



**BAS Weekly Newsletter**  
**Timely Advice & Current News**



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## CEO NOTES

### **Webinar Series**

The next webinar is by Emma Taylor and will cover skirting and fleece management. It is scheduled for Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm. If you want a link then send me an email. If you have already signed up you should already have the link.

The Birthing seminar by Sarah Caldwell proved very popular with 88 Members joining. The YouTube link for the presentation is available [here](#),

### **BAS Board Blog**

Paul Hetherington has posted a new Blog with buildings and shearing in mind. You can find it [here](#)

You can email about this or anything else using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

*Duncan Pullar*

BAS CEO

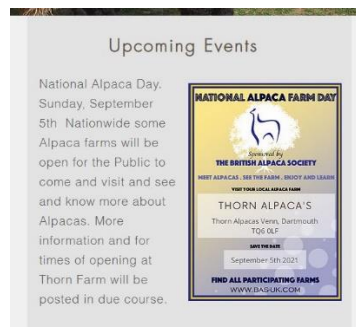


## National Farm Day Update

There are now over 80 farms signed up to the National Farm day - scheduled for 4/5th September 2021 - which is excellent. If you are thinking of joining in then please drop me an email so I can bring you up to speed.

Vicki Agar gave the event a good plug on her recent TV appearance (This Morning with Dermot O'Leary ) and the aim is to get some more exposure like that in the weeks leading up to the event. If you want to have a look there is a link in the BAS Chat Forum.

Well-done to those of you using the prepared website and Facebook templates. Example of use here.



Events of all sizes are being planned. Perhaps you would like to open your farm or maybe you can help a neighbour. We now have a good base to build from for a great weekend celebrating alpacas.

[National Alpaca Farm Day 4th and 5th September 2021 – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](https://www.bas-uk.com)



**The British Alpaca Society Members  
Chat Forum**

Private group · 494 members



+ Invite

## BAS Facebook Chat Forum

The Chat Forum is a benefit available to BAS members who want to discuss BAS business. There are currently nearly 500 members signed up to the forum. Joining is simple.

There have been some lively debates about all sorts of subjects.

## Safe Shearing

### **Shearing – be a demanding customer!**

Shearing can be stressful for alpacas, owners and shearers. To have the smoothest possible event you need to plan well and as an owner remember you have the final say on how the operation goes.

Concerns that have been raised in the past included:

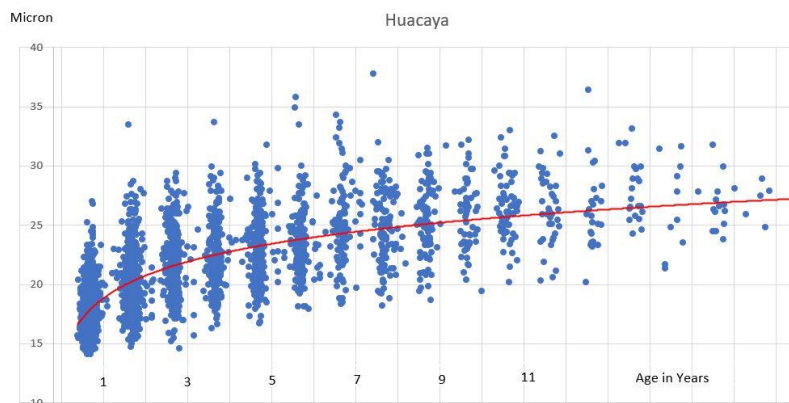
- Rough handling – you are completely within your rights to “call out” a handler who is not handling your animals with care and respect. Yes, at shearing alpacas need to be caught and restrained but must be treated with due care. Make sure you have enough people to do a safe job. When on the floor, or

table, one handler needs to control the animals head. Invest in the right equipment and training to manage a safe restraint.

- Incomplete shearing – if you want your animals shorn then that is what you need to have done. In some cases alpacas are “tidied up” but retain considerable fleece risking heat stress and flystrike later in the summer.
- Grinding teeth with an angle grinder without the appropriate guards or cooling – this dangerous for animal and technician alike, don’t allow it to happen to your animal.
- “Repairing” cuts with gorilla glue – veterinary glue is fine as an approach to small cuts but must be accompanied by cleaning and fly repellent. Not all glues are the same and some will contain chemicals that can burn skin. Cuts to animals when shearing are inevitable but can be minimised by good training and not rushing. If it’s a serious cut call the Vet.
- Be clear in your mind if you want your shearer to administer any drugs or vaccinations and if you choose to do this make sure the drugs/ vaccines have been stored at the right temperature and any equipment is sterile before use. If you have any doubts it is a much better idea to work with your Vet.
- Biosecurity – it is reasonable for you to ask for equipment to be disinfected in front of you, so you are confident that it has been done.

“Don’t be too British”, step in and take control if you are not happy! If it’s not going right, stop proceedings and if really its bad ask the shearer to leave your premises. We know securing a shearer is tricky as demand tends to be beyond supply, but everyone has the right to expect a professional job.

**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 to register your interest or just discuss what is involved. [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com) / 07496578781**

More information on the BAS Website [here](#).



## Judge Calibration Clinic

The BAS judges took advantage of the small window after lockdown and before shearing to run a calibration clinic. The calibration clinic is an event where the judges get together to judge the same animals or fleeces then compare their results with each other. It's not a pass or fail test – the purpose is to try and ensure judging is consistent whoever judges a show. If there is a difference in the placings between judges then they can discuss their reasoning.

There will always be some variation between judges but the results should be generally in the right order with the better animals coming at the top of the order and the lesser towards the bottom.

Thanks to Paul and Barbara Hetherington for hosting the event.

Lets hope there are some Halter shows for the BAS judges to practice their skills!!



Tim getting some local info on Cumbrian egg quality



## **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](mailto: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.

## **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.

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](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/consultation)

For further advice you can contact Eleanor Taylor, RCVS Research Officer, on [e.taylor@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:e.taylor@rcvs.org.uk). The deadline for completing 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

## 2021 Event Diary



If you need information about any of the events listed below the please email Duncan using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

Saturday	24-AprAffiliate Course - Devon
Sunday	25-AprAffiliate Course - Devon
Monday	26-AprBAS/ Defra meeting
Tuesday	27-AprAffiliate Course- Herts
Tuesday	04-MayAffiliate Course - Herts
Sunday	09-MayAffiliate Course - Devon
Tuesday	11-MayIntroduction to alpaca assessment 3.1
Thursday	13-MaySue Loach Zoom Webinar - Welfare/husbandry
Tuesday	18-MayIntroduction to alpaca assessment 3.2
Tuesday	25-MayIntroduction to alpaca assessment 3.3
Saturday	29-MayAffiliate Course - Devon
Sunday	30-MayAffiliate Course - Devon
Monday	31-MayAffiliate Course - Devon
Tuesday	01-JunIntroduction to alpaca assessment 3.4
Wednesday	09-JunBAS Board Meeting

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

## 2021 Show Diary



### Make a note in your diary!

(New information in red)

#### **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](mailto:Roger.mount@btinternet.com) or  
[snowhillalpacas@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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



Facebook



Website



Email