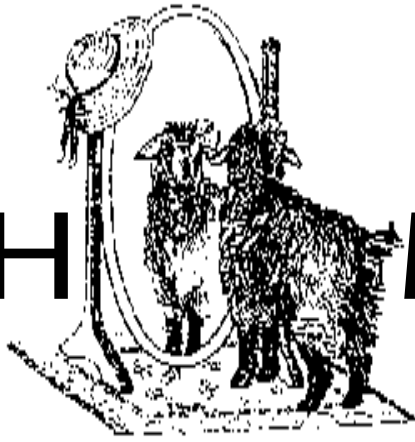


# CASHMIR MIRROR



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July 2002

Volume 13, Issue 9

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The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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# CASHMIRROR

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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: GK Mini-Pearl and kids  
Paul Johnson, Goat Knoll  
"White on white"**

**You Are Cordially Invited to the ECA Fleece Competition And  
Goat Show in Richmond, VA  
October 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002  
James Barton, Judge**

***Competition Groups:***

Fleeces are divided by age as follows: Kid fleeces; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fleeces; 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> fleece; and Senior fleece. The age classes are subdivided by sex and as combed or shorn. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded along with Champion and Grand Champion Combed and Shorn Goats.

Entries are limited to 3 fleeces per class per farm. Only raw fleeces harvested this season are invited.

***Fleece Packaging:***

- ◆ Pack each fleece in a large zip lock bag (DO NOT WRITE ON BAGS).
- ◆ Include *inside the bag* with each fleece an index card containing the following information: your name, address, social security number (for cash rewards), goat's herd code (from farm on which it was born), name, sex, date of birth, and whether fleece was combed or shorn.
- ◆ Please also include in box a self-addressed card (BIG lettering) for return mailing of fleeces- if not picked up at fair.
- ◆ Include a check payable to the *State Fair of Virginia* for \$2 per fleece (entry fee).
- ◆ Entries should be postmarked by September 1 and mailed to:  
Claudia McClung, 1398 Maidens Road, Maidens, VA 23102

Absolutely no fleeces can be submitted at the fair.

- ♣ If you are interested in showing goats at the fair and would like a fair catalog or any information, please contact Lisa Vailes; [lvailes@inbio.com](mailto:lvailes@inbio.com); 540-885-1261.

ECA Thanks you for participating and ensuring the success of this and future shows.  
Good Luck!!



# Refractions

by Paul Johnson

## Buck Feet and Weaning

It's hard to be humble when you are a cashmere goat farmer! Here you are, raising the "Kings of Fiber (Fibre?)". How could life be better? It was about that time, as I was pondering our good fortune with the Kings and Queens of fiber, our fun farm and our bright future, when Linda came into the room and casually mentioned that we needed to trim the bucks' hooves and wean the kids. Yah, sure. Wean all 58 kids the day before she goes off to Chicago on a (non-goat) business trip. Well, we did it, of course. After all, it was HER idea. There's always someone around rudely bringing you back to reality when you have an incredible bright future planned.

The next day dawned. Early and noisily. Kids everywhere screaming for "Maaaaaa", Moms screaming for the kids. Well, most of them. Some of the older does appeared rather content with the arrangement, and studiously ignored the cries. Anyway, as I sipped my morning coffee, gazing (still in somewhat of a stupor) out the window, I noticed some doelings back with the moms. Guardian dogs appeared frantic and confused. They seemed to be seeing predators behind every tree and bush. Buzzards and hawks were circling overhead. Going to be one of those days.

That evening, back in the house with the howling house cat, Linda calls and asks if: A) "Are you mistreating my cat?" and B) "Are you having a restful day just laying around?" Then came "It was really warm here, when I strolled through the Taste of Chicago exhibits and tried a lot of really good food." Yes, and my self-made bean/cat burritos were great, too. Okay, they were bean and peanut butter. Not necessarily together.

And so my next few days were filled with early morning goat censuses and occasional goat chucking, when a baby had to be returned to the weaning pen. We have light sensors on our outside lights, and they seemed to be going off like a pinball game the first few nights. The coyotes must be getting braver and/or hungrier. Thanks to the dogs we only lost our geese. The dogs don't do geese, you know.

Weaning becomes easier as the kids become addicted to grain, specifically COB with molasses. Makes life much simpler. Then there is the chore of making sure the bucklings do not have access to any females; doelings or does. This worked well for the first few days. But then a doe or two came into season and two bucklings found yet another way novel way through the electric wires and field fencing. Make another note on barn calendar. Did not want to explain how this could have happened, so just left message on wife's cell phone. It seems another of my "clever" ideas for a gate didn't work out exactly as planned.

## Other Random Thoughts

## Predators

We recently ran articles about the increase in the cougar population in the West. The day after mailing that issue, I found and photographed a cat print that was 3-1/2 inches wide, in the draw not far from the barn. Also, we have had numerous readers tell us of close calls and animal losses to cougars, as well as by other varmints. However, coyotes still rank number one nationwide for livestock losses, by a wide margin.

## Censorship

Censorship is a dreadful thing. Or so it seems, at times. My editor, who has apparently not heard of the First Amendment, suggests that sometimes "I go over the edge", whatever that means. Anyway, she re-titled my castration survey story "In Practice", instead of other titles I had suggested. Something about a modicum of decorum—whatever that means. What's the matter with "Nut-less in Dallas" anyway?

I also had written about a few other web sites, that seem to have hit the cutting room floor. I only meant to warn you not to go there. And I'm not responsible for the atrocious spam we receive. Speaking of which, there is a great tongue-in-cheek look at Internet spam at a site called "The Onion", or at least there was on the edition dated July 17th. You'll find The Onion at: <http://www.theonion.com/>

## Cats

Contrary to popular opinion, I like cats—most cats. Our barn cats are just fine. They have a job to do, and do it well. Like professionals. Speaking of cats I'm not as fond of, our (Linda's) house cat, who kindly tolerates us living in his house, learned new lessons from a stray tom who was visiting with us for a while—don't ask what happened to him. One lesson was that a resolute cat can prevent other animals from coming up on the porch. After the tomcat "left", our blessed Mickey (grimace, gag, choke), tried to continue the tradition. It was HIS porch! HE is TOUGH! It worked on the Border Collie. Sadly (for some, hehehe), it didn't always work for Mick. He just doesn't have what it takes. The Maremmas just ignore the little dummy and go about their business, even when he hisses and spits in their face. The barn cats refuse to acknowledge his existence; they're tired of beating him up. However, since the Editor says she hopes for my sake it doesn't come down to me or the cat, I guess I will continue to put up with him. I really didn't need to be on the porch anyway.

## Big Bucks

### Big Buck Awards for Cashmere Goat Winners OFFF Cashmere Goat Show



**CashMirror Magazine is sponsoring a \$50 cash award to the best cashmere herd (Well, actually the \$50 will go to the owner/s of the winning goat herd; if it were given to the goats, they would probably just eat it.) selected at the cashmere goat show to be held in conjunction with the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, Canby, Oregon, September 21 - 22, 2002.**

**Northwest Cashmere Association is sponsoring a \$50 cash award to the Grand Champion cashmere doe selected at the cashmere goat show at OFFF.**



## Little Bucks



**These little guys are all ears to find out the results of the Ace Reporter's recent castration survey. The question is frequently, not if, but merely when and how.**

# Castration of Ruminants

**From the UN Food and Agriculture Organization**

Castration is the destruction or removal of the testicles of the male. It is carried out on animals which are not wanted for breeding. Castrated animals are quiet (do not fight). Some countries insist on all imported animals being castrated.

Learning objectives

After studying this unit you will know: 1 Why we castrate animals. 2 When we castrate animals. 3 The way animals are controlled for castration. 4 How to castrate with a knife. 5 How to castrate with a Burdizzo. 6 How to castrate with rubber bands.

Why do we castrate animals?

Traditionally farmers or animal raisers do not castrate animals and both males and females are allowed to mix together. The result is that poor males are allowed to mate with the females and the young stock produced are not very good. Uncastrated males also fight so it is better to castrate the animals which are not the best for breeding.

When do we castrate animals?

The best time to castrate animals is when they are very young (a few days old). If castration is carried out then, the operation is easier and more successful and the wound heals (gets better) very quickly.

Holding and controlling animals for castration

You will need another person to help you. It is best to put young lambs and kids on a table covered with sacks. Calves can be castrated when they are standing but the animal must be restrained very well.

Castration with a knife (blood)

Use a very sharp knife, razor or scalpel. Check that the knife, razor or scalpel is very sharp and clean. Clean the blade with a disinfectant such as alcohol, iodine, Dettol or gentian violet. Use warm water and soap to wipe the scrotum and wash your hands. Cut the bottom end of the scrotum. Squeeze the testicle above the cut end of the scrotum and it will come out. Pull each testicle out as far as possible, twist the testicular cord around several times. Cut the cord in cattle and buffalo by scraping the knife slowly up and down. Pull to sever the cord in lambs and kids. Do not put your fingers inside the open scrotum. Put either tincture of iodine, gentian violet, Dettol or antibiotic powder on the wound.

Castration with Burdizzo (no blood)

The Burdizzo should be used on the young animal. There are Burdizzos for animals of different sizes. You should always remember that the Burdizzo is a valuable instrument and keep

**Continued on next page**

**Castration**

**Continued from previous page**

it clean and oiled. Do not drop it. To castrate with the Burdizzo: Feel the scrotum with your hand and you will feel the two rope-like testicular cords inside. Take the Burdizzo in your right hand and with your left hand push the cord to the side between the jaws of the Burdizzo and squeeze hard. Now take the Burdizzo in the left hand and crush the other cord.

