

September 2021 Volume 30, Issue 2

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.



EDITORIAL STAFF

- Emily Clark (Weesner) emilyweesner@gmail.com
- Pam Haendle hermitpond@gmail.com
- Loriann Fell lafell@aol.com
- Michael Weesner mws801@yahoo.com

WENDY PIEH
President of CGA



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

Here it is September already. I'm looking forward to fall weather and especially breeding season. Looking at bucks and does I work to tailor the breeding to their strengths. Fiber plays a huge role as I have had to work very hard to get some bucks who hold the quality of their fiber over time. Last year I used one of these bucks for all the breeding (well, with one mishap that led to a lovely buckling). I can't wait to get a look at the fiber from these doelings and bucklings!

With the surge in the pandemic, it has been hard to plan for the fall events. The show in Tunbridge, Vermont, has been where we have held our annual fleece competition and annual meeting. They have cancelled this show, and it has taken us until our Board meeting last night to make a plan for the show that we think can work. The Sheep and Wool Festival, held October 16th and 17th in Rhinebeck, New York, has graciously allowed us to have our fleece competition there on October 15th. So send in your fleeces now!!! It's a great way to get your fleece evaluated even if you don't want to have them in the competition. Squish all of the air out of them to take up less space and send them to Pam Haendle. Contact Pam at hermitpond@gmail.com for the address to send them and how to best prepare them.

Also, CGA has a booth at the festival, which is open to anyone who would like to send in cashmere products to sell. You don't need to be a member to participate, and there is a 20% commission to assist CGA in covering festival costs. It's a good way to get some advertising for yourselves and your goats. It's also an amazing celebration of all things fiber in case you might think of attending. Come Friday for the fleece show!!! Contact Elyse Perambo at eastmeetswestfamilyfarm@gmail.com for more information.

We are working to get a judge's clinic together. If you have any interest in becoming a CGA judge, let me know. My email is wpieh@tidewater.net.

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WENDY PIEH
President of CGA



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2...

Calendars for 2022 are getting ready for production, so get in your favorite photos, just in case they make it into the publication. Contact Danielle Fowler at danielle.m.fowler@gmail.com for more information and to learn about all our social media opportunities.

We of course always are looking for more members who would like to be a part of the Cashmere Goat Association. We are also looking for more Board members! You don't have to own goats to participate, and we would welcome new input. Contact Christine McBrearty-Hulse at mcbrearty3@yahoo.com for more information.

Last, but certainly not least, for the first time in nineteen years, we have made some proposed changes to the CGA By Laws. These have gone through a lengthy process, and the Board has voted unanimously to approve them. However, we need a TWO THIRDS positive vote from the membership for them to pass. Please take a few minutes to review them when they arrive and vote right away. Thank you.

Best to you all,

Wendy Pieh

WENDY PIEH IS JUDGING FLEECE!

Learn more about your fleeces!

Send them to Wendy for full fleece evaluations. The cost is \$5, and any goats that are eligible for registration can be registered for free on the CGA







CURRIED GOAT By: Wendy Pieh



Instructions

Marinate the meat from 12 to 24 hours in the wine; be sure the meat is well covered with liquid

Drain the meat, discarding the wine

Add flour to the meat and make sure it is all coated by flour

Remove meat, discard extra flour, and sauté quickly in the heated olive oil

Cut onion, carrots, and celery into bite sized pieces and add to mix

Add broth, garlic, curry powder, and thyme

Simmer for at least three hours, as low a heat as you can, the longer the better

Add cream and juice just before serving

Notes

This recipe is gathered from a variety of others. Enjoy it, add, subtract, and don't take any one amount too seriously. I tend to toss stuff in and wonder how much it was later. Adjust it to your taste. The most serious aspects are marinating for a long time and simmering for a long time. And, of course, make the curry the way you like it best. By day three it is pretty much irresistible, although Peter (my husband) rarely lets it get that far. Enjoy!

One thing that makes goat meat so good for you is that its fat is peripheral and trimmed off in butchering. In lamb and beef the fat is marbled through the meat. Having peripheral fat means that the tenderness has to be brought to the meat through marinating and cooking.

Ingredients

Chunked goat meat, about two pounds

Bottle of red, preferably cheap, although expensive will work equally well, wine

One to two cups flour

One-cup excellent olive oil

Two large onions

Six good-sized carrots

One bunch of celery

Three to six cups broth of your choice (less broth, thicker stew)

As much crushed garlic as you can stand

Curry powder to taste, usually at least three tablespoons

One-teaspoon thyme

Salt and pepper to taste

About one half cup tangerine or orange juice

One half to one-pint heavy cream





CGA ON FACEBOOK!

