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Farm Crier
Highlights:

- ◆ Llama Handlers Wanted
- ◆ Cold wind and rain are a bad combo
- ◆ Icelandic Sheep and Llama wool blends are wonderful!
- ◆ Happy Holidays

Laura Learns Triangle Weaving

In the beginning of December, Laura and I purchased a triangle loom from The Warped Weaver in Marshall, Michigan. Kathy Berlin-court, proprietor, was incredibly patient with her lesson on how to use the triangle loom. Kathy sells looms as small as "lap" size up to seven-feet wide.

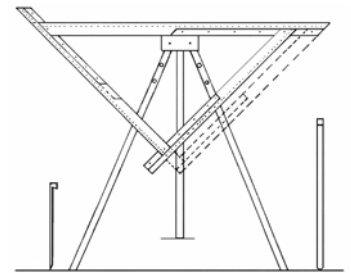
This ancient loom design is an isosceles triangle and uses small nails all the way around the frame. The yarn is woven up-and-down and back-and-forth to create a spectacular

woven triangle.

Laura and I started small on a 36" and 42" triangle loom, respectively. We both created wonderful shoulder-wraps. By doubling the number of strands of yarn used throughout the piece, our final product is extremely warm and soft. Finishing off the edges with a quick single crochet stitch will put the final touches on it.

We have truly enjoyed learning yet one more thing to do with our luxuriously soft llama fiber. Our first few pieces we create

will not be for sale. However, as we make more items, we will post them on our website.



A diagram of a 7' adjustable triangle loom.

Volunteers and Participants Wanted

We continue to host a Youth Program this year and into 2006 on our farm. Our "show team" now consists of two youths from Bellevue and we are looking to expand.

Our program allows chil-

dren from 8 to Adult to learn how to train, show and care for llamas. Most shows are in the spring and in southern Michigan.

We are expecting up to 5 baby llamas in 2006 and need new handlers.

If you would like to volunteer to help or know of someone who would enjoy working with these gentle animals, please feel to pass the word or contact us directly. We love to talk llamas!

Llama Beans

Llamas leave behind (no pun intended) small pellet-like beans. They are small in shape and generally black and dry.

With approximately 15 llamas, we create about a ton of llama beans a month. Some of it goes to local gardeners. The rest ends up at the bottom of a hill near the

big-barn to return to nature.

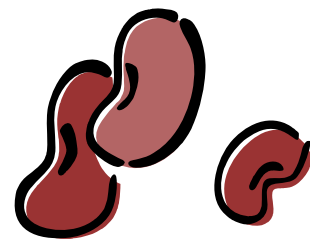
Llama beans have been noted to be good for roses and tomatoes. The beans we provide to gardeners are separated from bedding and debris.

Our preference is that our llama beans find

good homes instead of being abandoned at the bottom of the hill.

If you would like a bucket-full or a truck-load, please give us a call. There would be a small delivery fee but the product is free.

Take all you want. We'll make more!



Our Llama Beans have been good for roses and tomatoes.

New Wiring in the Big Barn

This fall we took on the project of completely rewiring the barns and out-buildings. All-in-all it took over a solid week of ripping out and replacing the old outlets, bare wires and fuse boxes.

We chose to upgrade the outlets and learned

a couple things. Outdoor outlet boxes are a bit more expensive than your average outlet box. These boxes are very rugged in construction and come in various configurations. Understanding what and where they are to be used was key to choosing exactly how many

“knock outs” are needed and this was reflected in the cost for each box. We ended up adding outlets in all the barns. The final configuration is giving us the ability to use tank heaters and electric fence chargers where we did not have the ability to do so before.

“The final configuration is giving us the ability to use tank heaters and electric fence chargers”

E-Mail List is Growing

Our Newsletter is now available by e-mail. We produce an Adobe Acrobat Reader format file for e-mail distribution.

We are also adding our Farm Crier newsletters to our Information page on

our website. Feel free to download whenever you would like.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail mailing list or would prefer to receive our Farm Crier via e-mail, please contact us.

