

# Hoofprints

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*Hoofprints* is the official newsletter of the Cashmere Goat Association. It is published 3 times per year and sent to all members. If you have comments about articles you've seen in *Hoofprints*, any farm tips, or personal experiences you'd like to share, please send them to us. Please note that *Hoofprints* is sent electronically.

WENDY PIEH

President of CGA



The Board has voted to recommend that the North American Cashmere Goat Standard be amended to require Style be a minimum of 40% on a histogram. There is a letter of support in this edition of Hoofprints. We are looking for someone who disagrees to also write a letter so members have more than one perspective as you decide how to vote. If you would be willing to do this, contact Christine at [McBrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:McBrearty3@yahoo.com) and she will circulate your letter to the membership. You will be receiving a ballot soon to vote on whether to accept the recommended change. We are also reviewing the organization's by laws and how to best measure cashmere fiber length.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

I hope all is well with you and yours, and that the pandemic has not completely worn you out. I know that I am so eager to be able to spend time with others without a mask! It seems at times like I am alone even though I am amongst lots of people, mostly in the grocery store.

Kidding season is upon us this month, and I am very eager to see what we get. I had a buck climb two fences to join the does, so I have been feeling udders (much to their displeasure) to see if there are any surprises coming along. There are only two unexpected pregnancies that I can detect.

Kidding, combing, and shearing are likely in their midst if not done for many of you. Kidding is a highlight for us, and I hover more than the does would like. I bought a baby monitor so I can watch from a distance and know that when they disappear behind some brush that birthing is close. Of course, there are a few who talk and talk and talk, nest here, nest there. I know they want their privacy when they get quiet and settle in a special place. Then I practice holding my breath, (which of course doesn't help at all) and practice patience (which does help). What incredible delight in newborns!

Think about joining us for the CGA webinars. We have discussed the history of cashmere goats in this country with Joe David Ross, a founder of the cashmere goat industry in this country and superb judge of both conformation and fiber. That was followed by a discussion around combing with Jane Hammond, who raises outstanding cashmere goats, and shared with us about her farm, and answered many questions that we had. These webinars touch on many topics that will be of interest to you. They are very interactive and fun. They are recorded and available for you to watch if you missed them. We hope you join us!

We also have a monthly photo contest on a different subject each month, so you can find yourself a great place to share your favorite photos. We also still have a few calendars for sale!

You don't have to own cashmere goats to become a member, and the more members we have, the more exciting opportunities we can create for everyone who likes cashmere goats and our domestic cashmere, home grown!

Best to you all,

Wendy Pieh



## CGA ON FACEBOOK!

Have you joined the Cashmere Goat Association's Facebook page? It is a great place to connect with other breeders, share tips, ask for advice, and even win cool CGA prizes! Winners of our monthly photo contest receive CGA merchandise from our Zazzle page. A percentage of every item purchased through the Zazzle shop goes directly to CGA programs. As a volunteer-led organization, we are so grateful for your support!

Join us on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#)

You can purchase CGA merchandise by clicking [HERE](#)

*“It is a great place to connect with other breeders, share tips, ask for advice, and even win cool CGA prizes!”*

### PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

August—Al and Catherine

September—Nora Kravis

March—St. Mary's on the Hill Cashmere

April—Jackie Winkelman

### PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS





## ASK THE EXPERTS—WHEN TO PLAN FOR KIDDING?

Loriann Fell, Editorial Staff

I set out this issue to explore the question of how people schedule kidding and how they figure the impact of kidding on the does' fiber production. What I discovered after hearing from Becky Bemus of Roving Winds Farm in Coldwater, Ontario and Pam Haendle, of Hermit Pond Farm in West Edmeston, NY, is that fiber production does not seem to be the number one factor when people plan for kidding.

Becky reported that she plans kidding around pasture availability, potential parasite impact, and expected weather patterns, as well as her personal and physical limitations. She noted that they don't have much of a market for cashmere goats as fiber animals, and that with the U.S. dollar right now they cannot afford to process fiber in the U.S. She added that dramatic weather changes from year to year are making farming cashmere more difficult and elevating parasite concerns for pasture management as an issue.

She said, "We managed better than most in our area last year with tons of rotations and leaving the grass high to recover faster and with, thankfully, enough rain to keep the pastures growing, but I am already worried about water levels and the coming pasture and haying season, so it is not as simple as just planning for fiber and the timing of kidding."

Becky said that she prefers to kid in winter, usually in March, so the kids have had a good start before they are trying to deal with any parasite load coming from pasture exposure and so they are old enough (i.e., heavy enough) to be given copper wire particles to reduce barber pole worms if this becomes an issue. She noted, though, that this scheduling requires a lot of manpower to check the barns and shelters multiple times over the day and overnight to avoid kids freezing. It also requires blow drying and coating the kids and making sure they get nursing right. They use heat lamps only minimally in the barn and are not able to use them at all in the shelters where many of their does prefer to have their kids.

