



BAS Weekly Newsletter
Timely Advice & Current News



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CEO NOTES

Webinar Series

The next webinar is by Sarah Caldwell and will cover preparation for the birthing season. It is scheduled for Tuesday 20th April at 7.30pm. If you want a link then send me an email. If you have already signed up you will receive the link a day before.

The re-scheduled webinar by Emma Taylor on Skirting and fleece management will be on Tuesday 27th April at 7.30 pm.

BAS Board Blog

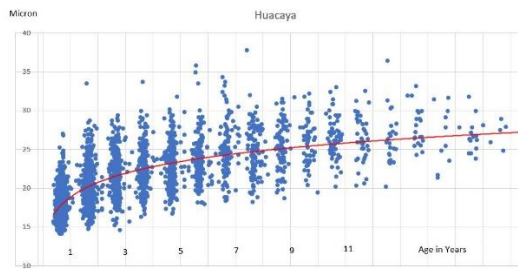
Emma Taylor has posted a new Blog with shearing in mind. |You find it [here](#).

You can email about this or anything else using ceo@bas-uk.com

Duncan Pullar

BAS CEO

EBV Project



Last year saw a very successful start to the BAS EBV project with 30 herds contributing data from 5,000 alpacas. The data collection will carry on this season. If you would like to join in with this development project then you can. Any member can join anytime.

What you need to do is weigh your shorn fleece and get a mid-side-sample analysed. Art of Fibre are project partners and offer preferential rates for participants in the project.

Duncan can supply you with a template spread sheet for the data. Phone or email top register your interest or just discuss what is involved. ceo@bas-uk.com / 07496578781. More information on the BAS Website [here](#)

The value of EBVs comes from their use in breeding plans because they help breeders achieve the aims of their breeding plan more quickly and more accurately than might otherwise be achieved for the traits that have EBVs.

The benefits of an EBV system are that the breeding progress is:

- Permanent – the benefits stay with the alpaca for life
- Cumulative - improvements made in one generation are added to those made in previous generations, and
- Sustainable - improvements can continue to be made for hundreds of generations

EBVs will help breeders make better breeding decisions, identify good and bad alpacas early, and can help with the valuation when buying and selling.



Placements for Veterinary Students at Bristol University

The need for vets with camelid knowledge has been increasing rapidly in the last few years and a good way to encourage more students to take an interest in Alpacas is to offer 1-2 weeks of pre-clinical Extra Mural Studies (EMS) EMS placements for veterinary students. Whilst we do receive some training in camelids at university, EMS is a great way to show students what is involved in camelids, their husbandry and how your businesses work- and hopefully give them the alpaca bug!

What is Pre-Clinical EMS (or AHEMS)

As part of all UK veterinary degrees, students must undertake 12 weeks of animal husbandry/ preclinical extra mural studies (EMS) during the early years of their degree. This gives students an opportunity to learn hands on husbandry, different management protocols and an understanding of common problems and diseases. Covid has had a huge impact on availability of placements, with many students struggling to find ones for this summer, so please do consider offering if you are able to.

What do you need to host students?

In order to host students you will need:

- Personal Liability Insurance
- Employer liability Insurance
- Some patience and time to show them what to do!

If you can offer accommodation this could really help some students who do not live locally/cannot drive, however it is not a requirement and plenty of students probably

live within a commutable distance.

Working farms of all sizes and focuses (breeders, fleece producers, trekking) are welcome to take students. Students are expected to work the same time per week as a full-time worker.

How to get involved

If you are interested in having students and would like more information, please email Phillipa at Phillippa.hamp@gmail.com or on 07592823670. I will be compiling all the contact details to be advertised on the University of Bristol EMS system for veterinary students to access. In the future, I hope to circulate this to other universities.

Liz Barlow retires from judging



Liz Barlow in action at the 2019 National Show

Liz Barlow has reluctantly decided the time is right for her to hang up her judging sleeve. Liz won't be taking any more judging appointments but does intend to remain an active member of BAS.

Anyone who knows Liz, and has seen her in action at a show, will know she brought bucket loads of energy and enthusiasm to the job alongside a great deal of expertise and knowledge.

Thanks Liz for your nearly 20 years of judging work.

BAS Stud Auction - Week 3

Bidding on the auction started on Monday the 12th April at 9am
and closes at 8pm on Sunday 18th April.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of those farms how have kindly donated one or more sires for the 2021 auction.

