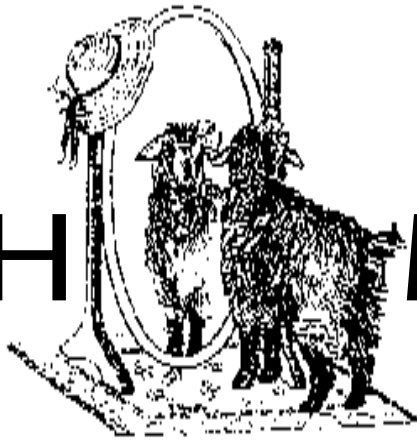


CASHMERE MIRROR



July 2003

Volume 14, Issue 6

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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CASHMIRROR

ISSN 1090-736X

Just the Facts

CashMirror Magazine is published monthly by:

CashMirror Publications

2280 S. Church Rd.
Dallas, Oregon 97338
503-623-5194

E-Mail:

editor@cashmirror.com

Internet:

http://www.cashmirror.com

Publisher and Ace Reporter:

Paul Johnson
paul@cashmirror.com

Editor: Linda Fox

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The *CashMirror* welcomes contributions of articles and photographs and even ideas for our pursuit. 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:

Pam Marshall

Marshall's Organic Acres, Wellington, Colorado

Bob Marshall and Dakota at Estes Park and Wool Market 2003

Capturing Cute Kids (especially those with skittish mothers) is the result of...



...a zoom lense, a great deal of patience,
dozens of clicks and a good deal of luck!



About Old Sweet Face

Sweet Face was born in 1988, in Australia, part of the Lismore herd. This photograph of Sweet Face with Brook Vail was taken in 1999 when she was mothering her final kids—her 17th and 18th born in Maine, USA. She was (unwillingly) retired from motherhood after raising these kids.

However, Old Sweet Face is still around at Bessey Place Cashmere (age 15)—setting a shining example for other goats by continuing to win ribbons in fleece competitions!

Old Sweet Face is an excellent example of a cashmere goat who maintains an excellent fleece during their entire lifetime.

Sweet Face is owned by Wes and Marilyn Ackley in Buckfield, Maine.

At the recent cashmere workshop in Stanwood Washington in May sponsored by the NWCA, workshop instructor Wes Ackley frequently referred to their “Old Sweet Face” as an example of a cashmere goat with not only good style to her cashmere fiber at a younger age, but a goat who continues to exhibit good style throughout her lifetime.

A review of the 2002 fleece competition winners shows LCB Sweetie as the third place entry in the NWCA fleece competition (out of 16 entries in the combined combed/shorn does over age 4 category!) and second place in the ECA Combed Senior Doe category (6 entries). Go Old Sweet Face!



Reflections

by Linda Fox

Cleaning the Fleece Room (Again)

I call it a fleece room, but it's actually a spare room, a multi-purpose room; it's the room above the garage. It's served in the past as a bindery for the print shop, a storage room, an extra bedroom, an exercise room and a place to temporarily store fleeces. Sometimes this temporary status extends to years and sometimes, fleeces get moved out to the trash because they are full of moths, rather than being moved on to useful purposes.

I always have good intentions—especially for the cashmere. If an old Suffolk fleece gets moths, you won't hear near the whining as when moths are discovered in a cashmere fleece.

Our intent is to dispose of all cashmere fleeces each year shortly after they are harvested. This has always been the goal, but it seldom happens—if you keep your definition for "shortly" fairly short! In 2002, our cashmere fleeces lived here for one month. Not bad. In 2003, they resided here (temporarily) for seven months—and moths discovered one of them in even this short period of time.

When we shear our goats in late January or early February, we grade and individually bag the fleeces. They then go to the "fleece room" to await a confirmation of the grading (a second look by us), a weighing in, sorting by color and entry into our official records, and the final decision for fleeces to be pulled and held for contest entries.

When we shear the sheep in March or later, the fleeces good enough to be gathered up (rather than left on the ground) are also stored here—officially awaiting cleaning and processing, but more likely, waiting for the moths, so they can be tossed as unusable. I didn't say that what we do makes sense, I just feel a need to come clean about all this, perhaps to encourage me to do things differently in the future.

Last weekend, I finally finished the final grading, sorting and weighing of the 2003 cashmere harvest, and boxed them up to send off for processing. Not being able to stop there, I went through the stash of sheep wool—some washed, some not—and tossed anything that contained moths or that looked unusable. The remaining washed fleeces were transferred to plastic stackable bins (with mothballs!). I moved the unwashed wool fleeces to our front porch where I will have to trip over them until I get them washed and also stored in plastic bins.

Next year we have a new plan. Following the office organizational rules of handling a piece of paper only once, we have decided to handle a cashmere fleece only once. The larger producers sort their fleeces as they shear and there's no reason we can't do the same. Next year, we will grade the fleeces as we shear, but we will no longer individually bag them. We will have larger bags set up according to our color "lines." After several years of harvest, we have a pretty good idea how our colors will need to be sorted. We will need to weigh and enter all individual information from the fleeces before they lose their identity in the larger bags. We will also need to gather fleece samples that we want to send for outside testing and save fleeces that we



The "Fleece Room"—Before



The clean "Fleece Room". Cashmere fleeces are gone and washed sheep wool is neatly stacked and moth-protected.

intend to submit for contest consideration.

This method will take away the opportunity for a second look at our grading; however, it seems that our second look has always been brief anyway as we are busy and anxious to get them off.

Will we follow the plan? Stay tuned...

*Instructions for Submitting Fleeces to
ECA's Fleece Competition at The VA State Fair
September 30, 2003*

Kris McGuire, Judge

Competition Groups:

Fleeces are divided by age as follows: Kid fleeces; 2nd and 3rd fleeces; 4th through 7th fleece; and Senior fleece. The age classes are subdivided by sex and as combed or shorn. Wethers have one class for shorn and one class for combed fleeces.

Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded along with Champion and Grand Champion Combed and Shorn Goats. (\$10 first place, \$7 second place, and \$5 third place for each class. Best Shorn and Combed fleece \$25)

Entries are limited to 3 fleeces per class per farm. Only raw fleeces (please DO NOT wash or process fleece in any way) harvested this season are invited.

Fleece Packaging:

- ◆ Pack each fleece in a large zip lock bag. Try to tightly seal up smelly buck fleeces. (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.
- ◆ ***SPECIAL NOTE*** : entry fee has been raised to **\$3/fleece** to compensate for increased return mailing fees. (Still a bargain!)
Make check payable to the ***State Fair of Virginia***.
- ◆ 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 have any questions, please contact Lisa at 540-885-1261 or lvailles@inbio.com

Thanks very much and Good Luck to everyone!!

The End of the Raven
A poem by Edgar Allen Poe's Cat

On a night quite unenchanted,
When the rain was downward slanting,
I awakened to the ranting
Of the man I catch mice for.
Topsy and a bit unshaven,
In a tone I found quite craven,
Poe was talking to a Raven
Perched above the chamber door.
"Raven's very tasty," thought I
As I tiptoed o'er the floor.
"There is nothing I like more."



Soft upon the rug I treaded,
Calm and careful as I headed
Towards his roost atop
That dreaded bust of Pallas I deplore.
While the bard and birdie chattered,
I made sure that nothing clattered,
Creaked, or snapped, or fell, or shattered,
As I crossed the corridor;
For his house is crammed with trinkets,
Curious and weird decor
-Bric-a-brac and junk galore.

Still the Raven never fluttered,
Standing stock-still as he uttered,
In a voice that shrieked and sputtered,
His two cents' worth - "Nevermore."
While this dirge the birdbrain kept up,
Oh, so silently I crept up,
Then I crouched and quickly leapt up,
Pouncing on the feathered bore.
Soon he was a heap of plumage,
And a little blood and gore -
Only this and not much more.

"Oooo!" my pickled poet cried out,
"Pussycat, it's time I dried out!
Never sat I in my hideout
Talking to a bird before;
How I've wallowed in self-pity,
While my gallant, valiant kitty
Put an end to that damned ditty."
Then I heard him start to snore.
Back atop the door I clambered,
Eyed that statue I abhor,
Jumped - and smashed it on the floor.

Actual author unknow—this is one of those endless forwarded messages that flit around the internet, losing its starting point as it travels. Mickey recommended that we pass it along to you.

Estes Park Cashmere Show
Photographs by Bob and Pam Marshall



Lynn Riffels and Bob Marshall chatting at the Estes show.