Becky explained, "Since we have a smaller farm with limited pasture and a large goat herd I need to have the bulk of my buck kids gone to market or a meat grower home before they need any significant pasture. We prefer to wean the kid to auction when the time comes or wean a smaller group to a small pasture to await pickup to their grower home. We do not have a good market for fiber interested buyers. Also, we no longer have a local abattoir that we can work with to directly market our extra bucks for meat and then benefit from the hides as value-added sales. Any buyers of kids we do have want their kids as soon as the grass is ready and are not patient enough to wait until mid-summer."

This year Becky chose to move kidding to the very end of March and into April hoping the weather would cooperate and they would only need to do one overnight check on the colder nights. So far, she says, the weather is working with her plan but time will tell.

## ASK THE EXPERTS—WHEN TO PLAN FOR KIDDING? CONTINUED

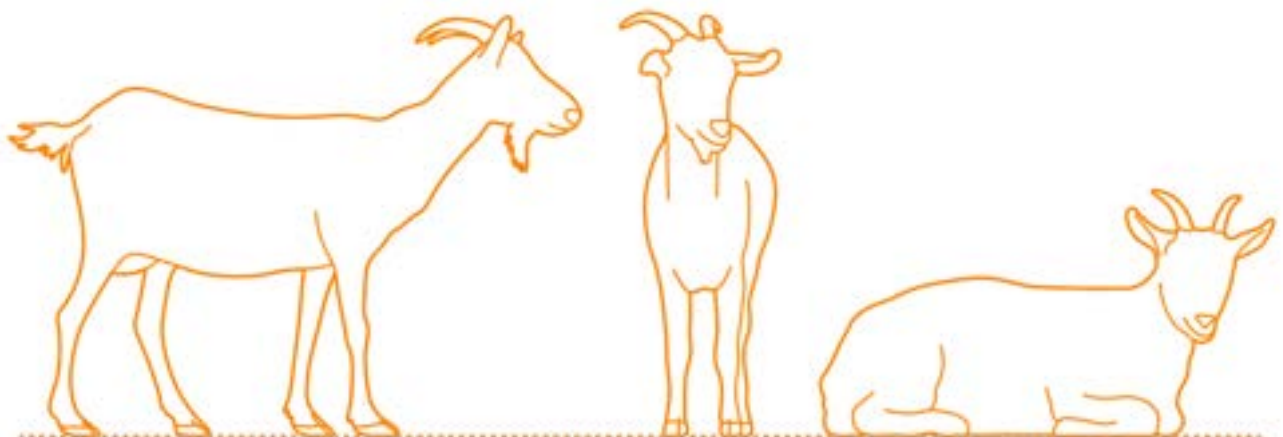
Loriann Fell, Editorial Staff

Becky says that fiber will usually adjust itself to let go according to the does' pregnancy hormones, usually triggering the shed four to six weeks before kidding. However, she is finding with global warming that the winters are erratic now, with very mild initial winter weather that causes even the bucks to shed earlier and earlier. According to her, "It is really a crap shoot each year when the harvest will begin or if we will get anything harvested. We are then subjected to extreme cold accompanied by high winds and wicked wind chill so we are hesitant to harvest any fiber in our herd." This means, she says, that the weather is becoming more of a determining factor in their breeding and kidding choices than anything else," adding, "Things certainly have changed weather wise in the time we have had these goats."

Pam reports that she plans her kidding to make it easier on herself and her goats. She recalled many nights shivering in a sleeping bag to oversee mothers and their newborns on cold February or March nights. "Now," she says, "I make it easy on myself and ensure that no kids have frost-bitten ears by planning kidding for mid to late April." She added that she breeds does in their second year and that she continues to let them breed until they reach the age of seven or eight, so that most of the does she is now combing have been bred. This means that she doesn't have much of a control group to assess the impact of pregnancy on fiber production and fiber quantity.

Becky noted that over the years she has selected for heavier-fleeced animals with longer length, and still gets good production from does bred or not. She has noticed that some older does (8 or 9 years old) produce minimal length when they are bred vs. open, and she has tried to select away from those does. Pam says she has the sense that her pregnant moms produce less on average than an open doe would produce, but she has not noticed that the quality of the fiber is impacted. She added, "The kids, who are not bred, produce the most glorious fine crimped fiber, but I think the quality is a result of their age, not the fact that their hormones aren't raging."

So, that's it for now: weather, parasites, pasture, as well as the comfort of the all-important goat caretakers all appear to be considerations for scheduling kidding. Fiber output might be diminished in volume but not quality, and length can be affected in older does. If readers have anything to add on this topic, let me know: [lafell@aol.com](mailto:lafell@aol.com). This could be an ongoing conversation.



*The CGA Database and Registry was developed to serve as a repository for information on goats who meet the qualifications for cashmere goats specified in the North American Cashmere Goat standard.*

*The CGA Database and Registry is available to all for online searches for cashmere farms, specific cashmere goats, for cashmere goats in a specific line, and for cashmere goats having user-specified characteristics.*

## DATABASE NEWS

In recent months, a few updates and improvements have been made to the CGA website, database, and registry. On the website, [www.cashmereassociation.org](http://www.cashmereassociation.org), we have added prompts on the front page to direct people toward the database and registry. On the database/registry page, we have added more information on how to register a goat and a link to the most recent YouTube video with information on the registration process. The Frequently Asked Questions page has a new paragraph to counteract the nonsense PETA has been disseminating about goats freezing to death after being combed. The wonderful session Joe David Ross held with us in February is now available to all through a link on the Educational Videos page. If you have not visited our website recently, you may be pleasantly surprised by the wealth of information there!

