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Message from the President

Every time I write this note to everyone, I keep saying that the database is almost done. Well, thanks to hard work, particularly by Pam Haendle and Maryanne Reynolds, it really is almost done! There are even 91 registered goats in the database now, with more on their way.

This seems to be a year to acknowledge very special people.

Paul Johnson passed away as written up in the last issue of Hoofprints. He and Linda Fox, owners of Goat Knoll Farm in Oregon, have made amazing contributions to the success of cashmere goats in this country. We send Linda our love and hope she will keep Goat Knoll going.

I recently learned that Wes Ackley is suffering from advanced Alzheimer's disease. He and Marilyn Ackley focused on growing incredible quality cashmere and set an example for all of us as we worked to develop our own herds. Marilyn was the president of the Eastern Cashmere Association for many years, and they were both instrumental in the success of many farms.

Although many of us refuse to accept it, Joe David Ross has retired from judging. If you ever had a chance to be at one of his shows, you know he would tell stories in his west Texas drawl, and he had an eye that

never missed in judging fiber and conformation. We hope he comes back, just one more time.

And Yvonne Taylor has received her very own Lady Graybeard

Award! More later in this issue.

We engaged Gail Hupper, an attorney licensed to practice in Massachusetts and New York, to review the CGA's activities to better ensure our compliance with IRS laws governing tax-exempt organizations. Gail's advice was that if we wished to remain a charitable association in good standing we add members to the board who are not Cashmere goat farmers, expand our membership

in the same way, and emphasize our educational and nonprofit purposes in the Rhinebeck booth. Furthermore, board members who sell their own farm products at Rhinebeck and other fairs need to be cognizant of conflicts of interest if they are at the same time representing the CGA. The board decided that we would keep an open mind and take this year to

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Fall / Winter 2016

consider whether the CGA ought to remain a 501c(3) corporation or consider becoming a producers' organization. Please share your thoughts with us.

NWCA hosted the annual fleece show this year, and CGA members sent in quite a few fleeces. Next year CGA will be the host. A special thanks to Linda Fox for judging the show.

We were very lucky to have Heide Krause from northern British Columbia as the judge at the show

in Tunbridge, Vermont. She was delightful and did a very thorough and excellent job.

And, under the energetic direction of our secretary Christine McBrearty-Hulse, there is a Cashmere goat workshop being planned in conjunction with Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. That will be next November. Stay tuned!

Best to all of you,

WENDY



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More information to come !

ANNE AND ROY REPASKE'S RETIREMENT ADVENTURE

By Anne Repaske

It all happened because my husband, Roy, felt he was a deprived child. He yearned for a set of Lincoln Logs. But all he ever got for Christmas were a shirt and socks. So, when we saw an advertisement for a log house, we went to look at it. We saw a derelict log cabin on remnants of a farm overrun with Locust and Ailanthus trees and Honeysuckle vines. It was just what Roy wanted. Every weekend we went to work on the place, slept in tents (one was for company), cleared space for a driveway, built a bridge to cross the trout stream running through the property, and restored the cabin.



The log cabin

We went there most weekends for fifteen years. Even had dinner parties out there; it was a 2-hour drive from our home in Kensington. We built a large pond and people could go swimming or canoeing.

We seemed to be the first city people to come out here and the locals were exceptionally friendly and helpful.



Anne and Roy

Then we retired. Roy had been a Molecular Biologist at NIH and I was a microbiologist. We decided to live on our farm for good. We found someone to build our house and a barn and some loafing sheds. Of course, no one could work during hunting season. We fenced and cross-fenced the pastures that we had cleared and I was in charge of seeding the entire place.

In the meantime, we were busy deciding what kind of livestock we wanted to raise. We came upon cashmere goats and thought it would be fun to go with a new industry in America. I corresponded with Joe David Ross and Lydia Ratcliff; we went to ECA (now CGA) meetings and visited the Pendergrasts who were the first to have cashmere goats here in Virginia.

Then we went to our first ECA show at the Southeastern Animal Fiber Festival in North Carolina. There I met Yvonne Taylor, who was sitting in the stands shivering. She thought it would be hot in the south, but I took pity on her and brought her an extra jacket I had in the car. We met Lydia Ratcliff who convinced us to buy LLC CC35 Beethoven, who was Best in Show. Might as well start with the best. We also bought goats from Becky Wright and the Pendergrasts. We started with two bucks and three does bred to three different bucks. After that we never introduced any other blood lines into our herd.

Roy and I and the animals thrived. We went to workshops at Virginia State University which had a strong Department of Goat Husbandry. We ordered a microscope so we could do our own fecal counts. The microscope was stolen from our mailbox. I am sure the thief was surprised when he opened the box. We went to look for it in some pawn shops but did not find it. The seller sent us another one. We bought a truck and trailer. We went to Summer Festivals and Fiber Festivals with our goats to show and sell them. We sold yarn and roving. We sponsored workshops at various Cashmere goat farms where Roy taught the art of evaluating the fleece and I talked about diseases and parasite control.



The barn and their beautiful goats

Now we had 40 breeding does, 13 bucks and 38 kids. We built another barn some distance from our house. It was hard to find a level spot because the farm is on the side of Paddy Mountain. Sometimes, when it snowed, we had to go to the

West barn on snowshoes. Yes, we do occasionally have a blizzard here in Virginia.

We were in our upper 70s by then and Roy hired a farmhand once a week to do some of the heavy work with him. Terry Sim, the Australian Cashmere goat expert, came to our farm twice with a portable head holder and evaluated, sheared and hoof-trimmed all the goats. We went to an ECA show in Rhinebeck, NY and someone asked Roy to be Ring Steward. He was 80 years old. The Ring Stewart is in the ring at all times to help anyone who cannot control their animals. Roy was ECA president for several years.

Then, quite suddenly, Roy passed away from complications of cancer. He went over the mountain one last time in the funeral procession with people standing along the way with their hats off and their hands on their hearts. Very old fashioned but very touching. We buried him in Star Tannery. The people from the local church prepared a wonderful meal for all. Roy's colleagues from NIH were amazed.

So, I found myself alone on our 42 Acres. George Washington National Forest on one side and the nearest neighbor a mile away. One by one men from the community came by to see how I was doing and offering their help. Twenty of them. I have their names on my refrigerator.

I asked our once-a-week farm helper to come every day for an hour or two. She lived near by and she agreed. She was a great help feeding, giving medication, trimming hooves and combing. After about three years, her husband retired and they moved away. I could not find a replacement. I was 83 years old. I knew I could not properly care for all those goats by myself. Thirteen bucks! The only solution was to reduce the size of my herd. I sold them, keeping seven does and two bucks for myself.

One night in the winter with snow and ice on the ground, I suddenly heard heart-wrenching, shrill screaming coming from the barn. I was about to run out to see what was happening. But I thought

better of it. The barn is on a hill, and climbing up there in the night, certainly I would fall on the ice and snow or be attacked myself. We didn't need two of us dead. When the screaming finally stopped at 2:00 AM, I knew she was dead and at peace.

In the morning I decided to eat my breakfast and then deal with the barn. But I could see the goats from my breakfast table. I could see that Vesper and Minstrel and Blacky and ... were all fine, grazing on the hillside. What had happened? The barn was clean. No blood. I could not believe it, but then I remembered that the bobcat utters its piercing scream most often during breeding season. And it was breeding season. A bobcat that was looking for love kept me up half the night.