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

Join us on facebook by clicking **HERE**

You can purchase CGA merchandise by clicking **HERE**

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

DO YOU FOLLOW THE CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA? - CHECK US OUT!



www.facebook.com/cashmeregoatassociation



https://www.instagram.com/cashmeregoatassociation



https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCa7VIcTEEeWQelJYLBtVmhw

PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSIONS — TAKING A HIKE

Talking cashmere goats to get the mail. Photo credit: Kristina Murphy

Hiking Mt. Terry in Australia. Photo credit: Kim Halley

Practicing for fair.
Photo credit: Emily
Weesner Clark

Learning what a leash is. Photo credit: Emily Weesner Clark

Creek adventures.
Photo credit:
Danielle Fowler

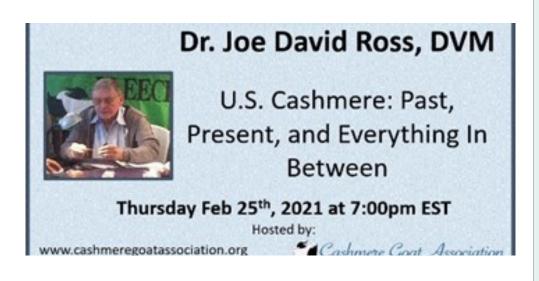












EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

Our 5 most recent educational cashmere webinars can be found on our YouTube page or the "Education" tab of our website www.CashmereGoatAssociation.org











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

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

DATABASE NEWS

A small but important improvement to the CGA database is in progress. Many local shows at county fairs and 4-H fairs require that every goat entered have a certificate proving that they are recorded in an official database. The CGA database and registry currently produces certificates only for registered goats, and since CGA has required that any candidate for registry have a fleece evaluated to show that the goat meets the North American Cashmere Goat standard for fleece quality, registry has not been an option for kids. The enhancement now in the hands of our developers will allow a new type of certificate to be produced – one that simply proves the goat's identifying information is recorded on our database.

When the changes to the database are complete, all new goats added to the database will be marked with the status "Enrolled, pending registration", unless the goat is added specifically as a "Pedigree" entry. It will be possible for the goat owners to retrieve a certificate of enrollment for a goat with this status. Once a goat is old enough to produce a fleece for evaluation, owners should have the fleece assessed and enter the evaluation data into the database so that the goat can be considered for the registry.

We have asked the developers to complete the change in time for the fall show season. CGA members who need a certificate prior to the completion of the new feature can contact Pam at hermit-pond@gmail.com for a stop-gap manual solution.



GOAT SELECTION AND THE CGA STANDARDS BY: WEESNER'S BITTERSWEET FARM

For Cashmere goat breeders, there is one goal that rises above all others – production of quality cashmere fiber, and lots of it. Other uses, like meat and milk can also be significant, but it is their fiber that separates Cashmere goats from all others. Selecting goats that yield large volumes of quality cashmere fiber over the course of a productive lifetime should be the primary goal of the serious breeders.

The body conformation standards established by CGA describe several physical characteristics that help maximize the productivity and longevity of goats. Goats selected for proper feet, shoulder, and pelvis structure will likely produce more fiber and offspring in their lifetime than goats selected for their cute markings or for sentimental reasons.

One physical trait that is not addressed in the CGA standards is overall size. Currently, we have a mixture of small, medium, and large framed goats in our herd. In general, we have found that larger goats produce more fiber annually compared to their smaller framed counterparts. However, the larger goats also eat more, produce more waste products, and take up more space. It's not clear if the extra cashmere from the larger goats offsets the additional feed and space requirements.

The other important selection factor for cashmere goats is quality of cashmere fiber that a goat produces. The CGA has established objective standards that a goat's fiber must meet before the goat can be registered. This is to assure that American produced cashmere is sufficiently thin, long, and crimpy. Selecting for each of these characteristics is not as simple as one would hope, as they are not independent from each other. For example, selecting only for low fiber diameter will likely result in an overabundance of short fibers. Similarly, selecting only for long fibers leads to fibers lacking the desired amount of crimp. Consequently, all three factors need to be balanced against each other when selecting new or replacement goats for your farm.

