



2009 State Fair Llama Show After-Fair Report

Thank you for joining us at the fair. Your participation made this one of the most successful shows that I have been involved with!

We had 87 llamas originally scheduled to participate. That included 5 Alpacas entered in the shorn fleece classes and one llama from Arizona that scratched. 84 llamas were in ALSA point classes. We had 11 youth participate. The numbers were down slightly from last year, but we only had about 3 exhibitors less than last year.

CAL-EXPO provided great facilities again and we had a great clerk. Tiffany Raffaelli took care of the judges by making sure they had transportation when needed, meal vouchers, water, juice, that they stayed on time and that they actually took time to eat and drink. She also kept track of the scoring and ribbons. Tiffany is training to run a marathon for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. Set your browser to <http://pages.teamintraining.org/los/nikesf09/traffaelli> to find out more about her story and how you can help. The rest of the fair staff was great, insuring that our needs were met. Adam Zachary of the barn crew was quick to help out when needed and was the one who finally orchestrated the move of Marlys' llamas to dry stalls.

The CAL-ILA volunteers did an outstanding job again this year. Judy Johnson and Dennie Hansen called every exhibitor and worked out the stalling assignments. This is a thankless job because they can't give everyone the space they want. I think they did an outstanding job this year and we had a minimal amount of corrections to make Friday morning. The fair is usually very understaffed on Friday morning as they work all night to set-up the barns for the next rotation of animals. Your cooperation and flexibility made things work well for everyone. Thanks!

Greg Sykes did his usually outstanding job of coordinating dinner and the refreshments throughout the show. Thanks to our generous sponsors, Margaret Drew, Judy Johnson, Lora Crawford, and Joy Pedroni and the CAL-ILA Board for making the \$20 Friday Night Dinner available for only \$5. We did sell all 50 dinners, but we will need some more donations if we are to repeat it again next year.

Margaret Drew did an outstanding job designing and setting up the obstacle courses again this year. The subtle use of live plant materials made the courses very attractive to the public. Ron Pedroni has volunteered to be the Obstacle Coordinator for the 2010 show. Don Ritchey brought the obstacles to the fair and carted them home again when the fair was over.

Ellen Goldsmith rounded up all of the hard working volunteers that made the show run smoothly. Our Fleece Stewards, Jeanette Mathews and Alice Lessard did a great job helping the judge with the shorn fiber. Sue Rich was the fiber steward for the walking fiber classes. Robin O'Laughlin (nee Blossom) greeted everyone as they came in on Friday and was the Gatekeeper for the entire show making sure exhibitors were on-time. Amy Simons was our Halter Class Ring Steward. Tom Hansen did a great job as



announcer and all around handy-man. And a big thanks to all of you who lent a hand and kept the show running on time!

Kathy Nichols coordinated the Youth Activities for us this year. Lora Crawford was responsible for getting the Awards ordered and to the fair. EstherSue Sykes put on a great Pooh Corners and not only rounded up plenty of kids to walk llamas, but a large group of exhibitors willing to walk with the llamas and public. Thanks to you all. Linda Solomon helped Dennie with registration on Friday and of course Judy kept track of all the scores.

Speaking of scoring; the scoring system is complicated because we tabulate both ALSA points and the State Fair Awards. Each has different criteria and scoring charts. Judy and Tiffany worked with me to make sure all the scoring was done correctly, but I did make one mistake. Jocelyn Katzakian is actually the ALSA Senior Youth Reserve Performance Champion. I had included scores from Youth Showmanship in my calculations which is incorrect for the performance champion. Jocelyn, I'm sorry. It looks like I owe you that gift card!

I have finished compiling the ALSA show reports and it will be in the mail to ALSA headquarters this week. You should be able to view your scores on the ALSA website within the next week or so.

We have already started planning for next year's show. We've had the first show committee meeting and I have met with State Fair. Our next step will be to review your comments, discuss what worked well and what needs improvement. As part of that process your comments are very important. Here are the excerpts from the comment sheets you handed in Monday night.

2009 State Fair Llama Exhibitor Feedback

Suggestions and Dislikes

- Llamas need a way to take a time out away from the people. Too much hands-on all day
- Allow panels to keep people from teasing the llamas
- Shorn Fiber ribbons should have been handed out at the awards ceremony
- Fiber judge did not adhere to fair rules and angered participants (light wool??)
- Youth judging missed some youth due to time changes. Not all youth notified.
- Did not see a single llama champion photo hanging from the ceiling, just beef, sheep and goats
- Need cookies at the award ceremony in order to have enough strength left to pack up and drive home
- Wash racks were blocked by a stack of stalling panels
- Schedule fiber before showmanship/halter to avoid over-grooming
- A few goodies at the awards banquet would be fun
- Stalls were flooded when bleachers were washed and not moved to new stalls when promised



What Was Liked

- Barney, Margaret & Judy were all great
 - Niki was very helpful explaining the scores
 - Outstanding show
 - Excellent facilities
 - Judging was quick, fair and professional
 - Both judges did a great job
 - Good judging
 - Staff was great
 - Judges were very good about being available to review scores with exhibitors
 - Wonderful weather
 - Great show staff, loved Tiffany
 - Show ran smoothly with plenty of time between classes
 - Great judges
 - Thank you for a wonderful first State Fair experience
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The Show Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in mid-November to kick off the 2010 show planning cycle. Each comment will be discussed and reviewed as to how best to make changes for next year. Each year we have to make a series of compromises, so we may not be able to implement your suggestions or address your concerns exactly as you may want, but your ideas are very important to shaping next year's show.

Thank you again for joining us this year and making this show one of the best!

RG "Barney" McClung
Llama Show Superintendent
707-812-8840
barney@napallama.com