pictures with the llamas, and of course, we obliged. A Parkway representative flew a drone by our llamas (checking if it was okay first). A few llamas found it fascinating while others ignored it.

We were pleasantly surprised by the absence of trash this year. When we took our garbage bags to the collection site, we noticed a smaller pile compared to previous years. Cali made the most significant discovery—an old sleeping bag.

Thank you Board of Director Lee Beringsmith, for your liaison with this event. I hope more people can attend next year.

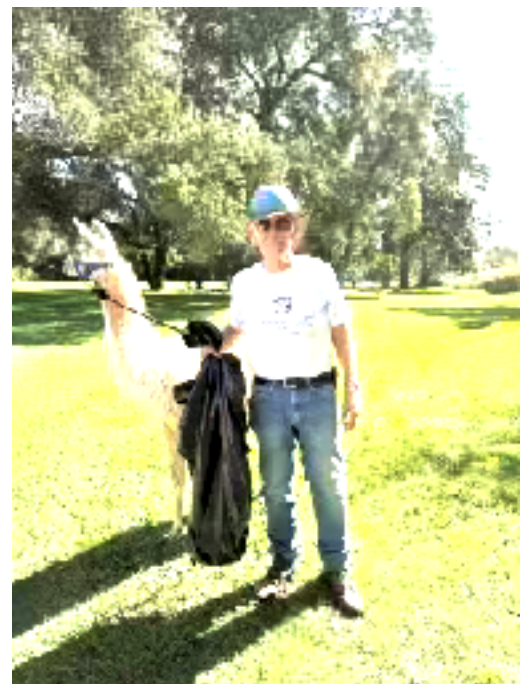
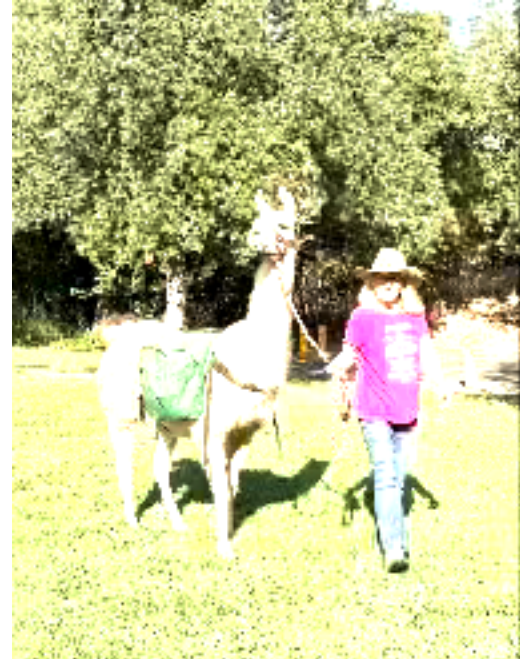
Participants:

Top Right: Jean and Leche

Right: Lee and Honey

Bottom Left: Audrey and McClure, Charlotte and Don Pedro, Cali and Lily, and Kathy and Billy

Bottom Right: Cali and her new llama, Lily



Minimum Standards of Care for Llamas and Alpacas

Minimum Standards of Care are mandatory to llama and alpaca survival and humane treatment. These are the most basic requirements that all llamas and alpacas must have for physical well-being and, as such, define minimum requirements for animal control officers and government officials investigating questionable llama and alpaca care situations.

1. **WATER:** Animals should have continuous access to potable drinking water.
2. **NUTRITIONAL:** Animals should have nourishment adequate to sustain life and health.
3. **SHELTER:** Animals should have natural or man-made shelter that enables them to find relief from extreme weather conditions. The sheltered area must allow for the ability to stand, lie down, rest and reasonably move about.
4. **MOBILITY:** Animals should have a living area through which they can move freely and exercise independently
5. **NEGLECT:** Animals should have a physical appearance free from signs of serious neglect. Signs of serious neglect may include such things as crippled ambulation due to severely curled toenails, ingrown halters, or living conditions not meeting the minimums listed above.
6. **SAFETY:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from injury or death within their defined living environment and/or when traveling.
7. **CRUELTY:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from cruel treatment and actions that endanger life or health or cause avoidable suffering.
8. **SOCIALIZING:** Llamas and alpacas are herd animals and should not live alone without a companion animal. A cria (a baby llama or alpaca under six months) should not be removed or apart from other llamas or alpacas.

