

A Publication of
CGA. The
Cashmere Goat
Association

Volume 28
Issue 3
November 2019

www.cashmeregoatassociation.org

Message from the President

Hello Everyone,

This has been quite a year for the Cashmere Goat Association!

Our board has expanded with several new members: David DeLaMater, Cameron Falkowski, Danielle Fowler, Heide Krause, and Joanne Wirtz-Ryan. Thank you so much for joining us! Jana Dengler, Jaclyn Severance, and Noreen Rollins have resigned from the Board. Thank you for your contributions over the years.

The database and registry are up and running, thanks to the incredible efforts of Pam Haendle and Maryanne Reynolds. And to Jeremy Usher, who kept developing the database, making changes when requested, and producing a very detailed and useable database for us.

The membership voted strongly to establish the North American Cashmere Goat as a breed, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recognized us as an official and recognized goat registry.

The Vermont show had a very good turnout, with over eight owners bringing goats to the show. It was our turn to host the annual fleece show, and many exceptional fleeces were entered. We also had our first opportunity to evaluate fleeces for the database and registry. More than 20 fleeces were sent in for that evaluation; most of them could have competed in the show!

You'd think that would be enough for one year! Nope. In November over 100 people attended a small ruminant workshop in Ithaca, New York,

hosted by the Cashmere Goat Association and Cornell University, based at their School of Veterinary Medicine. Presentations varied from power point to hands on, so we all had a chance to expand our knowledge in a variety of opportunities. Over half our membership attended, what a delightful group of people. A special thanks to Christine McBrearty-Hulse, our association secretary, and tatiana Stanton of Cornell for their efforts to make the conference a resounding success.

Maggie Constantine-Porter will begin to transition her much appreciated work with Pam Haendle on publishing Hoofprints to two new volunteers – Loriann Fell and David DelaMater. Thank you, Maggie!

Our goats are now in full bloom, many of the does flouncing their locks as they delicately call (Hah!) across the way to the bucks inviting a visit. For the first year I can remember there have been no surprise visits in either direction, hope that lasts.

Best to you all,

Wendy

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THE CGA SMALL RUMINANT AND FIBER CONFERENCE A SMASHING SUCCESS!

The Small Ruminant Management and Fiber Conference, co-sponsored by CGA and Cornell University and held on November 9th and 10th, was an absolute hit. Christine McBrearty-Hulse, as the chief conference organizer, even had to turn away prospective attendees who contacted her in November after our numbers topped 125! Our strategy of including general ruminant health and management classes along with very specialized classes on cashmere assessment and fiber usage brought in a good mix of shepherds and goatherds – both new and experienced.

Forty-one members of the Cashmere Goat Association were able to attend, even though it meant flights from southern states and the Great Plains. Other cashmere people came from Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, California, and Colorado, and a veterinarian anxious to learn more about small ruminants came from Bermuda! Our speakers came from Italy, New Mexico, Virginia, Maine, and Oklahoma, with years and years of expertise to share. My all-time favorite part of the weekend may have been the informal introductions we exchanged at the end of the day on Saturday. I loved meeting CGA members I had only talked to on the phone and professors whose work I have read. If you haven't seen the photo montage on Facebook – do check it out. Links to videos of classes will appear on the CGA website as soon as they are available.

Look for more articles on the conference in this issue. CGA has shown that we can host (admittedly with help from Cornell) another world-class event. Let's allow Christine to catch her breath for a bit, but then..... a judging clinic? Webinars on goat husbandry or kidding? The ideas were flowing freely at the last board meeting!



Cornell University

CGA in the news!



Not The New York Times, we concede, but the biggest venue around for fiber fanatics: Wild Fibers magazine. Linda Cortright, a former goat farmer and former ECA member, interviewed Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth for the 2019 issue. It's available now, on wildfibersmagazine.com. Read about their history and their thoughts on the database, the registry, and the future of cashmere goats.

PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT
LOOKING NORTH TO ROVING WINDS FARM
BY MAGGIE CONSTANTINE PORTER

Roving Winds Farm (RWF), a cashmere goat farm owned and operated by Becky Bemus and her husband, Phil Smith, is located in central Ontario, about 12 miles east of Georgian Bay and 100 miles north of Toronto. What sets RWF apart from many other cashmere goat farms is the length and volume of fiber produced on the premises. Three and four inch long fiber is not unusual, nor is a clean 8 ounce raw fleece. Animals are bred for uniform fiber length throughout the body and excellent crimp is the norm. While 50% of RWF's cashmere is white, the other 50% spans a range of ecru through dark brown.



The farm's breeding strategy aims for quality fiber-bearing animals as well as for good conformation, in line with cashmere goats being dual-purpose animals. If a goat has sub-par fiber (too short, meager volume), it is sold for meat or, in some cases, kept on if it has significant genetic value, e.g., this individual produces better quality kids than him/herself. Likewise, goats with scrawny bodies sporting excellent fiber may earn their keep on the farm for the same reason. Becky also breeds for parasite resistance, strong hooves, long guard hair, the ability to withstand a harsh climate and ease with kidding.

This past August my husband and I drove to Coldwater, Canada and visited Becky and Phil. We weren't sure what to expect, other than witnessing an operation with over 250 goats, 25 head of Dexter cattle, llamas, ducks, chickens, Guinea fowl, dogs and so on. Would it be complete pandemonium? How could it not be?



We wondered how the two managed, given they've never had paid employees, Phil has a full-time tech job taking him to Toronto several times a week, and Becky is the primary caregiver for a disabled family member who lives with them. Nonetheless, every year they put up 450 4X5 round bales; erect, build and repair fences; reinforce and repair their large barn along with moveable animal shelters; trim 1,000 goat hooves; administer countless doses of vaccines and de-wormer; incubate and sell duck and chicken hatchlings; train Dexter bulls to navigate a cattle chute; collect free-range chicken eggs; milk cows and make cheese; provide fresh water to all the animals; keep mineral feeders full; sell live animals to buyers in eastern Canada and send others off to auction; comb cashmere and prepare it for sale; and, because their lives, like most of ours, are not just about farming, work on taxes, fold laundry and complete home improvement projects in their "free" time. It goes without saying that Becky and Phil are frequently sleep deprived, and working while sick is a given.

Overview of the Farm

The approach to RWF takes you along lovely country roads, and then up a shaded drive to the house and farm. Upon arrival we looked about: our first impression was of overwhelming quietude. It was a warm summer day, the leaves overhead partially obscuring a bright sun and blue sky. Far from our minds was the certainty of arctic blasts arriving in the near future, optimal for growing cashmere, but less so for farmers when howling winds rip gates off shelters, snow accumulates up and over fence lines, and icy water buckets, power outages, and half-frozen hands abound.

Becky greeted us; Phil arrived later, after working at a fiber festival in Barrie, a 40 minute drive away. We were taken to an enormous pasture where the main herd of 200 goats, give or take, was grazing along with two llamas (fields are rotated; next spring the cattle might be on this parcel). Every horned head pointed north towards a stand of apple trees, the goats grabbing quick mouthfuls of grass before moving forward in sync with the others. Becky is interested in unusual goat coat colors and color combinations, and loves the surprise of, say, a white buck and black doe producing a brown-cheeked mixed expression kid. All about us were white, brown, grey, black, sable, red, and tan coats, interspersed with speckled, belted and spotted goats and those with badger and Swiss markings. Some goats had long guard hair, others short. Most were sprouting moderate undercoats of fiber, given this being summer's end.