**Castration with rubber rings**

To castrate with rubber rings we use a tool called an elastrator. It can only be used to castrate ruminants which are a few days old. Put a rubber ring around the four teeth of the elastrator and squeeze the handle. The rubber ring will be stretched open. Pass the scrotum of the animal through the ring making sure that it goes over the two testicles. Release the elastrator and the rubber ring will tighten over the cords. After two weeks the scrotum will fall off

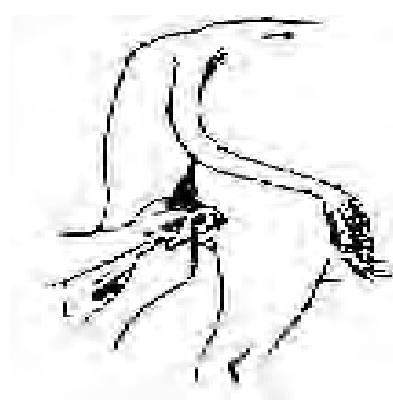
Check all animals which have been recently castrated for signs of infection.



Various castration devices contained in the current Premier Sheep Supply catalog. Elastrator (ring expander) is top left. The others are Burdizzos.



Restraining a lamb for castration.



A cow and a Burdizzo.

## Castration

### From the National Goat Handbook

The best time for castration is about at 2 weeks of age, when the kid is in good flesh and healthy. Tetanus prophylaxis is advised. The open technique is best, even for older animals. The scrotum is sanitized and its bottom opened, or better yet the bottom quarter is cut off with blunt, sterilized scissors. This provides for best post-operative drainage. Local anesthesia may be used for older animals; but in young kids it is a procedure with only little, brief pain and nearly bloodless. However, good restraint is important. Kids are normally placed on a table or held in a sitting position in the lap of an assistant.

After the scrotum has been opened, the two testes become visible. In young animals, they can be pulled out or scraped until the cords break. In older kids, an emasculator needs to be used to avoid excessive bleeding. The crushing jaws are placed toward the kid's body and the cutting edge away from it. A knife should never be used since it causes too much bleeding. Cords should be cut short enough so they don't protrude and become infected. The cutting site needs a post-operative antiseptic application and is left open. Castrated kids should be kept quiet in a clean pen for a few days and flies should be under control. Normally, there are no complications.

Another technique is the bloodless use of the Burdizzo emasculator (pinzer). Each cord ought to be crushed twice by holding the instrument in the closed position for about 15 seconds. Disinfection is only needed when the skin of the scrotum is broken. Swelling can be expected for a few days. The scrotum will remain for the animal's lifetime but the testes should degenerate.

A third technique involves heavy elastrator rubber bands. They are placed with an appropriate applicator above the scrotum and will cut off blood supply to the testes and scrotum. After about 2 weeks, the scrotum with the testes will drop off. The animal feels prolonged pain for a least the first day and may be off feed several days. Tetanus prophylaxis is advised, although this procedure is bloodless. Some disinfection and fly control during the first week is also advised.

[http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/ndd/goat/MANAGEMENT\\_TECHNIQUES.html](http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/ndd/goat/MANAGEMENT_TECHNIQUES.html)

## Castration of Buck Kids

Buck kids to be slaughtered under 2 months of age need not be castrated. If meat goats are to be kept until an older age, castrating can be done at 2 to 4 weeks. The lower part of the scrotal sac is cut with a knife and the testicles squeezed through the openings. The cords are then cut by scraping with a sterilized knife or scapel. Iodine or topical spray is applied. The "bloodless" method of castration using a Burdizzo clamp can be equally effective if care is taken to crush both cords. Use of elastic bands is not to be recommended due to potential development of gangrene.

Information from the National Goat Database Goat Handbook: <http://www.adds.org/CGI-BIN/>

## Five (5) Castration Methods

By Linda Fox

### Summary of Information From Smith and Sherman's Goat Medicine, 1994

Five? Do tell...I thought there were only three—rings, Burdizzo and the ultimate cutting method. Enlighten us please!

These methods do not include methods intended to keep intact some of those bucky behaviors. In these instances, we still want them to act like bucks and smell like bucks and convince unsuspecting does that they are bucks, but we do not want them to be able to do anything permanent (like breeding) about it. Teaser bucks are created with vasectomy or other surgical method, to be used to stimulate onset of estrus in does. We won't talk about the teasers here. The five methods include only the methods for creating the permanently infertile wether who will be happy smelling and acting in a more socially-desirable manner.

Castration is used to prevent unplanned breeding by bucks considered less desirable for breeding purposes and to prevent odors and behaviors common to unaltered bucks to be kept as pets. Wethering will affect the flavor of meat on bucks kept past puberty. However, for some cultures flavorful buck meat is desirable.

A preventative for tetanus is recommended for all castrations, regardless of method. Smith and Sherman recommend that small goats be restrained on their rumps (see stunt lamb on page 6), held by a willing assistant. Larger (tranquilized) goats can be castrated in a standing position.

Per Smith and Sherman, delaying castration past puberty

**Continued on next page**

## Castration

Continued from previous page

permits separation of urethral process and penis from the prepuce which will later simplify manipulation to examine or catheterize a goat with urolithiasis. In case you'd rather not pull a dictionary to translate that last sentence, suffice it to say that later castration will make it easier for your veterinarian to treat a wether with urinary calculi. The later castration will help the urethra's diameter grow to a larger size which may help prevent urolithiasis (kidney stones) in older wethers to be kept as pets. Smith and Sherman point out that perhaps anyone thinking this far ahead should choose a doe as a pet rather than a wether.

The five methods are surgical, rubber rings, Burdizzo, manipulation of testes into the inguinal ring and chemical castration:

### Surgical

Yes, yes—we've already heard far more than we want to about this one! Do move on.

Just a minute...Smith and Sherman do have a thing or two to add. Even though kids younger than one month, are often castrated without anesthesia, for castrations on older well-grown kids and older bucks, an anesthesia is desirable along with a light tranquilizer for the older bucks. Older bucks, subject to the pain and stress of castration, may die very quickly.

You will need to be aware of fly danger when creating open wounds in warmer weather. A fly repellent and a watchful eye will be necessary.

### Rubber Rings

We've got this one down as well. A common, low tech method, good for those of us squeamish about seeing any blood, yet wanting to be assured that the deed is done. It is certainly not painless for the victim, although you probably can't say "painless" is a feature of any castration method. Smith and Sherman recommend that elastration be used on only very young kids (under three weeks of age) using very heavy rubber rings that are first soaked in alcohol or iodine to disinfect them. They warn that there is a danger of failure if the operator is not careful to verify that both testes are contained below the rubber band. Even if both are not contained, fertility will be decreased because of the elevated temperature of a testis forced into an inguinal position. However, sterility is not assured, and a "live" testis will still produce testosterone which will result in retention of the unwanted male behavior and smell.

Ideally, there is no open wound, but blowflies may be attracted to the gangrenous scrotum in warm weather. You will need to use fly spray and keep a close eye for any developing infection or other problems.

### Burdizzo

Smith and Sherman recommend the small Burdizzo emascula-

tome (photograph on page 6) for kids, which will result in the destruction of the cord connecting the testes. The Burdizzo method has a bad reputation for being ineffective. However, this reputation is due to operator error or from using a sprung instrument. Using your Burdizzo to dock lamb tails can cause them to work ineffectively for castration. When using this method, it is very important to check your work a month or so later to make sure that both testes have atrophied to ensure that your victim is sterile.

### Manipulation of Testes into Inguinal Ring

Huh? This method, reportedly used in Venezuela, involves twisting each testis around the spermatic cord and pushing them back into the inguinal canal.<sup>1</sup> This method requires dexterity and must be accomplished when the kid is very young. The method makes the animal sterile without the danger of hemorrhage, infection, tetanus and does not require any special equipment. If you and your goats have an interest you may want to pursue the reference listed below for more information.

Before we completely dismiss this method, remember that not all producers of livestock have the means or source for tools, vaccinations, antibiotics or anesthetics. Producers make do with available resources.

### Chemical Castration

In the United States one company markets a chemical for the castration of calves. The product has also been used on lambs and kids. Using a 20-gauge or smaller needle, a small amount of chemical is injected into the center of each testis, which results in destruction of testicular tissue. The chemical used is an 88% solution of lactic acid, although cadmium chloride (200 µg/kg) has also been used. The manufacturer (Chemcast©, BioCeutic Labs. Inc., St. Joseph, MO) claims that the method is superior to the Burdizzo method, however, care must be taken to correctly administer the appropriate amount of chemical in the correct location to ensure effectiveness. Like the Burdizzo method, you must later check your work to make sure the victim is sterile before he is allowed to associate with females of breeding age.

<sup>1</sup> Gall, C.: Husbandry. In, Goat Production. Edited by C. Gall. New York, Academic Press, 1981, p. 429.



# In Practice

By CashMirror Readers

We recently did an email survey regarding castration/wethering and the method(s) used. The majority, but by no means all, utilize the rubber donut/elastator method to some degree. The age on which it is used varies from a few days up to one year. Most use it during the first few weeks only. One tip, submitted by several folks that we plan on using is to soak the rubber rings in alcohol, bag balm or Neosporin before applying. The following was gleaned from our many responses. Thanks to all who participated!

Paul's Survey Questions:

Howdy, I'm doing an informal survey for an article on wethering bucklings (and/or older bucks). Two questions:

- 1 - What do you use to wether them?
- 2 - Any problems or comments?

