



MOPACA

**MIDWEST ALPACA OWNERS
AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

LEARN IT, LIVE IT, LOVE IT!

Are alpacas in your future?

Alpacas are the perfect small livestock.

Alpacas don't require a lot of land - you can stock 5-8 per acre depending upon quality of pasture.

Alpacas are easy on the earth. With soft padded feet, they don't tear up the earth.

Alpacas love to graze, biting grass off rather than pulling it out of the ground. You don't have to re-seed as often.

Alpacas are clean animals. They defecate in common manure piles, making daily clean-up easier.

Alpaca "poop" is a perfect soil nutrient, and can be used immediately without needing to compost.

Alpacas grow to be around 150 pounds at adulthood, making care easier than with some larger livestock.

Alpacas are quiet (they hummmm!) and intelligent. They learn quickly and appreciate routine.

Alpacas do spit, but usually not unless they feel threatened. Sometimes they spit at each other if they are arguing over food. We try not to get in the way.

Things to think about...

Alpacas are herd animals. They need friends of their own kind in order to stay healthy and thrive. Most people recommend 4-5 alpacas.

Keep males and females in separate pastures, even if you geld the males.

Alpacas need fresh water and good quality hay/pasture. Most alpaca owners also feed a small amount of specially formulated alpaca supplement daily.

Alpacas have no way to defend themselves. No-climb fencing will help keep predators out of the pastures and keep your alpacas safe. Many alpaca owners also have llamas or livestock guard dogs to help protect their alpacas.

It takes time to gain the trust of alpacas. Take your time and let them get used to you. Sit with them and read a book. Eventually they will allow you to be closer to them.

Alpacas need to be sheared every year in the spring. This is for their health and well-being. Also, you can sell the fiber or use it yourself to make products.

When you meet the alpacas...

- Move calmly and slowly and keep your voice low.
- Ask the owner if it is okay to touch the animal. The owner knows the animal and can give you guidance.
- Most alpacas prefer not to be touched on top of their heads.
- If you touch their behinds, you may get kicked.
- Please don't feed any treats to the alpacas unless the owner provides treats and says it is okay.

Midwest Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association www.mopaca.org www.facebook.com/midwest.alpaca.owners MOPACA is a membership association of alpaca owners throughout the country. We encourage you to visit our website, where you will also be able to find farms near you to visit.