



SURI

Network News

a publication of The Suri Network

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I find it hard to believe but August is upon us and in a few short weeks we will be together at the second annual Suri Network Summer Symposium in Estes Park. I for one look forward to cooling off in one of my favorite Rocky Mountain towns. This will be an excellent time for all of us to relax and get to know each other as we learn more about issues regarding the future of our industry. The election for board of directors has come to a close and we all look forward to the announcement of the results in a few weeks. The Symposium is a great opportunity to interact with your board of trustees and share with them your thoughts on making the SN even more effective in serving your needs. I'm really excited about this event and looking forward seeing you there.



We are on course to hold the biggest ever Suri Fleece show in the history of the North American alpaca industry! As of August 1st there are 230 fleeces entered in the All Suri Fleece Show being held in conjunction with the Symposium. If you still have some show fleeces at home get them in the mail so they can be entered in this record breaking show.

I have represented the SN at five of the Regional Affiliate Type Conferences and I have been very impressed with the level of enthusiasm among Suri breeders as they work on developing the Suri Breed Standard. This is an exciting and educational process for all those involved. We will pull together all these regional inputs as we work toward finalizing the Suri Standard at the SN Type Conference in Estes Park during the Symposium. Look for an announcement within the week for details on how to participate in an on line Suri Breed Standards survey as we approach the August Type Conference.

See you in Estes Park,

Dick Walker, President

MEMBERSHIP/BENEFITS

by *Jim Barker*

Updated Banner Pricing

Hopefully you had a chance to see the Suri Network Banner Stands that were displayed at several Spring shows. The banner has our signature "Suri Stud" (make sure to attend the Suri Symposium in Estes Park, CO. this August to discover his new name) along with the Suri Network Logo. These Banners are available to you as Suri Network Members at special pricing and you can add your own logo, address, phone number and /or website at just \$65.00 for each graphic.

34 in. single sided banner stand: \$495.00 ea.

34 in. double sided banner stand: \$990.00 ea.

(this is a corrected price)

single light package: \$137.00 ea.

double light package: \$274.00 ea.

You may also have Skyline Displays (the manufacturer) custom design your own banner stand at the above costs plus custom art charges of \$130.00 per hour.

Skyline produces the very best products in the market place today and we know you will be very happy with the quality. These are special (below retail) prices for you as a Suri Network Member.

Our new contact person at Skyline is Duey Williams and he can be reached at 913-599-4787 or via email at dueyw@skyline-heartland.com. He will be happy to answer your questions, quote special pricing, and help you order your banners.

We will also be offering some items for sale at the Symposium in Estes Park with the Suri Network logo and will be introducing a program shortly wherein members can order stall banners in different sizes with your own farm logo.

SURI NETWORK SUMMER SYMPOSIUM

by Toni Cotton

The Suri Network Summer Symposium is fast approaching! The Summer Symposium is returning to beautiful Estes Park, Colorado due to last year's successful event. If you are looking for an opportunity to network with Suri breeders from across the country, learn the latest about important medical and health issues for your animals and participate in an all Suri type conference, this is your chance! The event will begin with the Suri Network Annual Meeting at which the new board members will be announced.

The seminars will provide up-to-date information on current health issues such as BVDV, Reproduction, The Top Ten Current Concerns about Alpacas and Skin Biopsy analysis and its relationship with Health and Nutrition. There will also be sessions dedicated to fiber such as a Panel of Processors and Designers to discuss the best uses for Suri fleece, a special seminar on the History of the Suri Fiber

Product Industry and a hands on seminar on how to prepare a Suri fleece for show. This weekend will provide you with the opportunity to participate in writing the working draft of the Suri Breed Standard. This session will be moderated by Brett Kaysen and he will discuss the future implications, uses and benefits of an industry wide Suri Breed Standard.

In addition to the many opportunities listed above, the Suri Network is hosting the first AOBA Certified All Suri Fleece Show in conjunction with the Suri Symposium! The judges for the event are Amanda Vandenbosch and Tim Lavan and our goal for the event is to have 300 fleeces to judge. This would make this show the largest Suri Fleece Show ever and we encourage your support and participation. The deadline for fleece entry has been extended to August 4th so send in your fleeces! There are many incentives and benefits of entering fleeces such as discounts on future advertising in Purely Suri, fleece show results will be featured in the next edition of Purely Suri and special awards which will be presented at the end of the event on Sunday. Don't miss this opportunity to attend this very special event.

SURI FIBER RESEARCH PROJECT FOR SURI NETWORK

by Toni Cotton, Board Liaison, Education and Research Committee

History of the Project:

This study was designed to provide an in depth research project looking at Suri fleece characteristics from a large population of Suri alpacas with their second fleece using a combination of skin biopsy, micron testing via YM and Whittick, amino acid analysis of fleece samples, serum mineral and selenium analysis, blood chemistry and CBC analysis on all animals, nutritional analysis and scanning electron microscopy. The fleece from these animals will also be evaluated for weight, density, staple length, lock structure, luster and handle. The following data was collected on each animal in the study: digital photos of the animal and the fleece, height at the withers, weight, medical history, nutritional program, and weight of the fleece, blood samples and a skin biopsy from mid-blanket. This study will provide baseline data on Suri Fiber and from this baseline data we hope to determine whether or not lock structure correlates with luster, density, handle, primary to secondary follicle ratio, SD, CV, staple length, micron and scale pattern. The nutritional reports from participating farms and blood chemistry analyses will also provide information on the relationship of nutrition to fiber characteristics.

