

A Publication of  
CGA. The  
Cashmere Goat  
Association

Volume 28  
Issue 2  
August 2019

[www.cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

## Message from the President

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you have had a good year to date, and, if you bred some does last fall, that you have a bunch of bouncing kids to inspire you every day.

The biggest thing I would like to have you consider is becoming a board member. We are a small working group, and we would more than welcome new members. We meet every other month most of the year, and once a month during the show and fair season. We create small working groups for things like the web site, the database/registry, Hoofprints, fundraising, the Rhinebeck booth and animal barn, the small ruminant workshop this fall with Cornell.....I get tired just writing it all down! You don't need to own goats to be a Board member, you just need to be interested and bring to us your commitment to and excitement about cashmere goats. Read the minutes of our meetings on the web site, contact any one of us if you have questions, and please please please think about joining us!

Our annual show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and we are the host this year of the Northwest Cashmere Goat Association (NWCA)/CGA annual fleece competition. This year we are offering an opportunity to send in any fleeces for evaluation that you don't want in the competition for a \$5 fee, half the show price. This will make your goats potentially eligible for registration in the database without the expense of getting a histogram. We will also have a booth with items donated that are sold to benefit CGA. Come and join us, and participate, even if you don't have goats.

The annual meeting is held then and is a good time to get your voice heard. We have a conference phone; let me know if you want to be included.

We will once again participate in the New York Sheep and Wool Festival on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have a group of goats and information about them in one of the barns, and a booth set up in one of the large tents with educational information as well as an assortment of cashmere products for sale direct from cashmere goat owners. Contact information for the booth is Elyse Perambo, CGA vice president.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cornell will host a small ruminant workshop in collaboration with CGA. There will be a lot of information offered as well as an opportunity to network with other cashmere farmers, even from as far away as Italy. Professors, farmers, and other experts will be presenting, including Dr. Mary Smith herself! Many of you have enrolled already; please come and join us.

Yvonne Taylor, our matriarch, and mentor to many of us who are raising cashmere goats, has decided to retire from an active position on the Board. We made a unanimous decision to make her a Board Member Emerita, just like Anne Repaske. I hope you approve! She still has some goats, and we still ask her for advice.

We keep saying that the database & registry is almost ready. It is now on the launch pad and will be active by the time you receive this issue! Would you be interested in having an approved judge visit you and your goats to get your animals evaluated right at home, so that they can be added to the registry? Let us know and we will work to get a program going.

August 2019

You will see that we have a new web site, and with a new design that is easier to manage, we are committed to keeping it up to date and you well informed. We have received feedback that some members feel out of the loop and that the board makes decisions regarding CGA without consulting the membership. We'll work on that. I would appreciate any feedback you are willing to offer and appreciate even more suggestions from you on how we can do better.

You will see in this issue more discussion about whether the Cashmere Goat Association should opt to make the North American Cashmere Goat a breed. This is a decision for the membership, as the North American Cashmere goat standard, registry and name belong to you. Part of the obligation of the Board when we ask you to vote is to give you both pros and cons to help you make your decision. Please review the relevant articles in the last issue and this issue. You will receive a ballot to vote on this question as well as a ballot to vote for Board members. Also don't hesitate to contact any of us if you'd like more information or someone to talk/write to about it.

I want to finish with a little story. At the cashmere goat show at the Estes Park Wool Festival in June, I met a goat named ABG Remington. I tell you: he is the goat of my dreams. He had the best fleece in his class of adult bucks, and the best body I have ever seen on a cashmere goat. He is broad, long bodied, and correct (a broken horn didn't count, although I wondered how he had done it). His guard hair is very coarse. Not only that, he was calm and agreeable, ambling around the ring as if he didn't have a care, which he probably didn't. He lives at Goatique Farm/Ranch in Gunnison, Colorado, and his person is Ann Bertschy.

Best to you all,

Wendy Pieh

#### Inside This Issue:

- 3** Debating a cashmere goat breed, continued
- 4** CGA Small Ruminant & Fiber Conference
- 9** 2019 CGA Cashmere Goat Show
- 13** 2019 NWCA/CGA Fleece Competition
- 19** Goat Color Quiz
- 26** Database and website updates
- 30** Strengthening wool

Editorials on establishing a cashmere goat breed: pages 15, 23, 28 and 31



**ABG Remington**

## IS IT TIME TO ESTABLISH A CASHMERE GOAT BREED?

*Our debate continues.....*

In the last (March, 2019) issue of Hoofprints, we opened up a debate on the question “Should the CGA establish a breed called the North American Cashmere Goat?” Four essays on the subject were published, two supporting the proposal and two opposing it. The Hoofprints editors called for more opinions and several people sent in thoughts that we will include in this issue. It is a complicated question and the respondents have approached it from differing vantage points.

Some members have identified specific advantages that they will enjoy if they are able to present some of their goats as representatives of a breed. Others have noted the emergence of other breed labels within the world of cashmere goats – including some in Australia and some in China. Some see it as a way of conferring status on a set of goats that they perceive as having reached a state of high quality as the result of several decades of selective breeding in the U.S. and Canada. Some see it as an inevitable consequence of establishing a registry.

Some members remain concerned about the confusion surrounding the word “breed”. We have no governing organization to turn to that might legitimize the quest for a breed label through a set of rules or discourage it altogether. With no official process available or required, the CGA would simply declare to the USDA that we recognize the goats in the registry to be representatives of the NACG breed.

Our registry is an open one, so that goats who qualify to be registered in it should not be termed “purebred” even if the breed is established, and their offspring cannot be presented as representatives of the “breed” until they can produce a fleece that is assessed (at a recognized venue) as qualifying. That is a tough concept for anyone to grasp, as the terms “breed” and “purebred” mingle so easily in the minds of most of us. Similarly, the fact that a Boer goat – clearly a representative of a goat breed with specific characteristics and proven capacity for breeding consistency – could qualify for registry as a “North American Cashmere Goat” adds another perplexing complication.

Finally, others in our group see establishing a breed as a long-term goal but feel that we are not ready for that step, preferring to see CGA invest its energy and reputation in establishing a truly comprehensive database that will be useful for research and breeding improvements and in educational opportunities that will help all goat owners.

For better or worse, the breed question is not only complicated but timely, now that the CGA Database & Registry is making its debut. People encountering a “registered” cashmere goat will want to understand what that means. Therefore, the CGA Board of Directors has decided to issue a ballot to all members in September for a vote on the question. Please look for an email on the subject in September, and please vote! It will be included with the ballot for members of the Board of Directors, and we need the opinions of all of our members to be recorded.

Meanwhile, please read and consider the differing opinions on the subject, which can be found in the March Hoofprints and on pages 15, 23, 28, and 31 in this issue.

*Coming in November of this year:*

## **THE CGA SMALL RUMINANT AND FIBER CONFERENCE**

In the March issue of Hoofprints, we gave you a little preview of the upcoming Small Ruminant Management and Fiber Conference, co-sponsored by CGA and Cornell University. Conference planning has continued under the leadership of Christine McBrearty-Hulse, and the schedule is now complete. And – it is amazing! We have an all-star cast of speakers and workshop leaders, with classes accessible to new farmers and interesting to experienced fiber people. See pages 7 and 8 for a detailed schedule.

But first, here are the essentials to remember:

November 9 – 10, 2019

Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.

Registration can be completed at the EventBrite site

<https://smallruminantmanagementandfiberconference.eventbrite.com>

The conference starts out Saturday morning, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, with presentations by renowned goat & sheep veterinarian and co-author of *Goat Medicine*, Cornell's own Dr. Mary Smith. Dr. Smith will guide us through setting up a flock/herd health management program and then go into specifics on coping with hoof and skin issues in small ruminants. We will also have a talk on innovations in parasite management by small ruminant extensionist, Dr. Tatiana Stanton, and an intro to cashmere, mohair and wool fiber by Wini Labrecque, co-author of the *SGC Basic Manual*: a prerequisite for advanced sorting and grading.

Afternoon activities will require a short walk to the Livestock Pavilion to practice livestock skills relevant to most goat and sheep farmers such as hay evaluation, coping with kidding/lambing issues, hoof care and a more specific practical on evaluating cashmere goats under the guidance of Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth. Handicapped parking is available at the pavilion. The day will also include optional presentations on setting up a cashmere goat database in Italy (lunch) and in the United States (4:20 pm). To continue informal discussions and networking, Cornell will be providing a 4-course dinner – with wine!

