

HOOFPRINTS

HOW
TO START
A FIBER
FESTIVAL!



A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTERN CASHMERE ASSOCIATION • www.easterncashmereassociation.org • VOLUME 18 • NO 3 • FALL/WINTER 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

HELLO EVERYONE, HERE WE ARE, FINISHED with another exciting show season. Kris McGuire in Virginia and Peter Goth at Rhinebeck provided us with both presentations and helpful evaluations of our goats and their fiber. Thanks to both of them. I have to say that my favorite image will be of three tall nuns, in full habits, standing in line with their three little doelings peeking out from amongst their skirts. Then again, it was pretty funny to watch a buck sit down every time Peter tried to check his testicles.

Sadly, both Louise Scott and Hari Khalsa decided to opt out of continued terms on the board of directors. Louise was also our treasurer, so we were left with some challenges in filling those shoes. Fortunately, Shirley Richardson and M Warryn agreed to run again, and Pam Haendle and Jim Perry also agreed to run. And we had a dark horse, Deb Evans from Maine, who ran as a write-in candidate. We were so thrilled to have the interest that the annual meeting members decided to increase the Board membership for this year to nine, to include all

candidates who were interested. I am continuing to serve as president, Anne Repaske as our vice president, Katherine Harrison as our secretary, and we drafted Pam Haendle as treasurer, even though she wasn't present. The good news is that she was too gracious to refuse us!

I do want to share with you about my continuing saga with parasites. I had sent fecal samples in to see what treatment I should use, and learned that my best bet was ivermectin drench. Parasites again abounded with the spring rains and kids, and several mothers and kids developed blood worm loads that were concerning if not fatal amounts. I faithfully drenched them with large doses of ivermectin, only to learn that it didn't work. I learned this, of course, through doing fecal sample egg counts – imagine if you will, over 100

samples taken, some repeated, and my frustration. So, I bought tubing and figured that I would have to tube them to get the medicine in the right stomach, then I remembered about the copper oxide wire particles (COWP). These little pieces of copper distribute throughout the digestive system,



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ECA

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and the tannin kills the adult worms. Well, why not try it. The first day I cheerfully straddled a buckling, put in the dog pill pusher, injected the pill way down his gullet, massaged his throat, heard him swallow (I swear), and let him go. He marched off a ways, and PTUI out went the pill. Undaunted, I gathered help, and water to chase the pill down, and oil cooking spray to make the pill slippery, and went at it again. Well, it not only worked to keep the pill down, our egg counts have fallen by 95%! (This is, like, from 300+ eggs in a sample to 4! No kidding!) You can get COWP, sold as Copasure, from **jefferslivestock.com**. They come in calf boluses which you have to make into smaller boluses for goats. Each calf bolus has 25 grams. For kids I did 1.25 grams each, measured on a little jewelry scale (ebay \$20), and used gelatin cap-

sules from the local health food store. It only works on *Haemonchus contortus*, the strongyle we call blood worm or barber pole worm – however, those are deadly, causing severe anemia, and they are the ones I most wanted to get rid of. I'm thrilled to find something that is simply an additive to the diet, not a "medicine." If you try it, let us know the results.

In closing, we would like very much to hear from you on your thoughts and experiences with Cashmere goats. Drop Anne a line (cashmere@shentel.net), she will put it in Hoofprints, and we can have a continuing dialogue.

Happy goat raising and Holidays,

Wendy



Welcome to our newest members, **Lisa Ferguson and Karen Hein!**

HOOFPRINTS

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Hoofprints is the official newsletter of the Eastern Cashmere 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 unless you indicate a preference for postal delivery.

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ECA MEMBERSHIP

Full individual membership is \$25/year. Junior (youth under 18 years of age) 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.easterncashmereassociation.org.