Current Update:

This spring, the Suri Network Research Committee completed Phase 1 of the Fiber Study which included the gathering of the samples from the study groups and Phase 2 has begun! The blood and serum samples have been sent in for testing and the spread sheets are filling up with valuable information! The remaining samples will be sent in for the additional testing listed above. The committee will have a report included in the conference notebook at the Summer Symposium with further updates and this report will also be posted on the Suri Network Website.



Suri Network Board of Trustees:

Dick Walker, *President* (alpacas@supersuris.com)
Miriam Donaldson, *Vice President* (alpacajack@aol.com)
Toni Cotton, *Treasurer* (bestbrd@bright.net)
Jim Barker, *Secretary* (jim@sweetsuri.com)
Mike Murphy, *Member at Large* (suris@helloearth.us)

P.O. Box 1984

Estes Park, CO 80517-1984

Email: office@surinetwork.com

Phone: (970) 586-5876

Fax: (970) 586-6685

Website: www.SuriNetwork.org

by Mike Murphy

We have exciting news from the marketing committee! We are in the process of producing a calendar which will be in a day-planner format featuring ALL SURIS! This will be an opportunity for you to participate with some advertising for your farm and highlighting some of your special animals. Look for an announcement soon regarding reservation of space, rates, deadlines, etc. The committee would also like to thank all those who sent in prospective names for the white suri mascot. The committee took time to try and judiciously remove names that were tied to farms or known animals so as not to give the appearance of partiality; they were then pared down to a small group which is being presented to the membership for a vote:

BROADWAY JOSE

IRUS (SURI spelled backwards) with tag line - Reflection of the ideal Suri Alpaca

SAM - Suri Alpaca Mascot

STUD MUFFIN

POSTER BOY

SWISH

TIPS - The Ideal Phenotypical Suri

A mail-in ballot is included with this issue of Suri Network News. Please have your vote to the office by August 12, 2006, so the ballots can be counted and announced at the Symposium.

We are also pleased to announce that we once again are receiving leads from AOBA and information will be sent from the Suri Network office. We are also in the process of “revamping” our website and as those changes take place we will have the ability to operate our own leads program. Marketing is an important part of our organization and we are doing all we can to make this an affiliate that works for you.

Existing Suri Network members are encouraged to buy a Gift Membership for new breeders. For each Gift Membership an existing member buys, that existing member will receive a 10% reduction on their next membership dues renewal. The Suri Network office will send the new member a card recognizing your gift membership and send you a thank you recognition for the gift membership. A great way to implement this benefit is when a farm buys a Suri Alpaca from you. The Suri Network office will administer the records and answer any questions you may have.



CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to Barbe & Jim Kackley of Alpacas of Prairie Station LLC in Mineral Point, WI, who were the winning bidders in the amount of \$10,000 of the Suri Network Bronze at this year’s Futurity. The Kackley’s will be displaying this bronze at their farm for one year and be spotlighted in a two-page Farm Profile in the next Purely Suri Magazine. All proceeds from this auction are used by the Suri Network to promote our suri industry.



SN SURI SHOW COMMITTEE/ UPDATE ON SURVEY

by Miriam Donaldson, Board Liaison

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you that participated in the show rule(s) proposal survey. We had an amazing number within our membership respond to the questions within the very short time frame that was provided.

To Recap:

With the results of the Suri Owners and Breeders and Suri Network Member input on the Suri Breed Standard Draft and the discussion that arose from the judges and exhibitors at the June All Suri Judges Training Teaching Clinic; show rules proposals were submitted to the AOBA Show Rules Committee. With the AOBA Show Rules Committee already scheduled to have their annual face to face meeting; we had a brief time to receive member input, but you certainly didn't let us down. 130 members of the Suri Network responded; or about 26% of the membership; and again, let me remind you, this was done within days.

Proposal (1): Early Color Check To Be Carried Through The Show Season

124 approved or 95.4%

6 Disapproved or 4.6%

Proposal (2): Redefine Age Divisions Of Juveniles and Yearlings

94 Approved or 72.9%

35 Disapproved or 27.1%

Proposal (3): Positive Fleece Traits For Unshorn Suri Fleece To Be Listed in Show Rules Handbook by Order of Importance.

110 Approved or 86.6%

17 Disapproved or 13.4%

Existing Proposal: The Recognition of Five (5) Suri Lock Types

The Suri Network had already submitted a proposal to the AOBA Show Rules Committee requesting the recognition of five Suri lock types; rather than one, with emphasis placed on consistency of lock; not lock type.

It is our wish that the Show Rules Committee will hear our concerns; thoroughly discuss these proposals and make appropriate changes to the show rules for presentation to the AOBA Board.

Again; thank you for your involvement in this survey. Your comments are important to us. Our goal is to carry your voice to the AOBA Board for ongoing potential change in show rules that are Suri specific and in the best interest of our Suris.

Suri Network Suri Show Committee
The Suri Network Board

- please cut here -

Suri Network "Mascot" - please vote for one and mail to the address shown below postmarked by August 13, 2006:

- BROADWAY JOSE
- IRUS (SURI spelled backwards) with tag line - Reflection of the ideal Suri Alpaca
- SAM - Suri Alpaca Mascot
- STUD MUFFIN
- POSTER BOY
- SWISH
- TIPS - The Ideal Phenotypical Suri

Suri Network
P.O. Box 1984
Estes Park, CO 80517