

June 2008 Crisis areas in Camelid Community

News reports last week listed the following areas hard hit: If I found a ranch in reported area, I added (last name) of member to following list. IA, IL, and MO are the worst hit this week. Coupled with posts on AlpacaNation, I began making phone calls.

As per our survey, we as affiliates have eblast, web, phone and fax capabilities. Let's get to work.

Please add to this list!

According to AOBA directory:

Iowa = 32 farms **MOPACA (AK, IA, IL, OK, KS, KY, MO, NE, TN)** Midwest Alpacas Owners & breeders Association,
email: mopaca@mopaca.org, web, www.mopaca.org Glenn Alpert, President – (see KS)
Steve Wolff, Vice President (see KS)- A.C. rep, Gwen Wolff

Towns - Corning, Cedar Rapids (Wehmeyer), Twin Cities, Blencoe. Iowa Cy (McCarty)

1. **Ruth Mc Nitt**, Moonstruck Alpacas in Brandon, IA ... posted on Alpaca Nation. I called her at 319-540-2494
moonstruckalpacas@yahoo.com moonstruckranch@gmail.com

Ruth wants to offer **three safe pasture spaces, two male, one female**, if anyone needs it. Tornado hit her place and shed turned end over end and landed on fence. Uprighted shed with tractor and fixed fence in rain...what a mess, but all OK otherwise. Her concern is for those who won't be able to get fresh potable water to their herds during and post floods. She has a good well and was wondering if she should be bottling water to distribute?

Telephone update 6/22: Water has receded. Local grainery flooded, so owner has retired and isn't reopening. This will create supplement feed shortage in the area.

Indiana = 98 farms **Indiana Alpaca Association. IAA** -www.indianaalpaca.org **President: Steve Russell**
& MOPACA 812-342-3995 Srussell102@hotmail.com

Towns - Newberg, Edinburg, Columbus (Russell), Hartsville, Seymour , (Blanford), Indianapolis (Perry), Cataract, Nashville(Schnackel) , Mosco

1. **Alan & Beanie Cornelius**, ARA Alpaca Ranch
Elнора, IN 47529 812-257-2349 acfarms@rtccom.net

His wife Beanie posted on Alpaca Nation regarding floods. His area has 2 rivers that overflowed and they've been stuck within a three mile radius for over a week. The river has gone down now, but he's not sure if recent rain up North will cause them to rise again. He was thankful for the call and shared this idea.

A national web site that one could go to to find available pasture space if needed.

At present, the Red Cross and the Marines are in his area assisting folks in need. I mentioned we could provide recovery resource list if anyone needs it.

Alan told me that IA has 9 rivers that overflowed and they're in worse shape than his state, although Stevenson Family Farm in Lewis, IN has been without water for three weeks.

Telephone update: 6/22 – pastures in the area were flooded out, so hay resource will quickly become a problem.

2. **Kelee Stevenson** of Stevenson Family Farm in Lewis, IN Brent & Kelee Stevenson, alpacas@joink.com
812-236-7172, 812-236-7185

This is the worst flood since 1916, over 100 years.

They lost one barn, fencing, sheds and pastures. The herd was in a low pasture and wasn't hit by tornado and are now OK, having been moved to higher ground. However they aren't on pasture and the hay they have left will last only about 3 weeks more. All is flooded around them and there will be no local hay source when that feed is gone.

They were without water for a few weeks, but are now able to access a family member's well, so they're OK on that now.

They feel very lucky that they and their alpacas are OK and know local alpaca farmers are fine, but have no way to tell how those farther south of them are faring. They themselves didn't have flood problem, but there is flooding 2-3 miles away.

Tips from Kelee for the rest of us:

Check your insurance policy. If items aren't specifically listed, you're not covered. Don't assume. They just learned that none of their damage to fences, sheds or pastures will be covered. They're now facing a huge expense.

It's ridiculous that flood insurance isn't available to everyone in the nation. If you're not in a designated flood zone, you can't even buy it.

Telephone update 6/22 – Still don't have hay source.

3. **Dave & Tina Honey- Honey's Alpacas**
Brownsberg, IN 317-852-5740
alpacadave@comcast.com Left message. Their town is on my hit list, emails are bouncing.