Throughout the year, continuous updates are made to the membership list, breeders' directory, and the collection of Board of Directors meeting minutes. As a reminder, we update the membership display every March 15<sup>th</sup>, so that it only displays information for members who have paid for the current year. If your listing on the membership page disappeared after March 15<sup>th</sup>, then we don't have a record of your 2021 payment. If you think that is not correct, please let Pam know at [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com).

# CGA registry

## DATABASE NEWS CONTINUED

The database and registry have grown slowly but steadily in 2021. The total number of registered goats has inched upward to 225. The new feature that allows users to add information on goats who are *not* candidates for registration is in place and has been tested. This function is especially useful for goats for whom you have incomplete scoring information or non-standard scoring information. We just completed work on a new feature that will make it easier for anyone who is adding a long list of goats to the database at one time. Since it is easy to lose track of whether or not a goat has been added, we added an option to list all of the goats at a given farm. Previously, it was only possible to list all registered goats at a given farm.

If you have any qualms about using the interface to the database (reached through the CGA website), please check out our YouTube videos. In addition to the new video that walks you through the steps necessary to register a goat, there are videos on how to use the search functions and reporting functions. As always, questions can go to Pam at [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com).

## QUICK GUIDE TO ENTERING LAB RESULTS

A few folks who have been entering lab results into the CGA database to qualify their goats for the registry have noted that the reports from the lab don't use the same terminology we use in our database interface. Here is a simple cross-reference for the fields that are required for lab reports.

Fiber Diameter Score ID	Use Mic Ave (Average micron), find appropriate range in the dropdown
Fiber Style Score ID	Use CRV dg/mm (Curvature in degrees per mm), find appropriate range in the dropdown
Fiber Length	Use SL mm (Staple length in mm), convert to inches (25.4 mm per inch)
Total Fleece Weight	Optional - user provided.
Fleece Weight unit	Optional - user provided.
Percent Yield	Optional - user provided.
Standard Deviation	Use SD mic (standard deviation of micron)
Coefficient of Variation	Use CV mic (coefficient of variation in microns). Provides a measure of uniformity within a small sample.

# Recipe for Goat Meat Tapas

FROM THE KITCHEN OF Dough Haven Farm LLC

What are tapas you ask? Tapas is a Spanish word used to describe a small bite of flavorful food. Tapas are frequently used as appetizers here in the US. Today I will share a recipe for goat meat tapas in a puffed pastry.

## INGREDIENTS

1 lb finely ground goat meat  
1 c Italian bread cubes  
4 eggs  
1 1/4 c heavy cream  
1/2 c shredded blended cheese  
(Monterey jack, cheddar, asadero)  
1/4 tsp cinnamon  
1/4 tsp nutmeg  
1/2 tsp cumin  
1/2 tsp curry  
1 tsp onion powder  
1/2 tsp garlic powder

## INGREDIENTS

1/2 tsp paprika  
1/4 tsp black pepper  
1 tsp turmeric  
1 tsp Himalayan sea salt  
2 packages of puff pastry





# Recipe for Goat Meat Tapas

## DIRECTIONS

Place goat meat in bowl, add all the spices, mix well set aside to marinade. Separate egg from white. Reserve one yolk for egg wash. Beat the whites to stiff peaks. Place bread cubes in a bowl and pour heavy cream over the top to soak cubes, reserve 1/4 c of cream to whisk together with the egg yolk for wash. In a large bowl mix goat meat, bread cubes, three egg yolks. Mix completely, place in a food processor and pulse mix to a creamy blend. Take the creamy blend out of the processor into a bowl and add cheese. Take the whipped egg white and fold completely in. The tapas filling is ready, unroll puff pastry sheets and cut into 12 even squares for a total of 24 squares 2.5 in x 2.5 in. In the center of each square place a full teaspoon of filling. When all squares have been filled it's time to



# Recipe for Goat Meat Tapas

## DIRECTIONS

to fold and seal. Folding and sealing is a little tedious but well worth the effort, hang in there you're almost done! Each square is folded in half forming a triangle. I find that sometimes I have used more filling which complicates the the sealing process. Careful not to overfill.

When folding be sure to seal dough to dough. You will use a table fork and press down on the edge of the triangles following down the two sides.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Place tapas 1/2 in apart on a piece of parchment paper on a baking sheet. Brush the tops with the egg wash-which is the cream mixed with the reserved yolk. Bake on the middle shelf in oven for 30 min until golden brown.