This links you to the studs on offer [Studs : British Alpaca Society BAS National Show](#)

Please take a look at **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE STUD SERVICES AUCTION**



Farm: [Furze Park/Chincher/Limestone Alpacas](#)
Stud Male: Sofffoot Koo Wee Rup
Registration: [UKBAS](#)
Type: Huacaya
Colour: Solid Medium Brown
Auction: Starts Mon 12th Apr 2021
[Full Details](#)



Farm: [Inca Alpaca](#)
Stud Male: Inca Lewesdon
Registration: [UKBAS37455](#)
Type: Huacaya
Colour: Solid Black
Auction: Starts Mon 12th Apr 2021
[Full Details](#)



Farm: [Velvet Hall Alpacas](#)
Stud Male: Velvet Hall Storm Surge
Registration: [UKBAS31749](#)
Type: Huacaya
Colour: Medium Grey
Auction: Starts Mon 12th Apr 2021
[Full Details](#)



Farm: [Beck Brow Alpacas](#)
Stud Male: Beck Brow Glory Daze
Registration: [UKBAS35713](#)
Type: Huacaya
Colour: Solid White
Auction: Starts Mon 12th Apr 2021
[Full Details](#)



Farm: [Sheriff Alpacas](#)
Stud Male: Old Massiom D'Amour of Sheriff
Registration: [UKBAS31770](#)
Type: Huacaya
Colour: Solid Dark Fawn
Auction: Starts Mon 12th Apr 2021
[Full Details](#)



Farm: [Furze Park/Chincher/Limestone Alpacas](#)
Stud Male: Sofffoot Koo Wee Rup
Registration: [UKBAS](#)
Type: Huacaya
Colour: Solid Medium Brown
Auction: Starts Mon 12th Apr 2021
[Full Details](#)

Consultation on future governance of the vet professions

Animal owners urged to complete consultation on future governance of the vet professions. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the regulator of UK veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, is urging British pet owners to take part in a consultation on proposals for future laws that will govern the nation's veterinary professionals and practices.

The RCVS Legislation Reform Consultation runs until **Friday 23 April 2021**, and asks for views and feedback on a series of recommendations on how the law could be changed to allow for better and more efficient regulation of the vet-led team, more flexible and compassionate concerns investigation and disciplinary procedures, and the enhanced regulation of veterinary practices.

Although members of the public are welcome to respond to any aspect of the consultation, recommendations that may be of particular interest to animal owners are:

- Protection in law for veterinary titles including 'veterinary nurse', so that only those who are appropriately trained and registered as veterinary nurses may use the title.
- Expanding the scope of the RCVS to regulate not just veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, but other allied professionals within the vet-led team, for example, veterinary technicians.
- Having mandatory practice regulation because, at present, the College can only regulate individual veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, rather than veterinary practices. This would mean the RCVS has greater scope to ensure standards are being met
- Widening the grounds for investigating complaints made about veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses so that the RCVS can intervene in cases where a practitioner might pose a risk to animals, the public or the public interest for reasons other than serious professional misconduct.

- Allowing the RCVS to temporarily suspend a a veterinary surgeon's or veterinary nurse's ability to practise pending the outcome of an investigation or disciplinary hearing where they may pose a significant risk to the public or to animals.
- Introducing a wider range of sanctions for those who appear before a Disciplinary Committee including conditional or restricted practice orders.
- Changing the standard of proof used to determine the facts of a complaint from the criminal standard ('beyond all reasonable doubt') to the civil standard ('on the balance of probabilities') in line with other healthcare regulators.

Dr Mandisa Greene MRCVS, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, commented: "The views of the animal-owning public are vital for this consultation because the ultimate role of the RCVS as a regulator is to improve the health and welfare of the nation's animals, as well as public confidence in the veterinary professions, through the standards that we set.

"As we are looking at recommendations for major changes that will, in our view, improve how we set and uphold these standards, animal-owner feedback is a crucial component, and will impact how we decide to move forward with this set of proposals.

"Please also remember, you do not need to complete the entire consultation but can choose to comment on those recommendations which are most important and relevant to you."

The consultation can be accessed from the RCVS website at:

www.rcvs.org.uk/consultation . For further advice you can contact Eleanor Taylor, RCVS Research Officer, on e.taylor@rcvs.org.uk. The deadline for the consultation is **Friday, 23 April 2021.**

Once the consultation has finished the results will be analysed and, in due course, a series of formal recommendations for changes to the law will be made to the
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Breeding Alpacas

The birthing season is nearly with us and after that the breeding season. Planning for the breeding season is important because it can make the rest of the year so much easier

[Breeding – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](http://bas-uk.com)

[Fact-Sheet-2-Mating.pdf \(bas-uk.com\)](http://bas-uk.com)

