

CASH MIRROR

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July 1999

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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Cover photo: Linda Cortright, Grumble Goat Farm

"Well, I told Matilda that young buck was no good, but she didn't listen and now you know what they're saying about the young ones, but you know how Matilda is...can't tell her a thing..."

Wake up ladies! The bucks are coming!



Photo by Gerry and Pat Fuhr, Giant Stride Farm, Alberta, Canada

Announcing The 1999 Breeders' Showcase Issue August 1999 (the next issue)

Deadlines for ads, photographs and copy: July 31, 1999

The Breeders' Showcase Issue

As usual, we will print extra copies of this special issue and distribute them as promotional material at fiber and goat gatherings in the US and Canada. This is your issue to shine (and promote) at a good price. There will be special prices on advertising—both display and classifieds. We can help you design and lay out an ad for this issue, usually at no additional charge.

We're Looking for Photos

We're looking for photographs of great bucks for this issue, including for the cover. We're even thinking of running a "centerfold" picture (you know, something to pull out and pin to the wall in the doe barn) if we can find a suitable photograph.

Get the Word Out!

Let other breeders and cashmere producers know what you have for sale or rent. This is the time of year when producers shop for bucks—for purchase and for rent.

Special (cheap) Advertising Rates For August 1999 Issue

Display Advertising

1/2 page	\$65
1/3 page	\$50
1/4 page	\$35
Business card size	\$20

Classified Advertising

25 cents per word!

Reflections

by Linda Fox

Johnsons' Pond

Our pond has taken on new life. When we first moved back to the farm, the pond was not easily accessible. Willows crowded two sides, rushes filled the edges and blackberries tumbled from fir and cedar trees along the bank. You couldn't get to the water without a machete in hand.

Twenty years ago, when the pond was young, dug ten feet deep by human equipment and kept filled to the top of the overflow by a healthy spring, it had served well as a watering hole for livestock, primarily cows and horses. It was a large, nude hole in the middle of green pasture, filled with water and surrounded by muddy cowprints. One day, in the early 1980's, we brought home a few small bass and bluegill in water-filled buckets and tossed them into the pond. We didn't have high hopes for their survival.

Reclaiming the pond hadn't been a priority on our list of chores as we worked on our land preparing it for goats. We built goat-proof fences, a barn for the goats, small shelters for distant pastures and beefed up our perimeters to discourage predators and local poachers. As time allowed, we lugged truckloads of fencing material across the property to build cross fences to facilitate pasture rotation. Last summer, we built a paddock fence which contained the pond and a few surrounding acres. The land is swampy in this area as, in addition to the pond overflow, several intermittent streams wander across. We knew it would work well for livestock pasture only in the summer. At least we wouldn't have to worry about keeping them supplied with water.

We turned in the adult buck horde first. We frequently hear coyotes near the pond so we wanted to first introduce something with major defensive equipment on their heads. Late fall, when we moved the now fat bucks to their breeding groups and winter quarters, we noticed that you could easily walk completely around the pond with only an occasional machete whack to a few persistent blackberry vines. Our resident brush-eaters had reclaimed our pond for us.

This spring, in addition to the usual array of mallard ducks, Canadian geese and red-winged blackbird visitors to the pond, we noticed a Blue Heron spending time at the shoreline. Paul quickly rigged up a fishing pole and tossed out a line to see what was residing under the surface. He came back to the house with a string of bass and a smile. He also proudly proclaimed that he had caught and tossed back many bluegill. Not only had the few small fish survived, they had flourished.

Besides the birds and fish, other critters regularly use the pond. There's a whole world of frogs down there including tiny frogs clinging to the willows on the bank and gigantic bullfrogs with their foghorn voices who are big enough to eat Mickey. We often see deer in the early morning drinking at the edge and have seen nutria swimming near the surface.

For the most part, we like to see wildlife use the pond, but

after finding that the nutria-constructed holes in the banks of the pond were creating leaks, Paul headed down the hill with his varmint rifle.

We put up a park bench near the pond's edge and began to spend late afternoons on weekends there, fishing and sitting on the bench watching the swallows dip down and scoop up bugs at the waters' surface, often just a wing-flap ahead of the fish jumping out of the water after the same bugs. Dragonflies and butterflies cavorted among the reeds near the bench.

And just like in real life, when the area is made perfect and diverse by the native species (with a little help from the local varmint patrol), domesticity moves in. One morning several months ago, we discovered five domestic geese swimming on the pond. We have two neighbors who have geese, so we had our suspicions that the geese were not permanent. We've owned geese before and were still debating if the mess and noise was worth the pleasure of their company. Continuing the debate, we enjoyed watching the geese on the pond and waited for the geese to return home or for someone to come looking for lost geese. Just as we were thinking we should begin phoning around, I passed a neighbor and his daughter walking down our road. I stopped, rolled down the car window and asked them if they were hunting for their geese. They were, and explained that they had been having trouble with foxes raiding their poultry and chasing it into the surrounding woods. They followed me to the pond and were happy to discover that their beloved geese were not dead, but had just moved to a safer spot. I told them they were welcome to go in and catch them. They said they didn't know how they would be able to corner them and thought that they looked nice (and a lot safer) on our pond. I told them we certainly couldn't promise safety here, but we would look after them. They left, promising to bring us a bag of corn to feed them.

Since spring, only one goose has disappeared. We hoped, at first, that she might be hiding out with a nest of eggs, but now suspect, she left unwillingly in the jaws of a coyote. The remaining four are still there and seem content in their new home. They mostly subsist on grass and roots around the pond, but have learned that if they hiss loudly enough, Paul will throw them a can of grain on his way to work. They've learned to coexist with the goats and other creatures who use the pond and they haven't been overly messy. However, if they poop on the park bench, they're dinner.



When Readers Talk...

Dear Linda,

First would like to apologize for getting this off to you so late as I promised to write this last week. I was able to corner some help to treat 42 kids with their 2nd CDT shot, worm, delouse and trim feet as well as barn cleaning. Since help is hard to come by here, I put all other activities on hold.

Each year I try to enter a few fleeces in the Fiber Fest. My main objective is to compare my fleeces to others from different areas. In past years I have had my fleeces sheared and classified by either Terry Sim or Linda Pardon. Then I carefully go through the better fleeces to determine which to send. Once I have made those choices, I process each fleece for cleanliness and general appearance. As I feel that the entire fleece should be judged, I do not remove any but soiled or damaged fiber. The first few years I labeled each fleece and put them in freezer bags—packing tightly to get the bag closed.

This year I combed my goats (38) and sat down with a magnifying glass, ruler and pen to classify the fleeces myself. After charting them I sent random samples from 29 goats to Yocom-McColl for micron testing. Two years ago I started breeding for spinning fiber since there is no financially real market for fine cashmere. Since this is the first year that I began to realize the type of fiber that I wanted, I felt an accurate micron count was important. When I received those results, I then picked out fleeces which I liked best of what I am now raising.

Each year it is an exciting time to watch the judge assess the fleeces as each judge brings their special insights to the judging. The results become an excellent educational tool. The things I have

learned in these 4 years of sending fleeces are as follows:

1. Send in clean, loose fleeces with a neat appearance.
2. Don't pack them into tiny bags—fluff them up and place in larger, clear bags.
3. Label each bag carefully with animal's name, tag #, DOB, type your name, farm name/herd code and address.
4. Know who is judging. Often times a judge likes a certain type of fiber. If you are intent on blue ribbons, send fleeces that are consistent with the type the judge prefers.
5. Give each judge the respect they deserve. Judging fleeces is a tedious and difficult job and I have yet to find a judge who did not take their responsibility very seriously. Take from each event a new perspective on fiber.

Sincerely,
Diana Mullins
Twisp, Washington
June 7, 1999



Ask Mickey!

Dear Mickey,
I've noticed that my goats LOVE to have their toe-jam picked. They prefer to have a stick or something scratched between their toes. I have noticed them actually drooling while this is performed. Is this odd and do your goats enjoy the same?

Signed,
Scratch me again there!!!

Dear Scratch,
Yes, this is odd. I've not seen a goat drool before and the goats here do not like their feet messed with even for their periodic trims. However, goats can get rocks or sticks stuck between their toes. Sometimes, these foreign objects will dislodge by themselves, but assistance in removing the object before the foot becomes sore and infected is helpful. If you have a limping goat, always check between their toes and in their pads for a problem. I once even found an errant fence clip stuck in a doe's foot pad.

Mick ey

Cashmere Goats In the News!

July 5, 1999, People Magazine



A two-page spread on pages 175-176, features Lani Lamming and her weed-busting herd of cashmere goats. And these are not just any herd of cashmere goats—they are a herd working under a \$50,000 contract with the Department of Parks and Recreation. The goats have been in Denver since March chomping weeds along Cherry Creek. How much money is that per mouthful? Ms. Lamming gets paid, gets to sell the cashmere and the customer pays for the goats' food.

Good deal.

February 1999, Sew News

This is a magazine for the needle-wielding crowd. Their feature article "Cashmere Cachet," beginning on page 62, gives the sewing crowd tips on selecting, sewing and caring for cashmere. On the first page, from behind a swatch of purple and beige cashmere fabric peaks the notorious buck, Genghis Khan. This photograph was provided to Sew News by CashMirror.

June 27, 1999, television show 20/20

This show talked about French designer, Claude Montana's ongoing dispute with Tom and Ann Dooling's company Montana Knits. (See CashMirror May 1997 issue.) He objects to the use of his name "Montana" in the name of Dooling's cashmere garment company.

February 1, 1999, The New Yorker Magazine

The story about cashmere troubles in Mongolia, entitled "Letter From Mongolia, The Crisis in Cashmere," starts on page 56, and tells pretty much the same story about political problems, increasing numbers of goats, and production changes in Mongolia that we've heard before. It also offers glimpses into the fashion world and the whims of the fashion consumer. An interesting story, but not much we haven't already heard.

Good goat news...for a change.

Instructions for Submitting Fleeces to ECA's 1999 Fleece Competition at The Virginia State Fair

Judge: Bob Buchholz

Competition Groups:

Kid fleeces, 2nd and 3rd fleeces, 4th fleeces and beyond (age groups subdivided as bucks or does, combed or shorn, for a total of twelve classes). Prizes will also be awarded to the best combed and the best shorn fleece.

Packaging:

Pack each fleece in a plastic zipper bag if possible. (Bags with sliding zippers will help Christy.) For large, shorn, buck fleeces, use whatever works.

Do not write on the fleece bags or include any suggestions for the judge.

Insert a 3 x 5 card in each fleece bag with the following information: your name and address, the goat's sex, name, number, herd code and date of birth. Indicate whether the fleece was combed or shorn. (Remember that the goat carries the herd code of the farm where he or she was born.)

