



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



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## CEO NOTES

### **National Alpaca farm Day**

With a week to go many BASs members are in full swing getting ready for the National Farm Open Day over the weekend of 4/5th September. We have 95 farms participating who will introduce many members of the public to the joys of alpacas. Celebrity Chef Glyn Parnell is visiting two farms and doing readings of his children's book on alpacas. The background work on local radio and press coverage has worked well with a good number of articles and items. Alongside local promotion there should be good attendance. Thanks to everyone who is taking part.

### **Show Entry Queries**

A polite reminder to exhibitors that if you have an issue with your show entry your first port of call is the Show Organiser for the event you have entered. Contact details are listed in this Newsletter for each show and on the BAS website in the events section. Please do not call Grassroots with entry queries unless directed by the Show Organiser. Thanks for helping.

### **Young Members**

As you may recall we recently launched a new membership category for Young Members in two age groups (8 to 17 and 18 to 26). The first Young members have now joined and at the time of writing we have seven Young Members on the books. If you know any potential Young Members then please alert them to the new membership category.

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

*Duncan Pullar, BAS CEO*

## Trialling a new fleece scoring system at fleece shows

The current points allocation and assessment used in BAS Fleece Shows was written many years ago and has served BAS well but significant advancements in alpaca breeding together with greater knowledge and experience gathered over the years means a review would be sensible.

If the system is going to change it needs to be an improvement so the first step will be for the Judges to research and test alternative approaches to judging fleeces.

In support of this research some fleece show organisers have agreed that fleeces entered in their shows in 2021/2022 will be judged on the existing BAS methodology (and awards made on those results), but at the same time will also be judged on a trial methodology to enable the judges to evaluate the impact on points allocation and the performance of that methodology. Research of this kind is necessary before any changes are implemented (or not). BAS is certain that fleece judging must reflect current thinking and values.

Once the Judges have collected enough data and carried out an evaluation of that data, they will share their findings to a joint meeting of the Show Rules and Show Organisers Committee's. The outcome of this will then be reported to the Board for consideration and, if deemed appropriate, further action. The main findings will be shared with BAS members through the usual channels. Important points for exhibitors:

1. Fleeces will be judged, and points awarded in accordance with the current guidelines and point distribution, and this will be the basis of awards to fleeces. There will be no change to how your fleeces are judged and placed in the fleece show you have entered.
2. The application of a revised judging method and points allocation will be for research purposes only, fully anonymised and for summary review by the Judges Committee. No individual results will be shared or published as they will be from research and as such are not valid for general distribution or sharing with exhibitors.
3. There will be no additional handling of fleeces involved.

It is hoped that exhibitors will welcome this initiative and support it.



## South of England Show need a new Organiser!

After many years Liz Butler has decided to retire as Organiser of the South of England Show. Congratulations to her for running this successful event.

If you would like to take on the job of organising this show then now is your chance. If you are interested then please drop an email to Duncan using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com).

Liz a Butler and Vikki Agar are very happy to chat through what is involved if you need more information.



**NORTHERN ALPACA SHOW**  
North West & Scottish Alpaca Groups

**Date: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**Venue: Penrith & District Farmers Mart, Penrith CA11 0DN**

**Judge: Mr Tim Hey**

**Show Organiser: Ian Mitchell [0781314513](tel:0781314513)/[ianmit@aol.com](mailto:ianmit@aol.com)**

**Arrivals and Departures**

Arrivals on Friday afternoon/evening.  
Departures Sunday evening or **Monday morning**

**Colour Championship Halter Show**

**Entries open: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September @ 9am**

**Entry fee: £22 + VAT Electric point: £25 + VAT**

**Saturday Night Entertainment**

The Hired Lad (attached to auction mart) will be hosting a hog roast (vegetarian option available) for exhibitors and friends on the Saturday evening. **Cost £10 per head.** Booked 6.30 for 7.00pm. The premises is licensed for alcohol. **Limited spaces available.**

Please email: [barbara@beckbrowalpacas.co.uk](mailto:barbara@beckbrowalpacas.co.uk) to book.

