

# WHAT TO BRING ALONG WHEN TRAILERING ALPACAS TO A SHOW...

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**A**fter years of trailering horses all over the country and Canada, we have learned some valuable lessons when it comes to hitting the road with livestock! The first and foremost credo is ALWAYS be prepared for a worst case scenario. Mr. Murphy and his silly laws always come in to play at the worst times!! Accidents, prolonged traffic jams, breakdowns.



The beginning of this article will deal with what we ALWAYS have with us when we are hauling animals – show or no show. The last section is a “Show Checklist” of all the extras you will want and need at a show.

## ALPACAS

Obviously the animals in the trailer are our first concern. We never travel without water on board in case we have a delay. We have been stuck at a dead standstill in 7 mile long traffic jams on I-95 in the middle of summer where temps on the pavement were over 150 degrees Fahrenheit. Being able to get in the back and offer your animals cool water with electrolytes until you can get off the highway is a lifesaver. In hot summer weather we keep the water in the cab of the truck to keep it cool.

We also always travel with an extra two days worth of grain, hay and bedding in case we are forced to hold over due to an emergency. Hopefully in this situation you are fairly close to another alpaca farm and can utilize their facilities in an emergency. We carry a copy of the AOBA & NEAOBA Membership List with us in the truck in case an emergency situation arises. I cannot think of any breeder that would not come with their trailer and extra pairs of hands to help out a fellow breeder. In addition, if you have an alpaca medical emergency on the road these are the people who are going to get you in touch with the right vet.

## BASIC TRAILER NECESSITIES

Water buckets

Water – we carry 10 gallons in collapsible water jugs

Electrolytes

Extra Hay – enough for two extra days

Feeding Pans

Extra Grain – enough for two extra days

Extra Leads, Extra Halters – I always have at least one more of each than I need

Bedding

Pro-Bios

Basic Medical Kit

If we must travel on extremely hot days we will put a couple of dozen bags of ice (kept in the bags) around the perimeter of the trailer floor and cover with straw. It is amazing how much this reduces the temperature on the trailer floor.

## PEOPLE

I personally don't think it's ever a good idea to travel long distances without someone else with you. Besides the company and an extra driver the advantage of having another set of hands if you are forced to off-load animals is obvious. Ever try hanging on to six scared alpacas by yourself?

Make sure you have foul weather gear and an extra something warm to put on in the trailer. Remember Mr. Murphy? He gets a particular thrill out of having something go wrong in less than ideal weather conditions!

Pack a small cooler of bottled water and a quick protein source – nuts, granola bars, etc. They won't go bad and they may be the only sustenance you have access to for a while!!

## TRUCK/TRAILER

Health Certificates & Travel Papers (Re-Entry Numbers)

Cell Phone

Lighter Cell Phone Charger

Insurance Info

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

Emergency Roadside Service Info

A company that provides roadside assistance to trailers!! We use USRider.

Current AOBA/NEAOBA Membership Directory

Tool Kit & Jack

Tire Kit – including bearings

Flashlight and extra batteries

Alpaca Medical Manuals

Microchip Reader



## SHOW CHECKLIST

Farm Banner  
Business Cards  
Stall Cards – Many breeders use copies of their ARI's for this  
Farm Marketing Materials – don't worry if you don't have any yet.  
Table  
Folding Chairs  
Hay Bags  
Pooper Scooper  
Rake  
Muck Bucket  
Broom  
Extension Cord – Heavy Duty 50 Ft.  
Pigtail for Extension Cord  
Wire Ties  
Fans – at least one per pen  
Utility Knife  
Duct tape  
Nail Trimmer  
Patience and a Sense of Humor!

We hope this helps all of you who will be showing this year for the first time! If you have questions at the show, come find Stonewall Farm - we will be more than happy to help you!!

Just remember to go and have a great time!



*Stonewall Farm Alpacas, located in Sears-  
mont, Maine, is a full-time alpaca breed-  
ing farm. Our breeding program is large  
enough to offer a varied selection of the  
finest bloodlines available while still be-  
ing small enough to provide meticulous  
care and support.*

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