Insert in each box of fleeces a self addressed 3 x 5 card which will be used as mailing labels for fleeces that are not picked up at the fairgrounds. Fleeces will be mailed by U.S. Postal Service, first class mail, unless another mail service is requested.

Payment:

Include a check (made out to the State Fair of Virginia) for \$1 for each competing fleece.

Mailing:

Mail fleeces to:

Christy Proost

7417 Hoofprint Lane

Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Deadline:

Fleeces must reach Christy by September 15th. Absolutely no fleeces can be hand carried to the fair.

Thank you for participating—and good luck!!

MANAGEMENT — BIRTH TO BREEDING

By J. A. Yazman, Winrock International Livestock Res. Training Center, Morrilton, AR
and L. Turillo, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Reprinted from the USDA Extension Goat Handbook

Kid management from birth to breeding is an essential component of the dairy goat enterprise. With the possible exception of the nutritional management of the doe herd, the kid management program has the greatest effect on the long-term productivity of the dairy goat herd. The dairy goat kid at birth represents a genetic resource necessary to replenish the herd gene pool which has a changing composition due to death, culling and sales for breeding stock. While the genetic character of the kid is determined at the time of conception, survival to lactation and an adequate body size are necessary to realize inherent genetic potential for lactation. One of the advantages of the dairy goat is the opportunity for rapid genetic progress due to early sexual maturity (breeding is possible at 7 months or less), short gestation interval (150 days) and multiple offspring per parturition (2.0 or more for mature does). Kid mortality has a direct effect on genetic progress by its effect on selection pressure, that is, the percentage of the kids which must be retained as replacements. Maintaining low mortality from birth to weaning while producing a 100 lb doe at kidding should be the primary objective of the kid management program.

As practiced on most dairy goat farms, the kid raising enterprise is highly labor-intensive. Because in the absence of control programs involving lighting and/or hormonal treatments, dairy goats have a highly seasonal reproductive cycle, a labor-year profile for kid raising would show a peak demand in January through May, with low demand in July through November. In order to reduce the characteristic high labor input per unit of milk produced on dairy goat farms, attention should be given to systems of kid management which reduce labor while keeping mortality low.

Pre-Parturition

The kid management program should actually begin prior to parturition with attention to the nutritional needs of the gestating doe in late lactation and during the dry period. With a gestation period of 150 days,



most of the development of the dairy goat fetus occurs when the nutritional demands on the doe are at their lowest; late lactation and during the dry period. The tendency is to regard the late-lactation and dry doe as a non-productive part of the milk-producing system. On the

contrary, however, an adequate diet for the dry doe is essential to producing a healthy litter of kids. Depending upon the forage source and size of the doe during the dry period, from one to two lb of a 10 to 16 percent concentrate ration should be fed daily. Pregnant does should receive plenty of exercise. An overly fat doe should be avoided but the high producing doe needs to recover body weight lost during the previous lactation. Clean, cool water and free choice trace-mineralized salt should be available. A supplement of bone meal will aid in fetal development but care should be taken to not overfeed calcium.

Vaccination boosters for *Clostridium perfringens* C and D and tetanus toxoid should be given not less than 3 weeks prior to kidding. Vitamin E/selenium injections are given during the dry period to prevent white muscle disease in the kids, especially in areas where soils are selenium deficient. Does should be wormed at drying off.

The goal for average kid weight at birth should be 8 to 11 lb. Underweight, weak kids do not do well and require extra care and labor. Kid mortality in the first 10 days is highest among kids born underweight either due to a premature parturition or poor doe nutrition.

Parturition

The doe should kid in a clean environment, either a well-rotated pasture or stall bedded with straw or other absorbent material. The kid prior to birth has been existing in a germ-free environment and parturition represents exposure to common disease organisms to which the mature animal has developed resistance. The location of the kidding stall or pasture

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Management—Birth to Breeding

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should be near a well-travelled area in order that the doe will be frequently observed for kidding difficulties. Few adult does require assistance at the time of kidding though problems are always a possibility. First-freshening does should be closely watched, especially if bred to bucks known to sire large kids.

At birth two management practices are critical to the future health and survival of the newborn kid. The navel cord should be dipped in a solution of tincture of iodine to prevent entry of disease-causing organisms through the navel cord and directly into the body of the kid. If necessary, a long navel cord can be cut to 3 or 4 inches in length. A bleeding cord should be tied with surgical suture material. Dipping of the cord in iodine not only prevents entry of organisms but promotes rapid drying and the eventual breaking away of the cord from the navel.

The second critical practice is the feeding of colostrum milk as soon after birth as possible. The colostrum, or first milk, contains antibodies which the doe did not pass to the fetal kid in utero. Consumption of colostrum must occur as early as possible and prior to 18 hours after birth as there is a rapid reduction in the permeability of the intestinal wall of the newborn to the antibodies. The colostrum milk should be bottle-fed to the newborn to insure adequate consumption. Excess colostrum can be frozen for use in orphan or bonus kids. Recent research indicates that disease organisms, especially caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE), may pass from doe to kid through the milk and transmission might be avoided through the use of extra colostrum frozen from does tested and shown to be CAE-free or pasteurized colostrum. An additional practice at birth which enhances the health of the newborn kid is to give injections of iron dextran and vitamins A and D after birth. A vitamin E/selenium injection may be beneficial in areas of selenium-deficient soils.

Kids should be checked carefully at birth for any deformities or abnormalities.

Pneumonia is a major killer of young kids. A dry, draft-free environment is an excellent preventative measure.

Birth to Weaning

Milk is the principal component of the diet of the preweaning kid. There are numerous ways to feed milk including the use of bottles or pails, suckling the dam or nurse does, and self-feeder units. The method

chosen will depend upon such factors as the size of the herd and available labor, as well as personnel preference. With any system, the health of the kid, sanitation and available labor are the major factors to consider. Under natural suckling, kids consume small amounts of milk at very frequent intervals. Ideally, artificial rearing should mimic natural suckling but the constraint of available labor precludes frequent feeding. Nevertheless, kids should be fed 2 to 4 times daily for the first week or two and twice daily thereafter. Bottle feeding is more labor intensive but kids receive more individual attention and are easier to handle post-weaning than kids that are allowed to suckle does. Pail or pan feeding may reduce labor somewhat but bodyweight loss and need for extra "training sessions" at the beginning must be expected.

For larger herds, self-feeder units such as a "lamb bar" may successfully reduce labor. The key to use of the system is the maintenance of a low temperature of the milk (40°F) which will limit intake by the kid at any one time. Small, frequent feedings increase digestibility and decrease digestive disturbances. Consumption of large quantities of milk may lead to bloat due to entry of milk into the reticulo-rumen or rapid passage of milk through the abomasum and small intestines resulting in diarrhea or nutritional scours.

Where a strong market for goat milk exists, milk replacer is an important option available for raising kids. A limitation to the use of milk replacer is the tendency by manufacturers to substitute whey for skim milk as a protein source. Whey is high in lactose which causes bloat and scours in young kids. Research conducted on raising kids on lamb milk replacer fed cold and free-choice from 4 days of age to weaning at 6 weeks indicates that growth performance is lower and the incidence of digestive disturbances such as scours and bloat are increased compared to goat's milk under the same system. If milk replacer is to be used it is recommended that it be given to animals older than 2 weeks of age, or combined with goat's milk on an equal weight basis. It is best to make a gradual change to milk replacer over a few days.

In raising dairy goat kids, increase in size and weight are not the only measurements of success. A well formed skeleton and proper development of internal organs are often neglected when the emphasis is on rapid gains. An average daily gain of 250 gm during the first weeks of life should be the goal. By limiting daily milk consumption to about 2 quarts, daily consumption of dry feed will be encouraged. Dry feed

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Management—Birth to Breeding

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consumption is important in developing body capacity. By increasing body capacity, feed intake and digestion increase. Research has shown that at two months of age a weaned kid has a reticulo-ruminal capacity 5 times as large as suckling kids of the same age.

Kids should be consuming forages such as pasture grass or hay by two weeks of age and grain within four. Careful attention need be given to formulation of a concentrate supplement for the pre-weaning kid. Palatability is of primary concern. Molasses at the rate of 10% the total dry matter, corn (preferably chopped or rolled) and whole or rolled oats make up the energy "core" of a good preweaning diet. Balance the crude protein needs by adding cottonseed or soybean meal or another high protein source. Though few studies with kids have been done, crude protein contents of the pre-weaning ration should be within the range of 14-18%. Ground alfalfa may be added to provide additional stimulation for reticuloruminal development.

Several factors need to be considered when making the decision as to when to wean dairy goat kids. The most important consideration is whether or not the average daily consumption of concentrate and forage is adequate for growth and development to continue in the absence of milk. Fixed weaning ages are less desirable than weight goals such as 2.0 to 2.5 times birth weight. Many producers who have an erratic or marginal market for their milk delay weaning for longer periods than necessary. While milk feeding may promote more rapid growth than a concentrate-forage diet, maintaining kids on milk may delay the attainment of the dry feed intake level necessary to weaning and also leaves the kid disposed to diarrhea.

Kids should be dehorned between 3 and 14 days of age, while the horn bud is visible. The hair should be clipped and a hot electric disbudder held over the area for 15 to 20 seconds with firm even pressure. The center of the ring formed by the iron should also be burned and the cap remaining pried off. A topical spray should be applied to avoid problems with flies on the resulting wound. A local anesthesia such as lidocaine may be used to decrease pain and permit easier handling of the kid. Restraint devices are available to purchase or may be homemade.

At about 3 to 4 weeks of age kids should receive a vaccination for *C. perfringens* CD and also tetanus or any bacterin for which there is a problem in the herd.



Sometimes it's necessary to go out on a limb to get the highest-protein morsels.

A booster should be given in two weeks.

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 scalpel. 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.

Weaning to Breeding

The objective of raising the dairy goat kid should be to produce a lactating animal with an adequate body size as inexpensively as possible and in the shortest possible time. For the heavier breeds (Saanens, Alpines, Nubians), the goal should be a 110 lb doe freshening at 12 months of age and 90 lb for the lighter breeds (LaMancha, Toggenburg). If a doe is weaned at 8 weeks, weighing 20 lbs, and is to kid at 12 months, at 110 lbs, then she must gain 90 lbs in 10 months, or approximately 1/3 lb daily. Therefore, the nutritional program must aim for a growth rate of approximately 150 gm daily with consideration for both the nutritional requirements of the growing doe and the growing fetus over the 5-month gestation period.

