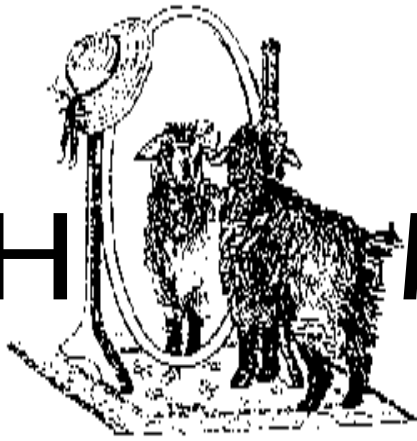


CASHMIR MIRROR



Volume 13, Issue 1

November 2001

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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The *CashMirror* welcomes contributions of articles and photographs. Submissions may be made by mail, fax or e-mail.

No responsibility will be taken for material while in transit or in this office, although we will certainly be real careful.

Cover photo:
Paul Johnson, Goat Knoll
"Young Bucks (A Quartet)"

Is it Spring Yet?

Photos to look at while you
(patiently) wait through the
Winter



Paul and Chewbacca.



Sometimes ears dictate names; this is "Helicopter."
Photograph by Bill Loughborough, Goldendale, WA.



Cute and cuter. Pam Haendle's (West Edmeston, New York) winning entry in the recent Cute Kids category of the *Cash-Mirror* photography contest.



Just the Facts

An article recently printed in the Meat Goat Monthly News, written by Dr. Frank Craddock, Extension Sheep and Goat Specialist from San Angelo, Texas, entitled "Facilities for Goats", contains a wealth of basic information. The entire article is good, however we have pulled some basic information out of it that may be useful for planning purposes. For example, when putting up a goat feeder, rather than just keep adding to it until all goats can belly up to the bar to eat, you can calculate in advance how much feeder space you will need.

Handling

Frightened goats move away from buildings, dark barns, alleys and chutes. Goats prefer lighted areas. They move better around slight curves (as opposed to sharp curves) and prefer to move uphill, toward a horizon and into the prevailing wind. They will move towards freedom and towards other goats.

Fencing

Net wire fences with vertical spaces of 12 inches, rather than 6 inches will prevent the stuck heads of horned goats. An effective electric fence must be properly grounded.

Barns & Sheds

The time goats spend inside the barn relates directly to your climate. In the south, where housing needed is minimal, five square feet of floor space per goat is adequate.

Kidding pens - allow 3' X 4' or 4' X 4' per pen. You will need one kidding pen for every 5 does.

Working Pens

Fencing for working pens and holding areas will need to be more substantial than regular fencing. Sides of chutes should be solid and smooth. Chutes should be arranged north and south, to prevent shadows (which will spook frightened goats) and uphill to encourage their movement.

Feeders

Should be at least 6" off the ground.

For trough feeding, allow 12" of feeder for each doe, 18" each for bucks, and 6" for kids. For self-feeders, allow 4" - 6" for does, 6" - 8" for bucks and 2" - 3" for kids.

Water

Use large water troughs for large numbers of goats. Use small troughs for small numbers to avoid stale water. Stale water leads to reduced consumptions and reduced performance. Keep water as cool as you can in the summer and warm, if you can, in the winter.

New Grant Funds Available Deadline for Grant Submission: December 31, 2001

The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) announced the availability of approximately \$200,000 in competitive grants for product or business development, producer information or education, marketing and promotion for sheep or goats or their products, genetic retention or animal health. The funds have been made available by the Board of Directors of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

These funds were announced on October 31, 2001, by the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, through the Federal Register.

The new grant program will add to the existing direct, low-interest loan program currently maintained by the Association.

Completed grant proposals must be received no later than December 31, 2001. The proposed grant project will need to be completed by September 30, 2003. Grant proposals should be submitted to:

Jay D. Wilson, Executive Director
USDA-NSIIC
PO Box 23483
Washington, D.C. 20026-3483

The above address is for grants submitted by the US Postal Service. If your grant is submitted via another carrier, you should send it to:

Room 2117
South Agriculture Building
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

For information, you can call the NSIIC at 202-690-0632 or 207-236-6567 or email them at: slee@rdmail.rural.usda.gov.

The full text of the Federal Register notice may be found on the internet at:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html

You can find the required forms for grant submission on the internet at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>

Gentlemen (and Ladies) Sharpen Your Pencils!

Beauty Queens Jailed in Virginia!

Lessons Learned at the State Fair of Virginia

By Marilyn Ackley

Illustrations by Shannon Atkinson

It started with a ruling that sounds pretty reasonable: "All goats must arrive with a certificate of veterinary inspection issued in their home state. If the home area is officially designated free of TB and brucellosis, testing for those diseases is not required." That message has been in the exhibitors' handbook for the State Fair of Virginia since 1998. History was on the side of the goats, and a fair official issued a last minute reassurance that the handbook was accurate. So on October 1, armed with health certificates declaring their home areas TB and brucellosis free, the goats and people of ECA converged at the fairgrounds in Richmond.

Goats arrived from Ohio and New Jersey, from Maine and Pennsylvania and Maryland. And they all received the same greeting: unless they're proper Virginians, all goats must present proof that they were tested for TB and brucellosis during the past thirty days or turn around and go back from whence they came. Considering that the cashmere folk had just traveled up to 800 miles to get to the fair, retreat seemed like a really bad idea. It was time for a subtle form of heroism: negotiation.

Luckily Wendy Pieh was first to wheel onto the fairgrounds. She and Yvonne Taylor, with a huge cattle trailer in tow, had rumbled non-stop from Maine. They circumvented New York City, whizzed past Baltimore, and shouldered through the Washington DC congestion. Safely in Richmond, they and their shell shocked goats learned that the handbook was in violation of Virginia state law. Wendy, a former Maine state legislator and politically savvy gentleperson, didn't scream that that was a helluva time to change the printed rules. She whipped out her cell phone and called the Maine state veterinarian who turned out to be a good friend of the Virginia commonwealth veterinarian. The tiniest seed of compromise had been planted.



Handi-Wipes Sales Sky Rocket as Fair Officials Struggle to Purify Goat Judge

Through the morning more goats and their people continued to arrive. They waited. And waited. The veterinarians and fair officials tending the compromise seedlings labored over their creation. They had a messy problem on their hands. The handbook was wrong. Virginia law says that all incoming animals must be tested. Of course Virginia goats are presumed to be pure and so are exempt; the law applies only to out of state goats. However the obvious inequity of the law wasn't their problem. We were their problem.

"We" in this context means cashmere goat exhibitors generally, not "we" in the highly personal sense

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Co-ed Dormitories Prove Popular Among Fair Participants!

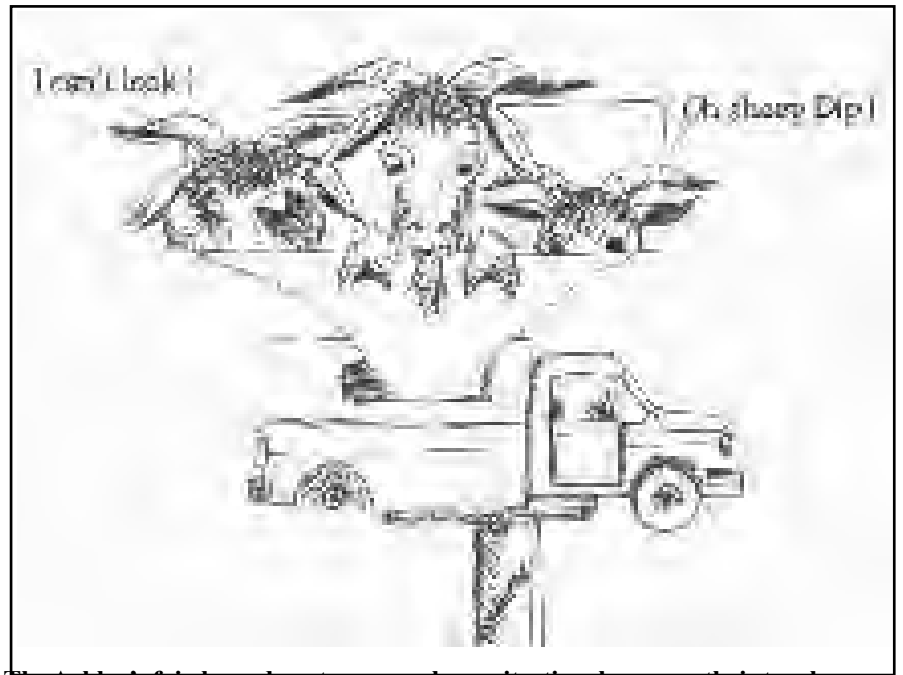
**Lessons Learned—
State Fair of Virginia
Continued from previous page**

which includes Wes and me. In truth I have pieced this story together from hearsay. Wes and I were hundreds of miles away with our own problems. One of our newish truck tires got punctured on the Massachusetts Turnpike. Sunday afternoon tire replacement was impossible, and Wes didn't deem our spare tire safe for highway driving with a trailer in tow. We had a good dinner in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and awaited the opening of the local tire place. Monday morning the bucks who were traveling in the back of our truck supervised the tire changing; then we rehitched the trailer and headed south again. It had taken 22 hours for us to get beyond our 222nd mile. We had two new tires, a trailer of dazed goats, eleven hours of driving between us and Richmond, and no idea what was awaiting us at the fair.