We moved on to a smaller penned area with yearling does, then to another pasture with 20 or so cashmere bucks, all flopped, seemingly comatose, on a huge mound of composted hay. Next came the Dexter cows, who stared at us impassively while chewing cud. Nearby four varieties of ducks, including Welsh Harlequin, Pekin and Cayuga – marched around their pasture area as if they owned the place.



There were other pens, one for newly weaned doelings, two more for elderly bucks who need extra TLC. Becky explained the pedigrees of many of her animals (she keeps track of them all in her head), pointed out fence jumpers and singled out Jolene, a doe who can unlatch gates, unhook electric fence connections, open the grain freezer, and leap tall trucks in a single bound. Apple and crab apple trees, wild grapes, raspberry and hawthorne berries, highbush cranberry bushes along with vegetable gardens, tucked away throughout the farm property, awaited harvesting. Roosters, chickens and Maremma guard dogs wove themselves throughout this animal-friendly tapestry.

The Beginning: Building a Goat Herd

After Phil returned from the fiber fest, the four of us headed inside for dinner. There were bags of cashmere sitting on the kitchen table, all full of soft mounds of long, airy crimped fibers. How did such exemplary cashmere come into being?

Between January, 2004 and late summer 2005 RWF purchased 19 cashmere goats from Riversong Farm in Nazko, British Columbia (Riversong closed its doors in 2007). This acquisition included a white buck, a black badger buck, a black buck and two amber bucks as well as five white does, a black doe, two with badger markings and a white doe with black spotting.

Around this time Becky also bought four does from Baysville, Ontario: two were white; one was amber colored; and the fourth had a “blush” coat which Becky describes as reddy tan with grey accents. Later, Becky’s mother purchased a white doe with twin white doelings from Baysville, and Becky bought another white doe. All the Baysville goats had long guard hair and abundant fiber.



With these 31 goats, Becky focused on each animal's strengths. With linebreeding (and occasional crossbreeding) and a strict culling protocol, desirable heritable traits such as fiber length, volume, fiber color, etc. began to dominate her herd's gene pool.

RWF uses a minimum of 5 bucks each year over at least 10 does per male (some males cover as many as 30 does). Each first time buck will cover a mother and a couple of her daughters, each daughter out of a different sire. Results of these pairings are compared to identify the best genetic combinations going forward, with the bucks' best results repeated with other similarly pedigreed does (although in a slightly different shuffle of genetic contributors in the herd).

For example, some of Hjort's daughters will be penned with Chaplin, while other Hjort daughters will be penned with Gitanno. The opposite can also be trialed, with Gitanno or Chaplin daughters being paired with Hjort. It's a form of linebreeding, as Chaplin and Gitanno are half brothers and the goal here is to get the same result as when their mother Attanna (a superstar doe) was bred directly to Hjort. This type of breeding can increase the number of improved animals in a herd quickly while still allowing genetic diversity through the outside sires of Chaplin and Gitanno.

Becky chooses bucks with the traits she desires the most then uses them over the does she wants to improve on. If a buck doesn't improve on the traits she seeks then he is culled. From an email: *"I don't think we should sell on bucks incapable of producing stock better than themselves and have only once had a doe in a similar position meet a buck who saved her (she had a grand champion fleece placing...) life by forcing her to produce better than she was. Generally, both males and females are on a 3-strikes- you're-out protocol."*

Day to Day Management of 250 Goats

All animals have daily access to clean water, hay, and free minerals, salt, kelp, baking soda and biotin. In spring the herd is put on pasture once the fields have greened up and can withstand the pounding of hooved feet. Towards autumn apple drops and tree trimmings (dropped off regularly from spring to winter) are on offer, the latter brought to the farm by a landscaping company with a three-ton truck. The local Home Depot in nearby Collingwood also saves trees and greenery for RWF. Then there's the local man who trims his ten-foot cedar hedges and hauls the clippings to the goats as it's cheaper than paying the yard waste disposal fee at the landfill.

Becky takes a pragmatic view with regard to winter hay: goats are supposed to, and do, survive on relatively marginal hay, so she doesn't break the bank buying expensive second cut bales. Hay testing below 9% protein is supplemented with beet pulp and alfalfa pellets. When her goats are given grain, it's in small amounts and usually a homemade textured mixture of oats, barley and sunflower.

Treats, such as sliced carrots and various fruits are often available. After Halloween neighbors give RWF old Jack-o'-Lanterns and uncarved decorative gourds and pumpkins. Similarly, old Christmas trees are gathered from neighbors when in season and kept nice and fresh in a snowbank as the goats work their way through them.



Beyond Goats and Fiber

Running a farm the size of RWF is physically and financially stressful – it's not for everyone. On the other hand, farming provides autonomy and a non-desk/cubicle job. For animal and nature lovers, farming can provide immense satisfaction even when Mother Nature is being difficult.

A winter or so ago Becky wrote this in an email:

"Well we are in the middle of a winter snow squall accompanied with extremely high winds. I stressed about my little doelings all night as the pen they are in is under a row of long dead maple...I got about 5 hours sleep between listening to the wind howl and the odd kid call with a buckling call back. Their little shelter was not of much help to them as the winds and snow were swirling and coming in the back end of their shelter."



And then, in another email, almost a counterpoint to the one above:

"It is just below freezing but Phil said it is absolutely beautiful out there and the kids are running and playing like little fiends..."

The best payoff, of course, is harvesting the bounty the farm provides. In the case of Roving Winds Farm, the following are produced every season: meat and milk from the cattle; fiber, meat, pelts and horns from the goats; meat and eggs from the chickens and ducks; and meat from the Guinea fowl who were hired for tick and rodent control as well as raptor warnings. Apples, crabapples and highbush cranberries are preserved or baked into pies; garden bounty, eaten in season, includes summer squash, tomatillos, chard, kale and whatever random veggies grow in the pastures or manure pile.



Roving Winds Farm is working on a plan to improve their permaculture practices, to give back to the earth what's been taken out. Garden areas will be expanded to accommodate more "easy keeper" varieties of vegetables, to provide food for the animals and themselves. In the meantime, Becky and Phil are winterizing the livestock areas and pens, with hopes that next spring will bring luxurious cashmere fiber along with a passel of healthy kids and calves.

Spreading the Cashmere Love in a Dairy Goat 4-H Club

by Danielle Fowler

At a recent 4-H awards ceremony, an unknown man took the podium. The octogenarian with neat, silver hair in a blue oxford and khakis was announced as a former Litchfield County 4Her who now resides in Massachusetts. It was explained that he has traveled here to tell us what 4H has meant to him. The audience was captivated as he began his story as a 7-year-old saving up to buy a small flock of chickens. As he entered his teenaged years, he began raising cows and learned to judge. After high school, he served in the Navy during the Korean War; often using knots that he had learned in 4-H to make rope halters for his cows. After the war, he began professional farming, applying all those skills that he developed in 4-H to run a successful beef farm.