ADVERTISING

Hoofprints advertising (3 issues/year):

	PER ISSUE	ANNUAL
Business Card	---	\$22
Quarter Page	\$24	\$70
Half Page	\$43	\$130
Full page	\$75	\$220

FOR ADVERTISING

Please send name, farm name, address, website, phone number and indicate lines of business (breeding, fiber, bucks for lease, etc).

Website advertising: \$25/year

Send membership and advertising information and checks to: Pamela Haendle, 10601 Merrill Road, West Edmeston, NY 13485. Make checks payable to Eastern Cashmere Association or ECA. Questions? Contact pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com or call 315-899-7792.

Photo on page 13 courtesy of Shing Hei Ho: tinyurl.com/ygekz9u
Photo on page 19 courtesy of Claudia Meyer, sxc, Paris



Images, from top to bottom: In the Show Ring, Katherine Harrison, Melissa Paulson and James Perry

WITH NEAR PICTURE PERFECT WEATHER, THE ECA Goat Show at the VA State Fair at the Meadows went off seamlessly. We had over 70 goats participating in the goat Show and over 80 entries in the fleece competition. Special thanks go to all our show volunteers that helped make it a big success. Beth Creamer, Fleece Show Secretary and Katherine Harrison our Show Secretary put in stellar performances and we are grateful for such talented individuals.

Our judge, Kris McGuire made a challenging presentation the first day on genetics and developing the full potential from our herds through careful breeding practices. She presented a powerpoint seminar that gave breeders a bird's eye view of ways to improve each successive generation. She also worked tirelessly to judge the fleeces on her first day and the goats on the second day.

The new fair grounds were terrific and our competitions on both days drew record crowds. There were two sets of bleachers which surrounded the competition ring. We were thrilled to interact with the public and promote the Cashmere industry at large. Both bucks and does were able to compete in the main ring so it was quite a spectacle for the public to enjoy.

Listed below are the results of both the Fleece Competition as well as the Goat Show. We look forward to seeing many more competitors next year and will keep you informed this Spring!

— Jane McKinney, Show Superintendent

2009 ECA CASHMERE GOAT SHOW RESULTS

State Fair of Virginia

CLASS 1: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2009

1. Melissa Paulson, 0052-Sassy
2. Melissa Paulson, 0051-Laurel
3. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Meg
4. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Mia
5. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0618-Olivia
6. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0642-Fran

CLASS 2: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2008

1. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Mongo
2. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0567-Katherina
3. Melissa Paulson, 0041-Gaia
4. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Miley
5. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0569-Rosalind
6. Melissa Paulson, 0044-Cassieopia

CLASS 3: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2007

1. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0534-Athena
2. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Gwen
3. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0543-Delia
4. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0550-Alberta

CLASS 4: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2006

1. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Rosie
2. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Melanie
3. Melissa Paulson, 0011-Carolina
4. Melissa Paulson, 0012-Alabama
5. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0271-Glissando
6. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0523-Arabella

CLASS 5: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2005 OR EARLIER

1. Lisa Vailes, THV-Margie
2. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0506-Lillium
3. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0607-Penelope

GRAND CHAMPION: Lisa Vailes, SBF-Rosie

RESERVE CHAMPION: Lisa Vailes, SBF-Mongo



Images, from top to bottom: Judge Kris McGuire and Fleece Superintendant Beth Creamer; Bucks in the Show Ring; Judging Fleeces

CLASS 6: DAM & DAUGHTER

1. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Gwen & SBF-Paige
2. Lisa Vailes, THV-Margie & SBF-Mongo
3. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0642-Fran & Dora

CLASS 7: GET OF SIRE

1. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Quinton
2. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0604-Franz List

CLASS 8: WETHERS

1. Louise Scott, 0020-Bruiser B.

CLASS 9: BUCKS BORN IN THE YEAR 2009

1. Melissa Paulson, 0050-Hickory
2. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0617-Linus
3. Louise Scott, 0030-Toby
4. Louise Scott, 0027-Paschal
5. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0612-Arthur
6. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0622-Gaston