Bill Nagel, Harwood, Texas, entertained spectators with a young goat (and his crochet).

2003 Estes Park Cashmere Events

Story and photographs by Pam and Bob Marshall Marshall's Organic Acres, Wellington, Colorado

Here are photographs and contest results for the Estes Park Wool Market 2003 Cashmere Show. This was the largest show since we started showing here 5 years ago. All of the participants this year were from Colorado. We would love to see more out of state participants. We had a wonderful mix of children, teens and adults showing goats.

Judge Teresa Bricker from Oregon judged the Cashmere Show as well as the Angora Goat Show the day before. Estes Park Wool Market also features shows for llamas, alpacas and many varieties of sheep. It's not uncommon to see alpacas or llamas being led through the goat barn while their owners chat with the goat owners. On a regular basis you will see Cashmere goats being taken for a walk through the grounds with the alpacas and llamas. There are demonstrations, classes, and a large commercial barn for fiber and craft sales. Animals arrive Friday and stay through Sunday. It's a very busy 3 days in a beautiful mountain setting!

Two 4-H leaders brought their Lease-A-Goat kids (children). Ann Bertschy from Gunnison, Colorado has a large Lease-A-Goat program that has been successful for several years. This is the first time she has brought her kids to Estes Park. Lee Hawkins from Pueblo West, Colorado started her Lease-A-Goat program this past year.

Bill and Betty Nagel came from Harwood, Texas to see the show and help promote cashmere goats. Betty helped Doreen Ryan show her goats while Bill entertained people with a young goat and his crocheting. Both are active in the cashmere market in Texas.

Julie Becker from Nebraska had a booth in the commercial area showing off her cashmere and mixed fibers as well as some craft items. Several other vendors



Youth Showmanship—Novice



Youth Showmanship—Experienced

Continued on next page

Estes Park

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offered cashmere fiber or cashmere mixes for sale.

The Youth Showmanship started the show. Management decided to make two classes—a novice class for first time showmen and another class for the more experienced showmen. The more experienced class was first to show, helping the novice showmen see what to expect. Judge Teresa Bricker asked the experienced showmen a variety of questions about their knowledge of their goats. She helped the novice class with show etiquette and shared what questions she might ask, helping each individually.

The Milk Tooth Buck class was split into two classes after a quick survey of participants since about half were older 2002 bucks with fiber and the other half were 2003 bucklings without fiber. It was felt that it was unfair to judge the younger bucklings against the older, more mature year-old bucks.

Champion Buck went to Ann Bertschy's Zoom. Champion Doe and Best of Show went to Doreen Ryan's Krissy Lee.

Georgia (Behr?) who managed the Cashmere show organized a meeting after the show to get participant input on classes and procedures for next year's show. Judge Teresa Bricker was asked for her suggestions. Afterwards, Ann Bertschy and Susanne Roth continued the meeting to collect input for classes and procedures for the Colorado State Fair where they are new managers for the Cashmere show.

All in all, it was a fun time where we got to know each other better. I'm always impressed that cashmere goat owners are willing to share their knowledge and experiences freely. I've shown other animals where knowledge is hoarded and tensions are high in the hopes of having a slight advantage in the show ring. Goat showing is much more FUN!

Continued on next page



Left: Catie Easter (an experienced youth showman) with her goat Noel. Catie answers questions from Judge Bricker. Catie took second place in the Experienced Youth Showman category.



Youth Showmanship (experienced) class. In front, left, is the youngest showman of the day.

Estes Park

Continued from previous page

Results of Goat Show**Best of Show**

Krissy Lee, Doreen Ryan, Flying Witch
Ranch, Virginia Dale, CO
Champion Doe

Krissy Lee, Doreen Ryan, Flying Witch
Ranch, Virginia Dale, CO
Champion Buck

Zoom, Ann Bertschy, Goatique, Gun-
nison, CO

Youth Showmanship (21 entries)**Experienced**

1 Corinne Gluklick, showing Velvet,
owned by Jeanine Gluklick, Colorado
Springs, CO

2 Catie Easter, showing CGF Noel, owned
by Leslie & Bill Easter, Elizabeth, CO

3 Nicole Harrison, showing Zappa,
owned by Ann Bertschy, Gunnison, CO

Novice

1 Laura Gluklick, showing Dixie, owned
by Jeanine Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

2 Hannah Cramer, showing Donny,
owned by Ann Bertschy, Gunnison, CO

3 Kendra Martinez, showing D'Nali,
owned by Lee Hawkins, Pueblo West, CO

DOES**Milk Tooth Doe (7 entries)**

1 Angel, Bob & Pam Marshall, Welling-
ton, CO

2 Peaches, Bob & Pam Marshall

3 Stormy, Bob & Pam Marshall

Two-tooth Doe (6 entries)

1 Penny Lane, Brenna Harfert, Peyton, CO

2 Jewel, Bob & Pam Marshall, Wellington,
CO

3 CGF Noel, Leslie & Bill Easter, Elizabeth,
CO

Four-tooth Doe (2 entries)

CGF Buttercup, Leslie & Bill Easter, Eliza-
beth, CO

2 Lily, Lee Hawkins, Pueblo West, CO



Left: Ann Bertschy and Champion Buck, Zoom

Right: Doreen Ryan with Champion Doe, Krissy Lee. Krissy Lee was also judged the Best of Show.



First place bucks competing for Grand Champion buck.

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Six-tooth Doe (10 entries)

- 1 Zena Lee, Doreen Ryan, Virginia Dale, CO
- 2 Emily, Leslie Easter, Elizabeth, CO
- 3 Candy, Heather Marshall, Wellington, CO

Eighth-tooth and older Doe (8 entries)

- 1 Krissy Lee, Doreen Ryan, Virginia Dale, OCO
- 2 Velvet, Jeanine Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO
- 3 Dixie, Jeanine Gluklick

BUCKS

Bucklings (9 entries)

- 1 Zappa, Ann Bertschy, Gunnison, CO
- 2 Turtle, Ann Bertschy
- 3 Donny, Ann Bertschy

Milk Tooth Buck (4 entries)

- 1 Black Jack, Susanne Roth, Guffy, CO
- 2 Dakota, Bob & Pam Marshall, Wellington, CO
- 3 Zoom-Bee, Brenna Harfert, Peyton, CO

Four-tooth Buck (4 entries)

- 1 Zoom, Ann Bertschy, Gunnison, CO
- 2 Prince William, Jeanine Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO
- 3 Diesel, Ann Bertschy
- 4 Ace, Ann Bertschy

Six-tooth Buck (2 entries)

- 1 CCs Snoman, Leslie & Bill Easter, Elizabeth, CO
- 2 George, Bob & Pam Marshall, Wellington, CO

Eight-tooth and older Buck (2 entries)

- 1 Basil, Susanne Roth, Guffey, CO
- 2 Bear, Bob & Pam Marshall, Wellington, CO

WETHERS

Milk Tooth Wether (4 entries)

Continued on next page



Two-tooth wether class. Heather Marshall (left) and Willie and Doreen Ryan (right, human) with Dallas Scott.



Planning for the future: After the show, participants meet to discuss next year's event. Left to right: Lee Hawkins, Catie Easter, Leslie Easter, Doreen Ryan, Chloe Gluklick, Corinne Gluklick, standing left—Bob Marshall.

Estes Park

Continued from previous page

- 1 Isaac, Jeanine Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2 Blizzard, Brenna Harfert, Peyton, CO
- 3 Preston, Jeanine Gluklick

Two-tooth and older Wether (7 entries)

- 1 Dallas Scott, Doreen Ryan, Virginia Dale, CO
- 2 Willie, Heather Marshall, Wellington, CO
- 3 Gemmy Joe, Doreen Ryan

Obstacle Course (5 entries)

- 1 Fuji, shown by Shahcee Lowe, owned by Lee Hawkins, Pueblo West, CO
- 2 D’Nali, shown by Kendra Martinez, owned by Lee Hawkins, Pueblo West, CO
- 3 Lily, shown by Tascha Hoard, owned by Lee Hawkins

Betty Nagel, Harwood, Texas (left) helping Doreen Ryan (right) with her goats.



Above: Jill Graham (left) and Ann Bertschy trading goat information.

Right: Susanne Roth with her buck, Basil, preparing for eight-tooth buck class.



Photographs continued on next page

Taking a Break from the Show Estes Park Wool Market 2003 Cashmere Show



Willie the wether (Marshall's) takes a break.