Once a herd is producing fiber that meets all of CGA's standards, then the amount of cashmere each goat produces becomes important. Since cashmere fiber is typically sold by weight, goats that produce more fiber will ultimately be more profitable. Determining the weight of each goat's fiber production can be tedious, but is the best way to determine which goats are the most profitable.

In addition to the CGA standards, there are other factors that some breeders may wish to consider during their goat selection process. Perhaps some of these will be presented in a future article.

CGA CALENDARS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

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

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

The CGA website has been updated with a link so that calendars can be ordered online by clicking *HERE*.

Or you can send \$15 via check to:

Elyse Perambo 112 Coy Road Richford, VT 05476



Would you like to feature your farm in the upcoming CGA fundraising calendar?



A full ad is 2.5" wide x 7.75" high and will cost \$25 (per month)

A half ad is 2.5" wide x 3.75" high and will cost \$18 (per month)





Ads must be a minimum of 300dpi.

If you need help formatting an ad for your farm or want to submit a completed ad, email Danielle Fowler at yippeefarmsct@gmail.com by Sept 30th

CASHMERE CRAFT CORNER

Looking for a fun project with leftover cashmere?
Sara Shackleton from Grimross Farm in NB Canada felted this cashmere goat from leftover fiber onto a recycled cashmere sweater. Gorgeous! Please share your cashmere fiber projects to our social media pages or to Danielle at Danielle.m.fowler@gmail.com





CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION JUNIOR AMBASSADORS!

Does your child want to be a CGA Junior Ambassador?

Children under 18 make short educational videos about the cashmere goat

Examples: how to care for them, how to harvest fiber, what's in your kidding kit, how to evaluate fiber, how to dehair cashmere, how to use a drop spindle, how to trim hooves, etc

Parents or legal guardians share the video on the CGA Facebook page

We mail all participants a gorgeous ribbon and title of "CGA Junior Ambassador"

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

JUNIOR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We have exciting news! Announcing our CGA Junior Ambassador Program! Parents or guardians of children 18 or under: send us a short video about cashmere goats, their care, or their products, and we will mail you one of these GORGEOUS ribbons! You will also earn the title of CGA Junior Ambassador! Ouestions? Ask here or private message the Facebook page. Can't wait to see your videos!

JUNIOR AMBASSADORS!









Welcome to our New Members

Angela Mercer from Danville, IN
Jessica Mattaliano from Louisa, VA
Erica Reck from Lovettsville, VA
Karesa Charles from Surgoinsville, TE





MYERS FAMILY FARM

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Breeding stock & semen straws available from New Zealand & Australian genetics.

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Come stay with us on the farm! Airbnb: Myers Country Get-Away







GOODBYE BUTTERCUP-AN ELEGY FOR ALL OUR OLD GOATS BY: ANN TAYLOR

Today I had to say goodbye to Buttercup aka Grandma Goat. Buttercup came to me with her daughter, Chicory from my friend, Yvonne. Yvonne raised some of the finest cashmere goats in this country. When Yvonne was in her late seventies, her kids - her grown children that is, were urging her to downsize the herd - about 60 does and wethers and 20 bucks. Yvonne worked hard to find good homes for all her goats. I wasn't in the market to buy any goats - I had enough in my little herd, but one day when I was visiting, Yvonne persuaded me to walk out in the field to look at some of the mother-daughter duos that she was selling. It was a lovely breezy, sunny Maine day in July for a walk in the meadow with the goats. And there were the two mother daughter duos. Both daughters were black long guard hair goats. Chicory had won first in her yearling doe class the fall before, but her mom, Buttercup was the one I fell in love with. She was a silver, short guard hair small doe with a lovely face. I was persuaded, and bought the two, the mother daughter duo. Buttercup was a bit smaller, a studier and squarer build than my goats, and she had a steady," I know what to do" personality.

Buttercup easily found her place in my herd. She wasn't the boss, and she did little bossing. She quickly learned what the routine in my barn was, what the dogs did, where to go for good stuff- cut brush, corn husks, banana peels and how to get along with the chickens and ducks. She didn't put up with any nonsense from anyone else but she could also share the treats.

Buttercup also had another distinction. She had only one ear. When she was a new mom she brought her kids out of the barn at 2 days old for the first time. Yvonne had gotten a new guard dog a few months before. Guard dogs are dogs that live with the herd and protect them from predators - coyotes and dogs mostly. Guard dogs don't herd and don't interact with humans much. This guard dog came over to meet the new kids as he should. But, Buttercup butted at the dog to go away; the dog bit and tore Buttercup's ear in the scuffle. The vet trimmed off the ear and Buttercup recovered just fine - from then on a one-eared goat. It was the end of that guard's dog's career. You just can't have a dog that will go after an animal he is supposed to be protecting.