Forage must constitute the core of an economical diet for growing dairy goat kids with mixed concentrates

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Management—Birth to Breeding

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or simple grains fed to provide the nutrients that are not provided by the forage consumed. Forage quality is therefore very important but because the dairy goat is a browsing animal, it is quite poorly estimated. Leaves and young stems chosen by browsing animals have crude protein and digestible energy values higher than the average for the whole plant. The kid grazing on improved pasture, browsing in woodlots or consuming alfalfa hay, is able to select plant parts which have a higher nutritional value than laboratory analyses of the forage samples might show. Given the ability of the dairy goat to selectively browse, in order to formulate a program of supplementation on a forage-based diet, one must estimate what the kid is actually consuming rather than what is available. If good quality, leafy alfalfa hay is fed in quantities which allow for selection, a simple supplement of 2 lb of corn or oats per head, daily gain is adequate. On lower quality forage such as poor quality grass hay, or grazing where intake of dry matter might be limited by water content of the forage consumed, 2 lb of a higher protein, mixed commercial concentrate may be required. Whatever the "mix" of the diet fed, forage should be provided free-choice in quantities which allow for maximum opportunity to select, with limited feeding of concentrates or grain to fill in the nutritional gaps.

Exercise, fresh water and access to salt and minerals are also important in the postweaning period. Attention must be given to control of internal parasites, especially coccidiosis. Treatment of kids with a coccidiostat, either liquid or solid, should begin at 3 weeks of age and continue at proper intervals through the post-weaning period.

Hooves should be trimmed frequently to assure proper development of the hoof.

Summary

There are a variety of management techniques available for raising healthy replacement dairy goat does and bucks. Selection should be based upon efficient use of available resources and development, of a healthy doe of adequate bodyweight, ready to produce an economical level of milk at 12 months of age. Particular attention needs to be paid to the system of feeding pre-weaning due to the high labor requirement for raising young kids.

Stress and disease-causing organisms often interact to produce high kid mortality. Cleanliness, proper nutrition and a good herd health program are the best ways to prevent such losses.

**Hand Dehairing Tips**

By Linda Fox

Required Tools:

Hands
Fleece
Good light
Suitable background for fleece being dehaired

Additional Helpful Tools:

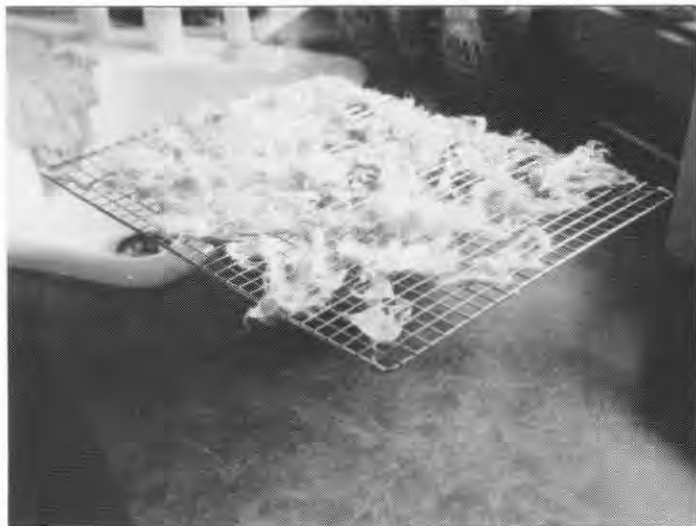
Scale which measures in grams
Pencil and paper for tracking and calculations
Dryer non-static sheet
Handy access to tea kettle, refrigerator, clock or timer, and a radio or friend for chatter

The setup in the above photograph works well. There is plentiful natural and artificial light—my eyes don't dehair well after dark. The counter-top is brown and the non-static sheet is white. I use one or the other as background depending on the fleece. I don't wash the fleece before dehairing unless it is a buck or extremely dirty. I normally wouldn't feel like combing and hand-dehairing an adult buck anyway, unless I was desperate.

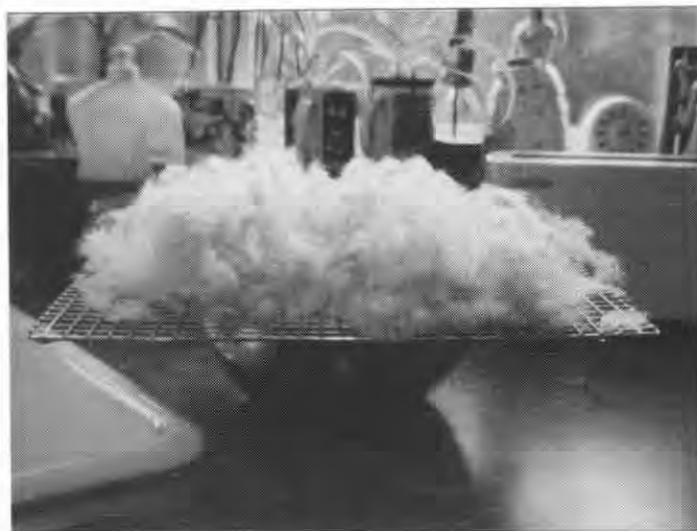
I use the non-static sheet as a base for the undesirables—guard hair, dirt, hay pieces—and also for wiping my finger tips to help control static. I place the dehaired fluff in a pile to the side. I like to first dehair a small stack while keeping track of the time. After working for an hour or so, I stop and weigh the down collected as well as the junk pile. I calculate what my expected yield from this fleece will be. Since I know the weight of the entire fleece, I can then calculate how much cashmere I will get from this fleece. You will lose a little more weight from washing as well, but not much. I can also calculate how long it will probably take me to dehair the rest of the fleece. There is a large variation in the time it takes to hand dehair various fleeces. This fleece (combed from a three-year old wether) weighs 12 ounces total. I calculated, after an hour of picking, that it will take me 23 more hours to finish this fleece. I won't finish it today. Maybe not even tomorrow.

Washing Cashmere

By Linda Fox



Cashmere after washing, set out to dry on cookie-cooling rack. It's not looking good—have we wrecked it?



Clean, dry cashmere, fluffy and soft—ready for carding in preparation for spinning.

You've carefully hand dehaired a promising stack of cashmere using tips on the preceding page. You didn't dehair the entire fleece because you couldn't wait that long to get it to your spinning wheel. You've spent six months watching the fleece grow on the goat and more time combing the fleece from the animal. You've just spent all morning hand dehairing a big, fluffy stack of cashmere only to find, after weighing, that you had dehaired only 34 grams! Not only is your big stack not much, you have just calculated that it will take you another 4 weeks to hand dehair the rest of this fleece. You need encouragement here. You are sick and tired of waiting and just want to spin something!

You're now ready to take the plunge and wash the stuff. You could spin it into dirty yarn and even knit the spun yarn into a finished (dirty) product and then wash it. It isn't usually *that* dirty and this would certainly be easier as you wouldn't have to be as careful. However, I like to spin and knit clean fleece, so I always wash my cashmere after dehairing. You can also wash your fleece before dehairing it, but I feel that the dirt helps keep the static down for the hand dehairing.

Even though cashmere felts easily, washing cashmere fleece is not difficult. However, it is not a chore for the faint of heart as you will be convinced you have wrecked it before it begins to fluff and dry.

This method is not the only successful way to wash cashmere fleece—it is just how I do it. It works for me.

I usually don't wash more than an ounce or two at a time although you certainly could do bigger batches. I use a two-quart mixing bowl which I fill with hot water, no hotter than my hand can stand. I squirt in a couple of good squirts (1 Tablespoon?) of Dawn dishwashing soap and mix it in. I then add the cashmere to the mixture, gently pushing it down into the water. No swishing it around. Just push it in until it is wet. Then, leave it alone for 30 minutes.

After 30 minutes I dump out the bowl onto the cookie-cooling rack; the water runs through the rack and drains down the sink. I refill the bowl with warm water, about the same temperature to which the wash water had cooled. I then gently scrape the cashmere off the baking rack and immerse it into the rinse water. I gently move it in the rinse water, but not much. Then, I dump the bowl on the rack again and refill the bowl with more clean rinse water. I keep doing this until the rinse water comes off clean. In the next to last rinse I add 1 Tablespoons or so of white vinegar to the rinse water. This helps remove the soap. The final rinse will remove the vinegar odor.

I spread the cashmere out on the baking rack after the final rinse and place the rack on top of my washing bowl. As the cashmere dries, which usually takes about 24 hours in a warm house, I will occasionally pick at it from time to time to fluff it up to facilitate drying. You shouldn't do this much.

When it's dry, it's ready for a brief visit with your cotton cards and a final date with a spinner.

Alpacas Take Lamb Off Fox Menu

By Terry Sim, Rural Editor, *Warrnambool Standard*

ALPACAS are being hailed as lifesavers among sheep farmers out Penshurst way. The normally timid animals are proving the solution for farmers struggling to keep foxes out of their lambing flocks.

Poll dorset stud breeders Henry and Karen Cameron have eschewed fox baiting to buy 10 wether alpacas this year for between \$160 and \$250 each on the advice of Hamilton Wesfarmers Dalgety agent Darron Dawson.

During the past 10 years the Camerons have lost at least \$10,000 worth of stud and commercial lambs annually to foxes, but since the alpacas went to work at the start of lambing in May they have lost only one lamb of 300 born. The Camerons have 400 stud ewes and 1,400 commercial ewes lambing this year.

"With the poll dorset rams selling for \$230 each, that's one alpaca paid for," Mr. Cameron said. "I reckon it's cheap insurance. Normally you could lose half your income in a couple of nights to foxes."

Mr. Cameron said foxes were in "close to plague" proportions around his farm. Natural Resources and Environment had made paperwork too complicated to get fox baits and the gun laws meant "townies" were not shooting as many foxes.

The alpacas are paired—to ensure they don't fret—into paddocks of up to 45 acres. They have a warning call which seems to signal the sheep to mob around them.

Mr. Cameron said he had seen a fox chased out of a paddock by the alpacas one night and watched another fox avoid alpacas guarding sheep.

"Other years you would go out in the morning and you could guarantee there would be a dead lamb somewhere. This year, nothing," he said.

The Camerons marked 159 lambs in their first mob of 116 stud poll dorset ewes last week. "I've never had 100 per cent of lambs before," Mr Cameron said.

Penshurst district prime lamb producers Peter and Kay Linke have invested in four alpacas for about \$200 each and have lost only one lamb to foxes in three weeks of lambing in a 40-acre paddock. Lamb losses have been much higher in unprotected paddocks on their other blocks.

"We just wish we had more alpacas," Mrs. Linke said.

Drysdale alpaca breeders Allan and Carolyn Jinks sold their stock of about 40 older alpaca wethers this year, mainly to Western District sheep breeders. Mr. Jinks said the alpacas were territorial and tried to stamp any intruding foxes with their front hooves. They should be 18 months of age or older to have developed the required protective nature.

Bellbrae alpaca breeder Ann Clark said the trick was to bond the alpacas with sheep before the sheep began to lamb.