Lori (right) and Brenna Harfert during a lunch break.

What Happens at the End of a Great Show?—Tired Goats!

Candy, owned by Heather Marshall, takes a break at the end of a long show day—Being a star is hard work!



Goats...A Species Whose Time has Come

Roger Ingram, Farm Advisor/Pasture & Livestock

Publication Number 31-616 (Fall 1998) University of California Cooperative Extension

Goats are good!

Just let that thought sit with you a while. Many times, the mere mention of the word goat brings an anguished look and a disgusted shake of the head by the listener. Images of uncontrollable animals running around eating everything in sight are vivid in many people's minds. Then there is the whole ranch identification with species issue. "We raise cattle"; "We raise sheep"; "We raise ___ (insert whatever specific breed of livestock you want)". The idea of raising something different or mixing species is hard for people to accept. Goats are good! They can be used in a variety of ways and can be complementary to many existing livestock enterprises.

This article highlights a goat operation called Goats Unlimited. Goats Unlimited has an overall goal to produce the highest quality Kiko meat goat for breeding stock and meat production while enhancing land productivity. When I visited their place in mid-August (1998) they seemed to be pushing the goat envelope as much as anyone. They are currently doing the following with goats: breeding, land cleaning, fire suppression, orchard pruning, weed control, marketing goat meat to restaurants. They are successful at what they do because they understand the concept of finding an animal that fits the environment, goat husbandry, use of guard dogs, and implementing principles of management-intensive grazing in a variety of situations.

Goats Unlimited started in Hawaii and became a partnership in 1990, five years after its initial establishment as a meat goat production and land cleaning operation. Two people comprise this business—Dr. An Peischel and Mike Spaetgens. An has a Masters and PhD in Livestock Nutrition and Mike is a commercial fisherman. The two have joined forces and are a dynamic team.

What About Goats?

Goats Unlimited primarily is in the business of producing Kiko goats. They also have Boer goats for sale. It is not the intention of this article to spark some sort of debate about breeds of goats. This information is included to give you some background on these two breeds of goats.

Goats Unlimited has been selecting both female and male replacements for their purebred Kiko mob under stringent requirements. They expect their Kiko females to twin the first kidding (bred as yearlings), raise and wean the twins.

The females accomplish this by grazing native vegetation with brush as a shelter, and a free choice loose mineral mix formulated to correct nutritional imbalances based upon soil, forage and blood analysis.

These doelings are expected to travel rugged terrain and long distances grazing native vegetation carrying twins. They need body capacity for the rumen and twins, structurally correct legs and feet for traveling and chest capacity for lungs with increased intake volume. Fullness of hindquarter, inside rear leg muscling are evaluated. Doelings are culled for breakdown of

feet and legs, not twinning, poor motherability or milkability, and udder conformation.

Goats Unlimited selects bucks on many of the same rigid conformation standards as they do females— structure of feet, legs and pasterns, width across the withers and rump, length and width of back and loin, depth of heart girth and chest floor, as well as both the shoulder and pelvic angles and expressed muscle definition of the hindquarter and inside hindleg. A pear-shaped scrotum that is not split containing firm testicles of equal size is a major criteria. Goats Unlimited is ruthless in culling with culled females going into their meat market and their males into their land enhancement projects.

Breeding

The Goats Unlimited breeding interval is three times in two years for commercial does and twice a year for purebred does for a 45-day breeding season; hot synchronizing the bucks before putting them with the does (a mature buck to 70+ does).

Bucks are vaccinated for CDT (clostridium perfringens C&D with tetanus) and leptospirosis. Feet are trimmed and they're fed one pound of whole corn daily four weeks before the breeding season.

The does are flushed on high quality vegetation and vaccinated for leptospirosis three weeks before breeding. Three weeks before kidding, they are vaccinated for CDT. Feet are trimmed four weeks before kidding. The deworming program is based upon fecal analysis, pasture conditions and weather, and the physiological status of the goat.

Kidding

At kidding, the does are set stocked in a pasture with mixed vegetation. The does are sorted into two groups—those bred during the first 21 day cycle and those bred the second cycle. As pasture quality decreases, the does are supplemented with one to two pounds of alfalfa hay daily.

The kid's navels are trimmed and dipped in iodine, they are ear tagged and imprinted. Imprinting kids at birth and for the next 24 hours makes herd breaking and handling much easier as they get older. Any orphans are grafted or fed fresh goat milk for seven days, then gradually switched to 50:50 (kid milk replacer: fresh goat milk), alfalfa hay and rolled corn. At three weeks of age, the kids receive their first CDT vaccination and females are disbudded. At seven weeks of age, the kids receive their second CDT and first leptospirosis vaccines, and the males are castrated.

The kids are weaned at three months of age, receiving their booster CDT and second leptospirosis vaccinations, and feet trimmed. Occasionally Goats Unlimited has a wet kidding season and dermatophilosis appears, but is not a long-lived problem.

Weaning

Continued on next page

Goats Unlimited

Continued from previous page

The weanoffs are fed one-half pound of whole corn per day with decox and alfalfa hay free choice for three weeks. They are then fed one-quarter pound of whole corn per day for two weeks along with pasture that is intensely managed.

Wethers are sold for meat at four to six months of age and the young doelings and bucklings are grown out on intensively managed vegetation.

The replacements are screened through a complete health profile, conformation and genetic background check, selected and bred at approximately 10 months to one year of age. All individuals receive their first rabies vaccination by one year of age.

Closed Herd

Goats Unlimited's decision to close the herd was made to secure a disease free status. Because of their rigid testing procedure, the herd is clean of caprine arthritis encephalitis, caseous lymphadenitis, brucellosis, tuberculosis, toxoplasmosis, and leptospirosis.

They have spot tested for campylobacter, chlamydia, bovine viral diarrhea (border disease), Johne's disease, and Q-fever, never having a case appear. Foot rot has never been a problem because of their health maintenance program.

Minerals

A free choice loose mineral mix of 10% salt, 1.5:1 Ca:P, chelated minerals, EDDI and zinc methionine is on offer. Goats Unlimited is located in a mineral deficient area so soil, forage and blood mineral levels are monitored regularly.

Getting Goats to Work for You

Now that we have a little background, we can learn about what goats can do. Goats are ruminant animals with a varied diet that includes woody plants, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. They can be very effective in lessening or removing brush. In order to do this, you have to take the goats to the brush. Once at a site, several things must be put in place in order for the goats to be successful. The following are answers to some common questions.

How Are The Goats Controlled?

Portable electric fencing with solar energizers are used to control the goats. Terrain and predation challenges determine whether to use portable electric flexible netting or three to four strand electric polywire with tread-in posts.

Kidding paddocks are all electric so the kids learn at a young age to respect the fences.

To ensure a good shock, grounding usually starts with four ground rods spaced 10 feet apart. More are added if the shock is not high enough. Remember, electric fences are more a psychological than a physical barrier. Animals avoid the fence because they do not want to get shocked. They could easily break through the portable fencing if not for the electricity—however, eight to nine thousand volts has a way of getting your attention.

About Kikos

A program, carried out in New Zealand to develop a new meat goat breed, capitalized on the dynamics of the large feral base population.

The goal of the program was to develop a breed capable of high performance that would increase meat production under difficult conditions. Feral goats are small with typical liveweights at weaning and maturity of 25 to 55 pounds for does and 35 to 88 pounds for bucks.

Kikos were developed by cross breeding selected feral does with Anglo Nubian, British Toggenberg, and Saanen bucks. With further cross-breeding and interbreeding, replacement stock were selected solely for survivability and growth rate in a hill country pastoral environment. After four generations of breeding, a dramatic improvement in liveweight and animal performance was achieved, and the Kiko breed established.

Husbandry inputs have been minimal. No hooves trimmed, and those with problems are culled. Internal parasite control is restricted to two to three drenches per annum for adults and five to six drenches for young animals in their first year.

Don't They Get Thirsty?

Yes, they do. If no water source is nearby, portable water systems are used. The system consists of a storage tank that sits in the back of a pickup, old fire pump, and plastic barrels cut in half with a float valve that is attached. They fill the tank in the back of the pickup with water and haul it to the goats. Gravity pressure moves the water from the pickup to the fire pump. Gravity is also used to deliver water from the pump to the portable water tanks. The pump also has a motor which can be used if needed. Goats drink about a gallon a day in the hot weather of summer.

What About Minerals?

Minerals are fed as a block or as a loose chelated mix. Kelp meal is also fed. The minerals are fed in feeders hung off the ground in the trees.