Sunday's lineup on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> focuses on fiber. Morning presentations by preeminent speakers from the Langston University Goat Center and Virginia Tech will cover cashmere genetics, genetics for color in fiber goats and sheep, and nutrition for follicle development and fiber production in small ruminants. Afternoon activities with leading fiber specialists include hands-on labs on evaluating cashmere, mohair and wool, and presentations on designing and marketing fiber products. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn more about proactive farm management to improve livestock/predator coexistence and farm/wildlife habitat from Dr. Nora Kravis, of Chianti Cashmere in Italy.

For people attending both days, the fee is

\$80 for non-members of the Cashmere Goat Association (CGA) and

\$65 for members of CGA.

The fee to attend a single day (be it Saturday or Sunday) is \$50 for both CGA members and non-members.



After you have reserved your place at the conference and your spot at the Saturday dinner, don't forget to take advantage of the rooms reserved for us at a reduced rate. Double rooms and kings are available at the Clarion Inn for \$129.99/ night. Be sure to mention CGA's name to get this rate.

When you snuck a peak at the schedule on pages 7 and 8, did you notice the breaks scheduled for attendees to visit the trade show? (Come on, I know you looked ahead.) Well, why not consider reserving a table in the trade show? It's a good way to advertise your farm or show off your fleeces or some lovely new patterns you've designed. Or better yet – become a sponsor! You would be supporting a great educational venture and getting yourself a trade show booth – and an ad in the program!

Support from sponsors will help CGA pull this off – and make it possible, we hope, to provide some scholarships to young people. There is a special EventBrite page for sponsorship and trade show entries:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sponsorship-for-the-small-ruminant-management-and-fiber-conference-tickets-6232225454>

and you can also contact Pamela Haendle at [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com) to find out about the trade show and sponsorship opportunities. More information on youth discounts and limited scholarships is available through Christine McBrearty-Hulse at [cmcbreartyhulse@gmail.com](mailto:cmcbreartyhulse@gmail.com).

Seriously, folks – you can't miss this! Several dozen people have already signed up, and it will be the PLACE TO BE in November! There is a link to a PDF with more information on travel to Ithaca, lodging options, and the area on the EventBrite site. Just for luck, here's that link again:

<https://smallruminantmanagementandfiberconference.eventbrite.com>

And here are some things you might check out while you are in the Ithaca area:



*Buttermilk Falls State Park – lovely, though perhaps a bit chilly in November*

*The Finger Lakes area is wine country! The Cayuga Lake Wine Trail is not far off.*



## Trade Show and Sponsorship Opportunities at the Small Ruminant Mgt. and Fiber Conference

### Trade show only:

A small table in a 6' space is available for exhibition of your company products for only \$25.

### Sponsorship options:

All sponsors are welcome to space in the trade show. Sponsors who are unable to be present at the conference may send materials to be displayed and/or distributed.



#### **Kid and Lamb Level**

**\$50.00**

Business card ad in program  
Opportunity for small company booth in trade show



#### **Fleece Level**

**\$100.00**

Recognition on our website, ¼ page ad in program  
Signage at the event; Opportunity for company booth in trade show



#### **Skein Level**

**\$200.00**

Recognition on our website, ½ page ad in program  
Signage at the event; Opportunity for company booth in trade show



#### **Garment Level**

**\$500.00**

Recognition with logo on our website, Full page ad in program  
Signage at the event; Opportunity for company booth in trade show  
Sponsorship announced at the opening program



**Cornell University**

**Saturday 9 November 2019 – Morrison Hall, Cornell Campus**  
**Day 1: Small Ruminant Management**

**7:45 am: Registration (Lobby of Morrison Hall) and continental breakfast (132 Morrison Hall)**  
**Tradeshow on the first floor of Morrison Hall**

**8:00 am: Welcome (146 Morrison Hall)**, Dr. Michael L. Thonney, Cornell Sheep & Goat Program,  
 and Wendy Pieh, President Cashmere Goat Association

**8:15 – 9:10 am: Flock & Herd Health Management – Dr. Mary Smith 146 Morrison Hall**

**9:15 am – 10:00 am: Skin and hoof Issues – Dr. Mary Smith, Cornell University, 146 Morrison Hall**

**10:00 am: Refreshment break and Tradeshow (132 Morrison Hall and lobby)**

**10:20 – 12:00 pm**  
**Innovations in Goat & Sheep Parasite Mgmt.**  
 Dr. tatiana Stanton, Cornell University  
**146 Morrison Hall**

**10:20 – 12:00 pm**  
**Basics of Cashmere, Mohair and Wool**  
**Fiber Structure: differences, similarities**  
**and blending**  
 Wini Labrecque, SGC and SWF Fiber  
 Innovations **173 Morrison Hall**

**12:00-1:10 pm: Lunch served in 348 Morrison Hall, eat there or take your lunch to the following:**  
**Developing an Italian Cashmere Goat Registry (342 Morrison Hall)**  
 Dr. Nora Kravis, DVM, Chianti Cashmere, Italy  
 or  
**Tradeshow on the first floor of Morrison Hall**

**1:15 pm - 4:00 pm: Livestock Pavilion (48 Judd Falls Rd., across the street from Morrison Hall)**

**Four hands-on stations – Choose 3 stations, spend 50 minutes at each prior to rotating to the next**

**Station #1: Evaluating Cashmere Goats – Assessing soundness/conformation, evaluating body condition**, Wendy Pieh, President, Cashmere Goat Association

**Station #2: Hoof Conformation & Trimming**, Peter Goth, Springtide Cashmere Farm

**Station #3: Nutrition – Evaluating hay, reading a feed label, interpreting a forage analysis**,  
 Niko Kochendoerfer, Cornell University

**Station #4: Kidding & Lambing Issues – coping with dystocia, how to tube a weak newborn, how to give an intraperitoneal injection**, Dr. tatiana Stanton, Cornell University

**4:00 pm: Refreshment break and trade show (132 Morrison Hall and lobby)**

**4:20 pm: Cashmere Goat Association Database Presentation**  
 Pamela Haendle (Hermit Pond Farm, CGA database manager), **146 Morrison Hall**

**6:30 pm: Dinner & Networking Session**

**Sunday 10 November 2019 – Morrison Hall, Cornell Campus**  
**Day 2: Small Ruminant Fiber Activities**

**8:45 am: Registration and continental breakfast (132 Morrison Hall)**

**9:00 – 9:45 am: Basic Genetics of Cashmere Production, Dr. Terry Gipson, Langston Univ. Goat Center**

**9:50 – 10:35 am: Fiber Color Genetics in Goats & Sheep, Dr. Phil Sponenberg, Virginia Tech**

**10:40 – 11:25 am: Effect of Nutrition on Fiber and Follicle Development in Goats & Sheep  
 Dr. Steve Hart, Langston University Goat Center**

**11:30 am**

**Lunch served in 348 Morrison Hall  
 with presentation on Fiber Processing and Marketing Streams for  
 Different Sized Farms  
 342 Morrison Hall  
 Last Chance To Check Out Tradeshow!!**

**146 Morrison Hall**

Presentations repeat once.  
 No advance sign-up required.

**12:30 - 1:25 pm**

**Product Design and Marketing**

Laura Sansone, MFA  
 NY Textile Lab & [Parson School of Design](#)

**1:30 - 2:25 pm**

**An EU Wild Friend Predator Program for Ruminants:** Proactive farm management - improving livestock/predator coexistence and farm/wildlife habitat  
 Dr. Nora Kravis, DVM (Chianti Cashmere, Italy)

**2:30 - 3:25 pm**

**Product Design and Marketing**

Laura Sansone, MFA

**3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**An EU Wild Friend Predator Program for Ruminants:** Proactive farm management improve livestock/predator coexistence and farm/wildlife habitat  
 Dr. Nora Kravis, DVM

**174 Morrison Hall**

Hands On Lab/Repeated twice.  
 Sign-up for one session.

**12:30 - 2:25 pm**

**Evaluating Cashmere Fiber**  
 Peter Goth & Wendy Pieh (Springtide Farm)

**2:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Evaluating Cashmere Fiber**  
 Peter Goth & Wendy Pieh

**101 Morrison Hall**

Hands On Lab/Repeated twice.  
 Sign-up for one session.

**12:30 - 2:25pm**

**Fiber Sorting & Grading 101** (working with cashmere, mohair and various wools)  
 Wini Labrecque  
 SGC & SWF Fiber Innovations

**2:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Fiber Sorting & Grading 101** Wini Labrecque



## It's coming!

# CGA's 2019 New England North American Cashmere Goat Show

### **CGA's New England North American Cashmere Goat Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival Tunbridge, Vermont October 5 – 6, 2019**

The Cashmere Goat Association invites Cashmere goat owners, breeders and youth to participate in the 2019 New England North American Cashmere Goat Show to be held at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, Vermont, on Saturday and Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

The CGA New England Show has become the premier North American Cashmere goat show in the northeast, drawing goats and owners from New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. This is the CGA New England Show's ninth year at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT.