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GOODBYE BUTTERCUP-AN ELEGY FOR ALL OUR OLD GOATS BY: ANN TAYLOR

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However, we have had lots of fun with our one eared goat. Most people don't realize she is one eared as with her horns she looks balanced. She even made the 2021 cashmere goat calendar although not the centerfold. We don't always tell visitors that she has only one ear, and occasionally someone will exclaim, "That goat only has one ear!" To which we answer, "What? She had two this morning!" and after letting the visitor panic, we tell Buttercup's story.

My grandchildren know she has only one ear, but seem to see it as normal, the way Uncle Stanley is blind. That is just how they are. One spring we did get a different perspective. Butter cup had just given birth to a single kid - a pretty little doe that I named Stevia. When my then three-year-old grandson came to see the kid, he exclaimed, "She has two ears! Grandma, she has two ears! " Ah, well, Buttercup is just unique.

Buttercup gave us some excellent kids - goats that won their classes, or did well in fiber contests. She was an excellent mom and grand mom. She raised some great kids, and helped her daughters raise their kids. This spring she was helping Stevia, her daughter, raise Stevia's twin daughters. However, Buttercup had been aging - she hasn't been well the last couple years, had lost weight, and didn't not grow her usual good winter cashmere coat. She was 12 years old this spring. She didn't always want to get up and out in the mornings and was failing this past two months. While we were recently on vacation, the farm sitter had an upsetting time with Buttercup. So two days ago when Buttercup could not get up, I just could not see her suffer anymore and called the vet to put her down. Then I took her body over to my friend, Bud, who runs a farm to compost her. She will go back to the earth to continue the cycle of life. And now whenever I see buttercups, the flowers growing in the meadow or beside the road, I will remember Buttercup, the good steady, old goat.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION FOR CGA'S JUDGING

Christine McBrearty-Hulse, CGA Secretary

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

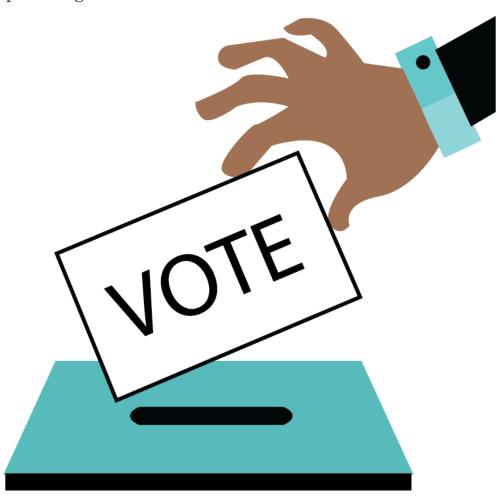
A committee of active judges are being asked by CGA to work through the details of what an effective training program for future judges, with a working guidebook, would look like. Training clinics will be offered via Zoom for those who are interested in becoming a judge in the future or for those who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

- North American Cashmere Goat Breed Standard
- ♦ Goat Structure and Conformation.
- ♦ Fiber Judging
- ♦ Goat Anatomy: major faults/strengths
- ♦ Shows & rules: comparative terms for reasons, unified show card, ethical behavior of judges, importance of accurate reasons, giving accurate reasons Stay tuned for more information regarding future clinics for the 2021 year!



NEED YOUR VOTE FOR BYLAWS CHANGES!

The bylaws have not been updated since 1992. They are very outdated and need to be updated so that CGA can get their 501c3 nonprofit status reinstated by the IRS. The 501(c)3 was let to lapse by a previous treasurer by mistake and Elyse Perambo, our current treasurer, has been working with 2 different lawyers and the IRS for almost 2 years now to get it reinstated. Updating the bylaws is the last piece we need done in order to get our reinstatement. Lastly, we need 2/3 of the membership to vote on this update. PLEASE take the time to vote for the updated bylaws so CGA can once again be a nonprofit organization.



