



FEATURED FARM

BREEDING

About us

Our love affair with alpacas started in 2010 when we first saw alpacas. Six months later our first alpacas arrived and we have never looked back, never regretted our decision to make them part of our lives.

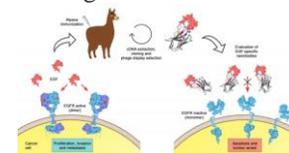
We just love to spend time with the alpacas, out in the field, listening to the many noises they make, from the humming between mother and cria to the quiet munching of grass on a sunny afternoon.

We have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have visited from all over Ireland and further afield to see these fluffy beauties. Without fail, all leave with a smile on their face after their encounter with these charming alpacas. The individuality and personality of alpacas inevitably shines through and wins peoples hearts.



Alpaca Immune System delivers a potential treatment for cancer

Mostly known for its lustrous fleece, the humble alpaca may soon be more famous for its extraordinary immune system. A study has discovered that the animals produce unique nanobodies that could be recruited into a new treatment for cancer. Epidermal growth factor (EGF), when over expressed, is fundamentally associated with a number of cancers and researchers have worked for some time to try to find ways to block its expression. The new research looked to nature for a solution, working to harness the unique immune systems of alpacas to produce a novel molecule that could be adapted into a therapeutic treatment. Alpacas are one of very few animals that can naturally produce single-domain antibodies. These are much smaller than common antibodies and are often referred to as nanobodies. Cheaper, and easier to mass produce than traditional monoclonal antibodies, nanobodies promise an exciting new future in drug treatments.. It may be early days for the work but it lays the foundation for exciting study into a new generation of cancer treatment.



(IRB Barcelona 2018)

1. Why did you decide to get into Alpacas?

We had a 2 acre field at the back of our house that a farmer cut hay from for a few years and we decided that we wanted to do something more with it and came across alpacas

2. How Many Alpacas do you have/intend to have?

We will probably never have more than 40. We both work full time and although alpacas are low maintenance, time is scarce

3. What is it about Alpacas that appeals to you?

I love that they are quiet and calm but curious and friendly once they get to know you

4. Do you have a favorite Alpaca?

I do. She is one of our original alpacas and I would describe her as the "lady" of the group; always well-behaved and polite but still likes a prong with the cria some evenings. But, I love them all and sometimes different day, different favourite.

5. What's do you do with your Alpacas?

I talk to them of course! No response yet, but they are great company.

6. What have been the challenges ?

When they get sick, it's very stressful especially if the vet is not very familiar with alpacas and treats them like long necked sheep

7. What has surprised you about having Alpaca?

I didn't think I'd enjoy picking up poop as much as I do. I generally get escorted around the field by some of the younger alpacas, who wait until I'm finished to poop again!

8. What's your vision for the Alpaca future

I would like to see the number of alpaca breeders increase. Demand for alpacas is very high. I'd also like to see a mini mill in Ireland to process our fleece and finally the Department of Agriculture to recognize our alpacas as Livestock.

9. Do you have one piece of advice for new alpaca owners?

Visit as many farms as possible and ask all the questions at every farm. Decide what you want your alpacas to do when you get them home. Are they pets or show animals? Are they fibre or therapy animals? Is personality important?

10. Finish this sentence: If you knew what you know now I would...

...not worry as much about them ignoring a perfectly good shelter in a storm



This Spring we are;

- Putting fertiliser on the paddocks to encourage good grass growth
- Halter training last years' cria
- Planning breedings for Summer 2020
- Splitting two paddocks for better rotational grazing
- Injecting ADE forte
- Cutting toenails (the land has been too soft to keep them down)
- Booking a shearer
- Planting some trees for shelter
- Looking forward to some better weather!

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