



Hello! We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying a bit of warmer weather. As we update you on the current happenings at ABR, we would like to use this as an introduction to your current Board of Directors. You will see some familiar names and some new ones. We want you to know that all of us are working hard to make sure this organization continues to serve the needs of its members. We're glad you're here!

paca parade

Quarterly Insights from the Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies

Message from the President

This has been a challenging quarter to say the least. I'd like to publicly thank Sara Jane and Hugh Maclennan of Dundee Farm Alpacas for hosting a training session for color compliance, ring steward, and gatekeeper show positions. Other thank yous go to Andy Riedel for doing the ring steward part and Ted Ritschard for providing suris for the color compliance portion. The Great Western and Rocky Mountain Alpaca Shows followed this. We had two halter shows and a walking fleece show over three days, and they were well run. I believe all participants enjoyed the shows though the shows were smaller than expected both in terms of exhibitors and animals. Much of this is due to the AOA National Show that was in Denver again. This traditionally reduces our numbers, and this year was no different. The net result is that ABR lost money on our spring show.

Our quarterly meeting was at the Parker Library on June 24th. The meeting featured Dr. Signe Balch as our guest speaker. Dr. Balch is our local camelid veterinarian, and she did an ask the vet session and answered questions posed by our members. Our quarterly business meeting covered our financial position and upcoming events, goals, and any questions members had for board members. Of particular importance was our need to fill several board positions due to the resignation of several board members. Introduced was Norm Johnson who will assume the role of Vice President for the remainder of the year. And I would like to announce and thank Mary Beggs for volunteering to be the Marketing Director also for the remainder of the year.

This quarterly meeting included a zoom call in capability to allow members not in the immediate area to join in the quarterly meeting. It proved successful and will be available for future member meeting.

I would also note that the Fall fleece show will likely be in Castle Rock. September 30 and October 1st in conjunction with the first annual FallamaFest event. Details have not been worked out yet, so if you want to help ABR define our portion of this event please contact Charlie Grigg at the ABR office to volunteer. A committee of a few people would really help.

Speaking of committees, this is a great opportunity for ABR members to step up and volunteer for one of the committees or board positions and bring your goals and ideas to the table. ABR is at a critical juncture as is the industry. Where do you think we should focus our resources and how do we strengthen the organization? This is your organization, and we need you to be involved.

Last item of note. The 2024 Great Western Alpaca Show and Rocky Mountain Alpaca Stampede will be moving to Cheyenne, WY for 2024. It will be at a new facility called the Archer Center that is right off I80 about 10 miles east of I80 and I25. We will have room for about 200 stalls; 10x10 with rubber mats for the walkways and rings. We are excited to be able to get this facility and look forward to having a great GWAS event next year. Looking for committee members to help with the planning and running of the show. You can see photos of the facility at <https://www.laramiecountyevents.com/event-center-at-archer/>

Peter Ziek
ABR President
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ABR's 2023 Budget was approved in December 2022 by the Board of Directors. The budget projects an overall net income of \$8K at the end of the year if revenues and expenditures perform as anticipated. The current financial position as of 6/7/23 shows a loss, as typically the GWAS show loses money when the AOA National Show is in Denver. Fewer farms want to travel to Denver twice, so fewer attend. The board continues to seek ways to increase revenues and decrease costs. The Fall Fest show is expected to recoup additional revenues to offset the current loss.

	Approved Budget	Actuals to Date
Income	\$221,825	\$62,420
Expense	\$213,127	\$72,849
Profit/Loss	\$8,698	\$-10,429

2023 Budget Execution

Debbie Cochran, ABR Treasurer
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Greetings from the Secretary! Mark Choiniere

What a busy 2023 in the alpaca world! It's hard to believe its shearing time and the annual great fleece harvest that goes with it, as well as births and breeding time for most farms: no rest for the weary. Please look to the ABR Website and our ABR Board of Directors Minutes to review execution of upcoming events and planning for the future. For those who participate in the Denver Coliseum based National Western Stock Show (NWSS,) it will not be a surprise that for several years now there have been challenges in both the award/availability of ribbons and banners for show winners, as well as problems and shortfalls for planned payouts to participants as called for in the NWSS Show book. If you have experienced problems in either or both regards (e.g., ribbons and/or payouts,) past ABR president Hillary Devin has been engaged in a dialogue with NWSS planning staff to address and rectify these shortfalls that recently culminated in her sending a letter detailing the problems, issues, and recommending a remedy to this problem. In BOD Meeting discussions Hillary agreed to provide the letter she sent to NWSS that can be used as a sample to broach with them any deficiencies ABR Members may have experienced. A copy of the letter will be embedded in the 17 May 2023 BOD Minutes available on the ABR Website. The NWSS site has the results posted. However, some are not correct regarding placement, class or category. Ann Danielson was the ABR coordination touch point with NWSS and has placement information available for those who need it.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas or comments please contact: Mark Choiniere, ABR Secretary, 540-229-1706. mchirp12@gmail.com , or hello@dustyroadalpacas.com.

Dear Mr. Vick and Ms. Boca:

I attended the 2023 National Western Stock Show competing in the Alpaca Show Halter Show as a Suri exhibitor.

I did quite well at the show this year: 4 first places; 1 second place; 3 championships; 2 reserve championships; 1 grand championship. I recently received my premium book check. It is not correct based on your own premium book payout schedule.