**Halloween Fancy Dress for Children and their alpacas**

**Newly Commissioned Trophies (some yours to keep) watch out for images soon**

**Most Successful New Breeder Award (details to follow)**

## Geronimo in the news

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-58309557>

**Leading vets have called on the government to stop the culling of Geronimo the alpaca and urged he is studied for science instead.**

The 13 vets, including a former senior government official, said they had "grave reservations" about two positive tests for tuberculosis he gave in 2017.

In a letter, they said the diagnosis was "unsafe" and he should be "compassionately studied" not killed.

<https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2021-08-23/owner-of-death-row-alpaca-geronimo-thanks-public-for-wonderful-support>

The owner of South Gloucestershire's alpaca Geronimo has welcomed the support she has received from across the world as she [continues the fight to stop her animal being culled](#).

Helen Macdonald, who owns a farm in Wickwar, said she had received messages of support from New Zealand, Malaysia and across Europe.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/wed-learn-more-if-geronimo-is-spared-say-top-vets-qz5dfwp7j>

Vets from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons have called on the government not to go ahead with the planned slaughter of Geronimo the alpaca after expressing doubt about his diagnosis for tuberculosis.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9917517/You-wont-execute-Geronimo-Alpacas-owners-say.html>

You won't find anyone to execute Geronimo': Alpaca's owners says there could be 'repercussions' if he is put down... as vet who examined the animal says any killer will be 'public enemy number one'

- Bob Broadbent examined Alpaca and says no sign of bovine tuberculosis
- Owner Helen Macdonald, 50, insists tests flawed and Geronimo is disease free
- Mrs Macdonald ignored a request from Defra to kill animal by 5pm last Friday

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/20/its-agony-geronimo-owner-has-until-5pm-friday-to-euthanise-the-alpaca>

**It's agony': Geronimo owner on wait for alpaca to be euthanised.**

Geronimo the alpaca was looking perky on Friday. His owner, Helen Macdonald, a veterinary nurse who has battled for four years to save his life, rather less so.

"I'm still standing, that's just about the best I can say," she said. "It's agony, to be honest. Mental torture."



## September Husbandry

- Select future breeding animals
- Scan pregnant females.
- Finish cutting hay and haylage.
- Use selective weed killer on buttercups, thistles, burdocks, nettles etc if used
- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.
- Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease
- Wean and insert microchips in cria who are now 6 months old and get them logged onto the registry via 'Manage your Herd' in the on line herd book or by asking the registry office to send you a paper application form . [registry@bas-uk.com](mailto:registry@bas-uk.com)
- Feed pregnant and feeding dams extra protein.
- Vaccinate against liver fluke/lungworm if appropriate.
- Look out for fly strike
- Give supplements of vitamin ADE females due to give birth in 6-8 weeks and young alpacas.

## 2021 Event Diary



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

Saturday	04-Sep	Affiliate Course - Moray, Scotland
Saturday	04-Sep	National Alpaca Farm Day
Sunday	05-Sep	National Alpaca Farm Day
Saturday	11-Sep	Affiliate Course - Moray, Scotland
Thursday	16-Sep	Affiliate Course- Suffolk
Friday	17-Sep	Affiliate Course- Suffolk
Tuesday	21-Sep	Affiliate Course - Moray, Scotland
Thursday	23-Sep	Webinar Emma Taylor
Friday	22-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Saturday	23-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Sunday	24-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Wednesday	03-Nov	BAS AGM
Saturday	04-Dec	Advanced Alpaca Assessment
Sunday	05-Dec	Advanced Alpaca Assessment

If you would like your BAS, Educational or Regional group **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)

Breeders considering entering more than one fleece show may need the organisers of one show to forward the fleece(s) to the next show the fleeces are entered for. Please could entries to multiple fleece shows advise the organisers of the plan to ensure they know those entries need to be despatched asap to the next show. Please ensure that all the necessary entry forms are included in the box separately to the forms for the first shows.

