Volume 2, Issue 2

June, 2016

OVER THE RAINBOW ALPACA RANCH

Chat with Rainbow

We're Baaack!

Some of you might have already heard but for those of you who haven't, Over the Rainbow is now back where we started, co-located with Foggy Bottom Alpacas. It's good. Fun to be with my old girlfriends again and I will say, some of them were very happy to see me again, I just know.

On behalf of all of us at OTR, I want to personally invite each and every one of you to visit us this summer. There's nothing like home. Enough said.

Welcome to Issue #2 of ***Chat with Rainbow*** for 2016. In this issue, you'll find the following sections:

Client Corner, featuring Wildflower Alpaca Farm, owned and operated by Sue Campbell.

AlpacaU, featuring new workshops and learning opportunities. Something for everyone.

Events: Always browse this important section. Look here for ways to promote your business and network with others….. make some money!

Stud Row. It's breeding season. Check out some boys that might be just the ticket for one or more of your gals!

New this Issue: Classifieds! A place for all of us to tell others what we're looking for, or what we have to sell!. Come on everyone….tell us what you have to sell, and we'll list it for you.

Stud Row: Parade of Boys

'Tis the season for breeding. The decisions you make this year can move you forward, or set you back. Never have I personally been set back—as Sara says, "Rainbow is perfect" even though I've heard her say my fleece sucks. But she says I have a great personality. In case you're looking for just the right boy, here's our Stud Row Line -Up:

White: ***Majestic Peruvian Ransom:*** A full-fleeced boy who's fleece is fine, dense, consistent head to tail, and award—winning. He's easy to handle, laid-back personality, compact and ready to breed. His first crias in Minnesota will be on the ground mid-June.

Light Brown: ***Snowmass Kahuna Sunrise*** just took his 14th championship. What a career this boy has, and Sara says he's not done. She's taking him to Iowa this fall! After spending the winter in Virginia, he's back on our farm through October. He's fine like silk, sweet tempered, compact, full—fleeced, covered head to toe. Crias are on the ground (including Summer, my little girl born last year). Barb can't tell any of them apart, They are consistent from one to the next. That's good.

Dark Brown ***Snowmass Apotheosis*** is back after wintering in Virginia. Lucky guy. Wish he could stay here just one winter and experience our cold—he has such a coat on him he wouldn't know the difference. As

Parade of Boys (continued from page 1)

Sara says, "he has presence". His fleece is very fine—under 18 micron, consistent throughout. And the coverage is what we all like. BTW: Apotheosis tends to have girls. We like that. At least Sara likes that. I'm not sure I like the competition but I'm not worried. **I have an award winning newsletter**. Who needs blue ribbons! (I know, I said the same thing in the last issue—just want everyone to know I have a healthy ego)

True Black. ***Black Storm.*** Pitch black, extremely fine, full face and great coverage all over. Beautiful crias. Come see Black Tie Affair, one of his boys. Stunning. Looks just like him. A nice personality, just hangs out with the others. Not noisy, not pushy, just about right. Sounds like a boy I might like. I need to talk to Sara.

FYI— in the last issue I told you Sara was hunting for a fawn herdsire to join Stud Row. She's still looking. But they did find a female with a little girl who is fawn. And they bought her. She's not here yet. When she gets here, I'll check her out and let you know.

Classifieds

Got some thing to sell? This is the place. We'll start:

Pasture Gates: 4, 8 and 10 foot wired and non-wired, green. You can never have too many gates!. Call for pricing (listed by Sara Bender)

Rubber Stall Mats: 3' x 3' interlocking mats. Ease the sore feet from standing on hard surfaces. $14 / mat. ($18 if new. listed by Barb Bender)

Oak rolling supply cart: perfect for storing essential medical supplies. Small footprint, on rollers for easy moving. $75 obo. (Listed by Sara Bender)

List your stuff here. Send info to Sara and we'll get the word out. Nothing too big or too small

AlpacaU

What exactly is AlpacaU? That's easy: it's the place where all alpaca farmers can learn new stuff, get new skills, try their hand at scary things, and become mentors to others. Workshops, classes and other ways to learn are offered jointly by OTR and FBF throughout the summer and fall. Choose from a day-long series, or short 2 hour sessions to fit your busy schedule.

The first Mini-Series began in April and was geared toward new or slightly new owners. This series will be offered again in July so watch for the schedule.

The 2nd Mini-Series is all about being a breeding farm, with the goal of being successful.

This summer and fall, AlpacaU will feature guest speakers on single topics that include:

- Cria care
- Ruminant nutrition
- Parasite management
- Focus on fiber
- Skin Issues

There is something for everyone. So stay tuned and watch for emails announcing classes.