Now in his eighties, he is no longer able to run his farm. He recently sold the farm and explained that while he is not a rich man, he wanted to share some of the money from the sale of his farm with the small 4-H group in the town of his childhood, two hours away from his current home. The beautiful gesture had everyone on their feet and there wasn't a dry eye in the auditorium.

It made me reflect on the importance of 4-H in my life and the lives of my children. Through their participation in 4-H, they have learned a lot about hard work, perseverance, public speaking, and made a lot of wonderful friends.

If you are a cashmere farmer, getting your children's horned fiber goats into a 4-H program can be challenging, but totally worth it. Horned goats are often banned from entry if the region's focus is on dairy goats. However, the good news is that with some advanced planning and a little bit of education, you may be able to have your cashmeres entered in your local 4-H show next summer!

In late fall, the regional 4-H groups assign coordinators and planning for the summer shows begin. This is a great time to bring up the idea of expanding fair rules to enable cashmere goats to show.

Considerations for showing cashmere goats in 4-H may include:

- Allowing fiber goats to be shown with their horns. This may require a bit of education so that fair leadership understands why it is important that fiber goats keep their horns. While leadership is likely comprised of very experienced farmers, they probably don't know much about our exotic breed.
- Adding classes specifically for cashmere goats so that they can be evaluated by the breed standard, including their fiber, rather than being placed in a utility class.
- Changing the rules for check-in so that non-tattooed goats may be admitted. In addition, if you use RFID microchips for identification, defining who is responsible for providing an RFID reader.
- Discussing how showmanship will be performed; will the goats be shown in a collar like dairy goats or with a halter like meat goats? Do the children wear head-to-toe white as if they were showing a dairy goat or, since cashmeres are a meat breed, can they wear jeans and a collared shirt as is seen in beef cow showmanship?

-Deciding if separate judges will be used for cashmere vs. dairy goats, since many dairy goat judges are not familiar with cashmere fiber scoring.

-Sharing CGA's scorecard with the judges so that they can judge cashmeres on the breed standard.

-Discussing horn safety concerns and drafting rules to prevent accidents. Should horns be wrapped? Can the children modify how they set up their goats for the judge so that they do not have to put their faces near the horns? Is the housing at the fair safe for animals with horns?

My children have really enjoyed their 4-H experience and have learned a tremendous amount from their dairy goat counterparts. In return, the other children have learned a lot about fiber goats and a few of them are even shopping around for their first fiber goats. I hope that other cashmere farmers with young children (or another young person in their life) will reach out to their local clubs and see if they are open to adding a new breed to their 2020 show. Not only will your children have a wonderful time proudly showing off all of the time, love, and energy that they have poured into their cashmere goat, but you will be paving the way for future cashmere owners in your area to do the same.



Udder 4-H club members helping to bring cashmere and Angora goats to the show ring

Photo by Tawny Syrotiak

Danielle Fowler is a newly elected member of the CGA Board of Directors and owner of Yippee Farm in Cheshire, Connecticut.

New Wormer shows Promise in The War on Stomach Worms

by JoAnne Wirtz-Ryan

We've had our herd of goats since the summer of 2016, so we're still pretty much novices when it comes to dealing with all the health issues related to the parasites to which goats are susceptible. We didn't have our first real issues until late spring of 2017, when the oldest nanny, who was 11 years old at the time, became anemic, along with one of the other nannies. She had been given to us for free because she had broken teeth, and our first indication of illness was the development of bottle jaw, a swelling under the jaw that results from anemia. We had no idea at the time what we were dealing with, but we have since learned how to handle it. When we first ordered de-wormers, we had really no idea how to use them. The first one I ordered was Valbazen, which really did very little to help us with the issues we were dealing with, and I have since learned it is really only effective on tapeworms. After digging into the literature and learning more about de-wormers, we started using Prohibit and then later added Cydectin to the mix because the current deworming protocol by ruminant professionals calls for using two different classes of de-wormers. Also following this protocol, we don't deworm every animal, but rather only the ones who need it. We also FAMACHA check -- an examination of the color of the rim of the eyelids (from red to white, or anemic) -- our animals weekly so we can keep a handle on who is more infected and needs to be dewormed.

Each year we have lost animals to the worms. Each year I vow to get better at managing this. Each year we change things, such as cleaning the barn every weekend and being more vigilant in checking the animals. What we can't do right now is rotate pastures. This summer we ended up dry-lotting them because we've been working on our pasture health, and we wanted to keep the animals off the newly planted grass. This summer it was still a

battle to keep everyone healthy. Unfortunately, being in Georgia means that we deal with the Barber Pole Worm (*Haemonchus contortus*), along with brown stomach worms. The Barber Pole worm is especially dangerous and deadly. We've checked animals that scored in the middle of the FAMACHA chart and three days later their eyelids were white. Then late summer hit, the rain stopped, and the temperatures soared and hovered between 95-99 degrees daily for about 12 weeks. This was literally the last nail in the coffin, because the stress of this extreme heat brought on anemia and sickness for many of the goats. As anyone who has goats knows, the youngest ones are the most susceptible, and that is where we were hit the worst. Over this time period we had five 4- to 6-month old kids come down with severe anemia, even though we checked them regularly and were deworming whenever they needed it. Of those five, four died even though we brought them into the house so we could keep a close eye on them and treat them more easily. Our Hampshire ram also was stricken hard and went down. He couldn't stand; we nursed him for a week on the barn floor trying to get him to stand, but it just wasn't going to happen. After a week he was just no better and there's no way to rehab a 250-pound animal, so we made the hard decision to put him down.

Earlier in the year I learned that a new product named Livamol with Bioworma had come on the market. It is only available for sale through Premier 1, and it's pretty darned expensive which is why we didn't buy it previously. Each 5-gallon pail costs \$150 plus shipping, and they estimate that it costs about \$.50 - \$.60 per day per animal. When you tally that up, it's pricey, especially with 30+ goats. It's a fungus that you feed to the goats; the fungus attacks the worm eggs and kills them before they can hatch, effectively stopping the worm cycle.

After losing the ram we made the decision to use this product for the remainder of the year. We used it for five weeks and we immediately saw changes in the FAMACHA scores. We have never had goats scoring the best dark red on the FAMACHA scale, but after using this product, the majority of our goats are now right there where they should be. We've stopped using it now that we've had a few

freezes, but we've had a lot of success with this product and have decided that, although it is expensive, we're going to use it next year to try to mitigate the parasite problem and knock down the deaths and health problems we experience every summer. We're hoping for a better worm season next year.

JoAnne Wirtz-Ryan is a new board member and the owner of Springwood Cashmere Farm in Alpharetta, Georgia

*** Please see page 29 for some additional notes on deworming ! ***

Welcome New CGA Members !

