

# NEVADA COUNTY AG

SPRING 2025

## MEET THE NEIGHBAAAS!

THE ALPACAS OF DOWN OM FARMS

STONE HOUSE'S  
BOLD LEAP INTO  
REGENERATION



THE FIELD OF  
SCIENCE IN THE  
PASTURE



FFA DREAMS  
COME TRUE

# NEVADA COUNTY AG

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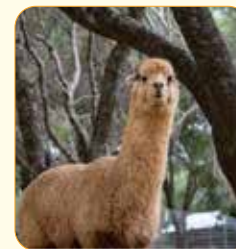
**THE UNION**  
www.TheUnion.com  
*Great People Connecting Communities*

PUBLISHED BY THE UNION  
464 SUTTON WAY, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

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*Alfie the Alpaca by Down OM  
Farms.*

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# THE FIELD OF SCIENCE IN THE PASTURE

By University of California, Cooperative Extension

**F**armers and ranchers know one thing for sure—no two days are the same. One morning, you’re fixing a fence before the sun’s up; by afternoon, you’re figuring out why half the herd has pink eye. Somewhere in between, you’re supposed to stay on top of the latest research, market trends, and best management practices. That’s where your local UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, Andrea Warner, comes in.

“My job is to connect with livestock producers and provide support through workshops, research trials, and personalized ranch visits. Visting your operation in person allows me to understand your unique challenges, and sparks conversation about how UC can play a role in helping to address them. If you have a specific challenge that isn’t in my focus area, we have a very diverse and knowledgeable network of UC advisors, and local agencies that can help get your questions answered.”

Warner is standing up for agriculture in the Northern Sierra Foothills—she’s someone who’ll walk your pastures, open your gates, and really listen and learn from her time on your operation. As the UC Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor for Nevada, Placer, Yuba, and Sutter counties, Andrea’s job is to help you solve real problems in ways that fit your operation, not fight against it.

If you’re a farmer or rancher in Nevada, Placer, Yuba, or Sutter counties, you now have a new advocate in your corner—one who speaks the language of the land, understands the importance of livestock production, and values both tradition and innovation.

Warner is a Nevada County native who grew up with dirt on her boots and a deep appreciation for the people who dedicate their lives to agriculture. Her mission is to connect producers—whether they’re seasoned multi-generation ranchers or new landowners looking to learn—with the latest in research-backed best practices, funding opportunities, and practical, real-world solutions to everyday challenges.

Warner’s journey started with raising pigs through 4-H and Nevada Union FFA for the Nevada County Fair. Her love for livestock production quickly expanded when she started an internship while attending Sierra College at the UC Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center assisting with beef cattle research projects. That early work led her to Chico State, where she studied feed efficiency and fertility in Angus heifers. She didn’t stop there.



**Andrea Warner snaps a photo in the field in her line of work with University of California, Cooperative Extension as the Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor.**

She took her passion for animal health and nutrition all the way to Oklahoma State University, earning a master’s degree in animal science, while researching how to improve beef production through innovative feeding strategies.

Her experience isn’t just academic—it’s hands-on. From managing a large-scale goat and sheep operation at Langston University to working directly with California ranchers, she’s spent years turning research into results that make life easier for producers.

What sets Warner apart is her commitment to bridging the gap between research and real-world agriculture. She knows that no two operations are alike, and she’s not here to push a one-size-fits-all agenda. Instead, she listens, understands, and helps farmers and ranchers fine-tune their operations with strategies rooted in science and efficiency based on cutting-edge research and real-time trials.

Warner shares, “The foundation of any successful collaboration is trust, and trust is built by creating strong relationships. Through some very insightful conversations with local producers, I learn about production challenges that they are facing and which ones they are most interested in addressing. Over time, these connections and conversations naturally allow us to collaborate

Continued on page 5



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effectively to address challenges. As these relationships continue to grow, I am confident that we can work together to find solutions to improve their operations while honoring both tradition and change.”

Have an issue with herd health, grazing practices, or pasture management? Need some direction with securing funding for sustainable practices? Warner can help. She’s already working on a fly mitigation project to combat the spread of pink eye in cattle—just one example of how she’s tackling region-specific challenges head-on.

Andrea Warner doesn’t just serve the agricultural community—she’s part of it. She believes in the strength of Nevada County ranchers, the ingenuity of new farmers, and the power of passing down knowledge through generations. Whether you’re raising cattle, running a small homestead, or managing rangeland, Warner is

here to assist in connecting farmers and ranchers to best practices and high-value resources.