All goats shown are judged according to the [North American Cashmere Breed Standard](#) and, if qualified, may be registered in CGA's [Cashmere Goat database](#).

CGA welcomes Wendy Pieh, as the judge for this year's show. Currently serving as President of CGA, Wendy and her husband Peter Goth own Springtide Cashmere in Bremen, ME, a premier cashmere farm which specializes in raising silver cashmere goats producing consistent fine and ultrafine fleeces. Wendy has served as a show judge across the US and Canada and annually co-judges with Peter the Estes Park Wool Market Cashmere Goat Show in Colorado. They together developed the carding system for scoring goats currently used in CGA shows and were instrumental in negotiating a cashmere goat breed standard which could be agreed upon by regional cashmere groups in the US.



## Entry Deadline and Fees

The cost for entry is \$10 per goat (regardless of how many classes are entered.)

Registration for the goat show must be completed by September 24th, using the form on the [cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://cashmeregoatassociation.org) website. (A link is below)

The form contains prompts for general information about the goat and its ancestors, because general information and a pedigree for each goat entered in the show will automatically be added to the [CGA Cashmere Goat Database and Registry](#). If the goat's scores in the goat show indicate that they meet the [North American Cashmere Goat standard](#) established by CGA, then they will be eligible to be registered in the CGA Cashmere Goat Database and Registry. Owners who prefer to exclude a goat assessment from public view on the database may do so. Goats (except for kids) entered in the goat show are automatically included in the fleece competition.

Fleeces for all goats entered in the live show (except for kids) must be mailed to the fleece chairman by September 20th. Details on preparing and delivering the fleeces can be found on the Fleece Competition information page on the CGA website.

### **[2109 CGA Goat Show and Fleece Competition Entry Form](#)**

***The entry deadline is Tuesday, September 24.***

After completing your entries in the form, please click on the PayPal button to remit your payment (\$10 per entry) to CGA. If you are unable to use the EntryForm, please notify Pam Haendle at [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com), providing all the entry data. If you are unable to use PayPal, a check may be mailed to Pam with the fleeces.

## Goat Show Classes

Buck, doe and wether classes will be determined by the number of entrants with a probability of class divisions for does born in 2019 (kids), 2018 (yearlings), 2017 (two-year-olds), combined 2016, 2015, and older does (senior). (Further division may be made depending on entries.) Wethers will subdivide this year into junior (kids and yearlings) and senior wethers. Bucks will show as kids, yearlings and senior bucks. Farms may enter up to three goats per class. (Youth exhibitors showing goats leased through a local county extension program may enter goats without restriction to the farm's total.)

Judging is based on both the goat's body and fiber, with fifty percent of an animal's score based on the past year's fleece and fifty percent on body conformation and movement in the show ring. Whole, unprocessed fleeces from the most recent harvest should be submitted in a zip-lock type bag with identifying tag inside (but no identification written directly on the bag.) Animals may begin arriving at the Tunbridge fairgrounds at noon on Friday and must be in place by 9 a.m. on Saturday; goats will be examined and scored in the pens on Saturday and then judged against their age cohort in the ring on Sunday.

Youth may also register for the Youth Showmanship class which evaluates fundamental ring showmanship and the Caprine Challenge – an obstacle challenge course for youth and adults who have been working closely with their goats over the past year.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHOW

### Housing of Goats at the Festival

As you plan how many and which goats to bring, expect that the barn can generally house two doe/wether pens and two buck pens per farm. This number is flexible since we have not filled the barn to capacity in recent years. In most cases anticipate that two does will be comfortable in one pen, though some larger family groups may prefer to be together. Be prepared to tie bucks, aggressive does and/or “jumpers” — especially overnight. They should be accustomed to being tied before the show weekend.

Bedding hay will be provided, but entrants must supply feed stuffs, water buckets, tools for barn clean-up at the end of show, etc. Stalls should be broom-clean upon leaving on Sunday with bedding removed to a compost site near the barns.

***Owner/entrants are responsible for appropriate care of their animals through the weekend.***

### Preparing for the Show

Preparation for show begins in late winter with the setting aside of the prospective show entrant's fleece from the past season. Combed fleeces should be reasonably free of excessive vegetative matter but otherwise ***not*** de-haired.

The second step is to begin *now* to bring your goats up to prime condition and to accustom them to walking on a lead. Kids should be weaned from does intended for show at least ten weeks before the show date. They may be housed with their mother at show time but separation allows the mother to recover from the stress of nursing. Check for worm load and feed carefully to bring bucks and does into condition. Most judges penalize for poor conditioning, but under-conditioned animals may also pick up opportunistic infections under the stress of travel and being housed with other goats in an open barn. Hooves should be trimmed two or three weeks ahead of show to prevent the appearance of tender feet in the ring.

### Vermont Health Requirements

All entrants must comply with the Vermont law concerning interstate transport of animals and will be inspected by the Show Superintendent upon arrival at the fairgrounds. **A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) of herd and specific animals to be transported, dated within 20 days of the show, is required.** The VT Department of Agriculture will mail to you a Permit to Transport document when your veterinary registers the CVI with their office. The CVI should be brought with you and kept with your goats at the Tunbridge fairgrounds. Goats should be in good health and free of lice, hoof rot or anything looking like sore mouth. Rabies vaccination is “strongly recommended” but is not required by Vermont Agriculture regulations or Festival organizers.

**USDA Scrapie Identification.**

The CVI requirement includes conformity to rules regarding the unique identification of goats under the guidelines of your home state's scrapie eradication program. Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats which can only be addressed through post-mortem identification, tracing back to farm of origin. If you have not received ear tags or an identification number for your herd, you should call the appropriate USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) office immediately. If you need assistance in contacting the scrapie eradication program in your state, call 866-873-2824. Special rules apply for animals carrying microchip identification. Check with the Sister Mary Elizabeth before you come to show if you have any questions regarding the scrapie identification requirement.

**Herd Codes**

Note that Herd Codes used by CGA custom are different from USDA assigned scrapie numbers or ear tags. Animals are identified through CGA and other cashmere organizations by a three to five letter ID indicating the farm on which they were born. These letters generally precede the goat's name — for example, STC Lizzie. If you buy a cashmere goat and show her, she shows under her farm-of-origin Herd Code. Her children born on your farm show under your Herd Code.

**General Information**

The Festival website is [www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org](http://www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org) and contains pertinent travel information, a map of the grounds, workshops offered by the Festival and other information. Festival gates open at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and CGA goats are on display to the public at the Riverside Barn until closing at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. General admission is \$6; seniors—\$5; children under 12—\$10. Sister Mary Elizabeth will have free weekend passes for show entrants.

Parking is free but limited to designated areas, with no movement of cars on the fairgrounds during Festival hours. Show Exhibitors may park near the Riverside Barn but may not move their cars while the public is moving about the grounds.

**Accommodations**

We will reserve a block of 10 rooms at the Comfort Inn in White River Junction, VT. The cost per room is \$155/ +tax. You can make your reservations by calling 802-295-3051. The reserved block status is only in effect until August 28 so make your reservations soon. The Comfort Inn is 24 miles from Tunbridge with a drive time of 30 minutes to the fairgrounds. Let the Comfort Inn know you are with the CGA.

It is also possible to sleep on the fairgrounds in a tent or camper. Information about camping is available on the festival website, listed above.

**Show Superintendent**

The 2019 Show Superintendent is Sister Mary Elizabeth of St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere in New York. If you have a question, she can be reached by email at [maryelizabethcsm@aol.com](mailto:maryelizabethcsm@aol.com) or by calling 518-791-4142. Her postal address is: Sister Mary Elizabeth, St. Mary's on-the-Hill Farm, 242 Cloister Way, Greenwich, NY 12834.

## And with the CGA 2019 Goat Show.... The 2019 NWCA / CGA Fleece Competition!

For the third year, the CGA will be joining forces with the Northwest Cashmere Association to hold a national fleece competition. The joint competition for 2019 will be held at the Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT, in conjunction with the CGA Cashmere Goat Show. We are making use of the same facilities and the same weekend, and, except for kids, who have no fleece to submit, goats entered in the live show will automatically be included in the fleece competition. We are using the same entry form for both, and a single fee makes it possible for you to enter just one or both competitions. We are also offering a new option this year, since the CGA Goat Database and Registry is ready to receive new candidates: Goat owners who would like to have a fleece evaluated so that a goat can be considered for inclusion in the CGA Cashmere Goat Registry, without being part of the competition, may request fleece assessment only. Wendy Pieh from Bremen, Maine will be judging the fleeces in addition to her responsibilities as judge for the 2019 live goat show.

