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Sharing the Smart Lifestyle Option

Hullo Readers

No doubt you are all enjoying the arrival of spring and the opportunity it brings to get out and about. Our first spring activity with our 'pacas this year was to attend the local 'Made in Masterton' Expo in September, where we were sited alongside Masterweave Textiles – thereby showing the public the original fleece (still on our alpacas) and the beautiful alpaca rugs & throws produced under the Windermere label by local weavers Masterweave Textiles. These throws make classy gifts – and can be purchased direct from Masterweave Textiles or from Carters Linen in Queen St, Masterton. Locations of other retail outlets in Wairarapa and around New Zealand are on Masterweave's website www.masterweavetextiles.com

If you're looking out for a classy gift with a difference these will fit the bill !

Winter Cria



Before Plasma



After Plasma

We had just the one winter cria this year, born to "Peru" - an alpaca we have for sale on behalf of a South Island stud who have downsized. The cria was born on a cold wet day in July and by the time we found her was very chilled and close to death. We wrapped her in bubblewrap, warmed her up with hotties and had a vet administer 400ml of alpaca plasma into her peritoneal cavity area (which gave her a protein kick and the antibodies carried by the donor alpaca). When she picked up we followed this with glucose and cow colostrum. She and Mum were kept in a shelter shed while the weather was rough and until Storm had bonded with her mum and learned to feed.

Alpaca Friendly Pasture

If planning on any regrassing this spring you might like to consider sowing the second "grass mix" published on our website <http://www.thealpacaplace.co.nz/pasture.shtml> This mix was provided by David Musgrove at the 2007 AANZ Conference.

David, who is a qualified grass scientist, planted this combination of seeds on his organic property 20 years ago and over time it has removed Californian thistle, barley grass and rye grass and other unwanted weeds just by dominating them .

Ryegrass in any form is not ideal for alpacas as the endophyte varieties give them rye grass staggers and both they and the

endophyte-free varieties tend to make alpacas fat – and therefore subject to the sometimes fatal "fatty liver syndrome". Small amounts of rye grass already growing will probably not cause any problems but we wouldn't recommend sowing any.

If growing your own hay you may like to consider exchanging the Tall Fescue in the mix with Lucerne. While it has some good survival characteristics Tall Fescue tends to become unpalatable when it grows overlong so for hay growth Lucerne may be a better option - it stores Vitamin D which is essential for alpacas and provides good winter feed when sunshine is infrequent.

A few pointers: plantains are medicinal and provide good nutrition particularly in winter. Chicory will keep the liver functioning well. Other plants not usually sown but of good value to alpacas are dandelion (which provide vitamins A & C and is also good for the liver) and yarrow which is traditionally known as a "life medicine" or a general panacea. The benefits or otherwise of specific grasses in the mix are detailed on our website.

Spring Super Special

**\$4800+GST package
for our readers only**



Daisy



Cheeky

Both are pregnant and due in early summer

These mature, experienced breeding girls are for sale as a package deal for just \$4990+GST and are reduced further for you as a "readers only special" of \$4800+GST - a further saving of \$190! Daisy is a gentle, sweet natured girl who has given us some lovely cria who are now of breeding age themselves. Cheeky is a Chilean style alpaca with an incredibly soft fleece – at 12 years old her fleece is still only 26 micron, and she passes this fleece characteristic on to her cria. Give us a call if you are interested in these girls. They are a great "budget buy" and will get you started into alpaca breeding very quickly.

Alpaca Fleece-Denim Innovation

In the USA the American Alpaca Fibre Federation has signed a joint venture deal with Telas Parras, one of the top five largest textile mills in the world. Their mills in Mexico and Italy are the world's largest producers of denim, and denim is the No.1 selling clothing fabric in the world. Telas Parras are preparing to blend alpaca with cotton for their denim products.