In a time when agriculture faces rapid change, Andrea brings a steady hand and a clear vision: to empower local producers with knowledge, resources, and solutions that keep California’s agricultural legacy thriving. Her newsletter is an especially helpful resource for all who follow along.

Warner wants to hear from you—your challenges, your successes, and the ideas that keep you up at night. Whether you need support, want to collaborate, or are looking for a fresh perspective, she’s ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work.

Contact Andrea Warner by email at [alnwarner@ucanr.edu](mailto:alnwarner@ucanr.edu), phone (530) 889-7385, or follow her on Facebook at “Foothill Livestock Network”.

# FFA DREAMS COME TRUE

By Lyla Landsburg

Ever since I was little I have loved the fair! I loved the lights, the food, the rides, and most of all, the livestock! Seeing all the animals was something I looked forward to all summer long. I always looked up to the FFA and 4H kids, they led their animals with so much confidence and they showed them with such pride for their organization. I knew I wanted to be part of this world.

I knew raising animals wasn’t going to be all black and white. Understanding them and knowing their behaviors then recognizing when something is off means I need to be there for my animals every day. A lot of the time it’s early mornings and late nights, and spending my free time with my amazing animals! Through the ups and downs with my livestock, we grew a bond. There is something truly amazing about watching animals grow, earning their trust, and building a friendship with them.

Animal welfare is one of the most important things I learned before ever getting my baby chicks, goats, and lambs. I made sure



Photo Submitted by Lyla Landsburg

each animal had the right amount of space, the right feed, proper nutrition and tack, and secure fencing. As part of the FFA, our goal is to bring safe, healthy and quality foods to tables all around America. We want our animals to thrive and to demonstrate to our communities the value of our industry and the importance of keeping it safe for future generations.

This Spring will be my last year raising and showing market lambs and my last semester of high school. I am passionate about agriculture, and raising animals for market has been such a huge part of my life so now I’m thinking about how my next four years in university can prepare me to be the most beneficial to the industry that I can be. I recognize the importance of agriculture not just in Nevada County and California but all over the USA! I want to be an advocate for animal welfare and hope that others in this industry care about the quality of life for their livestock.

So to all of the ranchers, livestock producers, agricultural teachers, workers, and business owners thank you for making this such an amazing and welcoming community and industry! I hope the next generations in agriculture value our land, livestock conditions, and sustainable agricultural practices in the years to come.

Reach out to me at [LylaLandsburg@gmail.com](mailto:LylaLandsburg@gmail.com) with any suggestions, ideas, or resources because I would love to connect!

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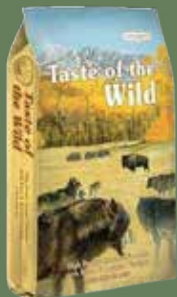
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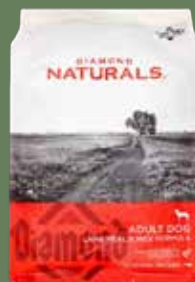
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# MEET THE NEIGHBAAAS!

## THE ALPACAS OF DOWN OM FARMS

By Daniel Fink

**M**eet the Alpacas that power the flowers of Down OM Farms! First and foremost... don't call 'em Llamas! These four fluffy guys don't like to be confused with their larger cousins, but they won't spit at you over it. Only llamas that would do that!

This small, but mighty herd is very sweet and gentle towards people though they can get rowdy with each other at times. The two elders, named Paul and Carl, do their best to show the younger boys how to get along. Paul and Carl have lived in the neighborhood many years longer than I have.

Paul is the strong silent type. Always scanning the horizon for threat of coyote or mountain lion. With the brightest white coat of the pack he's always easy to spot. Rarely testing fences or attempting escape he is the outlier. He has no interest in humans but tolerates the occasional group selfie.

Ol' Cranky Carl is always a good distance away from the pack. With a perpetual side-eye quietly judging his fellow fluff beasts he prefers to be a loner. He's got a "grass is always greener" sort of perspective on life. As a result he's always pushing through fences and being a nuisance to the neighbor's lawn.

Antonio is the smallest but don't let his typically docile nature and short stature fool you. He's quick with a sidekick and can't get enough of harassing his brother Alfie. Having only been spotted once, on the wrong side of the fence, he is well-mannered toward people and cautiously curious. However, when doing battle with his brothers he can be quite brutal. Relentlessly chasing his larger brother Alfie to every corner of the pastures.

Last but not least in anyone's eyes is the sweet one... Alfonso or as he prefers "Alfie."