I am 92 years old now. Still drive my car and do my own shopping, mostly from Amazon. I have continued our treks to Shenandoah University where we played Renaissance and Baroque music on recorders in a group with an instructor. I was president of the Star Tannery Fire Department Auxiliary for many years. I have Blossom, my Golden Retriever and Tommy, my barn cat, to keep me company.

Now I have only four goats left. They are friendly and easy to take care of. I have some standby friends who will step in if I am sick. I also have other friends who run a goat rescue service, so I will know that my goats will have a good home if I am not able to take care of them anymore.

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ASK THE PROFESSOR

Dear Professor Hircus,

I am a brand new farmer with lots of questions.

I just purchased a small herd of cashmere goats – four does and a four-month-old buckling. They have six acres of fenced pasture filled with native grasses, weeds, burdock, kudzu and wild rose. The entire area is bordered by maple, ash, beech and oak trees, so when leaves fall in autumn the goats can vacuum them up.

My partner built a wind shelter inside the pasture. At sundown we bring the goats into a creaky old barn where they get hay and water.

I hope you will humor me by answering the following three questions:

First, do I need to feed my goats grain on top of grass and hay? If so, what kind? How much? What about supplements such as flaxseed, rice bran or baking soda?

Second, it gets pretty cold where I live – minus 20 degrees and colder in winter is possible. Should I put coats on my animals? Should I keep them in the barn during the coldest days? Or should they go out to the pasture, without jackets, regardless of the weather?

Finally, the buckling will have to be neutered. What's the most humane way to go about this?

Thank you,

Martin in Maine

Dear Martin,

Welcome to the world of cashmere goats! Welcome also to the land of 1,000 answers – I guarantee no one else will answer your questions as I do. But you've come to Professor Hircus, and not to them, so my opinions (and they are just that – opinions!) will be conveyed.

Question #1 – Feeding goats: goats, being ruminants, have a rumen, an amazing fermentation vat housing millions of bacteria, protozoa, and fungi. These industrious microorganisms derive nutrition from otherwise impossible-to-digest plants by synthesizing cellulase, the enzyme used to break down cellulose. For these microorganisms to perform their magic, they require an environment with a pH of around 6.8-7.0. You will harm your goats – or, more specifically, the tiny critters who live in the rumen - if you start moving away from a forage-based diet to one with excessive grain.

Why is too much grain a possible health threat to ruminants? Scientific research shows that grain alters the pH of the rumen which, if too high or too low, can lead to serious health problems, e.g., laminitis, enterotoxemia and bloat. Remember, most goats in the world live in China, Mongolia, Pakistan and Nigeria, in near-feral conditions. They've adapted to life without grain rations, and may be healthier for it.

Having said this, there's a universe of commercial grain out there – whole, pelleted, rolled, crimped, texturized, organic, not organic, some with molasses and/or oil. Same story with supplements. You'll meet people who swear by this or that product or feeding regime, and it can get confusing. But don't worry about grain right now. Focus on providing the following to your goats:

1. Healthy browse - weeds, leaves, grasses, small trees and shrubs. (you already have this)
2. Fresh hay
3. Fresh water; and
4. Loose minerals

Note that “healthy browse” is not merely abundant and verdant plant growth; there are parasite concerns to consider with small farms such as yours. Read up on rotational grazing and moveable fencing. Divide your six acres into 10-14 sections, and then put the herd on a different pasture section each week during the growing season. This will significantly reduce its exposure to parasites. While I’m at it, read up on the life cycles of goat parasites, such as strongyles, lungworm, tapeworm, barberpole and coccidia so you’ll know how long to keep each section of your pasture goat free.

If you can maintain a healthy pasture, and if you have a good source for hay for the winter, you get an “A” in goat husbandry. It’s a challenge those of us with less than 10 acres of pasture face. One upside to focusing on what Mother Nature has to offer (as opposed to what you can buy at the feed store) is that you won’t need much in the way of supplemental feeding.

Of course goats enjoy treats; a handful of sweet feed now and then won’t hurt, especially if you’re training them to pull a cart or carry a pack. Also, pregnant or lactating does and other animals with special needs may require graining on a regular basis. But the general rule should be to focus on the basics (good browse and hay, fresh water, loose minerals); bells and whistles such as beet pulp, peanuts, black oil sunflower seeds, peanuts, kelp meal, etc., can be added later. By the way, stay away from baking soda unless you have a good reason for using it.

Your second question would amuse the goats I referenced earlier, those in China and Mongolia especially. Jackets? Really?

Cashmere goats stay warm in part by growing cashmere, so cold weather is a cashmere producer’s friend. The goat grows its own jacket.

Warmth is also generated by the rumen: when rumen microbes break down cellulose, heat is created. Keep your goats supplied with hay and their portable furnaces (aka rumens) will do the rest.

If the wind is howling, your goats will huddle inside their outdoor shelter. If it’s simply cold with no

wind or cloud cover, they’ll stand stoically in the sun no matter what the temperature may be. If you think they’re “suffering,” tell them about their Caprine cousins in Uvs Province, Mongolia.

Your third question is a delicate one, fraught with controversy. You, as a male, no doubt appreciate this.

There are three basic methods for neutering a male goat. Rather than re-invent the wheel, I will refer you to an excellent discussion of this subject - see cmapspublic.ihmc.us

Each castration method has its drawbacks. Our current and former vet, both males, uses (used) a burdizzo. There’s no incision involved, therefore little risk of infection; it’s relatively inexpensive; and it’s fast.

Ouch. Enough about that!


Finally, congratulations on your new herd. Please look to the Cashmere Goat Association if you have more questions or, better yet, suggestions to share. You might also invest in a book on goat veterinary medicine. You can access many of university extension service resources for small ruminants with your computer – the information out there is amazing.

To those of you who have read this far and who may disagree with Professor Hircus, by all means weigh in – who else do goat people have to talk shop with besides other goat people???

Sincerely,

Professor Hircus

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IN MEMORY

Lydia Ratcliff

Lovejoy Brook Farm, Andover, Vermont

by Anne Repaske, Stoneycrest Farm, Star Tannery, VA

Lydia Ratcliff Obituary 1933–2018

Many of you have never heard of this wonderful, eccentric Vermont farmer. The Eastern Cashmere Association was born in Lydia's kitchen on January 11, 1992. She was the first editor of HOOFPRIENTS and among the first to introduce Australian cashmere goats into the United States.

The whole endeavor started because Lydia met a woman from Australia who was looking for an American partner for her Cashmere goat operation. Lydia seemed ideal because she had been a farmer with experience in artificial insemination for many years. Lydia had visions of populating old farms all over New England with Cashmere goats.

Lydia and Shirlie Levy started with embryo transfers and semen insemination. Then Lydia imported some of Shirley's goats to America. These animals were the offspring of 800 feral goats that were captured in New South Wales, Australia, in 1979. The inheritance characteristics of these goats were studied extensively by the NSW Department of Agriculture and Queensland University.

But Lydia was not your average farmer. She was one of four children whose father was a writer for Reader's Digest. This enabled the family to live in Europe for many years; Lydia became proficient in French and Italian. She attended the Putney School in Vermont and studied at Swarthmore and the Sorbonne. Later she was a researcher for Time Magazine and helped write *Sylvia Porter's Money Book*.