SUMMARY OF BYLAW CHANGES

- 1. Changed all references of ECA to CGA
- 2. Changed all references of CGA as a Corporation to an association.
- 3. Any reference to things needing to be mailed were changed to allow electronic communications also.
- 4. Eliminated the Code of Standards upon advice of lawyer reviewing it for compliance to VT laws.
- 5. Added Mission statement & this provision upon lawyer recommendation "T he Association is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future tax code."
- 6. 1.2 Memberships-eliminated sustaining memberships
- 1.3 Added "Membership applications not accompanied with said fees will not be considered until payment in full is made"
- 8. 1.4 Added "The BOD has full authority to move or amend this date as necessary without notice to or approval from the general membership." Because lately we've extended this cutoff date.
- 9. 1.5 Completely changed & simplified. Eliminated prorating language since we were not doing this.
- 10. 1.6. Logo Usage- Moved & retitled this section from section 5.3 Official Stationary in 1992 original by-
- 11. 1.7 Advice from lawyer is to add a resignation provision
- 12. 1.8 Advice from lawyer is to add a termination provision
- 13. 2.2 Changed Voting at Annual Meetings to "Voting"
- 14. Throughout the document eliminated all reference to having to mail anything, added that voting & meetings may be done by electronic means.
- 15. 2.2.b Advice from lawyer is to add this section referring to the Vermont Nonprofit Corporations Act.
- 16. 2.3 Referendums & Surveys- substituted the word designated. In this sentence "shall <u>be</u> provided to help members"
- 17. 1.10 In 1992 bylaws was eliminated

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SUMMARY OF BYLAW CHANGES

Continued from page 18...

- 18. Moved sections around from this point on for better cohesive description of the organization. The executive committee powers was retitled to more accurately describe the section, then it goes into the Board of directors, then the executive committee, description of terms and officers' duties.
- 19. 3.2.b.2 Term of Office for Directors- new addition clearly delineating a Director's term is 2 years and that they may serve successive terms with no limit to the number of terms.
- 20. 3.3. Regular Board of Directors meetings- this entire section is new to the bylaws but is just clearly delineating the practices that the board of directors have been operating under for many years.
- 21. 3.8 Financially Disinterest Majority- Advice from Lawyer to add this section verbatim.
- 22. 3.10 Contracted Services- This was 4.4 in the 1992 bylaws. This was changed from a complete prohibition to allowance with a unanimous vote from the board of directors.
- 23. 3.10.a Changed allowing others to attend the meeting instead of having it be only at the invitation of president and approval of the BOD members, but clarifying they could not vote unless they are BOD
- 24. 4.4.a New addition- the VP shall assist the President in any and all duties that may require additional assistance
- 25. 4.5 Secretary- more clearly defined duties into tasks by breaking the paragraph into numbered tasks.
- 26. 4.6.c Changed to simply mandating a treasurer's report in the annual meeting.
- 27. 1992 Original bylaws- 5.2 Periodic Reports- ability to spend \$500 without getting board approval- this point was a part of the exec board description, we dropped this out of the bylaws because research and advice from the lawyers was that this does not belong in bylaws. This has been made into a Board Resolution document, which will be the mode for how the board now delineates specific measures of operation. These resolutions are more easily changed and managed instead of having them be a permanent part of the bylaws that cannot be changed easily.
- 28. 4.6.d Added that the treasurer's responsibility is to keep the 501c3 status active.
- 29. 4.3.a.3 In 1992 original bylaws in president's description to add an agenda item to the meetings. This section was moved and completely changed and simplified. It was a very elaborate convoluted process of mailings and approvals prior. Now it says anyone can propose a new agenda item in the new business section of the meeting. If board agrees to add it, then it can be discussed at that meeting and future meetings.

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SUMMARY OF BYLAW CHANGES

Continued from page 19...

- 30. 5.2 Standing Committee- clarified who this committee can be made up of
- 31. 5.3 Ad Hoc Committee- clarified who this committee can be made up of.
- 32. 6.1 Amendment of Bylaws- we changed this from being 2/3 majority of membership to a simple majority of membership. This was done because advice was that making it a super majority (2/3) makes it very difficult to get the amended bylaws passed. We experienced this a few months ago when we put the amended bylaws out for a membership vote but were not able to get it passed. We now feel that changing this to a simple majority will greatly benefit future boards that run CGA.
- 33. Section VII Indemnification- added at the advice of the lawyer.
- 34. Section VIII Fiscal Year- added at the advice of the lawyer.
- 35. Section IX Contracts Checks, Deposits & Gifts- added at the advice of the lawyer
- 36. Section X Dissolution- added at the advice of the lawyer
- 37. Adopted & certified date and signature lines- added at the advice of the lawyer.