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Standards of Care Committees, June 2005

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LANA's Emergency Wallet Card

Next of Kin Card & Live Animal Alert

Edited from an article by Cris Jennings

In 1996, LAMA Lifeline was created. It was apparent that rescue was but one role Lifeline needed to include in their new program. Although Lifeline consciously structured itself to respond to llama needs, Lifeline volunteers encountered llama rescue situations where other animals (i.e.: goats, sheep, cats, pigs, and geese) came into play. To the owner needing Lifeline's assistance, these animals' welfare was every bit as important as the llamas. Lifeline learned early on, when one type of animal on a ranch is jeopardized by a ranch emergency, all the animals may all be at risk.

Many of the llama rescue situations Lifeline has been involved with began with some sort of human emergency. Having a plan in place for llama/other animal care in case of emergency allowed owner input and control during the chaos of crisis. Real life crisis, health emergencies and death do happen to people all of the time. Individuals prepare for these events by making wills/living trusts, medical powers of attorney, and dutifully paying insurance premiums; some even insure their llamas. Lifeline realized there was generally nothing in place to

ensure basic everyday needs were met (food, water and animal care) if the owners were suddenly out of the picture and unable to provide or direct ranch coverage during an emergency situation. In response to this need in the llama community, LANA developed an emergency notification card that links Next of Kin contacts with animal care contacts.

The hard facts of life are that no one can predict when a tragedy may strike and human crisis can generate significant chaos to create animal emergencies. Thoughtful preplanning can prevent putting animals at risk and avoid compounding an already difficult situation. The NOK/Live Animal Alert Card is but one practical application of LANA's commitment to the community, the well being of llamas and Lifeline's consulting, networking, education philosophy.

LANA was contacted in December 2024, and asked if LANA still had the NOK cards available. The Board of Directors agreed to create an updated card and make it available to anyone. Please feel free to print this and share with others.

 Llama Association of North America Next of Kin / Live Animal Alert Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone(s): _____ Email: _____ (If am incapacitated or die, please contact those listed on the reverse side of this card.) PLEASE ENSURE SOMEONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMMEDIATE FEEDING AND WATER NEEDS OF MY ANIMALS	Next of Kin Contacts Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ Animal Care Contacts Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ ☐ # Llamas ☐ # Cows ☐ # Sheep ☐ # Pigs ☐ # Goats ☐ # Dogs ☐ # Geese ☐ # Other
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FOLD HERE

Llama Association of North America

Website: www.lanainfo.org Email: lanaquestions@gmail.com



2025 Membership and Donations

Membership: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31

Please send all completed applications
and checks (made out to LANA) to:

LANA, c/o Joy Pedroni
3966 Estate Drive Vacaville, CA 95688



LANA MISSION STATEMENT

ESTABLISHED in 1981, the Llama Association of North America (LANA), serves the camelid community by sponsoring medical research specific to llamas and alpacas; providing current and accurate information about camelid health and care; advocating for pro-camelid legislation and access to public lands; encouraging, educating and mentoring camelid enthusiasts of all ages in their interactions with camelids; supporting rescue for camelids in distress; and hosting a variety of activities including youth programs, hiking trips, shows, parades, fiber clinics, educational events and more.



Your Name: _____

Your Ranch Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Website: _____

MEMBERSHIP & Donation OPTIONS

See second page for Descriptions

Membership options: choices:	Fees:	Your
Friend of LANA	\$250	
LANA Member	\$40	
New LANA Member	\$25	
Youth (19 and under)	\$20	
Youth Club	\$35	
Donor: LANA Lama Lifeline		
Donor: Youth programs		
Donor: Gen. Fund		
TOTAL:		