CLASS 10: BUCKS BORN IN THE YEAR 2008

1. Louise Scott, 0025-Jack
2. Melissa Paulson, 0043-Orion
3. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0561-Claus
4. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0565-Canon
5. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0560-Gregory

CLASS 11: BUCKS BORN IN THE YEAR 2007

1. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Quinton
2. Louise Scott, 0012-Kirby York
3. Louise Scott, 0007-Destry
4. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Trevor
5. Melissa Paulson, 0033-Bullwinkle
6. Melissa Paulson, 0022-Elmer Fudd

CLASS 13: BUCKS BORN IN 2005 OR EARLIER

1. Chuck & Jane McKinney, 0603-Van Cliburn

CLASS 14: GET OF SIRE

1. Chuck & Jane McKinney, Arthur/Gaston/Felix

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK: Lisa Vailes, SBF-Quinton

RESERVE CHAMPION BUCK: Louise Scott, 0025-Jack



Images, from top to bottom: Judging Fleeces; Vailes, Chuck, McCauley, Samantha, and Lisa with Judge Kris McGuire and Grand Champion Doe Rosie, and Reserve Champion Doe Mongo; Kris and Wendy Pieh

more from the “meadows”



Images, from top left, clockwise: Katherine Harrison; The Vailes and Kris with Grand Champion Buck Quinton; Farm Display at Virginia Show; Louise Scott with Reserve Champion Buck Jack; The Show Ring

photos from the Montpelier Fiber Festival



Images, from top left, clockwise: Animal Tent at Montpelier;
Montpelier Fiber Festival; McKinney Stall at Montpelier
Fiber Festival

2009 VA STATE FAIR WINNERS REPORT (FLEECE)

Listing only the top 6 winners per class

OWNER	FARM NAME	GOAT'S NAME	GOAT #	RANK
SHORN FLEECE • BUCK • 2ND & 3RD FLEECE • CLASS: 1016 (1 ENTRY)				
Linda Fox	Goat Knoll	Mithril	81	1st Place & Grand Champion
SHORN FLEECE • DOE • 2ND & 3RD FLEECE • CLASS: 1021 (1 ENTRY)				
Lisa Vailes	Silver Branch Farm	Gwen	SBF-Gwen	1
COMBED • BUCK • KID FLEECE • CLASS: 1024 (7 ENTRIES)				
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Nebbiolo	BLF Nebbiolo	1
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Clyde	BLF Clyde	2
Michaela Warryn		Briggs	STC Briggs	3
Wendy Pieh	Springtide Cashmere	Samoset	STC Samoset	4
Melissa Paulson	Creekwater Farm	Orion	VA 35030-0043	5
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Yul	BLF Yul	6
COMBED • BUCK • 2ND & 3RD FLEECE • CLASS: 1025 (13 ENTRIES)				
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Homer	BSF Homer	1
M. Louise Scott	The Leap	Destry	VA 08220-0012	2
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Chaplin	RWF Chaplin	3
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Duke	BLF Duke	4
Shirley Richardson	Tannery Farm Cashmeres	TFC Cairn	TFC Cairn	5
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Hjalmar	BLF Hjalmar	6
COMBED • BUCK • 4TH - 7TH FLEECE • CLASS: 1026 (6 ENTRIES)				
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Chris	KTD Chris	1
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Hjort	BLF Hjort	2
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Gilligan	BLF Gilligan	3
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Leif	BLF Leif	4
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Harley	W33	5
Adelia Bullins		Raye Raye	HDF S1	6