#### **South West Alpaca Group (SWAG) Fleece- CLOSED NOW FULL**

Dates: 16th September 2021

Judge: Mrs Mary Jo Smith

Venue: East Huntspill Village Hall, Church Road, East Huntspill. Highbridge TA9 3PQ

Fleece Delivery: J.Newman, Apple Tree Farm, Westhill Lane, Bason Bridge. Highbridge TA9 4RF

Organiser: Judith Newman [judith-newman@outlook.com](mailto:judith-newman@outlook.com) 01278 795699

#### **HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show 2021**

Judges: Tim Hey (lights and whites) & Jay Holland (other colours)

Judging days: Thursday 30th September and Friday 1st October

Open Day: Sunday 3rd October

Venue: Yeat Wood Farm, Wotton Underwood, Bucks HP18 0RL

Entries open: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Entries close: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Entry fee: £17 + vat

Fleece Delivery (deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021): Julia Corrigan-Stuart, Yeat Wood Farm, Wotton Underwood, Bucks HP18 0RL

Show Organiser: Julia Corrigan-Stuart; [julia@csalpacas.co.uk](mailto:julia@csalpacas.co.uk); 07803726464

### **East of England Alpaca Show 2021 organised by EAG - CLOSED NOW FULL**

Dates: 10th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Mary-Jo Smith

Venue: Beechwood Equestrian Centre, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford CM3 8DY,

Arrivals: pm of 9th or early am of 10th. Judging on 10th

Show Organiser: Harley Laver- 07934463342, [harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk](mailto:harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk)

### **Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show**

Dates; 16th and 17th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Barbara Hetherington

Venue: York Auction Mart, Murton, York YO19 5GF

Entries open: 2nd August at 8.30 am

Entries Close: 31st August

Entry fee: £22.50 +VAT

Organiser James Stanger, Email: [jameslstanger11@gmail.com](mailto:jameslstanger11@gmail.com) Tel: 07757687378

### **Northern Fleece Show**

Date: 23rd October 2021

Judge: Roger Clarke

Venue:

Entries open: 1st Sept

Entries Close: 1st Oct

Entry fee: £24 in VAT

Max entries 80

Organiser: Stuart Ramsey Email: [stuart@velvethall-alpacas.co.uk](mailto:stuart@velvethall-alpacas.co.uk) Telephone 07787508448

Fleeces delivered to **WESTYETT FARM, LANARK, ML11 8NT**

### **Northern Halter Show**

Dates; 30th and 31st October 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Penrith Auction Mart

Entries open: 1st Sept at 9 am

Entries Close: 17th Sept

Entry fee: £22 +VAT

Organiser: Ian Mitchell, [treasurer@bas-uk.com](mailto:treasurer@bas-uk.com), 07813 145013

### **Midlands Championship Halter Show**

Date: 6th November 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Three Counties Show Ground

Entries open: 11th Sept

Entries Close: 17th Oct

Entry fee: £32.40 +VAT

Organisers:

**ROGER MOUNT** [roger.mount@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.mount@btinternet.com) 07711044106/01386853841

**IAIN SHARP** [iain.c.sharp@gmail.com](mailto:iain.c.sharp@gmail.com) 07722953635

**JAY HOLLAND** [jay@purealpacas.co.uk](mailto:jay@purealpacas.co.uk) 07789257222

### **NWAG Halter Show**

Date: Saturday 2nd April 2022

Judge: Mary-Jo Smith

Venue: Borderway Mart, Carlisle.

### **HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta 2022**

Show Dates: Friday 8th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

To be held at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre

### **Scottish Alpaca Championship**

Dates; 23rd and 24th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Lanark Auction Market

Entries open: 18th February 2022

Entries Close: 24th March 2022t

Entry fee: £22 inc VAT

Organiser Stuart Ramsay



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