Mr. Dawson said he learnt of the alpaca's potential at a field day and seminar earlier this year. He has received interest from other farmers wanting to protect sheep, breed alpacas or even run alpaca wethers for wool production instead of sheep. "If a market develops for the meat I can't see why you couldn't run alpacas instead of wethers."

Alpacas produce about 2kg of wool a year valued at \$20 to \$80 a kilogram, Mr. Dawson said. Management is similar to sheep for nutrition and internal parasites, and they are shorn with low-speed shearing gear.

Courtesy: On The Land, Warrnambool Standard, Australia



Would Alpacas guard goats? These alpacas were not here for guarding as there is a dog on duty. Photograph taken at Sunnyhill Cashmere (Paul Washington/Linda McCrory), Lummi Island, Washington.

Mad Hatters Shear and Knit in One Sitting

By Terry Sim, Rural Editor, Warrnambool Standard

A WOOLLY record will be at stake when 24 teams of knitters, handspinners and shearers take up the International Back-To-Back Wool Challenge across the world this weekend.

The teams, including one with Derrinallum, Camperdown and Terang competitors, will be trying to better the world record of five hours and nine minutes for spinning and knitting into a jumper the wool from a blade-shorn sheep.

The challenge began in 1995 to help raise money for cancer research. The world record was set in the Shetland Islands in 1997. Australia's best effort of six hours, 32 minutes and 47 seconds was set last year by a New South Wales team.

The National Wool Museum in Geelong will be the venue for four country teams: the Mad Hatters from Derrinallum and Terang, the Geelong Guild, the Freshwater Creek Spinners Group and the You Yangs Yarners. They will compete in the challenge during the National Celtic Festival.

Competition will be fierce but Mad Hatters leader Roelie Maslin, of Boorcan, said: "We just have a good time."

Omeo, in the high country, will set a record for the greatest number of teams at a single venue, when five teams swing into action. Teams at Bairnsdale, Maryborough, Merriwa, Muswellbrook and Launceston raise the national total to 17.

For the first time an American team will compete, at Rockville, Indiana. The United Kingdom has teams at Aberdeen, Aberfoyle and Devon (last year's winner). Canada has mustered three teams in Manitoba.

Courtesy: On The Land, Warrnambool Standard, Australia (June 10, 1999)

Update on the Contest from Terry Sim:

The Mad Hatters did their jumper in 10 hours 49 minutes and 34 seconds. The event was won by the South Hams, Devon, UK, team in 5 hours 54 minutes, second was O'Bennachie, Aberdeenshire in Scotland in 6 hours and 12 minutes and third was the Australian, Morriset, new South Wales team with a new Aussie record time of 6 hours 24 minutes and 37 seconds.

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

A Script by Bob Snook (<http://www.fea.net/bobsnook>)

PAUL — And now, sit down, put your feet up, relax and listen to another edition of... Parables on Parade. Tonight's parable comes from Matthew chapter 25 beginning at verse 31.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world....

STEVE — (sheep and goats bleating in background) This is your science editor reporting live from the county fair. Can you hear me in the studio?

PAUL — Ah, yes, but what are you doing at the county fair?

STEVE — The county fair is the sight I have chosen to make public my finding that the wrong animal was selected to inherit the kingdom of heaven.

PAUL — Well, Mr. Science Editor, just how will you accomplish this momentous task?

STEVE — I am about to give an IQ test to a sheep and a goat.

PAUL — An IQ test. Won't they have a little trouble filling in those little boxes on the paper?

STEVE — Even at this great distance from the studio, I detect some insincerity in your voice. But I will ignore it. First of all, in order to give our listeners a sense of the authenticity of these IQ tests I want them to know that I am dressed in a white lab coat and I have a clipboard clutched in my left hand.

PAUL — Well, you can't get much more clinical than that.

STEVE — Second, I have devised a simple, yet effective method of determining the relative intelligence of each of these animals. I took two identical red delicious apples, quartered them and arranged them identically on two identical paper plates.

Continued on next page

Sheep and Goats

Continued from previous page

PAUL — You're making good progress. You successfully used the word IDENTICAL three times in one sentence.

STEVE — Ignoring the cynical comments from the studio, I now duck between the fence rails and step into the sheep pen. I now let the sheep smell the delicious apple slices for a few seconds. Then, I bend over, place the plate on the ground and cover the plate with an inverted bucket. Next, we wait and watch for exactly fifteen seconds to see if the sheep is intelligent enough to butt the pale with his head and expose the plate with the apple slices....No. As expected, the sheep is not intelligent enough to pass our IQ test...oh man!

PAUL — What's the matter?

STEVE — I stepped in something soft and squishy.

PAUL—Not very scientific for our science editor. Perhaps, you could give our listeners more precise definition of the substance you stepped in?

STEVE — Very funny. I now duck between the fence rails and step into the goat pen. I now let the goat smell the delicious apple slices for a few seconds. Then, I bend over, place the plate on the ground and cover the plate with an inverted bucket.

PAUL — I caution you not to turn your back on the...

STEVE — (bang) Agh!

PAUL — ...goat...What happened?

STEVE — Ahhh! Oh, man! Well, as expected the goat was intelligent enough to butt the pale with his head. But I was standing in the way when he did. Oh man!



"All sheep on the right, goats to the left. Move it!"

PAUL — What's the matter?

STEVE — There's only one thing worse than stepping in it. (afar) Anybody got a paper towel?

PAUL — Mr. Science Editor, our audience is waiting with baited breath to hear what your IQ tests have proven.

STEVE — Beyond a doubt, I have proven that goats are intellectually superior to sheep.

PAUL — Yeah, so?

STEVE — So, it should have been the goats, not the sheep, who inherit the kingdom of heaven.

PAUL — I now want to remind our listeners AND our science editor that Jesus was not choosing an animal to inherit the kingdom of heaven in this parable.

STEVE — He wasn't?

PAUL — No, he wasn't. When he comes again, Jesus will separate his PEOPLE into two groups: those who put their lives in his hands and those who turned their backs on him, LIKE a shepherd separate his sheep from his goats.

STEVE — You mean I ruined a brand new lab coat and a perfectly good pair of shoes for nothing?

PAUL — Tune in next time for another edition of Parables on Parade.

STEVE — (afar) Agh! I stepped in it again.

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Goat

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FOOT SOAK TANK FOR SMALL FLOCK

From the Myrtle Veterinary Hospital
Joseph H. Snyder, D.V.M.

Materials:

2 x 6 x 8 feet long, 3
4 x 8 x 34 plywood panel
silicone sealant/calk, 1 tube
Hog wire or wooden panels to surround above:
2 panels 4' long
2 panels 8' long
Nifty hog wire crimper is available to stiffen
hog wire.

Appropriate size nails, staples, baling wire, etc. (No
poly twine, please.)

Construction:

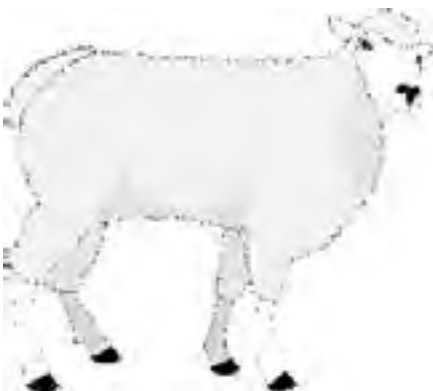
Nail 2 X 6 together on edge to make 4' by 8' frame.
Securely nail plywood panel onto frame.
Turn over and calk all joints with silicone. Allow time to cure.
Attach panels. Note: if put in corner of barn or corral, need
only 2 panels.

Use:

Fill with 20% zinc sulfate (40# bag available from feed store)
20% is one full bag in tank filled 34 inches deep. Best to
start filling with water, then gradually add ZNS04 while
filling and stirring.
Stand sheep in tank for 1 hour, be sure they've had plenty
to drink first.
Capacity is 8-10 large ewes.
If sheep have foot rot, they may be sore after stand in tank.

SHEEP (OR GOAT) FOOT ROT ERADICATION

From the Myrtle Veterinary Hospital
Joseph H. Snyder, D.V.M.



I. Rules and definitions:

- A. Prepare yourself to cull ruthlessly or don't start.
- B. "Clean" paddock has not had goats or sheep on it for at least 21 days.
- C. Start this project in late spring or early summer when warm, dry weather will help with control.

II. Divide farm into many small paddocks (at least 8).

III. First gather

- A. Trim all feet and identity affected sheep.
- B. Foot soak all sheep in zinc sulfate for 1 hour.
- C. Sort and turn out.
 - 1. Unaffected sheep to clean paddock.
 - 2. Affected sheep to clean "trial" paddock. (or cull)

IV. Second gather, 21 days later

- A. Trim and foot soak, identify all affected sheep.
- B. If original clean group still clean, leave in same paddock, still clean. If not, separate as above.
- C. Sheep from original affected group.
 - 1. If now clean, move to second clean "intermediate" paddock.
 - 2. If still affected cull or move to new clean "trial" paddock.

V. Continue above pattern until all sheep are clean for two cycles, or have been culled. Continue to observe closely for one more cycle. If it holds, you should be free of foot rot unless you bring it in again.



Important Lessons I Have Learned from My Goats Through the Years

By Karen Triplett, Harvest Moon Farm, Bend, Oregon

(Reprinted from the Spring 1999 NWCA Newsletter)



What can we learn from our goats?

I know that this has been the theme of many previous discourses, but as I sit here eating, sleeping and feeding goats during kidding season, I can't avoid the desire to wax philosophic. Below are a few of the important lessons my goats have "tried" to teach me through the years, alas to no avail.

Eat frequently throughout the day, sleep a lot, and even when you aren't sleepy take lots of rest breaks during the day: Most of us are up at the crack of dawn and go all day until the evening when we are so tired we feel ready to drop. The thought of taking a nap never enters our minds. If we eat at all it is often while on the run and we eat whatever is at hand. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and the one that many of us skip most frequently. Not our goats—they eat four million times a day at least. (A bit of an exaggeration.)

Get plenty of exercise, at a minimum walk every where you go: We are children of the automobile age. The thought of leaving the car home and walking somewhere we need to go seems foreign and uncomfortable. What if it should rain? How would we carry all the "things" we need during the day? What if someone should see us? Yet a study of 22,071 men (sorry ladies) who participated in the Physician's Health Study found that the risk of heart attack decreased by 36% among those who exercised 1-2 times per week

and by 46% among men who exercised five or more times per week. I have never seen a goat die of a heart attack, have you? Is exercise the key?

