

SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS

Dr. Steve Purdy –UMass at Amherst

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Steve Purdy received his DVM degree in 1981 from the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. He is interested in the preventative medicine aspect of the management of farm animals. His special interests include reproduction, neonatal care, nutrition and immunology. He emphasizes a hands-on practical approach to caring for livestock, while keeping their environment as stress free and natural as possible. Dr. Purdy is also Associate Professor of Veterinary Education, Director of Camelid Studies, and Director of the Fund for Education and Research in Large Animal Veterinary Medicine at UMass at Amherst. He teaches practical undergraduate and graduate large animal subjects. He is involved in practical, humane research and educational projects that promote improvement of the health of the large animal species.

Dr. Purdy will be presenting **1) Alpaca Reproductive Behavior**, which is a discussion of the normal reproductive behavior for alpacas including a video of a very successful method of behavior testing, **2) Antibody Transfer in the Neonatal Alpaca**, which is a discussion of the process of antibody transfer, the methods for measuring antibodies in neonates, and practical decisions regarding transfusions, and **3) Diagnosis and Prevention of Intestinal Parasite Infections in Alpacas**, which will present practical methods of diagnosis, prevention and discuss when to treat and when not to treat.

Andrew Beals, BS – Poulin Grain

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Andrew Beals serves as the Technical Manager – Specialty Feeds for Poulin Grain located in Newport, Vermont. He has been involved with horses, sheep and poultry for many years. After receiving his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture at the University of Vermont, focusing on Nutrition, Economics Plant and Soil Science, he spent three years at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm. It was his experience there, when he was in charge of breeding and foaling, which reinforced the importance of nutrition in equine health. Today, Andrew spends much of his time answering questions, presenting nutrition seminars and providing nutritional information to livestock owners throughout New England and New York State.

Andrew will be presenting a seminar on **Alpaca Nutrition**, which will offer information on the nutritional options that promote herd health and quality fiber. This year's seminar will also focus on the **sampling, analysis, and storage of hay along with the dietary guidelines for a variety of feeding groups, e.g. nursing dams, weanlings, males, pregnant females, etc.**

Amy Jo Labbe —Dragon Fly Farm

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Amy Jo, who is certified in Equine Reproduction, has sold and brokered horses and offered Equine midwife and breeding services for 10 years. She started raising alpacas in 2008 and now has a herd of 45 animals, which she has acquired from all over the United States. She has been enjoying her herd and successfully selling alpacas. She works full time in Sales/Market Development for a local company.

*Amy Jo will be speaking on the **North American Alpaca Federation (NAAF)**, which is a newly formed livestock association that focuses on supporting the North American alpaca breeders with immediate sales and marketing techniques and tools to increase sales and find new revenue streams within our industry.*