Lydia had not only goats, but sheep, cattle and chickens. She became aware of the problems people were having on small, inefficient farms because she was one of them. So she formed a co-op called **Fancy Meats from Vermont** that featured superior products with higher returns. She decided to sell to the most expensive restaurants in New York City, and offer them top quality lamb, veal, pork, goat, venison, rabbit, beef, chicken and eggs, delivered directly from the farm. She drove a refrigerated truck and carried meat carcasses into the restaurants herself. Members of the co-op received about twice as much for their animals as they would have otherwise.

Lydia died on February 13, 2018, a white haired hippie farmer riding a tractor and mowing her hay almost to the end.



Photo by Jenny Aitiyeh

MEMORIES OF LYDIA

By Yvonne Taylor
Black Locust Farm, Washington, Maine

Lydia was impressive. I first met her in 1988 at a Cashmere goat conference in Colorado organized by Bronwyn Schuetze - the first ever conference of the kind in this country. Lydia smoked like a chimney, drank innumerable cups of coffee, did not sleep, and when spending the night after the first meeting she organized for us wide-eyed new cashmere goat owners in Maine, she told me she did not need any sheets, when I fussed with her bed. In retrospect I cannot imagine why this meeting was being held at our house, in Washington, Maine - not exactly centrally located.

I can still remember her sitting on our red couch, with her white hair, talking about the need for us to organize into an Eastern Cashmere goat organization. And I was thinking, "This woman has a vision!" (ECA was in fact later founded in Lydia's kitchen, as described by Anne Repaske's obituary for Lydia in this issue.) Lydia's partner from Australia, Shirly Levy (of Lismore Cashmere Goats), was also at this meeting, assessing our goats, all of whom (or whose parents) had been imported from her farm in Victoria. Some of these new cashmere goat owners left with a decision to start over again.

Lydia gamely tried to demonstrate the shearing of a goat (with dull shears, according to Marilyn Ackley), using my white buck that was brought here in utero

from Australia by Lady Greybeard. I have a picture of this somewhere, but you only see Lydia's back. The photographer seemed more interested in the buck and the handsome young man holding him (my son). That was in 1991. My son is now 55 years old and has changed a bit, but is still kind of handsome. Another thing that has changed is the economics surrounding cashmere goats - at the time the export of goats to the USA from Australia was a lucrative business - I paid \$5,000 for Lady (about \$10,000 in today's money).

LLC Aegisthus



But Lydia (and Shirly) provided me with the greatest joy in my late life - cashmere goats. Lady, who came on the first (I think) shipment from Australia to Lydia's farm in Vermont, went on to produce a long line of award-winning goats; a bit after Lady I got Aegisthus from Lydia, who via his son, Pollux, was instrumental in starting the famous line of silver goats from Springtide Farm.

Bronwyn Schuetze and Kris McGuire imported cashmere goats and did their thing out West - but Lydia was right here in the Northeast.

We could not have done it without her!

Yvonne Taylor
Black Locust Farm

Support us by joining a committee. Contact the following Chairs to join:

Membership: Christine McBrearty-Hulse mcbrearty3@yahoo.com Jana Dengler- jana@stoneharvestfarm.com

Fundraising: Christine McBrearty-Hulse mcbrearty3@yahoo.com Show: Sister Mary Elizabeth- maryelizabethcsm@aol.com

Judging Clinics: Wendy Pieh – wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com Archives: Ann Taylor- a31taylor31@yahoo.com

Website: Noreen Rollins – nikkinomar@yahoo.com Coat Color: Yvonne Taylor- yvonne.taylor@myqait.com

Meat and Database: Maryanne Reynolds- Maryanne@stoneharvestfarm.com



DATABASE UPDATES

Yes, Virginia, there really is a Cashmere Goat Database! The database has been defined and built and, as Wendy reported in her message, it contains data on 91 goats that have been marked as registered in the database. This means that they were evaluated at a show or a fleece competition and their scores were certified by the judge as having met the standards CGA established for cashmere goats. Information on the ancestors for these goats has been stored as well, and we are in the process of adding data from the 2018 CGA show in Tunbridge and the 2018 NWCA/CGA fleece competition held in Oregon. The information on the ancestors is there for future research and to help us identify lines that consistently produce high-quality goats, and these “pedigree-only” entries will not be displayed as “registered” goats.

As often happens in system development, initial usage of the system highlighted a few problematic elements, so we are tweaking the online interface to resolve these issues. For example, we need to be able to enter assessments from competitions that use different scoring systems and that assess fewer elements than the database defines, so we are adding a bit more flexibility to the online maintenance functions. We are also adding explanatory notes to the online interface as questions arise.

Development of the online interface to the database has taken longer than expected, but all the functions are available for testing and the developers are actively working on a short list of issues we identified in September.

When released, the interface will allow any visitor to the site to:

- List all the farms that have herd codes
- List all registered (qualifying) cashmere goats and link to details on each goat as well as details on evaluations from competitions and shows and lab testing
- Search for individual goats by name, goats related to a specified goat, and registered goats meeting criteria the user specifies

Farmers (anyone with a herd code) will be able to access the reports and perform the searches, and they will also be able to add information about their farm and the goats they own. Farmers and judges will be able to enter goat evaluation data, and the registrar will be able to review and certify the evaluation data. We will ensure the validity of the evaluation data by storing copies of the original paper-based assessments, and a handsome certificate of registration will be available for retrieval.

A great deal of functionality has been developed, and we have made the essential decisions about how to manage the data. There is always more to consider, however. In the next issue of Hoofprints, we hope to share diverse viewpoints about the future of the database, including thoughts on ownership of the database, access to the database, long-term management of the data, and the meaning of the database as a “registry”. The online interface to the database refers to it as a registry, and it refers to the goats who meet the CGA standard as “registered”. Registries are generally used for breeds, however, and registries typically allow any offspring of registered parents to be registered without regard to its qualifications. We agreed early on that our database/registry would take a different approach, requiring each candidate for registration to qualify on its own merits. Please start thinking about what this means to you, the purposes the database/registry should serve, and whether or not we should move from the informal use of the title “North American Cashmere Goat” to the definition of a breed. I think it is not a simple question, and I hope that for now, we can avoid allowing our terminology on the database/registry site to imply that a breed already exists.

Thank you for your patience. Those of us who have been working on the database development hope that it will be worthy of the wait.

Merlyn and Annie: A Love Story

By Jaclyn Severance, Hidden Brook Farm, Eastford, Conn.

It had been building for weeks, maybe months – a sort of dance between the two of them that culminated on a Saturday afternoon when I just happened to be looking out the living room window.

“There’s a goat on the llama! There’s a goat on the llama!” I shouted, pointing at the unfolding scene in disbelief.

My now-husband ran over to watch as the little silver wether leaped joyfully off of, and then back onto, the back of the large, black llama who was peacefully kushing in the field, surrounded by her small herd of cashmere goats.

This was not the first time this particular goat had tried to hop onto the resting llama. But, for the first time, our typically cantankerous camelid was not just tolerating the antics....she was actually enjoying it.

For months, little Merlyn – the smallest member of our new goat herd and by far the lowest in the pecking order – had been courting Annie, trying to make friends with the only herdmate who never pushed him away from the hay feeders or chased him out of the barn. Annie, for her part, had been a pretty cool customer. Merlyn’s earnest advances were met with pinned-back ears and the snake-like writhing of Annie’s long neck – not promising signs for the budding Romeo.

In the world of livestock guardians, I’d researched of three options: the most-common guard dog, the surprisingly difficult-to-find guard donkey, and the aloof and more-than-a-little intimidating guard llama. My search for a guardian had led me just a

short drive from our home, to a llama farm full of sweet, amiable “4-H” llamas destined for show rings, where the jet-black eight-year-old with a reputation for being constantly on alert (and for spitting at strangers over fences) seemed very loved, but slightly out of place.



Merlyn and Annie Sharing Hay

And to say that HOLR Shy Ann was intimidating was an understatement. My first interaction with her was terrifying. She kicked, she spit and she hummed (for the uninitiated, a humming llama is not a happy llama). She skittered at the end of a halter and recoiled from the slightest touch. I had no trouble believing that any would-be predator trying to mess with our goats would regret getting through a fence with this creature on the other side.

While she had shown not an ounce of aggression toward her new herd mates, she didn't show them a lot of affection, either. But bless his little heart, Merlyn was undeterred, and finally it seemed he had worn her down. There he was, tap dancing on her back, nibbling on her neck, jumping on and off and on and off her back with the unbridled joy that only baby goats truly have.

When Annie did finally stand up, she didn't run off to escape this ridiculous creature. Instead, she pranced in place, nipping gently at Merlyn's little legs as he bounced in circles in front of her, his delight as clear as day. She chased after him as he bounded away; tossing her neck with a playfulness we had never seen from her. For some reason, on that day, our guard llama finally let down her guard and let Merlyn win her over.

part of our farm, and Merlyn remains the most charming little goat you could ever hope to meet.



Merlyn admiring his lovely Annie



Merlyn, with Annie, all grown up.

Merlyn is now approaching his second birthday, and Annie will be ten this year – young for both of their species, giving the promise of many years of companionship for each other. Patience, time and training have made Annie a treasured and popular

And while he's grown much bigger and heavier, and I haven't seen him tap dancing on her back in quite some time, Merlyn is never, ever far away from his Annie.



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

Send to:

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Achieving Genetic Diversity in North American Cashmere Goat Herds

By Maggie Porter,
Casablanca Goat Farm, Centre Sandwich, NH

Note: this is the first article in a series to address this subject.

Our domestic goats, *Capra Hircus*, more than likely originated in southwest Asia and Eastern Europe:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9475956>

How these animals found themselves in our pastures is a long and fascinating story involving, in large part, early explorers and boats. Equally fascinating is how the undercoats of some of these goats came to be exploited for fiber production. Someone along the way plucked a few handfuls of cashmere off of an animal and thought, “This would make a terrific blanket!” And so the history of cashmere goats began....

Much of this issue is devoted to two trailblazers in the North American cashmere goat world, the late Lydia Ratcliff, a multi-lingual NYC professional-turned-farmer, instrumental in importing Australian cashmere goats to Vermont in 1989; and Yvonne Taylor, a medical doctor-turned-farmer, who purchased some of these original Australian goats (as well as “borrowed” a few bucks from Lydia for breeding purposes), and set about selectively breeding them to improve the quality and quantity of the fiber of their offspring.

Others, however, contributed to the genetics of our “collective herd,” including Kris McGuire of Capricorn Cashmere in Wyoming, who imported cashmere stock from Australia in the 1990s; Bronwyn Schuetze, from Colorado, who raised and sold Spanish goats with promising undercoats (Yvonne Taylor’s “Rita” was one such animal); and Joe David Ross of Texas who bolstered our eastern herds’ goat genetics by selling some of his cashmere goat stock. At least two more farms factor into this history: the late Tom Syfan of Mountain Home, Texas, known for his Spanish goats with black fiber comes to mind, as does Yvonne Zweede-Tucker of Choteau, Montana, who sold goats to Pat Fuhr of Giant Stride Farm (GSF) in Canada and whose goats contributed to some of the best cashmere lines in Canada.

In short, a dozen or so intrepid individuals have imported cashmere goats, goat embryos and/or goat semen into the US and Canada in recent years. For the sake of the larger picture, let’s assume 1,000 live animals have resulted from these imports. Compare this with the 123 million cashmere-producing goats in China or the 7 million Tibetan Plateau Goats (see Wikipedia’s Cashmere Goat entry). These comparisons lead to an important question: Are North American Cashmere goat herds genetically diverse enough? Especially since Cashmere Goat Association members can compare goat pedigrees with other members’ pedigrees and see that many – possibly too many? – of our animals are intimately related?

How Can We Know if Our Animals are Genetically Diverse Enough?

There has never been a serious study of how many cashmere goats live in the US and Canada. On January 15, 2015 the Washington Post published an article by Christopher Ingraham titled, “Map: Literally Every Goat in the United States.” Here’s what the article said about US cashmere goats:

“There were 2,621,514 goats in the United States as of 2012, the year of the most recent USDA Agricultural Census....America's goat population is heavily concentrated in the Southwest, Texas in particular. Nearly 80 percent of America's goats are raised for meat. Sixteen percent are raised for milk, with the remaining 6 percent comprised of Angora goats raised for mohair.”

Conclusion: cashmere goats aren't counted in the USDA Agricultural Census given their relatively small population compared with other livestock populations. Thus, no one can definitively say if our herds are genetically diverse or not, because no one knows how much close inbreeding is occurring. How do we ascertain the number of cashmere goats in North America? We, as an association, ought to give serious thought to doing this. Our database, once up and running, could then show how interconnected our goats are. We could verify - or refute - the theory that our herds could use more biodiversity.

In The Meantime....

Going forward, there are at least four ways US herds can achieve increased genetic diversity (the author is not familiar with Canadian import law, so will not discuss them at this time):

First, producers can import live animals. Currently goats may only be brought into the US from Australia and New Zealand.

Second, producers in the US can import goat embryos from two countries: Australia and New Zealand.

Third, producers can import goat semen from Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand and the European Union, of which there are 27 countries not including the soon-to-depart United Kingdom.

Finally, with new gene-editing technology (Google "CRISPR gene-editing"), producers might eventually benefit from research that has identified specific genes for, to give but two examples, the length of an animal's fiber or the amount of crimp in a fleece.

<https://doi.org/10.5713/ajas.17.0517>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5704241/>

While the options listed above are expensive, involve endless paperwork, and do not come with guarantees of better and more abundant cashmere yields, they are worth considering. Less inbreeding leads to increased adaptability and therefore greater survival of a species.

Heidi Dickens

The CGA is lucky to have Heidi Dickens in our midst, a goat farmer in Sopalpa, Oklahoma. Heidi recently imported straws containing seminal fluid from three New Zealand bucks and one Australian buck:

"About two years ago, I contacted Andrew James in Australia about importing semen. Andrew had just exported 2 bucks to David Shaw in New Zealand and thought he might be willing to collect semen from his herd and the Australian bucks. I contacted David and so began the whole, long, crazy process of importing. I eventually imported 200 straws from 3 NZ bucks and 1 Australian buck that I paid for up front. David graciously sent along another 200 straws that were also collected for me to sell on consignment....

"At the end of May I had 12 does inseminated laproscopically (3 worked) and 4 does inseminated transcervically (1 worked). From this round I have had 6 kids born from 4 does. One set of female twins (Australian buck), one male/female twin set (NZ Buck 1), and 2 female singles (NZ buck 2). The insemination was done at my farm by a vet but I believe the low conception rate was due to them overheating the semen samples resulting in low sperm motility. I have since had the reproduction center do a motility test on the straws and they tested excellent.

"I plan to do the next round of insemination next month with 40 does. Hopefully I will have a full crop of babies in May. I do not plan to sell offspring until I can fully evaluate their 2nd fleece."

While Heidi's straws contain genetic material from only four bucks, this is a step forward improving North American herds. The editors of Hoof Prints look forward to tracking the offspring of these "straws." We hope that over time more premium Cashmere goat semen will find its way to our farms. And who knows? Perhaps, eventually, gene editing will not seem intimidating or weird and that some day one or two pound fleeces composed of low micron diameter/high crimp fiber will be considered routine.



**Australian & New Zealand Cashmere Buck Semen
Now available for purchase in the US!**

David Shaw & Heidi Dickens are offering semen packs for sale. Packs will include 2-3 straws from each of the 4 bucks pictured.

Each 10 straw pack is offered for \$1000.00 (Buyer pays S&H)

Buck information catalogs are available upon request.

Please email heididickens@yahoo.com for more information.

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Maryanne Reynolds



stone_harvest_farm@verizon.net
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Kurt & Dee Borgoyn
210 Westernview Drive
Middletown, VA 22645

Cable Headband Pattern

by Elyse Perambo

Materials

Size 5 circular needles 16 inch

Cable needle

80 yards of Finger weight Cashmere Yarn

Abbreviations

k-knit

P-Purl

Sl-slip stitch

C3f-Cable 3 stitches to the front

Cast on 136 st

Row 1: *k1,P1* repeat for next 2 rows

Row 4: K, inc 8 times evenly over the row to 144st

Row 5:k

Row 6:k

Row 7: Using the cable needle *sl 3st onto the cable needle, k 3st , C3f* repeat to the end of the row

Rows 8-12-k

Row 13- Using the cable needle *sl 3st onto the cable needle, k 3st , C3f* repeat to the end of the row

Row 14-18-k

Row 19- Using the cable needle *sl 3st onto the cable needle, k 3st, C3f* repeat to the end of the row

Row 20-24-k

Row 25- Using the cable needle *sl 3st onto the cable needle, k 3st, C3f* repeat to the end of the row

Rows 26-28 k

Row 29 row decrease 8 st evenly to 136st

Rows 30-31 *k1,P1*

Row 32-Bind off

Block headband to set shape

Created by: Elyse Perambo of East Meets West Family Farm Richford, VT Cashmere Goats

www.eastmeetswestfamilyfarm.com , email: eastmeetswestfamilyfarm@gmail.com





Northwest Cashmere Association

The 2018 Northwest Cashmere Association Fleece Competition, open to all cashmere producers in North America, was held on August 4th at Fern Hill Farm in Dallas, Oregon. Linda Fox from Goat Knoll Farm served as the judge. Ninety-four fleeces were assessed, including many from CGA member farms. Ribbons were awarded in six doe classes, three buck classes, and three wether classes. Eleven champion rosettes were also awarded.

DOES

1st Fleece (DOB 2017)		16 entries		
1	BLF Flickan	Yvonne & Lance Taylor	Black Locust Farm	
2	SGF Snow White	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
3	STC Nina	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide	
4	SGF Lilia	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
5	STC Jocelyn	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide	
2nd Fleece (DOB 2016)		16 entries		
1	SGF Lara	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
2	SGF Birgitta	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
3	HFC Splash	Heide Krause	Harmony Farm	
4	SGF Julia	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
5	SGF Susannah	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
3rd Fleece (DOB 2015)		8 entries		
1	STC Lanara	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide	
2	STON Raven	Jana E Dengler & Maryanne Reynolds	Stone Harvest Farm	
3	SGF Olive	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm	
4	STON Zsa Zsa	Jana E Dengler & Maryanne Reynolds	Stone Harvest Farm	
5	STON Magda	Jana E Dengler & Maryanne Reynolds	Stone Harvest Farm	
4th - 6th Fleece (DOB 2012 - 2014)		16 entries		
1	STC Jemma	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide	

2	STC Harriet	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide
3	Liberty Principle	Mickey Nielsen	Liberty Farm Cashmere
4	STON Belinde	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
5	HFC Polaris	Heide Krause	Harmony Farm
7th - 9th Fleece (DOB 2009 - 2011)		10 entries	
1	SGF Marguerite	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm
2	SHF Lamisa	Heide Krause	Harmony Farm
3	TFC Gwen	Christine McBrearty-Hulse	Hulse Hill Farm
4	SHF Lizzie	Heide Krause	Harmony Farm
5	TFC Gwyn	Pam Haendle	Hermit Pond Farm
10th Fleece and over (DOB prior to 2009)		4 entries	
1	Oprah	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm
2	SF Vesper	Anne Repaske	Stoneycrest Farm
3	Caprette Violet	Barbara Fiorca	Caprette Cashmere
4	Caprette Serena	Barbara Fiorca	Caprette Cashmere
Reserve Champion Junior Doe		SGF Birgitta	Jane W. Hammond
Champion Junior Doe		SGF Lara	Jane W. Hammond
Reserve Champion Senior Doe		Oprah	Jane W. Hammond
Champion Senior Doe		STC Jemma	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth
Reserve Grand Champion Doe		STC Jemma	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth
Grand Champion Doe		SGF Lara	Jane W. Hammond
BUCKS			
1st Fleece (DOB 2017)		6 entries	
	BLF		
1	Wensleydale	Yvonne & Lance Taylor	Black Locust Farm
2	Liberty Slush	Mickey Nielsen	Liberty Farm Cashmere
3	SGF Rolf	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm LLC
4	EMW Calistoga	Elyse Perambo	East Meets West Family Farm
5	SGF Pepe	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm LLC
2nd Fleece (DOB 2016)		7 entries	
1	HPF Tristan	Pam Haendle	Hermit Pond Farm

2	LCD Twist	Heide Krause	Harmony Farm
3	SGF Lorenzo	Jane W. Hammond	Spring Gate Farm LLC
4	STON Aspero	Jana E Dengler & Maryanne Reynolds	Stone Harvest Farm
5	STC Kenji	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide
3rd Fleece (DOB 2015)		2 entries	
1	STC Nathaniel	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth	Springtide
2	EMW Aeros	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
Reserve Champion Junior Buck		BLF Wensleydale	Yvonne & Lance Taylor Black Locust Farm
Champion Junior Buck		STC Nathaniel	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth Springtide
Reserve Grand Champion Buck		BLF Wensleydale	Yvonne & Lance Taylor Black Locust Farm
Grand Champion Buck		STC Nathaniel	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth Springtide
WETHERS			
1st Fleece (DOB 2017)		2 entries	
1	HBF Apollo	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
2	HBF Zeus	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
2nd Fleece (DOB 2016)		5 entries	
1	EMW Blaze	Elyse Perambo	East Meets West Family Farm
2	CSM Merlyn	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
3	CSM Mawanga	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
4	HHF Garth	Christine McBrearty-Hulse	Hulse Hill Farm
5	CSM Chimphongo	Mark & Jaclyn Severance	Hidden Brook Farm
7th - 9th Fleece (DOB 2009 - 2011)		1 entry	
1	HPF Olaf	Christine McBrearty-Hulse	Hulse Hill Farm
10th Fleece and over (DOB prior to 2009)		1 entry	
1	BSF Ringo	Titia Schreuder	Bellevue Spring Farm
Reserve Grand Champion Wether		HBF Apollo	Mark & Jaclyn Severance Hidden Brook Farm
Grand Champion Wether		HPF Olaf	Christine McBrearty-Hulse Hulse Hill Farm



CNCFC 2018

Judge: Jayne Deardorff

September 2018, BC Ag Expo

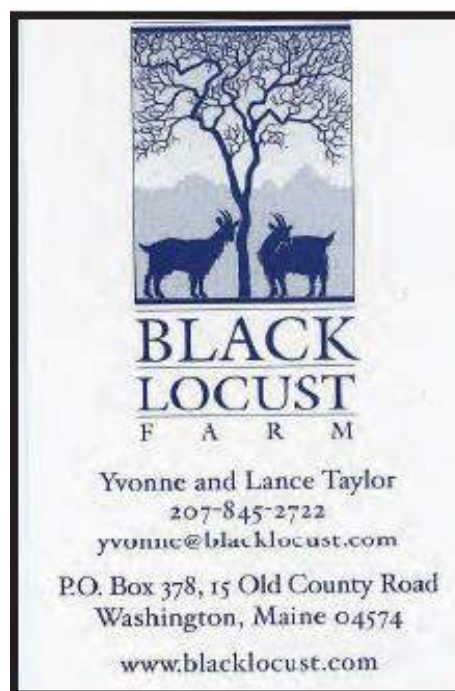
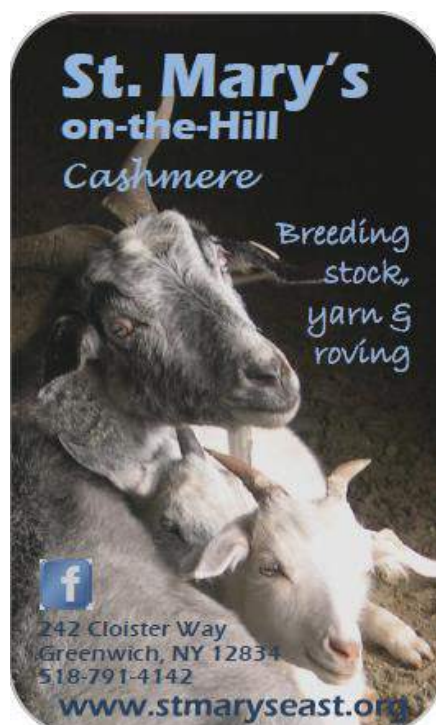
Judge's Comments

Thank you for having me as the 2018 Cashmere fiber judge at Barriere, BC. It was a great show where I saw and evaluated lots of beautiful fleeces. It was exciting to see several fleeces that would take top placing at any show where they were entered. I looked at exceptional fleeces that were both white and colored.

Thank you Jayne D'Entremont and Heide Krause for all of your time and hard work to keep the show running smoothly. I would also like to thank all of those who took the time to enter their fleece, you did a great job of showing the visitors at the show how wonderful the Cashmere fiber is.

It was my honor and privilege to be your judge and wish you all the best in the future.

Jayne Deardorff



RESULTS

2018 CNCFC Results					
Reg #	Animal Name	Farm	Owner	Place	Award
Class 1 Doe					
		1st Fleece	4 Entries		
11	RGC Honey	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	1st	reserve champion Jr. Doe
19	JGD Crystal	The Canny Crofter	Jayne D'Entremont	2nd	
3	RGC Hilyn	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	3rd	
Class 2 Doe					
		2nd Fleece	6 Entries		
23	HFC Splash	Harmony Farm	Heide Krause	1	champion Jr. Doe
20	HFC Softy	Harmony Farm	Heide Krause	2	
13	RGC Gabi	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	3	
Class 3 Doe					
		3rd Fleece	3 Entries		
9	RGC Faritta	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	1st	champion sr. doe / grand champion overall
4	RGC Fritz	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	2nd	
18	JGD Alice	The Canny Crofter	Jayne D'Entremont	3rd	
Class 4 Doe					
		4th, 5th, and 6th Fleece	6 Entries		
8	RGC Daja	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	2nd	
8	RGC Daja	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	2nd	
16	RFF Annie	Reynolds Family Farm	Cara Reynolds	3rd	
Class 5 Doe					
		7th & Over	7 Entries		
27	SHF Lamisa	Harmony Farm	Heide Krause	1st	reserve champion Sr. doe / Reserve grand champion overall
10	SHF Mitzi	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht	2nd	
26	SHF Lizzie	Harmony Farm	Heide Krause	3rd	
Class 8 Bucks					
		All Buck Classes	3 Entries		
12	RWF Judah	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht		champion buck
25	LCD Twist	Harmony Farm	Heide Krause		reserve champion buck
7	RGC Freedom	Redeemer's Garden Cashmere	Lori Giesbrecht		

Thank you and well done to all CNCFC 2018 Show Participants!

Interesting article on water quality for goats, including drought water sources and effects.

Australian Government: Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Water Quality and Provision for Goats

by B. A. McGregor, March 2004

RIRDC Publication No 04/036

RIRDC Project No DAV 202A

<https://www.researchgate.net/file.PostFileLoader.html?id=56f8f77c615e27792216f8c1&assetKey=AS%3A344542999007238%401459156860532>

TUNBRIDGE SHOW REPORT

The Cashmere Goat Association held its annual New England Breeders North American Cashmere Goat Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 29-30, in Tunbridge, Vermont. Forty-three goats from ten farms traveled from Maine, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Virginia to compete and receive assessment from our judge, Heide Krause, of Quesnel, British Columbia. Heide is the head of the Canadian Cashmere Producers, raising North American Cashmere Goats alongside Icelandic sheep and horses on a farm eight hours north of Vancouver. She brought a new perspective to fleece assessment, as well as to judging goat conformation.



Heide Krause assessing fleeces

Yvonne Taylor Honored

At noon on show day, CGA honored one of its original members, Yvonne Taylor, for her decades of service in perfecting the cashmere goats we know today as North American Cashmere goats.

Nineteen youth participated in this year's Tunbridge Ring Show, beginning on Sunday with the Caprine Challenge obstacle course, a mixed youth and adult event judged by Mika Ingerman of Burlington, VT. First Place Challenger went to Ella Derbyshire of Cambridge, NY, Second Place to Keegan Collins of Easton, NY, and Third Place to Mark Severance of Eastford, CT.

Mika also judged Youth Showmanship, divided into Junior and Senior classes according to showmanship experience. For a second year, Master Showman (First Place overall) went to Eva Sgambettera (15) of Cambridge, NY, showing CSM Tristan. Second Place honors went to Paisley Ashland (17) of Lovettsville, VA, showing SGF Shaanti. Third Place went to Keegan Collins (14) of Easton, NY, showing CSM Copper Penny. Remaining placements included: Fourth – Khyler Garmley (14) of Schuylerville, NY; Fifth – Chris Kuzmich (14) of Greenwich, NY; and Sixth – David Todd (14) of Greenwich, NY.

Doe, Wether and Buck Show

The morning continued with the doe classes, judged by Heide Krause of Quesnel, BC, Canada. On Saturday Heide had judged fleeces independently, as well as some conformation scores that could be scored on close examination in the pen. Out of twenty-two does, Grand Champion North American Cashmere Doe honors went to seven-year-old STC Harriet of Springtide Farm in Bremen, Maine, owned by Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth. Reserve Champion was won by four-year-old CSM Rye, raised and shown by Chris Kuzmich for St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere from Greenwich, New York.



Judge Heide Krause pen scoring goats

After a short break for lunch the show returned for wether and buck classes. CSM Sir Tristan, leased and shown by Eva Sgambettera for St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, took the Grand Champion Wether ribbon. CSM Bambo, leased and shown by David Todd for St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, won Reserve Champion Wether.

Grand Champion Buck honors were awarded to the yearling buck BLF Wensleydale, owned by Yvonne and Lance Taylor of Black Locust Farm in Washington, Maine.



Leaf and Elyse Perambo showing their kids

Reserve Champion Buck was won by CSM Wolimba from St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere. Grand Champion Doe STC Harriet returned to the ring for the last assessment and Grand Champion Buck BLF Wensleydale was awarded Best in Show. Congratulations to Yvonne and Lance Taylor of Black Locust Farm!

Earlier this year, CGA Member's Barbara Fiorica and Maggie Constantine sent fiber samples to a British Columbia based researcher as part of a research study on a new method to identify and differentiate cashmere fiber from wool and other potential blends in cashmere supplies worldwide. With their contributions to their research they were able to verify a cost effective method of determining the content of product being marketed. If you are interested in reading about this process our members contributed to, please see below for a link to the complete research paper.

Gill, R., Gill, S., Slyadnew, M. and Stroganov, A (2018)
Identification and Quantification of Cashmere (Pashmina) Fiber and Wool using Novel Microchip Based Real-Time PCR Technology. *Journal of Textile Science and Technology*, **4**, 141-150.

https://file.scirp.org/Html/4-2160095_88674.htm

Cashmere Goat Association Show

Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival

September 29-30, 2018

Tunbridge, VT

CASHMERE DOE SHOW

Does born in 2018 (Kids) -- 6 entries

First	SGF Shaanti	Hens and Hounds Farm <i>Lovettsville, VA</i>	Paisley Ashland
Second	STC Zena	Springtide Cashmere <i>Bremen, ME</i>	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth
Third	EMW Dilly Bean	East Meets West Farm <i>Richland, VT</i>	Elyse Perambo

Does born in 2017 (Yearlings) - 2 entries

First	CSM Copper Penny	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Keegan Collins
Second	HBF Jovi	Hidden Brook Farm <i>Eastford, CT</i>	Mark & Jaclyn Severance



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GOATS AND FIBER

Barboursville, VA 22923
springgatefarm@gmail.com
www.springgatefarm.com

Jane W. Hammond
434.980.9162
c: 434.531.8547

Does born in 2016 (2-year-olds) – 8 entries

First	CSM Khumbo's Orphan Annie	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	George Denaker
Second	CSM Lady Isadore	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Nathaniel Baker
Third	CSM Vivian, Lady of the Lake	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Raeanna Rowe

Does born in 2014 and 2015 (3 & 4-year-olds) – 3 entries

First	CSM Rye	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Chris Kuzmich
Second	CSM Kudala	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Roxy Vanderhoff

Does born in 2012 and 2013 (5 & 6-year-olds) – 3 entries

First	STC Harriet	Springtide Cashmere Bremen, ME	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth
Second	CSM Kachiwiri	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Alexander Baker
DOE GRAND CHAMPION	STC Harriet	Springtide Cashmere <i>Bremen, ME</i>	Wendy Pieh & Peter Goth
DOE RESERVE CHAMPION	CSM Rye	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Chris Kuzmich

Cashmere Wether Show**Wethers born 2018 (Kids) – 3 entries**

First	PHF Toffee	Pine Hill Farm <i>Stockton, NJ</i>	Loriann Fell & Declan Kelley
Second	DFP Rhodonite	Derbyshire Family Farm <i>Cambridge, NY</i>	Ella Derbyshire

Wethers born in 2016 and 2017 (Yearlings & 2-year-olds) – 8 entries

First	CSM Sir Tristan	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Eva Sgambettera
Second	CSM Bambo	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	David Todd
Third	CSM Sir Galahad	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Chris Kuzmich
WETHER GRAND CHAMPION	CSM Sir Tristan	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Eva Sgambettera
WETHER RESERVE CHAMPION	CSM Bambo	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	David Todd

Cashmere Buck Show**Bucks born 2018 (Kids) – 3 entries**

First	CSM Achikulu	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth
Second	CSM Mafuta	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth

Bucks born in 2017 (Yearlings) – 3 entries

First	BLF Wensleydale	Black Locust Farm <i>Washington, ME</i>	Yvonne & Lance Taylor
Second	BLF Carson	Black Locust Farm <i>Washington, ME</i>	Yvonne & Lance Taylor

Bucks born in 2015 and 2016 (2 & 3-year-olds) - 2 entries

First	CSM Wolimba	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth
Second	EMW Aeros	Hidden Brook Farm Eastford, <i>CT</i>	Mark & Jaclyn Severance
BUCK GRAND CHAMPION	BLF Wensleydale	Black Locust Farm Washington, <i>ME</i>	Yvonne & Lance Taylor
BUCK RESERVE CHAMPION	CSM Wolimba	St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, <i>Greenwich, NY</i>	Sister Mary Elizabeth



Entrants patiently awaiting their turn to shine



Elyse and EMW Blaze drumming up business for the raffle ticket sales

CGA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

September 29th 2018

Call to order: 4:45 PM

Present Wendy Pieh presiding, Christine McBrearty-Hulse, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Pam Haendle, Yvonne Taylor, Jaclyn Falkowski, Elyse Perambo, Ann Taylor, and Noreen Rollins

Via conference call: Jana Dengler

(8 other members were present including Canadian Grower Association president and judge, Heidi Krause)
(Noreen motioned to approve the September 16th meeting minutes, Jaclyn seconded their approval)

1. Treasurer's Report (Jana)

Jana reported that the present balance is: **\$7,538.00**

Includes a \$500.00 donation to the database

\$3000.00 due for the database

\$24.22 Show expenses thus far

Motion to approve treasurer's report by Sister Mary Elizabeth, seconded by Elyse

Sister Mary Elizabeth made a motion to purchase a banner for events that is weather resistant. Approved.

2. Election results

All members running were voted in with a 26% membership voter turnout. This included: Sister Mary Elizabeth, Noreen Rollins, Elyse Perambo, Wendy Pieh, Pam Haendle, and the newest board member, Heidi Dickens.

3. Committee Reports

- **Hoofprints:** Deadline for submissions is October 15th to Pam and Maggie
- **Website:** Noreen will post the updated version of the bylaws on a separate tab on the CGA site

- **Database:** Moving along but behind on expected timeline. Many small adjustments are being made so it is complete upon its roll-out.
- **Fundraising:** CGA items will be for sale on the Zazzle site

Tunbridge fundraising booth is doing well. Goal of \$800.00
Aprons, cards and Zazzle items for sale at Rhinebeck

➤ **Legal Consultant Information**

Moving ahead with Rhinebeck booth incorporating CGA's mission of education and research opportunities with all points of sales (via educational flyer)
One year to look more closely at the 501(c)-3 status to make sure it fits the mission for members
Topic will be part of every board meeting in order to make progress towards a decision

➤ **Show Information**

Tunbridge:

45 goats total /19 students attending /variety of farms represented

- **Membership :** 67 members as of 11/25/18

4. Motion to adjourn made by Jaclyn
Meeting Adjourned 5:30 PM

TACK SÅ MYCKET, LADY GRAYBEARD!

Thank-you, Lady Graybeard!

It was an emotional moment at the CGA Goat Show, when President Wendy Pieh and Christine McBreaty-Hulse presented long-time member and former president Yvonne Taylor with her own Lady Graybeard award. Wendy spoke of Yvonne's role in the early days of the organization and of her determination to ensure that ECA would not discriminate against any type of cashmere-producing goat.



Yvonne receiving the award

Wendy provided us with some additional information on Yvonne's history with ECA and CGA for this issue.

Yvonne's interest in cashmere goats began years ago, when she was first introduced to them during a trip to Kashmir in the Himalayas. Later, when several ranchers and farmers in the United States imported cashmere goat stock from Australia, Yvonne joined in. Much to her surprise and dismay, the goats arrived with very short guard hair. Short guard hair was favored "down under," because Australians sheared their goats, and guard hair was expensive to remove. In the show ring, guard hair, especially longer guard hair, was considered a major fault. Yvonne, although a humble and gentle person, also has a core of steel. She created the "Lady Graybeard" award, a cash prize to be given to the goat at the fair with the longest and loveliest guard hair. Over the years guard hair came to be appreciated for its protection of the cashmere underneath it.

Yvonne keeps meticulous records of all her goats and acts as a mentor and advisor to all who have

purchased goats from her. For many years she would find an approved judge who would travel to farms around Maine to evaluate our goats' fiber. She also hosted fiber evaluation classes at her farm and created and maintained the "Loose Knit" group of cashmere growers. We would meet regularly, moving amongst our farms for a potluck lunch, always looking to Yvonne to keep our conversation on track so that we all went home with new knowledge and excitement about raising cashmere goats.

A few years ago, when we were still the Eastern Cashmere Goat Association, our membership began to dwindle, and we wondered if we would survive as an active association. Yvonne stepped in and agreed to be president, and the association began to grow and become increasingly active in the cashmere world.

Thank you, Yvonne, and we hope you enjoy your very own "Lady Graybeard" award!

Yvonne's husband, Lance, and her daughter Signe were present in Tunbridge for the award ceremony, and they shared a few memories with us as well.

I was in second grade when my parents purchased the property in Maine. We were living in a small apartment in Cambridge, MA and after my folks bought the farm, we used to drive up every weekend. My brother and I were each allowed to bring a friend and we also brought our Malamute dog. The Saab was definitely crowded as we drove to and fro but I remember these trips very fondly.

My mother always said that we would move to Maine permanently and have a farm, and after I graduated college in 1987, my mother announced she was moving to Maine and my father could stay in Cambridge or come with her. They both moved and that was when my mother purchased her first goats. I remember them well. They were 2 dairy goats, one of whom was named Angelique. Angelique was extremely smart and personable. She opened every kind of gate with agility and was very curious and friendly. I think her personality still pops up to this day in some of her grand, grand grand (not sure how many grands should be in there!) kids. Then, my mother purchased two

cashmere goats, one of whom came from Australia. This was Lady, who was extremely elegant. She had long guard hair and I believe excellent cashmere. The award is named after her. Lady, like Angelique, had a very distinctive personality. I believe she was aptly named since she was regal in her bearing and accepted treats with a dignity and reserve that fully fit her aristocratic status.

Lance Taylor recalls: Lady was herd queen for a few years (she liked avocado peels in her old age) and was succeeded by Nancy who descended from Angelique. She reigned over a very big herd. Yvonne used to walk in the woods, pre-GPS, with the whole crew and get lost. She then tried to bribe Nancy with treats to lead everybody back. She always did - the definition of a good queen?

As I'm sure you know, the herd grew from there and I believe at her peak numbers, my mother had over 150 cashmere goats. I know she worked hard to breed goats with excellent fiber, so this award is very meaningful to her on many fronts.

Lady Graybeard and kids, summer 1992



And Yvonne? She told us later that the award was such a total surprise that she felt she had just “sobbed and incoherently mumbled something about how unexpected it was.” So – she sent us something she called, “The speech I should have given”:

Dear Fellow Cashmere Goat Raisers,

Thank you so much for this unexpected award! Wendy went on about how humble I am, but the truth is that I don't know what I have done to deserve it. I just went on my way doing what I enjoyed, that is breeding Cashmere goats, and trying to spread the word about these wonderful animals. I could not have done it, if my husband had not kept me warm and fed, so he deserves part of the award. Luckily, I received two beautiful items, a necklace with our farm logo, and also a likeness of one of my first Cashmere goats, Lady Graybeard. (How do people make these things?) They will be treasured. The best present ever, though, is that you people are carrying on the task of breeding these goats and spreading the word about them.



Yvonne, with husband Lance

Thank you again!

*Yvonne Taylor
Black Locust Farm*

Addendum: After receiving these beautiful gifts, I had the gall to take home the prettiest ribbon in the show, but, fortunately, everybody was very polite about it.

Lady's influence has extended into Canada through several exported bucks.

DESCENDANTS OF LADY



Bertha's Bucklings, August 2018
Lady's youngest descendants?



Gandolf



Donyelle



Garabaldi



Duke



Jessie



Honesty



Gabbie



Earisma

KRAMPUS, THE CHRISTMAS GOAT-DEVIL

By Pam Haendle, Hermit Pond Farm, NY

I had mixed feelings when I started doing some research on Krampus, the half-goat, half-demon figure who is part of Christmas celebrations in many parts of the world. After all, goats have gotten a bad rap in many quarters over the centuries, and I'm not sure how to feel about another historical tradition that associates goats with evil. But hey – it's out there and the Christmas season will soon be upon us. Many retail stores seem to think it's already here.

But back to Krampus. I had never encountered references to him before, but he has been featured on television specials and in a couple of movies, and he has probably been part of folklore since pre-Christian times. He appears most often now as a companion to Saint Nicholas who counteracts St. Nick's actions by punishing misbehaving children. Many of the costumes and drawings that represent Krampus are rather terrifying: He is hairy, usually brown or black, has the hooves and horns of a goat, and he carries chains and birch branches. His long, pointed tongue lolls out, and he has fangs. (The name Krampus comes from German word *krampen*, meaning claw.) I'm not planning to share his image with my young great nieces and nephews, and I'm glad to see that his popularity today seems to be present more among adults who want to dress up and celebrate ancient folk traditions rather than among parents seeking to terrorize their children!

Krampus is big in Alpine cultures, where one finds Krampus runs and parades, Krampus schnapps, and Krampus cards. Some cultures that celebrate The Feast of Saint Nicholas on December 6th also celebrate Krampusnacht on December 5th, when the goat devil is said to appear with St. Nicholas or on his own, dispensing coal to naughty children. His history is an amalgam of ancient Greek and Roman figures and Christian celebrations - hardly surprising, given that our Christmas celebrations grew out of rowdy pagan events around the winter solstice.

In recent years, the Krampus tradition has made its way to North America, with the devilish character evolving into a more comical figure. Not surprisingly, the adult-centered celebrations (with plenty of schnapps) that came to accompany the

Krampus runs have become popular in some U.S. cities. Krampus's comeback may also be part of a move toward more non-traditional yuletide celebrations. Back in Austria, people are selling Krampus chocolates and trinkets, leading some to worry that Krampus celebrations have become too commercial! I guess that means Krampus has truly arrived.

Why associate goats with the devil in the first place? Why were goats or half-man/half-goat figures once worshipped as gods and then turned into demonic creatures? That's grist for another article! For now, let's just keep an eye out for the less-fearsome versions of the goat-man in the coming Christmas season.



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 contact information at our website:

www.cashmeregoatassociation.org

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