Drink plenty of water: As a society we tend to drink fluids off and on all during the day—coffee, cola, alcohol-containing beverages. But we seem reluctant to drink enough of plain old ordinary water. Most health care practitioners suggest that the average, healthy person drink a minimum of 8 glasses of water per day. And the health benefits are many, including assistance with digestion and kidney function. Our goats make it a priority to visit the water trough frequently throughout the day. If the water trough is dry, they complain loudly and long until it is filled properly again.

Eat a low fat, low salt diet with lots of leafy greens: Nearly one half of Americans die of some complication related to cardiovascular disease. Eating foods low in cholesterol and saturated fats can decrease the risk of development of heart disease. Our goats seem to know naturally what we humans can't seem to take seriously...too much fat and not enough vegetables can kill us.

Continued on next page



"Eat thistles."

Learning from Goats

Continued from previous page

Love your children but when they are old enough to be on their own, let them go: Most of our does of "kidbearing years" are tremendous mothers. They watch over their kids and keep them safe. They supply them food whenever the kids want, *anytime* of the day or night. But when that moment comes to send them on their way there is little hesitation...well maybe a moment of hesitation just as that bag begins to dry up. Goats also seem to understand the importance of "family" to a general sense of well being. Once kids have been weaned and return to the field, it is common to see multiple generations eating, sleeping, and staying close together as a family unit.



Don't hold back, every once in a while demonstrate to everyone just how tough you are:

Head butting seems to be a wonderful way to "clear the air" and establish appropriate lines of authority. After a good head butting experience the does in my field

don't seem to have any confusion about where they stand in the world order. There is no confusion about roles or identity. And in the goat world the girls get to be just as physically involved as the boys. No sexist behavior here. As a society we humans are charged with being proper and age-appropriate in our behavior at all times. Some would say that this had led to misdirected anger, resentment and acting out.

Never eat at the same place every day, you never know what interesting tidbit you might find just around the corner: Many of us live day to day, comfortable in our own little routines and patterns of behavior. We get frustrated when something interrupts our schedule. To our goats the other goats' grass is *always* greener as is the tree hanging over the fence, the flowers in the neighbors yard, etc. They never seem bored or depressed. The lesson I take from this is that variety truly is the spice of life so always look for new experiences and adventures.



"Family is important."



"Find new places to eat."

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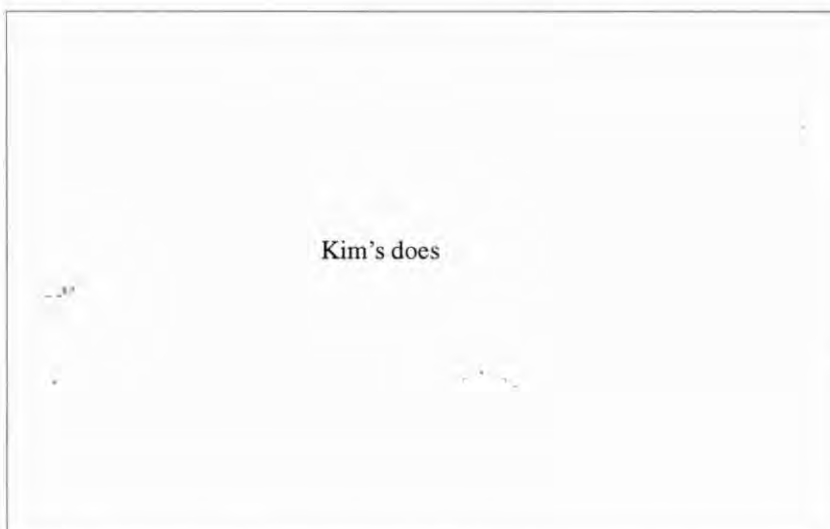
Learning from Goats

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Maintain your curiosity about the world you live in: All of us who raise goats know what incredibly curious and ingenious animals they are. Watch them opening a gate or figuring out how to get that last tasty morsel of COB. Anything new in their environment is first greeted with suspicion and then with inquisitiveness. Sometimes that works to their benefit, sometimes not, but it doesn't stop them from looking at the world from their unique perspective. Strictly speaking for myself now, I see my world getting smaller and smaller the older I get. Often it seems more than I can do just to go to work each day and still complete house and farm-related duties. The phrase "stop and smell the roses" was coined for a reason. It is important for health and wellness to open ourselves to new experiences with some of the same passion that we use to create our unique, comfortable living environments.

Tread gently on this earth so that it will remain a place of wonder for future generations: We have a great deal to learn from our goats in this arena. As a society we tend to be destructive rather than constructive. Our goats, on the other hand, nibble gently on the grasses, fertilizing as they go. They grow their own insulation so do not require much in the way of energy resources. They don't drive, create garbage, or pollute in any way. If goats populated the earth instead of humans there would be lots of clean air and water and no endangered species, animals or plants.

Guy and I find that our goats help to keep us centered and closer to the realization of what is truly important in life. Although I have a career that requires that I look and act in a professional matter, there have been many days I have come to work with manure on my dress shoes or hay in my hair...and that's OK by me.



"Be curious." Curiosity only kills cats—never goats or people.



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Black Sheep Gathering

Eugene, Oregon
June 18 - 20, 1999

Shearing Sheep and Goats

(Mostly Sheep)

By Linda Fox



The Black Sheep Gathering, held each year in Eugene, is a major fiber festival in the Pacific Northwest. The focus is primarily sheep, Angora goats and Angora rabbits. You can find llamas and alpacas in another building, and if you search, you can usually find one pen each of cashmere and Pygora goats in the barn. This year, there were no cashmere goats in attendance, but there were certainly cashmere people around. Carol and Carrie Spencer, Foxmoor Farm, had a vendor booth at which they sold hand dehaired and unde-haired fleece. Doug and Roberta Maier, Breezy Meadow Cashmere Farm, had their usual boothful of cashmere goodies including Cashmere America fleece, yarn and knitting kits. Diana Hachenberger and partner Joan Contraman, Three Bags Full, brought their wares from Montana, including wool, yarn and cashmere from Diana's ranch. *CashMirror* did not have a booth this year (due to the Editor's procrastination) so the *CashMirror* staff spent time attending four of the great workshops offered in conjunction with the Gathering.

There was a smattering of imported cashmere and cashmere blends at various other vendor booths as there has been in the past. We didn't find anything new this year in the cashmere arena that wasn't around last year except for the new cashmere goat jewelry in Kay Fielding's booth (JKF, Inc./Custom Colors). Her beautiful new silver cashmere goat earrings and pins made their debut at the Gathering.

As usual, this was a good place to check up on new fiber and fiber-related products, run into old friends, meet new ones and catch up on the latest gossip.

This story is based on lessons learned from a Black Sheep Gathering workshop (6/20/99) presented by shearer Susie Wilson from SuDan Farm entitled "Shearing on your Own or With a Friend." The class was billed as shearing sheep and goats, but, as expected, mostly focused on sheep. I took the workshop for two reasons. I wanted to learn more about shearing—especially for our increasing herd of sheep and I thought tips from a woman shearer would be useful to someone like me who doesn't have two hundred pounds of sheer muscle to convince a sheep they should peaceably give up their wool. We're also eager to collect all the information we can on shearing goats.

I was even more thrilled when I arrived at class to find a fifty-ish woman behind the speaker's table in her stylish "skort" coveralls laying out her shearing tools. This gave me additional assurance that I, too, could do this well.

Susie Wilson, professional shearer, resides in Canby, Oregon, and has been a professional sheep and goat shearer for almost ten years. She went to sheep shearing school at age 40 in order to "get out from under the thumb of the shearer (when we could find one)." The shearing school she attended was an intense five-day school. Three days after she finished school, she took on her first job which was shearing a 15 year old ram. It took her 2 hours to shear him. Susie learned to ask more questions of prospective customers before agreeing to take on jobs. After this difficult start, four months later, she was in business. Within the year, she was shearing in 7 or 8 counties.

Susie comments that certain jobs are worth extra money—like that 15 year old ram. Like the Jacob ram waving 6 horns around in your crotch. Like a 200 pound ram. She also likes extra money for a 70 pound ewe. Even though it seems like a small ewe would be easy, she told us to try putting a pencil between your knees and then try to shear while the pencil is rotating! We got the picture.

Per Susie, you don't need to be 20 years old or an athlete to shear animals. You need to know a few things, you need the right equipment, you need a lot of practice, and you need patience.

Shearing yourself allows you to remove fleece when it's "ripe" (ready to be removed)—not when the shearer

Continued on next page

CASHMERE CAMISOLES

The perfect way to enjoy cashmere year round

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Goat Mag ad

Shearing with Susie

Continued from previous page

is ready to remove it. Shearing your own animals also allows you to stage your shearing if you choose. Rather than shearing your sheep just before lambing so you can get the ewes' rear ends cleaned up before lambing, you can do your own crutching before lambing and shear the rest of the sheep when the wool needs to come off. By shearing yourself, you can also make one round through your animals to remove the very dirty or undesirable wool, which you throw away, and then, on the next pass shear off the good stuff. Having shearing skills will enable you to easily clear a path for a wound when necessary. You will also be able to impress your city friends at those incessant cocktail parties with tales of shearing.

Susie recommends that beginners shear their animals standing—the shearer and the sheep! The animals will be less spooked and because the animal is in a restraint, you won't need to use all your energy trying to contain a squiggling sheep. She shears most animals standing now except for the stomach. Wool on the stomach is removed easier and more safely (for the shearer and the sheep) if the victim is dumped over on its back or placed in a restraining chair.

Hand Shears (Blades)

It is good for all shearers to know how to use blades, rather than just the electric shears. Most of the world still uses blades and there are times when *you* will want to—such as when you are far away from a power source. Often it is easier to shear around an animal's face with blades if they are extremely frightened by the noise and vibration of the electric shears. Per Susie, Burgon & Ball make a good set of English blades. They come in 6-1/2" blade length usually, but you can purchase them in 3-1/2" size for easier use in those tight spots like around the legs and head. When blades are purchased, there are not normally ready to use. They need to be rigged and sharpened. You should expect to pay about as much to get your blades in operating condition as you fork out for the initial purchase.

Sharpening blades is an entire skill in itself and it is very important. It is not enough to sharpen your blades once a year. You will need to sharpen after one sheep and sometimes before one sheep is done. Grinders are generally bad sharpening devices for blades as they get too hot and may remove the temper from the steel. Blades should be sharpened using a stone and honing oil. Susie's husband, Dan, gives classes in

Continued on next page

Shearing with Susie

Continued from previous page

sharpening from time to time at Black Sheep Gathering. This would be a good class for anyone who doesn't already have a good grasp of sharpening. If you have your shearing blades sharpened by an expert, when you find one you like, stick with them. Each sharpener has a little different wheel and when the same blade gets repeatedly sharpened on the same wheel, less will be ground off each time. On the same wheel, your blades should last longer.