Garreth Crosby	Benjamin Forest Farm	Athens, GA
Catherine Reynolds		Austin, TX
Laurie Scitter	Twisted Oak Farm	Burgaw, NC
Kathryn Langelier	Herbal Revolution Farm & Apothecary	Union, ME
Brenda Winter	Winter Cashmere Farm	Laramie, WY
Bob & Pam Marshall	Marshall's Farm	Wellington, CO
JoAnne Wirtz-Ryan	Springwood Cashmere Farm	Alpharetta, GA
Heide Kraus	Harmony Farm	Quesnel, BC Canada
David DeLaMater	Dough Haven Farm	Schaghticoke, NY
Anna Soranno		Varna, Bulgaria

Time to renew!

2020 is nearly upon us, making it the perfect time to renew your membership in CGA.

Your membership will be good for the 2020 calendar year and will ensure that you don't miss an issue of Hoofprints or miss out on any membership discounts. The form for membership (including renewals!!) is on our website and it also allows you to sign up for an ad in Hoofprints or in our online breeders' directory. After you complete the form, please go to the "Pay Now" page to submit your PayPal payment. Please do **not** just auto-renew to the old PayPal account. Thanks!

MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CGA SMALL RUMINANT AND FIBER CONFERENCE

Conference attendees had a wide range of events, ranging from lectures to hands-on workshops to choose from. Day 1 got underway, after the continental breakfast and welcome from CGA President Wendy Pieh, with a pair of lectures presented by Dr. Mary Smith, DVM and Professor in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences at Cornell University. She initially addressed general flock and herd health management, covering topics that ranged from the importance of recordkeeping – “You treasure what you measure,” she told the audience – to nutrition, and parasite control. Her second talk focused on skin and foot issues. She began by addressing nutritional considerations for fiber production, including the importance of minerals, such as zinc, as well as ways to identify and treat a range of infectious skin diseases, including lice and mange. Under the heading of foot problems, she covered footrot, white line abscess, and issues connected to overfeeding, such as hoof wall separation.

Dr. Tatiana Stanton, Small Ruminant Extension Specialist with the Department of Animal Science at Cornell, appraised attendees of new developments in parasite management and reviewed the relevant research. She reviewed the use of selective deworming and evasive grazing (moving animals to prevent infestation from feces and allowing a rest period before returning them to the pasture), which have been proven effective, as well as potentially promising but still unproven new techniques, such as the use of copper oxide wire particles (COWP) and forage legumes that contain condensed tannins, such as birdsfoot trefoil (BFT). Simultaneously, Wini Labrecque explored the complexity of the fiber world in her presentation: “Basics of Cashmere, Camelid, Mohair, and Wool Fiber Structure: differences, similarities, and blending.”



Lunchtime featured a presentation by Pamela Haendle of Hermit Pond Farm, CGA Database Manager, on the evolution and applications of the CGA database and registry, with input from Dr. Nora Desmond on the Cashmere Goat Association Italian database. Throughout the conference attendees could visit the tradeshow, at which sixteen exhibitors shared information on services such as fiber processing.

Saturday afternoon, attendees had the opportunity to choose from several hands-on workshops. These included Evaluating Cashmere Goats presented by Wendy Pieh, CGA president and owner, with her husband Peter Goth, of Springtide Farm in Bremen, ME. This included a review of the North American Cashmere Goat Breed standard for conformation and applying that standard to a number of cashmere goat “models.” Her husband Peter simultaneously offered a hands-on course in both routine and reparative hoof trimming. Niko Kochendoerfer of Cornell delved into the intricacies of feeding, explaining how to interpret a forage analysis and evaluate hay, which she illustrated with a range of hay samples and accompanying analyses. She also guided attendees in reading feed labels and assessing the differing nutritional needs within a flock. Maria Roenke of Spot Hollow Farm demonstrated how to deal with various kidding and lambing issues, including coping with dystocia and tube feeding.



The workshops were followed by an “Open Discussion—Sharing Successes, Misadventures and Future Visions in Fiber Marketing” led by veteran fiber producers Noreen Atkins and Amy Glaser. Even a short summary of the conference would be incomplete without the mention of the delectable meals—and other treats. For example, the “Meet and Greet” featured goat milk fudge and the Saturday dinner, as well as lunches, were followed by goat milk gelato for dessert.

Sunday's program got underway with presentations from a trio of noted experts. First was “The Basic Genetics of Color Production,” by Dr. Terry Gipson, Goat Extension Leader of the American Institute for Goat Research at Langston University in Oklahoma, a review of research on heritability and genetic correlation as they apply to fiber production. Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Professor of Pathology/Genetics in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine educated attendees on the basics of Fiber Color Genetics in Goats and Sheep, in part by explaining the role of genetic loci in determining color. Mr. Gipson's colleague, Dr. Steve Hart, also of Langston University and the American Institute for Goat Research, addressed the “Effect of Nutrition on Fiber and Follicle Development in Goats and Sheep.”

His talk included a discussion of protein, mineral, and vitamin requirements and their relationship to fiber production.

Lunchtime the second day featured a discussion of “Fiber Processing and Marketing Streams for Different Sized Farms,” presented by Mary Jeanne Packer of Battenkill Fibers in Greenwich, NY.



The second afternoon offered a choice of two hands-on workshops, Evaluating Cashmere Fiber, presented by Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth, and Fiber Sorting and Grading 101, presented by Wini Labrecque. The cashmere fiber workshop featured a review of numerous cashmere fiber samples, differing in quality, accompanied by their histograms. Attendees initially reviewed the histograms, then practiced “eyeballing” the fiber samples for relevant characteristics, such as mean fiber diameter, style, staple length, and guard hair differentiation. They then got to evaluate the fiber samples, regrouped without accompanying histograms, to test their skill. Also offered that afternoon were another pair of presentations: Laura Sansone, MFA, of the NY Textile Lab and Parsons School of Design presented “Growing a Decentralized Textile Economy in the Northeast U.S.” and Dr. Nora Desmond, of Chianti Cashmere in Italy, presented “An EU Wild Friend Predator Program for Small Ruminants,” focused on proactive farm management to improve livestock/predator coexistence.





Focusing on cashmere analysis at an afternoon workshop

Visitors from California!



Holding down the fort at the Myers Family farm table in the trade show.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 5, 2019

Call to Order. President Wendy Pieh called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Attendance. Members present who signed the attendance sheet: Maryanne Reynolds, Ann Taylor, Kathy Ashland, Francis Ashland, David S. DeLaMater II, Cameron Drew Falkowski, Chester Falkowski, Lisa Ferguson, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Wendy Pieh, Jana Dengler, Pam Haendle, Loriann Fell, Ella Derbyshire (with guest, Rose), Mary Marchewka, and Elyse Perambo.

Establish a Quorum. A quorum was established.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Copies were not on hand. Approval was discussed based on belief that they had been published in Hoofprints. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jana Dengler submitted and discussed the Treasurer's Report. (Attached.) Jana was asked if the Rhinebeck insurance has been paid, and she stated it had been paid. Upon Dave D.'s motion, seconded by Sister Mary Elizabeth, the treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

President's Message. President Wendy Pieh delivered a message highlighting the CGA's new database and registry. It will increase awareness of the association. Wendy is corresponding with the USDA to have the database/registry become a USDA-approved registry. She thanked Jana who was retiring as treasurer after six years. She is pleased that so many fine entrants were submitted for these years fleece show, which she had judged Oct. 4-5, 2019, and she thanked numerous people for their assistance in the show.

