



# New Addition to a Growing Family

By Mark W. Delp,  
DCMA Ohio River Valley

Jason Edem, an acquisition process improvement specialist, DCMA Ohio River Valley Business Support Team, enjoys assisting his parents in running their Caesar Creek Alpaca Ranch.

Edem became involved with alpacas when his parents bought their first one nearly four years ago. The ranch's herd has since grown to seven alpacas with plans to increase the herd to 20. Recently, the family welcomed the second cria — a baby alpaca — which was born at the Caesar Creek Alpaca Ranch June 13.

Alpacas originate from South America and are the smaller cousin of the llama. Alpacas are raised and known for the

quality of their fiber, or wool, which is lightweight, soft, durable, silky and luxurious. While alpaca wool is similar to sheep's wool, it is warmer, not prickly and has no lanolin, making it hypoallergenic. The alpacas are sheared once a year, and a typical adult alpaca will produce 5 to 10 pounds of wool each year.

There are more than 100,000 alpacas in the United States on 11,000 registered farms and ranches. Ohio is home to 19,000 alpacas, which come in many different natural shades and colors. 



Jason Edem and his wife, Alia Edem, and son, Alexander Edem, with Izzabelle, the baby alpaca. (Photo by Vicki Edem)



Alpacas at Caesar Creek Alpaca Ranch, owned by Jason Edem, acquisition process improvement specialist for DCMA Ohio River Valley Business Support Team, and his parents. (Photo courtesy of Jason Edem, DCMA Ohio River Valley)