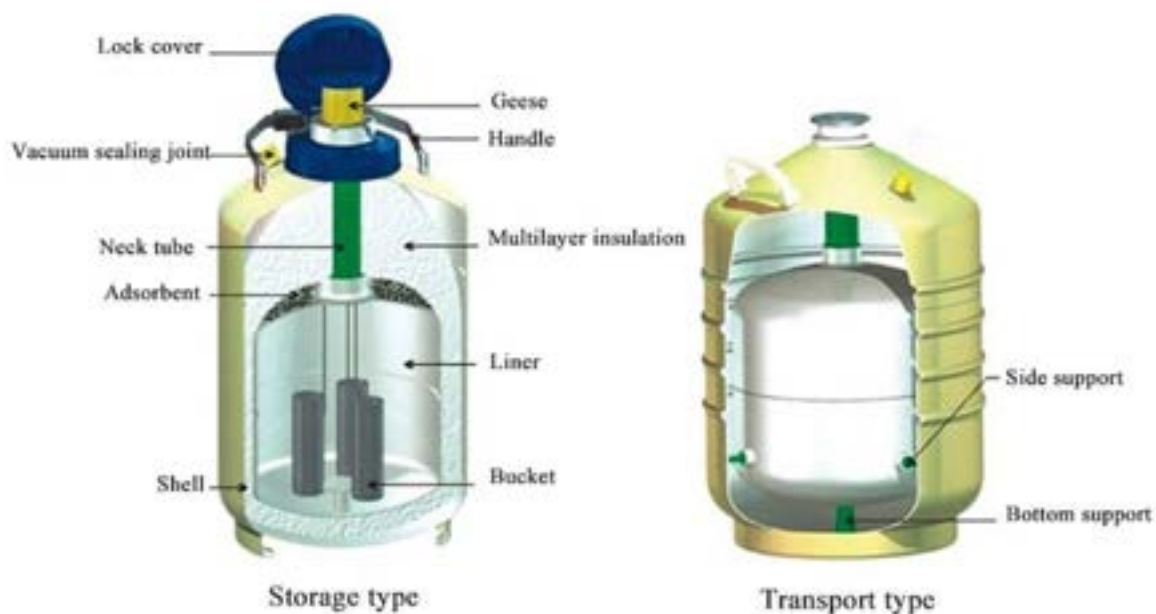


## WEESNER'S BITTERSWEET FARM & ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PART 2

Artificial insemination (AI) is a powerful management tool for the livestock breeding industry. Our desire to use AI stemmed from two main issues: 1. The lack of genetically diverse males in our geographic region; and, 2. Our lack of facilities to securely house multiple males and ensure that they only mated with the intended females. By using AI, all of our females can be housed together while all of our bucks are kept together in a hallway closet (submerged in liquid nitrogen).

The availability of frozen goat semen for breeding is perhaps the most frustrating aspect of our AI process. We obtain cashmere semen by two means. First, we purchase it commercially. Currently, the supply of commercially available cashmere semen is very limited. There are a few companies that offer cashmere semen, along with dairy and meat goat semen. The selection is quite limited, but it has increased in recent years. Some cashmere breeders also offer semen for sale directly from their farm.

The second source of cashmere semen we use is from bucks born on our farm. When a buck of exceptional quality is born, we often choose to have some semen collected and frozen before we sell him. Alternatively, we will sell a buck while reserving the right to have semen collected from him sometime in the future. The problem with both of these scenarios is that the collection is done before we have complete fiber testing results and before the buck has reached his mature size and conformation. Occasionally, a buck does not turn out as expected, and the semen is not used.



## WEESNER'S BITTERSWEET FARM & ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PART 2—CONTINUED

In the past, we have attempted to collect, process, and freeze goat semen ourselves. Though we had some success, our results were inconsistent. Fortunately, there are several companies that specialize in collecting and freezing goat semen. Some will come to your farm, while others require that you bring the bucks to their location. Some will even help you market the semen, if you so desire.

We make sure that bucks we choose for semen collection and AI meet (and hopefully exceed) the North American Cashmere Goat breed standard set by the Cashmere Goat Association. Currently, those standards are rather broad and lack specificity (like height or weight guidelines). As the standards continue to be refined, identification of superior males should become simpler. Other factors we consider for sire selection often include litter size, birth weight, temperament, growth rate, guard hair color and length, family history, and overall health. Especially significant are those traits that respond to genetic selection.

During the breeding season, it's not always easy to tell when a doe is ready to breed. While some does display all the classic signs of estrus, others simply do not. Without a buck on site to let us know exactly when a doe is in heat, it would be easy to miss the optimal AI breeding window. We avoid this problem with the use of an androgenized wether. Approximately 4 weeks before our breeding season begins, a wether starts receiving injections of testosterone (prescribed by our veterinarian). Within a couple of weeks, the wether acts (and smells) like an intact buck. When a doe comes into heat, he is able and eager to identify her for us. Later, as the breeding season comes to an end, the testosterone treatments stop. Before long, he returns to being a mild-mannered wether.

As the number of cashmere bucks available for AI increases, producers will have more opportunity to select sires which best match their specific goals. Ongoing research on cashmere genetics and further refinement of breed standards will also bring about improvements in the cashmere goat industry.



## CGA KICKS OFF 2021 WITH EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

CGA has jumped on the Zooming bandwagon to offer a series of educational webinars this year. All past programs and future programs can be found on the CGA's webpage under the *education tab*. Our first program featured Joe David Ross, one of the primary forefathers for cashmere production in the United States. Joe David Ross has a history with cashmere goats like no other. His bio, which follows, gives you a glimpse into all his contributions. Our second featured speaker was Jane Hammond from Spring Gate Farm discussing methods and tips for combing. Jane has been raising champion cashmere goats for many years. Jane provided numerous helpful recommendations from tools to methods when combing.