GOAT'S MILK YOGURT By: Dough Haven Farm LLC

Instructions

In a stainless steel pot bring the milk to a temperature of 72-76 degree F

Sprinkle 1/8 teaspoon of a Mesophile culture & 1/8 teaspoon of yogurt starter Bacillus bulgaricus over the top. Let it moisten for 15 minutes.

Whisk the powders in, cover and set in a draft-free area for 12-24 hours.

Then use cheesecloth to strain out whey 6-8 hours or to desired thickness. Scrape into a bowl & whisk out lumps and make a creamy texture. Refrigerate for best results.

Notes

Super simple Goat yogurt

We try to simplify & perfect our recipes & this yogurt recipe is quicker & super easy. We use a half gallon of unpasteurized Cashmere goat's milk to make this recipe.

Ingredients

1/2 gallon of unpasteurized goat's milk

1/8 teaspoon of yogurt starter Bacilllus bulgaricus

1/8 teaspoon of Mesophile culture



If this issue of Hoofprints had come out in August, this page would have been filled with news of a biannual fleece competition in conjunction with the live goat show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT. Alas, Covid 19 struck again – and the festival in Tunbridge was cancelled. Sadly, this meant CGA is unable to hold a live cashmere goat show in 2021, but the Board of Directors was determined to find a way for the fleece competition to go on.

Thus, the CGA will be joining forces with the Northwest Cashmere Association for the fifth year to hold a national fleece competition in October. The joint competition for 2021 will be held at the New York State Sheep & Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, New York. We are making use of the barn in which alpacas, llamas, and fiber goats will be exhibited during the festival, but we will be there on Friday before the animals arrive. Wendy Pieh from Bremen, Maine will be judging the fleeces. Observers and assistants are welcome!

An entry form is available on the CGA website. (Look under "Shows" in the main menu and choose "Annual Fleece Competition" or use: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1M9KRY-TzzbvSPYo-kVpFvDzcvo5YxSFN8vyR_vo2UaU/edit) We are also again offering the popular option of fleece assessment without competition. 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.

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 (consistency), 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.

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Please consider sending in your fleeces! Wendy's offer to assess non-competition fleeces for only \$5 (which goes to CGA) is a great deal. For a very low fee, more of your high-quality animals can be added to our database and registry, and even if by chance your Esmerelda or Ambrose doesn't make the grade for the registry, you will have reliable information in your hands to help with breeding decisions. And if you would like to see how your best goats stand up against others, it costs only \$10 for fleeces to be entered in the competition. Entry fees even include return postage!

All fleeces for the competition and assessment must be delivered in advance to the fleece competition chairman. Alas, we can't accept fleeces that arrive unheralded during the Rhinebeck festival 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 2021 harvest.
- 3. Fleeces should not be dehaired or washed.
- 4. Fleeces may be combed or shorn.

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- 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:

Owner Name

Goat's Herd code and name

Goat's sex and year of birth

- 8. Unless you will be present in Rhinebeck to collect the fleeces after the judging, 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. Please complete an entry form for every fleece to be entered, keeping track of the number of goats entered as you proceed. After all your entries have been completed, you may go to the Pay Now page under the Membership menu. 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 fleece competition is \$10. The fee for each entry for fleece assessment only (no competition) is \$5. Part of the fee covers the postage for returned fleeces.

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The fee for each entry in the fleece competition is \$10. The fee for each entry for fleece assessment only (no competition) is \$5. Part of the fee covers the postage for returned fleeces.

If you run into problems with the form or making the payment, please contact Pam at hermitpond@gmail.com with all of the required information so that the entries can be made for you. You will note that the form is much shorter this year. We eliminated all the goat descriptive data on the form, so that no one will have to enter the information on both this form and in the database interface. However, you absolutely DO have to enter that information once! Unless the goat is already on the database, please use the Add New Goat as Registry Candidate function on https://www.cashmeregoatassociation.info to enter data on the goat's date of birth, color, pedigree, etc. (See https://cashmeregoatassociation.org/post/ docs/Registration Process2020.pdf for details on the steps one takes to register a goat.) If the goat has been added to the database prior to October 15th, and if Wendy and I have help setting up the fleeces for assessment, I will try to enter the evaluation data for goats entered in the fleece competition and fleece assessment.

Please make sure that the forms are submitted and that the fleeces are in the mail by September 30th.

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.

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 the three ways in which owners can submit a candidate for registration to the CGA Database and Registry. 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.