Aren't Predators A Problem?

Yes! The fencing helps some. The biggest deterrent occurs through the use of guard dogs. They use Pyrenean Mountain Dogs. The primary predators are coyotes, mountain lions, bears, and domestic dogs. They are always a concern.

The breed's origin is one of the Mastiff family, came to Europe (the Pyrenean Mountains of France and Spain) via the plateau of Tibet. The Pyrenean remained isolated for many years guarding flocks on high, rugged mountain slopes. Due

Continued on next page

Goats Unlimited

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to the extreme environmental conditions in which the guardian dog existed, body size, substance and power, stamina and protective body coat became essentials. The Pyrenean air of quiet confidence and intense instinct to guard with his life that which is placed in his protection makes this livestock guardian dog invaluable.

While An and Mike were around, these dogs were curious about me and friendly. However, if they had not been around, the dogs would have become more aggressive if I had crossed over the fence containing the goats. While nothing is 100%, Goats Unlimited has not suffered any predator losses while grazing this summer on Soper-Wheeler Timber Company land in Strawberry Valley.

Land Clearing

Goats Unlimited has been land cleaning for 13 years in Hawaii and California. The vegetation in the Sierra Foothill grazing area consists of woody plants, shrubs, forbs and grasses.

Before entering a new area, they develop a landscape goal, complete a vegetative survey and identify toxic plants. The objective is to control the invasion of unwanted species and encourage perennial grasses to return. Production management of the pasture is based upon a holistic approach and management-intensive grazing principles.

As the vegetative survey is being done, the growth habit and adaptation of each plant species must be known, especially those that are toxic. You must know the toxic factor of the plant, when it is at its highest level and when the plant can be consumed. In trying to control the invasion of woody species into grassland and encourage perennial grasses to return, it is important also not to forget the soil environment.

The effectiveness of the precipitation distribution pattern of the area is important for soil moisture and the growth of the different plant species. When the vegetation starts to change towards more desirable plants the amount of canopy to be left must be established. Reasons for leaving a canopy depend upon the use of the land that was set in the landscape goal and upon encouraging wildlife.

Because of this point, the goats are put in a large paddock of approximately 25 to 35 acres. This allows them to graze where they want. As the unwanted vegetation is grazed down, it makes it easier for the landowner to reassess and make any changes to the landscape goals and desired canopy.

Goats will tend to graze from the outside edge of the paddock and then move further into the paddock. Land cleaning involves grazing to create a certain landscape. Using the goats to gradually change the landscape maintains flexibility to tweak any changes the landowners might desire.

The first stop when I was there was a land cleaning project. Initially, the land was overgrown with blackberries, dock, and cocklebur. Now there were open areas for annual grasses to be expressed and it was easy to move around. Goats can be a tool to use when other animals may not work.

For example, we have a spring at the Sustainable Ranching Research Project site. This area is overgrown with blackberries. One fall day we herded the cattle over to the berries. We put up a polywire paddock around the berries and used alfalfa hay thrown into bushes to entice the cattle to trample and/or graze the berries.

The cows would lean in to get at the hay, but would not step into the bushes. The result was minimal impact. Eight months later, An brought some goats over and put them on the berries. They started to impact the vegetation by stripping the leaves and moving on inside of the bush. She was only able to stay one day, but changing the species greatly affected the impact on the berries.

With the use of the goats, herbicide and pesticide usage can be virtually eliminated. Creativity and imagination are needed to approach any obstacle and solve it—there are no problems, just challenges. It is economical; there is no heavy metal input, no chemical costs and the goats are in high demand by the ethnic groups as a food source.

Making sure the goats are environmentally adapted to work in the area alleviates health and production problems. Do not overlook the physiological state and the age of the animals in use during a land cleaning project. It is not productive to manage for land cleaning and reproduction of the goats at the same time. However, this will also depend upon the quality of the vegetation to be grazed and the grazing management practices. The age of the animal is very important as young stock do not have the teeth needed to bark and strip trees and shrubs. But, they do have the agility to get into areas that older stock may not venture.

Scientific research and resource production management have to be used together to change a low successional environment to a high successional one. Goats, under control, are being used to enhance land productivity.

Goats...And Fire!

The following introductory fire information comes from the 1997 *The Defensible Space and Healthy Forest Handbook*.

Fire in the Past

Prior to the Gold Rush, large pines dominated the landscape. The understory consisted of shrubs, perennial bunchgrasses, forbs, and some immature trees. Large herds of animals browsed on the understory shrubs and brush keeping fuels low in height and volume. When pine needles and understory vegetation were present in sufficient quantities, low intensity fires could sweep through and consume these surface fuels. Fires were rarely intense enough to kill large trees. Fire history studies throughout the western United States suggest that low intensity burns in mixed conifer forest types on average intervals of one to 30 years prior to 1890. Surface fires occurred at average intervals of four to eight years in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada, largely ignited by lightning.

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Goats Unlimited

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The Present

Today there are no great herds of livestock moving through to consume large quantities of understory. Fire suppression and foothill urbanization have allowed a deep fuel bed of leaves, twigs, pine needles, dead trees, limbs, and decadent brush.

The environment for high intensity burns such as surface or crown fires exists in many areas of the foothills. As an example, the fuel loading in the Meadow Vista community is estimated at over 200,000 tons! This is just one community in the foothills.

Enter The Goat

Many foothill areas have tremendous amounts of fuel loads. The potential for fire is high. What can be done? Homeowners are encouraged to keep a minimum of 30 feet of clearance around their homes (100 feet is preferred). Some do and some don't.

Controlled burns have been used in the past. Burning has a much narrower window of opportunity due to air quality concerns. Chippers are being used to masticate brush in a short period of time. The process works but is not cheap. There are steep areas where it would be difficult to get the machinery on-site.

This leaves the goat. Their preferred diet is browse and weeds. Prior to the Gold Rush it was mentioned that large herds would move through areas and graze the understory and brush. Removal of the fuel loads resulted in low intensity fires.

Today, the same situation is being replicated using goats. Goats Unlimited has been hired by Soper-Wheeler timber company to graze understory on their 100,000 acres. Soper-Wheeler is not trying to eliminate fire. Their goal is to lessen understory so that any fires in the area will be low intensity and minimally impact the trees. The goats are in Strawberry Valley which is approximately 3,500 feet elevation. As winter approaches, they will be grazed at lower elevations. The project has been in place for less than a year and is working.

I was taken to a site with two paddocks. The goats had been in the first paddock for several weeks and were being moved to the adjacent paddock. The paddock they had been in had considerable brush removed. Timing of when to move was partly being based on when brush removal had reached a point when the goats would start grazing pine seedlings.

On this day, that time had been reached. Even though there was still some brush, there was a real danger of some of the pine seedlings being impacted. The move consisted of opening a gate and calling to the goats. They readily came and entered the new paddock.

The most striking thing about the move was the sound of chewing. The goats eagerly munched on sweet birch and manzanita. They especially love sweet birch. They spent the first 45 minutes grazing close to where they had just moved and then began to move into the new paddock.

The Kikos have worked particularly well with minimal health or management problems. This is a must due to the extensive nature of the area being grazed. You cannot afford

the time or expense to constantly having to provide extra care for the goats.

Goats Unlimited is successful because they understand management-intensive grazing principles. They are set up to provide temporary fencing, water, and animals trained to respect electrical shock. Guard dogs are an essential component for predator protection. You should not try this at home unless you understand how all these pieces go together. It's not brain surgery, but you must know what you are doing.

Goats can dramatically reduce fuel loads. I feel their use for fire control will increase over the next few years.

Weed Control

Goats can also be used for weed control—for example, yellow starthistle. I receive calls all the time about what to spray to kill it or where to get biological control agents.

Sprays timed in conjunction with a follow-up seeding can go a long ways toward changing the starthistle landscape. Biological control has met with limited success due to the extremely long flowering period of yellow starthistle.

Another option is to find an animal that will graze it. Cattle and sheep have been used to graze starthistle. Goats will graze the entire starthistle plant, including the seedhead. This allows goats to keep up grazing pressure for a longer part of the growth period.

Goats Unlimited is currently grazing a field of yellow starthistle at a vegetable farm. This farm also has an old olive orchard. The goats have gone through each field and grazed the starthistle once. They are about to go though a second time to graze regrowth. Rest periods are approximately 45 to 55 days. This is the first year for the goats, so we will need to wait and see what happens next year.