Quarantine was awaiting us at the fair. Jail. The compromise was in effect: untested goats could enter the fairgrounds but were forbidden from entering the goat tent. Instead the ECA animals were banished to the distant horse tent where our bucks have traditionally stayed. (Great whoops of excitement from the goats who were delighted at the thought of co-ed dorms.) The goat show would go on, but the goats were not permitted to leave their stalls; the judge would move from stall to stall and would be disinfected after touching each group of goats. Our events would be compressed to get us out of town a day early to make room for (I'm not making this up) the mules that were coming. So much for our closing night dinner with the judge. Luckily our judge in 2001 was Joe David Ross who worked alchemy, turning our dreary catastrophe into a dazzling success.

First up on the schedule was the fleece competition. Joe David has never been one for impetuous decisions. On October 2nd, he slowly and methodically made his way through something like 160 fleeces. (For the record, shorn fleeces were woefully under-represented.) He took time to teach the eager listeners, and he was careful to provide each fleece with a helpful evaluation. No matter how they tried, the little army of noisy Yankee women couldn't prod him into speeding up. But somehow Claudia McClung, our gentle fleece secretary from Virginia, kept the process so organized that Joe David finished the fleece judging and squeezed the buck show into the bit of time before we had to convene for the ECA annual meeting.

Nobody seems to remember much about the meeting. We were tired, we smelled like bucks, and we hadn't had dinner. Furthermore our feelings were hurt. We had traveled to Richmond and



The Ackley's fair-bound goats nervously await a tire change on their truck near Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

had been told to get out of town. We felt more like conspirators than exhibitors. Fortunately for our mood and our productivity, the wonderful Holiday Inn people arrived with boxed dinners, giving us strength to carry on. Perhaps the report of a starving person is unreliable, but I think my catfish sandwich was the best thing I have ever eaten. We made our way through our appointed organizational tasks, which included a board meeting with three of the board members participating by telephone. (Congratulations to our new president Ann Wood and a huge round of applause for outgoing president Gloria Rubino!!) We had earned our rest. And we needed it. The morning would bring breakfast of coffee and pastries on the run while compressing the doe and wether show into the morning hours before the arrival of the mules.

On October 3rd our grumbling about law enforcement in the commonwealth of Virginia faded away. We were busy being awed by the performance we were witnessing. We saw Joe David's lifelong enthusiasm for goats translated into control of a situation that would have been hopeless for most of us. There were more than a dozen goats in most of the doe classes, and we were strictly forbidden to line them up in the aisle between the stalls. Joe David had to move from pen to pen, remembering what he liked and disliked about each goat. Freshly disinfected before entering each pen, he and show secretary Katherine Harrison led an enthralled mob of humans from goat to goat. Someone carried a velvet board on which Joe David placed plucks of fiber from each goat: neck, midside, and low britch. I worked as his scribe, jotting down his comments to help him

Continued on next page

Lessons Learned—State Fair of Virginia Continued from previous page



Co-ed housing at the Fair did not disappoint all participants.

remember which goat was which, but he didn't need me. He remembered the goats as though they were his own. Everyone else followed, listening carefully to catch every word.

He took time to appreciate the goats as complete animals. He pointed out particularly beautiful faces and gracefully curving necks along with economic traits. He didn't let us forget that goats are beautiful animals. However the emphasis was on function: mothering ability, easy movement, teeth designed for eating.

Ah, the teeth. Standards for all manner of goats say something about teeth conforming to the dental pad, but that definition allows room for interpretation. Is "conforming to" the same as touching? Should the teeth wrap around or bump into the pad? Joe David taught us to look behind the front teeth to see if the upper and lower jaw structure is properly aligned. With a practice goat handy, try this method of examining a goat's mouth. Be sure the mouth is closed and aligned in its natural position. Roll up the lip to see the space immediately behind the front teeth. If the upper and lower jaws stack up straight, like a single unit, the goat passes the test. One of the show goats had a pronounced snaggle tooth. By checking the jaw structure, Joe David determined that the crookedness was the result of an accident, not bad design. He also seemed unconcerned by

teeth that flared slightly from the dental pad as long as they conformed at the base.

Ever mindful of the fact that farm income must come from meat sales as well as from fiber, Joe David praised the goats with meat carrying capability. One test was checking to see if there was a full hand's width over the loin, the area along the spine between the hip bone and the last rib. He placed his hand over the loin of a smallish doe and commented that she had as much loin length as typically is found on a Boer goat. Similarly he praised broad briskets, assuring us that there should be space to put a soda can end to end between the front legs of a goat.

We learned some great new terms. I liked his reference to an "up-standing doe." Without being offered a definition, we immediately knew that he was referring to a tall but feminine-looking doe we had seen a few pens before. I fought off the temptation to tack some sort of moral judgment onto the term as well. We learned surprising tidbits of information. As a veterinarian and mohair producer who has looked closely at thousands of white goats, he offered a helpful diagnostic tip. The skin at the base of the horns of very young white goats should be a robust pink. If it is pale, suspect a dangerous parasite load. This does not work for dark colored goats. We learned the benefit of a solid colored necktie. When Joe David needed validation or a reminder about the fleece of a particular goat, he took a fiber pluck and viewed it on his necktie, a wonderfully portable substitute for the velvet board.

Several people went away convinced that the most interesting thing they had learned related to the goat fuzz in the fleece competition bags. One grower said that she had always felt morally obligated to comb goats as thoroughly as possible and to put everything in the bags to provide full disclosure about the contributing animals. Joe David, mindful that fleece competitions are just detours on the way to converting fleeces into products, discouraged contaminating good midside combings with coarse neck down or short britch down. His suggestion was to comb only the best parts, leaving the coarse or short fiber on the goats. After all, we reasoned later, deciding not to include part of the fleece really isn't cheating; the outstanding goat with uniformly fine fiber from ears to tail would have a quantity advantage because the neck and britch fluff would be included, making for a fuller bag of down.

The fleece competition also left me wondering if Joe David is a little psychic; he can peer into fleece bags and describe the goats the fleeces come from. I found on the fleece competition evaluation sheets of two of my finest-fibered does the following Joe David comment: "How is her mothering ability?" I was puzzled until the goat show when he mentioned that the finest fleeces often come from smaller does, while the biggest and most robust does often produce coarser fiber. Because he places great importance on the ability of does to raise kids in the harshest situations, he clearly is fascinated by the challenge

Continued on next page

Lessons Learned—State Fair of Virginia
Continued from previous page

of growing fine down on robust does. Of course the two fleeces were from two of my smallest does. They both produce twins each year and provide plenty of milk. However their kids are never the biggest in the bunch. Again Joe David has left me with things to puzzle over. Luckily a long snowy winter is coming in which I can mull the complications of steering a long term breeding strategy through some complicated and conflicting goals. Meanwhile those two small does are with a buck and will continue to contribute to our gene pool.

Heart girth kept reappearing as one of Joe David's central themes—especially for buck goats. Bucks not only need lung capacity to keep traveling for days at a time on open range, they also need lung capacity to keep traveling and finding food while expending energy on buck battles. Joe David's perfect buck will always have big heart girth and a mighty neck. That isn't just an aesthetic consideration. It's survival.

Perhaps the best Joe David moment came at the conclusion of our doe show. He sought out our junior exhibitors and gave them praise as well as cash awards that emerged from his own pockets. He made sure that the small humans of ECA understood why they were getting prizes: because they had done good work showing their goats. Serious little faces assured him they will keep working with goats. And the rest of us knew that the future of American fiber goats is in good little hands.

I suspect that we even gave Joe David a learning experience—or at least a surprise. Having attended more than a few livestock shows in Texas where the competitors tend to be men who take winning very seriously, Joe David clearly did not expect to see the ECA mob squealing and hugging—when the winners were other people's goats. We had assured him that we valued his honest assessments of the animals more than we coveted ribbons, and our reactions proved that we meant it.

The final bit of wisdom that we all gained in Richmond is more political than agricultural. Before we leave home with goats ever again, we all are going to check the health requirements in each state where we will travel. The promises and assurances of fair officials are worthless if they don't mesh with state law. We came very close to being sent home before we had a chance to enjoy some great hours together. That would have been a shame.

A Goat Song

'Cause We've Got Lots of Goats Now
By Karen Bean
Brookfield Farm, Maple Falls, Washington
(With apologies to John Haitt)

Sing to the tune of "Graduated"

I used to stumble up to your door,
3,000 kisses on the living room floor,
But we don't do that kind of thing anymore
'Cause we've got lots of goats now.

We used to talk until the morning light
'Bout all the things we did and did not like.
Now it's all fences, fields, and breeding times
'Cause we've got lots of goats now.

Yea, we've got lots of goats now....



Per Karen, this song "hit" her in the middle of a Seattle traffic jam as she was headed southbound, to a fair, with a bunch of goats. It's good to know that traffic is good for something!