Fleeces will be evaluated on each of the elements that have been identified in the North American Cashmere Goat standard, which include fiber diameter, style, differentiation, length, uniformity, yield, and the total down weight of the fleece. Participants will receive a scorecard with a detailed record of the evaluation, and goats whose assessments meet the North American Cashmere Goat standard for fleece quality will be eligible for registration in the CGA Cashmere Goat Registry.

Please consider sending in your fleeces! Let's make the competition a strong and broad-based one and give the people in Tunbridge a wonderful selection to admire and fondle. I hope everyone will take advantage of Wendy's offer to assess non-competition fleeces for only \$5 (which, of course,

does not go to Wendy!) It's a great opportunity to get information on more quality animals into our database, and if by chance your Esmerelda or Quasimodo doesn't make the grade, you will have reliable information in your hands to help with breeding decisions.

All fleeces for the competition and assessment, including fleeces for goats who will be competing in the goat show, must be delivered in advance to the fleece competition chairman. Alas, we can't accept fleeces that arrive unheralded during the show weekend. As chairman for the competition, I will be collecting and organizing the fleeces into classes here in my dining room, once I clear my shameful collection of unsorted and unskirted fleeces off the table. My address:

Pam Haendle  
10601 Merrill Road  
West Edmeston, NY 13485

Here are the rules for selecting and preparing the fleeces:

1. Fleeces should be clean and free of noticeable vegetable matter.
2. Fleeces should be from the 2019 harvest.
3. Fleeces should not be dehaired or washed.
4. Fleeces may be combed or shorn.
5. The entire fleece should be included, not just a sample.
6. The complete fleece should be submitted in a one or two gallon Ziploc bag. If the fleece is too large to fit into one bag (congratulations!), two bags can be used, with explanatory notes enclosed in both. Please don't write anything on the bag itself.
7. Inside each bag, enclose an index card with the following information:



- a. Owner Name
  - b. Goat's Herd code and name
  - c. Goat's sex and year of birth
8. Unless you will be present in Tunbridge to collect the fleeces after the show, please enclose a second card with your name and address so that we will have a handy mailing label when we mail the fleece back to you after the competition.
  9. Please limit competition entries to 3 per sex/year of birth.

A form for entry of your fleeces can be found on the CGA website. (It's the same form used for goat show entries.) Please complete an entry form for every fleece to be entered, keeping track of the number of goats entered as you proceed. After all of the entries have been completed, you may click the PayPal button to make your payment. If you are unable to use PayPal, you may enclose a check (made out to the CGA) with your fleece entries.

The fee for each entry in the goat show or fleece competition is \$10. (Part of the fee covers the postage for returned fleeces.) If you are participating in the goat show, your \$10 fee for entry in the show covers your inclusion in the fleece judging.

The fee for each entry for fleece assessment only (no competition) is \$5.

If you run into problems with the form or making the payment, please contact Pam at [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com) with all of the required information so that the entries can be made for you. We really do want and need all of that extra information on the form to make a robust data set. Please make sure that the forms are submitted by September 24<sup>th</sup> and that the fleeces are in the mail by September 20<sup>th</sup>. The only exception to this is

the mass mailing of fleeces that will occur after the competition at the Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival.

The division of fleeces into classes will probably be similar to divisions we have used in prior years, but we won't know for sure until the fleeces start rolling in. Wendy will make the final call regarding combining birth years. If you have any questions – please ask! You can reach Pam most readily at [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com).



If having your fleeces evaluated by an expert and compared to fleeces from all over North America isn't motivation enough for you to get those fleece bags out of the closet, please don't forget that presenting a qualifying evaluation from a recognized judge is one of only three ways in which owners can submit a candidate for registration to the CGA Database and Registry. The questions on the entry form about the goat's ancestors and its characteristics will be used to create a base entry for each goat entered, and owners will be able to use the new database interface (at [www.cashmeregoatassociation.info](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.info)) to add in the assessment scores.

Owners who prefer that a goat's evaluation information not be available to the public do have the option of having the data marked as unavailable for display in the database, but we hope that you will want to have your goat's information included in the database. People who are searching for goats to buy or rent will be able to pull up information on your goats, and you will be contributing to the collection of reliable data that will become a basis for research.

# THE NORTH AMERICAN CASHMERE GOAT REGISTRY

By Sister Mary Elizabeth

Members of the Cashmere Goat Association are considering this summer a vote on whether, when we launch our new database, we are also establishing the North American Cashmere Goat as a new goat breed in America. Will our goats be recognized as a breed or will we continue to see them as a collection of goats who have the common distinction of bearing a particular fiber type defined by the international textile market? Are we a breed? Or are we a type?

## Fiber Type? Or Breed of Goat?

This has long been controversial because for decades the catchphrase “cashmere is a fiber type and not a breed of goats” was the mantra which we taught and believed as cashmere goat owners, and promoted as an organization. We strove to breed the perfect goat which carried the desired cashmere fiber, working from a variety of genetic sources including our own native Spanish meat goat and imported Australian stock plus other goats from the dairy and meat goat breeds. Producing fiber on a sound goat frame was the goal: what that goat looked like was less important. Some sought short guard hair that reduced waste in shearing; some admired the long guard hair goat reminiscent of the goats they had met on trips to the Himalayas; and some sought a middle ground of goats with enough guard hair to protect the delicate fiber without making combing too difficult. Cashmere goats bred in America became a hodgepodge of phenotypes and style, reflecting the melting pot of our society. “Cashmere is a fiber type and not a breed” helped encourage the experimentation that resulted in the good secondary down fiber on a sound frame which can be found on cashmere goats in the US and Canada today.

Reaching a consensus on a breed standard accepted by the regional organizations supporting local cashmere goat farmers has not been easy, but has largely been accomplished. Although regional organizations still have their own standards, the North American Cashmere Goat standard promoted by CGA reflects the common ground, emphasizing fiber characteristics on a sound frame.

## The Database

CGA began exploring the creation of database to track goats which meet this standard because of a growing awareness of a lack of good information about the goats and an awareness that the USDA does not track our goat population in its census because we are perceived as statistically and economically insignificant. Once launched, the USDA will recognize our North American Cashmere goat as a breed. The data collected can be used as corroboration of our impact as part of the larger goat market or, at least, of our distinction as a niche within that market.

Secondary to this, our registry will also be recognized by the USDA as the third-party recordation system needed for micro-chipping to meet current Scrapie regulations. Other registrations exist which accomplish this (for example the cashmere goat registry offered by Pedigree International), but ours is the first which requires documentable adherence to the minimum requirements of a Standard. Goats entered into our database must document minimum fiber standards.

We believe that the data which we hope to collect over the years to come is the goal of the project; this is not just about this present moment, but about the future, and the long perspective. But the recognition of our

goats under the North American Cashmere goat by the USDA as a breed raises the question, does CGA continue to promote our goats as a type not capable of being categorized as a breed?

### State and Local Fair Rules

My particular perspective arises from promoting our goats at local and regional fairs, festivals and shows by encouraging youth to enter cashmere goats as 4-H projects. The promotion of our goat in these venues has placed me within a world of farmers and breeders who take pride in their stock and who hold broad assumptions about breeds and breed standards. Increasingly we are hearing about families entering county and state fairs being asked about the registry of their animals. Registry rules were waived for my goats locally, but others have not been so fortunate.

In our county and NY State fairs, goats must be registered with a recognized Breed Registry and be prepared to submit a copy of their papers at the time of entry. Goats who are ineligible for these registries may enter as “Recorded Grade” within the ADGA regulations, and there are specific rules about which goats qualify for that category.

At Washington County Fair these rules were waved in order for me to do what I do – because of the quality of the animals I bring and because of the significance of what I do with youth. Nevertheless, I am ineligible to be considered for the Premier Breeder award because our goats are not part of a recognized Breed Registry. I can enter the Fair with my goats, but I cannot be recognized as a Premier Breeder because my goats are not a breed.

For the past decade at Washington County Fair, meat goats entered under a general Open or Youth “Meat Goat Class”, by-passing the Registry Rule. Most goats entered were of a Boer goat type. Last year WCF had entries of registered Myotonic goats – whose owners protested having to compete against the very different Boer pheno-type, rather than against the Myotonic standard. This year meat goats must enter in a Registered Boer Class, a Registered Myotonic Goat Class or a Commercial Grade Meat Goat Class (i.e. any meat goat not able to be registered.) I spoke with the Youth Superintendent recently, and she mentioned that she has a parent whose child has a goat of undetermined origin (bought at auction but dairy-type) who is neither registered with a Breed Registry nor eligible for “Recorded Grade” under ADGA rules – and because of the lack of registration that parent’s only option may be to sign her child up for the Commercial Grade Meat Goat Class.