COMBED • BUCK • SENIOR • CLASS: 1027 (1 ENTRY)				
Yvonne Taylor	Black Locust Farm	Lars	BLF Lars	1
COMBED • WEATHERS • CASTRAT • CLASS: 1028 (1 ENTRY)				
Adelia Bullins		Dawn	HDF W2	1
COMBED • DOE • KID FLEECE • CLASS: 1029 (12 ENTRIES)				
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Daxia	RWF2008 G75	1
Jane McKinney	Spring Gate Farm	Cadence	596	2
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Daramascotta	RWF2008 G45	3
Shirley Richardson	Tannery Farm Cashmeres	TFC Decca	VTX0126TFC5	4
Jane McKinney	Spring Gate Farm	Hermia	571	5
Melissa Paulson	Creekwater Farm	Venus	VA 35030-0039	6
COMBED • DOE • 2ND & 3RD FLEECE • CLASS: 1030 (21 ENTRIES)				
Jane McKinney	Spring Gate Farm	Athena	534	1
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Ciciley	RWF2007-W38	2
Jane McKinney	Spring Gate Farm	Alberta	550	3
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Brownie Girl	2005-O50	4
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Callysta	RWF2007-W8	5
Wendy Pieh	Springtide Cashmere	Annabelle	STC Annabelle	6
COMBED • DOE • 4TH - 7TH FLEECE • CLASS: 1031 (13 ENTRIES)				
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Giselle	R26	1
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Hanna	W26	2
Anne Repaske	Stoneycrest Farm	Midori	Midori	3
Wendy Pieh	Springtide Cashmere	Lady Miracle	STC Lady Miracle	4
Becky Bemus	Roving Winds Farm	Allegra	RWF 2005 13	5
Michaela Warryn		Ramoetswe	STC Ramoetswe	6
COMBED • DOE • SENIOR • CLASS: 1032 (7 ENTRIES)				
Jane McKinney	Spring Gate Farm	Violet	0009	1st Place & Grand Champion
Anne Repaske	Stoneycrest Farm	Anna	Anna Magdalena	2
Jane McKinney	Spring Gate Farm	Betty	530	3
Anne Repaske	Stoneycrest Farm	Clara	Clara	4
Melissa Paulson	Creekwater Farm	Lil F	VA 08206-0002	5
M. Louise Scott	The Leap		VA12001-0013	6

letter to the editor

Dear Anne,

Thank you for taking on *Hoofprints*!

I am going to complain about something that is not your fault. I submitted my buck KTD Chris's fleece to the Northwest Cashmere Association's fleece competition this spring, and he was assigned to a doe category. That was not fair, and needless to say he did not place. Now, his name is a bit ambiguous but I did fill out the entry form correctly.

Mickey Nielsen apologized in an email, and Kris McGuire offered to judge the relevant buck class again. I thought that was unnecessary—I just wanted an official correction that Chris ended up in a doe category by mistake.



KTD Chris

Now imagine my surprise when I saw him still listed in the doe class in the latest *Hoofprints*. There has been plenty of time to correct the error. I'll attach a picture of Chris. Doesn't he look quite masculine?

—Yvonne Taylor

We apologize for reprinting the error. A picture of the denigrated buck can be seen above, and yes, he certainly does look very masculine.—Anne



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The 2009 New York State Sheep & Wool Festival

by Pamela Haendle



n the chilly weekend of October 17–18, ECA members and friends gathered together at the NYS Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY as they have every year since 1998.

They came to share experiences and information with like-minded souls, to have their goats evaluated by an expert, to shop for yarn, fiber products and ideas in more than 250 vendor booths, to search for animals who would bring improvements to their herd, to eat apple crisp, and to promote cashmere goat farming in the U.S. Despite occasional finger-numbing temperatures, I think we were successful on all counts.

Goats from nine farms arrived to be part of a show and to help festival visitors recognize the real source of cashmere. The judge, Peter Goth from Bremen, Maine, accomplished the evaluations in a three-step process. On Saturday morning, Peter examined the 2009 fleece for each doe born prior to this year. Fleece length and diameter in microns were estimated, and scores between 0 and 3 were assigned for style, uniformity, differentiation, and volume. In the afternoon, Peter moved from pen to pen, evaluating the conformation of each goat, while owners and neighbors listened and a volunteer recorded the score for each element. The advance scoring enabled the sub-

sequent show on Sunday to move more quickly.