2001 ECA Fleece Competition Results

October 2, 2001
 State Fair of Virginia
 Judge: Joe David Ross, Sonora, Texas

Combed Fleeces

Doe Kid

- 1 GGF Eve, Patricia Bacon
- 2 BBS Monica, Jeanne Austin
- 3 THV Domino, Gloria Rubino
- 4 STC Coppertone, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth

Doe 2nd-3rd Fleece

- 1 SF Codetta, Michael O'Conner
- 2 GGF Tess, Patricia Bacon
- 3 STC Mampoti, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
- 4 SF Puccini, Roy Repaske

Doe 4th-7th Fleece

- 1 BBS Ruth, Jeanne Austin
- 2 BLF Sassy, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
- 3 BPC Giselle, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 4 SF Clara, Roy Repaske

Doe Senior

- 1 LCB Sweetie, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 2 CCB Blanche, Jeanne Austin
- 3 CMFF Delphi, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 4 BBS Heavenly, Jeanne Austin

Buck Kid

- 1 CCS 2019, Kris McGuire
- 2 STC Steven, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
- 3 BBS Delmore, Jeanne Austin
- 4 BLF Palomides, Yvonne Taylor

Buck 2nd-3rd Fleece

- 1 FXMF Chieftan, Carol and Carrie Spencer
- 2 STC Pitso, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
- 3 STC Worsley, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
- 4 CCS P9505, Kris McGuire

Buck 4th-7th Fleece

- 1 BLF Hedrick, Yvonne Taylor
- 2 CMFF Merlin, Bob and Ann Wood
- 3 RV Chance Wayne, Jeanne Austin
- 4 JRW Silver Bart, Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth

Buck Senior

- 1st LLC Beethoven, Chuck and Lisa Vailes

Wether Kid

- 1 GGF Edsel, Patricia Bacon
- 2 RHF Black Jack, Judie Hansen

The Grand Champions

CHAMPION DOE COMBED
 BBS Ruth, Jeanne Austin

CHAMPION BUCK COMBED
 BLF Hedrick, Yvonne Taylor

RESERVE CHAMPION BUCK COMBED
 FXMF Chieftan, Carol and Carrie Spencer

CHAMPION SHORN DOE
 AKF Cozad Princess, Marilyn and Wes Ackley

CHAMPION SHORN BUCK
 BPC Hermes, Marilyn and Wes Ackley

- 3 TRC Reuben, Bob and Ann Wood
- 4 RHF Turk, Brian and Lynda Bell

Wether 4th-7th Fleece

- 1 BBS Charlie, Jeanne Austin
- 2 BBS Jaques, Jeanne Austin



Shorn Fleeces

Doe Kid

- 1 BPC Jitterbug, Marilyn and Wes Ackley

Doe 2nd-3rd Fleece

- 1 BPC Haiku, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 2 BPC Holly, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 3 BPC Helena, Marilyn and Wes Ackley

Doe 4th-7th Fleece

- 1 AKF Cozad Princess, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 2 RDT Deerie, Linda Fox and Paul Johnson
- 3 BPC Granite, Pam Haendle
- 4 LFC Rachael, Pam Haendle

Buck Kid

- 1 BPC Jupiter, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 2 BPC Jeep, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 3 BPC Jubilee, Marilyn and Wes Ackley

Buck 2nd-3rd Fleece

- 1 BPC Hermes, Marilyn and Wes Ackley
- 2 BPC Ironman, Marilyn and Wes Ackley

2001 ECA Cashmere Goat Show Results

October 3, 2001, State Fair of Virginia
Judge: Joe David Ross, Sonora, Texas

Class 1—Does Born in 2001

- 1 LC Raven, Carole Holder
- 2 STC Kiara, Wendy Pieh
- 3 STC Fiona, Wendy Pieh
- 4 BRK Maria Conejita, Rebecca and Katherine Harrison
- 5 LC Xerox Copy, Carole Holder

Class 2—Does Born in 2000

- 1 THV Tink, Gloria Rubino
- 2 LC Misty, Carole Holder
- 3 BPC Jill, Wes & Marilyn Ackley
- 4 SBF Nalla, Chuck & Lisa Vailes
- 5 BPC Jitterbug, Wes & Marilyn Ackley

Class 3—Does Born in 1999

- 1 LC Lady, Carole Holder
- 2 MHF McGregor, Ross & Claudia McClung
- 3 SF Emmy, Chuck & Lisa Vailes
- 4 LC Harmony, Carole Holder
- 5 STC Viola, Wendy Pieh

Class 4—Does Born in 1998

- 1 THV Mocha, Gloria Rubino
- 2 LC Moonbeam, Carole Holder
- 3 BPC Haiku, Wes & Marilyn Ackley
- 4 BPC Holly, Wes & Marilyn Ackley
- 5 RHF Distlefink, Brian & Lynda Bell

Class 5—Does Born Before 1998

- 1 BPC Feather (1996), Wes & Marilyn Ackley
- 2 CRR Matilda (1996), Gloria Rubino
- 3 TCF Phoebe (1997), Ross & Claudia McClung
- 4 LC Contessa (1994), Carole Holder
- 5 BBS Elvira (1993), Jeanne Austin

Class 6—Dam and Daughter

- 1 LC Contessa & LC Lady, Carole Holder
- 2 TCF Phoebe & MHF Maidens, Ross & Claudia McClung
- 3 BBS Elvira & BBS Monica, Jeanne Austin
- 4 THV Mocha & THV Tink, Gloria Rubino
- 5 BPC Feather & BPC Haiku, Wes & Marilyn Ackley

Class 7—Get of Sire

- 1 BBS Chance, Gloria Rubino
- 2 LC Dark Cloud, Carole Holder

Wethers

- 1 LC Boots, Carole Holder
- 2 BRK Robert Jordan, Rebecca and Katherine Harrison
- 3 BBS David, Jeanne Austin
- 4 LC Onyx, Carole Holder
- 5 MHF Corky, Ross & Claudia McClung

Bucks Born in 2001

- 1 STC Kibbee, Wendy Pieh
- 2 STC Anvil, Wendy Pieh
- 3 SBF B4, Chuck & Lisa Vailes
- 4 RHF Kobuk, Brian & Lynda Bell
- 5 SBF B3, Chuck & Lisa Vailes

Bucks Born in 2000

- 1 BPC Jupiter, Wes & Marilyn Ackley
- 2 SBF A1, Chuck & Lisa Vailes
- 3 STC Impi Warrior, Wendy Pieh

Bucks Born in 1999

- 1 STC Worsley, Wendy Pieh
- 2 BPC Ironman, Wes & Marilyn Ackley
- 3 BLF Troy, Yvonne Taylor

Bucks Born Before 1999

- 1 ASB Cortez (1998), Brian & Lynda Bell
- 2 JRW Silver Bart (1994), Wendy Pieh
- 3 ASB Cruz (1998), Yvonne Taylor
- 4 STC Pitso (1998) Wendy Pieh
- 5 LLC Beethoven (1991), Chuck & Lisa Vailes

The Champions

Grand Champion Buck
ASB Cortez, DOB: 1998
Owner/Exhibitor: Brian & Lynda Bell

Reserve Champion Buck
STC Worsley, DOB: 1999
Owner/Exhibitor: Wendy Pieh

Grand Champion Doe
BPC Feather, DOB: 1996
Owner/Exhibitor: Wes & Marilyn Ackley

Reserve Champion Doe
THV Mocha, DOB: 1998
Owner/Exhibitor: Gloria Rubino

Greybeard Award
JRW Silver Bart, DOB: 1994
Owner/Exhibitor: Wendy Pieh

Please note: The ECA dutifully mailed the fleece competition and goat show results to us last month, but they got buried on our desks and we forgot about them. Sorry.

State Fair of Texas

2001 Cashmere Goat Show Results

Milk Tooth Buck

- 1 Big Chief Horn #134, Betty Nagel
- 2 Dean, Mike Clepper
- 3 P.C. 148B2, Patricia Reed
- 4 #20, Patricia Reed
- 5 148D, Patricia Reed

Two Tooth Buck

- 1 Ben #0043, Betty Nagel
- 2 Sunny #0011, Betty Nagel

Four Tooth Buck

- 1 Woodstock, Norman & Carol Self
- 2 #013, Patricia Reed
- 3 #33B1, Patricia Reed
- 4 Pegasus #24, Mike Clepper

Six Tooth and Older Buck

- 1 Sonny #13, Mike Clepper
- 2 Adolf, Betty Nagel

Grand Champion Buck

- Sonny #13, Mike Clepper

Reserve Grand Champion Buck

- Ben #0043, Betty Nagel

Milk Tooth Doe

- 1 Carmila #108, Betty Nagel
- 2 #521, CR Ranch/Coni Ross
- 3 #138, Mike Clepper
- 4 Skittles, Norman & Carol Self
- 5 #153, Mike Clepper
- 6 Snow #117, Betty Nagel
- 7 #973, CR Ranch/Coni Ross
- 8 Buttons, Norman & Carol Self
- 9 #113C2, Patricia Reed

Two Tooth Doe

- 1 Marcie, Norman & Carol Self
- 2 #544, CR Ranch/Coni Ross
- 3 Violet, Mike Clepper
- 4 Nora #821, Betty Nagel
- 5 #033, Patricia Reed
- 6 "Two Tooth Doe", CR Ranch/Coni Ross

Six Tooth and Older Doe

- 1 #0367, CR Ranch/Coni Ross
- 2 #823, Patricia Reed
- 3 Coco #9949, Betty Nagel
- 4 Dot, Mike Clepper
- 5 #1, CR Ranch/Coni Ross
- 6 Sally #9912, Betty Nagel



Proud owners Betty and Bill Nagel. Their buck Ben, took the Reserve Grand Champion Buck award.



First Place—Young Herd, Owner/Exhibitor: Bill and Betty Nagel. The Goats: Big Chief, Snow and Carmilla. The People (left to right): Bill Nagel, Betty Nagel and Mike Clepper.

Texas Goat Show Results
Continued from previous page

Wethers

- 1 Peanuts, Norman & Carol Self
- 2 Pertty Boy, Betty Nagel
- 3 #023D, Patricia Reed
- 4 Zipper, Ray & Alanna Sommer
- 5 Orion, Ray & Alanna Sommer

Grand Champion Doe

#0367, CR Ranch/Coni Ross

Reserve Grand Champion Doe

Marcie, Norman & Carol Self

Young Herd

- 1 Big Chief Horn, Snow & Carmilla, Betty Nagel
- 2 Mike Clepper
- 3 CR Ranch/Coni Ross

Breeders Herd

- 1 CR Ranch/Coni Ross
- 2 Mike Clepper
- 3 Norman & Carol Self
- 4 Taros, Nora, Snow & Carmilla, Betty Nagel

The Story From Last Issue:

Recombinant Antigens Useful for the Serodiagnosis of Neosporosis

The invention involves the diagnosis of Neospora parasite infection. This infection results in neosporosis, a disease causing paralysis and death in dogs and abortion, morbidity and mortality in cattle, sheep, goats and horses. The antibody test results in increased sensitivity and specificity and fewer false positives in diagnosis of the disease.

