

WHY DO I NEED A CONSULTATION?

The purpose of a professional breeding and genetics consultation is to provide you with the tools to maximize the rate and amount of improvement (genetic progress) in your llama or alpaca herd. The more improvement you make in your herd, the more desirable, highly prized, and valuable your animals become.

During a private consultation with Dr. Julie Koenig, a comprehensive breeding program will be devised and implemented, allowing you to quickly reach the point where cria that fit your vision of the ultimate animal are consistently produced.

Breeding "errors" can be very costly, and a small improvement in even a single cria, will easily justify a consultation. Doesn't your herd deserve the best possible breeding program?

WHAT CAN A CONSULTATION DO FOR MY HERD AND ME?

Every consultation is unique, private, and tailored to the needs and desires of you and your herd. During a professional breeding and genetics consultation, Dr. Koenig, with your direction and input, can:

- Establish or refine a list of breeding objectives and genetic goals that reflect your personal desires as a breeder.
- Assure that positive and negative genetic correlations among traits on your breeding objectives list are considered.

- Design an animal evaluation checklist based on your breeding objectives.
 - Evaluate each animal in your herd using the developed checklist.
 - Determine the genotype (genetic make up) of each animal in your herd for traits inherited in a Mendelian pattern.
 - Select the best approach for the simultaneous improvement of the traits that are important to you.
 - Develop the selection index formula and/or selection levels which reflect the importance of the traits on your breeding objectives list, for the multiple trait selection method you choose.
 - Show you how to use your multiple trait selection system to determine which animals to keep, sell, or buy. This is an important step because how an animal looks (its phenotype) is not always an accurate indication of the genes it possesses.
 - Determine the optimum mating pair combinations to maximize the probability of obtaining the most desirable offspring.
- A scientific approach to a breeding program will maximize the amount of genetic improvement that can be made in your herd and minimize the amount of time it will take to achieve your goals.

WHAT DO PREVIOUS CLIENTS SAY?

"Even though I've been in the llama business for 12 years, the consultation with Julie was definitely worthwhile!"

Dick and Pat Wickum, Chula Llamas, Oregon

"With Julie's help, we now approach the breeding of our llamas in a more scientific and practical way with more confidence and direction."

Dan Egeland, Northern Lights Llama Co, Montana

"The number of secrets that Julie unlocked in my small herd was amazing!"

Joanne Forest, Llamas De La Foresta, Oregon

"We found Dr. Koenig's consultation to be helpful even after 10 years of experience with breeding llamas. Comparing her phenotypic and genetic observations with our own was instructive."

Dr. Art Kennel, Kennellamas, Minnesota

RECORDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

You can feel confident that the information gathered about your herd will be held in the strictest professional confidence. Dr. Koenig will not keep a written record of your consultation unless you request otherwise. Specific information concerning your herd and its established breeding program will not be released to anyone without your permission.

WHEN SHOULD I HAVE A PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION?

Both established breeders and newcomers, will benefit from a private consultation. Some who are still developing their herd may feel it is best to wait until they are more established before they have a professional consultation. However, a professional consultation at the onset of your program will get you off to the best possible start and may help you to locate the most appropriate kind of animals for your breeding program.

The sooner you maximize the rate and amount of genetic improvement in your herd, the sooner you will reap the rewards. Be sure you are “breeding” and not just doing matings.

CONSULTATION DETAILS

A tax deductible, professional breeding and genetics consultation may be scheduled by contacting Dr. Koenig. The length of the consultation will depend on the size of your herd and the scope of the consultation.

Julie's services are available by the half day, and full day, and she is also happy to answer individual questions about your herd or animals by phone, fax, mail or video on an hourly fee basis. Please don't hesitate to contact Julie if you need more information regarding private consultations or additional references.

How can you afford to wait to maximize the rate and amount of genetic improvement in your herd?

ABOUT DR. JULIE L.F. KOENIG

Dr. Julie Koenig is a llama breeder, trainer and enthusiast, and has been involved with the llama industry since 1983. She and her husband, Hal, own 45 breeding stock llamas and actively participate in local and regional shows in both halter and performance classes. Julie utilizes the fleece from their llamas, and enjoys the many volunteer activities that her family does with their animals.

Julie has published multiple articles in *Llamas*, *Llama Banner*, and *Fiber Fest*, and has been a featured speaker at many ILA, LANA, and AOBA conferences. She spends much her time doing private breeding and genetics consultations, workshops, and presentations for llama and alpaca breeders on an international scale.

Dr. Koenig has participated in llama research with Dr. Brad Smith at Oregon State University, and has been called on to teach sections of the Camelid Medicine course to OSU veterinary students.

Dr. Koenig earned her masters and Ph.D. in Animal Science Breeding and Applied Genetics, with a minor in Reproductive Physiology, from the University of Nebraska. Her undergraduate degree is in Animal Science from Cornell University in New York.

DR. JULIE L. FARVER KOENIG
Breeding and Genetics Consultant
3410 NW 60th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330
Phone or Fax (541) 752-5434
www.KoenigLlamas.com

How Do *You* Compete With More Established Breeders?

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