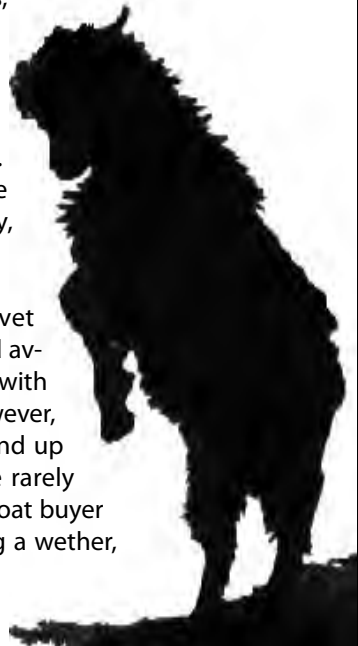
Thanks.

Paul  
CashMirror Publications

Your Answers (in no particular order):

I've come full circle on the issue. The first time, I had a vet use a burdizzo while I held the screaming victim (just one that year). I think maybe the buckling was too old to be castrated that way—in any event he took months to forgive me. So, I decided that surgical castration was kinder and I had a new vet who was very willing to anesthetize them. I had it done that way for the next three years. Foolproof, and of course they didn't know what hit them. They seemed to be OK pretty quickly, too, except for one buckling who was older—maybe four or five months. He freaked out and hid for days, sometimes protected by his mother. The surgical route is expensive and I began to think that an open wound couldn't be real comfy. So—back to the burdizzo. I hate it, but I think it may be the kindest and most practical. My, what a cheery subject.

We usually have a wonderful vet come in and clip ours. Our herd averages around 10-15 kids a year with unpredictable gender odds. However, since most of our male goats end up going for the meat market, we rarely wether anymore. If we have a goat buyer particularly interested in buying a wether,



Continued on next page

Introducing

## “In Practice...”

Although it's always interesting to find out what the written references recommend on a particular goat care subject, it's sometimes more useful to find out what other goat producers do. There is a wealth of knowledge out there and this magazine issue introduces our attempt to “harvest” and share that knowledge.

We took all the subscriber email addresses that we have on file and Paul tossed out a couple of questions—about castration. We must admit to a personal agenda for this first question. We have a small herd of young bucklings born early this year and they are still running around fully equipped. We had intended on banding them at a few days old, but time passed and here it is four months past birth, and we only have one wether in the group. We read the literature on our shelf and then decided to try and find out our options, according to the wisdom of other producers.

We were amazed by the numbers of responses we received and found much valuable information for our own personal use.

We have listed excerpts from your responses in the article at left. Names have been omitted along with any other information we thought might be especially identifying. We hope this meets with your approval.

If you did not receive Paul's email questions (sent on June 28th), we probably do not have a current email address for you on file. If you would like to receive our surveys, send your current email address to us at:

[editor@cashmirror.com](mailto:editor@cashmirror.com)

Our survey questions are sent without other subscriber email addresses showing on the list. We will not use your email address for any other purpose—like selling it to any of those clever advertisers who want to make you thin, bigger in selected places or lure you in with innovative financial schemes.

If you don't have email and want to be included, please contact us and we'll see what we can work out to keep you in the loop as well.

**In Practice—Castration**  
**Continued from previous page**

we will sometimes have it wethered for them. I would like to try the little rubberbands someday, but just haven't yet. (We have used them with success for lamb tails, but I am reluctant to try the other still.)

I use castration bands to wether my bucks. I've had very little problem but when I do, it is when the bands break before its time.

We have been in goats just two years and have several bucklings. I am not sure if I need to wether them or not if we slaughter them at three months. Last year we ate some at three months of age and thought that they tasted bucky.

I use a vet! I don't have too many goats and so it seems a good thing.

I recently had my two young bucklings wethered. They were 4 and 6 months old. I took them to a large animal vet for the procedures because I wanted to have anesthesia and analgesia. The vet wethered them using rompun and isoflurane gas, similar to a cat neuter, leaving the incision to the scrotal sac open. On the 4-month-old goat things went great, he even jumped into the cage in the back of the jeep afterward. My older goat wasn't so lucky—something went wrong causing him to be injured along his urethra. After 3 weeks he had to go back and have another surgery. This was called a P/U and during this, his penis was removed and his urethra redirected to have him urinate out the back like a female. After this surgery—and a lot of blood loss—he is now doing fine. The vet has told me that his life will probably be shorter than if he hadn't had this done. I would prefer to have two healthy smelly bucks rather than worry about future problems or stones with my two wethered goats.

Bands, up until 7 weeks. I've done them later than that, but it's just too uncomfortable for them. Actually, I won't wether anymore. I'm short on space and I can't keep animals around if they don't give a return.

I have the vet come out, she puts them to sleep, or so far down they don't know they're in trouble—she takes care of the whole thing while I sit with their head on my lap and try to convince them the vet is the bad person, not me! And, since it is all done by a vet, the first sign of any problems I call her!! We've had some swelling and lots of discomfort at the beginning but other than that, no problems. Side note: I have ALL my bucks wethered, makes for some very frustrated girls.

A veterinarian who uses anesthesia and a sterile knife. No problems if done at age two weeks or younger

We use the "rubber band" thingy—that is the proper term isn't it?

No problems (other than husband's sensibilities—it's a guy-thing I figure). The goats kind of go "ouch", then walk around awkwardly for a bit, then carry on with life. The only problem is with bucklings that have gotten a little large (how polite of me)...Vaseline does the trick there (the things we learn when young carry on into our latter years, as my mother used to say).

We band our wethers (sheep and goats) at 2 to 4 weeks of age. We have never had a problem, although we have never attempted to wether an animal older than 3 months. I would check with a vet before doing an older guy. And extra care must be taken while banding to: ensure both testes are down and beneath the band and the band is not placed too near the body.

We wether our bucklings at 4 months, at the vets. Here's why.... The urethra stops growing once they are wethered. If you are sending them to slaughter at about 1 year it doesn't much matter. But, if you are keeping them to a ripe old age, gaining years of increased fiber production you are subjecting the poor guy to a life of potential stones. OUCH! You can add vinegar to their diet, which they love. Make sure they never get grain....which they hate, but is a fact of life here. Or you can wait till they are a reasonable size, like 4 months.

We have a vet who grew up on a sheep ranch in Wyoming. He has lots of good basic knowledge besides his book learning. He does them all in a row, we sedate them, give them a booster of CD&T & penicillin G. They stay at his place until they come out of sedation and the bleeding has slowed. After observation for any problems, they go home. They then are locked up in a cool safe place as the coyotes arrive within 5 minutes of their arrival home. Generally within 24 hours, the bleeding is gone and they have a pasture to themselves for about 3 days, then off they go with the herd. It costs me about \$20 an animal and I know it is done right and with little discomfort. I also know I won't have more bills down the road due to stones. Waiting till 4 months also gives me a chance to evaluate them a bit better. Of course that presumes I have "evaluating" skills.

1. We use castrator bands, clean the area where the band is being placed with rubbing alcohol and the band to be used. We have never had to castrate an older male as of yet. 2. We have had no problems so far. But I make very sure that the teats are not banded with the testicles. I also do not wether them until there is ample space between the body and the sac, usually this is around 2-3 weeks of age.

I wether with an elastrator and have had no problems in 30 years. The one time I had a veterinarian cut a wether he set back very badly. It wasn't the vet's job; he did it quickly and well. The kid didn't recover as fast as the banded ones did. I band them at 5 days old and they are usually recovered in 12 hours, 24 at the most. Any older and it takes longer. I ear tag at the same time also. If someone wants a kid dehorned, (an extremely rare thing), then that is done at the same time. I have had no problems this way. It just has to be done early to minimize the

**Continued on next page**

## In Practice—Castration

Continued from previous page

stress. You would think it would be more stressful at that age but they seem to get over the pain faster and forget sooner than older kids.

We use the little green bands (elastrator?). We've banded somewhere around 500 bucks and have only had two "misses." In both cases we either missed one or the little varmint had three to start with. We caught one in time before he did any damage. The second one was cut at 5 months old but we still had 30 something does deliver in January of that year. They turned out to be some of the best babies we have ever had and I still wish we hadn't neutered him. We've never had a case of tetanus or any other problems using this method. I'm too squeamish to use a knife.

Ah, wethers! One of my favorite subjects—although I would deny saying lots of this. I wouldn't dream of wethering bucks. We keep them with all parts functioning. As they age, we evaluate them. If we like them, they get careers as Dudes. If we decide they don't deserve to pass on their genes, the Jamaicans quickly, efficiently, gently, respectfully turn them into picnic fare. Jamaicans ONLY want intact bucks. Their gastronomic preferences mesh perfectly with our evaluation system. Reasons for not keeping wethers: they get big and too dominant in a doe herd, and they cause bucky unrest in a buck herd. One summer we wondered why our bucks were fighting so much more than we had ever seen before. Acting on a hunch, we removed the wether who was with them, and they instantly calmed down. AND—for a goat to justify its existence financially, it must produce some babies and some fleece—or some really good buck genes. Wethers can't do any of that. OK. Now I'll answer the question. When we have wethered bucks, we used the same method my husband learned for bulls (bulls on their way to becoming steers): the burdizzo. It is bloodless and therefore attracts no nasty insect visitors. If done when the bucks are small (up to two or three months old) most have forgotten about the rude event within a day or two. And it is foolproof. The only failures I have heard of came from people who didn't get the concept. The Concept: use the burdizzo to crush the cords that go to the scrotal sac. Use one hand to hold a cord at the side of the sac and apply the clamp there—not in the middle. Bruising the sac doesn't effect the desired outcome; it just hurts the goat. Alas, the recommended procedure is two clamps per cord. I read somewhere that no empathic male should be expected to perform this procedure. I have also heard that it is unsafe to pinch a buck who is well on toward being a yearling. There simply gets to be too much mass of tissue for the body to reabsorb after the clamping.

We band at 3 weeks for the first round. We have the vet come out and cut if they are older than six months. We have had no problems with either method at all. No "mistakes" and no infections.