Quoting your premium payout schedule:

PREMIUM SCHEDULE:					
Champion	Reserve Champion	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
\$100	\$75	\$50	\$35	\$20	\$10

Premium payout begins with classes of five (5) and over for Huacaya and three (3) and over for Suri. Premiums are for Halter, Obstacles and Public Relations classes.

Each gender/color group in which I competed met the criteria of at least 3 alpaca. Based on my results, I should have received a premium payout of \$685. I received a check this week (see attached) of \$135. Should I expect another check? How, exactly, was the payout I received calculated? For the second year in a row, I did not receive the banners that I won at the show. Quoting your published rules relative to ribbons and banners to be awarded:

H. Ribbons will be awarded to the top ten (10) places and Banners for Champion, Reserve Champion and Grand Champion for Halter Classes. Ribbons will be awarded to the top ten (10) places for Obstacles and Public Relations Classes and Banners for Champion and Reserve Champions for the Obstacles and Public Relations. Ribbons for the Costume class will be awarded to the top ten (10) places. Championships will only be awarded to classes with 3 or more alpacas. This is a premium payout show based on the Alpaca Show Premium List.

Now, it has been the custom of the NWSS to award ribbons for Reserve Champion. While I would prefer a banner, as stated in your rules, I will accept the light purple ribbon. I was told at the show I would receive the missing banners/ribbons after the fact. To date I have not received the missing banners/ribbons nor have I received any communication relative to when I may expect them. I am owed the following ribbons/banners for the 2023 competition:

- * Suri Dark Female Championship
- * Suri Light Female Championship
- * Suri White Female Reserve Championship
- * Suri Female Grand Championship

I also have an accounting of missing banners from the 2022 NWSS.

I will admit to being supremely disappointed. Winning a championship at such a prestigious show is a BIG DEAL. I can't even display my hard-won banners/ribbons because I don't even have them. I count on my performance at the NWSS to monetarily compensate for my entry fees. The check I received doesn't do that – not even close. I'm also confused relative to why this is all even happening. The rules are laid out in the premium book. Why weren't the appropriate ribbons/banners ordered? Why is it taking so long to get what I won? I will share with you that I am not the only one who is missing banners/ribbons. And I can only imagine if I was shorted relative to the premium payouts, other exhibitors were shorted as well.

I would like for someone from the NWSS to reply to this email and lay out the remedies to my concerns/questions. If this is how it's going to be going forward, I will not enter the NWSS competition in the future. I welcome the opportunity to speak to a NWSS representative about my concerns. Please feel to contact me at 303-588-2076 or via email hillarybigdog@yahoo.com. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Survey's and/or Questionnaires

I get it! Nobody likes doing surveys or questionnaires, but surveys provide vital information.

Surveys provide ABR with valuable feedback to inform the ABR Board of Directors (BOD) with guidance to make decisions for ABR members.

Survey's allow ABR to efficiently collect good or bad feedback, opinion's and responses from ABR members. We need to identify and prioritize issues to address declining membership and our future mission.

Do not hesitate to be critical about how ABR has failed or assisted you. These opinions and responses matter, so please take the time to tell us. Thank you for your continued support for ABR.

Kandi Gunning, ABR Education Director
kgunning@arizona.edu or 520.331.5980

Here are a few questions to think about or respond to on ABR's forthcoming Survey:

What in your opinion are the biggest challenges or obstacles facing the alpaca industry in Colorado? Or in the US?

What is the one thing the ABR BOD should consider implementing as an idea to serve ABR members better? Is there a cost? How can ABR raise the funds to implement the idea?

Do you feel that you can contribute meaningful skills or talent to ABR and if not, what do you think you could do?

Updated Camelid Deworming Chart: <https://go.umd.edu/camelidchart>

Always consult your veterinarian for advice on specific management situations. This chart is only a **possible guideline**.

Upcoming Events

[Meet us at the Spur on August 12th! \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Fiber shed Event

FallamaFest.com September 29- October 1, 2023

[AAWW: AAWW 2023 Educational Events \(alpacawa.org\)](#)

The 40th Annual Mountain & Valley Wool Festival October 7 & 8, 2023

Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild Annual Fiber Arts Sale Oct 12- 14, 2023

PAOBA's Summer Fleece Show, Educational Seminars and Fiber Sort

July 28-30th, 2023

Save money by taking advantage of **Early Bird Registration** until June 15th, 2023! Final registration closes July 20.

For more information, visit the **PAOBA's** [Fleece Show Main Page](#)

Q: Did you know?

A: New members get a free year of membership

This means that if you sell an alpaca to a new owner, they can sign up for free the first year. This is a huge resource to new owners and could be the key to keeping those new owners in the industry.

As I speak with alpaca owners at different events, times sometimes I hear that the benefits of ABR are primarily for people who show. Yes, we do offer a lot of resources for people who are interesting in the show system. But we also offer a lot for anyone who owns or is considering owning alpacas. Last year we offered classes that covered neonatal care, nutrition, fleece skirting, wet felting, needle felting, weaving, and much more.

Camelids are a whole new animal to many people, and to be able to take advantage of the support system inherent in ABR is highly important to the health and wellbeing of the animals and the future of the industry. We also, as farms, tend to be spread out, making it a bit harder to find those needed resources on our own.

Our goal at ABR is to offer the resources needed by ALL members. Please let us know what classes and programs you would like to see in the future.

Robin Robison, Director of Communications/Membership