Inventors: Nicola C. Lally & Jitender P. Dubey USDA, ARS, BA, Beltsville, MD 20705, <http://ott.ars.usda.gov/patents/patents.htm?serialnum=08624677>

I have no idea what this means, I just liked the title—PJ.

Due to severe (and unwarranted I might add) editorial pressure, I have been “encouraged” to research this story further and explain it to the non-scientific crowd, aka “ordinary people.” More information appears at right.

Neosporosis—The Rest of the Story

By Paul G. Johnson

Neosporosis is a parasitic disease of many species of domestic animals. It is caused by the protozoa, Neospora caninum. Protozoa are small (microscopic) animals that live primarily in water—often stagnant water. They are composed of a single cell, reproduce by fission, and are often parasitic.

Neospora caninum is a newly-recognized parasite that can cause abortion in several species, including goats. It was first described in dogs in Norway in 1984, and was later found in a wide range of other mammals including cattle, goats, horses and sheep. The entire life cycle of N. caninum is not known, but the dog has been recently established as the definitive host. The only known natural route of transmission is transplacental.

Neosporosis is a similar disease to toxoplasmosis, caused by a similar protozoa Toxoplasma gondii, which can also cause abortion, mummification, stillbirth and birth of weak young in goats and sheep. Cats are the definitive host for Toxoplasma gondii.

N. caninum is now recognized as the most common cause of repeated abortions and stillbirths in cattle, and infected herds have been reported in most parts of the world.

Infected, live-born offspring may have neurologic symptoms including progressive paralysis. When experimentally transferred to pregnant non-human primates, N. caninum has caused fetal infection. There have been no reported case of N. caninum infection in humans. However, because of the organism’s similarity to T. gondii, the possibility of human N. caninum infection cannot be excluded.

Now to the new test. An antigen is any substance that produces an immune response; usually the immune response is the production of antibodies. A recombinant antigen is an antigen which has been manipulated and changed in the laboratory. Apparently the use of these recombinant antigens is useful in testing blood serum for Neospora infection. The snippet at left indicates that the new test is more sensitive and accurate in the diagnosis of a Neospora parasite infection.

Serum: The clear fluid portion of vertebrate blood remaining after clotting, devoid of cells, platelets and fibrinogen, and containing various hormones and factors released from ruptured platelets. Such fluid may contain or be enriched for specific antibodies.

Tibetans Comb Gold from Goats' Hair

World Tibet Network News. Published by The Canada Tibet Committee, November 21, 2000. Reprinted with permission.

Toinzhub Gyaincain, in his 60s, used to live a poor life even though he had several hundred domestic animals. But, everything changed when he bought more than 200 white-coated goats several years ago.

He sells goat cashmere and will earn 30,000 yuan (3,614 U.S. dollars) this year. "This is a major cash income for my family," Toinzhub Gyaincain said. He is only one of the Tibetans in Ali Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, who became wealthy by raising white-haired goats.

Ali, one of the major pasturing areas in Tibet, has more than 26 million hectares of grassland. The goat cashmere produced in the region, named "soft gold", sells well on the international market.

With the help of the central government and other provinces of China, Ali has invested more than 70 million yuan in building a group of animal husbandry infrastructure facilities, including goat breeding stations, sheep pens and wells in recent years.

The Rutog County, where Toinzhub Gyaincain lives, has a long history of raising white-coated goats. The county produces the best quality cashmere in the world in terms of purity and fineness, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

A kind of cross-bred goat developed by Ge'gyai County produces some 600 grams of cashmere per head. Toinzhub Gyaincain's family now has more than 500 goats. Selling cashmere has enabled them to build new houses, buy hand tractors and household electric appliances. He plans to raise more goats next year.

Like Toinzhub Gyaincain, more and more Tibetans are raising goats instead of sheep.

A herdsman from Ge'gyai County said that he now has over 500 livestock, 70 percent are goats. He said, "I'm grateful that the government and scientific workers have helped me find a way to become wealthy."

At present, the number of goats in the prefecture has increased to 1.1 million from the former about 900,000 five years ago. The annual output of cashmere totals 244,000 kilograms, up from the 150,000 kilograms in the early 1990s. Ali's sales from cashmere hit over 30 million yuan in 1999, accounting for more than 70 percent of the per capita income for local herdsman.



Above: Tibetan cashmere goat. Below: Young Tibetan boy with cashmere kid. Photographs printed with permission. Nadine Robinson© 2000. These photographs are of Tibetan goats photographed by Robinson, but they are probably not the Tibetan goats referenced in the story at left.



Anti-Static Cashmere???

Per a recent issue of the China Textile News, a couple of companies/governmental agencies from Inner Mongolia have, cooperatively, developed new cashmere products that are permanently anti-static. They report they did this by incorporating a "conductive composite fiber" into the cashmere products. The resulting garment is free from "fuzzing" and absorbing dust.

We almost believed them for a minute here, except we were wondering how you would label such a garment. If some other fiber were included, it seems it would no longer be 100% cashmere.

However, the next claim made us wonder about all of it. The source claims that this new blended product can also "reduce the harm of radiation to the human body."

I think we can live with the static.

Source: Global texnet.com
<http://en/globaltexnet.com/newscenter/data/2001-08-15/001-668.shtml>

The Goats Started It!

Nannies

According to French essayist Michel de Montaigne (1775), goat nannies used to be taught to nurse human babies; a life-saving solution for infants whose mothers died giving birth. Later, human child care providers of the live-in variety were referred to as nannies.

Kids

Today, children are often referred to, in English, as kids, but not long ago that word was used exclusively for the offspring of the goat. To kid around, then, is to behave like a baby goat, gamboling and interacting in the playful manner of an experimenting and high-spirited animal.

Bellwether

This is a castrated male goat or sheep, with a bell on its neck, that leads the flock. This word later came to mean someone or something that leads or signified a trend.

EDEN

The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is a collaborative multi-state effort by Extension Services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. This site is designed to serve Extension agents and educators by providing them access to resources on disaster preparedness, recovery, and mitigation that will enhance their short- and long-term programming efforts.

Mission

The mission of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is to provide encouragement and support to local Extension workers across the United States as they:

- ___ build working relationships with their local and state emergency management networks,
- ___ provide educational programs on disaster preparation and mitigation,
- ___ assume locally appropriate roles during disasters, and
- ___ collaborate in recovery efforts. EDEN carries out this mission by providing and publicizing a web-based, disaster information database and maintaining a national network of experts and state EDEN contacts.

Vision

- ___ Local Extension workers have a personal relationship with their county emergency management directors and are knowledgeable about their county disaster plans.
- ___ Local Extension educational programs routinely include disaster preparation and mitigation information.
- ___ Local Extension workers quickly assume roles during disasters that complement the roles of those responsible for immediate response.
- ___ Local Extension educational programs are targeted on recovery in communities that have experienced a disaster.
- ___ Local Extension workers depend on EDEN to provide the information and expertise essential to their educational programs addressing disaster preparation, mitigation, and recovery.
- ___ State EDEN contacts provide program leadership, state-wide coordination with disaster response agencies and organizations, and a personal link to EDEN resources for local Extension workers.

Function, Leadership and Committee Structure

EDEN delegates communicate informally through an e-group maintained by Michigan State University. The delegates meet annually, usually in the fall.

For more information, check out their web site:
<http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/committees.htm>

Compliance Inspections for Animal Care

From the USDA, APHIS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) administers the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). This law provides for the humane care and treatment of animals bred for commercial sale, transported in commerce, used in biomedical research, and exhibited to the public.

APHIS' Animal Care (AC) program enforces the AWA primarily through inspections of regulated facilities. To ensure that compliance with the AWA is continually maintained, all facilities that keep animals regulated under the Act must be licensed or registered with APHIS. AC personnel conduct unannounced inspections of every licensed or registered facility in the country. When inspecting a facility, animal care inspectors thoroughly observe and document in inspection reports all areas of care and treatment covered by the AWA. APHIS requires all owners and managers of licensed and registered facilities to comply with the following standards:

Housing

Animals must be housed in a structurally sound facility in good repair. The facility must contain the animals and protect them from other animals or extreme weather and temperatures. Drainage systems must also be in good repair.

Ventilation

Animals must be provided with cool air or increased ventilation if the ambient temperature is above 85°F or heat if the temperature falls below 45°F.

Lighting

Facilities must be lit well enough to allow safe and easy access for feeding, cleaning, and complete inspection.

Interior Surfaces

The interior of a facility must be substantially impervious to moisture and be able to be easily cleaned and sanitized.

Primary Enclosures

Animals must be housed in structurally sound enclosures that are in good repair, and meet APHIS' minimum space requirements. The floors must protect the animals from injury. The cages must be dry and clean and allow animals easy access to food and water.

Sanitation

Animal waste must be removed and disposed of regularly and as necessary. Primary cages or enclosures should be sanitized at least once every 2 weeks. Facilities must not allow trash to accumulate.

Pest Control

Facility managers must have an effective program to control insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests.

Feeding and Watering

Animals must be provided with nutritious, palatable food that is free from contamination, properly stored, and served in a clean receptacle. Potable water must be made available twice daily for 1 hour if it is not available all the time.

Outdoor Shelter

Animals must be protected from sunlight, precipitation, and extreme temperatures.

Compatibility

Female animals in heat must be separated from male animals except for breeding purposes. Animals with vicious dispositions should be housed apart from other animals. Puppies and kittens should be separated from adult animals other than their mothers. Different species of animals should not be housed together unless compatible.