Continued on next page

## Boys Just Want to Have Fun! Photographs by Marc and Cindy Briggs Dancing Heart Farm, Russell, Pennsylvania



**In Practice—Castration**  
**Continued from previous page**

I rarely castrate my bucks. Most of my market is for breeders, and some for meat. The population here that enjoys goat meat doesn't care if the buck is intact or not. If I have a buck that is not good enough for breeding but I want to keep around for a pet or company for my herd buck, I ask the vet to do it. It costs around \$60, but works so much better on a goat that has some size. Castration causes the urinary tract to essentially stop growing, making a wether more prone to urinary stones, so for a pet, the older the better. This fall I will be selling to 4-H kids, which means I will need to wether the buck (they will eventually be sold for meat). Banding them at a few days (being sure the testicles have descended) will probably be my method. I don't like to band so young due to its effect on the urinary tract growth, but that is what the market requires.

I castrate my wethers with rings at 2-3 weeks. The only problem I have had in this method is getting only a partial castration. Both sides of the testicles were not down or slipped back up. This has happened once to me. Other than listening to them yell for a couple of hours this method has been fine.

Use banding at any age up to one year—if I did somebody after that it would probably be surgical. The reason I prefer banding is that I can do it by myself without the help and cost of a vet and without the potential complications of anesthesia. Most of my bucks are a year old by the time I do it, so they would definitely need anesthesia if it were done surgically. With banding there is generally no open wound, so no tetanus. I don't crush the spermatic cord. The one time we experimented with it, the blood-curdling scream (that lasted only a few seconds, but still...) convinced me that I did not want to do it again. With all three methods the goats mope around for a few days with decreased appetite, so in the long run the method does not seem to make any difference to them. Veterinarians will tell you that you cannot do banding after 8 weeks but Terry Sim showed us how to do it on one-year olds by pulling as much of the scrotal sack as possible through the ring and then making first one, then the other testicle slip through. I have had only one complication. That was when the vet showed me how to band an almost newborn. He did not use any antibiotic cream on the area, and the kid developed a local infection. That has not happened since I started using antibiotic cream regularly. I had a complication with the surgical method when one goat bled into the scrotal sack and got a hematoma, but he got over that. We only did the crushing that one time, and had no complications.

We castrate by banding—no bleeding (thus no flies), less trauma and virtually no chance of infection. We have never had a problem. We try to do them between 10 days and 2 months of age because of size. You can do them at an older age but the bander is quite expensive and they do get harder to control.

We use the local vet who has a vast amount of experience with goats and his fee is \$15.00 per animal. His procedure allows us to be secure in the possibility of preventing infections.

We use bands, the normal rubber type. We have used them on bucks over one year old. It is a little tricky, poke one testicle back up inside the goat, put the other one through the band and then slide the second testicle through the band. We haven't had any problems doing this.

We have two systems of castration, for a terminal crop that we have no genetic interest in, i.e. a meat group. We band between 60 and 90 days and administer a CD&T injection to cover the tetanus possibility. We have had no losses or problems. As for the older bucks that we decide that they would make a better wether than a buck we surgically castrate them. An anesthetic mixture of Ketamine and Rompum is administered IV. They go down like a drunk sailor. A goat is very sensitive to pain and can easily succumb to shock without an anesthetic.

A quick disinfectant wash and then the tip of the scrotum is removed via scalpel and the remainder is rolled down like a sock. The cord is crushed with a hemostat in two places and left attached for a bit while you tie off above it. The goat has large blood vessels and could bleed out quickly if not tied off. Then it's snip snip and the patient is allowed to recover from the anesthetic. Only takes a couple of minutes. A preventive dose of antibiotics is given as a precaution. This procedure should be learned from a veterinarian, there is a lot of things that can go wrong but is a fairly simple surgery. Our goat vet will give a volume discount—\$15 a head at last count. The anesthetic is the biggest cost. The two major possible problems are the possibility of bleeding, i.e. the knots slipping off or something, and of infection. Again we have had no problems. It the best known cure for a buck that learns to jump a fence.

We usually band them and have had no problems. If I save a couple that I think will be outstanding bucks and show them, then they are too big to band and have to go to the vet for a visit. This procedure is expensive. When I was growing up on the farm, we did our own castrating with a sharp pocket knife. As you know fixing these little fellows is a lot of compromises since their urinary tract quits growing and makes them susceptible to stones in later life.

1 - What do you use to wether them? \*\*\* Although we can't trust the local vet for many things, he does a great job of cutting the little guys and the charges have varied over the years from \$3 per to about \$7 per boy. And that includes a CD&T shot. We do take them in and (husband) does hold the guys. The vet did say that if husband lets loose and one of them kicks the vet the price will triple. That has not happened. So... at those prices, we have not bothered to learn to do it ourselves. We have always done it before or after "fly season." 2- Any problems or comments? \*\*\*

**Continued on next page**

## **In Practice—Castration**

**Continued from previous page**

Just the concern that we may have to learn to do it ourselves some say some day if the price quits being so reasonable.

We raise more sheep than goats, and “wether” them the same way... using elastrator bands around the scrotum when they are 2 or 3 days old. Both species demonstrate severe discomfort for the first hour or so... then seem to bounce right back to normal. I’ve also had lots of experience (as the person who holds the little guy) castrating where the tip of the scrotum is cut off and the testicles pulled out... and I decided I much preferred to use the rubber bands. We have had no infections, complications, or concerns after using the bands. We do not castrate older bucks.

We have to wait till fly season is over, so that means the bucks are 9 months or so. We have the vet come out to castrate. She comes out to the house and it is \$20 for the first victim and \$5 for each victim thereafter.

I use a Burdizzo or Bander (Elastrator) on kids. I have found that the Burdizzo isn’t always reliable. The Bander is more positive. I always use it for wethers that will be pets. Meat wethers usually don’t stick around here long enough to worry about. On older bucks up to a year to a year and a half I have banded. I have had situations where the balls are too big to get into the bander. I recently purchased an extra Large Elastrator (bander). Now I should be able to band those bucklings with big balls. They make a bigger Elastrator for bulls, but it is price prohibitive for a goat farmer to buy. I have Jamaicans who want big goats with balls. That solves my problems with any I can’t castrate. I have had it recommended to me not to Burdizzo older goats. The stress will kill them.

In our state we use the “Bite-N-Spit” method. I won’t say who does the bittin’. Actually we use two methods. If the buck is very young we use the green bands with the typical banding tool. We never “cut” any animals. This is due to the stress and chance of infection. In large adult males we use the “Tuck-and-Run” method. This involves using the large elastrator, E-Z-Elastrator, to do the same trick. It uses the larger tubing and has crimps. In both cases the animals are in pain for a limited time. The benefit is that in both cases blood flow is stopped by the band soon dulls any pain. In a few days, the dogs have an great “chewy” when the buck “drops his loot”.

We have used bands and have not had any problems to speak of so far. Honestly, the worst part is the cries and the little goats falling over in agony with open mouths right after putting them on. Fortunately it doesn’t last long, but it does separate those of us who own pets from those who own livestock.

(Response) 1- rubber bands 2 - Occasionally (3 in 100) miss one testicle.

Interesting questions. I’m sure you’ll be amused at our answers: 1. Our veterinarian (at great expense). 2. It’s difficult to

know when is the best to do this—we wethered a couple of bucks at an early age (few months) only to have one succumb later to kidney stones, which anecdotally seem to be worse for animals wethered young (because the “plumbing” hasn’t had time to mature). However, wethering a mature buck is a major ordeal—involving lots of anesthesia, bleeding, and slow recovery. So there’s a real dilemma if you want to keep healthy wethers. In our case, wethering an older buck, who had an “attitude problem” (had jumped 5’ fences and butted the Mrs.) turned out to save us (and him) a lot of grief. He’s now a happy member of the herd.

# Goat

## The Trailer that Doug Built

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Doug Maier, Breezy Meadow Cashmere Farm, Bellingham, Washington, built the perfect goat trailer. He brought it with him to Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene to tempt other goat owners. The outside of the trailer is sturdy and a short height, perfect for goats. The cap to the trailer keeps ambitious goats from jumping out on the freeway.

The inside of the trailer is roomy, more than enough room for these three inhabitants. A front shelved storage area contains room for hay and other items as well as a secure place on the floor for a water bucket—goats on the go appreciate this.

And, best of all, when the trailer is not needed for goat transport, the top lifts off, leaving Doug with a perfect flat bed trailer for hauling around equipment.

Where do you order one? Contact Doug; he'll tell you where.