I asked our Youth Division Barn Superintendent recently why this emphasis on Breed Registry, and she said that the Registries ensure that farms work within established guidelines for what constitutes their particular type of dairy, meat or fiber goat. She said that she knows that the fuzz her Nubians produce in the winter is not cashmere, but a Breed Registry would establish what *is* cashmere – *and* that the farmer who is part of the Registry understands what he is raising and is striving to improve his herd within accepted benchmarks. Many farmers own sheep, goat and cattle who can be registered but choose to not maintain those records because their interest or focus is elsewhere. Those who enter the Fair system tend to exhibit a pride in their stock that seeks the benchmarks, and the Fair systems teach children that this pride in high standards in breeding is a good thing.

Half of the entries in any fair are in an Open Division for which there are often cash premiums, and Breed Registries also set the baseline for judging and reward. If a decision involving cash premium rewards is controversial, there is a third-party standard – the Breed Standard -- which established the rules by which that decision has been made. In Youth Division that standard is taught to the children so that they can take pride when their Nubian, Saanen, Nigerian Dwarf ... or North American Cashmere Goat... is recognized as Most-True-to-the-Breed-Standard, essentially what a Blue Ribbon means.

### Myotonic Side-Bar

The story of the Myotonic goats is interesting. There are no fewer than *five* recognized breed registries for these goats who trace back to four does and a buck sold to a doctor in Tennessee in the early 1870's. The common denominator for these registries is an apparent genetic anomaly which causes a chemical imbalance in the muscles which in turn causes what looks like a seizure disorder. Some myotonic goats fall to the ground under stress, others have muscles that stiffen to varying degrees. Myotonic goats must have protected housing because they are vulnerable to predation in open settings – i.e. this is not a goat which could survive in the wild and this is an anomaly which would never have resulted from natural selection.

Why perpetuate this strange trait? Myotonic goats develop heftier muscling because of the spasms – like a body builder who contracts and relaxes his muscles repeatedly to build them up -- only the goat contracts and relaxes his muscles involuntarily. The result is not only bigger muscles, but also more tender meat.

The three principal Breed Registries include the American Fainting Goat Registry (which attempts to preserve the original phenotype and which has been recognized as an American Heritage Breed by the Livestock Conservancy), the Myotonic Goat Registry (which is an open phenotype registry that represents the great body of cross-bred and mostly larger and heftier myotonic goats) and a new American Miniature Silky Fainting Goat Registry (which preserves myotonic genetics in a long guard-hair goat.) In addition, one very large farm in Texas has two trademarked registries for lines developed on their ranch. (And yes, many of these goats are known to carry cashmere.)

So, you have five breed registries that hang on a gene mutation unknown anywhere in the world save America. Existing as a distinct trait for about 150 years, myotonic characteristics have been seriously pursued by meat goat breeders since the 1940's – less than a century. And the common criterion for all these registries is the degree of observable spontaneous muscle spasm in the goats. There are definable bloodlines in these goats (because they trace back to five goats) but you might say that these breeds are *certified* (much as we speak of certification rather than a traceable pedigree standard) according to the degree they fall down, stiffen or have discernable muscle spasms under stress.

### Conclusion

I submit (as I have submitted before) that though cashmere is a fiber type, cashmere owners in this country have rigorously built upon the diverse genetic pool available in the 1970's, 80's and 90's – crossing what was best in native goats (Spanish, San Clemente, etc.) and locally-available dairy breeds with Australian imports, producing consistently good cashmere goats which measure up to international textile standards. The genetic pool we are developing is at least as worthy of note and preservation as myotonic genetics.

We are beginning to hear of parents in other states scrambling to “register” their cashmere goats *somewhere* because of this common practice in local and State Fairs of requiring Breed Registry. It is a little short-sighted to not offer those families seeking to show their cashmere goats a Breed Registry so that their children can show next to their dairy and meat goat friends as equals, deserving the same respect. I will confess that as I have researched for this opinion piece, the farm community around me has generally expressed surprise not just that there is no Breed Registry for cashmere goats, but that we are resistant in the cashmere community to establish one.

Registries are springing up to meet the need, but there is no monitoring that goats in those registries meet any breed standard. The database we are establishing, with its requirement that goats meet and document minimum fiber standards and submit other information about fiber, color, guard hair type and so forth, would provide that monitoring.



We are poised to launch a database which will be recognized by the USDA as a Registry of goats who meet the Breed Standard of the North American Cashmere Goat. Why do we have scruples about claiming this recognition?

Do we tell our emerging 4-H clubs that, sorry, their goats have even less distinction than the ADGA recorded grade goats at their local fairs – in fact are little more than cashmere-bearing commercial grade meat goats?

Our goats are NOT commercial grade meat goats that wear cashmere sweaters! We've worked too hard to create and improve these goats. These are not the hopeful, clumsy, sometimes elegant, occasionally inconsistent, always loveable grade-goat crosses of three decades ago, but our farms are increasingly producing herds with remarkable genetics and a role to play in the larger cashmere market. There *was* a place for "cashmere is only a fiber type" thirty years ago (it freed us from fist-fights while we were still experimenting with possibilities in our breeding for cashmere in our goats), but we are outgrowing that platitude now...as breeders, as farmers, as 4-H sponsors and influencers of the next generation of cashmere-producers in the US and Canada – of *North American Cashmere Goat* farmers.



## The Rhinebeck booth returns



The Cashmere Goat Association will have a booth at the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck on October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The mission of the booth is to provide cashmere growers with the opportunity to sell cashmere or cashmere related goods, while also educating consumers about the availability of quality US cashmere and cashmere goods. The booth is open to US cashmere growers, and non CGA members are also encouraged to apply. Please look to our website for more details and for the link to an application. The deadline to apply is September 30<sup>th</sup>.



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

**WHEREIN THE EDITORS OF HOOFPRINTS OFFER THE**

**FIRST EVER GOAT COAT COLOR QUIZ!**

Pretend you own a black buck and a white doe and you know nothing about their parentage. You decide to breed them to each other, just for fun. What color will their offspring be? White? Black? Red? Brown? Tan? Sable? Some combination of these? Will the kids arrive with or without spotting? Or with or without dorsal stripes or belted girths?

The correct answer is possibly all of the above. The reason for this is complicated, too much so for a single Hoof Prints piece. D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD, a professor at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, has written extensively about goat (and other mammalian) coat colors, so if you have an interest in the underpinnings of goat coat colors Dr. Sponenberg's articles are the best place to start.

Dr. Sponenberg's article, [Goat Color Explained](#), available on the Internet, will walk you through the byzantine maze of how a goat's coat color comes to be. This article includes a brief review of:

1. [Mendelian genetics](#), essential for understanding anything that follows (chromosomes, genes, alleles, and transmission of same; dominant vs recessive genes; gene loci that control coat color);
2. a [primer on pigments](#) (eumelanin vs phaeomelanin; how pigments affect coat color);
3. [basic coat color identification](#) (perhaps the trickiest part of all);
4. [how to interpret white areas on a goat](#) such as belted, spotted, barbari, flowery, roan, algarve, goulet, nigerian and frosted (white indicates a lack of pigment; "Even goats with very extensive white spotting do indeed have the genetic machinery, if hidden, for some base color"); and
5. [important gene loci for goat coat colors](#) ("Agouti locus," "Brown locus," although there are others).

For what it's worth, I've read [Goat Color Explained](#) several times and am still baffled by much of it. But I'm chipping away, and always look for an excuse to google different goat breeds just to admire their coat colors/patterns.

Hoof Prints readers need not be subject matter experts in genetics to take the goat coat color quiz offered in this issue. Nonetheless, reading Sponenberg's [Goat Color Explained](#) might give you a leg up with the quiz, especially with some of the trickier questions.

Either way, the quiz is meant to be fun – so enjoy!



## MULTIPLE CHOICE OPTIONS FOR GOAT COAT COLOR QUIZ

Note: you can select more than one choice to arrive at your answer. Some answers may not work with any of the goat photographs.