Recordkeeping

Facility managers must maintain accurate and complete records of the sources of all animals that come into their possession. Managers are also required to keep records of the dates of acquisition and disposition and to properly identify the animals on the premises. These records must be made available for inspection whenever necessary.

Adequate Veterinary Care

Programs of disease control and prevention, euthanasia, and veterinary care must be established and maintained under the supervision and assistance of a veterinarian. A caretaker also must observe the animals daily.

Handling

Every licensee is required to handle animals properly at all times whether he or she is petting, working, feeding, crating, performing, or transferring them.

Transportation

Licensees and registrants are required to provide animals with adequate space, ventilation, and shipping containers during transportation. Most animals transported must be weaned and at least 8 weeks old.

Inspection Procedures

When an animal care inspector arrives at a facility, the owner manager must give the inspector full access to all areas where regulated animals are kept. All animals regulated under the Act must be shown to the inspector, who may examine any animals that appear to be in poor health. The inspector also observes how the animals are handled by their caretakers. Dealers, exhibitors, breeders, caretakers, or researchers who interfere with the inspector's duties are in violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

Generally the owner or manager of a facility accompanies the

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Compliance Inspections

Continued from previous page

animal care inspector during inspection. If the inspector observes that the facility is not in full compliance with the AWA requirements, he or she will explain to the owner or manager all deficiencies noted during the inspection. The inspector will then give the owner a deadline for correcting these deficiencies. The owner or manager and the inspector both sign the completed compliance inspection form.

If deficiencies are noted, the animal care inspector will return to reinspect the facility. If a facility has not corrected the deficiencies during the given timeframe, all uncorrected problems are carefully documented for possible legal action. The inspector will return to facilities that have problems as needed to encourage compliance with the AWA. When a facility fails to correct deficiencies or if the health of the animals at the facility is in jeopardy, the inspector will forward the documented case for possible legal action.

The Animal Care Inspector

APHIS' animal care inspectors are veterinarians or animal health technicians dedicated to providing proper care for animals by bringing people dealing with them into compliance with the AWA. Inspectors are trained to evaluate the health of regulated animals and to detect noncompliance in areas such as structures, housekeeping, and recordkeeping. Animal care inspectors receive special training in the proper care of marine mammals, exotic animals, and animals used in research. Inspectors also receive extensive training in how to conduct inspections at airport terminals, zoos, and commercial animal breeding facilities, among others. APHIS currently has more than 70 animal care inspectors in the United States who are strategically placed where regulated facilities are located.



Berserker Buck

By Paul G. Johnson

(This applies to females, too.) "Injuries identified with animals include bites, kicks, or situations in which the worker gets pinned between the animal and a farm building, implement, or other fixed object. The best way to avoid livestock injuries is to understand animal behavior. Only by knowing their animals, and what to expect in certain situations, can farm workers protect themselves and others from injury".¹

Male goats, especially during the breeding season, can act like Klingons, that is, have aggressive tendencies. Although we cull any animal that is too aggressive, one has to make some allowances for time of year or circumstance—such as being separate from the herd, new surroundings, being handled in an unfamiliar way or by strangers. Does with new kids are another source of potential trouble.

We had a huge Suffolk/Dorset cross ram that we had bought from a suburban family where it was apparent he was a family pet. When he got to our place, he was just another sheep. But not for long! When nudges and various sheep noises wouldn't get our attention, he took to backing up three or four steps and ramming us—mostly me, for some odd reason. Linda thought I was playing with him and doing things to encourage him, until the day he rammed her. "We" then decided he was dangerous and he was gone the next day. That ram was a prime example of a critter that had been treated like a prized pet when young, and demanded that same attention when he got bigger. He had no fear of people.

The only buck that deliberately tried to hit me when there was no doe in heat nearby to excite him was White Lightning. It was in an open field a looooooong way from the gate. He stood up on his back legs right in front of me, and I was too close to run. So I stepped into him, becoming too close for him to put his head down to hit me. We then discussed wethering, sausage, and related topics. He hasn't been a problem since, except when he has a doe in heat in his breeding group. He would then charge me. I carried my "Lightening Rod", a slender stick to rap him on the knees, if necessary. Don't ever think hitting a buck (or ram) in the head has any impact!

No, I'm not into animal abuse, and go out of my way to stay out of trouble. I figure it's my responsibility, not the goats' to ensure safety. But sometimes it's necessary to be in harm's way.

The other lesson is that an animal having a little respect for people will result in a healthier relationship with your animals. We all have our pets, but just remember, they will grow up, and jumping into your lap or on your shoulders when they get bigger isn't much fun!

¹<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nasd/docs2/ia00200.html>

Livestock Enterprises for the Part-Time Farm

By Janet G. Perry, Extension graduate assistant and
Scott M. Barao Extension Livestock specialist
Department of Animal Sciences
University of Maryland

This bulletin is designed to provide basic information about raising livestock on the part-time farm. The information should be considered fundamental; specific information directly related to the chosen enterprise(s) should be sought. At the end of this bulletin, and also in Fact Sheet 641 "Resource List for Part-time Farmers" you will find a source list for further information. Your local, county, or regional Cooperative Extension Service office will be happy to assist you with any questions or problems you have with your operation.

Livestock Production

Small-scale livestock production is well suited to the part-time farm. The labor involved in raising certain livestock species may be minimal. For example, raising grazing livestock such as sheep, cattle, and goats allows the use of land that is too hilly, too rugged, or otherwise unsuitable for crop production. Livestock also helps maintain or improve soil fertility by providing manure.

On many part-time farms, livestock is raised as a hobby or for 4-H and Future Farmers of America youth projects. Educational and therapeutic benefits may outweigh the costs of production. Livestock gives some people more satisfaction than crops, but at the same time livestock confines you to the farm, especially during certain seasons, such as birthing. Livestock may also require above-average management skills to return a profit. Animals such as dairy cows may require specialized and expensive buildings and equipment, which makes raising them on a part-time farm unfeasible.

Resource Evaluation

It is important to analyze your resources before choosing any livestock system. The quantity and quality of your available land, buildings, and fencing are important aspects to consider. It is also important to determine how much labor will be available for the enterprise. For example, available labor may be limited to 1 hour in the morning and 2 hours in the evening or to a child's helping out after school and during the summer for a limited time each day. It is also critical to determine the amount of capital that can be devoted to the operation, as well as the expected returns.

Decision Making

A number of decisions must be made regarding livestock, regardless of the species that you decide to raise. For example, when you select livestock, you must decide whether to purchase and raise purebred or commercial stock, which breed or crossbreed (type) to raise, and what quality of animal. Other decisions include health standards and maintenance practices

for the herd, age of the animals, whether to maintain a breeding herd, whether to buy open (nonpregnant) or pregnant animals, and when and where to buy the animals.

When you buy capital items—buildings, tractors, and feeding or weighing equipment—decide what items are necessary for feeding, breeding, and housing the animals and what storage capacity you will need. Ask pertinent questions about each item: Is it feasible? How will I pay for it? Is it necessary for the success of the operation? Will it do the job? What added expenses may be needed to support the item if it is purchased? Will it provide labor or cash savings? How frequently will it be used?

Feed Budgets and Water Supply

Feed budgets take into consideration the quantity and quality of feed needed and specific feeding schedules. Determine how much feed can be produced on the farm standing pasture forage, harvested forage (hay, haylage, or silage), or grain. When you consider harvested forage and grain, it is important to consider the economics of production, harvesting, and storage. If land suitable for crop production is available, it may be less expensive to rent your property to a local farmer for production and to purchase feedstuffs rather than purchase or rent the equipment for your own production. Hiring custom work also may be an alternative.

In the Northeast United States, the average grazing season is April through November. The actual length of grazing depends on the condition of the pastures, the climate, and whether permanent or rotational pastures are used. Extending the grazing season is possible, but it requires additional inputs and management.

A reliable source of water is essential for any livestock enterprise. All animals require a readily available supply of clean water on a daily basis. Too much or too little water can limit many enterprises. Excessive water may be controlled with the use of diversion ditches, drain tiles, or ponds.

Farm Records

Record keeping is a critical component of any farming operation. Production and financial records must be maintained for State and Federal tax purposes. Record keeping also can help pinpoint areas in which improved management may make substantial differences in profit or production. You may want to keep track of animal production records such as feed consumption, growth rate, and veterinary expenses. A calendar of jobs and labor needs is also important. Financial costs and returns should be summarized. You must also decide how you will keep track of these records whether in notebooks or with personal computer programs.

Marketing

Marketing is the most limiting factor in realizing a profit from a livestock enterprise. Marketing involves producing or promot-

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Part-Time Farm

Continued from previous page

ing a product that satisfies a customer's need or desire and is available at a desirable place and price. You must decide what markets are available for any commodity you may consider producing.

Local auctions provide one means for marketing livestock. Is there a local butcher or slaughterhouse that will accept your animal for a direct-to-consumer freezer product? Are there any local establishments that will purchase locally raised products? When considering this marketing alternative, be aware of any State or Federal health and marketing regulations. It is important to determine the market outlets for a product prior to beginning an enterprise. Developing a marketing plan is one of the most crucial early steps in determining if there is the potential for realizing a profit in the animal enterprise.

Goats

Goats are often kept on the part-time farm for 4-H or FFA projects or as pets. They also may be kept to produce meat (chevon), milk, and fiber (cashmere, and mohair). More Americans are including chevon in their diet, especially among certain ethnic populations. Goat's milk can be tolerated by infants and by people who are allergic to cow's milk and can be used in cheesemaking.

The labor, equipment, and facilities required to operate a dairy goat herd may make it an unfeasible operation for the part-time farmer. Markets for goat meat and fiber should be explored before attempting production. There are many different breeds of goats. Do some research to determine which breed or cross is suitable for your area and purpose.