**Cristos contemplates the issue of wethering. Is it better to be assured of a career in weed control in exchange for a (fairly) brief moment of pain, or to hold out for that uncertain future as a breeding buck? Oops, he took too long to decide. Wethering it is!**



**Look closely. There is a goat peeking out here. This is probably Whitney, but it might be Rachael. This spot is a perfect new goat home for Whitney, Rachael, Claudia and Cristos (left). It is a large blackberry-brambled area next to a church in Salem, Oregon. Denita and Wally Wallace's new goats are making themselves at home and helping eat weeds. The Sunday church crowd is impressed.**

# NWCA 2002 Fleece Competition Results

June 21, 2002  
Eugene, Oregon

*Judge*  
Ann Dooling  
Pioneer Mountain Farm Dil-  
lon, Montana

83 entries

Note:  
No separate combed and shorn categories

## OVERALL WINNERS

Sue Laswell Handspinning Award (Trophy)  
FXMF Heart's Desire, Carol & Carrie Spencer, Foxmoor Farm,  
Silverton, Oregon

Grand Champion Doe  
PMF Diane, Mickey Nielson, Liberty Farm, Yakima, Washing-  
ton

Reserve Champion Doe  
BPC Haiku, Wes & Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cashmere,  
Buckfield, Maine

Grand Champion Buck: none

## DOES

Does Kids (born 2001), 24 entries

1. G4139 PMF Diane, Mickey Nielson Liberty Farm  
Yakima, Washington
2. NLF01W25 Liberty Nachos, Mickey Nielson, Liberty Farm,  
Yakima, Washington
3. #314, Diana Mullins, Still Waters Cashmere, Twisp, Wash-  
ington

Does Age 2-3 (Born 99-00), 19 entries

1. Esmarelda, Pat Bacon, Roka Farm, Milan, New Hamp-  
shire
2. Tess, Pat Bacon, Roka Farm, Milan, New Hampshire
3. R-34 GK Spirit, Paul Johnson, Goat Knoll, Dallas, Oregon

Does 4 & over (Born 98 & prior), 16 entries

1. 49  
BPC Haiku, Wes & Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cashmere,  
Buckfield, Maine
2. 93 BPC Feather, Wes & Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cash-  
mere, Buckfield, Maine
3. 0434 LCB Sweetie, Wes & Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place  
Cashmere, Buckfield, Maine
3. SF-L13 Raisin, Roy Repaske, Stoney Crest Farm, Star Tan-  
nery, Virginia

## WETHERS

Wethers—all ages, 10 entries



- CASHMIRROR  
Fiber Farm,
1. Phantom, Fran & Joe Mazzara, Duke's Valley Fiber Farm,  
Hood River, Oregon
  2. Ermillo, Pat Bacon, Roka Farm, Milan, New Hampshire
  2. 416/125, Diana Mullins, Still Waters Cashmere, Twisp,  
Washington
  3. Elliot, Pat Bacon, Roka Farm, Milan, New Hampshire

## BUCKS

Bucks—all ages, 12 entries

1. No first place awarded
2. 003 BBS Delmore, Jeanne Austin, Blackberry Slump, Au-  
gusta, New Jersey
3. 181 BPC Jupiter, Wes & Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cash-  
mere, Buckfield, Maine



**Judge, Ann Dooling, trying to figure out where to start in the stack of 83 competition fleeces.**



**NWCA helpers keep things organized for the fleece competi-  
tion. Left to right: Linda Lowell, Diana Mullins and Judge,  
Ann Dooling.**

# Black Sheep Gathering 2002



The NWCA booth—it was well-stocked with educational goodies, and a few items for sale—including classy logo T-shirts, gorgeous green logo mugs and goat greeting cards. It was a good place for educating the public, directing customers to NWCA member booths and a place for members to hang out and chat. It was located directly across from the Gathering food booth, which assured good traffic.



A group of NWCA members and others were seated at a table in Eugene in the evening. Appetites were high (considering they are goat farmers).



### NWCA 2002 fleece competition.

Judge and eager Association helpers have their hands full. Since the judge arrived late (and tired) in the evening on June 20th, the fleeces were judged on the 21st.



A fiber classing workshop was given by Ann De... Participants asked questions and traded information.



# Eugene, Oregon, June 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>



**The Black Sheep Gathering, held annually in Eugene, Oregon, for over 20 years, is an awesome event. Vendor booths fill several buildings. Workshops and classes by well-known instructors are held in conjunction with the event. Sheep and Angora goat shows are constantly going on. The major focus of the Gathering is sheep (hence the name) and Angora goats and rabbits. However, the Gathering does allow a few pens of other fiber animals. Ian Basillie and Karen Bean, Brookfield Farm, Maple Falls, Washington, provided several cashmere goats for display during the event.**



**Ann's fans. The cashmere fleece judging drew a crowd.**

# Cashmere Goat Show

## Estes Park Wool Market

Estes Park, Colorado  
June 16, 2002

Photographs and information provided by:  
Pete and Charlotte Rhoads  
Connor's Run Farm  
Placerville, California

The Cashmere Goat Show at the Estes Park Cashmere Goat Show contained one of the largest fields in recent memory; There were over three dozen Colorado goats entered.



Above: The Showmanship class.



Judge, Bronwyn Schuetze, Longmont, Colorado, was one of the “pioneer” cashmere people. She did a particularly good job of explaining her decisions to the audience.



Above and at left: 3 year old Bosco and Leslie Easter. Bosco won Best of Show and 1st place buck. He is owned by Leslie, Bill and Katie Easter of Cabin Gulch Farm, Elizabeth, Colorado. Bosco comes from Kris McGuire's line of cashmere goats.

# The Goats in India

This article and information beginning on page 21 on Indian temperate region goats are reprinted here courtesy of Mafalda Impastato, manager of the Capra websites which include:

<http://Capra.iespana.es>

<http://CapraIndia.iespana.es>

<http://CapraProyecto.iespana.es>

## Area and Population

India is located in the south of Asia. It borders on China in the northeast. Other neighbors are Pakistan on the west, Nepal and Bhutan on the north, and Burma and Bangladesh on the east. It's a large country with an area of 3,287,590 sq. km (1,229,737 sq. mi.) Total population is 1,013,662,000. 288,283,000 people live in urban areas and 1,725,379,000 in rural areas.

## Caprine Census

India has 206 million cows, which is 16 per cent of the total population of cows in the world, and 88 million buffaloes, which is 58 per cent of the world's buffalo population. Goat population totals 123 million or 20 per cent of the total global livestock and 51 million sheep, which is 5 per cent of world's sheep population.

Goats are a very important species of livestock in India, mainly on account of their short generation intervals, higher rates of prolificacy, and the ease with which the goats and their products can be marketed. The current goat population is estimated to be around 123 million (1999-2000), and it has been estimated that the goat population may reach a figure of 137 million by 2005, where it may stabilize. The goat population increased from 47.2 million in 1951-52 to 115.3 million in 1991-92. This amounts to an average increase of 1.7025 million goats per year, and an annual percent rate of increase of 3.606. This is the highest rate of increase in goat numbers as compared to cattle, buffaloes, and sheep.

### Summary of Change in India's Goats Numbers

Year	Number of Goats	% Increase
1951	47,200,000	
1961	60,864,000	29
1970	66,526,000	9
1980	86,900,000	31
1990	115,300,000	33
2000	123,000,000	7

## Goat Production

Goats are mainly meat animals in India; their meat is the most preferred and hence the costliest of all meats and represents almost 37 per cent of total meat produced in the country. Almost 95 per cent of the goat meat produced in the country is consumed locally. But the per capita availability is still far below the requirement. The demand for goat meat in India is high due to its wider acceptability by the non-vegetarians over



### India—Home of 20% of the world's goats.

any other type of meat. There is an increasing demand for goat meat also for export. Obviously, the scope for improving the export target for goat meat is considered excellent. The current mean rate of slaughter of goats is around 41 per cent and the mean rate of mortality around 15.5 per cent. The figures for the year 2000 are:

Slaughtered Animals (Head)	46,700,000
Carcass Wt (Kg)	10
Production (Mt)	467,000

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) anticipates a surge in both the production and international trade of sheep and goat meat (ovine) in the current year. While the ovine output is estimated to rise by about two per cent, the global trade may increase by four per cent. The goat milk constitutes 3.2 per cent of all milk produced in India; the majority of milk coming from buffaloes. India is the largest producer of milk in world, surpassing USA since 1998. However, goat milk is not well priced, and its products do not have a lucrative market. The figures for the year 2000 are:

Milk Animals (Head)	22,800,000
Goat Milk Production (Mt)	3,200,000

The skins produced by Indian goats are considered of very high quality on account of their relatively larger sizes, minimal blemishes, and perhaps high quality processing. The tropically produced goatskins have some unique features that make them yield fine leathers such as velour, suede, and chamois for clothing, shoes (glazed kids) and ladies' gloves. The lightweight and fine texture appear to be the important attributes of processed

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## Indian Goats

Continued from previous page

goatskins. Goatskins are also used for making various kinds of containers and water storage bags, and artisans may work on it to produce colorful coats or jackets.

India has the potential to become a dominant player in the world leather industry. Raw hides and skins available per year in India include 25 million cow hides, 22 million buffalo hides, 88 million goat skins and 33 million sheep skins.

### Demand

Demand in the domestic market for goat lining leather is expected to improve as buyers such as the UK-based Clarks International have asked their suppliers to use goat lining leathers and not cow lining leather in their shoe upper production. It is also known that skin quality is under strong genetic control; therefore, Indian breeds may have superiority over other foreign breeds.

### Goatskin production for the year 2000:

Fresh Slaughtered/ProdAnimals (Head)	71,300,000
Fresh Production (Mt)	128,340

Among other products, the country's annual production of pashmina has increased to 30 metric ton. In some of the hilly regions of the country, like Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, goat breeds capable of producing fine pashmina fibers are found. The J&K region has also experimented with a crossbreeding program of pashmina type local goats, called Changthangi, with Angora. This has resulted into a genotype some times referred to as Cashgora, a combination of Cashmere (i.e., pashmina) and Angora. The production of pashmina and shatoosh shawls from domesticated and wild goats is already a very lucrative and exports-oriented industry. There is some criticism of shatoosh on account of methods of collecting the fibers from wild goats. However, pashmina produced by Indian breeds, in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and to some minor extent in Uttar Pradesh hills, is of very high quality as compared to pashmina produced by the Russian breeds. However, the quantity of pashmina obtained in Indian breeds is very low, and the market price of pashmina has declined during recent years.