Electric Shears

The standard setup for shearing sheep with electric shears is a 13-tooth comb and a 4-point cutter. You will need a minimum of 3 sets. Per Susie, Lister (British) makes the best electric shears, but they are expensive. Heiniger, a German company, makes shearers that are a little less expensive. Stuart-Oster makes shears that are a lot less expensive. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Susie recommends a shear with a wider head as you will have more choice of combs and each cut will make a wider swath on the animal. For cutters, you will get more mileage from a thin-heeled cutter than you will from a thick-heeled one. Single-speed shears are adequate. More expensive shears come in three speeds which are handy in some circumstances (such as a slower speed for goats), but probably not worth the additional cost.

Combs come in different numbers of teeth and some of the combs are scooped at the outer edges, which may scoop up more wool as it moves. The more teeth in a comb, the more wool will be removed and the easier it will be to cut the skin. Generally you will use more teeth for goats and for grooming. Goats normally prefer 17 - 21 tooth combs, while 13 is good for those stupid sheep.

Beginner Tips

One of the first things that a new shearer needs to get over is their fear of injuring the sheep. Per Susie, you are not going to kill a sheep with a nick. You will nick most animals when you shear them, but their skin is tough. Market lambs are good to use for shearing practice. Before market lambs will be old enough to tell tales about you, they will be gone. Besides, per Susie, it is a good idea to shear market lambs at 3 - 4 months. It has been shown that they will gain 15 - 20% more weight than if you leave them wooly.

It is better for beginning shearers to learn on a sheep that has less wool. Practice on a sheep that has been sheared recently. A longer-wooled sheep is more difficult to shear as it is tougher to see the geography of

the sheep under all that wool. Also, coarser-wooled sheep are easier to shear than finer ones. Learn on coarser ones. Beginners also shouldn't worry about taking off the wool in one big piece. It will impress the heck out of the customer if you're shearing for hire, but your own sheep will seldom be impressed. Per Susie, a beginner has to learn to say, "Who cares!" Practice this: "Second cuts. Who cares! Little nick on the sheep. Who cares!"

Pre-Shearing Tips

Withhold water and feed from your animals for 12 - 24 hours before shearing. This will keep your shearing area cleaner and will help prevent bloat sometimes caused by the tipping, bending and stress. They will also be quieter with less in their stomachs.

Shearing

A valuable skill is learning how to tip over a sheep. This is necessary in order to shear the belly. Susie deftly tipped over a 5-month old, 100 pound

Continued on next page



A 5-month, 100 pound, Coopworth ram victim waiting for class abuse in his deck chair. He would have been more comfortable with sunlasses and a lemonade.

Shearing with Susie

Continued from previous page

Coopworth ram by bending back his head and bumping him with her knee to throw him off balance. To shear the belly, which is the most difficult part on the sheep, the animal can be held on its back or placed in a sheep deck chair. Male sheep have an array of vital equipment on their bellies to work around. Expert advice for shearing rams included: hold your hand over the vital stuff while shearing near the area to make sure that you don't shear off something important and don't trim off the hair on the pizzle as this hair wicks away the urine, thus avoiding the dreaded pizzle-rot.

After completing shearing on the belly, you will have a landmark for the rest of the shearing. After the belly, for a standing shearing, you then put the sheep in a grooming device for restraint and to get them off the ground. You then shear a line down the back and continue with horizontal lines down each side of the sheep. Use your free hand to pull and stretch the skin to stretch out wrinkles. As you work down the side, the heavy wool will pull down and stretch the skin. To avoid cutting skin, you will need to compensate by stretching the skin up with your free hand on the other side of the clippers. You need to shear with the "lay of the land." Shear across the wool or up; it is easier and leaves more of the shear down on the wool. Keep the bottom tooth of your comb against the skin.

Use lots of oil. Oil your electric shears in the designated spots and drizzle oil across the combs before each sheep, maybe more often if it takes you a long time to shear one sheep. You can't use too much oil. (Use 30 weight, 10-20 or whatever.) Make each stroke count by going as far as you can before you remove the shears from the skin. This helps you avoid second cuts. Turn off the clippers when they are not on the sheep; they will stay sharp longer.

If the animal is too jumpy while you are trying to clip critical areas, use your hand shears for these areas. Don't shear down the legs or if you do, be extremely careful. If they kick, you will cut them. To aid in trimming around the "armpits" on the front legs, pick up the front leg and pull it to the front. Shear across the neck rather than up or down; this moves your shears across the skin wrinkles rather than with them.

Pour on medications don't usually work well on sheep as they have trouble getting through all the wool and lanolin. Just after shearing is a good time to medicate if you are using pour-ons.

Page 22, July 1999

Tips for Goats

For cashmere and angora goats, shear off the good fiber first before removing the lesser quality fiber. A slower shearing speed works better for goats. Goats have much less lanolin in their fleece than sheep, but you will find more skin parasites. You will often find flaky, yellow, granular buildup on the skin which may make shearing difficult. Don't use oil on the combs for goats as you do for sheep. Per Susie, the only good fiber on cashmere goats is on the sides and the neck. The back and the belly has less desirable fiber. Susie's handouts included an excellent shearing chart for goats.

More Good Advice

Susie also had good advice on selecting a breed of sheep to raise. I believe the same advice would apply to any animal being considered. She said that first, if you are a spinner, buy a fleece to try. Then, find breeders who raise that particular animal and find out all you can. Next, find breeders who raise another breed and ask them, "Why *don't* you raise XXXX?" Then, if you are still convinced you want them, especially if that particular breed is expensive, buy culls from someone and raise them for a year to try them out. Finally, dig out your real money and buy the stock you want to get started right.

I would highly recommend Susie Wilson's class to anyone who has an interest in shearing animals. She is fun, has good advice and manages to make the whole procedure much less intimidating.



Susie Wilson cleans up Margaret after the class practices with the Osters. Margaret was very patient.

Spinning Cashmere With Judith MacKenzie

By Linda Fox

Information here was obtained from a spinning workshop with Judith MacKenzie which I took at Black Sheep Gathering (6/20/99).

Per Judith, cashmere goats are very different than any other animal. They are wily and curious. A cashmere goat is defined as any goat which produces a down fiber which qualifies as cashmere—it must meet certain diameter requirements and be highly crimped. America is the only country which also attaches a length qualifier—it must be at least 1-1/4" here to qualify as cashmere. Per Judith, short cashmere is not a problem; it can be spun no matter what length it is. The more crimp it has, the finer it can be spun.

Cashmere fiber has the characteristics of being very warm and very light, but it is not a strong fiber. Cashmere will fade (even the natural colors) if it is left in the sun for extended periods. Cashmere can be dyed without weakening the fiber. It can also be bleached. Moths are more attracted to colored cashmere than to white, so store them separately. This is because the moths are attracted to carotene and there is more carotene in the colored cashmere.

Per Judith, American cashmere is different from Chinese cashmere. It has "character," which may be due to the variation in fiber diameter within the fleece. She feels that some of the difference is due to the difference in diet of the goats. A lot of American goats are overfed. To produce good fiber, cashmere goats should have no grain and no alfalfa. It is difficult not to feed them as they are cute and beg for food, whether they need it or not. She jokingly said that in order for Americans to duplicate Chinese cashmere, our goats need to be "licking rocks" for food. Judith feels that to make money with cashmere goats, you must not forget that they are a dual purpose animal—they must be used for their weed-controlling talents as well as for fiber production.

Fibers which are similar to cashmere include Qiviut (sometimes referred to as Canadian cashmere), buffalo and yak down. These fibers and cashmere have problems resisting abrasion. A tighter twist will produce a more durable yarn.

Before political problems with Iran, imported cashmere was available in all different colors. Now, it is only commercially available in white and grey. America has almost 11 different colors of cashmere.

Cashmere is best spun fine into a lace-weight yarn. This is an advantage due to its warmth and its cost. You want your cashmere to go a long way. Another way to keep the cost of your cashmere under control is to use blends. Judith demonstrated blending cashmere with silk using cotton cards. This made a very nice yarn. She recommends only blending fibers that are nearly the same length. If the silk had been longer



Judith MacKenzie spins a fine cashmere thread.

than the cashmere, she said she would have chopped it up some first. The silk blend was very lovely. The silk adds strength to the yarn while the cashmere contributes a nice soft hand and warmth.

Cashmere may be spun from a gob of fiber held in the hand, or from punis for more consistency, or from the cards if you want more of a worsted preparation.

The class experimented with spinning a beautiful 50/50 wool/cashmere blend. The advantage of this blend is only cost.

In making cashmere yarn for knitting, you should always do a three-ply yarn. It makes a nice round yarn which will resist abrasion more than a two ply. You should always do a three-ply unless you have a good reason not to—and lace is a good reason not to. If you are making lace, you will need to tidy up your singles. If not, you don't need to worry about the lumps and bumps in the singles.

Judith also demonstrated abusing cashmere yarn with hot and cold water and counter-whacking to bring out its "bloom." Our one male classmate was a little hesitant about being in the women's restroom with a herd of women for the demonstration, but he lived through it.

The class was provided with numerous samples to spin: grey Persian cashmere (17µ), white Persian cashmere (16µ), Cashmere America brown cashmere, Qiviut and white 50/50 wool/cashmere blend. As the class left with our spinning wheels and most of our samples still intact, Judith told us that if we were careful with our samples, we had enough left to make a scarf or a pair of gloves. I think I will.

Tips from Black Sheep Gathering Fiber Animal Veterinary Clinic

By Paul G. Johnson

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend two animal health clinics at the annual Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene, Oregon. Both sessions, "Health Care Topics Concerning Fiber Animals" and "The Appropriate Uses of Animal Pharmaceuticals" were presented by Dr. John Snyder, DVM, from the Myrtle Veterinary Clinics in Myrtle Point and Coquille, Oregon. Dr. Snyder also raises sheep.

The general health clinic included information on minerals and vitamins, diseases, pain management, foot rot and dealing with other ailments including prolapse and hypocalcemia. Outlined here are my interpretations of the discussion on some of these topics, with a little help from Goat Medicine by Smith and Sherman.

Minerals

Selenium (Se) is an important mineral required by goats. Actual needs vary from one region to another and even from one farm to another. When in doubt, ask your veterinarian. Blood tests on the animals can indicate needs, but you shouldn't rely on the test of only one goat to determine the needs of your entire herd. Individual goats' needs and abilities to store selenium can vary. Injections of selenium at birth in the amount of 1/2 ml to 1 ml is a common practice. However, injections give only a very temporary supplement, lasting only a few weeks. Be sure to have free choice dry minerals available to all your critters. Be aware that many mineral mixes have low amounts of selenium. Also, very little selenium, if any, is passed by the mother to a kid through her milk.