Pruning

Goats can also prune old orchards and bring them back into bearing fruit. Goats Unlimited has done this in Hawaii. It works best to turn the goats in and let them do the initial pruning. After you pull them out, you can do any follow-up pruning necessary. The goats can also bark the trees to stimulate them to start bearing fruit again. You have to watch out because a little bit of barking helps, too much will kill the trees. Again, this is the first year for the goats and we will need to wait and see happens.

Final Thoughts

Goats are good! I hope you can see that from this article. They are a tool that can provide many benefits for ranchers.

Update: An Peischel, is currently teaching a goat browsing school with Mr. Ingram of UC Davis in September 2003.

For more information about Goats Unlimited, check out their website: <http://www.goatsunlimited.com/index.htm>

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First Case of Animal Anthrax in 2003—near Del Rio Producers in Area Urged to Vaccinate Livestock From the Texas Animal Health Commission

For Immediate Release--August 8, 2003

Laboratory tests completed in early August have confirmed that a white-tailed deer near Del Rio died from anthrax. This is the first confirmed case of the disease in Texas in 2003. "It's not unusual to have a few cases of anthrax in livestock or deer each year in Texas, and usually, they occur in a triangle bounded by Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass, which takes in portions of Crockett, Val Verde, Sutton, Edwards, Kinney, Uvalde and Maverick counties," said Dr. Bob Hillman, state veterinarian and executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency.

"In early July, counties around Del Rio received rains spawned by Hurricane Claudette as the storm moved westward over land. The welcome moisture was followed by a normal hot, dry spell. This weather pattern can trigger the germination of dormant anthrax spores in the ground, causing them to migrate to the surface and contaminate soil and grass, where the bacteria is ingested by grazing animals," said Dr. Hillman. "If the animals haven't been vaccinated against the disease, the anthrax bacteria can cause severe illness within hours and death within a couple of days. Carcasses of infected animals may bloat quickly and blood may ooze from body openings."

While laboratory tests, run by the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station, are needed to confirm infection, all anthrax cases--suspected or laboratory confirmed--must be reported to the TAHC. The regulatory agency operates a 24-hour hotline at 1-800-550-8242, with state or federal regulatory veterinarians available at all times to take calls and work with private veterinary practitioners and producers.

Dr. Hillman explained that the TAHC has two main concerns about anthrax cases. The first is to ensure that potentially exposed or incubating animals are not moved from the premise. "We don't want animals to die in transit or on a new premise and then be mishandled," said Dr. Hillman. "Therefore, our regulations require that animals on infected premises be quarantined for at least 10 days after all the livestock have been vaccinated against the disease. This period of time allows for any previously exposed animals to die from the disease, while healthy animals will develop immunity, thanks to the vaccine."

"Ranchers with livestock in areas where anthrax cases usually occur either vaccinate routinely each spring, or begin vaccinating their cattle, sheep, goats, horses or other grazing animals as soon as a season's first case is reported," he said. "Although the injected vaccine is very effective, unfortunately, there is no approved method for administering vaccine to free-ranging deer, which can't be rounded up and restrained in a chute for vaccination."

"Our second concern about anthrax is the proper disposal of infected carcasses," Dr. Hillman noted. He pointed out that, prior to release of a TAHC quarantine, carcasses of infected animals must be burned thoroughly, to prevent anthrax bacteria from leaching into the soil, where it can remain dormant for decades as spores.

"Carcasses of animals that have died of anthrax should not be opened, and to avoid bacterial contamination of the soil, carcasses, animal bedding, and nearby manure must be burned, and the surrounding soil must be scorched to kill the bacteria, using gasoline or wood as fuel," he said. He advised producers not to burn oils, diesel or tires, as these products create air pollution. Dr. Hillman said proper carcass disposal also prevents wild pigs, coyotes, dogs or other predators from dragging carcasses (and the anthrax bacteria) from one pasture to another.

"When burning potentially infected carcasses, or vaccinating livestock against anthrax, ranchers should wear shirts with long sleeves and put on gloves to avoid contaminating sores or scratches on their arms or hands," cautioned Dr. Hillman. "Skin anthrax can cause a nasty sore that requires appropriate antibiotic treatment from a physician, so practice good general sanitation practices. Wash your hands and clothes. Consider disinfecting equipment used to move bedding, potentially infected manure or fuel. Keep pets away from carcasses, and avoid picking up bones, horns or antlers from dead animals. Healthy animals should be moved from anthrax-contaminated areas during an outbreak."

"Hunters often ask us about anthrax and risks associated with harvesting animals," commented Dr. Hillman. "Fortunately, by the time hunting season starts, cool weather usually puts an end to a season's outbreak. Always shoot only healthy-looking animals. If a deer has ingested anthrax bacteria, within hours, it will stagger, tremble or exhibit convulsions, and death is inevitable."

"Anthrax is not a danger to travelers or vacationers in an area where cases have occurred," stressed Dr. Hillman. "We advise tourists to avoid touching carcasses, and they won't have to worry about the bacteria or contracting the disease. Anthrax has been with us for hundreds of years, and while cases are noteworthy, they are not alarming."

For information, contact Carla Everette, information officer at 1-800-550-8242, ext 710, email: ceverett@tahc.state.tx.us

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Anthrax

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Funding Agency: School of Land and Food Sciences, UQ

The acquisition of immunity to intestinal parasites by goats -
Birth to 30 weeks

Young ruminants are exposed to intestinal parasite infections from the time they start consuming grass, and this exposure supposedly initiates an immune response which will provide some level of protection against future infections. It is thought that the consumption of milk and the acid conditions of the pre-ruminant stomach provide some protection from severe infections in very young lambs and kids, and that sufficient challenge for an immune response is not achieved until about 6 weeks of age. There is no information on this process of acquisition of immunity in goats, and it is only partly understood in sheep. It is thought that there may be only a limited window of time when intestinal challenge results in an effective immune response. If this is true, then the uncritical use of anthelmintics from an early age may be to render these animals incompetent to response to parasite challenges in later life. The following study is using 96 Australian cashmere goat kids to test this hypothesis. Balanced groups (for sex and parity) of kids are allowed 4 week windows of exposure to intestinal parasites between the ages of 6 and 30 weeks. This was accomplished by drenching all goats at 2 weekly intervals, with the exception of that group which was to be exposed for that particular time period. At the end of 30 weeks, all drenching will be stopped exposing all kids to parasite challenge, and four weeks later, faecal samples will be collected from each kid to determine the number of parasite eggs. It is expected that those with the lowest egg count will have gained the greatest immunity which will be related back to a particular window of time. The results of this study will be reported in a final year project thesis, and a summary of these results will be reported when completed.

Abstract Lane 2003 (in preparation)

Collaborators: Ms Amanda Lane, Final Year Project, B.Agr. Sc.(Animal Science), Dr Glen Coleman, School of Veterinary Science, UQ, Mr Andrew Gibbon, Acting Manager, Mt Cotton farm
Duration of Project: 2003

Funding Agency: School of Land and Food Sciences, UQ

Source of information: <http://www.uq.edu.au/~agbnorto/Barry/researchinprogress.htm#goats>

**Current Ongoing Cashmere Goat Research
University of Queensland, Australia**

**Researcher: Barry W. Norton, Associate Professor
Animal Biochemistry & Nutrition**

Supplementary feeding of does before kidding increases survival rate of kids to weaning.

Australian cashmere goats are highly fertile, and high proportions of twins and triplets are found at kidding. However the losses of kids between birth and weaning is often high, and the causes of these losses is not always understood, and often blamed on poor mothering. Merino ewes are also thought to have poor mothering ability, although recent studies by Milton and others in Western Australia suggests that lamb survival can be greatly increased by supplementing ewes for two weeks before lambing. These workers have shown that colostrum production is significantly increased by these supplements, which in turn, provides better nutrition for the new born lambs. The following study investigates whether feeding does in the two weeks before kidding has any effect of the growth and survival of kids to weaning. The treatments applied were as follows: grazing only (on Pangola grass), grazing only (on oats), grazing plus supplement (50:50 sorghum and cottonseed meal) two weeks before kidding, and grazing plus supplement (50:50 sorghum and cottonseed meal) two weeks before and for 4 weeks after kidding. Kid growth rates, does weights and survival to weaning were recorded. The results of this study will be reported in a final year project thesis, and a summary of these results will be reported when available.