There are some things to know that are helpful to avoid future problems

- Average gestation is 345 days but can vary from 330 to 370 days
- Most people target late spring/early summer for births for decent weather and grass growth., so to hit a May/ June birth the breeding is going to take place in June/ July
- Births "out of season" may require extra feeding or shelter to avoid problems of exposure.
- Young females are ready to be put to a stud male **only** when they have reached 60 per cent of the weight of their mother. With good nutrition this is possible as yearlings but more likely they will be approaching their second birthday. If mated at 60% of mature weight then continued good nutrition is important so the female can grow herself and support the development of the cria.
- Following a normal birthing and complete cleansing within 12 hours of birth, a female should be in a fit condition to return to a male from 10-14 days post partum.
- It is known that some males are able to breed from about nine months of age but most males are not ready for use until they are 2-3 years old.
- Alpacas are induced ovulators, which means the female releases her egg in response to the act of mating.
- Alpaca mate in the cush position so a female that is not ready will not sit down and may spit at the male.
- During copulation, the stud male intrudes through the cervix of the female and deposits sperm repeatedly into each uterine horn. This action can cause damage to the uterine lining and disrupt a developing pregnancy so frequent and indiscriminate mating should be avoided. Hence keeping a male with a

group of females is not good practice it is much better to manage the matings by introducing the male or the mating and then removing him afterwards. This also helps with getting the correct pedigree recorded!

- After the initial mating a "spit off" should be conducted to confirm pregnancy
- You can get your vet to confirm pregnancy with ultrasound but you should wait at least 6 weeks before using this method (because the foetus may be too small to see otherwise)
- The selection of stud males is an important decision. The stud should be chosen to make improvements to the traits that you are interested in.

2021 Event Diary

If you need information about any of the events listed below the please email Duncan using ceo@bas-uk.com

If you would like your event included in this section (not shows) please send details to Duncan.

Friday	09-Apr	judge clinic - cumbria
Saturday	10-Apr	judge clinic - cumbria
Tuesday	13-Apr	BAS Board meeting / YAG AGM
Wednesday	14-Apr	Introduction to alpaca assessment 2.3 by Zoom
Thursday	15-Apr	EBV catch up for participants
Friday	16-Apr	Intermediate Alpaca assessment @Dunchurch
Saturday	17-Apr	Intermediate Alpaca assessment @Dunchurch
Sunday	18-Apr	Intermediate Alpaca assessment @ Dunchurch
Tuesday	20-Apr	Sarah Callwood Webinar on birthing
Wednesday	21-Apr	Introduction to alpaca assessment 2.4 by Zoom
Monday	26-Apr	BAS/ Defra meeting bTB policy
Tuesday	11-May	Introduction to alpaca assessment 3.1 by Zoom
Thursday	13-May	Sue Loach Zoom Webinar - Welfare/husbnadry
Tuesday	18-May	Introduction to alpaca assessment 3.2 by Zoom
Tuesday	25-May	Introduction to alpaca assessment 3.3 by Zoom
Tuesday	01-Jun	Introduction to alpaca assessment 3.4 by Zoom
Wednesday	09-Jun	BAS Board Meeting

2021 Show Diary



Make a note in your diary!

(New information in red)

South of England Spring Alpaca Show - NOW FULL

Date: Saturday 24th April

Location: Ardingly

Entries open 3rd March

Entries Close 24th March

Judge: Jo Bridge

Cornish Fleece Show

Date: July 10th 2021

Judge: Roger Clarke

Venue: Dark Sky Alpacas

Collection point: Crewenna Alpacas

Entries open: 1st May 2020

Entries close: 18th June or when entry level of 70 fleeces is reached.

Entries to arrive at collection point, strictly between 28th June and 6th July.

Entry fee £18 plus BAS levy and VAT.

Royal Three Counties Fleece Show

Dates: 24th/25th July

Judge: Mary Jo Smith

Venue: Three Counties Show Ground

Entries Open: 29th May

Entries close: 30th June

Entry Fee: £16.20

Fleece delivery, : Anne Cheston, The Orchards, The Village, Abberley, Worcs. WR6 6BN by 116th July

Organiser: Roger Mount Roger.mount@btinternet.com or snowhillalpacas@btinternet.com

EAG Fleece

Dates: 14th/15th August

Judge: Julia Corrigan-Stuart

Venue: Essex Young Farmers Centre

Entries Open: 1st May

Entries close: 31st July

Entry Fee: £16 EAG members: £22 non-members

Fees collected by EAG, admin@merrifield-alpacas.com

Fleece Delivery: Harley Laver, Churchfield Alpacas, Elmlea, Cold North Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HP by 11 Aug 2021

Organiser: Harley Laver - harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk / 07934 468842

Northern Halter Show

Dates; 30th and 31st October 2021

Judge: Mr Tim Hey

Venue: Penrith Auction Mart

Entries open: 1st Sept

Entries Close: 17th Sept

Entry fee: £22 +VAT