With no dead time for detailed examination of the animals, Peter was able to provide some background on the history of cashmere goats in North America and the standard against which the goats were judged. He pointed out some of the issues that he had noted the day before, such as teeth that protruded in a little ledge below the pad, hooves that were too steep (tall) and had cloves that did not separate well, and the presence of four teats on a doe. He explained that we need not worry about the back of a kid that slopes downward slightly toward the head, as it will normally straighten out within the next year. He reminded us to check for properly formed teats on bucks and to be wary of horns that extend straight upward and can be dangerous. Peter also noted in general that significant improvements have been made in the quality of goats bred here over a period of only 10–15 years.

Ultimately, the goats in each class were compared to one another, and a subjective element was added to the evaluations made the day before. The judge re-

minded everyone that not all elements of fleece quality and conformation are equally important, and that the value of the whole goat in a breeding program needs to be considered. I am pleased to report that Peter had to struggle with some of the rankings because a high percentage of the goats in the show were worthy of recognition. His judgments, nevertheless, are below.

GOAT NAME	SHOWN BY	RANK
DOES BORN IN 2009 ■ 16 ENTRIES		
TFC Ella	S. Richardson, M. Smith	1
Pepples	C. Holt	2
TFC Evette	S. Richardson, M. Smith	3
DOES BORN IN 2008 ■ 7 ENTRIES		
TFC Dahlia	S. Richardson, M. Smith	1
Jill	J. Lingle	2
PBP Pikachu	B. & S. Record	3
DOES BORN IN 2007 ■ 4 ENTRIES		
PBP Twilight	B. & S. Record	1
PBP Meaghan	B. & S. Record	2
GWD Foxglove	L. & E. Arthen	3
DOES BORN BEFORE 2007 ■ 5 ENTRIES		
HPF Hannah	P. Haendle	1
HPF Josie	P. Haendle	2
Porcelain	C. Holt	3

GOAT NAME	SHOWN BY	RANK
BUCKS BORN IN 2009 ■ 5 ENTRIES		
PBP Zorin	B. & S. Record	1
PBP Bond	B. & S. Record	2
BUCKS BORN IN 2008 ■ 4 ENTRIES		
WWF Rue	Y. Taylor	1
PBP Charizard	B. & S. Record	2
PBP Swellow	B. & S. Record	3
BUCKS BORN BEFORE 2008 ■ 3 ENTRIES		
BLF Duke	Y. Taylor	1
CDT Chris	Y. Taylor	2
TFC Cairn	Y. Taylor	3

Champions

<i>Grand Champion Doe</i>	TFC Dahlia, shown by S. Richardson & M. Smith
<i>Reserve Champion Doe</i>	HPF Hannah, shown by P. Haendle
<i>Grand Champion Buck</i>	BLF Duke, shown by Yvonne & Lance Taylor
<i>Reserve Champion Buck</i>	WWF Rue, shown by Yvonne & Lance Taylor



The Lady Greybeard Award, given annually by Yvonne and Lance Taylor for the outstanding goat with long guard hair, was awarded to PBP James, shown by Beth and Scott Record.

After the show, nearly everyone met for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Everyone agreed that they were pleased with the approach taken in the show, though we may refine it further by replacing specific rankings in each class with a designation of “blue”, “red”, or

“yellow” to any number of goats in the class, based on their adherence to the standards for quality cashmere goats. We also discussed prospects for participation in regional festivals, and a promising invitation from the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival for a cashmere goat show in 2010.

It was a satisfying and enjoyable weekend, and our thanks go to Shirley Richardson for her tireless efforts in organizing the show.



starting a fiber festival

by Pamela Haendle

It started so innocently. A friend asked me to bring a few goats to the county fair, which is held only a few miles from my home. Soon I found myself crowned Superintendent of Sheep and Goats and faced with the challenge of filling classes for dairy goats and meat goats, fiber sheep and meat sheep. All breeds to be judged separately, of course.