With massive inquisitive eyes he's quick to run up on any visitor and inspect their intentions, and snack supply. Always vying for a handful of juicy alfalfa grass he will often run up to me with loud snorts and sniffs. Finding no grass, he then sniffs and nibbles at fingertips before trotting away indignant. Alfie seems to desire more communion with humans but fears the judgment of his watchful brethren, perhaps thinking they might shun him for being too friendly with people. Forever having to defend himself from the aggressive advances of his brother, Tony, he has developed a sharp bite and spends much of his time, literally sharpening his teeth on anything he can wrap his lips around.

**There's always an alpaca who insists on standing on the highest point of the farm. What's their kingdom like?**

I think that would have to be Paul being an elder he likes to stand above others so he can watch for potential threats from errant roosters.

**Tell us about the alpaca who's always breaking into the garden for a little "extra relaxation."**

Gratefully, the Alpacas don't go after our cash crop, I think the leaves are too sticky for them. Alfie would be the garden thief always sneaking in to eat my roses. They love roses.

**Share a story about the alpaca who has mastered the art of snack theft.**

There's one small portion of the garden that is fenced separately, and Alfie has managed to break into that area every day for months, but cannot ever find his way out.

**Which alpaca best embodies the Down Om vibe—calm, unfazed, and deeply committed to chilling?**

For me, Down OM represents a deep commitment to taking respite or retreat from life when needed. Even if for a short moment the impact on our whole day and life can be massive. I find Tony sprawled out in the bright sun in a dusty patch, warming his belly on a regular basis. I think we all need a little bit of that.



Flowers of Down OM Farms

**There's always one alpaca with an ongoing (but one-sided) rivalry with the farm dog. What's their story?**

I think that would be Paul again as the watchful protector and elder, he's the first in the line of defense. Our farm dog Buckley has a tenuous relationship with our alpacas as he believes he is meant to protect our children from them. At this point, he respects the alpacas from a distance, but cannot distinguish them from a deer.

**Who in the herd is always watching, always listening, and definitely knows all the barnyard gossip?**



Cranky Carl for sure. Standing just within earshot of the rest of the group he listens intently but never speaks up.

**Tell us about the alpaca who gets into trouble and then plays the victim every single time.**

I think Tony takes the cake on that one because he likes to start fights with his brother Alfie, and then cry when he gets his butt whooped

**Which alpaca is most likely to cause a dramatic scene over something completely minor?**

Well... They are alpacas so they're all pretty dramatic

**Describe the herd's mysterious wanderer—where do they go when no one is looking?**

Carl is always sneaking around the corner or off into the bushes to try and hoard the juiciest freshest grasses and leaves for himself.

**Rain, puddles, and mud can be deeply offensive to some alpacas. Who takes it the hardest?**

They all love dust equally, and hate mud just the same.

**There's always one alpaca who seems convinced that humans exist solely to serve them. What are their demands?**

Alfie with his expectant gaze and indignant snorts when you show up empty handed.

**Some alpacas stare longingly at the fence, dreaming of escape, but never actually make a move. Who's the biggest dreamer?**

Tony longs of wandering but ultimately just watches Carl and Paul play escape artist typically.

**Shearing season can be traumatic for the drama-prone. Tell us about the alpaca who takes it as an offense.**

Ooo... shearing season is extremely dramatic.

Carl has been known to scream like a banshee watching his brothers get shaved while Alfie is the most uncooperative.

**Some alpacas love humans just a little too much. Who's the biggest cuddle-seeker on the farm?**

All our animals were raised as livestock instead of pets but Alfies natural sweetness shines through. He almost kisses me sometimes.

**Share a moment when you believed a soul is inside an alpaca.**

Everytime I stare deep into their huge, inquisitive eyes I have no doubts.

**Side-eye is an art form in the alpaca world. Who delivers the best, and when do they use it?**

Haha! Carl all day! Quietly judging all his waking hours.

**Drama comes naturally to some alpacas. Who loves stirring the pot just for fun?**

Tony, always picking on his brother.



Locals, Paul and Carl, show off their fresh shear.

**Some alpacas pretend to be clueless just to avoid responsibility. Who's secretly the smartest in the herd?**

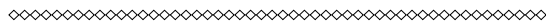
I'm not convinced that any of them are particularly intelligent

**Describe the self-appointed leader of the herd what makes them think they run the place?**

Paul is the rock of the pack, but as Alfie grows up he's showing great leadership potential.