Feeding Goats

Goats are browsers as well as grazers. They are more selective in foraging than sheep and cattle and therefore may require greater or closer nutritional management. Attention to pasture and forage quality and availability will help reduce grain costs. If the animals are receiving plenty of high-quality forage, 1/2 to 1 pound of grain per day should be ample for growing kids, dry does, and bucks. Does in mid- to late-gestation and lactating does may require more grain. The amount needed depends on the amount and quality of the forages consumed and the level of milk production.

Goat Housing and Equipment

Goats do not require any special housing, but they do need protection from rain, snow, wind, and cold. Outside lots should have at least 25 square feet per goat. Bucks should be separated from does.

Goats are natural climbers and will climb on low buildings and machinery if not confined or tethered. They also tend to be destructive and will nibble on everything from electrical outlets and cords to windshield wipers. Mature goats can raise

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themselves on their hind legs to reach heights over 6 feet. Goats will rub, climb, play with, and push against fencing and gates. Care must be taken when designing enclosures and shelters to avoid injury and property damage.

Reproduction in Goats

The breeding season for goats is September to January. Does are in heat for 1 to 2 days, and the length between heats is about 21 days. Gestation averages 149 days or about 5 months. Does usually have two kids but may sometimes have three or four.

Goat Herd Health and Management

Goats should be obtained from a reputable source and must be tuberculosis and brucellosis free. A herd health program for goats includes regular deworming for internal parasites, vaccinations, and observation for lice, ringworm, and pinkeye, with treatment if necessary. Goats' feet should be trimmed twice a year to help prevent foot rot. Goats must be naturally polled or dehorned to prevent injuries.

Marketing Goat Products

The market outlets for goat products are similar to those for sheep. Market alternatives include livestock auctions or a local slaughterhouse or butcher for a direct-to-consumer product. It is important to determine and establish the markets for your product before you begin production.

Other Information

The original publication (Maryland Extension Bulletin No. 349) also has information about other farm animals—including cows, poultry, rabbits, sheep, pigs, and other exotic animals. We have included only the general and goat-specific information here. To obtain the full publication, contact your local Extension Service or print it from the internet at : <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/ces/pubs/html/eb349.html>

Decisionmaking Principles for Part-Time Farmers

(Extension Service Fact Sheet 641)

By Scott M. Barao, Ph.D., Extension Specialist, and Janet P. Hughes, Graduate Assistant
Department of Animal Sciences, University of Maryland

Introduction

A part-time farmer manages or operates a farm but earns a considerable portion of the family income through off-farm work. Part-time farmers are as individualistic as the farms that they operate; the reasons for farming are as varied as the people involved.

It is important to remember that operating a farm is a business. The farm requires money (capital), labor, and management just like any other business. The success of the farm depends on effectively blending these resources with other available resources such as land, buildings, and equipment. Developing a comprehensive farm plan will help the farmer merge the resources into a profitable and sustainable farm business.

Individuals considering part-time farming should consider the advantages and disadvantages of operating a farm and should examine the different enterprise alternatives to determine which will best fit their goals and farm resources. The information in this fact sheet provides the basis for decisionmaking principles for managers and operators of part-time farm businesses in the Northeast United States. Additional information is available at local and State Cooperative Extension Service offices. If you have any questions concerning your part-time farm operation, contact your local Agricultural Extension agent or the State specialist at a land-grant university.

Personal Assessment and Farm Goals

The advantages of farm life are among the reasons individuals operate part-time farm enterprises. A farm can provide open space and learning experiences for children. It can provide a measure of security and a hedge against inflation if the land is owned. The farm can provide tax breaks. If the family is able to furnish the necessary management and labor and if the family chooses the right enterprise, the farm can supplement income. The physical labor required by the farm can have a therapeutic effect on those who also work off of the farm.

This same labor, however, can become overpowering and a drudgery during certain times of the year or periods of production. Other disadvantages of operating a part-time farm enterprise also depend partly on family goals. For example, the seclusion of a farm may mean privacy and open space to some, but isolation to others. Family members may consider the resources required by the farm burdensome, particularly if they choose an enterprise that does not conform to their goals and desires. The loss of crops or animals may be traumatic to a part-time farm family whose members do not have the philosophical attitude of the commercial farmer toward these inevitable losses. Financial loss due to market conditions also may seem catastrophic to families unaccustomed to farm



Fancy and Mina choose the farm life for the wide open spaces (and the green brush). They don't care if their owners are profitable or not. Photograph (taken at Goat Knoll) by Pat Fuhr, Onoway, Canada.

price fluctuations.

The success of the farming venture depends on how well the individual or family members are able to cope with disadvantages or how strongly they feel the advantages of farm life outweigh the disadvantages. Too often those who buy a small acreage in the country do not consider the best way to use the land. Choosing enterprises and fitting resources together should not be the result of trial and error, which can prove to be expensive for the part-time farm owner.

To Own, Operate, or Rent?

When considering a part-time farming venture, first appraise your personal and family situation and then establish some basic goals for the operation. The two most important questions are "Why do I want to have a part-time farm?" and "What do I expect to receive from the farm?" Understand your reasons for having the farm as they will be important in determining the type and extent of the farming enterprises you choose.

- Do you expect the farm to provide family income or will it primarily provide recreation and educational opportunities and a source of tax breaks?
- How much income do you expect?
- Will your income increase over time?
- If the farm operates at a loss, can the family afford the loss?
- How much of a loss can the family sustain and for how long?

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Decisions for Farmers

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If the farm will be primarily for recreational and educational purposes, profit from production may be a secondary issue. Supplying the family with freshly produced items may be more important than the sale of those goods. In this case, would an operation that loses money or breaks even be satisfactory? Again, it is important to determine the amount of family capital that can be expended on the operation.

If you do not already own farm property or if you own farm property but decide not to operate a farm yourself, renting the property is a viable option. Land should command sufficient rent to cover the fixed cost of ownership and provide a reasonable return on the capital invested. There are a number of ways to calculate rent figures, including cash rent (which can either be fixed or flexible) and shared rent.

Whether you are the landowner or the renter, draw up a contract to avoid problems associated with landlord-tenant relations. Samples of rental agreements can be obtained from your local Extension office. The amount of the rent and the responsibilities of both parties for items such as maintenance and repairs should be specified in detail.

Developing goals for the purpose and function of the farm will help you to determine what type of farm system to set up and to formulate a farm plan. But, before beginning any farm enterprise, investigate local and county zoning, building, and housing laws for clauses that might restrict or limit an enterprise or operation. For example, many communities prohibit residents from raising certain livestock or limit the number of livestock in an area.

Resource Assessment

Evaluation of personal and physical resources is important to determine the type and extent of the part-time farm operation. Personal resources include available time, labor, capital, and experience. Physical resources include land, water sources, buildings and equipment, and markets.

Personal Resources

Labor. Know how much time you can devote to the farm operation and when on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Also determine if, when, and how much additional family labor will be available. The type of labor that you can do also is important to consider. Are there any physical limitations on the type and amount of labor that you or family members can contribute?

Capital. Determine the amount of capital that can be dedicated to the farm operation before you develop a farm plan. The amount of capital available can become the most restricting resource in farming. Farming operations require capital spending, long-term or short-term. Some farm operations require a high investment before a salable item is produced. Others require little capital if land and buildings already are available.



In assessing labor required for a farm enterprise, will you be able to get your (smart) goats to help? Altropus, Dominique and Sagajowea seem willing to help here at Elmledge Cashmeres, Windham, Maine. Photo by Jodie Richards.

The source of capital also is important to the farm enterprise. Will the money come from savings, an off-farm job, or a creditor? If the money is borrowed, from where? How will it be paid back if the farm does not generate a profit? If the money comes from an off-farm source, will the family experience a decrease in its standard of living if the farm fails to make a profit? Will this decrease be acceptable to the family?

Experience. Another area for personal evaluation is previous experience with farming or operating a farm or business. A farm is a business, and management is required in varying degrees in all farm enterprises. Management is the most important, yet least utilized, resource for generating farm profits. Have you or any family members lived or worked on a farm? Have you worked with livestock, crops, or farm equipment? Do you have any experience in managing a business?

There are a number of ways to increase your farming experience before starting a farm operation. Attending agricultural Extension workshops is one option. Working on someone else's farm is another way to gain valuable experience without taking on the responsibility of your own farm operation.

Physical Resources

Physical resources are those items that you own or can readily obtain. Detailing the resources of the farm property will help you develop a farm plan and anticipate capital expenditures. Begin by drawing a detailed map of the farm property that indicates the size and location of existing buildings, areas of cropland, pastures, wooded areas, water sources, fences, and access roads. Then itemize these resources.

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Decisions for Farmers

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Land. Both the quantity and quality of the land should be considered. How much land is in pasture, cropland, or woods? What is the contour of the land—is it level, rolling, or steep? What are the soil types, and have they been tested recently? (The local Soil Conservation Service can help determine the soil types.) Has the cropland been in production in the past few years? If so, what was grown? What plant species are growing in the pastures? Are there many weeds?

Water sources. Is there a year-round water supply? In what form—city, wells, streams, or ponds? Is the water safe for consumption? Most agricultural enterprises require water. Livestock require a daily source of fresh water. Crops may require irrigation during dry seasons. Irrigation can supplement insufficient water, but may be too expensive to justify on part-time farms. Any processing operation requires water. Excess water may be controlled by using diversion ditches, drain tiles, and ponds, but costs may be prohibitive.