Read All About It: Consulting Under The Rainbow

Need help? Sara is so excited to announce her new Consulting business. I named it for her, so of course, it's clever, just like me! **What kind of consulting you ask?**

⇒ ***Marketing support***: website assistance; logo development; business card and printed material development;

⇒ ***Breeding decision support***: female evaluations and assistance in identifying potential breeding herdsires; herdsire searches and brokering;

⇒ ***Monthly herd health assistance***: some things are hard to do, there's no time, or the real job gets in the way. Services can include monthly nails, shots, frontline; fecals as needed, treatment recommendations and communication with vet.

⇒ ***Other stuff***, by request.

Wildflower Alpaca Farm is located in Princeton, MN and owned by Sue Campbell and Ken Mariette. Wildflower is home to 12 alpacas, and this year will add 7 crias to the herd. Sue has been working very hard to improve upon the fiber quality of her animals, and for the first time is looking forward to entering fleeces into the Midwest Fleece Show this year, .

So a bit about Sue. She's an accountant during the day and loves to just spend time with her animals. Visit on the weekends, and you will find her in the barn.

Now here's a good thing for all of us to know about Sue– she's starting a consignment business where she will offer farms the opportunity to sell their products at different events, consigning products to Sue's booths. A great idea. (Think Midwest Farm and Fiber Festival if you're short on product).

EVENTS: Shear…Skirt…Show….Sell!

Midwest Farm & Fiber Festival

New this year, Sara and Barb are hosting this 1 day festival, celebrating everything fiber. Round up all your products and get yourself a booth at this fiber fest.

- Hand-made items? Perfect!
- Alpaca retail products? Yes!
- Fiber processing tools? for sure.
- Farm supplies? Why not?

Don't use the excuse—I don't have enough product to sell. Team up with other farms in a common booth. This is important. Get your farm known, keep the public interested in alpaca, and start the shopping (think selling) season with a fun event. Here's what you need to know:

Midwest Farm & Fiber Festival

October 22, 2016: 9 am—5 pm

Isanti County Fair Grounds

learn more about it and sign up @ www.midwestfff.com

Midwest Alpaca Fleece Show

What's so good about a Fleece Show? Let's see:

1. A **low-cost** way to market (think sell) your fleece to the public (there is a big market for fleece out there). Much less expensive then entering in a halter show.
2. Our region needs a way for alpacas to strut their stuff. Ribbons are nice to get. And alpaca owners want to see ribbons on their fleece. But even if you don't get a ribbon, you get very useful information from the judge about your fleece. *You can never know too much about your fleece.*
3. This show is AOA Certified. That's important to buyers.
4. Fleeces will be judged by Wade Gease, Senior AOA Certified Halter and Fleece judge. This is no slouchy show!

So, start thinking about which fleeces you want to enter, and talk to Sara. **Here's an added plus**: If you need help skirting the fleece to get ready for the show, Sara will skirt them for you, although she probably will charge you a minor fee.

Last but not least….Sell your entered fleeces at the Farm and Fiber Festival. After judging on October 21, the fleeces will be put on display at the Festival for everyone to see.

So come on everybody...this is the ONLY fleece show in our region this year. Find out more and get all of your paperwork to register at www.midwestfff.com.

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Owned and operated by Sara Bender, Over the Rainbow is quickly becoming an elite breeding farm in the Midwest. Sara began her life with alpacas in 2009 with the purchase of her first bred female. Since then there has been no looking back. Mentored by Double "O" Good Alpacas, one of the country's elite breeding farms, Sara has received extensive hands-on training in herd health and management, breeding, neonatal care, and conformation and fleece analysis. And each year, Sara takes time out of her busy days to focus on her continued learning from some of the best in the industry.

She has an eye for the best. The herd has grown to include color champions and multiple ribbon winners, crias with fleece that "will take your breath away", (to quote one national judge) and personalities to boot! See for yourself – get introduced to Rainbow, the most remarkable, personable and delightful alpaca you'll ever meet, and the proud author of this newsletter (help with typing from Sara).

Bragging Book

- **Opal** took white female Color Champion at MOPACA 2016. Daughter of Prince Phillip (may he rest in peace)
- **FBF Legacy** of Prince Phillip took White Male Reserve Color Champion at MOPACA 2016 (another Prince Phillip progeny)
- **FBF Stella** took 1st place (blue ribbon) at MOPACA 2016. She is our first Kahuna Sunrise offspring to show!
- **Snowmass Kahuna Sunrise** took his 14th Championship—we think it was Southern Select.
- **Snowmass Apotheosis** took his 8th banner—a reserve behind Kahuna.
- We just had a beautiful XXXtreme Legacy cria born—a girl.
- CCAP is racking in the banners this year—congratulations Paul and Ann!
- Majestic Meadows just won Herdsire of the Year with Jumanji (half brother to our Sheri). Congratulations, Faye and Jeff.

Got an animal you want to brag about? Send us the info and we'll post it here for you.

Our Motto: Apples don't fall far from the tree. Pick a good tree!