Illinois = 95 **IAOBA** – www.iaoba.com President, **George Brush**, Brushwalker Alpacas, ghbrush@gmail.com
(309) 441-6733
A.C. Rep Vice-President, **Kat Medrea**, M2A Farm, m2afarm@gmail.com (815)584-9469
& MOPACA

Towns – Quincy,

Missouri = 69 MOPACA

Towns – St Louis

Kansas = 47 MOPACA

Towns - Chapman (Cain), Manhattan (Grauer, Steph Pride!), Soldier, Ellsworth.

1. **Jim & Catherine Cain** Prairie Harbor Alpacas , Chapman, KS
785-922-7096, c: 785-479-6211 cainspaca@oz-online.net

The Cains belong to Mopaca. Chapman got hit hard but they're OK as they're well outside of town and tornado landed there this time.

They received about a dozen calls from alpaca people checking on each other. Owners in Clay Center (30 mi No) are OK and owners in Aboline and Salinas are OK.

They delivered pallets of cardboard boxes to town when they could finally get in, to aide in cleanup.

They have 40 acres of pasture that they can make available to those who need it.

Tele update 6/22- Everyone around them is OK, but they've still got rain that's interfering with getting hay baled.

2. **Robin Alpert** Alpacas 'R Diamonds, Paola, KS 913-849-3738
ardalpert@cs.com, ksbrdmkr@cs.com

Worst hit areas are IA and IN, especially Chapman (100 homes smashed) and Brownsberg, IN.

The Alpert's have 150 acres, barns near Kansas City and can house animals and even a few people.

Robin signed up on Alpaca Watch, because it's creating list of available pasturing for evacuations. It wasn't easy to do. (Sandra's note: Too difficult and time consuming to "sign up" in time of crises. Didn't work for my area Coronavirus issue last March. Others have reported difficulty posting there the last few weeks. We need a web site that's open to all and readily and easily accessible.)

Tele update: 6/22 Mopaca covers states bordering Missouri. They haven't had any reports of folks needing help yet, but are happy to hear the news about ICI web site update. We discussed future hay and grain shortages that we all may be facing this summer.

(There is a page that's inactive for GLAA- Great Lakes Alpaca Association at www.glaa-alpaca.org moved to www.personal.umich.edu/~draju/tc450/lab8.htm I accessed it last week, but not available today.)

CA - fires in Santa Cruz & Santa Clara County Calpaca www.calpaca.org Bonnie Potter, Pres. , Bruce Nelson, rep

Tele 6/22 – Ranches in No CA are continually checking with each other...small fires are occurring all over.

SoCalpaca www.socalpaca.org Ian Watt, Pres. , Sandra Wallace, rep

Santa Cruz Sentinel: 6/11 Martin Fire: Bonny Doon blaze quickly spreads to 700 acres

According to Santa Cruz County Animal Services Coordinator Tricia Geisreiter, the Animal Services team is working with the firefighters and Sheriff's Office to go behind the lines to rescue animals that were left behind.

The Graham Hill Showgrounds filled with horses - the capacity is 40 - Wednesday afternoon, but most of the animals were moved to private farms so additional horses could be brought in, according to Animal Services Supervisor Todd Stosuy. He said at least 60 horses, 60 exotic birds, 50 goats, **50 alpacas** and many dogs had been rescued late Wednesday. (Note: this may be Donny Boon Alpacas, Eric Hoffman. Calls are in to him by Calpaca.)

"We're not going door-to-door at this point, we're getting so many calls from people with animals" behind the fire line, he said. "We're just still trying to coordinate a response."

They began searching individual residences late Wednesday. Volunteers and officials from Monterey County Animal Services were helping with animal evacuations.

"If people need to bring us their large animals, bring them to the [Santa Cruz County] Fairgrounds," Geisreiter directed, which is at 2601 E. Lake Ave. in Watsonville. **She added that they really need hay** for the horses and that donations should be brought to the Graham Hill Showgrounds at 1145 Graham Hill Road in Santa Cruz.

Smaller domestic animals, including dogs, cats and rabbits, may be brought to the Santa Cruz County Animal Services shelter at 27 Janis Way in Scotts Valley. She said the shelter has accepted a bunch of dogs, cats, hamster and guinea pigs Wednesday.