**Tell us about the alpaca who makes the humans double-check the gate every single night.**

Alfie garden thief extraordinaire.



Learn more about Down Om Farms at our website: [downOMfarms.com](http://downOMfarms.com)



Antonio shows off his flower crown.

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# STONE HOUSE'S BOLD LEAP INTO REGENERATION

By Jenna Bien

**T**he Stone House has always been a place to enjoy good food, great music, and memorable events. Now, it's entering a new chapter, focused on making some exciting changes while strengthening its foundation.

The spark behind this bold move? A powerhouse team laser-focused on one mission: to regenerate, not just sustain.

"It's been a project, understanding how we put the right pieces together" — Owner/Operator Jonathan Rowe

"Sustainability" is everywhere these days, and sure, it's a nice idea—do less harm, slow the bleeding. But let's face it, it's not enough

anymore. Why settle for maintaining when we could be healing, rebuilding, and giving back? That's where regeneration comes in.

At Stone House, regeneration means flipping the script. It's not just about using the land; it's about partnering with it, creating a system where the soil gives us richer food, better health, and a brighter future. From farm to plate, every connection is intentional and impactful.

"Our Vision is to be a leading example of ethical food systems, this time we START the menu in the soil." — Farm Manager Ian Davidson

Stone House has seen its fair share of changes, and let's be real—it hasn't always been smooth sailing. Imagine a car with a dozen drivers, each pulling the steering wheel in a different direction. Passion? Plenty of it. Progress? Not so much.

But now? Now, the chaos has cleared. The team is tuned in, the engine's humming, and the destination is crystal clear. This is the moment Stone House has been waiting for.

Think of it like this: there's the driver with a map and a clear vision, the troubleshooter ready to tackle any bumps, and the DJ dropping the perfect playlist to keep the journey electric. Together, they're not just steering the ship—they're taking Stone House somewhere extraordinary.

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“It's been a project, understanding how we put the right pieces together.”

— Jonathan Rowe, Owner/Operator

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**Top seller at Stone House an example of putting local on the menu.**



**Fresh produce from local farms such as Grass Valley Mushroom.**

## **Jonathan Rowe — The Visionary Driver**

For nearly a decade, Jonathan has dreamt of creating sovereign food systems at Stone House. His passion for aligning the land, food, and community has shaped this entire movement. With a background in pulling off epic events that blend art and farm-to-table dining, Jonathan isn't just steering the ship—he's building the roadmap to a regenerative future.



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### Scott McDonald — The Culinary Architect

Scott isn't just a chef; he's a soil-to-table mastermind. During the pandemic, he turned heads with Wheath, a donation-based farm-to-table kitchen. Now, he's bringing that same intentional-packed genius to Stone House. His dishes? They're not just made in the kitchen—they're rooted in the soil, with the goal of connecting every bite back to the land.

### Ian Davidson — The Maestro of the Land

Ian knows the land like a symphony, blending agriculture and dining into harmony. From managing Oprah Winfrey's farm to transforming Hana Ranch, Ian has mastered the art of connecting farms to unforgettable meals. At Stone House, he's making regeneration the heartbeat of everything we do.

"It's time to break the rhythm of what's expected"— Executive Chef Scott McDonald

This isn't just lip service—this team is making regeneration happen. Here's how:

- **Creating Better Food:** Great food starts with great soil. Regeneration provides veggies that burst with flavor and meals that pack a nutritional punch. We take it further by skipping seed oils by using beef tallow and Northern California regeneratively produced olive oil. Every bite is better for you—and the planet.
- **Rebuilding the Soil:** Regenerative farming practices are the secret sauce. Healthier soil, less erosion, more carbon captured, and nutrient-packed crops—it's all part of the plan. Plus, our partnership with the farm is helping put nutrients back into the soil as compost, creating a full-circle approach to this regenerative system.
- **Building Community:** Regeneration ripples outward. By working with educators like Sierra Harvest and Catalyst BioAmendments, Stone House is creating opportunities that strengthen both the land and the people.

### Join the Revolution

Stone House isn't just changing the way we grow and eat—it's redefining our connection to the land itself. Want to see it in action? Stay connected and witness the magic as it unfolds. This isn't just a new chapter—it's a new era. Ready to be part of it? Let's grow, share, and regenerate—together!

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**“Our Vision is to be a leading example of ethical food systems. . .”**

— Ian Davidson, Farm Manager

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**Over an acre of development moving into our second year.**



**Aerial shot of Stone House Farm.**



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FOWLER  
FRANK  
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