Answers are on page 22

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Red   | 8. Swiss markings            |
| 2. Flowery pattern                                   | 9. Mixed expression          |
| 3. Black belly (also referred to as Badger markings) | 10. Silver aka Gray aka Grey |
| 4. White   | 11. Black & Tan              |
| 5. Black   | 12. Brown                    |
| 6. White spotting                                    | 13. Sable                    |
| 7. Belted  | 14. Tan                      |



Dionysis



Annissea



Daramascotta



Julie Mae





Denzil



Dumbledorf



Dr. Fuzz Buster



Callysta



Farrah



Gracey

QUIZ ANSWERS  
From Dr. Sponenberg  
15 Points possible

Dionysis - silver or gray or grey (ONE POINT FOR ANY OF THESE COLORS)

Annissea – white (ONE POINT)

Daramascotta2 - Black faced and blackbelly (TWO POINTS)

OR black faced with badger markings\* (TWO POINTS)

OR Mixed expression (ONE POINT)

Julie-Mae - Swiss marked (ONE POINT)

Denzil - Black goat + flowery pattern + belted = THREE POINTS

Any two of the above = TWO POINTS

Any one of the above = ONE POINT

Choosing “Mixed expression” = ONE POINT

Dumbledorf – red – ONE POINT

Dr. Fuzz Buster - Black belly + white spotting = TWO POINTS;

Badger markings\* + white spotting = TWO POINTS

Choosing “Mixed expression” = ONE POINT

Callysta - black and tan = ONE POINT

Farrah – black goat + flowery pattern = TWO POINTS

Gracey - black and tan = ONE POINT

\*NOTE: Dr. Sponenberg does not like using “badger marked” or “badger markings,” preferring instead the words, “black belly” plain and simple, as he puts it.

## THOUGHTS ON A BREED TITLE

BY BECKY BEMUS

This is a complex question and one that has many tangential arguments that quickly cloud the issue, but the questions I would put forth are, “What benefit does designating cashmere goats as a breed right now have for the average producer and what potential negative effect might rushing into it have on the future of the goats themselves?” I would respectfully suggest that although I believe the long-term goal is to reach breed designation status, I don’t believe we are ready for it just yet.

Some have argued privately that having a registered breed would benefit breeders by increasing the value of each animal available for sale and, as such, increase their appeal to future breeders as a potential livestock commodity. I feel that although there might be an initial increase in sale prices, that without the increase being based on actual return value it will be a short lived positive with the potential to do more harm than good to the reputation of cashmere goats as a viable livestock enterprise over the long haul. I would also argue that going ahead with a breed designation may turn some breeders off of using the database and limit its ability to produce productive data sets for research and trait improvement which are the real long term money-makers for individual animal sales and annual meat and fibre income for each producer. Only this will stabilize the future of these goats as a viable livestock commodity.

I read an email that said when a breeder of the Merritt program in Australia was asked how they got such density on their goats, they answered, “20 years of hard work”. We all love these goats and want to see them live on long into the future of agriculture. We want to see the improvements that those before us have achieved and those that we have obtained in our own breeding programs continue. Some breeders have also been working for 20 years or more, but there is a difference between us and the Australian and New Zealand breeders in that they had the luxury of drawing on decades of data generated from government-supported research on fibre animals and specifically on cashmere goats, and it still took 20 years of hard work to get their herds to a point where they felt they were a truly productive, competitive, and viable livestock commodity worthy of breed designation. We don’t have that kind of support for our herds in North America, although we do have each other and colleagues abroad who are breeding already improved cashmere goats, and semen from these goats is making it into our herds. With the CGA database live at last, we are also now able to do our own research.

This is an important time for cashmere goats in North America. I would suggest we have a great opportunity to be able to see gains in our herds’ productivity and viability, but to get as much out of the database as we can, we need to be able to get as much consistent and comparable information into it as we can. I believe our time and energy should be focused on ways to do this that unite breeders and gets us all working towards the common goal of improvements so we can all benefit from increased production and sales value on a per animal basis, be it for fibre sales, breeding stock or carcass value. To do that we need to get as many herds and breeding animals as we possibly can included in the database. Only then can we know what we have and where we need to make improvements and if we are worthy of a breed designation or if there is still work to be done.

Efforts might involve travelling assessors who could book on-farm evaluations to assess entire herds. There would be a cost of course and we would have to find a way to cover them, but I know we have a lot of creative minds who could address the logistics of such a worthy goal, and this would probably be more cost effective and educational for the producer and assessor than the other options currently available. New trainee judges could be paired with an existing judge and be able to see far more variety than one generally comes across at shows where people bring their best of the best. This could help us get a robust set of judges up and running



quickly and enable us to offer more opportunities for inclusion in the database. The costs of judging clinics could be offset by rotating training locations around the country and running these at large farms looking for evaluations. This would not only help consistency of the judges in training but help the data be as consistent as possible when judges go out on their own. What better way to truly compare apples to apples?

Once we are able to collect a large data set, ideally full data, on at least 51% of the cashmere breeding population, then we will have the information on exactly what we are trying to designate as a breed. If we have a wide range of variability amongst the breeding population then we have some work to do and the data to begin that work. Some might recall this was one of the justifications for starting the database in the first place, as a way of certifying cashmere goats and protecting the consumer from buying animals who were not cashmere goats. I personally find it confusing to jump to the final step without having completed the leg work on the second step. On the flip side, maybe we will find our cashmere base is more consistent than we think, then going forward with a breed designation might be appropriate and would certainly have more support across the industry. Either way it would be based on actual data not people's impressions or long held assumptions.

Having oodles of data could allow us to determine the range of fibre traits we have currently in the breeding population. This could help us identify the best markets and begin the process of building up those markets. Data can help directly connect our product with consumers. For example, it would allow local designers to contact just those farms producing exactly the type of cashmere they are looking for and to find the quantities they need to be able to go ahead with their projects in a very short time. The more stable our local market can appear, the more confident other buyers/designers can be in making the move to sourcing North American Cashmere for their products. This is good for our goats' future.

Another advantage of putting the focus on getting as many farms involved with entering their animals into the database is that if/when a breed designation is adopted it has far more legitimacy to all than if it is pushed along before everyone is ready. What good is the database or a breed designation if only a few farms are represented?

If pushing a breed designation right now turns some farms away from involvement, farms who may end up representing more actual breeding cashmere goats than the farms included under the breed designation, how is that helpful to the long-term future of these goats? Do we really want to try and send the message that registered cashmeres are worth more than unregistered cashmeres whose fibre traits are the same and who may even produce more fibre? It will happen. Consumers are smart and we will have problems. And how does it look when a "registered herd" has to buy animals from an unregistered herd to get genetic diversity? The unregistered animals would show up in the pedigree of the resulting offspring. Would that not undermine the legitimacy of the registry as representing a breed if only those in the registry are presented as registered cashmeres yet some are the get of unregistered animals? Heaven forbid that this push before we have more data on many more animals in the database causes another group to go and start their own registry! This is entirely possible under US law and has plagued many livestock breeds over time. How would this impact consumer confidence in our goats as a viable livestock option?

The public has the perception that "purebred" refers to a breed but they also understand that not all purebred animals are registered. In our time in farming we have seen registration numbers decline in the breeds we deal in as have other breeders, as they find people are more interested in knowing they are purebred than in the actual work involved in registering the animals when they are getting the same sale value regardless. You can google and see that even purebred dog registrations are following a downward trend for much the same reasons. Very few people want the hassle of registration, nor do they see any long-term return on the investment in registration. Most do see the value in data collection and analysis for improving production traits and reducing production costs on a per animal basis. A piece of paper does not do this, good hard data from lots of animals, identifying the best of the best and getting those genetics into our herds does that, and that improves our bottom line and makes these animals desirable so it is a win all around. The database also allows

the use of microchips as ID for travelling which is a bonus for so many breeders who prefer their use, and the database will provide certificates for cashmere goats who qualify according to the standard. So, I truly don't understand why we need to complicate things by designating a breed, especially if the criteria for entry is still based on individual merit and not parentage.

## *Welcome New CGA Members !*

Daniellz Fowler	Yippz Farm	Cheshire, CT
Dana Connell	Wolf Farms	
Anne Bertschy	Goatique Farm	Gunnison, CO
Sandra Keppel	NorthBranch Abbey	Smethport, PA
Sheri Hewitt	Sheridan's Farm	Edgewood, NM
Brian & Kathy Reed	Briesbrook Farm	Round Hill, VA
Catherine Lawson	Blue Barn Farm	El Dorado, CA
Carol Schiavone	BC Acres	Woodstock, IL
Katy Wolfe	Boondoggie Farm	Putney, VT
Michaella Warryn		Portland, ME



*Bearlin Acres Farm*  
*Cashmere, Wool and Alpaca*

180 Mt. Ash Lane  
Shippensburg, PA 17257  
717-530-3605  
bearlin@pa.net  
www.bearlinacres.com





We help each other by  
sharing our knowledge and  
experience. Please send us  
letters, pictures or news  
from your farm!

Send to:

**Maggie Porter**  
Constantine.maggie@gmail.com



## THE CGA DATABASE AND CASHMERE GOAT REGISTRY

HERE AT LAST !