We hope you can take advantage of the opportunity to listen and learn from these two educational webinars. CGA is planning upcoming programming for April/May with guests from Texas A&M University to discuss the science behind fiber testing. Stay tuned and follow CGA on Facebook and Instagram to receive instant updates on future speakers!



## CGA KICKS OFF 2021 WITH EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS



### **Joe David Ross Speaks about Cashmere Past & Present**

Joe David Ross is 85 years old and although a little slower, he is still active every day in the pasture or working pens at the Ross Ranch in Sonora, Texas. His grandparents homesteaded there in 1892. The Ross Ranch is about 175 miles West of San Antonio on Interstate 10, which is in a rocky, semi-arid terrain.

Joe David grew up in the Angora show pen helping his parents sell and show Angora goats. He was active in 4-H, showing lambs and judging Mohair, wool livestock, and forage. He graduated from Texas A&M Veterinary School in 1959. His interest in horses lead him to Lexington, Kentucky for 6 months of internship prior to returning home to Sonora to establish and run his veterinary practice from 1960-1972.

After this, he continued to serve on various health committees with the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers, the Angora Goat Registry, the American Meat Goat Association, the American Boer Goat Association, Cashmere America, the American Cashmere Goat Marketing Association Co Op, and the San Angelo Research Station. From 1976 to 1987, Joe David served on the Committee for Minor Species Drug Approval with the FDA. From 1981 to 2011, he was asked to be on the Research Foundation by Texas A&M. From 1981-1986, he served as an official to the Mohair Council of America and traveled the textile world, sometimes being gone 90-120 days a year. Mohair buyers also worked with alpaca, cashmere, camel hair, buffalo hair, wool, synthetic blends, and organic cotton.

Bob Buchholz, his son-in-law, was one of the first Texans to work on producing cashmere from the Spanish meat goats. In the late 1990's or 2000, the Cashmere Co-Op was moved to Sonora, Texas to continue educating people on the classification of cashmere, dehairing and marketing. Pursuing these efforts was James Barton, another Sonora rancher, who traveled out of state with Terry Sims from Australia.

## CGA KICKS OFF 2021 WITH EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS



Around the same time Joe David served on the National ID & Scrapies Committees and the American Goat Foundation.

Joe David is a certified judge for Angora goats, Cashmere goats, Boer goats, and meat goats. He has worked at goat shows and workshops all throughout the USA, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Jamaica.



## CGA KICKS OFF 2021 WITH EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS



### **Jane Hammond Speaks about the Methods and Tools of Combing**

I have been raising Cashmere goats in the Piedmont region of Virginia for over 20 years with my first goats coming out of the Repaske herd/ Stoneycrest Farm in Star Tannery, VA. I fell in love with two does, a white and a black/white badger, at the Montpelier Fiber Festival. The rest is history. I began to breed several years later and began to compete in the Cashmere Goat Association annual show at the Virginia State Fair and in fiber competitions throughout the U.S. Growing the herd meant searching for the right bucks to bring diversity to the genetics of the herd. I purchased bucks from Yvonne Taylor, Shirley Richardson and Roy and Anne Repaske and built a herd of @125 goats over the past 20 years. In 2019, I sold my farm and moved the herd to a smaller 70-acre farm which resulted in a smaller herd of @45-50. I have marketed my fiber and fiber products at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, the Montpelier Fall Fiber Festival, the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival, the Fiber Festival of New England and online. I work with talented test knitters, weavers and dyers to create one-of-a-kind garments and patterns to showcase the beauty of cashmere. Each year, I sell breeding stock, meat, fiber, pelts and horns and look for ways to market the extraordinary fiber that the goats can take full credit for producing. This year is no exception with kids already “on the ground” by the end of February and fiber combed out, we have almost sold out of all our newborns.





## BOOK REVIEW—CONTINUED

### BY HEIDI DICKENS OF MYERS FAMILY FARM

My real education in raising goats came from the free goat production program on the Langston University website (<http://www.luresext.edu/>). This online course is a certification program for raising goats. The program is enhanced by a yearly in-person “Goat Day” which features lectures from prominent goat researchers followed by afternoon workshop sessions. I knew Langston published both a meat and a dairy handbook, but I was not sure how well they would work for fiber goats. The faculty at Langston recommended the meat goat version for my herd. I have followed the feeding supplement guidelines for a year now. The improvements in my herd for fiber production, yearling growth, body condition, and kidding ease have made me an enthusiastic convert.



The handbook is organized into chapters that are easily referenced by subject matter. I use my phone often when looking up facts in the field. However, as I get older, it is getting harder to see the info on my phone. It is also time-consuming to go through so much information on-line. I have found that having a well-researched written reference book is so much easier to read and a huge time saver. The print and formatting quality of the handbook are of the highest quality. Many procedures and methods are clearly illustrated with high quality photographs or diagrams. The information is scientifically based and not politically biased. I find it is getting harder to find agricultural information that is not riddled with opinion these days. The goal of the goat research at Langston University is to raise the healthiest goats for the least amount of money. Those recommendations are clearly put forth in the handbook.