## Facts About India

From the CIA World FactBook

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/in.html>

Background: The Indus Valley civilization, one of the oldest in the world, goes back at least 5,000 years. Aryan tribes from the northwest invaded about 1500 B.C.; their merger with the earlier inhabitants created classical Indian culture. Arab incursions starting in the 8th century and Turkish in 12th were followed by European traders beginning in the late 15th century. By the 19th century, Britain had assumed political control of virtually all Indian lands. Nonviolent resistance to British colonialism under Mohandas Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru led to independence in 1947. The subcontinent was divided into the secular state of India and the smaller Muslim state of Pakistan. A third war between the two countries in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh. Fundamental concerns in India include the ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, massive overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and ethnic strife, all this despite impressive gains in economic investment and output.



**Kids in India.**

## Goats in the Northern Temperate Region of India

Information from:

<http://capraindia.iespana.es/capraindia/india.htm>

India has 20 distinct breeds of goats, but as in other countries, 75 percent of goats appear to be of varying colors and types. This is mainly due to the flock behavior of goats, which permits greater intermixing of breeds and types. For goat breed study purposes, we can distinguish four different regions in India: northern temperate region, northwest region, eastern region and the southern region.

The northern temperate region contains most of the goats used for cashmere production. Breeds found here are the Changthangi (cashmere, pack), Chigu (cashmere), Gaddi (hair, pack), Chogarkha, and Shingari (meat). Following is information about the two cashmere breeds and the Gaddi.

### CHANGTHANGI

Distribution: Changthangi region of Ladakh, at altitudes above 4,000 m.

Numbers: The goat population in this region, according to the 1972 census, was approximately 40,000.

Climate: A cold arid region. Average annual precipitation: 9.26 cm, distributed throughout the year, with maximum during January/April. Summer and winter temperatures are extreme (+40°C to -40°C). Most cultivation takes place along the rivers.

Breed characteristics:

	Adult males	Adult females
Body weight (kg.)	20.37	19.75
Body length (cm.)	49.8	52.4
Height at withers (cm.)	49.0	51.6
Chest girth (cm.)	63.0	65.2

Conformation: Medium-sized animals. Half of the animals are white, the remainder black, gray or brown. Both sexes have horns, generally large (range: 15 to 55 cm), turning outward, upward and inward to form a semi-circle, but a wide variation exists in both shape and size.

Flock structure: The flock size ranges from 200 to 300 in flocks belonging to migratory shepherds. In the stationary flocks it is between 10 and 15 animals per herd.

Reproduction: In shepherds' flocks: kidding percentage: 65%. Under farm conditions: kidding percentage: from 80 to 90%.

Mortality %: Under farm conditions: Pre-weaning 5.73%, Adults 1.9%.

Performance:



Map of the "top" of India only—the extreme north.

	Metric	Non-metric
<b>Meat:</b>		
At birth	2.18 kg.	4.8 lb.
3 months	7.76 kg.	17.1 lb.
9 months	9.18 kg.	20.2 lb.
12 months	11.80 kg.	26.0 lb.
<b>Hair:</b>		
Average fiber length	4.94 cm.	1.9 in.
Scouring yield	65.28 %	
Average fiber diameter	13.86 μ	

### CHIGU

Distribution: Lahaul and Spiti valleys of Himachal Pradesh, arid Ut tar Kashi, Chamoli, Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh, bordering Tibet.

Climate: Mountainous ranges with the altitude varying from 3,500 to 5,000 m. The area is mostly cold and arid.

Breed characteristics:

	Adult males	Adult females
Body weight (kg.)	39.42	25.71
Body length (cm.)	75.8	69.3

Continued on next page

CASHMIRROR

**Indian Northern Temperate Goats**  
Continued from previous page

Height at withers (cm.)	68.6	60.0
Chest girth (cm.)	80.7	73.3

Conformation: Medium-sized animals. The coat is usually white, mixed with grayish red. Both sexes have horns, directed upward, backward and outward, with one or more twists. These goats are not very different in conformation from Changthangi.

Reproduction:

Age at first kidding	615.8 days
Kidding interval	272.8 days
Kidding percentage	65.4 %
Litter size: (%)	
Singles	99.2 %
Twins	0.8 %

Mortality %: Pre-weaning 44.2 Adults - 0

Performance:

Meat:	Metric	Non-metric
At birth	2.10 kg.	4.6 lb.
3 months	8.41 kg.	18.5 lb.
6 months	12.17 kg.	26.8 lb.
9 months	14.75 kg.	32.5 lb.
12 months	18.46 kg.	40.6 lb.

Hair:		
Average fiber length	5.9 cm.	2.3 in.
Average production	120.31 g.	
Average fiber diameter	11.77 μ	

GADDI

Distribution: Chamba, Kangra, Kulu, Bilaspur, Simla, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh and Dehradun, Nainital, Tehrigarhwal and Chamoli hill districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Numbers: The total goat population in the Gaddi distribution area, according to the 1972 census, was 770,000, of which 125,000 were adult males and 468,000 were adult females.

Climate: Average monthly temperature - Minimum 10.1°C (range 1.9 - 16.2°C), Maximum 17.1°C (range 8.5 - 24.2°C). Average monthly relative humidity - Morning - 51% (range 32 - 89%), Evening - 60% (range 35 - 92%). Annual rainfall - 148.1cm.

Breed characteristics:

	<u>Adult males</u>	<u>Adult females</u>
Body weight (kg.)	27.45	24.72
Body length (cm.)	69.5	65.2
Height at withers (cm.)	61.3	58.1

Chest girth (cm.)	72.2	69.3
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Conformation: Medium-sized animals. Coat color is mostly white, but black and brown and combinations of these are also seen. Both sexes have large horns, directed upward and backward and occasionally twisted. Ears are medium long and drooping. The nose line is convex. The udder is small and rounded, with small teats placed laterally. The hair is white, lustrous and long.

Flock structure: Flock size ranges from 20 to 500.

Reproduction: Essentially single, twinning occurs in only 15 to 20% of births.

Mortality %: Under farmer's flocks: Pre-weaning 10%, Adults 5%.

Performance:

Milk	Metric
	380 g.
Hair:	
Average fleece yield per clip	300 g.
Medullation	74.49 %
Average fiber diameter	73.4 μ



**Indian "town" goats.**

## Results of Dehairing Machine Survey

By Steve Hachenberger

Castle Crags Ranch, Hamilton, Montana



I want to thank all of the people who replied to the survey which was mailed with the April CashMirror. The survey answered some very important questions on the climate of existing cashmere growers who could be targeted for their status and desires in this business. Not all surveys were returned, but the ones that were showed some trends that suggest that the desire to dehair fiber

at home is still paramount to most growers. This is to say that most growers want to dehair single fleeces of varied colors for their own end uses.

Not all questions on the survey were answered. Some of the questions probably needed more explanation to enable people to answer them. But, of the 33 surveys that were returned, all persons showed a direct interest in dehairing cashmere and also an interest in education on topics including fiber classing, dehairing, how to determine yield and recoverable yield, losses and breakage, scouring losses and natural effects of good high-yield fiber and low-yield fiber. These areas are all tied together and have a direct result on the recoverable yield. The above areas have no bias for the type of cashmere goat, but rather the fleece qualities and its merits for yield and dehairability.

With all that said, I want to say that my personal contribution to the business of cashmere has not brought me rewards in the form of cash, but rather in the form of some of the most dedicated people I have ever met. Like many of them, my wife and I have spent thousands of hours and dollars to achieve the point where we are today. I am no richer today than I was before I started this venture to patent dehairing machines... and I am no poorer than the next fellow who is still waiting for a machine to be produced.

To manufacture a machine that is user-friendly and has a limited cost (\$500) and that still produces an excellent product, means that I would have to produce the machine for less than 50% of the retail cost. This would represent a cost to manufacture the machines at or near \$250! Keep in mind that most known carding machines of quality sell for about three times this amount for at-home small motorized machines. In other words...I can't do it. It's simply impossible for me to serve a limited market with a specialized machine at a low cost. I understand the limitations of the growers in this business and their desire to obtain some kind of dehairing machine to further their business. Currently, there are known dehairing services available to the grower. I know that is not what the grower wants. He WANTS his own fleece (individually) processed.

I will continue to spend some time on making developments in small dehairing machines using my patented process and machines. If perhaps I can find a way to produce them at a lesser cost to make them more desirable for producers, I will announce it. Generally, this requires using cheaper products to cut costs. This will result in a higher number of break-downs, etc. for the people that have the machines.

Of the questions asked, some related to marketing machines, for my own personal use (should I need that information) and others related to some basic information about the climate of this business.

I have summarized the results of the questions below. You will note that generally most people want small table-top machines costing under \$500. Most people want to attend some form of education to learn more about dehairing. There are an alarming number of individuals who clearly need education on cashmere processing and classing.

The grower MUST know what his processor wants in the form of dehairable fiber and as a grower, it is important that YOU know what type of fiber you are raising so you don't offend a good client who is buying it from you. In order to run a dehairing machines with any degree of quality, you would NOT want to blend cashmere with cashgora and add some short "stuff" from somebody's cross-bred Angora goat! There was a clear number of individuals who could not repair the machine(s) and this sends a message to me that ANY machine must be affordable, reliable, efficient, repairable and easy to learn.

The summary below represents the totals of returned surveys. Not all questions were answered on every reply:

Number of surveys returned: 33

Number of goats in your herd?

1-15	14
15-50	11
50-100	2
100+	6

Is your herd increasing, decreasing or staying the same?

Increasing	13
Decreasing	3
Staying the same	17

Interested in dehairing cashmere?

Yes	31
No	2

Size of machine?