We do not share personal information, e-mail addresses or other information that you have entrusted to us for any reason.



Get your copy of the Farm Crier by E-Mail!

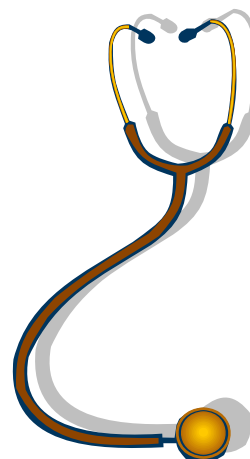
Yearly Fecal Check

A late fall/early winter fecal check for the herd is recommended to assess the effectiveness of your parasite-control program. If there is heavy traffic on your farm (breeding, show animals coming and going), consider more often, or require a fecal exam on animals prior to coming to your farm.

In addition to nematode (roundworm) parasites, protozoal parasites such as coccidia can be detected with a fecal exam. Confirm the lab uses a saturated sugar flotation, parasites can be missed with other techniques. Most coccidia should be susceptible to treatment with the antibiotic Albon (sulfadimethoxine). I rec-

ommend the 12.5% solution, 15 mg/kg twice daily for five days in a row (1 cc per 18.3 lbs) orally. All members of the farm, or at least those exposed to the positive animal, should be treated at the same time.

By David Bezek, DVM, Ph.D.



Yearly fecal checks can identify parasites early.

Winter has arrived

Llamas and Icelandic Sheep are quite adapt to the cold. Both species originally come from very brisk environments. However, we have to keep in mind that they are no longer “at home.”

Rain and wind are a double dose of cold for our llamas. Wind blows

the fiber up and away from the animal and the cold fall / winter rain soaks them to the bone.

In the fall and winter, we can help prevent the llamas from shivering by just making sure they are indoors. Sheds, lean-tos, barns and other three-walled shelters are gen-

erally enough to keep the llamas and sheep from getting cold.

If all else fails, water resistant coats are available. These coats mainly keep the wind from blowing the fiber up and away from the body, allowing the animal to stay warm.

“In the fall and winter, we can help prevent the llamas from shivering by just making sure they are indoors.”

Tony, Brett get Haircut

Since we are new to Icelandic Sheep and very much used to the once-per-year shearing llamas need, we were surprised with the fact that Brett and Tony needed to be sheared in October. Generally, our llamas are sheared in May.

Both Icelandic sheep provided a lovely blanket of wool. We are blending the wool with Lunetta’s fiber to produce a very soft, warm brown roving.

We thought Brett and Tony would be ex-

tremely cold this winter. However, they have already produced several inches of wool and will be ready for spring shearing around April / May 2006.



Tony, Brett after their shearing

We're on the web!
www.QuesoCabezaFarm.com

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Heading into 2006

While 2006 arrives, we look back at all the friends we have gained through llamas. We are very grateful.

Over the last five years, we have seen many wonderful things with the first birth (Llannie, 2002) on the farm and, unfortunately this year, our first death (Mimi, 2005). We learn more and more each year.

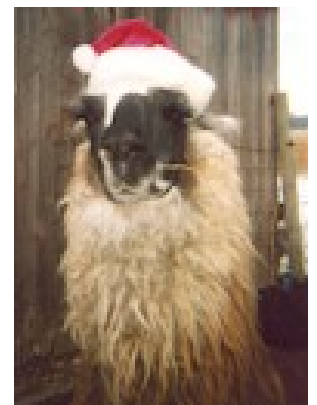
As we continue to grow, we will continue to share our experiences and our thoughts about llamas. Now, with Icelandic Sheep being added in 2005, we will share our experiences with them as well.

Vet work, grooming, nutrition, chores, shows.. The list of subjects is somewhat long. If you would like to know something generally in

regards to llamas or Icelandic sheep or have a specific question, please contact us. We will attempt to research your questions and include the answers in one of the up-and-coming issues of our Farm Crier.

From our herd (and flock) to yours, we wish everyone a safe and Happy Holidays.

— Laura and Rick



***Moonstone
wishes everyone a
Happy Holiday Season!***