The Madison County Fair is the smallest in the state, and I soon learned that no one, absolutely no one, wants to bring their goats or sheep to a puny county fair with mediocre facilities, meager premiums, and meaningless competition under bargain-basement judges. In fact, the goats, sheep, pigs, and cows at the 2008 fair had all come from the same farm. This innocent request was beginning to look like an insane challenge.

I conferred with a friend who had been similarly bamboozled into becoming Superintendent of Swine. (Beat that as a resume-enhancer!) We decided to replace

competition with exhibitions and to suggest focusing on fiber animals. The Madison County Fair Board, which initially seemed unable to spell “change”, finally agreed and Focus on Fiber was born. It would never have occurred to me to seek government funding for such a thing, but a grant-savvy friend showed me how to apply for a grant from the NY Association of Agricultural Fairs, and \$1500 was made available.

A grubby little county fair that has always featured a demolition derby and tractor pulls may not seem like an ideal location for a fiber fair, but the response was

overwhelming! Focus on Fiber was a smash hit, and if I can pull it off, anyone can. The internet was an invaluable source of information, of course. Spin-Off magazine has a list of spinning guilds, and Google led me to weaving guilds, Angora rabbit clubs, alpaca organizations, and dozens of farms in the area. I checked the lists of vendors at the NYS Sheep and Wool Festival and the Finger Lakes Fiber Festival in Western NY, and was amazed to find an entry for a goat farmer I'd never met who lives about 10 miles from me. I issued news releases to the local papers in the spring, explaining the project and inviting people to participate. At Syracuse University I found an Associate Professor in Textiles who was willing to come out and show videos of her farm and fiber mill. When I was searching for yarn shops that might display a flyer, I discovered a classy art studio in the nearby college town of Hamilton with beautiful fiber-based art works and a connection to etsy.com. Etsy provides a vehicle for online sales of high-end crafts and so was another source for fiber artists.


One of the people I contacted told me about 2009 being the International Year of Natural Fibers. That gave us a great lead line for publicity and another activity to offer: participating in knitting part of "The Longest Scarf in the World", to raise money for Heifer International. Even without a ready-made network of friends active in spinning or knitting, I found it fairly easy to assemble a long list potential participants.

Organizing the festival within the context of a county fair certainly had its advantages: I had help with the facility, publicity, ticketing, and advertising. The Cooperative Extension offered to loan us pens and the Baptist Church in town came through with extra tables. With the grant money, I purchased samples of exotic fibers and lots of supplies for displays. Wooden lattice panels framed and hinged in pairs made handsome backdrops for the booths and gave the pavilion a unified look, as did the cheap dark blue tablecloths we purchased. Marilyn Ackley agreed to loan me some of her wonderful photographs and fact sheets for a cashmere display and I found dozens of beautiful photographs of fiber animals in my stash of Wild Fibers magazines for the exotic fiber exhibit.

It was a ton of work, but I had a ball doing it and

heartily recommend the project to anyone who lives in an area without an established fiber fair. Here are some of the things that worked well and some of the things that I hope will make the 2010 festival bigger and better:

- Start early collecting names and numbers, but recognize that many people won't make a commitment until close to the festival date.
- The four-day schedule of a county fair is a challenge to many. Allow participants to come for just a day or two.
- Schedule "events" at specific times, even if it's an informal Q & A session.
- Test and retest electronic equipment.
- Head off territorial conflicts by clearly marking off the area for each participant.
- Communicate frequently with participants and mail out an "exhibitors' package" several weeks in advance.
- Find someone experienced with publicity who can get news releases to all the right people with large and small newspapers, radio and TV stations.
- Bring food and drinks to facilitate the creation of your community of vendors and farmers. Offer to provide tables and chairs.
- Unless you're in an enclosed building, be prepared for wind. In fact, assume a hurricane will pass through!
- Have several activities for children, since county fairs attract them in droves.
- Bring baby goats – they are natural magnets!