Abstract Goodwin 2003 (in preparation)

Collaborators: Ms Nicki Goodwin, Final Year Project, B.Agr. Sc.(Animal Science). Mr Andrew Gibbon, Acting Manager, Mt Cotton farm

Duration of Project: 2003

DISEASES AND THE SHOWRING

From the USDA Extension Goat Handbook

By C. S. F. Williams, Michigan State U., East Lansing, MI

Taking goats to a show is like taking children to nursery school; they are at risk to every disease available. As long as this is understood, the positive aspects of showing can be balanced against the negative aspects and a decision can be made to show goats or choose some other method of promotion.

Predisposing Causes of Disease (Stressors)

Protect animals during hauling from exposure to wind, rain, dust, excessive heat and cold. When traveling only a short distance to reach a show location, place compatible animals of a similar size together and allow enough space so they can help support each other while the vehicle is in motion. For long hauls, there should be lots of bedding and enough room to permit the goats to lie down. Open pick-up trucks, slatted horse trailers and campers with little ventilation offer differing but equal opportunities for stress on show animals.

To find out how stressful the ride is, try riding with the goats. If you are barely able to crawl out of the truck or trailer afterwards, do not be surprised if the goats don't show well or "break" with some infection following the show.

Reducing Stress at Shows

Several factors may make showing less stressful:

1. Arrive at the show well ahead of time.
2. Be sure that a veterinarian has examined all animals entered and found them healthy.
3. Place animals in a clean, safe pen.
4. Provide plenty of familiar hay.
5. Make sure that animals have plenty of rest and quiet before they are brought into the show ring.
6. Do not overbag your doe so that her legs have to swing around her udder. At showtime, an udder should be filled to about the size and texture it reaches at peak lactation on twice daily milking.
7. Provide drinkable water—many goats refuse to drink chlorinated or other "strange" water at shows. Many who show goats bring from home a 10 gallon milk can full of water to be sure their animals will drink enough. Sometimes, strange water can be made acceptable by adding a quarter cupful of molasses or a tablespoonful of baking soda per three gallon bucket.

Individual Goat Stress

Goats vary in their ability to withstand the stress of being on the show circuit. Some goats appear to thrive on it and eat

well, maintain production and manage to look good most of the time. These animals are very likely to be some of the most reliable producers at home as well. The goat that is easily upset on the show circuit, and needs a lot of individual attention, will probably not show well, neither will she produce to her potential in a large herd.

In many ways, showing results in the survival of the fittest. An aged doe, with good conformation and the constitution, both mental and physical, to survive the stresses of production and showing is a truly admirable animal.

Diseases

These can be divided into two groups. Firstly, there are those that occur during or immediately after a show, so there is little or no doubt as to where the disease came from. Secondly, there are the diseases which take a long time to develop and there is no reliable way of telling where they came from. You only know that goats have been in contact with goats from other herds and more disease problems are now present than you think are justified.

Acute Diseases

The most obvious epidemic disease in this category is sore-mouth, a virus disease capable of infecting humans. Sores and scabs appear on the gums, lips and nose, and occasionally around the teats, tail, eyelids and feet. Sheep also suffer from this disease, and since many goats are housed in the sheep pens at fairs, it is possible for goats to acquire the disease by contact with scabs and virus on the pen walls. Handling of goats by judges and visitors will also spread the disease. Thorough examination of goats as they arrive at the show will not eliminate risk of this disease. A goat may have no lesions at all, when she arrives, but may be incubating the disease, and then the sores and scabs will appear on the lips a few days later. During this time, she has spread the virus to many other goats.

Pinkeye, or conjunctivitis, may be due to an injury if it only affects one eye of one goat. If it spreads from goat to goat, then it is an infectious conjunctivitis. Any pinkeye case will be aggravated by dust, flies and bright sunlight, and affected animals should be kept out of the sun and the wind with easy access to food and water.

Respiratory infections are very common after susceptible animals have been to a show, and the infection often spreads through the rest of the animals that did not go to the show, especially if there was no isolation of the returning goats. Goats will cough and have a nasal discharge. They may run a fever, be off-feed, and stand around, in a depressed state with drooping ears. There is no one specific infectious organism that causes

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Diseases and the Showing Continued from previous page

this. Very likely there are several agents involved, similar to the shipping fever situation in cattle. After several shows and bouts of respiratory infection, most goats develop some resistance. After that, it is usually only the newcomers that will be affected. However, some animals may remain as chronic coughers, and these often relapse into pneumonia following stresses such as a sudden change in the weather.

If pseudorabies exists in the local hogs, then goats should not be housed near hogs, or transported in hog trucks to the fair.

Rotavirus infection has been reported to cause acute short-term diarrhea in show goats, but the prevalence of this virus in US goats is not known. Digestive upsets may occur at the fair, but this is usually due to erratic feeding schedules and strange food and water rather than any infectious disease. Mastitis may occur as a result of injury to the udder during transport or the stress of overbagging.

Long Term Diseases

It is highly unlikely that showing goats will expose them to any parasites that they did not have already. It is also highly unlikely that goats will contract tuberculosis or brucellosis because these diseases are extremely rare and subject to regulatory action.

The issue of abscesses and transmission via shows is controversial. The disease, caseous lymphadenitis, is caused by *Corynebacterium ovis* (pseudotuberculosis). These bacteria have been shown to be capable of causing an abscess in a goat, after being placed on the skin. Therefore, it is prudent to avoid contact with abscessed goats and sharing of potentially contaminated equipment such as collars, halters, brushes, clipper, etc. between herds.

A goat infected with this organism is a hazard to other goats. An abscess, regardless of the stage of development, should be sufficient to have the goat barred from the show under state laws prohibiting the exhibition of animals with signs of contagious or infectious disease.

Health Papers

Before goats are shipped or shown in another state, health requirements for the state of destination should be followed. First, call the state veterinarian's office in your own state and ask what tests and documents are required at your destination. Most states require a Health Certificate written and signed by an Accredited Veterinarian stating that the animal(s) and the herd of origin are free from tuberculosis, brucellosis and any evidence of infectious or contagious caprine disease. Unfortunately, many health certificates do not represent a thorough examination of the animals shipped nor a clear knowledge that the herd of origin is free of disease. Therefore, a health certificate does not take the place of careful veterinary examination of consigned

animals immediately before their entrance to shows and sales. Even so, the animals could be incubating an acute disease, they could be incubating a long-term disease like Johne's, or they could be carriers, yet show no signs; and the veterinarian is correct in accepting the health papers and accepting the animal for the show or sale. It is not safe to presume that goats are healthy, just because they have health papers.

Conclusions

The experienced showman on a summer long circuit knows which goats can withstand the stresses, and that most of them have developed an immunity to the acute illnesses anyway. The novice, with a new show herd of highly susceptible animals will have far more problems with acute diseases.



Healthy show goats stay healthy by owners being aware of potential hazards of stress and disease exposure.

The “Junk” Cashmere Sweater

By Linda Fox

Early in 2002, I sent 37-pounds of raw shorn cashmere fleece to a dehairing company to have it processed—washed, dehaired and spun into yarn. I had divided our harvest into four colors—two flavors of brown, white and a silvery gray. When we received our finished product back, along with the beautiful yarn came eight ounces of washed, dehaired cashmere labeled as “usable waste.” The mill indicated one of the “waste” bags might be suitable for spinning and the second might be suitable for felting. The two bags contained separate pieces of various shades of cashmere, rather than one blended color. I wasn’t sure where in the process these bits were generated, but upon inspection, it all looked like a spinnable product to me.

I used to have an old cotton sweater, retired after I had worn it long past when it looked new. It was simple, short-sleeved and short-bodied. It had an oatmeal look to it which reminded me of the colors in the bag of waste I was becoming excited about. I decided to find a pattern similar to this old sweater to try and make use of my “junk” cashmere. I located an old pattern which I had knit in 1971—a simple short-sleeved stockinette sweater with ribbing at the neckline, sleeves and bottom. The original pattern called for stripes of various colors, but I would knit it all with my variegated cashmere yarn.

I spent the next couple of months spinning the yarn. I spun the yarn fine, but not quite as fine as I would for two-ply lace-weight yarn. I spun the singles using the various colors as I came to them in the bag. I made no effort to keep the various colors together. In fact, I made an effort to switch from time to time when I felt I had spun quite a bit of one continuous color. From the singles, I made a three-ply yarn. Again, I made no conscious decision on which singles to ply together. The resulting yarn was beautiful; the three-ply made a soft, rounded yarn which I couldn’t wait to get on the knitting needles.