**Continued on next page**

CASHMIRROR

**Dehairing Survey**

**Continued from previous page**

Table top	27
Small	6
Medium, large	0
Affordable cost of machines?	
Under \$500	27
\$1,000 - 2,000	8
\$3,000+	1
Could you build your own machine?	
Yes	10
No	22
Would you attend a class on dehairing?	
Yes	7
No	1
Is your interest in fiber, meat, weed control, other?	
Fiber	17
Meat	10
Weed control	15
Other	1
Do you have room for a machine?	
Yes	21
No	9
Could you make modification to accommodate a machine?	
Yes	17
No	12
Could you make repairs to the machine if needed?	
Yes	3
No	12
Have you ever attended a cashmere classing clinic?	
Yes	7
No	26
Have you ever attended a class in dehairing cashmere?	
Yes	3
No	30
Have you ever seen dehairing equipment?	
Yes	5
No	28

From the survey it seems clear that there is a market for small dehairing machines. It is also clear that the number of individuals raising cashmere goats who have a need for a better education on classing cashmere and what would be a "good" fleece or a "poor" fleece is great. There were two responses which were alarming. Both stated "What is cashgora?"

As a dedicated cashmere raiser and a past member of the BOCC, PCMA and a current member of NWCA and a PCMA Certified Cashmere Classer, both Diana and I feel that there is a continued need for education. This education, however presented, is important so that everybody knows what they're growing, why they're growing it and what the term "Cashgora" means.

In the interim, I regret that the atmosphere is not good at this time for me to invest additional money into making smaller dehairing machines under \$500. I will try to further reduce the machines—in size and cost, as my time and resources permit.

As for selling the plans to "build your own machine", I found that most people were unable to build the machines, and if they could build it, they would not hold the inventor (me) liable for the machine(s). This clearly means I would have huge enforcement problems and no direct involvement of the building of individual machines and would assume all liability and be providing service for machines poorly constructed by others (bad idea). (I.E.: Ford does not sell "plans to build its trucks" and there is a good reason for this.)

For now, I will do best what myself and others have done. I will continue to raise cashmere and process it. I will dwell on smaller machines...and if I feel I can fill the order of a smaller-leaner-easier-inexpensive-user-friendly machine...I'll let you know. Until then I appeal to all organized groups in this business to help with better education. I know that the CashMirror Magazine has been and will continue to be at the leading edge for its subscribers' understanding of cashmere and their best avenue for education.

**Note: If you still have your Survey half filled out and sitting in that stack with a bunch of other papers, please finish it and get it back to Steve. We're sure he would still like all the input he can get, even if your response didn't make it back in time to be included here with the survey results.**



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## Calendar of Events

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## Association Contacts

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July 11 - 13, 2002

Three Bags Full, Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners biennial conference, Ursuline Center, Great Falls, MT.  
Info: Janet Szabo, 406-755-1338  
email: Janet@BigSkyKnitting.com

August 3, 2002

Wool Dyeing Day at Mt. Bruce Station  
Yvonne Uhlianuk, 6440 Bordman Rd., Romeo, MI 48065, 810-79802568, uhlianuk@sheepstuff.com

September 17 - 20, 2002

Third National Small Farm Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Training for specialists, technicians, farm advocates/entities. Info: Denis Ebodaghe, USDA, email debodaghe@reesda.gov, phone: 202-401-4385.

September 21 - 22, 2002

Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival, Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock, NY, internet: [www.gvhg.org/fest.html](http://www.gvhg.org/fest.html)

September 21 - 22, 2002

Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Oregon  
Goat and sheep shows, animals on exhibit, vendors, workshops, fiber art exhibits, fleece competition/show/sale, lamb and cabrio cookoff, food--they have it all! Cashmere goat show, Saturday, September 21, 2002, 9:00 AM. Info: OFFF, 30881 SW Bald Peak Road, Hillsboro, OR 97123-8817, 503-628-1205,  
email: [offf@gte.net](mailto:offf@gte.net)  
website: [www.flockandfiberfestival.com](http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com)

October 1 - 2, 2002

Cashmere goat events at the Virginia State Fair, Richmond, Virginia. October 1st - ECA 2002 fleece competition, October 2nd - Doe/Wether and buck goat shows. Questions/Info: Lisa Vailes 540-885-1261, email: [lvailles@inbio.com](mailto:lvailles@inbio.com)

October 18 - 20, 2002

New York State Sheep and Wool Festival, Rhinebeck, New York. October 18 & 19 (two classes), fiber classing workshop with Terry Sim. October 20 - cashmere goat show. Questions/Info: Wes Ackley 207-336-2948, email: [ackley@megalink.net](mailto:ackley@megalink.net)

November 3, 2002

Goat Gala at FarmFair International, 10 - 2 PM  
Northlands Park, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
Related events: Canadian Finals Rodeo  
[www.farmfairinternational.com](http://www.farmfairinternational.com)

Cashmere America Cooperative  
Joe David Ross, Manager, 915-387-6052  
fax: 915-387-2642, Email: [goat@sonoratrix.net](mailto:goat@sonoratrix.net)  
Wes Ackley (Maine) 207-336-2948  
Marti Wall (Washington) 360-424-7935

Eastern Cashmere Association (ECA)  
Ann Wood, President  
937-568-4994, [tamarack@iapdatacom.net](mailto:tamarack@iapdatacom.net)

North West Cashmere Association (NWCWA)  
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Paul Johnson, President  
503-623-5194, [paul@cashmirror.com](mailto:paul@cashmirror.com)  
Diana Mullins, Membership Coordinator  
509-997-2204, [dmullins@methow.com](mailto:dmullins@methow.com)

Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)  
Inga Gonzales, Secretary  
PO Box 565, Knightsen, CA 94548, 925-625-7869  
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Texas Cashmere Association (TCA)  
William (Bill) Nagel, President  
4625 Sandy Fork Rd., Harwood, TX 78632  
830-540-4707, email: [bnagel@bvtc.com](mailto:bnagel@bvtc.com)



**Fran Mazzara, Dukes Valley Fiber Farm, Hood River, Oregon and her vicious dogs. The one on the left is a Kuvasz, one of the two guardian dogs who recently had their day in court (May 2002 *CashMirror*, page 10).**

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7225 E. County Rd. 18  
Loveland, CO 80537  
970-667-2999

**MARSHALL'S ORGANIC ACRES**

9217 N. County Rd. 7  
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**SMOKE RIDGE CASHMERE**

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Yvonne Zweede-Tucker  
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**SMITH VALLEY CASHMERE**

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# Directory

CASHMIRROR

## **AYER'S CREEK RANCH**

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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>**



## New Goat Links Discovered!

By Paul G. Johnson

<http://www.goateyewear.com>

Goat Eye Wear. Eyewear and apparel for goat owners (I think)! Stylish sunglasses, and t-shirts. The goat design even has horns

<http://www.lostgoat.com/>

Lost Goats Musical(?) Group. Don't bother.

<http://www.deadgoat.com/>

Dead Goat—A saloon in Utah.

<http://goatconnection.com/>

Goat Connection, with connections to the Whole Goat Catalog, and others.

<http://www.goatism.org/>

Goat Philosophy—Strange, may not be worth your time.

<http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/ntier/goatweb.html>

German Goat Web—If you don't read German, access through Google translation:

<http://translate.google.com/>

<http://www.goatgenetics.com/>

Goat Genetics.Com—UK Semen for Golden Guernsey Goats (pretty goats!)

<http://locus.jouy.inra.fr/cgi-bin/lgbc/mapping/common/intro2.pl?BASE=goat>

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE  
Laboratoire de Génétique Biochimique et de Cytogénétique de Jouy-en-Josas Map of the Goat Genome. For those sleepless nights, check out all the loci.

[http://locus.jouy.inra.fr/cgi-bin/lgbc/mapping/common/art\\_for\\_dbs.pl](http://locus.jouy.inra.fr/cgi-bin/lgbc/mapping/common/art_for_dbs.pl)

Art of the Genome.

[http://groups.msn.com/AustralianMinitureGoatClub/\\_homepage.msnnw?pgmarket=en-au](http://groups.msn.com/AustralianMinitureGoatClub/_homepage.msnnw?pgmarket=en-au)

Australian Miniature Goat Club—for those of you with a really small farm.

<http://www.georgetown.edu/cball/animals/goat.html>

Sounds of Goats Around the world. They speak different languages?? Seems so.

## The Hanford Thyroid Disease Study

Classified Information Released  
US Center for Disease Control

For a long time, details about Hanford's operations were not public. In 1986, as a result of public concerns and requests made through the Freedom of Information Act, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began releasing tens of thousands of pages of previously classified or unavailable documents.

The documents revealed to the public, for the first time, that substantial quantities of radionuclides were released into the environment from Hanford.

CDC convened a panel of independent scientists (Hanford Health Effects Review Panel) to evaluate the DOE documents. Two of the panel's most important recommendations were to conduct a study to estimate the radioactive materials released from Hanford and to determine the feasibility of studying the health effects to the thyroid of that exposure.

The panel's recommendations evolved into what are known today as the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project (HEDR) and the Hanford Thyroid Disease Study (HTDS).

Exposures to Radiation: Iodine-131 was carried by winds to surrounding areas and deposited on vegetation. It was then absorbed in the milk of cows and goats that grazed on the contaminated vegetation. Drinking contaminated milk caused most of the radiation dose for most of the exposed people.

People were also exposed by eating contaminated fruits and vegetables, and by breathing contaminated air.

The Hanford Nuclear Site occupies about 560 square miles in southeastern Washington State, adjacent to the towns of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland. The facility was the world's first large-scale nuclear production plant. It was constructed in the early 1940s as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Over the course of many years, large amounts of radioactive materials (radionuclides) were released into the atmosphere and the Columbia River as part of the plutonium production process.

The major radioactive releases occurred in the form of gases and particles into the air from 1944 through 1957. These releases occurred mainly because of increased production and lack of filter systems. Changes in the production process over the years greatly reduced releases into the air.