Subcutaneous injections of Se can cause a lump, but it is not a cause for concern and should disappear

fairly quickly. Problems that can occur with Se deficiency include immune system failure resulting in lowered natural defenses, reproductive failure, susceptibility to parasites, chronic diarrhea and white muscle disease, which may appear as a stiffness in muscles which can be misread as joint problems.

Copper needs of goats continues to be a question. Sheep can easily overdose on copper, but the need for copper in goats is a subject of debate here and in Australia and other places.

The shortage of **zinc** can cause skin problems. Zinc is only available through feed or mineral mix; there is no injectable product available.

Lack of **Vitamin D** can cause a calcium deficiency. The symptoms resemble rickets, i.e. warped or bowed legs, or sore legs. Winter is the time when this is most apt to occur.

Pain Management

Dr. Snyder also presented a relatively new topic—at least new to me—pain management. He presented new ideas on animal pain reduction. The best example being to give injections subcutaneously whenever possible. Many drugs give a choice these days. Subcutaneous injections are less painful to the animal than intramuscular injections—and therefore to the person holding/injecting the animal as well. Also, use the smallest needle possible, such as 5/8", no. 18, although thick guard hair or cashmere may require the use of a longer needle. The best areas on the goat for both subcutaneous and intramuscular injections are in the neck area just above the front shoulder. Other potential areas are shown in

the drawings at the end of this article. If you have more than a few animals, consider an auto injector. It speeds the process for you and your goats and presents less chance for infection and/or contamination of the bottle of medicine.

The use of anesthetics, including lidocaine, is becoming more common. Anesthetics can be used before banding or castrations or surgery.

Less pain apparently aids in faster healing.

Aspirin is a painkiller for aches, cuts and injuries and can be used effectively for goats. However, goats need a larger dosage than humans. Check with your veterinarian on suggested use and dosage.

Periparturient Diseases—which I now know means diseases before or after birth.

It was interesting to note that periparturient diseases impact goats and sheep at different times. For example, pregnancy toxemia and hypocalcemia (milk fever) both usually occur prebirth in sheep and post-birth in goats.

Pregnancy toxemia involves decreased glucose levels, occurs periparturient, and is caused by a sudden change in nutritional status. The goat can be too fat or too thin. Symptoms include disorientation, weakness, and the animal may be down and/or acting goofy. There may also be the smell of ketones on the goat's breath. This smell is similar to fingernail polish remover (which you may have noticed when traveling any distance in a car with your wife) or perhaps like an overripe pear. Treatment for pregnancy toxemia involves propylene glycol. Prevention involves correct feeding with slow changes.

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Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

July 14, 1999

NWCA Cashmere Goat Show
Crook County Fairgrounds, Prineville, Oregon.
Judge: Joe David Ross, Entry deadline June 30, 1999. Goats on exhibit at the Fair July 14 - 18, 1999.

July 15, 1999

NWCA Cashmere Fleece Competition
Crook County Fairgrounds, Prineville, Oregon.
Judge: Joe David Ross. Entry deadline July 5, 1999. Fleeces judged July 15th and on display at the Fair July 16 - 18, 1999. For information: Crook County Fairgrounds, PO Box 507, Prineville, OR 97754. Phone 541-447-6575.

July 31, 1999

Cashmere goat show, Washington County Fairgrounds, Hillsboro, Oregon, 10 AM, Swine Ring. For information contact, Lisa Zietz, 503-324-0910, email: moon@hevanet.com

September 18 - 19, 1999

Finger Lakes Fiber Arts & Crafts Festival, Hemlock, Yew York. Sheep, llamas, Angora and cashmere goats, Angora rabbits, fiber and craft vendors, competitions, workshops, demonstrations. Information: Sandy Caton, 3 Valley Brook Dr., Fairport, NY 14450, phone 716-223-4363, email: sandyc1545@aol.com

September 20 - 26, 1999

Coupeville Arts Center Fiber Forum
Fiber workshops. Contact for catalog: Coupeville Arts Center, Box 171B, Coupeville, WA 98239. 360-678-3396.

September 23 - October 3, 1999

Virginia State Fair, Richmond, Virginia
ECA cashmere fleece competition and goat show. Judge: Bob Bucholtz. Fleece competition submission deadline: September 15, 1999. More information on page 6, this issue.

September 25 - 26, 1999

Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival
Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Oregon. Livestock shows and sales, fiber division competition and sales, demonstrations, fashion show, vendor booths. Information about festival: Brandy Chastain: 503-628-1205, Fiber Division info: Janet Hanus

American Meat Goat Association

W. E. Banker, President, 512-384-2829

Cashmere America Co-operative

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

Cashmere Producers of America (CaPrA)

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

Colorado Cashmere and Angora Goat Association (CCAGA)

Carol Kromer, Club Contact, 719-347-2329

Eastern Cashmere Association (ECA)

Ray Repaske, President, 540-436-3546
cashmere@shentel.net

North West Cashmere Association (NWCA)

Guy Triplett, President, 541-388-1988
harvest@empnet.com

Professional Cashmere Marketers' Association

(PCMA), Tom and Ann Dooling
406-683-5445
ann@MontanaKnits.com

Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)

Darlene Chambers, President
phone: 541-928-8841, fax: 541-928-0246
email: dchambers@proaxis.com

Texas Cashmere Association (TCA)

Dee Broyles, President
806-489-7645 office, 806-489-7959 home

Wild Goat Women

Debbie Walstead, Chairperson, 719-495-2962



CANADA

GIANT STRIDE FARM

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LONE PINE FARM

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CALIFORNIA

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COLORADO

MARSHALL'S ORGANIC ACRES

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Wellington, CO 80549-1521
970-568-7941
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ROLIG GOAT RANCH

Cashmere Producing Goats
Steven or Ellen Rolig
8435 CR 600
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-731-9083
email:
roliggoatranch@pagosasprings.net
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Ken & Loyce Shreffler
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Sandpoint, ID 83864
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KENTUCKY

OCTOBER FARM III

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764 Shacks Branch Rd.
Jackson, KY 41339
606-666-4878
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MAINE

BESSEY PLACE CASHMERE

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Buckfield, ME 04220
207-336-2948
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BLACK LOCUST FARM

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Washington, ME 04574
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GRUMBLE GOAT FARM

Linda N. Cortright
574 Davis Rd.
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email: grumble@midcoast.com

HARDSCRABBLE FARM

Hattie Clingerman
PO Box 682
Winterport, ME 04496
207-223-4211

MARYLAND

MIDDLETOWN FARM

George and Barbara Little
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Middletown, MD 21769
phone & fax: 301-371-8743
email: glittle640@aol.com

MINNESOTA

THE WINTER FARM

Vicki Biggs
122 Caspers Hill Rd.
Grand Marais, MN 55604
218-387-1913
email: momsUPER@boreal.org

MONTANA

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406-458-5317
email: edensdan@initco.net

J & K CASHMERES

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Park City, MT 59063
406-633-2210
fax: 406-633-9157

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Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
2870 Eighth Lane NW
Choteau, MT 59422
406-466-5952
Fax: 406-466-5951
email: smokeridge@marsweb.com

NEBRASKA

AIRY KNOLL FARMS, INC.

Richard & Harriet Jensen
76460 Road 424
Cozad, NE 69310
308-784-3312

HI-PLAINS CASHMERE

Julie and Alex Becker
160482 County Road C
Mitchell, NE 69357
308-623-2627
email: ajbecker@PrairieWeb.COM

SANDHILLS CASHMERE

Mark and Karen Crouse
Box 595, East Point Drive
Bingham, NE 69335
308-588-6248
fax: 308-588-6236
email: fibergoats@aol.com

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ROYAL CASHMERE

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702-265-3766
Fax: 702-265-1814
email: cashmere@sierra.net

NEW JERSEY

BLACK FEN FARM

Virginia Hinchman
Kevin Weber
117 RD 2, Rt. 46
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-852-7493
fax: 908-852-1336 (call first)
email: blackfen@juno.com

NEW MEXICO

DOUBLE EYE FARM, INC.

Sanford Bottino
PO Box 218
Ojo Caliente, NM 87549
505-583-2203

OHIO

Directory

TAMARACK RANCH

Bob and Ann Wood
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PO Box 567
South Vienna, OH 45369-0567
937-568-4994
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OKLAHOMA

TEXOMA KIDS & CASHMERE

J. D. and Karen Chandler
Rt 1, Box 37
Mannsville, OK 73447
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email: jkc@flash.net

OREGON

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CASHMERE GROVES

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DUKES VALLEY FIBER FARM

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Hood River, OR 97031
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FOXMOOR FARM

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HAWKS MOUNTAIN PYGORA'S

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MCTIMMONDS VALLEY FARM

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OVER THE RAINBOW FARM

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ROARING CREEK FARMS

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fax: 903-564-9152
email: Wldbarry@aol.com

VIRGINIA



FOGGY BOTTOM FARM

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990 Old Hollow Rd.
Buchanan, VA 24066
540-254-1628
email: mhwabc@juno.com

RANEY DAY KIDS

Craig and Lucy Raney
3627 Va. Ave.
Goshen, VA 24439
540-997-1121
Fax: 540-997-1124

STONEY CREST FARM

Anne and Roy Repaske
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Star Tannery, VA 22654
Phone/fax: 540-436-3546
email: cashmere@shentel.net

WASHINGTON

BREEZY MEADOW CASHMERE FARM

Douglas and Roberta Maier
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Bellingham, WA 98226
360-733-6742
email: fibergoat@earthlink.net

BROOKFIELD FARM

Ian Balsillie/Karen Bean
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Maple Falls, WA 98266
360-599-1469 or
360-715-1604

KELLERS KRITTERS

Kay Keller
11030 Grandview Rd.
Arlington, WA 98223
360-435-6123

Continued on next page

Breeders Directory

Continued from previous page

MORE WASHINGTON

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RAINFLOWER FARM

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STILL WATERS CASHMERE

Moon and Diana Mullins
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email: dmullins@methow.com

WALLFLOWER FARM

Dan and Marti Wall
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Fax: 360-428-4946
email: cashmere@sos.net

WINDRIDGE FARM

Becki and Jim Belcher
202 Clemans View Rd.
Selah, WA 98942
509-698-3468

Internet listing of these breeders
can be found on the net at:
<http://www.teleport.com/~goatknol/breeders.htm>