I washed the skeined yarn, fulling it a little, let it dry and then wound it into balls for knitting.

During the next couple of months, I knit the sweater. The pattern called for size 8 knitting needles for the body of the sweater and size 6 for the ribbing. The gauge for my yarn was similar to the purchased yarn called for in the pattern and since the sweater is fairly loose and unfitted, I figured it would be close enough.

The sweater has four parts—the back, the front and the two little sleeves. The ribbing on the sleeves and bottom are knit along with the pieces, but the ribbing around the neck is added after you connect the front and the back together at the shoul-

The original pattern—from a Bear Brand Fleisher Botany yarn, Leaflet No. 460. Not to say it is old, but it cost me 50 cents in 1971. You may not be able to find the original pattern. The original leaflet contains 5 fairly ugly sweater patterns to knit or crochet. I knit this sweater from wool in the early 70’s, wore it a lot and eventually donated it to Goodwill after I finally realized it was fairly ugly.



The “junk” cashmere sweater made from the pattern above it, using 3-ply hand-spun cashmere yarn. It has an “oatmeal” look to it and I love it! The variation in the natural cashmere colors isn’t captured here, but it is beautiful. I wonder if I will look at it twenty years from now and finally decide it, too, is ugly?

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Junk Cashmere Sweater

Continued from previous page

der seams. This is a typical construction method for a sweater of this type. Since the knitting is mostly knit one row, pearl one row ad nauseam, with a few spots of stitch decreases around the arms, the knitting was fast and mindless. Even the most exciting movies or chatter could be enjoyed without worrying that a mistake might creep into my project. The yarn fluffed up as I knit to make a gorgeous halo.

Each year, our family gets together at my parents' place in Redmond, Oregon, for the Labor Day weekend. I had the front and back complete before then and I knit most of one sleeve on our drive over. Usually reading or knitting in a moving vehicle makes me carsick, but I was on a mission to finish the project and it didn't seem to bother me on this trip.

During the weekend get-together, I finished the two sleeves, joined the pieces together and completed the neck ribbing and proudly modelled the completed sweater for my family.

The sweater turned out well and I wear it a lot. I have hand washed it several times since its completion and it still looks new. My coworkers admire it and it has helped them decide that goats may not be such a bad deal after all.

My greatest fear for this project was that the sweater would be too warm to wear outside of the Arctic. It isn't exactly a lacy pattern and it would contain a full eight ounces of cashmere. However, it hasn't turned out to be overly warm. I'd label it a "toasty" sweater. It's definitely not for summer wear, but it is very comfortable even for indoor wear.

I would recommend this type of sweater for anyone with cashmere to spare. Eight ounces is a lot of fiber for a simple cashmere sweater and this would be an expensive sweater if you had to buy the fleece to spin, or purchase ready-made yarn for you non-spinners. However, for the cashmere I had and the sweater I wanted, this was a perfect solution. This is also an incredibly easy and quick pattern to knit—very suitable for a beginner who doesn't want toil for years on their first sweater project.

Who's Feeding the Goats Now?

In Oklahoma, a woman has recently been charged with shooting (and killing) her husband after an argument over who should feed the couple's goats.

The Oklahoma woman, age 47, has been charged with first-degree murder for her husband's death. A County law enforcement official was quoted as saying, "We were told that what prompted this disagreement was her failure to feed the goats." No mention was made of what breed of goats were involved or who usually was in charge of feeding the goats.

The story goes that on June 10, 2003, the woman pointed a gun at her husband and demanded that he go feed the goats. Her husband declined and then dared his wife to shoot him. Apparently, she took him up on his offer.

The woman was jailed, \$100,000 bail was set pending her arraignment. She could face the death penalty if convicted.

The law enforcement official did not believe that the feeding of the goats was the real issue, but claimed that the couple had a history of domestic violence and that the argument over feeding goats was just the breaking point.

A lesson here: if it's your turn to feed the goats, consider just doing it!

What do you mean "junk"!?



Where's my food?



Calendar of Events

September 20 - 21, 2003

Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival, Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock, NY, Info: Robin Nistock, 10137 Mattoon Rd., Plattsburgh, NY 14873, 607-522-4374, sheepmom@empacc.net

September 20 - 22, 2003

California Wool and Fiber Festival
Mendocino County Fairgrounds, Mendocino, CA
71st annual California National Wool Show, vendors
Info: Loretta Houck, 707-894-5966, internet: www.fiberfestival.com

September 27 - 28, 2003

Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival - 7th annual Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Oregon. Cashmere goat show (9/27 - 9 AM), wool show and sales, fiber, skein and fiber art competitions, vendors, workshops, sheep and goat shows. It's an event! Don't miss it!

Information: <http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com>
Information for entering cashmere goat show - see page 26, this issue.

September 30, 2003

ECA cashmere fleece competition, Virginia State Fair, Richmond, VA. Info: Lisa Vailes, 540-885-1261, lvailles@inbio.com. Detailed instructions page 5, this issue. Also, workshop on goat health (especially parasite control) and nutrition by Dr. Joe Tritschler, Extension Animal Scientist, VSU.

October 1, 2003

ECA cashmere goat show, Virginia State Fair, Richmond, Virginia. Show Superintendent: Lisa Vailes, contact information above under September 30th events.

October 4 - 5, 2003

Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, Essex Junction, Vermont. Sheep & other fiber animals, handspinning and fiber competitions, demonstrations, vendors, exhibits, workshops. Info: Kat Smith, 136 Jack Perry Rd, Wallingford, VT 05773.

October 18 - 19, 2003

NOT 9/18 as printed in the 2003 CM calendar!
New York Sheep and Wool Festival, Rhinebeck, New York, ECA cashmere goat show (10/19), Joe David Ross, Judge. Also workshops are in the works—potentially spinning cashmere!
Information: Wes Ackley, ackley@megalink.net or 207-336-2948.

Association Contacts

Cashmere America Cooperative

Joe David Ross, Manager, 915-387-6052
fax: 915-387-2642, Email: goat@sonoratx.net
Wes Ackley (Maine) 207-336-2948
Marti Wall (Washington) 360-424-7935

Eastern Cashmere Association (ECA)

Ann Wood, President
937-834-1122, tamarackranch@core.com

North West Cashmere Association (NWCA)

Diana Mullins, President,
509-997-2204, 509-429-0778, dmullins@methow.com
Carol Spencer, Membership Coordinator
503-873-5474, message: 503-873-5511
cspencer@foxmoorfarm.com
Website: <http://www.nwcacashmere.org>

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, email: bnagel@bvtc.com



NWCA Field Day at Joe, Diana and Robin Walker's farm in Gates, Oregon, July 26, 2003. Question: How many people does it take to check the teeth on a baby goat—without being skewered by their tiny razor-sharp teeth? Answer: three!

Breeders Directory



**MARSHALL'S
ORGANIC ACRES**
9217 N. County Rd. 7
Wellington, CO 80549-1521
970-568-7941
Borganic2@aol.com

**SMOKE RIDGE
CASHMERE**
Craig Tucker
Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
2870 Eighth Lane NW
Choteau, MT 59422
406-466-5952
fax: 406-466-5951
smokeridge@marsweb.com

MOO'S MEADOW FARM
Judith E. Paul
Springville, NY 14141
716-941-5826
judithepaul@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA

CAPRETTE CASHMERE
Barbara Fiorica
13059 Cherry Rd.
Wilton, CA 95693
916-687-6406
ROFIORICA@AOL.COM

CONNOR'S RUN FARM
Pete and Charlotte Rhoads
6300 Lofty View Road
Placerville, CA 95667
530-642-9931
fax: 530-642-9936
email: prhoads@mindspring.com

HENRY LOWMAN
PO Box 2556
El Granada, CA 94018
650-225-1171
email: hlowman@compuserve.com

COLORADO

GOATIQUE
Ann Bertschy
607 County Road 730
Gunnison, CO 81230
970-641-5383
goatique@pcrs.net

JABBERWOCKY FARM
Susanne Roth
408 Cty Rd. 59
Guffey, CO 80820
719-689-9502

K. BULLARD/CHALK
7225 E. County Rd. 18
Loveland, CO 80537
970-667-2999

MAINE

**BESSEY PLACE
CASHMERE**
Wes and Marilyn Ackley
319 Brock School Road
Buckfield, ME 04220
207-336-2948
ackley@megalink.net

BLACK LOCUST FARM
Yvonne Taylor
PO Box 378
Washington, ME 04574
207-845-2722
yvonne@blacklocust.com