Geisreiter added, "These animals will be under protective custody, which means that we will be caring for them and they absolutely will not be put up for adoption. We know that these animals have owners and we will care for them during this emergency free of charge."

To those in the evacuation zone, Geisreiter urged, "Please prepare to get out and do not leave your animals behind. We need people to know that if they think they need to evacuate, evacuate now. Don't wait."

Summit Fire ignited above Corralitos in the Santa Cruz Mountains around 5 a.m. on May 22 and burned out of control for six days, consuming 4,200 acres, 35 residences and more than 80 outbuildings. Fire officials have not said what caused that wildfire, but said high winds, steep terrain and dry conditions helped fuel the blaze.

The Martin Fire, which erupted not far from the Bonny Doon Fire Station just before 3 p.m. Wednesday, had consumed more than 700 acres late Wednesday and is expected to grow to 1,500 acres before it's controlled, Cal Fire officials said.

The wildfire is the second major blaze in the county in less than a month. Dry conditions are contributing to the Martin Fire, officials said.

6/22 - SOUTH COUNTY -- Though the Trabling Fire destroyed at least 15 structures and forced 2,000 people to evacuate their homes at its peak, it may have been animals -- livestock and domestic pets -- that were the hardest hit.

"I saw more dead animals than I care to even remember. Whole barns wiped out," lamented Todd Stosuy of Animal Services, who scrambled frantically trying to make rescues Friday.

At least 40 animals were killed in the fire, including six horses, according to Staycee Dains, director of operations for Santa Cruz County Animal Services. As of Saturday morning, another 220 animals that were evacuated from the fire were in the care of Animal Services at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville and the Graham Hill Showgrounds in Santa Cruz.

6/22 The Trabling Fire is 90 percent contained. Cal Fire has not completed surveys of the area but estimated up to 15 structures were destroyed and about 630 acres were burned.

They expect to have the fire contained tonight. Residents were allowed back in a 7 a.m. this morning.

Meanwhile two fires in southern Santa Clara County - the Hummingbird fire and the Whitehurst fire - have claimed about 600 acres and were burning out of control this morning, according to Cal Fire spokeswoman Pamela Rhoten.

The fires, both caused by lightning strikes, prompted Santa Clara County to declare a state of emergency.

Statewide, as many as 400 fires sparked by lightning were still burning in Northern California this morning.

The largest had spread across 4.7 square miles of grassy woodland by early today. It began Saturday afternoon in Napa County and quickly spread into a mostly rural area of Solano County.

Storms were responsible for more than 60 fires in Shasta-Trinity National Forest, near Redding. Those fires ranged in size from less than an acre to more than 750 acres.

Other fires were scattered throughout Northern California, with another 90 fires ranging from one acre to 125 acres in size burning in the Mendocino County area alone, Cal Fire officials said.

The area is full of hilly pastures shaded by eucalyptus groves, making it perfect for grazing flocks of cows, sheep and goats. It is also home to an intricate system of trails to which the public does not have access, making it an attractive spot for animal owners.

The density of horses in the area was also what drew so many volunteers to lend a hand with evacuations. Dotted with horse ranches, many Larkin Valley residents and horse owners form a part of what is a tight-knit equestrian community that includes many Summit Fire evacuees.

The overwhelming majority of the evacuated animals were horses, according to Animal Services.

"There's a huge equestrian connection between people here," said Nicholson, a Summit Fire evacuee who said it was second nature to help out with animal evacuations on Saturday.

"I've lived here five years and know more people than I ever did anywhere else through the horse community," said her sister Linda Murre, also a volunteer animal rescuer, as she jetted a pair of Branges' llamas to the Fairgrounds.

Christie Thomas, a local horse owner who also helped move llamas Saturday, said, "It never occurs to you not to help."

Contact Lisa Hirschmann at 706-3264 or jcopeland@santacruzsentinel.com.

PROPOSALS FOR A.C. ACTIONS: To present to AOBA

- **Immediate OK to launch A.C. Web site!**
- **A regional or national hay "food bank" set up to get hay and/or grain shipped at low cost ASAP to survivors. (Immediate need)**
- **Development of industry wide program for low cost loans and insurance for alpaca owners to be used for disaster preparation and relief.**
- Web links and networking with ICI, IRC, ILR and the Camelid Community.

www.icinfo.org