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Halter, Youth, Performance, Fiber & Advanced Teaching Judge



I started in the early 80s with llamas as the first 4-H and FFA youth with llamas in Washington State. At that time too, I was gaming horses and trail riding. After graduating from college with two degrees, I started to show more competitively and began to build my breeding program. Nearly all of our herd of 20 is at least a halter/performance champion, therapy registered, PLTA certified packer or producing those things for our program. We also have several national champions in performance and halter.

In 1995 I met a beautiful weanling black and white llama who I was immediately drawn to. That llama would not only change my life, but make me a better handler and trainer. We learned to drive together and he became the top driving and show llama of all time with his ALSA Breeder Elite win. In addition we ended up finishing our PLTA Master Packer title together and he became a complex registered therapy llama with what was then called Delta Society. Isle Eagle's bloodline is the foundation for much of our driving, performance, halter and therapy breeding program.

I am heavily involved in all aspects of llama ownership. We selectively breed for the traits I need to do these things. Driving is my biggest passion and has landed me five national driving titles. I also love to show in halter and performance. Our current herd has six registered therapy llamas that we actively use at kids camps, nursing homes and much more. We have a small herd of classic coated llamas that we breed and pack with and sell. My downtime is spent spinning fiber in a local group of sheep, goat, alpaca and llama people. I also love to knit my handspun fiber and share it with others. With my passion for youth, I volunteer my time and share my animals with 4H youth. I also still enjoy judging small county fair shows and working with the youth that attend them. Lastly, I don't think you can be an active breeder without doing some form of rescue. Breeders have to do what is right for their beliefs when it comes to rescue. I host a yearly education day for future and current owners of llamas and alpacas. We provide free demonstrations, vet talks and more but do not sell animals at the event.

In order to understand llama movement and conformation, you have to understand where we have come from in our past breeding history. Over the last 15+ years I have studied and learned as much as I can about the long term soundness of llamas. When judging it is important to assess what things will affect the long term health and quality of life of these awesome animals.

I care about the camelid community and trying to create a positive showing experience for exhibitors. Exhibitors spend a lot of time, energy and money attending shows. Sometimes all they walk away with are tips on improvement and a positive experience with other exhibitors, show management and judges. I try to be part of that positive experience and do my best to assist exhibitors so they can be successful and improve. As I do so many things with my llamas, I can sometimes provide tips and feedback that vastly improves an exhibitor's performance. Since I am a secondary school teacher by day, teaching comes naturally to me!

I feel it is important to adhere to the rules and standards for showing llamas to help remove the mystery of what judges look for!