



HAPPY FALL!

Sonny Sightings . . . keep up on where Sonny or his barnmates might be appearing. Follow him on Facebook. Search "Sonny Alpaca" and hit "Like."



FeltLOOM Open House

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015, Noon - 5 p.m. See our NEW FeltLOOM in use! Try it out by making a holiday decoration. "Like" Sunny Meade Alpacas' Facebook page to keep up on creative class offerings, from felted alpaca/silk scarfs to the re-purposing of clothing.

www.allthingsalpacaonline.com
Alpacas, Luxurious Apparel, Home Accessories, Yarn and the Alpaca fleece-filled bird nesting ball®



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Information

from Sunny Meade Alpacas Ltd.

About Alpacas

In 1997, the United States had roughly 1,000 alpaca owners. Since then, the numbers have more than quadrupled. Today, AOA (Alpaca Owners Association) has more than 4,000 members.

Alpacas are native to South America, particularly Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. The United States first commercially imported alpacas in 1984. In the United States, the national Alpaca Registry (ARI) was formed to ensure breed purity and high standards. Importation from South America is now closed. Current figures note over 175,000 registered alpacas raised throughout North America.

Alpacas stand at approximately 36 inches, at the withers, and weigh between 150 and 200 pounds. They typically have single births, which are usually unassisted. They need plenty of fresh water, consume minimal grass and hay daily, and use a communal manure pile. Their expected lifespan is twenty years.

There are two types of alpacas, classified according to their fiber type. The Huacaya ('wah-KI-yah') — dense, crimped, woolly, water-resistant fleece. About 90% of all alpacas in the North America are "teddy-bear" huacayas. The Suri ('SUR-ree') — very fine and lustrous fiber which grows parallel to the body in long, separate pencil locks. Only 10% of the alpaca population in the US are suris.

Alpacas, cousins to the llama, are intelligent, beautiful animals. The hair of the alpaca is called "fleece" or "fiber" rather than "fur" or "wool." Alpaca fleece comes in 22 natural shades ranging from black to silver, rose gray and white, to mahogany brown and light fawn.

Unlike the llama, the fiber of the alpaca is primarily used for clothing. Many alpaca enthusiasts enjoy knitting, spinning, and weaving alpaca fiber, which is stronger, warmer and lighter than wool and is as soft as cashmere. It doesn't have the prickle-factor that some wool has. Since alpaca fleece has no lanolin, it is easier to process and is hypoallergenic.

Alpaca fact.

Alpaca manure is brimming with nutrients! The breakdown is 1.7% Nitrogen - 0.69% Phosphorus - 0.66% Potassium. Also, due to alpacas' efficient digestive process, it contains less organic matter than other manures. We offer it FREE for the taking if you want to enhance your garden soil now for next Spring.

You'd like to own alpacas, but think they cost too much.

First question, do you own a pure bred dog? If so, what did you pay for it? Some current ads price them higher than \$1,000. That same amount can be the price for fiber quality alpacas, and add a bit more and you can own entry level breeding stock. As the initial investment for starting a small home-based business, that's pretty darn good!



Then you ask, how much does it cost to feed an alpaca for a year? Here at Sunny Meade, it's cheaper to feed one of the alpaca than our family golden retriever. Hay

and feed supplement for last year was approximately \$250 per alpaca. Remember, that amount counts as a business expense. Your pet's dog food isn't deductible.

Obviously there are additional costs, such as routine vet care, shearing, and incidentals, but all the care for an alpaca used for your small business is deductible, unlike that of your family pet.

Now, add in the joy of the farm lifestyle and you have the perfect business. If you'd like to talk about whether alpacas are in your future contact us for a one on one visit.

Want to find out more about alpacas? Consider scheduling a one-on-one visit to the farm, or register for our **Alpacas 101** session on Sat., Oct 31, 2015, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. **Cost: \$16** per person. Each attendee will go home with a wonderful pair of alpaca socks!