SPRINGTIDE FARM
Peter Goth & Wendy Pieh
PO Box 203
Bremen, ME 04551
207-529-5747
fax: 207-529-5739
wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com

MARYLAND

MIDDLETOWN FARM
George and Barbara Little
8123 Old Hagerstown Rd.
Middletown, MD 21769
phone & fax: 301-371-8743
glittle640@aol.com

MONTANA

CASTLE CRAGS RANCH
Steve and Diana
Hachenberger
894 Pheasant Run
Hamilton, MT 59840
phone & fax:
406-961-3058
cashmere@bitterroot.net

WOOLY CRITTERS RANCH

Susan Max
84 Quartz Rd
Superior, MT 59872
406-822-3602

NEVADA

**DOUBLE BAR J
CASHMERE**
Betsy Macfarlan/Jeff Weeks
P.O. Box 150039
Ely, NV 89315
775-742-1189
goatsnsoap@idsely.com

ROYAL CASHMERE
Eileen Cornwell
Byron Higgins
5455 Reno Highway
Fallon, NV 89406
phone & fax: 775-423-3335
cashmere@phonewave.net

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ROKA Farm
Jefferson, NH
Pat Bacon
97 Success Rd
Milan, NH 03588
603-449-6797
mswhmtns21@hotmail.com

NEW YORK

HERMIT POND FARM
Pamela Haendle
10601 Merrill Road
West Edmeston, NY 13485
315-899-7792
hermit@borg.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Flying Fiber Farm
Sandra Basel
941 Vanderpool Road
Vilas, NC 28692
828-297-3046
fax: 866-728-4141
FlyingFiberFarm@aol.com

OHIO

**HIGH COUNTRY
CASHMERE COMPANY**
Chris and Kathryn Cooper
12840 Cowan Road
Athens, OH 45701-9539
740-594-3350
email: kcooper@eurekanet.com

TAMARACK RANCH
Bob and Ann Wood
12575 Collins-Arbogast Rd.
South Vienna, OH 45369-9514
937-834-1122
tamarackranch@core.com

OKLAHOMA

**TEXOMA KIDS &
CASHMERE**
J. D. and Karen Chandler
Rt 1, Box 37
Mannsville, OK 73447
580-371-3167
fax: 580-371-9589
jkc@flash.net

Continued on next page

Breeders Directory
Continued from previous page

OREGON

ABORIGINAL FIBRE

razberi kyan (Pat Almond)
PO Box 899
Mulino, OR 97042-0899
503-632-3615
razberi@teleport.com

AYER'S CREEK RANCH

19655 NE Calkins Lane
Newberg, OR 97132
503-554-9260
Linda_Lowell@beavton.k12.or.us

CASHMERE GROVES

Pat Groves
16925 S. Beckman Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-631-7806
pgroves@ccwebster.net

DUKES VALLEY FIBER FARM

Fran and Joe Mazzara
4207 Sylvester Drive
Hood River, OR 97031
541-354-6186
FMAZZARA@gorge.net

FOXMOOR FARM

Carol and Carrie Spencer
1178 N.E. Victor Point Road
Silverton, OR 97381
Phone: 503-873-5474
Message: 503-873-5511
foxmoorfarm@foxmoorfarm.com

GOAT KNOLL

Paul Johnson/Linda Fox
2280 S. Church Rd.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-5194
goatknol@wvi.com

HARVEST MOON FARM

Guy and Karen Triplett
63311 Abbey Road
Bend, OR 97701-9743

541-388-8992
harvest@empnet.com

HAWKS MOUNTAIN PYGORA'S

Lisa Roskopf & George DeGeer
51920 SW Dundee Rd.
Gaston, OR 97119
503-985-3331
Fax: 503-985-3321
lisa@hmrpygoras.com

MCTIMMONDS VALLEY FARM

Janet and Joe Hanus
11440 Kings Valley Hwy.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-4113
janhanus@open.org

ROARING CREEK FARMS

Arlen and Cathy Emmert
27652 Fern Ridge Road
Sweet Home, OR 97386
503-367-6698
cashmere@proaxis.com

PENNSYLVANIA

DANCING HEART FARM

Marc & Cindy Briggs
RD 1 Box 1327A
Russell, PA 16345
814-757-8119
mncbriggs@kinzua.net

TOAD HAVEN FARM

Gloria Rubino
RR 2, Box 2248A
Saylorsburg, PA 18353-9568
570-629-6946
Toadhaven@aol.com

TENNESSEE

CUDROW CASHMERE

Jim & Cindy Crisp
1936 Calderwood Hwy.
Maryville, TN 37801

865-856-5264
CudRowCashmere@msn.com

CUMBERLAND BLUE FARM

Bob and Rita Russo
607 Old Blue Springs Rd
Smithville, TN 37166
615-215-8837
RRUSSO@DTCCOM.NET

TEXAS

JOE DAVID ROSS

Box 645
Sonora, TX 76950

VERMONT

APPLEWOOD FARM

Barbara & Dick Albertini
Post Office Box 168
Underhill Center, VT 05490
802-899-4294
Fax: 802-899-2583
Ralbert315@AOL.COM

VIRGINIA

FOGGY BOTTOM FARM

John and Marilee Williamson
990 Old Hollow Rd
Buchanan, VA 24066-4938
540-254-1628
mhwabc@juno.com

GREENWOOD CASHMERE GOATS AND HIGHLAND CATTLE

Mary and Douglas Waters
163 Zion Hill Road
Fincastle, VA 24090-3668
dooglecw@aol.com

SILVER BRANCH FARM

Chuck and Lisa Vailes
1506 Sangers Lane
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-1261
crvailes@cfw.com

STONEY CREST FARM

Anne and Roy Repaske
570 Paddy's Cove Lane
Star Tannery, VA 22654
Phone/fax: 540-436-3546

cashmere@shentel.net

WASHINGTON

BREEZY MEADOW CASHMERE FARM

Douglas and Roberta Maier
810 Van Wyck Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-733-6742
fibergoat@earthlink.net

BROOKFIELD FARM

Ian Balsillie/Karen Bean
PO Box 443
Maple Falls, WA 98266
360-599-1469 or
360-715-1604
brookfarm@earthlink.net

LIBERTY FARM (NLF)

Cliff and Mickey Nielsen
5252 Hwy 12
Yakima, WA 98908
509-965-3708
mnielsen7@aol.com

SHEA LORE RANCH

Jeremiah and Nancy Shea
4652 S. Palouse River Rd.
Colfax, WA 99111-8768
Phone: 509-397-2804

STILL WATERS CASHMERE

Moon and Diana Mullins
PO Box 1265
Twisp, WA 98856
509-997-2204
509-429-0778
dmullins@methow.com

Internet listing of these breeders and a link to their email addresses and homepages, can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.cashmirror.com/breeders.htm>

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Maremma Sheepdog Club of America, Maremma Livestock Guarding dogs, PO Box 546, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, 616-374-7209. Free information and Breeder Directory.

Yocom-McColl Testing Laboratories, Inc. for individual animal and core testing. Ph: (303) 294-0582, Fax (303) 295-6944, Email: ymcoll@ix.netcom.com Website: <http://www.ymcoll.com>

OFFF

Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival Canby, Oregon

A Cashmere goat show will be held Saturday, September 27th at 9 AM. Judge is Sharon Chestnutt, Monroe, Oregon. Classes include Wethers under 12 months, wethers over 12 months, Bucks under 9 months, Does kids (under 12 months), Doe yearlings (under 24 months), Does 2-4 years, Senior Does (over 4 years), and Best Herd (1 buck kids, 2 does). Animals in all classes except kid classes must be accompanied by the last year's fleece in a bag. Maximum of two animals per class may be entered.

Entry form and fee (\$6.50 per animal) due by September 1, 2003. Late entry fees are double. Entry form and instructions available on the OFFF website: <http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com>

Cashmere Show Chair: Lisa Zietz, 503-324-0910, email: moon@hevanet.com

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Notable Quotes

"As with other animals species, when it comes to illness in goats, the results of any treatment is unpredictable."

...Claude H. McGowan, Coordinator Florida A & M University Goat Program

"In Mongolia no one wears cashmere."

...Clifford Agocs, PennState University

"It's a cat's world; people are just around to open the cans."
 ...Mickey's Humans

"Don't ever become a pessimist... a pessimist is correct oftener than an optimist, but an optimist has more fun, and neither can stop the march of events."

...Robert A. Heinlein

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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