

# VILLA DE ALPACAS FARM AT HISTORIC VILLA DE SALES

## OUR ALPACA FARM

I purchased my first alpacas over 12 years ago to make what used to be a successful family tobacco farm self-sustainable again. I did a lot of research before purchasing my first alpaca, trying to find the "perfect" agricultural business for a small farm (which used to be a very large farm in terms of acreage and production). This research led me to many different avenues in alternative agriculture such as raising emu, buffalo, and other livestock. I was not interested in slaughtering my animals, even though I understand why there are industries which must do so. This just wasn't for me. I also thought about growing shitake mushrooms, ginseng, organic vegetables and herbs, flowers, even "tea".

The gentle alpaca seemed to fit a perfect mold, as they were easy to handle and didn't need a lot of fancy equipment to maintain them, or miles of acres like other livestock. (I didn't have either of these things to begin with!) My alpacas have made my family farm not only self-sustainable again, but a very successful and most enjoyable business. Alpacas have allowed me to begin to properly restore a farm which has belonged to my family for over 300 years, as well as to properly restore a large Victorian home built by my great-great grandfather over 140 years ago! Alpacas have been my one and only business and income for the past 12 years.

## WHY CHOOSE US

Even though Villa de Sales had been a successful large family farm for many years, Villa de Sales saw hard times financially after my grandparents passed away over 50 years ago. Most of the acreage was left to my aunts and uncles who later sold it to developers. My mother was left the main house and 46 acres with two other siblings, who she later bought out. Mom did her best to keep things running, but its toll was an incredibly large burden. On top of this, my father was completely disabled by Parkinson's Disease.

So in 1996, I moved to Villa de Sales with the intention to make it work again. As an only child (and not a farmer), I not only needed to do something, but I greatly wanted to make this farm successful again. Another priority was to help my mother who was very much overcome – physically and emotionally - with the requirements and care of her completely disabled husband. (Our intention was to never put my father in a nursing home.) Honestly, I had very little help to start, and I have run this farm myself, doing all of the daily chores myself. In my opinion, you don't "choose" to farm; it is a devotion and a lifestyle greater, more difficult, and more intense than the priesthood. You don't wake up one morning and say, "Wow, this is a great career opportunity. It is what you are!" And then hopefully, with a lot of work, you will find a way to make it work. Alpacas have helped me make this work!

I started my alpaca farm with acreage and a very old home which needed tons of repairs. I had no fencing to begin with, but I did have an old tobacco barn which I could use as a shelter for the animals. My point is this: My farm was not "infused" with big money from the sale of other businesses. I had to make this farm work and make the needed repairs to the home and structures with alpacas ONLY.

I did not inherit a large sum of money to purchase alpacas. I was actually the first person in the state of Maryland to get a loan (from Colonial Farm Credit) for the purchase of alpacas. Alpacas and alpacas ONLY have enabled me to make this farm self-sustainable again. This makes Villa de Alpacas Farm at

Villa de Sales very unique in the alpaca industry! Alpacas are my only business, and the money to do this came from alpacas. I did have some acreage and a few old buildings to start, but it was alpacas that got me to where I am today!

Let me help you make your own dreams a reality with an alpaca business! I will share with you not only every aspect of my alpaca husbandry and medical experience with these most interesting and unusual creatures, but also all the aspects of my personal business plan, and most importantly, the tax advantages of owning alpacas and running an alpaca farm on your own property.

In many ways, the tax benefits on owning these lovable and beautiful animals can give you significant financial advantages which are incredible and can be one of the very best reasons to invest in alpacas. You can gain these tax benefits just with a few animals. You do not need a large herd. In fact, I often recommend to new people to make alpacas a "supplemental" income as opposed to their main or only business, as the tax advantages are the same. And most importantly, this philosophy also enables you to enjoy your alpacas more with less stress. (You can get extremely attached to these wonderful animals, which can make it harder emotionally to sell them.)

One thing is for certain, though, I promise to always do my best to help you in any way possible in regards to these wonderful animals – not only as pets, but as a successful and most enjoyable family business!

Please visit our website for more information: [www.MarylandAlpacaFarm.com](http://www.MarylandAlpacaFarm.com).