Election Results - Board of Directors. As Vice-President Elyse Perambo prepared to announce election results for new board members, the floor was opened for any additional nominees. Nominated from the floor were Cameron Drew Falkowski and David DeLaMater II. Previously nominated were Christine McBrearty Hulse,

Danielle Fowler, JoAnne Wirtz Ryan, and Heidi Krause. Upon a vote of the membership, Elyse announced that all candidates were elected to the CGA Board for a two-year term, Oct. 2019 - Oct. 2021.

Election Results -- Breed Question. Elyse announced that with 51 ballots issued and 21 returned, 67.7 percent of the voting members voted "Yes" on whether the North American Cashmere Goat is a "breed." (33.3 percent voted no.) Wendy asked members to be mindful that it was a sensitive vote and asked for restraint in advocating the result.

Committee Report - Database/Registry. Pam reported that the system is "up and alive!" She is pleased with the functionality. Scorecard images can now be uploaded into the database. The CGA and Firefly have a service level agreement in place. Regarding entry of kids who have no fleece yet, the system will soon be able to produce a certificate for USDA program purposes.

Committee Report - Newsletter. Pam reported that Maggie is willing to serve another year as Hoofprints editor and that she is looking for assistance. Loriann and Dave volunteered. A recommendation was made that HP, which is now circulated electronically, contain links to educational video material provided by the CGA.

Committee Report - Website & Social Media. Pam reported there is a new CGA website with up-to-date information. Elyse reported the CGA's Facebook page is available for postings. Currently, the CGA doesn't have an Instagram account. Upon motion by Elyse, seconded by Sister Mary Elizabeth, membership voted to start a CGA Instagram account. Cameron and David volunteered to help.

Committee Report - Shows & Conference. Pam read Christine's report on the upcoming 2019 CGA Small Ruminant Management & Fiber Conference. Sister Mary Elizabeth reported the CGA/NWCA Fleece Show is done. There were 120

entries, and 100 fleeces judged. Unfortunately, 20 Canadian fleeces had not arrived in time to be judged. The live goat show is ongoing, with some pen judging done, and the ring work to be done on Oct. 6, 2019, at Tunbridge Fairgrounds. 48 goats are entered. Handlers include 19 children. Space in the barn was at capacity this year, due to barn damage from a weather event. More space is expected next year. Sister also reported that the entry process using Google forms was "clunky" this year and is expected to be smoother next year.

Committee Report -- Membership. Pam read Christine's report. Some discussion ensued around ideas for increasing membership. Ideas can be submitted to the Board. Regarding annual dues for the coming year, no formal vote was taken; status quo remains.

Committee Report -- Archives. Ann Taylor reported that she continues to maintain the Eastern Cashmere Association / Cashmere Goat Association archives at her home in Massachusetts. Ann is accepting items for the archives. She is considering submitting old HP articles for re-running in upcoming HP issues. The idea received favorable comment.

Other. Wendy opened the floor to other agenda items. Members were delighted to hear that Ann Taylor's goats were videographed for a Harvard University avant-garde production. A member expressed interest in having the CGA provide more educational materials to farmers, including lessons on assessing a goat's conformation. Sister Mary Elizabeth noted the request is consistent with the CGA's mission as a 501(c)(3) organization to educate the public.

Several members encouraged support for 4H groups as a way to help educate the public about North American Cashmere Goats. A member requested that there be telephonic participation in annual meetings, if it can be done from the Fairgrounds. Another idea was to have the annual meeting done completely by telephone, and not tie it to the show at the Fairgrounds. A member urged improved public relations for NACG by showcasing how goats can be part of the environmental solution. Finally, members were reminded that the New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck, NY, is coming up; the CGA will have a booth there featuring cashmere goat products offered by 9 farms, including one non-member.

Adjournment. Upon motion of Pam, seconded by Jana, the membership voted to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Reynolds, for Secretary Christine McBrearty Hulse

SCAM WARNING !

If your name appears in the online membership list for the CGA, you may have already received a letter from a fellow calling himself Jeffrey Martinez. He has contacted many CGA members and many shepherds across the country, claiming to be starting a farm in his retirement. His story has varied from time to time, but the scam is consistent: After arranging to purchase several goats or sheep, he offers to send a deposit to hold the animals until his "movers" can come to pick them up. A check is sent – for much more than the agreed-upon deposit. "Jeffrey" asks the seller to deposit the check and wire the overpayment amount back to an account number he will provide. The check is, of course, worthless, and anyone falling for his line could be out thousands of dollars. A complaint has been filed with the FTC, but meanwhile - please spread the word!



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Cashmere, Wool and Alpaca

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TECH NOTES

CGA DATABASE/REGISTRY & WEBSITE

In the August issue of Hoofprints, we were able to announce both the launch of the database interface and the debut of a new website. Both have been tweaked a bit and both are operating well.

Database and Registry: With the completion of the 2019 CGA goat show and the 2019 CGA/NWCA Fleece Competition, more data is available for entry into the CGA Database and Registry. As members become familiar with the database interface, they are entering evaluations for prior shows and lab tests as well. Here are a couple of notes for anyone entering data, especially from shows prior to 2017:

- You need to have a copy of the scorecard or lab results, and show/competition results must be from an event CGA can recognize. If the event is not listed in the dropdown within the “Add Goat evaluation” function, please send me a note at hermitpond@gmail.com, and I will add the event.
- Please scan the scorecard or lab results so that it can be uploaded with the evaluation. If you don’t have a scanner, you can mail me a copy. (Pam Haendle, 10601 Merrill Rd. West Edmeston, NY 13485)
- We need to be able to record a numerical value for fiber length. If it is not available on the scorecard or lab printout, please measure the fleece length yourself and enter it in the evaluation. We can note that the information was provided by the owner.

The database currently has information on 493 goats. Of the total, 262 are pedigree entries, 161 are registered, and the remaining 60 are pending registration – including some kids who have no fleece data yet and some goats whose information is incomplete. More evaluations are expected from the 2019 live show and from historical events. As always, I’m happy to help with any questions or issues.

CGA Website: Since its appearance in July, a few additions and many minor updates have been made to the site. There is a new page for the archive of Hoofprints issues, under the Education menu. More meeting minutes have been added, information on board members has been updated, and as the 2019 events took place, the pages for each were updated with news about the events. The membership page has been updated automatically to show that CGA now has 54 members. One member suggested we rearrange the membership page to show members by state, and we can work on that.

Another important improvement in the works is an upgrade to the FAQ page. The text now includes information on the designation of North American Cashmere Goat as a breed of cashmere goats, and we have included information to rebut some of the nonsense currently being spread around about cashmere goats. PETA has high-profile articles stating that combing goats is hazardous to their health – even fatal – and the claim that cashmere goats are particularly harmful to the environment because their sharp hooves dig up the topsoil is still making the rounds. CGA can and should play a critical role in disseminating truth about cashmere goats and directly challenging those who spread false information about them. If you have any thoughts about other questions that should be addressed on our FAQ page – or other improvements needed in the site – please send them to me at hermitpond@gmail.com. I’m happy to report that new board members will be assisting me with the tech work – Cameron Drew Falkowski with the database and JoAnne Wirtz-Ryan with the website.