The producer can then make their own decisions about the brand of feed, organic or not, etc. The handbook comes in hard back or a spiral bound. I got the spiral bound edition which is great for reading because it says flat or can be folded back on itself. However, the spiral bound will not stand up on a shelf unless it is stoutly supported on both sides. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It is the best source for goat information I have ever found.

## FREE REGISTRATION PERIOD EXTENDED!

Last year, a survey was distributed to CGA members to determine when CGA should begin charging for submitting goats for inclusion in the NACG registry. The option selected called for a \$5 charge for members and a \$10 charge for non-members, to begin in June of this year.

Those charges will come into play at some point, but the Board of Directors voted recently to delay imposing them. As you have read elsewhere in this issue, Langston University is to be awarded a grant to study cashmere fiber quality and that study is dependent on large amounts of data from our registry. Therefore, we need a massive influx of lab testing on cashmere fiber. So, now is the time! Collect those samples, send them to Texas A & M, and submit your goats as candidates for registration. Take advantage of the opportunity to register your goats without paying any fee to CGA. It is a true win-win situation.



## FOCUS ON EDUCATION FOR CGA'S JUDGING

Christine McBrearty-Hulse, CGA Secretary

It's no news that CGA has a group of stellar judges throughout the United States who have traveled just about anywhere for a show. But a window is now opening to make sure that these professionals pass along their knowledge to future judges. The CGA board has taken on the mission of offering future shows that can be held anywhere in the United States with a platform that will include youth, be it through 4-H or independent participants, members or non-members. To make this possible, more judges need to be trained through a systematic certification program that allows them to judge confidently in line with the breed standard while preserving their own unique qualities and preferences. Diversity among judges is a good thing for offering perspective; however, some alignment among judges is necessary to make sure that CGA is assisting members in breeding the best cashmere goats they can. The universal scoring card is a good example of this because it directly reflects check-point assessments from the breed standard.

A committee of active judges is being asked by CGA to work through the details of what an effective training program for future judges, with a working guidebook, would look like. Training clinics will be offered via Zoom for those who are interested in becoming a judge in the future or for those who just want more information. Topics might include:

- ◇ North American Cashmere Goat Breed Standard
- ◇ Goat Structure and Conformation,
- ◇ Fiber Judging
- ◇ Goat Anatomy: major faults/strengths
- ◇ Shows & rules: comparative terms for reasons, unified show card, ethical behavior of judges, importance of accurate reasons, giving accurate reasons

Stay tuned for more information regarding future clinics for the 2021 year!



COMING



SOON!



## CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION JUNIOR AMBASSADORS!

Congratulations to Leaf, Allie, and Avery for being our first Cashmere Goat Association Junior Ambassadors!

These three young goatherds sent us educational cashmere videos that we posted on our social media, and we sent them gorgeous ribbons as a token of our appreciation.

Leaf taught us how to safely feed baby goats, Avery taught us how to use microchipping to ID goats, and Allie discussed the differences between cashmere and mohair.

Check out their wonderful videos on our social media platforms, and please keep those videos coming!

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*We look forward to more submissions and mailing out our GORGEOUS CGA Junior Ambassador ribbons to all participants. Teach us about your cashmere goat, its care, etc. Anything goes!*

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## 2021 CGA CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

Within these calendars, you will find dozens of gorgeous, member-submitted photos of North American Cashmere Goats. The profits from calendar sales will help CGA's missions of education and research on all aspects of cashmere goats.

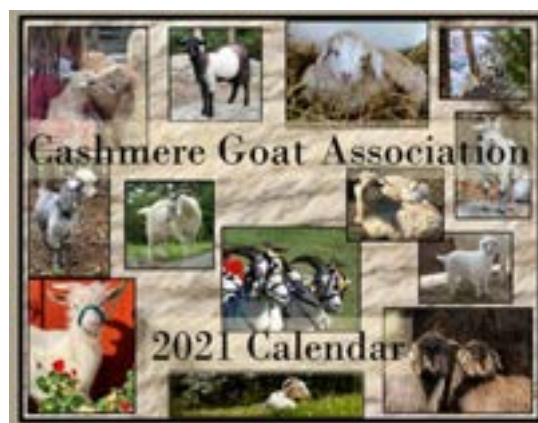
If ordering to ship within the United States, calendars are \$15 with shipping included. (Contact Wendy at [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com) for international shipping quotes.)

The CGA website has been updated with a link so that calendars can be ordered online by clicking [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

or

you can send \$15 via check to:

Elyse Perambo  
112 Coy Road  
Richford, VT 05476



## BIOWORMA PART 2 BY ELYSE PERAMBO

I wrote an article last year about our use of the product Bioworma in order to help us get stomach worm parasites, especially the Barber pole worm, under control on our farm. This decision was predicated by a disastrous year in 2019 where we had 4 yearling kids die, one survive a severe case of anemia, and lost the ram in our small sheep herd. It became very clear to us that the standard chemical and natural dewormers we were using were failing to keep the parasites under control.

