



# AAI Newsletter

*Summer 2023*

Welcome to the AAI Summer 2023 newsletter!

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# Message from the Committee

Michael McLaughlin, President and Chair

## **Fleece Testing**

We are happy to announce that the AAI have accepted an offer from Art of Fibre to provide a fleece testing service to members. The cost of the fleece test is at a reduced rate of €3.80 per sample. The reduced rate is only offered to AAI members who submit their fleece samples through the AAI, there is no direct contact between members and the Art of Fibre for this fee. The AAI will deliver the fleece samples to Art of Fibre. Art of Fibre will perform the testing and deliver the results to the AAI.

We will issue a separate more detailed overview of the service including information on how to submit your fleece samples.

## **Future Events**

Our next event is the Tullamore Show followed by the Veterinary course in September which is split over two days. Day 1 of the Veterinary course is of a general nature and is suitable for all Alpaca owners. Day two content is more advanced and will be of interest to experienced owners and Vets.

## **National Show 2024**

The AAI National Show has grown over the years and has now reached the stage that it is difficult to cover the full event in a single day. The committee has been discussing options for next year's show.

The Mullingar Equestrian Centre is available next year on the weekend of 9th and 10th March. This weekend is a good weekend for an early show as it is before the UK show season commences and it will provide us with a choice of judges and may be of interest for UK visitors to attend.

The committee requests your view on having a one or two day event. If we go with a 2-day event we would start on Saturday, schedule an evening event and aim to finish early on Sunday. Overnight accommodation for Alpacas can be arranged at the Equestrian Centre. If we go with a two day show all participants must attend on both days.

Please let us know your preference on a one or two day event so that we can begin the planning.

Thanking you,

Michael

A photograph of a brown and white alpaca standing in a grassy field. The alpaca is facing left. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a sunset with a bright orange sun low on the horizon. Bare tree branches are visible in the upper part of the frame.

All Ireland Alpaca Craft Competition  
Tullamore Show 13 August 2023

# Regional News

## Sunny South East Alpaca Group

### **February 2023**

In February the group had a Cria Halter Training weekend held at Moonhall Alpacas. The weekend was open to any group members who wanted to get some hands-on experience with halter training. The weekend was a great success with around 25 cria trained without too many tears or tantrums.



### **Vitamin ADE**

January to March the group was still busy organising Vitamin ADE injection runs for its members. Unfortunately, the injectable Vitamin ADE is no longer available in Ireland and it cannot be sourced outside of Ireland either.

We have been looking into alternative means of ADE and it is looking like the paste is the only option going forward. The paste is available to buy from Moonhall Alpacas for anyone that need it within the group.



## **March 2023**

The AAI National Halter Show took place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Mullingar Equestrian Centre. The group had an information Stand at the show promoting the group and we are delighted to say we were very busy all day with lot of people stopping by looking for advice and information on all things Alpaca. Thank you to Hummingbird and Hilltop Farm for manning the stand for us.

The show was a great success with a lot of prizes going to farms in our group.

## **May**

May has been a busy month for everyone.

SSEAG Crafter held a brilliant Peg looming Course on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Moonhall Alpacas and it was a brilliant success. One of our members got the Peg Looms made for the course and we want to thank them for organising this, as it would have cost us a small fortune if we had to buy them in from somewhere else. We also want to thank Carmel Mahony of Wexford Alpacas for her excellent tuition and giving up her time to teach us on the day.



The month of May was also the month for shearing. Most of the Farms in our group were sheared in the space of 2 weeks. We are delighted to have one of our own members – Geoff from Wexford Alpacas offering his services for shearing now along with Craig.

Every year we can't wait for birthing to begin, and this year was no different with births in our area kicking off in early May. We have noticed a lot of premature births this year but thankfully through knowledge and birthing course we are all well prepared for these births.

We have also begun our mating and spit offs, planning ahead for 2024 already.

**June**

On the bank holiday weekend, and in conjunction with Ambermoon Alpacas, we held our first Camelid Dynamics course.

This course was presented by Victoria Barrett of Simply Alpaca in the UK. The course covered how to properly handle alpacas to make it much easier and less stressful for both the handlers and the alpacas when catching, haltering, injecting, and doing other husbandry tasks.

The sun shone all weekend at Moonhall Alpacas and the course was a brilliant success.



## Upcoming events

### **Fleece Show 2023**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual All-Ireland fleece show, in conjunction with Alpacas of Connacht, will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Moonhall Alpacas in Kilkenny.

The weeks are going by very quickly and entries will be closing shortly for the show.

If you haven't secured your entries already and wish to do so, please contact us as soon as possible at

Adrian @ [moonhallfarm@gmail.com](mailto:moonhallfarm@gmail.com)

Niall @ [alpacasofconnacht@gmail.com](mailto:alpacasofconnacht@gmail.com)

### **Camelid Dynamics**

After the success and feedback from our recent Camelid Dynamics Course we plan to run another one towards the end of the year.

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# Fleece Show 2023

The countdown is on!



Only a few weeks left to showtime. The SSEAG & AOC fleece show 2023 is in full preparation. All participants will have received their fleece wrapping packs.

We are saving trees this year and the entry forms have been sent online. Please contact us if you haven't received yours!

This is an individual form for each entry. When you submit, we will return with your official entry sheet. You should print this and place in the bag with the fleece.

We have extended the deadline for the receipt of entry forms and fleeces:



**Forms need to be submitted by Friday the 25th August.** Please pop the fleeces in the post to arrive with us the following week.

We will continue to advise on timelines but please contact Adrian (Moonhall Alpacas) 087 7660786 or Niall Clayton 085 822 0444 with any questions.

Adrian @ [moonhallfarm@gmail.com](mailto:moonhallfarm@gmail.com)

Niall @ [alpacasofconnacht@gmail.com](mailto:alpacasofconnacht@gmail.com)

*Thanks to everyone for your support. Looking forward to a great show!*



## Wondering what to do with your other fleeces?

**two rivers mill**

September re-opening in Coleraine

We offer top quality, bespoke worsted yarn-making to alpaca breeders and garment manufacturers

Contact us with your alpaca fibre processing enquiries  
minimum batch 20kg- check website for more details



[www.tworiversmill.com](http://www.tworiversmill.com)



# Summer Husbandry Tasks

Task	July	August	Sept
Feed hay ad lib, along with daily portion of alpaca nuts. Keep water troughs well filled, especially on hot days when the alpacas can get very thirsty.			
Body score, look for evidence of mites and treat if necessary, check for jaw abscesses, trim topknots and toenails.			
Get alpacas sheared.			
Check FAMACHA (eye membranes) for signs of anaemia, and get poo samples checked regularly for evidence of worms (Faecal Egg Counts)			
If flies are bothersome, spray alpacas with fly deterrent (e.g. citronella-based sprays), taking care not to spray in eyes. Keep a close eye out for fly strike, which can occur very quickly on broken or damaged skin.			
Continue halter training weanlings.			
Keep an eye on grass growth: if you can't see a beer bottle on its side in the grass, it's too long and needs topping!			
Weigh pregnant females and weanlings regularly to monitor weight gain, record details.			
Check heavily pregnant females regularly for signs of labour from 10 months gestation onwards			
Weigh newborn cria daily for the first 1-2 weeks to ensure sufficient milk supply from dam. Weight gain should be 100 - 200g daily.			
Do matings and test for pregnancy via spit offs. Ultrasound can also be used to detect pregnancy from about 40 days post-mating.			