Lemon Curry Goat

This is a crockpot dish. Goat meat tends to be a little tough, so moist cookery is what works best.

3 lbs of chunk goat meat	2 cups of Wesson light vegetable oil
1 gallon chicken stock	4 large yellow onions
Half a stalk of celery	1 red pepper, 1 orange pepper
1 T lemon zest	¼ cup lemon juice
¼ cup curry powder	3 cups of AP flour
Salt and pepper to taste	

Start by seasoning the goat meat with about 3 T of the curry powder and lightly salt and pepper. Once you've seasoned, just work the goat meat by mixing in the seasoning well, then dust the meat chunks generously in flour. I do this the old-fashioned shake-and-bake method. Place your flour in a large plastic bag then add the chunks of meat and shake until your meat chunks are covered completely. Now heat your oil up until it's about 375 degrees, shake the excess flour from your meat chunks and place in skillet. I use an old cast iron pan, the one my mom used to make fried chicken in when I was a little boy. I can still remember the smell of fried chicken on Sunday after church. Brown your goat meat really well all over. Once you've done this, you're halfway done with your curry goat.

Drain the extra oil from the meat by laying the meat on a piece of brown paper bag and set aside. Pour off almost all the oil from your cast iron pan and then place it back on the stove over medium heat. Cube up the onion, celery and peppers into medium dice (about the size of a nickel). Place all veggies into the pan and sauté for about ten minutes until the onions become translucent. In a large crock pot put your chicken stock, lemon juice, zest and the remaining curry powder. Stir until mixed. Now slowly stir in your veggies and then add your goat chunks. Place the lid on and put your temp on high and simmer for one hour. Then reduce to low and cook slowly for another couple of hours, stirring gently every once in a while.

I've always enjoyed curry dishes and especially curry goat, they just seem to blend nicely. This is a great dish over some basmati rice.



Enjoy lemon curry goat by chef Crockett aka Dave DeLaMater.

David is a new board member, new member of the editorial staff for Hoofprints, and co-owner, with Mary Marchewka, of Dough Haven Farm.

Educational opportunities!

Videos on goat conformation and hoof-trimming are available on the CGA website. More will be added as they become available. Please check them out at <https://cashmeregoatassociation.org/post.php?pid=8>

CGA's 2019 New England North American Cashmere Goat Show

The Cashmere Goat Association held its annual New England North American Cashmere Goat Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival on Saturday and Sunday, October 4-5, 2019, in Tunbridge, Vermont. Fifty-three goats from ten farms traveled from New York, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Virginia to compete and receive assessment from our judge, Wendy Pieh, current CGA President and co-owner of Springtide Cashmere in Bremen, Maine. Most of the fleeces were assessed with the combined CGA/NWCA International Fleece Show on Friday and Saturday, with pen judging Saturday afternoon. The afternoon was rounded out with the CGA Annual Meeting, followed by dinner in South Royalton.

Goat Show Classes

Sunday's Show activities began with the Goat Show classes: Grand Champion honors went to CSM Opal owned by Ella Derbyshire of Cambridge, NY, with the Reserve Champion ribbon going to CSM Khumbo's Orphan Annie owned by St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY. CFC Sir Cyril won Grand Champion Wether for Cameron and Chester Falkowski of C&C Back Achers Farm in Stafford Springs, CT, with CSM Pepper Jack taking the Reserve for St. Mary's on-the-Hill. Grand Champion Buck honors were won by CSM Wangoli for Cameron and Chip and C&C Back Achers Farm, with CSM Wolimba winning Reserve Champion for St. Mary's on-the-Hill. Ella Derbyshire's CSM Opal was awarded Best in Show.

Results in all the Show Classes are, as follows:

Doe Classes

Does born in 2019 (kids) -- 7 entries

1	CSM Lady Jane Clayton	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Raeanna Rowe
2	WWF Stevia	Wolf Well Farm, <i>Harvard, MA</i>	Ann Taylor
3	CSM Chimwemwe	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Carson Reynolds

Does born in 2018 (yearlings) – 11 entries

1	STC Zena	Boondoggle Farm, <i>Putney, VT</i>	Katy Wolfe
2	CFC Bonnie Blue	C&C Back Achers Farm, <i>Stafford Springs, CT</i>	Cameron and Chester Falkowski
3	CSM Felicity	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	David Todd
4	CSM Verity	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth

Does born in 2017 & 2016 (2 & 3-year-olds) -- 4 entries

1	CSM Khumbo's Orphan Annie	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sarah Todd
2	CSM Queen Guinevere	C&C Back Achers Farm, <i>Stafford Springs, CT</i>	Cameron and Chester Falkowski
3	CSM Lady Laudine	C&C Back Achers Farm, <i>Stafford Springs, CT</i>	Cameron and Chester Falkowski

Does born in 2015, 2016 & 2013 (mature does) -- 5 entries

1	CSM Opal	4E's Farm, <i>Cambridge, NY</i>	Ella Derbyshire
2	CSM Kachiwiri	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Alex Baker
3	CSM Rye	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Chris Kuzmich

Wether Classes**Wethers born in 2019 (kids) -- 8 entries**

1	CSM Lord Greystoke	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2	EMW Easton	East Meets West Family Farm, <i>Richland, VT</i>	Elyse Perambo
3	EMW Evander	East Meets West Family Farm, <i>Richland, VT</i>	Leaf Perambo

Wethers born in 2018 (yearlings) -- 3 entries

1	CFC Sir Clyde	C&C Back Achers Farm, <i>Stafford Springs, CT</i>	Cameron and Chester Falkowski
2	CSM Pepper Jack	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth
3	PHF Toffee	Pine Hill Farm, <i>Stockton, NJ</i>	Declan Kelley

Wethers born in 2017 (two-year-olds) -- 6 entries

1	PHF Caramel	Pine Hill Farm, <i>Stockton, NJ</i>	Declan Kelley
2	CSM Kookies	Dough Haven Farm, <i>Easton, NY</i>	David Delamater & Mary Marchewka
3	CSM Modzi	Dough Haven Farm, <i>Easton, NY</i>	David Delamater & Mary Marchewka

Buck Classes**Bucks born in 2019 (kids) -- 2 entries**

1	PHF Snowball	Pine Hill Farm, <i>Stockton, NJ</i>	Loriann Fell
2	LAC Sage	Scotch Hill Farm, <i>Jackson, NY</i>	Lynn Caponera

Bucks born in 2018 (yearlings) -- 4 entries

1	CSM Valor	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2	CSM Uzimu	Dough Haven Farm, <i>Easton, NY</i>	David Delamater & Mary Marchewka
3	CSM Achikulu	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth

Bucks born in 2017 & 2016 (2 & 3-year-olds) -- 2 entries

1	CSM Wangoli (aka "Night")	C&C Back Achers Farm, <i>Stafford Springs, CT</i>	Cameron and Chester Falkowski
2	CSM Wolimba	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth

Champions:

Grand Champion Doe: CSM Opal, owned by Ella Derbyshire of 4E's Farm, Cambridge, NY

Reserve Champion Doe: CSM Khumbo's Orphan Annie, shown by Sarah Todd for St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY

Grand Champion Wether: CFC Sir Clyde, owned by Cameron and Chester Falkowski of C&C Back Achers Farm, Stafford Springs, CT

Reserve Champion Wether: CSM Pepper Jack, owned by Sister Mary Elizabeth of St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY

Grand Champion Buck: CSM Wangoli (aka "Night"), owned by Cameron and Chester Falkowski of C&C Back Achers Farm, Stafford Springs, CT

Reserve Champion Buck: CSM Wolimba, owned by Sister Mary Elizabeth of St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY

BEST IN SHOW: CSM Opal, owned by Ella Derbyshire of 4E's Farm, Cambridge, NY

Youth Showmanship and Caprine Challenge

Youth have become the strongest component of CGA's Tunbridge Show with eighteen youth from New York, New Jersey, Vermont and Virginia and ranging in age from seven to eighteen participating in Youth Showmanship. Mika Ingerman of Burlington, VT, is the judge for these classes. The group was divided by age into Senior and Junior Showmen with the following results:

Senior Showmen – 8 participants

- 1 Paisley Ashland (18) of Lovettsville, VA, showing SGF Shaanti
- 2 Nate Baker (14) of Easton, NY, showing CSM Lady Isadore
- 3 Eva Sgambettera (16) of Cambridge, NY, showing CSM Kuimba
- 4 Alex Baker (14) of Easton, NY, showing CSM Kachiwiri

Junior Showmen – 9 participants

- 1 Lucy Lovenduski (12) of Easton, NY, showing CSM Kukoma
- 2 Charlotte Collins (10) of Easton, NY, showing CSM Annie's Oakley
- 3 Carson Reynolds (10) of Easton, NY, showing CSM Chimwemwe
- 4 Ella Derbyshire (12) of Cambridge, NY, showing DFF Quartz

Master Showman – Paisley Ashland (18) of Lovettsville, VA

Reserve Master Showman – Eva Sgambettera (16) of Cambridge, VT

The Caprine Challenge obstacle course, intended to show participants' skills in leading their goats over a variety of unexpected challenges, followed – open to youth and adult participants. Fifteen goat handlers made the attempt, including some bystanders who were encouraged to try, too. Loriann Fell of Stockton, NJ, took the First-Place medallion, leading PHF Toffee, Nate Baker took the Second leading CSM Missy, and Paisley Ashland of Lovettsville, VA took Third.



A LITTLE GOAT — LOST IN TUNBRIDGE, VT

LORIANN FELL

Cameron and Chipper Falkowski came to the CGA Cashmere Goat Show at the Sheep & Wool festival in Tunbridge, VT for the first time from their C&C Back Achers Farm in Stafford Springs, CT. They brought six cashmere goats and left with an impressive number of honors, but without one most important member of their family, a young doe named Priscilla, who had become frightened while unloading and run off.

They and others at the show searched the fairgrounds and surrounding area, but without success. The Falkowski family was heartbroken. Cameron remarked at the end of the show just how painful it was for her to be leaving without their little doe.

However, after they had departed and the show concluded, word of the little lost goat spread around the Tunbridge area. Lisa Cilley had heard the word, and she went out looking. She posted the following on Facebook:

Yesterday I had a huge lesson: have patience, trust, love and determination and anything is possible! I had heard several weeks ago that a little white goat had escaped during the Sheep & Wool Festival but there had been very few sightings of it since. After hearing Saturday that it had been seen on the fairgrounds, I decided to start walking around to see if I could find it. My cousin Judy and I searched the entire weekend from the fairgrounds to the Cilley Bridge, on both sides of the river, through every barn, building, etc. etc. How could a little white goat just vanish into thin air?



I drove down late Sunday evening and found it standing at the end of one of the cattle barns, but as soon as I approached it would run around the building and completely vanish. Monday morning, I returned very early only to have the same thing happen again. I decided it had to have a hiding place nearby. After searching and finally finding its hiding spot under the bleachers at the far end of the dairy show ring, I decided the only way I was going to catch this very skittish and terrified goat was to win its trust. There was absolutely no way I was going to trap it in a barn or catch it, as it was scared, fast, and knew every possible escape route! I spent hours slowly inching my way into the show ring, and each time I would move it would bolt to the barns, and I'd have to chase it back to its hiding spot. After about three hours, I had finally made my way within inches of the goat and had it eating grain off the bleachers, but any slight movement or attempt to grab its collar and it would bolt. After one last attempt to grab it, it ran off towards the racehorse barns and vanished into thin air once again. I decided to retreat, try again later, and inform the several people working on the fairgrounds only several feet away from me that I had been there the entire time and they never knew it.

Late afternoon I drove back to the fairgrounds and finally found it near the racehorse barns hiding under a truck. I was determined I was going to catch this little goat, but how? Plan B!! Home I went and loaded my goat Holly into a dog crate in the back of my car. I parked near the truck and opened the back door of my car as Holly was being very loud. My plan was to take my goat out of the car, but I was by myself and my goat had never been away from home, and I had a fear of having two loose goats! The little goat was interested, but every time I moved, it still retreated. I finally decided to move my car closer and when I did, it bolted once again. I thought it wasn't going to work, but to my surprise it did not run and only came closer to my car, hiding on the opposite side from me. After lots of patience, it started peeking around the corner of the car, and then it would see me and retreat. Then it started coming and eating the grain in a dish behind by car. After running off several times, it eventually started eating grain out of the dish in my hand, but I could not budge or it would run off. Judy had arrived back at this point and was quietly watching from the distance. As it was eating, I decided to lunge for its collar and caught it! Success! I picked it up, and immediately it snuggled into my arms as if to say thank you, I give up! She is the absolute cutest little thing and is all tucked warmly in my barn until I can locate her owners.

Priscilla was soon safely back home with the Falkowskis, and Cameron reported at the CGA conference in Ithaca that Lisa Cilley was about to embark on writing a children's book with little lost (and found) goat Priscilla as the heroine.



2019 NWCA / CGA Fleece Competition

Tunbridge, VT

Fortunately, the concessions office at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, allocated to the CGA for our meetings and fleece judging, was warm and cozy. Otherwise, Wendy Pieh, the 2019 judge, might have felt like a popsicle by the end of the day and I, as the assistant, might have started piling all the fleeces in my lap for warmth. We had more than 100 fleeces to evaluate and record, including some from our southern members, some from the Midwest, and some from the west coast. Most were entered in the competition, but some were entered in the new “assessment only” category, which allowed owners to submit a fleece at a reduced price and get an evaluation that, if qualified, could be used to submit a goat for certification in the registry. It was a long day followed by a long morning of judging and recording, but it was satisfying and educational and fun.