Buildings and equipment. Capital items can be expensive if you must buy them. The type, location, and condition of existing buildings, and whether they have electricity and running water, are important considerations in enterprise selection. The basic purpose of farm buildings is to provide shelter for livestock, storage for feed and forages, and space to store and maintain equipment. A common mistake is to build more expensive buildings than are necessary. Plans for suitable farm structures are available at Extension offices.

Farm equipment is designed to reduce labor, but the cost should be weighed against the hours of equipment use and the potential income-producing capability. When you consider the purchase of capital items such as buildings and equipment, decide what items are necessary for a successful operation. Ask the following questions about each item:

- Can you afford to own it?
- How will it be paid for?
- Why is it necessary for the success of the operation?
- How will it do the job?
- What added expenses may be needed to support the item?
- How will it provide labor or cash savings?
- How frequently will it be used?

Custom hiring for farming practices that require large, specialized equipment—such as a combine or seed drill—is one of the best ways to keep equipment costs low.

High-quality fencing is an invaluable asset if you will have livestock. Make an inventory of the type, condition, and location of existing fences, then develop a plan for improvements, including labor and material costs. Maryland Cooperative Extension or a local fence dealer has plans for cost-effective

do-it-yourself fencing.

Markets. Developing a market plan is a crucial step in determining if there is a potential for profit in a particular enterprise. You must determine what markets are available for any commodity you may consider producing. Then you must produce and promote a product that satisfies customers' needs or desires at an acceptable price. Following these steps is called marketing, which can be the single limiting factor in realizing a profit from a farming enterprise.

Market availability means a place to sell the product at a profitable return. Some products—such as field corn or beef cattle—can be sold in a number of markets, such as local or regional sales or through contracts. Other products—such as strawberries or capons—are primarily local market items and require easy access to relatively limited or special demand markets.

When selecting an enterprise, consider available markets, the means and costs of transporting the product to the market, the potential returns from the available markets, and any market limitations. Market limitations may include the number of potential customers in the area, local demand for the product, and perishability of the product. It is also important to be aware of any local, State, or Federal regulations that might limit potential market outlets.

Enterprise Selection

Selection of the farm operation enterprise will involve many factors. When choosing an enterprise, consider your available resources, the alternatives that best fit your goals, and your size limitations on the basis of available farm and nonfarm resources. There are two general categories of farm enterprises: crops and livestock.

There is a minimum size for each enterprise before it can be considered economical or even profitable for the part-time farm operation. This is the size that will pay the cash costs of the enterprise, justify the family's capital and labor to support the enterprise, provide enough salable units to give the family access to at least one market, and be potentially profitable.

Variations in minimum size occur within and among enterprises, depending on additional capital requirements, the degree of mechanization desired, legal regulations or requirements, and market competition.

Livestock Enterprises

Small-scale livestock production is well suited to the part-time farm. The labor involved in raising certain species is minimal. Livestock can graze pastureland that is unsuitable for crop production, and they help maintain or build the soil by providing organic matter in the form of manure.

Raising livestock gives some people more satisfaction than

Continued on next page

Decisions for Farmers**Continued from previous page**

raising crops. However, future part-time operators should note the disadvantages to operating a livestock enterprise. Livestock excrete waste products that emit odors that are offensive to some people. The animals and wastes attract flies and other insects despite sanitation efforts. Many classes of livestock require fencing, which may be expensive to erect and maintain. Also, labor may be intensive during certain periods of production, and livestock may require above average management skills to return a profit.

Types of Enterprises. Livestock enterprises that may be well suited to the part-time operation are beef cattle, sheep, rabbits, and poultry for egg or meat production. Combinations of species may also be an alternative. Swine enterprises generally require higher feeding and equipment costs but are feasible on a part-time farm. A dairy cow enterprise is not well suited to a part-time farm operation because dairy cows require intensive management, a rigid schedule, and a high per-unit capital investment. In addition, milk and milk products are highly regulated and production must comply with stringent health regulations.

Tables 1 and 2 contain a summary of the resource requirements, potential costs and returns, and minimum size considered feasible or profitable for the part-time livestock farm operation. These tables have been adapted from the northeast regional publication "Farm Management for Part-time Farmers." More detailed information on individual livestock species can be obtained from a Cooperative Extension agent or a land-grant university. "Livestock Enterprises for the Part-time Farm Business" contains information concerning livestock enterprises and "Resource List for Part-time Farm Businesses" provides a list of other relevant resources.

(Table 1, relating to beef cows and Table 2, relating to pigs, sheep and poultry, are not reproduced here.—Ed.)

Management Decisions. Regardless of the livestock species you choose, you have many decisions to make: when and where to buy the animals; whether to raise purebred or commercial stock; whether or not to have a breeding herd; what health practices and standards will be maintained; what culling standards to set to ensure a profitable herd or flock; and when, where, and how to market the livestock. You also will have to determine housing and fencing requirements and water availability.

Feed budgets, which include the quantity and quality of feed needed and a specific feeding schedule, must be developed. You will have to determine how much feed can be produced on the farm-standing pasture, harvested forage, or grain. When considering harvested forage and grain, also consider the economics of production, harvesting, and storage. If land suitable for crop production is available, it may be less expensive to rent the property to a local farmer for production and to purchase the feed than to purchase or rent the necessary equipment for

production. Hiring custom work also may be an alternative.

Crop Enterprises

Crops provide food for the family, cash from sales, feed for livestock, and nutrients for the soil. To choose the best crop, consider the following four factors: (1) the amount and type of land available, (2) the amount and type of labor available, (3) the profitability of suitable cash crops at the time, and (4) the amount and type of livestock on the farm.

Crops generally do not require daily attention except during certain production periods, such as planting or harvesting. However, many crop enterprises require specialized and expensive equipment for production and harvesting. Also, insect, disease, and weed pests may be costly to control, and the Environmental Protection Agency requires user certification for a number of pesticides and herbicides. The common subcategories of crop enterprises include field crops, tree fruits, small fruits, vegetables, and specialty or miscellaneous crops.

Types of Enterprises

Field crops. The usual field crops grown in the Northeast are corn, soybeans, small grains (wheat, barley, and oats), hay, and pasture. Field crops are easier to mechanize than other crops and can be marketed or fed to livestock. Potential returns from field crops generally are lower per acre than for more intensively grown crops, but because of the lower labor requirement and lower cash outlay, a part-time farmer usually can handle more acres of field crops than vegetable or fruit crops if the land is available. One disadvantage of field crops is that you will have to own, rent, or custom hire the necessary machinery during planting and harvesting.

On small acreages where livestock are kept, it may be best to limit crop production to pasture, which will also reduce equipment requirements. Management of pasture for high yields and low costs must be based on sound concepts of how the plant grows and how it responds to environmental conditions such as regrowth, light availability, vegetative reproduction, and grazing. Returns from hay depend more on local demand than do grain crops, and harvesting decisions can have a major impact on hay quality and value.

Tree fruits. It takes 100 to 200 small trees to plant an acre of fruit trees, depending on the type of tree and the spacing you choose. Salable fruit can be picked in 3 to 5 years from peach, plum, and dwarf apple trees. Standard apples, pears, and cherries take considerably longer. Costs of starting an orchard include buying trees, lime, and fertilizer; irrigation; and disease and pest control. Renovation of abandoned orchards is possible, but the trees may never produce enough fruit to be cost effective. Minimum equipment for tree fruits includes a tractor and spraying equipment. Weather risks associated with tree fruit production in the Northeast include late frosts, hail,

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Decisions for Farmers

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wind, rain, and drought. Marketing outlets for tree fruits include commercial wholesalers, processing companies, or direct-to-consumer markets. Excellent marketing skills are required to take advantage of these markets.

Small fruits include strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and grapes. As with tree fruits, small fruits require from 1 to 3 years before a salable product is produced. Potential returns from small fruits can be higher per acre than most other crops, and the capital investment may be quite low. Small fruits, however, require relatively high amounts of labor and are difficult to mechanize. Local demand for small fruits is generally high; with adequate promotion they are readily salable.

Vegetables. Two distinct markets are available for the sale of vegetable products. Fresh produce markets usually provide higher returns per unit, are more receptive to a high quality product, and are most available to the smaller enterprise. Processors provide a steadier market, less subject to price changes brought on by over- or underproduction, and can handle a larger quantity of a standard grade product. Vegetables have potential returns similar to those of small fruits, but also have similar labor requirements. Most vegetables produced for fresh market consumption have somewhat rigid market limitations during the peak harvest season, which limits the acreage that can be sold at a profit. Producers who market produce to a processor will probably have to specialize to produce enough product to win a contract and to justify the required capital cost for equipment.

Specialty crops include flowers, shrubs, Christmas trees, and maple syrup. Many specialty crops are well suited to the part-time operation. Although most require considerable labor, and market demands may place severe restrictions on the amount that can be sold.

Management decisions. The main decisions that a crop producer must make concern the selection of crops, crop rotation and cultural practices, and capital purchases. The manager must

select the type of crops and the variety or varieties to produce. These decisions should be based on information about the farm soils, local weather patterns, and available markets. Crop rotations must sustain a reasonable preservation of the soil, minimize dependence on chemicals, and provide the most economical use of the land. Planting, harvesting, and marketing timetables, as well as fertilization and pest control programs, are important in the ultimate yield and return from crop enterprises.

Equipment purchase decisions are also important to make on the basis of the economics of production and efficiency. Custom hiring for certain jobs, such as harvesting, may be possible, but this should be investigated before you start an operation. On small acreages and part-time operations, it is generally more economical to limit the number of crops grown to reduce the number of different kinds of equipment you will need. It is best to avoid crops that require large, expensive equipment unless cost-effective custom hiring is locally available.