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Our Customer Connection Sets Us Apart

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Interestingly, the ideal length for this is 60-70mm, usually regarded as "shorts". Also, they do not need crimped fibre, as they can apparently create that artificially. The joint venture is right to the finished product, creating a greater return for growers (as the more value you add to the fibre the better your return).

While this is unlikely to directly impact on NZ alpaca farmers it does mean that the world is once again being exposed to the wonderful qualities of alpaca fibre, and that's a big plus for us all.

Hip Dislocations / Broken Legs

A few months ago one of our alpacas dislocated his hip. He may have stepped into a rabbit burrow while running – we do not know for sure. In terrible pain and able to walk only a few steps he sat down – and the hip popped back into position. Phew!! It has been no further problem. Phew again!!



One of the useful things to know about alpaca is that if they break their leg they do not usually have to be 'put down' unless there are multiple fractures. Although some NZ vets still assume death as the only option, many alpacas have had their legs cast in plaster, or held in place with pins and have made full recovery. Don't rush in to have your alpaca destroyed if a leg bone is broken cleanly (not crushed) – if your vet

is unwilling to attempt a repair **find another vet!** Alternatively, it is very likely Massey University would be prepared to do it. Contact their big animal veterinary service before you make that very final decision. An article on this little NZer is on our website: <http://www.thealpacaplace.co.nz/OrthopedicsFVC.shtml>

Many NZ vets have limited specific alpaca training - it has only recently been included in the Veterinary School curriculum. **It is important that you choose a vet who has a demonstrated interest in alpacas** – one who has been to a AANZ Vets Seminar would likely know that alpacas' broken bones can be mended! And would probably also know how to deal with it or who to contact for assistance.

Shearing - & Selling Your Wool

If you are planning to sell your fleeces to Just Alpaca Ltd this year and want some quick tuition on how to class and label/code your fleeces for sale you are welcome to join us for a while on one of our shearing days (Saturday November 29th & Monday December 1st). If you let us know you are coming we will provide lunch.



Off With the Belly Fleece

The Blanket Falls Away

Did You Know?

All our Stud males are AANZ registered and certified breeding males and 100% owned by The Alpaca Place. They are always available on farm. We offer stud services from males of excellent background and genetic variety - from animals of full Peruvian ancestry with the bloodlines of the two most respected Peruvian studs - Accoyo and Alianza, to the genetic diversity of animals of mixed Peruvian and Chilean descent.

Service fees reflect the stud's quality and where appropriate a built in discount ensures you won't pay twice the price for a stud fee than you can hope to recover when selling a grown wether! **This is not usual practice for most alpaca stud farms around New Zealand and is another example of our customer connection.**

From time to time we have "entire" or "AANZ stud certified" males for sale – if you are looking for a stud to buy give us a call, we don't always have them listed on our website.

Inaugural Winter Show

A NZ first: The first AANZ Central Region winter show was held in August this year. We travelled to New Plymouth to join in this inaugural event taking with us 4 of our young potential studs and a maiden female. We were delighted to bring home three red (1st) and 1 yellow (3rd) ribbons.

With 150 entries from around NZ the show was highly competitive but also had a section for Novice Breeders (ie to compete both the owner and the alpaca had to have never previously entered an alpaca show)

Coming Up - AANZ National Show & Expo

The Alpaca Association of NZ **premier show event of the year** is about to take place in Christchurch (11th/12th October). The Show will attract top alpaca breeders from around the country vying for ribbons at this prestigious event. This is not associated with an A&P show as many of our show events are.

What You Should be Doing Now

- Get fencing sorted while the ground is not too hard or temperatures too hot for enjoyable outside work.
- Book a shearer – contact us if you don't know one
- Lime can go on now if you didn't manage to get it done last autumn – it needs to be followed by rain so get on to it before summer comes around.
- Check your automatic trough water systems regularly – things can (and do) go wrong & it doesn't take long for trouble to occur if your stock are out of water.

Feel free to give us a call if you want to 'paca chat' – we'd love to hear from you.

Warm regards

Liz & Cheryl

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