Wendy kept a collection of fleece samples from lab test with varying micron values at her side to help her assign approximate micron values to all of the fleeces, and the fleeces were laid out in full to give us a good feel for the yield and uniformity. Only two fleeces failed to meet the NACG standard in the essential elements of MFD, length, and uniformity. Others fell far short of the super-star category, but Wendy was often able to acknowledge that they compensated for their coarser quality or barely qualifying length with high production or gorgeous color or good style. In the afternoon, Cameron and Chipper joined us with their grandson Colin, who helped with sorting and weighing. He also raised questions and ventured opinions, leading me to hope we have a future judge in the making!

My personal favorite fleece came from Jane Hammond in VA. Would you believe she has a fifteen-year-old doe who was originally a rescue, with a lovely fleece? You can see it in the results below.

BUCK FLEECES

Yearlings:	CSM Valor	1 st	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
5 entries	SGF Pepe	2 nd	Springgate Farm
	CSM Uzimu	3 rd	Dough Haven Farm
2-year-olds:	CSM Wangoli	1 st	C&C Back Achers Farm
3 entries	CFC Copper	2 nd	C&C Back Achers Farm
	SGF Billy	3 rd	Springgate Farm
3-year-olds:	CSM Wolimba	1 st	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
2 entries	SGF Stedman	2 nd	Springgate Farm

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK FLEECE: CSM WANGOLI
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BUCK FLEECE: CFC COPPER

DOE FLEECES

Yearlings:	CSM Bonnie Blue	1 st	C&C Back Achers Farm
22 entries	CSM Kukoma	2 nd	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
	STC Zena	3 rd	Boondoggle Farm
	CPRC Kadya	4 th	Caprette Cashmere
2-year-old does:	CPRC Jana	1 st	Caprette Cashmere
6 entries	HBF Jovi	2 nd	Hidden Brook Farm
	CSM Copper Penny	3 rd	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
3-year-olds:	NORH Bubbles	1 st	Nordic Horn
15 entries	SGF Snow White	2 nd	Springgate Farm
	FXMF Purr	3 rd	Nordic Horn
4-year-olds:	CSM Opal	1 st	4 E's Farm
7 entries	CSM Princess Diana	2 nd	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
	CSM Kudala	3 rd	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
5-year-olds:	CSM Thanzi	1 st	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
2 entries	CSM Rye	2 nd	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
6-year-olds:	CSM Kachiwiri	1 st	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
3 entries	CSM Mtuka	2 nd	Flax Mill Creek Farm
	CRC Sal	3 rd	East Meets West Family Farm
Senior does:	X003 Oprah	1 st	Springgate Farm
3 entries	SGF Ceci	2 nd	Springgate Farm
	SGF Marguerite	3 rd	Springgate Farm

GRAND CHAMPION DOE FLEECE: CSM THANZI**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION DOE FLEECE: X003 OPRAH**WETHER FLEECES

Yearlings:	CSM Pepper Jack	1 st	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
4 entries	CFC Sir Clyde	2 nd	C&C Back Achers Farm
2-year-olds:	PHF2 Caramel	1 st	Pine Hill Farm
8 entries	CSM Kookies	2 nd	Dough Haven Farm
3 & 4-year-olds:	CSM Sir Galahad	1 st	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere
5 entries	CSM Sir Elyan	2 nd	St. Mary's On-the-Hill Cashmere

GRAND CHAMPION WETHER FLEECE: CSM SIR GALAHAD**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION WETHER FLEECE: CSM SIR ELYAN****BEST IN FLEECE SHOW: CSM WANGOLI**



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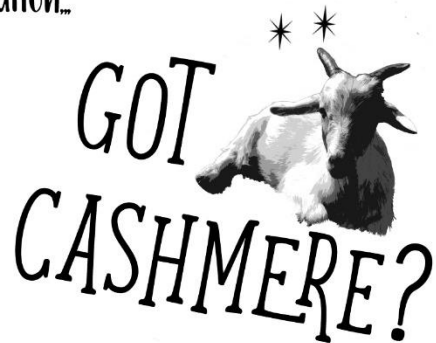


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Editor's notes on Deworming

Pam Haendle et al

Deworming is such a challenging topic! JoAnne's article on page 10 of this issue offers some welcome hopeful words from her personal experience as well as some notes on advice she has received from vets near her farm in Georgia. As she mentions in her article, farms in her area must deal with the extra stress that heat brings to their herds. In my soggy corner of New York State, I know that the muddy pastures present an extra challenge to parasite control (as well as to the hoof health of my goats). Many of us deal with deer making themselves at home in our pastures (threatening the spread of meningeal worms); some of us have other animals that help control parasite populations.

Tatiana Stanton offered a workshop on some of the latest research on deworming techniques at the Small Ruminant Conference this November, and she acknowledged at the outset that research is ongoing and that the battle against wormer resistance is a daunting challenge. Some studies have shown that using two wormers improves outcomes in the region; others have raised concerns about increasing resistance in their region. Graduate students will surely have grist for dissertations for decades to come!

So what is the humble goat owner to do? Read, consult, experiment – exactly as JoAnne did – until you find what works for you. Her news of a deworming approach that produced perfect FAMACHA readings is exciting indeed, even though the cost at present is significant. The editors of Hoofprints will continue to support the battle against parasites with more information and more ideas in the coming issues.

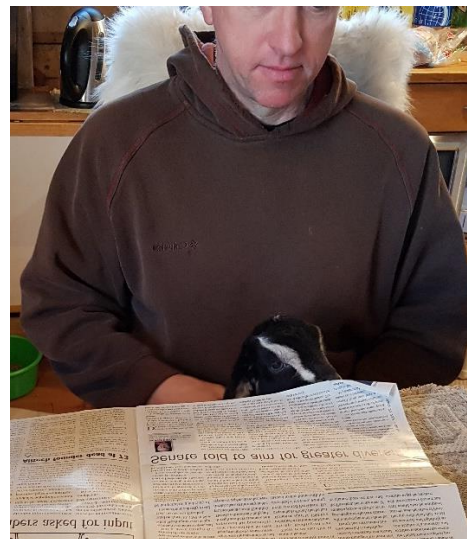
As a starting point, we can recommend fecal floats to anyone who is unsure about the worms they are dealing with. Happily, most vets can do this for us at a reasonable cost. Dosage protocols also change over the years and according to individual circumstances, so all of us will need to be diligent with following up on egg counts and in consulting with our vets. They should know the finer points of each de-wormer out there and will also have thoughts on the influence of nutrition, genetics, and pasture management.

The more I write, the more overwhelmed I feel, and that's no good. How about this: Hoofprints will continue to bring you tales of success and failure from our members, as well as advice from experts in different areas. Meanwhile, here are a couple of links for your own research. The first is from Canada.

https://www.uoguelph.ca/~pmenzies/Handbook_Home.html

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9055.pdf>

And in case you are feeling discouraged, here is a picture of a happy kid helping Phil Smith keep up with the news. This is the reason we do this.



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.

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

Payment for membership can be made via PayPal or you may mail a check, made payable to Cashmere Goat Association or CGA, to the Treasurer at the address below.

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