Tables 3 and 4 contain a summary of the resource requirements, potential costs and returns, and minimum sizes considered feasible or profitable for the part-time cropping operation. These tables have been adopted from the northeast regional publication "Farm Management for Part-time Farmers." More detailed information on individual crop enterprises can be obtained from your local Cooperative Extension office or State land-grant university.

(Table 3, relating to peaches, apples, strawberries, raspberries, grapes, Christmas trees, sweet corn and canteloupes and Table 4, relating to cucumber, beans, potatoes, field corn, what, oats, alfalfa, and other hay and vegetables (although immensely fascinating) are not reproduced here.—Ed.)

Farm Records

Recordkeeping is essential to the success of any business, including a farm operation. Records are required for State and Federal income tax purposes and to obtain insurance. A farm manager needs financial records that include income, expenses, depreciation, and inventories. Nonfinancial records—such as livestock and crop production records; livestock health, breeding, and feeding records; and job calendars—are important to assess production and make business decisions. Adequate records also are invaluable to the farmer applying for credit. The farm recordkeeper should select a system that is easy to use but adequate for the farm business. Suitable farm account books are available through Extension Service offices, and a number of programs are available for use with a personal computer.


Tax Considerations

Farm income taxes are somewhat unusual. Farmers, including part-time farmers, should know enough about farm taxes to keep a usable set of records, know what information is necessary, and understand enough about the tax forms to be sure they are completed correctly.

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1994 SAFF ECA Show, B. Schultz Judge:
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1st place Brece

1998 VA State Fair ECA Show, B. Schultz Judge:
1st place Brece, Rating: Fine; STYLE 4

2000 VA State Fair ECA Show, C. McClure Judge:
1st place Brece

Now in Herd sire at:

SILVER BRANCH FARM

Chuck and Lisa Valle, 1506 Surfers Lane, Staunton, VA 24401
540-881-1261 crvalle@sbf.com

Decisions for Farmers

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All income produced by the sale of farm products or by the use of farm labor, equipment, or capital is considered farm income. Farm products, however, are reported differently than capital items. A detailed listing of farm income categories can be found in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) publication 225, "Farmer's Tax Guide" and on IRS Schedule F. A current "Farmer's Income Tax Guide" usually is available at the county Extension office, and "Your Federal Income Tax Guide" is available from the IRS. These publications are valuable for any farmer.

Insurance Issues

Farmers should carry casualty and liability insurance. Part-time farmers can suffer losses from fire or wind, or there may be an accident involving people or property. Casualty insurance should include a clause for theft, and coverage should include buildings, building content, equipment, and livestock. Liability insurance is necessary to cover damage or injury caused by the farmer's labor, equipment, or animals, and injuries to people on the farm property that may be a result of the farmer's negligence.

Summary

A farm is a business and requires land, capital, and management. The success of the farm will depend on effectively blending these resources with other resources such as labor, buildings, and equipment. The farm manager's primary job is to make and carry out decisions concerning the farm operation. If you are considering a venture in part-time farming, you should consider the advantages and disadvantages and examine the enterprise alternatives that best fit your goals and resources.



**"Will you choose to raise pigs, poultry, tomatoes or moi?"
STC Viola contemplates farming decisions. Photo by Wendy Pieh, Springtide Farm, Bremen, Maine.**

Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

January 12, 2002

Oregon 8th annual Pygora Goat Show and Fiber Frenzy, Washington County Fair Complex, Main Exhibit Hall, South Hillsboro, Oregon, 10 am - 4 PM. Come see goats in full fleece! Vendor booths, demonstrations, goat show. Contact: Lisa Roskopf - phone: 503-985-3331, email: lisa@hmrpygoras.com website: www.hmrpygoras.com/fiberfrenzy.html

March 22 - 24, 2002

Fibers Through Time 2002, Central Arizona College, Coolidge, Arizona. A conference sponsored by the Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds. Contact: Patricia Springer, 21609 N. 145th Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-546-1691, rjsaz@worldnet.att.net

May 4 - 5, 2002

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, Baltimore, Maryland. For information: PO Box 99, Glenwood, MD 21738, 410-531-3647, email: info@sheepandwool.org

June 1 - 2, 2002

Southwest Montana Flock and Fiber Festival, Dillon Montana. Farm management and fiber arts workshops, wool and commercial sheep show, mohair and cashmere goat show, fleece show and sale, vendor booths, demonstrations, children's events, farm photo contest. For more information: www.gjfarm.com/Festival.html or contact: Drin Becker, phone: 406-834-3444.

June 13 - 16, 2002

Estes Park Wool Market events and workshops, Estes Park, Colorado. Workshops, livestock exhibits, vendors, cashmere goat show (June 15th), other animal shows, handspun skeing competition. For a detailed schedule, see their website: <http://www.estesnet.com/>

June 21 - 23, 2002

Black Sheep Gathering, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Oregon.

September 2004

8th International Conference on Goats, Pretoria, South Africa. For information, contact Dr. Norman Casey, University of Pretoria, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Pretoria 0002, Republic of South Africa, fax: 27-12-420-3290 email: nhcasey@postino.up.ac.za

Cashmere America Co-operative

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Wes Ackley (Maine) 207-336-2948
Marti Wall (Washington) 360-424-7935

Cashmere Producers of America (CaPrA)

Kris McGuire, President, 970-493-6015, email: krisvadale@aol.com, Membership info: Marilyn Burbank, PO Box 2067, Rogue River, OR 97537, email: burbank@cdsnet.net

Colorado Cashmere and Angora Goat Association (CCAGA)

Carol Kromer, Club Contact, 719-347-2329

Eastern Cashmere Association (ECA)

Ann Wood, President
937-568-4994, tamarack@voyager.net

North West Cashmere Association (NWCA)

Website: <http://www.nwcacashmere.org>, Paul Johnson, President, 503-623-5194, paul@cashmirror.com
Diana Mullins, Membership Coordinator, 509-997-2204, dmullins@methow.com

Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)

Inga Gonzales, Secretary, PO Box 565, Knightsen, CA 94548, 925-625-7869
email: lgonozo@goldstate.net

Texas Cashmere Association (TCA)

William (Bill) Nagel, President, 4625 Sandy Fork Rd., Harwood, TX 78632, 830-540-4707,
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“Heh! Did you find something with nutritional value in all this dried up stuff?”

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pagosasprings.net

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CASHMERES**

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Page 26, November 2001

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MOO'S MEADOW FARM

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SHEA LORE RANCH

Jeremiah and Nancy Shea
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Continued on next page

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Breeders Directory
Continued

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GIANT STRIDE FARM

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Internet listing of these breeders and a link to their email addresses and homepages, if they have one, can be found on the net at: <http://www.cashmirror.com/breeders.htm>



Above and below: A group of 347 goats belonging to Jay and Sarah Harris, Western Weed Eaters, Lusk, Wyoming, graze their way through a narrow strip of property along a canal in Redmond, Oregon during October this year. Photographs by Linda Fox.



The goats were confined to a small area here and were moved daily along the canal. Fencing used consisted of hog panels wired to temporarily-placed T-posts. The goats paid little attention to the heavy traffic on one side, or the Safeway store parking lot traffic on the other side, or to the photographer calling to them from the bridge encouraging some of them to come closer.

These goats have been in Deschutes County, Oregon, since May, paid by the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District to eat weeds. The goats, per the Harris's are Boer and Boer crosses. After they finish up in Deschutes County, they are headed for the Salem area for the winter on a search for the wild blackberry.

Udder Problems

While our goats' udders do not receive nearly as much attention as in dairy goats, they are very important "fixtures" on fiber does as well. As with all animal care issues, check with your Veterinarian.

Reams have been written on mastitis, however less material is available on injury to the teats or udders. Frostbite, for example, can be a concern as winter draws near. Producer concerns must turn to "winterizing" your first aid kit.

Frostbite usually occurs as a result of the teats being wet during periods of extreme cold. The cure can be a simple ointment, or if teats or udder are actually frozen, you may need to treat with warm water, or even use "teat dips", which come in powdered form. Keep the teat area warm and dry and expect some skin to slough off.

For minor cuts and abrasions to the bag or teats, clean the affected area, using cream/ointments. Bandage if necessary. If the wound is severe, use stitches. Damaged areas should be healed before kidding, if possible. If infection is present, or possible (not able to keep clean and dry), use antibiotics.

If abscesses develop, you may want to call your Vet. It is possible for any stray bacteria hanging around to enter a wound,

developing into infection, staph, or even caseous lymphadenitis (if the nasty little creepy crawly is hiding in your soil). As with most things, common sense should dictate your response.

The loss of a teat is not terminal on a fiber goat, but may lead to an inability to adequately nurse kids. Keep an eye on the doe and kids, if this happens.

Blood in the milk can be caused by a blow to the udder and could mean there is a hemorrhage or ruptured blood capillary. If the "pink" milk doesn't disappear in a short time, call the Vet. Lastly, make sure your tetanus shots are up to date!

Recent news bulletins have referenced deaths in Minnesota from Clostridium following knee surgeries. Just for the record, they are referring to the rare Clostridium sordellii, which is not the same as "our" Clostridium perfringens that we vaccinate our goats for (C&D).



For The Boys, holiday dinners were a time to forget the past and celebrate friendship, love and respect. At least until Black Bart made a comment about Whiting's gut...(next page).

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Notable Quotes

"The advantage of being a pessimist is that an optimist is never pleasantly surprised."

... anonymous

"A prudent man does not make the goat his gardener."

...Hungarian Proverb

"Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?"

...George Carlin

"When gathering goats in large pastures it is a tremendous benefit to know that goats naturally travel into the prevailing wind."

...Dr. Frank Craddock

The Deadlines:

Articles, photographs, advertising and other information submitted must be received by the 25th of the month prior to magazine issue date.

If you need assistance designing or laying out a display ad, or fine-tuning an article, earlier is appreciated.

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