Veterinary Clinic

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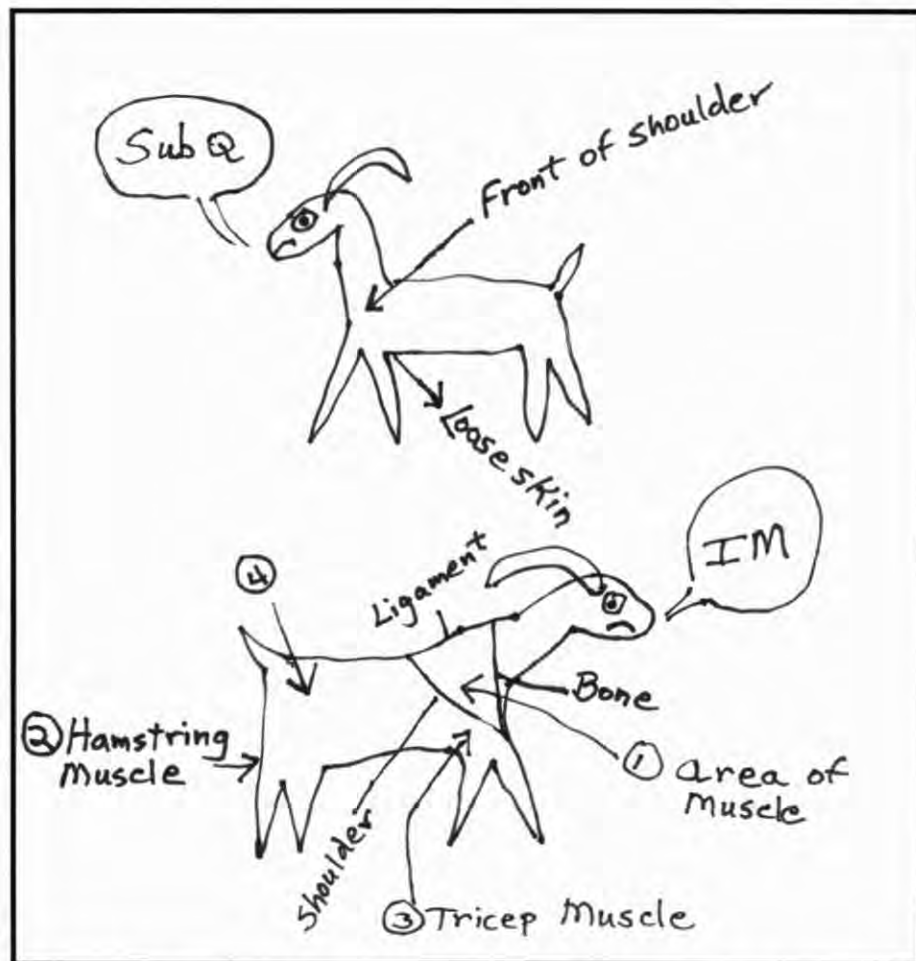
Hypocalcemia is a loss of calcium brought on by the body's sudden increase in calcium requirement caused by the developing fetus and beginning of lactation. Symptoms include weakness, staggering, animal down with legs *straight and behind*. There is no ketone odor.

Prolapse

There are two kinds of prolapses—vaginal and uterine. Both are indicators to cull the animal. In brief, a vaginal prolapse is fixed by cleaning the expelled vagina, lubricating it and replacing it—much easier said than done. You may want to call a veterinarian for help. For a uterine prolapse, you will definitely want to call your veterinarian.

With vaginal prolapse, usually the bladder is with it, and should be replaced first, hopefully after the doe urinates. To keep everything contained after replacement, a prolapse retainer can be used. The utmost care must be taken at all times and disinfectant used. Normal kidding can still occur, but the doe should be culled, or at least not rebred. Thankfully, prolapses are not common.

Dr. Snyder's tips for the appropriate uses of animal pharmaceuticals is a topic we will dwell on in an upcoming issue—including the basics on the differences between the two kinds of infections—bacterial and viral—and the different treatments required.



Where to inject—subcutaneous (SQ) and intramuscular (IM).
Numbers on IM sites are in order of preference.

Index to CashMirror Issues 7/98 - 6/99

July 1998

Reflections - Landscaping with Goats, Sheep and Dave, Introducing Linda Cortright - Eastern Correspondent, Iodine Deficiency, Nutrition in Cashmere Goats, Short Interval Kidding System, More Bad Press for Goats, Goat Poop (marketing of), Trick Goats (photo page), Louisiana Loses Brucellosis Class-Free Status, Brucellosis in Goats, Australian Report of Dehairing Research Project, Black Sheep Gathering, Index to CashMirror 7/98-6/99.

August 1998

Reflections - Why Can't My Goats be Real Livestock?, Airy Knoll Farms, Inc. - The Jensens, Sue Cullers Method for Moving Kids, Portland *Oregonian* Features "Cachet of Cashmere", Dehairing with Steve Hachenberger, Do You Suffer from Hay Anxiety?, Increasing Numbers of Elite Stock with Embryo Transfer in Sheep and Goats, Cashmere Fleece Competition Australian Style, Poetry for Does.

September 1998

Guard Hair Contest, Reflections - Encouraging Social Graces in Young Does, Table of Symptoms of Mineral Deficiencies/Excesses in Goats, Introducing Yvonne Zweede-Tucker - North Rocky Mountain Correspondent, Cashmere Shawl Pattern Alert, Brief Comments on Line Breeding, Breeding Schemes, The Superior Animals - How Good Are They Statistically Speaking, Sustainable Agriculture - What's In It for Me?, Recent Advances in Mineral Nutrition of Goats.

October 1998

Reflections - Happy Birthday to Paul, It's the Fuzz Silly, The Horns of a Dilemma, Speaking of Horns, Show Me the Money, Food Animals Residue Avoidance Databank, Reality Check, Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival (photo page), NWCA Fleece Competition Results, Income Taxes - the Hobby Loss Rules, Why Do I Really Prefer Goats, Cashmere Goats at the Evergreen State Fair (WA), Shahtoosh Fibres, Shahtoosh Seizure in the U.K.

November 1998

CashMirror Ten Year Anniversary, Reflections - Pig Tales, Study of the Feasibility of Cashmere Production in the European Union, Rut for Men, ECA Fleece Competition and Goat Show Results, Goat Meat Recipes, Organizing a Fleece Competition, Meat Market and Other Good Information, Cashmere Qualities of the Chinese Shandong Goats, NWCA Goat Show Results, Chevron Meat Cuts.

December 1998

Reflections - Rainy Days, Farm Fair International Goat Gala (Canada), Farm Fair Fleece Competition and Goat Show Results, Matching Livestock and Forage Resources in Controlled Grazing, Goats and Agroforestry, Agroforestry Our Way, Double Teats, The Multi-Purpose Goat, Cashmere Goats Invade New York Sheep and Wool Festival, Injections Made Easy, My Christmas Wish List, Giant Stride Farm - Gerry and Pat Fuhr, Goat People - Vicki Biggs, The Goat Math Quiz, History of Cashmere in Australia, What is Cashdown Goats?

January 1999

New Years Resolutions, Reflections - My First Cashmere Socks, Llama Kissing Back in Vogue, Portable Weed Eaters a Hot New Business, Edens' Weed Control Project Update, About Leafy Spurge, Disposing of Dead Goats, Computer Wisdom, Medicine Cabinet for Sheep and Goat Producers - Part I, Goat Gadgets - Wes Ackley Hay Feeder, New Test for Scrapie, Scrapie - Washington Flock Destroyed, Common Skin Diseases in Goats, Hairballs, Goat Feet and Legs, USDA to Test Animal Health Emergency Management System, Cashmere Research Projects.

February 1999

Guard Hair Contest Results, Reflections - Home Research, Breezy Meadow Cashmere Farm - Doug and Roberta Maier, Marketing - The Maiers' Way, Tape Report - Who's Coming to Dinner?, Thoughts About Marketing Meat Goats, Advertising with Passion, Defining Moments Between Man and Goat, Goat Gadgets - Creep Feeder, Medicine Cabinet for Sheep and Goat Producers - Part II, Letter from Terry Sim, Livestock Handling Using Basic Livestock Psychology, Good Jokes, The King and I.

March 1999

Reflections - Waiting for the Kids to Arrive, Black Locust Farm - Yvonne and Lance Taylor, 1999 Domestic Cashmere Prices, National Western Stock Show Goat and Shearing Contest Results, National Western Stock Show, Fiber Classing...and More with Kris McGuire, Book Reports - Buster, the Cashmere Goat and Goatkeeping 101, Objective Measurement and Prediction of Cashmere Style, Nutritional Causes of Reproductive Losses, Goat and Sheep Meat Definitions and Information, Goof of the Season.

April 1999

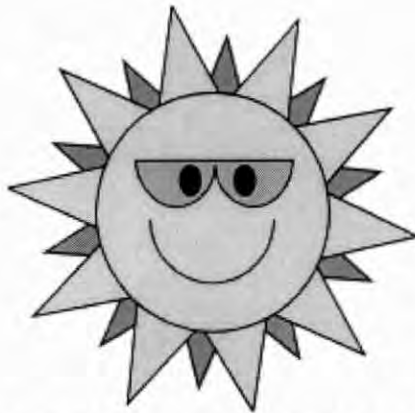
Reflections - The Intercom, Cashmere Goats in Mongolia, The Importance of Being Coded, Optimizing Growth & Health of Newborn and Growing Kids, Range Wars in West Texas, Spinning Spider Silk from Goats Milk, Kid Shots (photo page), Book Report - Gossamer Webs, How to Make Your Own Gossamer Web, Monitoring Internal Parasite Infection in Small Ruminants, Gastrointestinal Parasite Management, Goat Knoll Farm Field Day, Drugs for Controlling Internal Parasites.

May 1999

Reflections - Combing Goats, The Udder, Mastitis, Milk Secretion, Noses, Teeth, Legs and Butts (Goat Conformation), Internet Surfing, Scottish Cashmere, Book Reports - Three Children's Books, Goat Breeds, Goats in the News, Animal Control Using Pheromones, Small Dehairer News.

June 1999

Reflections - The Dog Food Effect, Ask Mickey, Custom Colors - A Fiber Business and More, Entering Fleece Contests, Northwest Fiber Fest Fleece Competition Results, Goat Meat Recipe, Like a Moth to a Flame, Paravets in Sudan, What Makes a Goat Farmer? Faith!, Care of Show Fleeces, Value of Adding Cashmere Fibre and Kid Meat in the Norwegian Dairy Goat Industry, Pashmina Shawl Fashion Fetish, Arthritis.



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solve the Year 2000 problem. December 31,
1999, falls on a Friday, so they'll have the
whole weekend to work out a solution."

..."Wag" quoted in 12/97 *Journal of
Accountancy*

"On cashmere goats, the only good stuff
is on the sides and the neck. The lesser
quality is on the belly and back."

...Susie Wilson, Sheep Shearer (6/20/99)

"For knitting make your cashmere yarn
three-ply unless you have a good reason
not to. Lace is a good reason not to."

...Judith MacKenzie (6/20/99)

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