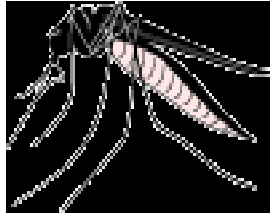
Many different kinds of radioactive materials were released. For many people living in the region, most of their dose was due to iodine-131 released into the air.

[http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/hanford/htdsweb/guide/hi\\_expo.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/hanford/htdsweb/guide/hi_expo.htm)

## THE NEXT BIG LIVESTOCK DISEASE THREAT/SCARE?

### The West Nile Virus

A special West Nile virus surveillance program has been initiated in 48 states, five cities, and the District of Columbia. See the Epidemic/Epidemiologic West Nile Virus in the United States: Revised Guidelines for Surveillance, Prevention, and Control, 2001 (286 KB, 111 pages) for a full description. Data are being collected on a weekly basis and will be reported for the following five categories: wild birds, sentinel chicken flocks, human cases, veterinary cases, and mosquito surveillance.



As of July 18, 2002, there have been 152 total human cases of West Nile virus illness reported to CDC and confirmed, including 18 fatalities.

The West Nile Virus appears to be firmly established in the United States, and researchers expect its continued spread and entrenchment in wildlife populations. Twenty two states, as well as the District of Columbia, have already reported dead birds that have tested positive for the virus in 2002.

Breaking News: Louisiana reports an additional 4 human cases of West Nile Virus, bringing the total to 7 this season. As of July 19, 2002, North Dakota, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas have reported horses that have tested positive for WNV. [A correction: on July 3, NBII mistakenly reported confirmed presence of West Nile Virus in a Maryland horse. No horses in Maryland have tested positive for the Virus in 2002. NBII regrets this error.]

States with birds testing positive for WNV in 2002: Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center reports that at least 66 captive and free-ranging bird species in North America have tested positive for the West Nile Virus in surveillance efforts. Certain wild and domesticated mammals have also tested positive.

Species Found Positive for WNV in Surveillance Efforts (CDC): Free-Ranging Mammal Species: Bat (Big brown *Eptesicus fuscus*), Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Bat (Little brown *Myotis lucifugus*), Skunk (Striped *Mephitis mephitis*), and Chipmunk (Eastern *Tamias striatus*).

Pet and Other Domesticated Species: Cat, Horse, Chicken, Macaw, Cockatiel, Parakeet, Cockatoo, Peacock, Dog, Rabbit (domestic), Finch, Zebra, Turkey (domestic), Goose (domestic).

Exotic Species housed in Zoos: Cormorant (Guanay), Pheasant (Himalayan Impeyan) Duck (Bronze-winged) Tragopan (Blythe's), and Flamingo (Chilean).

WN virus is a member of the JE virus serocomplex which contains a number of viruses also associated with human

encephalitis.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has recently reported infected birds as far west as Manitoba.

#### Background

Since the 1930s, West Nile virus (WNV) has been commonly reported to cause asymptomatic infection and fevers in humans in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. But, human and animals infection had never been documented in the Western Hemisphere until 1999. In 1999 and 2000, outbreaks of WNV encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and other febrile illnesses were reported in persons living in the New York City metropolitan area. In these two years, 83 human cases of West Nile illness were reported; 9 died. In 2001, the first cases of WNV encephalitis outside of the New York City metro area occurred when 2 cases were reported from a rural Florida county in July and August.

WNV is transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds that have high levels of WNV in their blood. Infected mosquitoes can then transmit WNV when they feed on humans or other animals.

WNV is not transmitted from person to person and there is no evidence that a person can get infected by handling live or dead infected birds. But, to add a further level of safety, if birds or other potentially infected animals must be handled, a protective barrier (e.g., gloves, inverted plastic bags) should be used.

Most WNV infected humans have no symptoms. A small proportion develops mild symptoms that include fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Less than 1% of infected people develop more severe illness that includes meningitis (inflammation of the spinal cord) or encephalitis. The symptoms of these illnesses can include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. Of the few people that develop encephalitis, a small proportion die but, overall, this is estimated to occur in less than 1 out of 1,000 infections.

There is no specific treatment for WNV infection or vaccine to prevent it. Treatment of severe illnesses includes hospitalization, use of intravenous fluids and nutrition, respiratory support, prevention of secondary infections, and good nursing care. Medical care should be sought as soon as possible for persons who have symptoms suggesting severe illness.

Individuals can reduce their contacts with mosquitoes by taking these actions: When outdoors, wear clothing that covers the skin such as long sleeve shirts and pants, apply effective insect repellent to clothing and exposed skin, and curb outside activity during the hours that mosquitoes are feeding which often includes dawn and dusk. In addition, screens should be applied to doors and windows and regularly maintained to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

#### 2002 Surveillance Activity

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Continued on next page**

## West Nile Virus

Continued from previous page

[http://cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/west\\_nile/west\\_nile.html](http://cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/west_nile/west_nile.html)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, state wildlife agencies, and state and local health and vector control agencies to track the occurrence of West Nile virus (WNV). Organizations in the lower 48 States and localities are actively participating in this program.

The West Nile Virus Surveillance System is intended to monitor the geographic and temporal spread of WNV over the contiguous United States, to further develop national public health strategies for WNV surveillance, prevention, and control, to develop a more complete regional picture of the geographic distribution and incidence of similar viruses, and to provide national and regional information to public health officials, elected government officials, and the public. There are five surveillance activities:

**Human Surveillance:** Physicians will observe patients for clinical signs of WNV and conduct laboratory testing as appropriate.

**Veterinary Surveillance:** Veterinarians will monitor horses, dogs, and cats for clinical signs of neurological disease and conduct laboratory testing when appropriate. In 2000, the number of reported WNV illnesses in horses peaked and persisted after human illnesses. This could indicate that horses are not a sensitive sentinel for the prediction of human illness but more study of this is necessary.

**Wild Bird Surveillance:** Surveillance participants will monitor virus activity in wild birds. Surveillance for dead crows, in particular, is a sensitive means to detect the presence of WNV in an area. In 2000, there was a geographic expansion of WNV-infected wild birds. In 1999 the affected area consisted of parts of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and one county in Maryland. In 2000 the affected area stretched from Vermont to North Carolina.

**Sentinel Flock Surveillance:** Surveillance participants will monitor virus activity in sentinel chicken flocks.

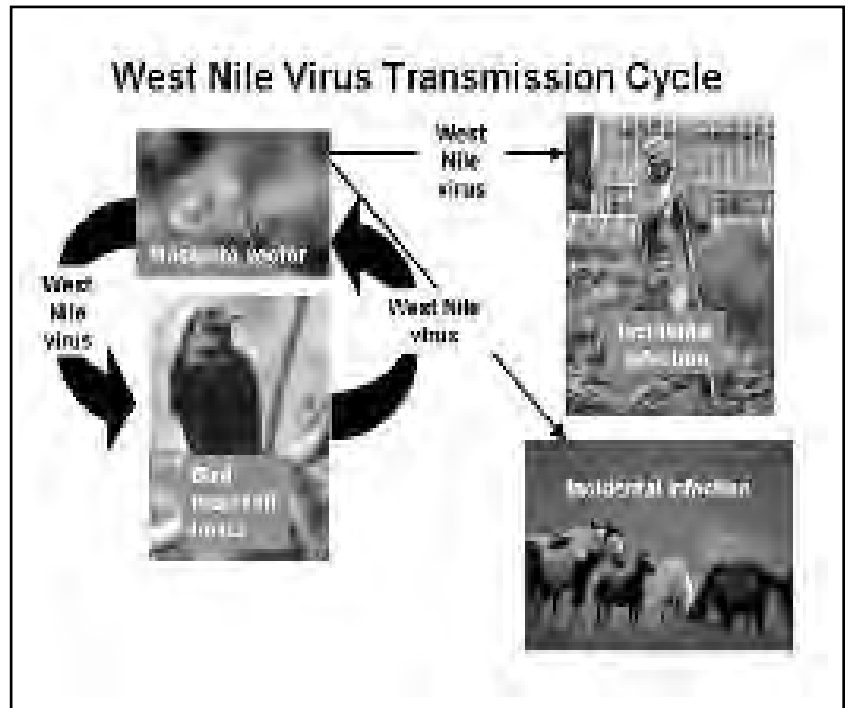
**Mosquito Surveillance:** Surveillance participants will monitor virus activity in collected mosquitoes. Surveillance of mosquito populations will be used to detect WNV, to help identify potential mosquito vectors in a particular area, and to monitor population densities of those vectors. For further information or questions on the data being collected in 2002 West Nile Virus Surveillance, please contact the Centers for Disease Control West Nile Virus Surveillance Team: email: [dvbid@cdc.gov](mailto:dvbid@cdc.gov)

### References

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control.htm>

[http://cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/west\\_nile/west\\_nile.html](http://cindi.usgs.gov/hazard/event/west_nile/west_nile.html)

Although nothing in this article links goats specifically to West Nile Virus transmission, nothing specifically excludes them either. However, the Merck Veterinary Manual (1998) lists only wild birds and horses as the principal animals involved.



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### Notable Quotes

"Delaying castration also may lead to some additional increase in diameter of the urethra. In general, anyone willing to plan this far ahead to prevent deaths caused by urolithiasis, should be encouraged to choose a doe kid as a pet instead."

...Smith and Sherman, Goat Medicine

"In our state we use the bite 'N spit method...in large adult males, we use the Tuck 'N Run method."

...Anonymous Goat Producer, on castration

"In point of fact, the demand for goat meat is largely ethnic driven...Accordingly, future goat markets seem assured, unless, of course, the ethnic young should opt out irretrievably for burgers, pizza and tacos."

...Dr. Frank Pinkerton

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