Hoofprints readers would be forgiven for thinking that the CGA Database & Registry and its web interface was an elaborate fantasy, since we have been predicting its imminent appearance for two years now. But it is real and it is now available for your use. It is possible to go directly to the site, but we are hoping that most users will reach it through the link on the new [cashmeregatassociation.org](http://cashmeregatassociation.org) website. Just click on the “Database & Registry” menu option on the new CGA website.

If you have a herd code, then you are defined as a farmer on the database and you can sign in using your email address and “password” as the password. Try it! If you have any difficulty signing in, please let me (Pam) know and I will research the problem. Once you’re on the site, I hope you will play around with the reports and the search options. If you own a goat who is listed as a registered goat (as the result of their evaluation in 2017), you should be able to display and print a certificate of registration. Suitable for framing, of course, so Esmerelda can flaunt her status in the doe barn!

In the March issue of Hoofprints, we listed the tasks everyone should undertake while admiring the new database site – checking your farm data and your user data, adding photos for any goats you own who are already in the database, and updating goat records with information on new owners or death dates. If you sold a goat to a farm without a herd code, let me know ([hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com)) and I will create a bogus herd code for them so that we can keep the database current on the locations of our goats. (The USDA is particularly concerned about that, so it’s a commitment we have made.) Details on performing these housekeeping chores are in the March Hoofprints, but please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any trouble negotiating the site.

A few questions about registration have reached me recently.

Q: Can kids be entered into the database, even though they have no fleece to be evaluated?

A: Yes. A basic goat record can be created for any goat who is to be evaluated, and if the kid has a conformation evaluation done at a goat show, the scores for the assessment can be recorded. The evaluation information will be available for research and it can be viewed if the user searches for the specific goat, but the goat would not be listed as registered until he has a fleece evaluated that is judged to be acceptable, per the standard.

Q: Can goats who are no longer living be entered? Can information on them from old shows be entered?

A: Yes, historical goats are most welcome in the database! At a minimum, goats who are ancestors of goats now being evaluated should have pedigree records added, with as much information included as is known. Evaluations from old shows can be added as well, as long as the show is added to the table of Events (a chore handled by the registrar – currently Pam) and the show was judged using the CGA scorecard or an approach that can be easily translated into the CGA scoring system, and the owner can submit the scorecard to the registrar. As long as the evaluation data shows that the goat met the qualifications, he can be certified as registered.

Q: What's next?

A: Actually, I submitted that question! The database & registry has the potential to grow and evolve, but first we need to live with it and use it! I have agreed to simplify the entry of data this fall for everyone by recording the scores at the Tunbridge show, but I urge you to look at your entries and complete any missing information. Then – we might:

- think about expanding the information we store on the database – perhaps to include management practices – for research
- think about expanding opportunities for assessment so that goats can have evaluations completed without going to a show
- consider how best to record the early history of cashmere goats in the U.S. and Canada

And while we are talking about our online presence.....

Please welcome the new CGA website!

If you haven't been out to the [cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://cashmeregoatassociation.org) website lately, please find an excuse to go out and look at it! It's altogether new. After an embarrassingly long period of neglecting our old CGA website, some of the CGA board members got together and had to acknowledge that changes were overdue. We had allowed our Board of Directors listing and our membership listing to get out of date, and we do apologize to the folks who joined recently and wondered why their membership wasn't recognized. We also had outgrown the original design for the site and had some concerns about security on the old platform, so we decided to design a complete replacement on a new platform with a new host.

You will see that the relevant information from the old site is all there, but with a totally new menu scheme and lots of new pictures. There are brand-new pages, too, for the database, for prior show results, for the booths at Rhinebeck, and for the conference CGA is sponsoring in November. The site is now accessible to people with disabilities, and we hope it will be easier for everyone to use.

Since we knew that keeping the website current has always been a challenge for us, we chose a format that allows for updates by anyone with administrator access – with no need for special technical knowledge. We are also using table-driven displays and a new membership form that loads up a table, so that whenever a new member fills out the form, the data will automatically fill out an entry on the table, ready to be displayed on the membership page as soon as an administrator signs in and flips a switch to indicate that the membership dues have been received. This should ensure that we keep our directories up to date.

We hope you like the new look and are able to find everything you need. It is truly easy to change the text and to swap pictures, so please let members of the website committee know of any errors you spot and please send us pictures so we can keep the site fresh and interesting to visit.

The Website Committee

Pam Haendle, Jana Dengler, Christine McBrearty-Huls

Elyse Perambo, Sister Mary Elizabeth

## **Should the North American Cashmere Goat be defined and formally adopted by the Cashmere Goat Association as a livestock breed?**

### **FAQ**

**Peter Goth**

#### **Q: What is cashmere fiber?**

A: Cashmere is the fine secondary fiber, that grows underneath the coarse guard hair fiber, that is found on certain types of goats. This secondary fiber (or “down”) is naturally shed and regrown by the goats annually. The coarse guard hair fiber is a different follicle type, and is not naturally shed and regrown annually.

#### **Q: Is there a formal legal definition of cashmere?**

A: Yes. The Cashmere and Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute (CCMI) has developed a formal definition of “cashmere” that is now legally required in the US by the Federal Trade Commission under the “Wool Products Labeling Act.” This same formal definition has also been widely accepted and adopted worldwide:

1. Mean Fiber Diameter (MFD) 19 microns or less
2. Coefficient of Variation (CV) of 24% or less (the formal measure of “uniformity”)

#### **Q: Do all goats have cashmere?**

A: No. Almost all types of goats have fine secondary fibers or “down” that naturally sheds and regrows annually, but not all goats have “down” that meets the CCMI/FTC definition of cashmere.

#### **Q: Is some cashmere better than other cashmere? What is the value of defining a quality standard for cashmere fiber beyond the CCMI/FTC and worldwide standard?**

A: While CCMI/FTC and the Wool Products Labeling Act have defined a functional worldwide standard for cashmere, it is only a strict “minimum standard” when it comes to growing, harvesting, processing, knitting, weaving, and wearing cashmere. Other factors are also important in determining the overall practical value of raw cashmere:

Example:

Length: Although there is no worldwide standard for length, it is still hugely important when it comes to actually working with cashmere. A short staple length (e.g.  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches or 19 mm which is commonly found in international cashmere) can be quite difficult to spin, and the resulting yarn tends to lose structural integrity in garments over time (“pilling”). With a longer staple length (e.g. 1.25 inches = 32 mm that is in the current fiber



standard adopted by CGA), spinning is dramatically easier and the yarn/garment maintains its integrity with little or no "pilling" over time.

**Q: What is a "cashmere bearing goat"?**

A: Simply a goat that at some point in its life has been able to produce any amount of down that meets the limited definition of CCMI/FTC for "cashmere."

**Q: Are some "cashmere bearing goats" better than others? What is the value of defining a quality standard for "cashmere bearing goat" beyond a fiber standard?**

A: The "ideal" cashmere goat has traditionally been defined by the Cashmere Goat Association (formerly Eastern Cashmere Association) and other similar organizations in North America as a "dual purpose" animal, with some of the value of the goat determined by its value as a meat animal, similar to the value of other types of goats. Beyond meat value, however, an "ideal" cashmere goat should also have traits that are associated with overall health and viability.

Examples:

- Teeth: Structurally sound enough to allow healthy grazing/browsing.
- Hooves: Structurally sound enough to support weight and resist disease.
- Reproductive: Functionally sound enough to promote healthy reproduction, birthing, and nurturing of offspring.

**Q: What is a livestock registry?**

A: Once a quality STANDARD has been developed, defined and adopted by an organization (such as CGA), the next step is to develop a REGISTRY to record animals according to that quality STANDARD, and to maintain and track current records, evaluations, and ongoing modifications of the quality STANDARD over time.

**Q: So if you have a type of livestock with a clearly defined quality STANDARD, and a formal REGISTRY for recording and tracking those standards, what is the difference between that and defining a breed?**

A: Nothing. Those are the two essential elements in modern livestock development that functionally, practically, and literally define a livestock breed in today's common language.

**Q: What do I think that the Cashmere Goat Association should do now?**

A: Having already adopted the North American Cashmere Goat Breed STANDARD as the formal CGA quality standard for cashmere goats, and having already developed a very modern and easily accessible REGISTRY to record and maintain this information, the only thing that should be still be done at this point is to simply conduct a vote of the CGA membership to formally apply a straightforward and clearly understood label to this STANDARD and REGISTRY, and to formally define the North American Cashmere Goat in common language as a livestock breed.