Our results were a stunning improvement in overall health for the entire herd. The 2020 year ended in only 1 doe getting a heavy enough worm load to become anemic, even though we were consistently using Livamol with Bioworma. We were able to successfully treat her and bred her this fall. The FAMACHA scores on our herd are currently the best we have ever seen with most animals consistently scoring a deep red 1. Prior to using this product, we rarely saw a 2 score and most goats were scoring consistently a 3. We saw a marked improvement in overall body health in the entire herd because Livamol is a quality body conditioner.



## BIOWORMA PART 2—CONTINUED

BY ELYSE PERAMBO

The decision to use this product does not come cheap. The only available vendor as of right now is Premier1 Supplies. Only within the last few months has a second version of this product become available that is slightly different but a bit cheaper to use. The product is Livamol with Bioworma. Currently, a 30# pail costs \$149.50. According to the chart on Premier1 website, the cost is about 46-58 cents per goat per day to use. In December, the Bioworma became available without the Livamol with a 10# pail costs \$345. According to the chart on the Premier1 website this version costs 20-21 cents per animal per day to use. With a herd of around 30 goats, we found that we were using 1 pail of Livamol with Bioworma every month. \$1200 per year is a big price to pay. When I calculated the amount of money we spent on dewormers, and other meds to help anemic goats in 2019 we spent around \$1450, so this was actually a better financial investment. We also did not have the heartbreak of losing any goats, gained a lot of time, and had less stress not having to treat sick animals.

The conclusion we have come to is that it is worth the price for us to use this product. Since we deal with the barber pole worm in the South, which is a notoriously difficult parasite to control and get rid of, we found we were not controlling the infestation without this product. The only other possible option to control parasites in the future would be if the USDA approved the vaccine to control stomach parasites in sheep and goats that was developed in a partnership between the UK, Australia, and South Africa. The USDA has not yet approved it, so we cannot obtain this vaccine. If you are having trouble controlling stomach worms in your herd, I highly recommend that you give this product a try.



## WENDY PIEH IS JUDGING FLEECE FOR CGA!

Wendy Pieh has been endorsed by the CGA Board to judge fleeces and to have the results be accepted (if eligible) for registration. Some advantages of having a person judge your fleeces are:

- The whole fleece is judged, giving consistency
- You get total down weight
- Your guard hair is judged for coarseness
- You receive comments on each fleece as well as breeding suggestions and other helpful thoughts
- You have immediate eligibility for registration

Wendy has been judging fiber for individuals and at shows for more than 10 years. She and her husband Peter Goth have been raising cashmere goats for 25 years at Springtide Farm in Maine, and their herd is recognized for its fine fiber and well-built goats.

The cost for a fleece will be \$5.00

Contact Wendy at [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com) or at 207-529-5747 for more information.



### NEW ZAZZLE GEAR!





## WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE TO MAKE A *STYLE QUALITY* A REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTERING A NORTH AMERICAN CASHMERE GOAT?

Wendy Pieh (CGA President) & Pamela Haendle (Editorial Staff)

In 2008 the Eastern Cashmere Association (now the Cashmere Goat Association) adopted a standard that included both fiber traits and conformation. Most items are recommendations, not requirements. However, three items were included that were “musts.” Two items, diameter and uniformity of diameter were adopted based on U.S. Law and the international acceptance of those items in the definition of cashmere. One item was added, a minimum length, which has been a hallmark of distinguishing our cashmere from that of others, who only look at diameter.

If you read through the standard, you will see that most items read “**should,**” not “**must.**”

You will soon receive a ballot inviting you to vote on whether to add a minimum requirement for Style on a histogram to be no less than 40 deg/mm, for goats who are using lab results to qualify. Following is a description of Style, and an encouragement for you to vote yes. Many breeders have assumed that the minimum standard of 45 was already required.

Language of the **current** Standard:

Style is defined as the crimp or curvature of the individual fibers and is expressed on a histogram as deg/mm (degrees of circular arc per mm). Individual fibers should exhibit three-dimensional, irregular crimp along their entire length. Mean style measurements on the histogram **should** be no less than **45** deg/mm.

(The histogram is a measurement created through a fiber testing laboratory. A histogram is not required for registration, as CGA-qualified judges can determine the quality of fiber by eye.)

Language of the **proposed** Standard:

Style is defined as the crimp or curvature of the individual fibers and is expressed on a histogram as deg/mm (degrees of circular arc per mm). Individual fibers should exhibit three-dimensional, irregular crimp along their entire length. Mean style measurements on the histogram **must** be no less than **40** deg/mm.

When the Board of CGA began considering this option, we were all charged with interviewing our customers, hand spinners, fiber enthusiasts, cashmere fiber experts, and others as to whether the curvature/style/curvature of the fiber was important to both spinning it into yarn, knitting a desirable product, and feeling maximum softness.

Every person interviewed by board members said yes, for many reasons:

Cashmere has a short staple length, and the style helps the yarn hold together.

Style increases the tensile strength of the cashmere.

Having a three-dimensional crimp gives the fiber more body and memory.

Fiber with more style feels softer – that elusive “good handle” the old-timers spoke of.

## WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE TO MAKE A *STYLE QUALITY* A REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTERING A NORTH AMERICAN CASHMERE GOAT? - CONTINUED

Wendy Pieh (CGA President) & Pamela Haendle (Editorial Staff)

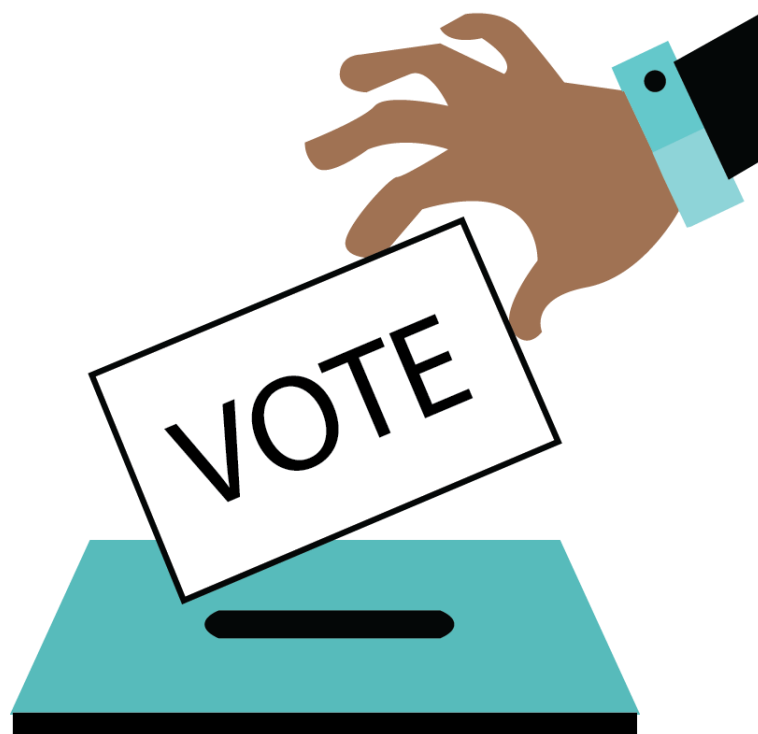
One reason that cashmere goats in the Himalayas (the original home of cashmere goats) developed three-dimensional crimp in their fiber was that it kept them warm in exceedingly cold climates. The tighter the crimp the more air was captured and warmed near to the goat, much like the down you see that comes from the eider ducks. (And it makes for very warm duvets and sleeping bags).

It is easy to assume that the finer the cashmere the crimpier the style. While that is often the case, goats can have very fine fiber and poor style. Whereas fiber that is close to 19 microns but very crimped is still a joy to spin, fiber that is fine but not crimped is often referred to as slippery and hard to spin, like some fiber from other sources.

Although the international standard for cashmere does not specify a numerical requirement for style, it has always been considered a critical element for high-quality cashmere by CGA and its predecessor, ECA. Back in 1994, the renowned Australian cashmere breeder Shirly Levy was interviewed for Hoofprints, and when she was asked how she would prioritize fiber elements, she put style at the very top of her list, saying that crimp defines cashmere. Terry Sim, who founded and ran Cashmere America and led classing clinics for us for years, also urged us not to obsess totally over microns, but to treasure the goats with good style, good production, and reliable differentiation. The “Breeding Goals for Cashmere Goats”, a document that preceded the North American Cashmere Goat Standard, listed good style as a “must have”, not just a recommendation. It was also interesting to see that, when Joe David Ross was asked about fiber qualities in our recent webinar, his first comment was about style, not fiber diameter.

Different fibers have different purposes, of course, and a long, fine fiber that is almost straight might be just the thing for some project. But the NACG Standard was defined to set a high bar for a particular kind of cashmere. It demands length that is not specified in the international standard, and it should demand, not suggest, good style. The proposed requirement for a value of 40 degrees per mm in curvature is low enough to compensate for variability in lab testing yet high enough to disallow inclusion of goats whose fiber is nearly straight.

We hope you will join us in voting to adopt this change to our North American Cashmere Goat Standard.



# Welcome to our New Members

Diana Chaplin of Chase Meadow Farm from Weston, MA  
Daniella James Choiniere of Avalon Farms from Alburgh, VT  
Todd Curtis of Convergence Farms LLC from Cortland, NY  
Martha Dutton from Sutton, NH  
Lynda Franklin of Starbright Farm from East Haven, VT  
Andrew Hoelscher from Newton, KS  
Kimberly Howell from Conesville, IA  
Leaf Perambo of East Meets West Farm from Richford, VT  
Koren Schermerhorn from North Collins, NY  
Sara Shackleton of Grimross Farm from Gagetown, NB  
Tara Wallace from Cameron, MO

Dough Haven Farm LLC  
DoughHavenFarm@gmail.com



An advertisement for St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere. It features a collage of images: a close-up of a goat's head, a group of people standing with goats in a field, and a close-up of a goat's face. The text reads "St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere". Below the images is a circular logo and the text: "Award-winning North American Cashmere goats raised by the Anglican/Episcopalian Sisters of St. Mary on their farm in upstate New York. In addition to raising breeding stock for sale, buck sires for rent, and producing fine cashmere yarn, roving and other products for sale in the fall, the Sisters sponsor year-round programs for youth with their goats." At the bottom, there is a website URL "www.stmaryseast.net/on-the-hill-farm.html" and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram with the text "St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere".