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Message from the President

Maggie Constantine Porter

After an extended summer in New Hampshire, the days are finally growing shorter and colder, with our cashmere goats sporting fluffy jackets and, in the case of pregnant does, wider girths. The pace of life is slowing down: no more charging to the back woods for browse or fallen leaves – such delicacies won't be on hand for another five or six months. Instead, each morning the herd trots from barn to pasture in more or less a single file, stoic in accepting another day of baled hay and quasi-frozen water.

If there's a blizzard, or when the temperature dips well below 0 degrees Fahrenheit, the animals stay inside the barn. Other than this, it's in and out, in and out, every day without fail. There's a lovely rhythm to it all, one I can't explain to friends and family who think I'm nuts owning a couple dozen goats. Having livestock makes it difficult to travel; it's almost impossible doing chores with sore muscles and joints; and there's anxiety associated with sick animals or a dwindling hay supply in late spring.

On the other hand, owning livestock offers ample rewards: we accept the limitations farming puts on our social and professional lives because the goats pay us back by providing fiber, meat, pelts, horns or weed-clearing services and, most importantly, gentle companionship and playful antics.

Seeing the upside of farming is sometimes difficult, especially if one feels isolated from the "other," non-farming, world. Here's where the

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Cashmere Goat Association comes in: by banding together we can share experiences, organize events (judging clinics, fiber competitions, live animal shows) and work towards launching a database to memorialize our animals' blood lines.

As the new president of the CGA – a daunting prospect, given that I've never been president of anything! - I look forward to strengthening our organization by working with our membership to promote all aspects of Cashmere goat ownership. I hope that anyone reading this message will feel free to reach out to me or other board members (see cashmeregoatassociation.org for board members' emails) to find ways to make the CGA more meaningful to you and, of course, your caprine family.

Maggie

Rosie's Spectacular Saga

as told to Maggie Porter by Dina Townsend

Back Story

Rosie and her wethered sibling, Milo, are Alpine dairy goats owned by Dina and Michael Townsend in Charlotte, Vermont. The goats, born in 2015 on a farm close to the Townsends' property, were sold to Dina and Michael when the original owner's advanced Lyme disease made it impossible for her to do farm chores.



Rosie and Milo at 3 months of age

Dina, an equestrian, would've loved filling her barn with horses, but extensive job-related travel made this impractical. She figured goats would require less labor than horses, plus they'd earn their keep by clearing brush.

Dina and Michael are first-time goat owners. As such, they were pleasantly surprised to discover how companionable Rosie and Milo were. The

goats, bottle fed as kids, are enormously trusting and enjoy human contact.

The Accident

Shortly after Rosie and Milo arrived at the Townsends', Michael built them a lean-to. The animals scrambled up and down it, as goats do, and no one gave it a minute's thought. This past June, however, Dina's husband came home from work and discovered Rosie hanging upside down from the lean-to by her left hind leg. One of the weathered roof boards had sunk, thus trapping Rosie.

In a weird twist, the day before Rosie's accident Dina fell down some stairs, tearing the meniscus in her left knee. Dina received proper medical treatment, then left town for a one-night business trip. Upon returning home, Michael informed Dina about Rosie's condition. Dina - on crutches herself - hobbled out to the barn to wait for the after-hours on-call vet. The irony of Dina and Rosie's parallel injuries was not lost on anyone, least of all Dina, who maintains that this coincidence helped forge a strong bond between her and the now seriously injured Rosie.

Rosie's injury and Initial Treatment

Rosie was conscious when the vet arrived, but her back left leg stifle joint appeared dislocated. An x-ray indicated that nothing was broken, but the vet observed that Rosie had no feeling around her cannon bone - she didn't react despite the vet's

pricking the area repeatedly with sharp objects. The concern was that the goat had extensive nerve damage.

No medication was initially prescribed; there was nothing concrete to treat. Only time would tell if Rosie's nerves would regenerate. The vet suggested that Dina massage Rosie's leg and apply nerve regeneration creams. These were of little use; Rosie dragged her useless back left leg and continued to exhibit poor muscle tone.



Rosie's left leg injury showing her foot folding under

A month after the initial assault a sore developed on the impaired leg from its being lugged around. So, the vet prescribed a course of penicillin. Dina and her husband kept making splints to keep the injured leg upright, with only the hoof touching the ground. Then an endless cycle began: the infection would clear up, but the split would prevent the wound from drying enough to form a protective barrier.

Dina would wrap the leg tightly, then loosely; she tried all variety of splints, tried anything to attain the perfect balance of letting the wound breathe while keeping the leg in place.

Throughout all of this Rosie ate, drank, grazed, and hung out with Milo. She never showed any sign of pain.

Finally, Dina ordered Rosie a flexible splint on-line. The day after applying it Dina saw that the flexibility of the splint had actually allowed the leg to bend unnaturally at a 90 degree angle forward: Rosie's left leg was now flush with her stomach. At this point Dina realized she was facing two options: amputating the useless limb or euthanizing Rosie. What to do? Dina and her husband have a child in college, and another one coming up on college. Of what use is a three-legged goat anyway?

In speaking with Dina, it's obvious how much she loves her goats. As she put it, Rosie was a young animal (17 months old) who clearly didn't suffer from her handicap. It wasn't as if she were fighting a chronic disease or was a decade old and in pain. In all respects she was a normal goat except for the damaged back leg - and even this impairment didn't stop Rosie from gamboling around the farm with Milo.

Dina started researching her options, determined to save Rosie, but hoping for a reasonably priced course of action. She contacted the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary in High Falls, New York. WFS has amputee goats, and the woman who co-founded the facility is an amputee herself. Dina was not interested in sending Rosie to the Sanctuary; she simply wanted information about the consequences of amputating a goat's back limb.

WFS, in turn, told Dina about Ronnie Graves (another amputee!) who makes the prosthetics for the Woodstock Sanctuary. He advised Dina that should Rosie's leg be amputated, he could only make a prosthetic limb if there was enough tissue left on the leg after the operation.

The Amputation

Dina decided to go ahead with the amputation. So, on November 2, 2016, Dina put Rosie in the back of her Subaru and drove to Granville, New York.

The surgery went forward, and ended up costing \$593. It was a two hour operation wherein Rosie lost her entire leg - there is nothing left for a prosthesis. Dina told me, "I had to think outside the box. A prosthetic limb was out."

Thirty minutes after the surgery Rosie was back in Dina's Subaru; once home Rosie was back up on her three legs. She was put on antibiotics (one week's worth) and pain killers (every other day for two weeks). She was bright and cheerful despite having lost a great deal of blood as a result of the surgery.



Rosie settling in at home post-surgery

Dina then learned of "Eddie's Wheels," a business that specializes in wheeled carts for dogs. I asked Dina if Rosie really needed wheels, given she seemed able to move around on three legs. Dina told me that the likelihood of Rosie developing problems with her good leg was high - too much weight on it, all the time, and that for a few

hundred bucks she could have a cart made to help take pressure of the right back leg --- at least for several hours a day.

Aside: On Rosie's [gofundme.org](https://www.gofundme.com/3LeggedRosie) page (search for "Rosie the 3 Legged Goat") Dina's post-Thanksgiving post mentions that Rosie has been falling down a lot - so while there are pros and cons to getting wheels for an injured goat (it's another expense; will the animal adapt to it?), it's worth experimenting with them in this case.

Dina stressed that her animals are obliged to have jobs. So, given this mandate, she has thought of another role for Rosie - perhaps she could serve as a model for children (or adults) with disabilities? Rosie would never survive in the wild without all four legs - but she can offer inspiration and joy to humans to whom fate has dealt an equally unfair hand.

Links to the services/individuals Dina contacted:

Gofundme link

<https://www.gofundme.com/3LeggedRosie>

Woodstock Farm Sanctuary contact Katherine Keefe- Shelter Director at

<http://woodstocksanctuary.org>

Ronnie Graves <http://www.my-vip.com/aboutus.asp>

Eddie's Wheels <http://eddiesswheels.com>
Granville Veterinary Service, Large Animal
<http://gvsla.com>



CGA Bringing together breeders, fiber artists and others interested in these charming animals and the luxurious fiber they grow.

What's in a Name?

By Pam Haendle

One of the frivolous joys of owning a herd of goats is coming up with names for the annual kid class. It's a chance to exercise one's creativity and an opportunity to entertain the fantasy that the animals will actually respond to a name. Over the years, I have enjoyed observing the approaches to naming that fellow goat owners have taken. One year, a host of James Bond characters appeared in the show, and the Repaskes always reminded me of my school days as a music major with their goats named after composers and musical terms. (Only after Anne Repaske stopped breeding goats did I feel OK naming four of this year's crop Tye, Tallis, Telemann, and Tosca.) Sister Mary Elizabeth's goats always bear melodious but challenging African names that she has to pronounce for us, and I seem to remember Wendy christening a goat with a long name that referred to a fellow Maine politician.

If we are to pretend that goats have a sense of their names, then of course we have to take care to give our bucks names worthy of their macho nature. Would we dare risk a buck's future confidence and performance by naming him Hubert, Dale, Beau, or Percival? No – safer to go with Thor, Max, Jake, Duke, or Samson.

I realized early on that I needed a way to direct my name selection, so I happily adopted the recommendation of Marilyn and Wes Ackley and began naming my goats using the alphabet. It's been a life saver for me, as I would never be able to recall my goats' ages without being able to quickly count backward in the alphabet from the current year's letter. All went well as I proceeded from Arnold (admittedly not suitably macho) and Allie onward through the years. 'K' was a bit challenging, but I liked Karma and Kermit and Klaus. I even tried to tie each kid's name to its mother, resulting in a line stretching from Folly to

Holly, Molly, Nelly, Polly, and Rolly. One year, I goofed and named one of Chloe's kids Flo before realizing it was a boy. Despite Flo Ziegfield, I knew no buck would be able to hold his head up in the buck barn with a name like Flo. Fortunately, a friend suggested renaming him "Faux", which at least confused the other boys.

Friends have eagerly contributed name suggestions over the years, and I needed them more than ever when I reached the letter Q. I had tried in the past to use real names as much as possible, though Harmony and Hope snuck in there - reminiscent, perhaps, of my Flower Power years. In the Q year, I quickly used up Quincy, Quentin, Quixote, and Quasimodo and moved on to Quail and Quip and Quantum and Quintessential. A doe named Salsa gave birth to Quesedilla, and Mabel had Quibble. How desperate did I get? Well, Quandary, Quagmire, and Quicksand are still here, giving you a hint at my state of mind, and I can tell you that after a while, "Quadrangle" and "Quality Control" and "Quarterly Report" actually begin sounding like names. Really.

2016 was easy – the "T" year. Suggestions for next year are welcome, though, as it won't take me long to go through Ursula, Umberto, Uriah, Upton, and Ulysses. Eeek.



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from your farm!**

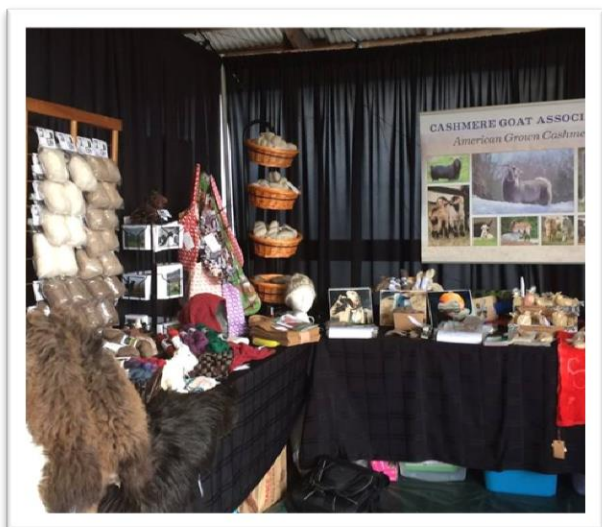
Send to:

Maggie Porter
Constantine.maggie@gmail.com

2016 NY SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL

This year the Cashmere Goat Association gave a wonderful opportunity to our members to market our farm products at this wonderful festival and to educate people about the Cashmere goat. There were five farms representing our association:

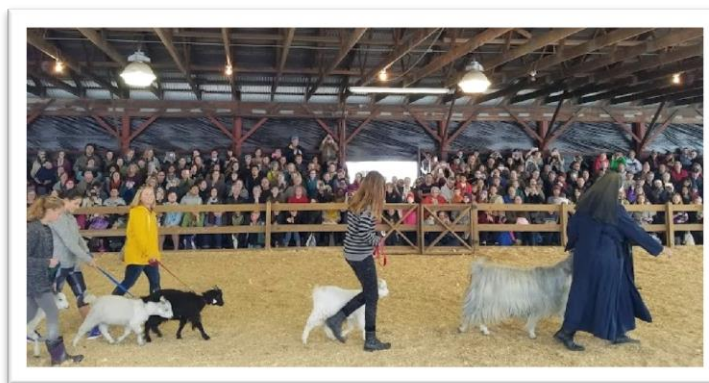
Spring Gate Farm in VA
 East Meets West Family Farm in VT
 Stone Harvest Farm in MA
 St. Mary's on the Hill Cashmere in NY
 Tilton Hill Goat Farm in NH
 Springtide Cashmere in ME (had their own booth)



We sold everything from cashmere yarn, cashmere blended yarns, wrist warmers, headbands, hats, scarfs, patterns, fur hats, goat milk soap, knitting kits and pelts. Jane from Spring Gate Farm in VA had the booth set up with beautiful black drapes and table cloths. She even had a gorgeous sign for the association (see picture). Everyone was pleased with their sales results and very excited about going back next year. We hope with more farms being represented.

The Cashmere Goat Association also had a great display of live animals in the exotic animal barn with three farms bringing their goats.

St. Mary's on the Hill Cashmere from NY
 Hermit Pond Farm from NY
 Hulse Hill Farms from NY



There were a lot of visitors to the barn, where members were willing and able to educate the public on the Cashmere goat. (Did you know that many people do not know that cashmere comes from a goat?) We participated in the parade and the "Leaping Llama Contest" featuring our own St. Mary Elizabeth. Lots of pictures were taken at this event and we hope to be posting them for all to enjoy on our Website soon.

I enjoyed by weekend greatly and had a wonderful time talking to all the people about all of the farms and products we had available. I can't wait until next year.

Noreen Rollins

Tilton Hill Goat Farm

Money, Money Money!

How to Make an Honest Living Selling Cashmere Goat Products

By Maggie Porter

The Cashmere Goat Association (“CGA”) is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, a creature of federal tax law. Our official mission is to educate the wider world about all aspects of cashmere goats, from cashmere fiber and meat to deworming, fencing, kidding and pasture maintenance.

As such, the CGA, as a tax exempt entity, cannot permit its members to sell cashmere goat products for profit under the banner of the CGA.

This is not to say that CGA members can’t sell their goat products at arm’s length from the CGA. In fact, there are numerous ways of doing this. Producers can organize independently of the CGA, and either form a new legal entity, e.g., a partnership or limited liability company, or simply enter into a contract that sets out the rights and obligations of each signatory to the contract. This latter option may be the easiest of all the options

Please note that at no time should the officers or directors of the CGA discuss forming this “sister” entity at CGA board meetings. Those interested in a new entity must operate outside the confines of CGA official business.

This article will focus on how to go about drafting a simple contract, or (and here I’m taking liberties) that I will call the **“Cashmere Producers’ Alliance’s Operating Agreement.”** Note: this article is for discussion purposes only. It is not intended to be legal advice, it does not constitute legal advice, and readers may not rely upon this article as if it were legal advice. I’ve done what any reader of Hoof Prints can do: surfed the Internet for operating agreements between farmers and other vendors.

Therefore, it might be worth it for potential signatories to such an agreement to, at the very least, ask a law school legal clinic, or a lawyer, to review the contract language.

What is meant by a “simple Operating Agreement?” Hopefully, it’s a well-drafted contract, one that anticipates the various knotty issues that could arise when a dozen goatherds gather to run a booth at a selling venue. Issues to consider when drafting an Operating Agreement include the following:

1. Who is party to the agreement (list of farmers signing on);
2. Term of agreement, e.g., the weekend of the Rhinebeck Fair in a given year can be designated as the start and end date of the contract’s legal life;
3. What name will the signatories of this agreement operate collectively under? Cashmere Producers’ Alliance?
4. What is the purpose of the Cashmere Producers’ Alliance? Example: To sell quality cashmere goat products collectively without pooling either product or revenue (to prevent the creation of a partnership that would present legal and tax issues);
5. Place of business (to be determined by signatories of the contract, that need not necessarily be the fairgrounds at Rhinebeck, New York);
6. Authorized acts of the Alliance (sale of product at the Rhinebeck Fair; holding meetings; any other lawful activity);
7. Management - are signatories authorized to act on behalf of other signatories? When and for what reason?

8. Voting, e.g., does the group wish to purchase event insurance? Does the group want to extend the terms of the contract? If votable issues arise, how is a vote to be taken? By email? Teleconference? Must there be consensus? Unanimity?
9. Meetings - these may not be necessary after the operating agreement goes into effect.
10. Liability issues - should the Alliance purchase event insurance?
11. Bookkeeping - all signatories will manage their own books and report revenues to the IRS in their individual capacities.

12. What constitutes breach of contract?
13. Selecting governing law.
14. Miscellaneous provisions.

The CGA currently runs both an educational and a sales booth at the Rhinebeck Fair. If our organization wishes to maintain both booths, then the lion's share of revenues from the sales booth must go into the CGA's coffers. If members would prefer to run the sales booth and keep their individual profits, they ought to give serious consideration to entering into an operating agreement along the lines set forth above.

PLEASE VOTE!

Calling all CGA members!

Please go to the Cashmere Goat Association web site, www.cashmeregoatassociation.org

At the top of the home page, click on "**PROPOSED BY-LAWS.**" Scroll down to "**Proposed Revisions to CGA By-Laws.**" And click on this link.

Please read the proposed by-laws. They are more streamlined than the current by-laws, and allow for telephonic board meetings and electronic correspondence with/among members when conducting official business. Please vote in the affirmative for adopting the proposed by-laws.

Online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/bm5A2YzJ6wqbBLI62> , Via email mcbrearty3@yahoo.com

Via Snail mail: Christine McBrearty, P.O. Box 190 Fly Creek, NY 13337

Cashmere Goat Association By-Law Ballot 2017

As a member of the Cashmere Goat Association this ballot is being submitted as either an acceptance of the updated by-laws or as a rejection of the updated by-laws

I agree to the passing of the updates to the written by-laws by which the Cashmere Goat Association functions under. (Circle one)

Yes

No

Comments:

Coming soon to a farm near you: a judging clinic!

Once upon a time in ECA/CGA history, there was a judging certification process that produced a healthy collection of qualified cashmere judges all across the country. Whenever a show was proposed, we had the luxury of choosing from multiple judges, all experienced in their own right and all recognized after a training program to be skilled in assessing cashmere fiber and conformation. All of them had worked with several of the most experienced experts in the field and had been exposed to ideas from Australia's breeding program, the early experiences of the massive farms in Colorado and Wyoming, insights from visitors to Mongolia, and the hard-won knowledge of goat ranchers in Texas.

The certification process established many of the principles we cling to today, including the 50-50 split between fiber assessment and conformation and the individual rating of the fiber characteristics that make up the CGA standard. Each individual judge brought their own flavor to the process and each one had ideas about how best to express their assessments, but we knew that we could draw from the bench of certified judges and have a capable, well-trained person for our show.

Time passed, and the economic challenges of raising cashmere goats, along with the vagaries of life, caused several of the largest farms to disappear. Judges aged and moved on. Peter Goth and Wendy Pieh came to our rescue for several years, going well beyond the call of duty to judge at countless shows, enabling us to have high-quality shows, to maintain and document standards, and to educate new and old ECA/CGA members. Our recent judges have been wonderful about sharing their knowledge during our shows, but the information shared during pen judging or fleece judging cannot replace a hands-on fleece assessment workshop or conformation clinic and it has become harder to find willing people with a broad knowledge base that extends beyond their own farm experience.

We need judges who are confident and well-trained. We need, I think, a clinic that can focus on training willing individuals to:

- Assess fleeces – assigning a rating for each of the characteristics we have included in our standard and considering the commercial value of the fleece as a whole
- Assess conformation – considering the qualities needed for good health, reproduction, and meat production
- Record and present their findings publicly in a clear manner, using the CGA judging forms in ways that are meaningful and appropriate to the judge's individual approach but also acceptable to the database under construction
- Speak to cashmere production, meat production, and breeding as they explain the reasons for the elements they assess and the relative importance of the qualities they want to see

The clinic should, I think, include:

- Perspectives from as many fleece experts as we can afford to bring in
- Information on lab testing
- Perspectives from active judges and acknowledged experts on cashmere goats
- Perspectives from meat goat producers
- Perspectives from long-term cashmere goat farmers (Yvonne: you can't escape!)
- Insights from people who use the fiber – mill owners, perhaps, and spinners

A judging clinic could welcome participants who were not seeking to serve as judges in the near term but who were seeking better insight into assessing their own animals. It's been a while since the organization sponsored a fleece workshop, and the clinic could fulfill its goals as well.

I would like to propose that we work toward holding a judging clinic in the fall of 2017. I am happy to volunteer my farm as a location for the clinic, although I am open to other options as well, including a clinic in Vermont in conjunction with the VT Sheep and Wool Festival.

There are a couple of advantages to holding a clinic at my place, including:

- A weekend schedule that would be easier on those who work on weekdays
- Lots of free lodging available – some at my sister's vacation home across the street, a five-bedroom home with four full baths and two more rooms that can serve as bedrooms, some at my place (for someone with a high cat hair tolerance) and some at Christine's place, about 40 minutes away
- A home (my sister's place again) that is set up for entertaining a crowd and could easily accommodate a dozen people gathered around fleeces on a countertop
- Lots of sample goats to assess. My herd (of about 55 adults, with maybe 30 additional kids in the fall) might not offer the variety of lines you find at a show, but it would offer the chance to assess some good quality goats as well as goats who are not show-worthy (but very charming) and samples of every hoof problem you could imagine.
- A central location – at least for CGA members. I'm smack in the middle of NY, about an hour and a half from the Syracuse airport and two hours from the Albany airport.
- Proximity to meat goat operations. That's hardly a unique claim to fame, but I could recruit meat goat experts nearby and save us a few dollars.

I recognize, too, that it may be easier for some folks to plan on one long goat outing in the fall that would include both the VT show and a clinic. If we go that route, I think we would need at least another full day and perhaps two days prior to the weekend.

If we decide to hold the clinic at my place (or another volunteer farm), then I was thinking that early November would be a good time to shoot for. The goats would be in fleece, most of the festivals over, and the weather prospects – at least in upstate NY – not too terrifying.

I have not yet thought through any of the details for the "curriculum" of the clinic and would welcome ideas. I do realize that lots of planning and organizing will be needed and that I need to get a sense of the depth of the interest in a clinic before going too crazy with plans. My goal today in putting this into Hoofprints is to stimulate thoughts. Please think about what you would like to see in a clinic – at every level. (If you think the whole idea is dumb, I need to hear that, too.) I would love to have volunteers to participate in planning sessions but I will also be delighted to receive suggestions of any sort – regarding logistics, content, participants, etc. I will reach out to the NWCA and the CCPA, as this should be as inclusive as possible. Meanwhile, please – think about it!

At a minimum, I want to know:

- If you think the idea of a clinic is
 - Important – vital to CGA's future
 - A nice idea, but not a priority at the moment
 - Not needed and/or a futile exercise

- If you would participate
 - As a potential judge
 - As an interested party but not a potential judge
- If you would prefer
 - A clinic on a weekend in the fall, perhaps in early November
 - A clinic on a weekend at another time
 - A clinic in conjunction with the VT sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge

You can reach me directly at hermitpond@gmail.com or send ideas to any board member.

Thanks!
Pam





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

Membership: Maggie Constantine – Constantine.maggie@gmail.com Jana Dengler- Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com

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

Judging Clinics: Wendy Pieh – wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com Archives: Ann Taylor- ataylor31@charter.net

Website: Noreen Rollins – nikkinomar@yahoo.com Meat & Coat Color: Becky Bemus- cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca

Database: Maryanne Reynolds- Maryanne@stoneharvestfarm.com

IN MEMORIAM

Carol Spencer, as remembered by her daughter, Carrie Spencer

Recorded by Maggie Porter

The cashmere goat world lost one of its most passionate members earlier this year when Carol Spencer, of Foxmoor Farm in Silverton, Oregon, died unexpectedly at the age of 80 on October 2nd. Carrie Spencer, her partner, shared with me her mother's entry into the cashmere goat world, and her subsequent feat of transforming a herd of black, grey and white goats into one presenting dark red coats, short guard hair and abundant almond, yellow or apricot fiber.

Carol and Carrie in 2016



When her husband retired in 1991, Carol moved to Silverton, Oregon where the two bought a small 10 acre farm. Carol wanted to raise sheep, primarily for keeping the pasture grass under control. Carol's

father had been a ranch manager, so she grew up around livestock, particularly cattle, sheep and pigs. When she married she had left behind a small herd of sheep.

Carol read an article somewhere mentioning that goats were good companions to sheep, so when she purchased a ram at a Black Sheep Gathering [in Eugene, Oregon] she also bought a Cashmere goat. The goat was supposedly a wether, but upon fetching him from the seller, Carol discovered that "Spice" was, in fact, an intact three month old buckling. He had a friendly personality and was easy to handle. He was covered in a fuzzy coat of brown, and when he started shedding she discovered this was his cashmere. The same article had said cashmere grew *under* the guard hair - but Spice's fiber grew *through* the guard hair and he appeared covered in it.

Carol liked the goat and loved the feel of his fiber and so decided to raise Cashmere goats along with the sheep. She heard of a woman getting out of the goat business, so purchased from her a cream colored cashmere doe named, "Angel," Spice's first girlfriend. Angel had short guard hair as well. She gave birth to a peach-colored buckling who faded to vanilla as he got older, and subsequent breedings yielded other offspring with a reddish tint in the guard hair.

Note: Spice was a "red cheek," with Doberman Pincer, or "reverse Oberhasli" coloration. He had brown ears with black linings, brown patches on his cheeks and a black body. He produced one pound of

cashmere each season - enough to fill a king sized pillow case!

Carol with the herd



The discovery that Cashmere goats come in other colors besides grey, black and white came with the purchase of an outstanding female, "Celtic Lady," from Paul and Linda Fox of Goat Knoll Farm. Celtic Lady was walnut colored at three months, but developed into a "medium red" with apricot cashmere fiber. Carrie said that Celtic Lady's pedigree was mostly white and cream, going back seven generations, EXCEPT that her paternal grandfather had been black. Celtic Lady impressed the judges at every show she was entered into, including an Eastern Cashmere Association competition win, and she retired a fiber Grand Champion with seven first place wins and one second. She was the model for developing the red color and contributed to one of the red bloodlines in the herd.

Carol knew there was red lurking in her foundation herd and now concentrated on bringing it out. One foundation buck for Foxmoor Farm's red line was "Dream Maker," a cream with orange markings out of Spice and Angel. Another important male was "King of Hearts," a cream colored male with a deep

orange dorsal stripe and red eye rings that was borrowed for one summer from Sandra Dierckx of Vets Venture. These bucks contributed the red genes that led to the beginning reds.

People at the Black Sheep Gathering asked Carol why cashmere lacked brightness and so much of the fiber available was a "mushroom" color which is a mixture of grey and brown. To survive in a similar market, Carol realized that she had to specialize and since she and Carrie both loved Celtic Lady's color, they decided to specialize and raise red Cashmere only. The first "reds" in the herd were palomino with cream and almond fiber. By concentrating the color and breeding goats with the red tint in 2005 she produced a red buck and four does that were the darker red color. They were the foundation for an entire red herd. Red Cashmere goats have a flame red body and either almond, yellow or apricot cashmere fiber. The selling point for the cashmere is that it is natural colored and will not fade when washed.



Morgan

Carol was also unusual in that she never once sent her fiber to a mill, preferring to hand comb and de-hair it. Despite shearing being the norm, she felt hand de-hairing allowed her to gauge the "handle,"

and feel (therefore quality) of her herd's cashmere. Spinners sought out her cashmere "top," knowing it was of the highest quality. Her skill meant that the fiber was of even length throughout and without any guard hairs. She never washed her cashmere before de-hairing. The spinners told her that the fiber would last longer and set the twist better if washed after spinning. By keeping her goats cleaned and brushed before harvest, her finished fiber was never dirty.

As with any dedicated breeder, Carol was disciplined: if a red dam threw a non-red female, that young female was sold or culled. The next season the same dam would be bred with another buck to see if the results would be better. Whenever a doeling appeared with better traits than its mother, the doeling would be bred and replace the mother. She kept new stock every year and advanced the bloodlines and concentrated the red color.

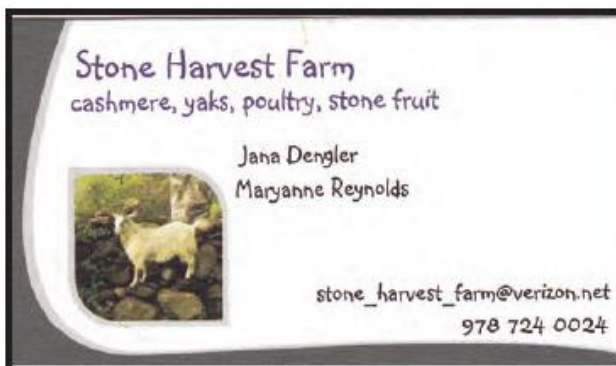
Red is a rare color. It exists in every goat herd but is suppressed and over-ridden by other colors since it is only expressed when two rr (double recessive genes) are present. Both parents have to carry a red gene. Hints that it is in the background show as orange eye rings or dorsal stripes and a reddish brown color. Carol was a painter and art major in college and she used her art background and genetics knowledge to good use. It took 13 years to get the deep red and darker fiber she wanted. Her

legacy is that she loved her red Cashmere goats and spent 26 years promoting and advancing Cashmere Goats and their fiber to everyone she met.



Some of Carol's red does in fleece

Without her senior partner, Carrie can not work full-time and do the maintenance and care of the herd needs alone. The very hard decision was made to sell Foxmoor Farm's goat herd and eventually the farm too. The bulk of the herd will go to Minnesota in February; a breeder in Washington and another in Wisconsin will also take a few. Her wish is that the Red Cashmere color and fiber that her mother loved and worked so hard to develop continues to thrive in a new home. Her mother's love of color, flowers and fiber will continue and be remembered with the smaller animals in a new location.





Northwest Cashmere Association

2016 Fleece Competition

79 Total Entries

September 22, 2016

Judge: Jayne Deardorff

Results

Does:

Does -1st Fleece

	13 Entries
1. HFC Roccio	Harmony Farm
2. Caprette Fratta	Caprette Cashmere
3. STON opal	Stone Harvest Farm
4. Caprette Falca	Caprette Cashmere
5. Tula	Spring Gate Farm

Does -2nd Fleece

	8 Entries
1. HFC Q68	Harmony Farm
2. Caprette Else	Caprette Cashmere
3. Zan	Spring Gate Farm
4. MSF Kitchie Kate	Moonshadow Farm
5. BLF Ulhild	Black Locust Farm

Does -3rd Fleece

	8 Entries
1. Caprette Diavola	Caprette Cashmere
2. Amaya	Spring Gate Farm
3. Helena	Spring Gate Farm
4. GK Hatshepsut	Goat Knoll
5. Melody	Spring Gate Farm

Does -4th - 6th Fleece

	22 Entries
1. Caprette Carmella	Caprette Cashmere
2. HFC Gismo	Harmony Farm
3. HFC Mouse	Harmony Farm
4. Serena	Spring Gate Farm
5. Janine	Spring Gate Farm

Does -7th – 9th Fleece

1. SHF Lizzie	6 Entries
2. SHF Ling	Harmony Farm
3. MSF Kassi	Harmony Farm
4. MSF Ekko	Moonshadow Farm
5. SFC Crow	Moonshadow Farm
	Stone Harvest Farm

Does -10th and over Fleece

1. Rhapsodie	3 Entries
2. Oprah	Spring Gate Farm
3. Pachelbel	Spring Gate Farm
	Spring Gate Farm

Bucks:

Bucks -1st Fleece

1. HFC Romeo	2 Entries
2. Zeus	Harmony Farm
	Spring Gate Farm

Bucks -2nd Fleece

1. HFC Quintus	6 Entries
2. Felix	Harmony Farm
3. Levi	Goatique
4. Alexander	Goatique
5. Nico	Spring Gate Farm
	Spring Gate Farm

Bucks -3rd Fleece

1. GK William	1 Entry
	Goat Knoll

Bucks -4th – 6th Fleece

1. STC Alexander	4 Entries
2. MSF Licorice	Goat Knoll
3. STC Finn	Moonshadow Farm
4. Denwally Blackstrap	Goat Knoll
	Caprette Cashmere

Wethers -1st Fleece

1. Hawk	1 Entry
	Blue Barn Farms

Wethers -2nd Fleece

1. HHF Valentino	1 Entry
	Hulse Hill Farm

Wethers -4th -6th Fleece

1. Olaf	2 Entries
2. Pascal	Hulse Hill Farm
3. Pinto	Spring Gate Farm
4. Alberto	Spring Gate Farm
	Spring Gate Farm

Champions

Grand Champion Doe

SHF Lizzie Harmony Farm

Reserve Grand Champion Doe

HFC Q68 Harmony Farm

Champion Junior Doe

HFC Q 68 Harmony Farm

Reserve Champion Junior Doe

HFC Riccio Harmony Farm

Champion Senior Doe

HSF Lizzie Harmony Farm

Reserve Champion Senior Doe

Caprette Carmella Caprette Cashmere

Grand Champion Buck

HFC Romeo Harmony Farm

Reserve Grand Champion Buck

HFC Quintus Harmony Farm

Champion Junior Champion Buck

HFC Romeo Harmony Farm

Reserve Champion Junior Buck

HFC Quintus Harmony Farm

Champion Senior Buck

STC Alexander Goat knoll

Reserve Champion Senior Buck


MSF Licorice Moonshadow Farm

Champion Wether

Valentino Hulse Hill Farm

Reserve Champion Wether

Olaf Hulse Hill Farm

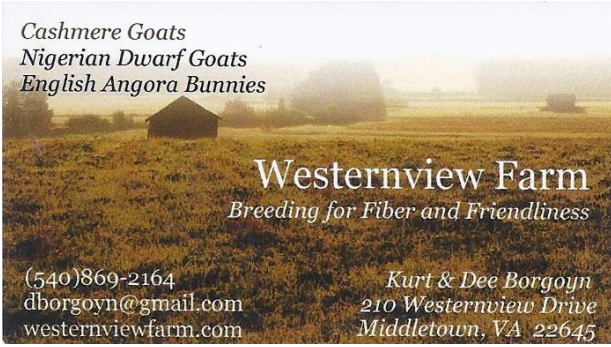


Crooked Fence Farm

Cashmere Goats
CVM/Romeldale & Merino
Sheep

Betsy MacIsaac
Putney, VT 05346
802 387-5790
crookedfence@gmail.com
crookedfencefarm-vt.com


Cashmere Goats
Nigerian Dwarf Goats
English Angora Bunnies



Westernview Farm
Breeding for Fiber and Friendliness

(540)869-2164
dborgoyn@gmail.com
westernviewfarm.com

Kurt & Dee Borgoyne
210 Westernview Drive
Middletown, VA 22645



**BLACK
LOCUST**
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www.blacklocust.com

**CNCFC 2016**

October 15, 2016

Judge: Mr. Phil Smith

Judge's Comments

It was an honour and a privilege to Judge this year's CNCFC. The competition ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of the organizers and the volunteers and volunteers of the CCPA committee and the Woodstock Fleece Festival. Everyone who helped were thoughtful, kind and fun to work with.

The fleeces were all competitive. I was very excited to see such high volumes and clean harvesting and I was particularly impressed with the quality of the older does.

While struggling to choose between entries, I placed emphasis on productivity. I generally weighted volume, length, style and uniformity higher. MFD and differentiation still factored in however none of the entries has coarse fibre diameters.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience for me and I hope it was for all those who participated. Congratulations to all.

Phil Smith

Results**Does:**

Class 1 – First Fleece 2015 doeling	6 Entries
1. HFC Roccio	Harmony Farm
2. BWC Jill	Black Walnut Farm
3. JGD Alice	The Canny Crofter

4. RCG Fiona	Redeemer's Garden
--------------	-------------------

Class 2 – Second Fleece Doe	5 Entries
1. HFC Q68	Harmony Farm
2. RCG Ezmae	Redeemer's Garden
3. STC Monica	Springtide Farm
4. RCG Eowyn	Redeemer's Garden

Class 3 – Third Fleece Doe	6 Entries
1. CFH Ella	Black Walnut Cashmere
2. HFC Persephone	Harmony Farm
3. RGC Daja	Redeemer's Garden
4. RFF Beatrice	Reynold's Family Farm

Class 4 – 4th, 5th and 6th Fleece Doe	8 Entries
1. SHF Mercy	Redeemer's Garden
2. Olga	Hulse Family Farm
3. HFC Gismo	Harmony Farm
4. HFC Mouse	Harmony Farm

Class 5 – 7th Fleece Doe & Older	7 Entries
1. SFH Lizzie	Harmony Farm
2. CHA Ariel	Chambord Farm
3. CHA Ebony	Chambord Farm
4. STC Rena	Springtide Farm

Bucks:

Class 6 – First Fleece Buckling	5 Entries
1. RWF KThor	Black Walnut Cashmere
2. RGC Findley	Redeemer's Garden
3. BWC Jasper	Black Walnut Cashmere
4. HFC Romeo	Harmony Farm

Class 7 – Bucks 4th fleece	4 Entries
1. HFC Quintus	Harmony Farm
2. RWF Judah	Redeemer's Garden
3. STC O'Henry	Springtide Farm
4. HFC Quartz	Harmony Farm

Class 8 – Bucks 3rd fleece	1 Entry
1. STC Magellan	Springtide Farm

Champions

Reserve Junior Champion Doe
CFH Ella Black Walnut Farm

Junior Champion Doe
HFC Roccio Harmony Farm

Reserve Senior Champion Doe
SHF Mercy Redeemer's Garden

Champion Senior Doe
SHF Lizzie Harmony Farm

Grand Champion Doe
HFC Roccio Harmony Farm

Reserve Junior Champion Buck
RWF KThor Black Walnut Farm

Junior Champion Buck
HFC Quintus Harmony Farm

Champion Senior Buck
STC Magellan Springtide Farm

Grand Champion Buck
HFC Quintus Harmony Farm

**Thank you and well done to all CNCFC 2016
Show Participants!**

TUNBRIDGE SHOW REPORT

The Cashmere Goat Association held its annual North American Cashmere Goat Show on October 1 & 2, 2016 at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival. Sixty-four goats from a dozen farms hailing from Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont traveled to Tunbridge, Vermont, for assessment of conformation and fleece with ribbon recognition of quality. The Tunbridge Show is always a time of camaraderie and learning for Cashmere goat farmers living at great distances across New England and the Mid-Atlantic States -- to benchmark, exchange ideas and catch up with each other -- with the added fun of the youth contingent which comes for Show Day on Sunday.



Angelina Dill with Ruth and Lucille

The 2016 CGA Show Judge was Jayne Deardorff owner of Me2 Farm in Colville, Washington, which produces Montandale sheep and Cashmere goats and operates a small on-farm processing plant including de-hairing services. A Master Spinner whose graduate thesis discussed the blending of wool and other natural fibers with cashmere, Jayne brought a wealth of knowledge both of the needs of commercial processing and the hand spinning market.



CGA Judge Jayne Deardorff assisted in the pen by Peter Goth

Top honors went to goats representing several farms. Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth of Springtide Farm Cashmere won Grand and Reserve Champion Doe with STC Tiara and STC Isadora in a very competitive Cashmere Doe Show of thirty-two does. Their STC Pascal also won Grand Champion Wether. Reserve Champion Wether was awarded to Casa Blanca Goat Farm's CBG Percival owned by Maggie and Boone Porter. St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere took top honors with STC Lance-a-Lot, winning Grand Champion Buck. Stone Harvest Farm won Reserve Champion Buck for owners Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds.

Youth participation continues to be a highlight of our East Coast Show with fifteen youth exhibitors showing goats in both Showmanship and Goat classes – some for the first time. Mika Ingerman of Burlington, Vermont, returned as the Youth Showmanship Judge. Ruby Pemrick of Greenwich, NY, took top placement in the Youth Showmanship Class, with Rachel Mueller of Greenwich and Madeline Baker of Greenwich in second and third place. Our youngest competitor was four year-old Leaf Perambo, of Richland, Vermont, who showed his wether kid for a blue ribbon in its age class.

The Show Superintendent thanks the many volunteers whose help made the running of this Show possible. Thanks to Pam Haendle and Peter Goth for help in fleece and pen judging on Saturday. Thanks also to several adults from the Washington County 4-H group who helped logistics on show day, including Tracey Carney as recording Secretary; Ellen Woodhouse as Ribbons Master with Kia Wolff as Ring Runner; Jen Mueller and Julie Vanderhoff as Exhibitors Organizers with Devlin Kennedy as Barn Runner; and Sarah Denaker as Awards Photographer. Finally, the 2016 Cashmere Goat Association Show thanks Lynn Caponera for the generous donation which funded our judge's travel and expenses.



Pam Haendle and Judge Jayne Deardorff

Cashmere Goat Association Show

Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival

October 1-2, 2016

Tunbridge, VT

YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP

1	Ruby Pemrick	Age 13	<i>from Greenwich, NY</i>	<i>--showing CSM Princess Diana (yearling doe)</i>
2	Rachel Mueller	Age 13	<i>from Greenwich, NY</i>	<i>--showing CSM Princess Charlotte (yearling doe)</i>
3	Madeline Baker	Age 14	<i>from Greenwich, NY</i>	<i>--showing CSM Chisomo (yearling doe)</i>
4	Nate Baker	Age 11	<i>from Greenwich, NY</i>	<i>--showing CSM Raphael (two year-old wether)</i>
5	Maddy Carney	Age 13	<i>from Jackson, NY</i>	<i>--showing CSM Madilitso (doe kid)</i>
6	Roxy Vanderhoff	Age 11	<i>from Greenwich, NY</i>	<i>--showing CSM Kudala (yearling doe)</i>

Other youth participating in the Showmanship Class: Julianna Kuzmich (13) of Greenwich, NY; Madison Wolff (13) of Argyle, NY; George Denaker (13) of Greenwich, NY; Soren Stettenheim (12) of Norwich, VT; Amara Kelley (12) of Stockton, NJ; Alex Baker (11) of Greenwich, NY; Chris Kuzmich (11) of Greenwich, NY; Angelina Dill (11) of White Creek, NY; and Leaf Perambo (4) of Richford, VT.



CASHMERE DOE SHOW

<i>PL</i>	<i>Herd Code & Goat's Name</i>	<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>Exhibitor</i>
Does born in 2016 (Kids)			
1	PHF Padme	Pine Hill Farm, Stockton, NJ	Amara Kelley
2	EMW Bella	East Meets West Family Farm, Richland, VT	Elyse Perambo
3	CSM Queen Guinevere	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Nate Baker
4	BLF Tazlina	Black Locust Farm, Washington, ME	Soren Stettenheim
5	CSM Vivian, Lady of the Lake	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Madison Wolff
6	PHF Leia	Pine Hill Farm, Stockton, NJ	Loriann Fell
7	CSM Khumbo's Orphan Annie	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	George Denaker
8	CSM Madilitso	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Maddy Carney
Does born in 2015 (Yearlings)			
1	STC Isadora	Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME	Peter Goth
2	CSM Princess Charlotte	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Rachel Mueller
3	STC Thabisa	Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME	Wendy Pieh
4	EMW Abalene	East Meets West Family Farm, Richland, VT	Elyse Perambo
5	CSM Chisomo	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Madeline Baker
6	CSM Princess Diana	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Ruby Pemrick
7	CSM Kudala	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Roxy Vanderhoff
Does born in 2014 (Two Year-old Does)			
1	CSM Rye	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Chris Kuzmich
2	CSM Thanzi	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Julianna Kuzmich
3	BLF Lisbeth	Black Locust Farm, Washington, ME	Signe Stettenheim
4	STON Lulu	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Jana Dengler
Does born in 2013 (Three Year-old Does)			
1	STC Tiara	Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME	Wendy Pieh
2	CSM Sangalala	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Madison Wolff
3	STC Harriet	Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME	Peter Goth
4	DILL Ruth	Dill Family Farm, White Creek, NY	Angeline Dill
5	DILL Lucille	Dill Family Farm, White Creek, NY	Jenette Dill
6	CSM Kachiwiri	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Alex Baker
Does born in 2011 and 2012 (Mature Does)			
1	STON Pearlstone	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Maryanne Reynolds
2	CSM Limbani	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Sister Mary Elizabeth
3	STON Lily	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Pam Haendle
4	HPF Olga	Hulse Hill Farm, Fly Creek, NY	Christine McBrearty-Hulse
5	STON Mary	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Jana Dengler
Does born 2010 or earlier (Senior Does)			
1	STC Reilly Rose	Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME	Wendy Pieh
2	STC Jet	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Maryanne Reynolds

Grand Champion Cashmere Doe: STC Tiara -- Springtide Cashmere, Peter Goth and Wendy Pieh
Reserve Champion Cashmere Doe: STC Isadora -- Springtide Cashmere, Peter Goth and Wendy Pieh



CASHMERE WETHER SHOW

PL	Herd Code & Goat's Name	Farm Name	Exhibitor
Wethers born in 2016 (Kids)			
1	EMW Blaze	East Meets West Family Farm, Richland, VT	Leaf Perambo
2	CSM Sir Elyan	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Rachel Mueller
3	CSM Sir Pelias	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Ruby Pemrick
4	CSM Sir Galahad	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Chris Kuzmich
5	CSM Pambano	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	George Denaker
6	PHF Trooper	Pine Hill Farm, Stockton, NJ	Amara Kelley
Wethers born in 2014 and 2015 (Yearling & two year-olds)			
1	STC Paschal	Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME	Peter Goth
2	CSM Raphael	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Nate Baker
3	CSM Pavel	Scotch Hill Farm, Cambridge, NY	Lynn Caponera
4	CSM Horace	Scotch Hill Farm, Cambridge, NY	Madeline Baker
5	CSM Livingstone ("Rocky")	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Roxy Vanderhoff
6	CSM Michael	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Maddy Carney
Wethers born in 2013 & earlier (Mature Wethers)			
1	CBG Percival	Casa Blanca Goat Farm, Cntr Sandwich, NH	Maggie Constantine Porter
2	CSM Harry T. Happiness	Team Snazzy Goat, Burlington, VT	Dona Ann McAdams
3	CSM David Delivers	Team Snazzy Goat, Burlington, VT	Mika Ingerman

Grand Champion Wether: STC Pascal -- Springtide Cashmere, Peter Goth and Wendy Pieh
Reserve Champion Wether: CBG Percival -- Casa Blanca Goat Farm, Maggie Constantine Porter

CASHMERE BUCK SHOW

<i>PL</i>	<i>Herd Code & Goat's Name</i>	<i>Farm Name</i>	<i>Exhibitor</i>
Bucks born in 2016 (Kids)			
1	CSM Wolimba	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Alex Baker
2	CSM Uther Pendragon	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Julianna Kuzmich
3	HHF Otto	Hulse Hill Farm, Fly Creek, NY	Christine McBrearty-Hulse
4	HHF Ozzie	Hulse Hill Farm, Fly Creek, NY	Christine McBrearty-Hulse
Bucks born in 2015 (Yearling Bucks)			
1	CSM Usiku	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2	RHF Smoke	Rolling Hills Farm, Marilla, NY	Nadine Pacynski
3	EMW Aeros	East Meets West Family Farm, Richland, VT	Elyse Perambo
4	PHF Luke	Pine Hill Farm, Stockton, NJ	Loriann Fell
Bucks born in 2014 (2 year-old Bucks)			
1	STON Gene Kelly	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Jana Dengler/Maryanne Reynolds
2	CBG Shilling	Casa Blanca Goat Farm, Cntr Sandwich, NH	Maggie Constantine Porter
3	STON Duffy	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Christine McBrearty-Hulse
4	STON Simon	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Jana Dengler/Maryanne Reynolds
5	WWF Nigella	Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA	Jana Dengler/Maryanne Reynolds
6	RHF Gabriel	Rolling Hills Farm, Marilla, NY	Nadine Pacynski
Bucks born in 2013 or earlier (Mature Bucks)			
1	STC Lance-a-Lot	St. Mary's on-the-Hill, Greenwich, NY	Sister Mary Elizabeth

Grand Champion Buck: STC Lance-a-Lot – St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Sister Mary Elizabeth

Reserve Champion Buck: STON Gene Kelly – Stone Harvest Farm, Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds



More Photos from the Tunbridge, VT Show:



What's New at CGA?

By Elyse Perambo

The Cashmere Goat Association now has a Facebook page. We encourage members to join this page. You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/Cashmere-Goat-Association-1019502644825398/>. The hope of this page is to keep Cashmere goat owners updated about the goat shows and fleece shows in the US and Canada. Please use it as a resource to connect with other farms and share information and questions about Cashmere goats. It is also a great place to share those pictures of the Cashmere goats and kids we all love. As soon as it is available, we will be posting information about the Cashmere Goat Conference in Tuscany, Italy for November 2017.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Cashmere Goat Association was held on Saturday, October 1st 2016, in the Concession Office, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Vermont, with members participating in person.

Call to Order

President Yvonne Taylor called the meeting to Order.

Quorum

A quorum was established: 12 members where present. We were also joined by our guest Jane Deardorff of Washington.

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the 2015 Annual meeting were approved as submitted on Motion of Wendy Pieh, seconded by Pam Haendle.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Jana Dengler submitted the Treasure's report. As of September 30, 2016, our bank account balance is \$10,639.44. Jana said that the account is in good shape due to:

- Wendy and Peter Pieh charging CGA no fee for the CGA 2015 Fiber Show
- Donation of funds through private members and the Maurice Sendak Foundation towards the database development and judging fees

- Web services being maintained by member Noreen Rollins
- Hoofprints being created by members Becky Bemus and Maggie Porter

Future recommendations to the Board made by the treasurer include looking into sponsorship for shows. The report was accepted as submitted, on Motion by Pam Haendle, seconded by Lisa Falls.

Elections to the Board of Directors

Elections to a two-year term (2016-2018) on the Board were held by early ballot and hand votes from the floor. Nominees were on the ballot and the floor was open for additional nominations. Jane Hammond withdrew her name from the ballot prior to the election. Pam Haendle was nominated by Sister Mary Elizabeth and the nomination was seconded by Lisa Falls. All nominations were elected. They are:

Sister Mary Elizabeth, Saint Mary's on the Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, New York

Wendy Pieh, Springtide Farm, Bremen, Maine

Elyse Perambo, East Meets West Family Farm, Richford, Vermont

Pam Haendle, Hermit Pond Farm, West Edmeston, New York

Committee Updates

Database

Maryanne Reynolds reported that Tyger Shark is the company that CGA has contracted with for CGA's database

development. Presently they are in the beginning phase. Half the of the entire fee has been paid to secure services (\$7,500). The balance is due upon completion. The database committee is making recommendations about the development of the database. Presently they are in the process of collecting/deciding on the specific fields to be noted. The term "handle" will be discussed as to its database relevancy. Color will also be discussed with option of pictures of animals. Members are invited to join the committee for input at any time by contacting Maryanne directly. Information will continue to be published in Hoofprints to keep members informed of progress of the database.

By Laws

Maggie Porter has reviewed and updated CGA bylaws. The updated bylaws will appear in Hoofprints.

Hoofprints

Maggie Porter and Becky Bemus are looking for future articles and columnists. If members are interested in writing a column on a specific topic, please contact them. Ideas generated included, "Goofs of the Day", "What Every Goat Owner Should Own". The idea of featuring new members was also discussed.

Website

Noreen Rollins has been updating the CGA website to contain current information. Pictures from previous shows, as well as show result will all be accessible on the CGA website.

Fundraising

A generous donation from the Maurice Sendak Foundation covered the cost of this year's CGA show and allowing West

Coast judge, Jayne Deardorff to attend. CGA is selling the limiting edition Maurice Sendak prints for \$100.00.

This sale will continue via the CGA website for interested members or others who wish to collect this series of prints.

Other fundraising events include a raffle and sale of CGA items at Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge Vermont and the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck New York. CGA will earn a 10% commission from the CGA booth at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, New York. Future development of an exclusive CGA item (shirt, mug) will be discussed and developed.

Shows

The 2015 CGA show with judges Bob and Pam Marshall from the West had

good participation, especially in the youth division. Today's show in Tunbridge will have 62 cashmere goats with no fleece show.

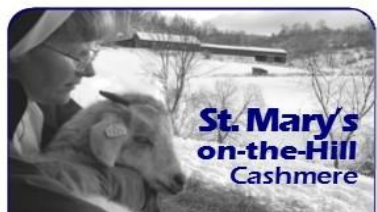
Membership

According to CGA treasurer, Jana Dengler, membership has been maintained with numbers right below 70. Ideas to ensure future growth with membership include the development of a CGA Facebook page and the discussion making membership more accessible for youths through 4-H and individually.

Meeting Adjourned



A fun but exhausting weekend was had by all!



Breeding Stock, Yarn, Roving

Home of the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015
New England Cashmere Goat Association
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and the 2015 Grand Champion Buck

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518-791-4142
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HOOF PRINTS TEST KITCHENLance Taylor's Chevon-cabbage casserole
(modified Swedish recipe)

Cut 3 pounds of goat stew meat into 2-inch cubes.

Wash 2 pounds of white cabbage, core and slice into 1 inch wedges. Also 1 cup diced celery and 1.5 cups sliced onions.



Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a heavy skillet until it gets hazy. Add the meat and turn with a wooden spoon until nicely browned. Transfer to a bowl with tongs and toss lightly with 1/3 cup flour until the flour disappears. Keep the skillet handy.

In a big casserole, arrange a layer of meat (with salt and pepper) and a layer of cabbage wedges. Sprinkle with ½ of the onions and celery. Repeat, end with a layer of sprinkled cabbage.

Pour off the fat from the skillet. Deglaze with 2.5 cups of beef or chicken stock, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon over high heat. Pour the liquid into the meat. Cover the casserole and bake or slow cook until the meat is tender. Maybe 3 hours baking, longer with slow cooking.



Our test kitchen tasters (Maggie and Boone Porter) loved this recipe! We baked the casserole in a slow cooker for 5 hours (perhaps our goat was older and skinnier than Lance's?), and since we didn't have celery in the fridge we just threw in extra sliced onion. Plus we were probably more liberal with the salt and pepper and an extra dollop of butter than the Swedes might be!

CGA Fundraising Makes a Difference!

This is the third year of fundraising efforts for the Cashmere Goat Association. Members donated items to sell at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge in October.



Rick Hulse at the fundraising booth in Tunbridge, Vt


Many “goatabulous” creations sold including goat key fobs, candle critter jars, goat soaps, farm animal rustic prints, cashmere skeins and knitted items. Two highlights of the booth included a raffle of the limited-edition Maurice Sendak print and a *Wrap Yourself in Cashmere Basket*. The Maurice Sendak Print was sold at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, New York. The proceeds of both these events raised just over \$900.00 for CGA.

These funds help offset cost of judge’s fees and educational materials provided by CGA. The 2016



Harry of Harry and David’s Team Snazzy attend Tunbridge every year!

CGA show had a marked increase in the number of youth participating, as well as total number of goats in the show ring.



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Christine McBrearty-Hulse mcbreaty3@yahoo.com



The Perambo Family with their “goat family “

On-Farm Fibre testing: The Future of Fibre Farming?

Last spring an article in a farm magazine caught my eye as I was on the way to the recycle bin. It seems that a company called Nekan Trading in South Africa has developed a portable device that measures the average micron of fibre based on diffraction of light passing through the sample. Having been designed primarily as a barn side device for grading wool at the shearing barn in an effort to enhance the consistency of the bales and increase sale prices, the measurement range is between 15 -25 microns, with an accuracy within 0.8 of a micron.

With this micron range, some fine fibre producers were looking to use the device for grading their fleeces not only at home but also for use at shows. Alpaca breeders were starting to show interest in this unit as a quick way of assessing fleeces, selecting studs and breeding stock as well as sorting fleeces for sales. As a cashmere breeder with a larger herd I was also quite intrigued by the idea of being able to have a quick and cost effective way of obtaining an MFD (Mean Fibre Diameter) to assess our fleeces, one that would pay for itself in one season of testing all animals on our farm. With our current numbers I simply can no longer afford to do this each year but would very much like to.

This device would also potentially allow us to better sort our fibre into categories for further processing and products. We had already experimented with blending our cashmere in different percentages with finer, shorter alpaca fleeces that a friend was unable to market through her traditional sales to sock mills and hand spinners. Their 2-3 inch fibre was not much coarser than cashmere and its length added stability to our fleeces under 2 inches in length. These are fleeces we would not have otherwise sent for processing as the return was not worth the shipping and border costs involved, but blended with this alpaca, it produces a beautiful and popular product and we could offer it at a lower price point.

From a purely cashmere perspective there are some limitations to this device. First, the minimum recommended length for testing is 40mm or approximately 1.6"; next, the machine currently offers only an MFD, a humidity rating and a temperature rating; and, finally, the device does not store the raw data from testing to download for generating histograms, Coefficient of Variation or the Standard Deviation scores that we can get with the OFDA (Optical-based Fibre Diameter Analyser) testing, nor curvature. Positives of the device are the ease and speed of testing, its portability and its ability to store up to 500 test results before needing the information to be downloaded. The testing sleeves can be used for multiple fleece samples and are pretty cost effective. The total cost of the unit is between US\$2,000 and 2,200.

Eagerly I sent an email off to the FibreLux Company to find out if their machine was capable of accurately assessing cashmere fibre. Director Johan Joubert responded to my enquiry stating they really did not know that much about the traits of cashmere fibre but felt that once they did they could make adjustments to compensate for any unique issues. Johan explained that wool and Huacaya Alpaca had a similar "crinkle" to the fibre but that the wool had a heavier grease to it so they calculated a Greasy Factor for those samples to compensate; whereas this was not required with the Alpaca samples as they were naturally much cleaner. He also indicated that since Suri fibre was straighter, more like a hair, they were able to alter the recommended fibre preparation to

accommodate those fibres and obtain fairly consistent results. We discussed a bit the issue of the guard hair typically being in the cashmere samples submitted and that they would be outside the testing specifications. It was uncertain if the device would measure the coarse fibre at the maximum detectable and average it in or if the machine would simply ignore them altogether. At this point Johan suggested that if I could send them enough cashmere to perform at least 7 tests per sample, they could evaluate the machines ability to get consistent results with cashmere.

I was excited to hear this and promptly went out and cut some very large patches of fibre from 6 different does of longer staple length, ages 2 to 6. At the same time I took fibre from these does and sent it off to Yocum-McColl so we could compare the results. I took all samples from the animals left sides although I took them from a little closer to their armpit/shoulder area than the traditional left mid-side testing area as I was taking such a large sample from them in early February, cutting it right to the skin, and I knew that by sampling in this area the fibre around the bare spot would puff out and cover the spot and keep them warm. I pulled small sections of fibre as evenly as possible from the cut samples, to send to Yocum-McColl so that the average of Johan's multiple tests could be compared with the results from Yocum-McColl.

I did not send any super fine fleece samples as they are typically shorter fleeces and I purposely sent two very different fleeces. I knew one of them had some variation in it from my own and a judge's observations, and one that was cashmere on testing but whose style was lacking and who may have a bit of gloss to her fibre. I wanted to see how the device assessed these fibres compared to the OFDA results. In the end there was only one dark fleece in the group which, had I taken more time, I would have tried to include more of - and of course she was the one with the variable micron rating. I was a little unsure if I could even get the fibre into South Africa but thought it was worth the risk to try. A month later Johan emailed letting me know he had just received the samples and would get to work on them right away.

Six weeks later I received his results. Johan had been very thorough in his tests and with preparations of the fibre. The FibreLux tests raw fibre, whereas the OFDA tests fibre that has been scoured and brought to a consistent relative humidity. I have long thought this artificial humidity likely accounts for the discrepancies we sometimes get between the curvature scores from the lab and what we see on the fleece of the animal in their home environment. Comparing the results of the raw FibreLux samples and the OFDA results will give us an idea if a grease factor needs to be calculated for cashmere goats as a standard procedure as they go forward with more testing.

Aside: the original Kashmir goats were prized for possessing qualities that were found ONLY in the goats raised in their area of origin. It was reported that goats removed from this specific area would no longer possess such beautiful fibre. It makes sense that the fibre's exhibited traits would be a product of local mineral the animals were consuming in combination with the normal humidity and environmental conditions they were being raised in. For me, testing procedures although necessary to standardize for a true comparison of one fleece to another, should not be used as the sole means of selection or culling especially where the breeders can make comparisons based on their own observations in conjunction with a live animal evaluation.

Johan first prepared the cashmere samples as he would wool or alpaca samples; however these two types of fibre have very little to no guard hair in them as both species have been bred to produce either no guard hair as in most fibre-bearing sheep breeds or very little guard hair on the prime saddle area of alpacas. Johan found that

combing the samples pulled too much cashmere fibre out leaving proportionately more guard hair in the sample and inflating the results. Testing multiple samples prepared this way could also lead to quite variable results depending on the portion of guard hair remaining or the percentage of cashmere removed at each new sample's preparation. To remedy this issue, Johan simply prepared the samples by spreading them with his fingers to even out the fibre and he reported receiving much more consistent results from one sample to the next.

To be as thorough as possible, Johan also measured the residue from the comb on the samples he had tested with the traditional fibre preparation method which then contained a much higher percentage of cashmere. He also ran testing where he physically removed the guard hairs from the samples and tested both the guard hair and the cashmere separately. The guard hair measured on its own, yielded reading from 26 microns to the high 30's, which I have been told is about right if we were to see the histogram from the OFDA past the acceptable cashmere range. However, since the unit is calibrated for primary accuracy in the 15-25 micron range they would not guarantee the accuracy of these numbers. Removing the guard hair from the samples resulted in readings 0.5 to 1.0 micron lower than the averages from the testing that included the guard hair in the sample. When I was initially reading about this machine I had simply decided to remove the guard hair before testing to avoid any issues that way since the intent of having the unit on farm would be to assist with personal breeding selection and sorting fibre for processing and to gather data over time to see what useful information could come from it. Since it is unlikely that 100% of the guard hair will be removed in any given test, Johan recommended that 3-4 tests should be completed per animal to ensure the consistency of the results. His reported results include the guard hair in the sample.

The results:

Doe	Fleece #	Yocum-McColl	FibreLux	Difference
Flax	6th	15.9	16.4	0.5
Ghanna	5th	16.3	16.9	0.6
Halo	4th	15.5	16.3	0.8
Izzadora	3rd	14.6	15.4-17.5	0.8 - 2.9
JGB	2 nd	16.4	17.2	0.8
Jolene	2nd	16.3	16.3	0

Izzadora is the only dark fleeced doe in this testing group. Her sample results were not consistent enough to give an acceptable average. Johan obtained 2 results at 15.4, 2 results at 16.4, one at 16.8 and one at 17.5. Johan mentioned that because this test works on the principle of diffraction of light black or dark fibres absorb the light rather than refract it, resulting in higher micron scores for dark fleeces in general, regardless of the contributing species. He felt in Izzie's case the variation was most likely due to a varying number of black guard hairs remaining in each sample after preparation. I believe Izzie's noticeable variation in micron also contributed to the range as well as the fact that she also has finer guard hair. Of course her traits not seen on fibre testing results are what keeps her here. Jolene has the poorest style of the group and perhaps a slight sheen. Is this what made her results so seemingly accurate on a refraction test?

Also of interest to me is that these girls have higher volume fleeces than some of my other girls and as such there is a noticeable "grease" build up on the comb as I harvest them. When we bred sheep these were the denser

sheep who were the greasiest and usually the shorter fleeces –relatively speaking that did not lay open allowing the elements to strip their natural protection from them. Of the group Jolene is the longest with the shortest guard hair. Izzadora has long guard hair on her top half with her side and lower abdomen shorted, exposing more of her fibre. More testing on cashmere samples is clearly warranted before norms could be established but this would be fascinating to do as an on farm experiment.

Having the Coefficient of Variation and Standard Deviation number and the ability to generate a histogram from the raw data would be welcome attributes and this is something Johan informs me is on the table down the road as it is simply a statistical manipulation and would be a simple software upgrade as the unit itself would not change much over time. Dr. Ron Pope of Texas A & M compared the FibreLux with the OFDA 2000 using wool and mohair samples and the preliminary studies have shown an 87% accuracy rating between the two units which he feels is accurate enough for most breeders' selection and marketing requirements. A margin of error of 0.8 microns or a grease/guard hair factor of 0.5-1.0 microns could make or break a cashmere animal's career, but for general use on the farm I think it is well worth the investment for larger cashmere farms, especially if the CV, SD and raw data could be available in future. Animals entered into the planned database would of course require testing at a facility using a standardized testing method approved by the IWTO.

For anyone interested in seeing a cashmere sample being tested by Johan, click here:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21Aq%5FvZ0R8ZdzAhls&cid=9D00AB3B53FDBB7F&id=9D00AB3B53FDBB7F%211435&parId=9D00AB3B53FDBB7F%21110&o=OneUp>

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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.

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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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