# Love Cashmere Goats?

## Show the world with CGA merch!



A percentage of  
every item purchased  
through our online  
Zazzle shop goes

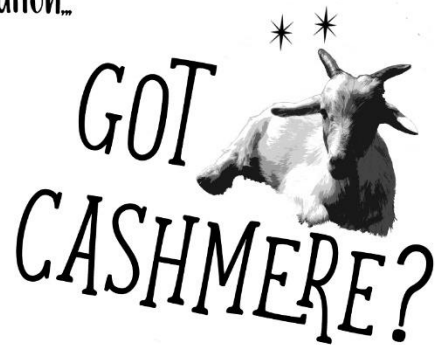


directly to CGA programs.

As a volunteer-led organization...



we are so  
grateful for  
your support!



[Zazzle.com/CashmereGoatAssn](https://www.zazzle.com/CashmereGoatAssn)

## Additional thoughts / concerns / questions

### About a cashmere goat breed

Linda Singley from Bearlin Acres in Pennsylvania reached out to the HP editors after our last issue to ask some questions and express some concerns about our plans for the database & registry and the proposal to define a breed. Excerpts from her notes are below.

- 1- Can goats we have owned be registered- even if they are gone- if they were judged and deemed acceptable by a prior goat show or fleece competition? Or is the database only going to be for goats from this day forward, so we have to attend shows or send in fleeces in order to ever get into any registry? A goat only lives so long (goatherds too) and it seems there were some mighty fine creatures since the '80s in this country.

*Editor's note >> Yes, evaluations from prior shows can be entered, even for goats who are no longer living. The evaluation must be from a recognized show or competition or lab, and the farmer needs to have a record of the assessment.*

- 2- Are we interested in truly tracking genetic lines or are we looking at ribbons with this registry? Will genotype or phenotype or both be rated highest? We all know that unless you restrictively breed, the exhibited traits are not always expressed. We all also know that *if* we restrictively breed, we can get extremely *undesirable* traits expressed or carried - as mentioned in Maggie's article (in the March 2019 HP). Just look at some of the sheep industry's transmitted problems.

Please don't be offended, but the Leicester Longwool registry has had some problems with this too. Phil Sponenberg spoke to the group at Williamsburg several times. It seemed there were limited genetics in the original import and only certain farms got registered. When the intermixing of the lines got so routine, they ran out of variation. However, there were some breeders who chose to keep their flocks off the registry simply because they didn't do shows, or card evals or have the resources to travel. The Williamsburg group was very interested to learn of these lurking, original import genetic pools in dispersed areas in order to revert to some of the original non-crossed lines. Are we going to head in that direction?

I'm concerned that if we get too restrictive on the breed definition and the registry, we are going to exclude perfectly valid animals carrying perfectly good genetics based on whether they manage to get transported to a show or compete in a fleece evaluation. Are we going to offer travelling evals as is done in the American Dairy Goat Association? Or is Mohammed always going to have to go to the mountain to get approved? Are we going to offer fleeces eval outside of shows to enable registration approval? Can we mail in a sample and get it approved by a third party? Why do we have so few qualified people

to evaluate fleeces? What does it take to become an acceptable fleece evaluator? Or for that matter- what does it take to become acceptable in the eyes of the group for evaluating a goat for conformation? Perhaps we should really focus on eval education and training for our members to enable us all to become honest evaluators.

Are we going to proliferate and grow our group? Or are we going to end up fragmenting into the "haves and the have nots" in terms of approved vs. non-acceptable mutt-pedigrees on goats with the very same genetic lineages, but not deemed NORTH AMERICAN and/or registered just because our goats are not papered? Also, if we go with the defined breed and then require RFID microchips and the USDA gets a hand in all this, our costs will go up. As a person giving sheep, goat and alpaca all shed room, the recent flap over tags from APHIS has me only seeing \$ signs. It seems we (sheep producers) have gone from acceptable metal, to plastic, back to metal, then plastic and now they want rfid with associated new costs for applicators, readers, etc if you want to be an APHIS USDA approved flock. Do we really want to go there for everyone NOT making a profit?

I would also like to hear from some of the west coasters in this remaining group of farmers on the continent. Have they been offered a commentary period? The roots and the future of this small group of agriculturalists, continent-wide, depend on all of us getting along for the good of the animals.

This will be a journey, not a race.

*If only we all could chill out so easily....*



*Support us by joining a committee. Contact the following chairs to join.*

Membership: Christine McBrearty-Hulse [mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com) Jana Dengler [Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com)

Fundraising: Christine McBrearty-Hulse [mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com) Show: Sister Mary Elizabeth: [maryelizabethcsm@aol.com](mailto:maryelizabethcsm@aol.com)

Judging Clinic: Wendy Pieh [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com) Archives: Ann Taylor [a31taylor@charter.net](mailto:a31taylor@charter.net)

Website: Pam Haendle [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com) Goat Color: Yvonne Taylor [yvonne.taylor@mygait.com](mailto:yvonne.taylor@mygait.com)

Meat and Database: Maryanne Reynolds [maryanne@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:maryanne@stoneharvestfarm.com)

## JOURNEY OF A FIBER FROM SHEEP TO CLOTHING CHEMICAL ASPECTS

PATIL NETRAVALI

Wool fibers are sheared from sheep. The length of the fibers can vary from 2 to 6 in. based on its locations. For example, the back and sides of a sheep have longer fibers as compared to the fibers from the underbody and legs. It is 100% natural, biodegradable and renewable. It is a unique fiber with lots of inherent peculiar characteristics such as breathability, warmth, wrinkle-resistance, fire-resistance and UV resistance. It is a unique fiber that undergoes a distinct mechanical and chemical journey from sheep to clothing.

The fiber sheared from sheep is called fleece and contains impurities such as sand, dirt, grease, dried sweat, etc. Most water-soluble impurities are removed by scouring which involves washing with detergent or alkali and then water. The scoured wool is then mechanically beaten to remove water-insoluble impurities and carded to form sliver or wool tops. The mechanical action can break the fibers or weaken them which could lead to breakage in subsequent processing such as spinning or weaving. These fibers do not have the high strength required to withstand the spinning speeds and the high-tension during weaving and are generally treated with bifunctional aldehyde-based crosslinkers such as glyoxal, glutaraldehyde, diisocyanates and carbodiimides to improve their strength. The crosslinking strengthens the fibers and can be subsequently used in high speed spinning and weaving processes to manufacture yarn and fabrics respectively. However, these

crosslinkers are skin irritants and toxic to both human and environment.

Although wool is a natural and organic fiber, certain processes such as chemical crosslinking with the toxic chemicals mentioned above can have adverse effects on human health. However, it can be crosslinked with aldehydes derived from naturally occurring and renewable resource such as sugars. A mixture of sugars containing fructose, glucose, sucrose, raffinose and stachyose was modified to create aldehyde groups of various chain lengths and used to crosslink wool instead of the petroleum-based aldehydes mentioned above. The crosslinking of the wool fibers using sugar aldehydes has shown about 56% increase in the Young's modulus from 2.5 GPa to 3.9 GPa and a 36% increase in the ultimate fracture stress of the fibers from 203 MPa to 276 MPa. The promising improvements in the modulus and fracture stress after crosslinking is beneficial in many aspects of yarn and fabric manufacturing, increasing the production speed, efficiency and reducing fiber wastage. The biggest advantage could be that finer yarns can be spun from the same fibers, ultimately creating premium wool fabrics. The tensile strain was found to be reduced from 47% to 42% after crosslinking, still maintaining the resilience and elastic properties of the fibers. Such sugar aldehydes can be used to crosslink certain other keratin fibers such as cashmere, mohair or even human hair.





# HOOFPRINTS

Editor: Maggie Porter [constantine.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:constantine.maggie@gmail.com)

Layout: Pam Haendle [hermitpond@gmail.com](mailto:hermitpond@gmail.com)

*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.

## CGA MEMBERSHIP

Full individual membership is \$30/year

Junior (under 18 years) membership is \$15/year (non-voting)

If you have not filled out a membership application for a year or two, it would be helpful to the association for you to do that. The application can be found under "membership" on our website:

[www.cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

Send membership and advertising information and checks to: Jana Dengler, 60 Hardwick Road, Petersham, MA 01366. Make checks payable to Cashmere Goat Association or CGA.

## CGA Officers:

President

Wendy Pieh

123 Rial Herald Road.

Bremen, MN, 04551

[wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com)

Vice President

Elyse Perambo

East Meets West Family Farm

112 Coy Rd

Richford VT

[eastmeetswestfamilyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:eastmeetswestfamilyfarm@gmail.com)

Secretary

Christine McBrearty-Hulse

P.O. Box 190

Fly Creek, NY 13337

[mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com)

Treasurer

Jana E Dengler

60 Hardwick Road

Petersham, MA 01366

[Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com)

Masthead designs provided by Ryan Sweeney, UK - HelpX helper at Roving Winds Farm in May of 2014