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Goatherds Mingle WITH THE Shepherds?

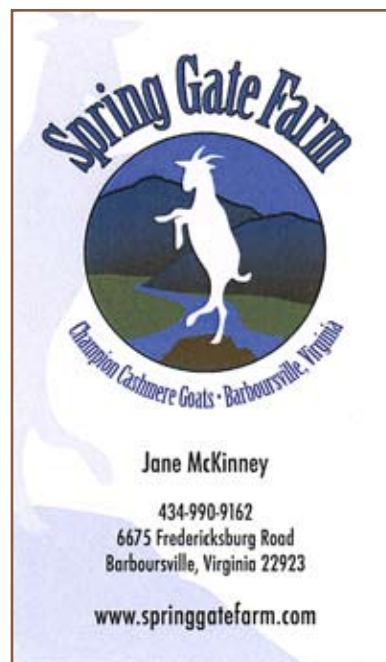
by Linda Singley

A FAIR NUMBER OF THE RECENT ATTENDEES at the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers' Annual Symposium finally confessed. They too raise goats. Admittedly goats were not the sole focus of the meeting, but what was taught in the classes could be equally well applied to goats. October 24th, 2009, the PSWGA presented an entire day of sheep carcass evaluation, breakdown, cooking and marketing strategies for sheep AND goats. At the Samuel E. Hayes Livestock Evaluation Center, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA (near State College) classes included Live Lamb Evaluation, Slaughter and How it Affects the Quality of Your Meats, Getting More and Better Custom Cuts from your Carcasses, How to Select Recipes for Appeal to your Consumers, Tailoring your Operation to Ethnic Marketing, Making better Use of Farmers Markets and Selling Live Lamb for Custom Slaughter.

Specialists from Ohio and other parts made this a truly multi state function. Presenters were obviously experts in their field and had years of personal experiences from which to speak. They shared their knowledge generously through visuals, demonstrations and answers to focused questions. Dr. Paul Kuber, Ohio State Meat Scientist, directed participants to handle a group of live lambs to compare carcass traits and discuss which would yield higher grades at the slaughter house. He then took a chilled carcass from the half down to the plate with medallion cuts cooking tender snacks for the audience. Quite the art and skill with a knife and skillet! At each point he highlighted how processing and handling of the live animal will affect the end enjoyment of the meat in the meal. The morning finished with talks from an expert on Muslim High Holy Days and Halal Slaughtering. Habib Ghanim, President of the USA Halal Chamber of Commerce spoke on the Muslim religion and what type of lamb is needed for each of these cel-

ebrations. From this section the message was clear, "Know your customers and what they need! Learn how to provide it!"

Lunch delivered roast lamb and home cooked favorites to the participants while featuring the finalists fashion show from the PA Make It With Wool competition. Quite a treat! Afternoon sessions featured marketing locally, through Farmers' Markets and on-site processing facilities like those of Blystone Farm, Canal Winchester, Ohio. Katherine Harrison Haley, ECA secretary and partner in Blystone Farm, gave a pointed talk on making on-farm goat slaughter profitable and tailored to the customer. Know your regulations. Know what you can feasibly accomplish and know your customers. Thanks to all who provided this valuable opportunity, be they from the sheep or goat world. For more information on PSWGA contact Joanne Evans 717-485-0532 or genetic@innernet.net.



more from the “meadows”



Images, from top left, clockwise: Cashmere Fleeces!;
Judging Fleeces; In the Show Ring

more from the “meadows”



Images, from top left, clockwise: Ribbons!;
Kris McGuire; Kris McGuire in the Show Ring

2009 ECA Annual Meeting

CAROLINE COUNTY VA, 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

FOLLOWING A PRESENTATION ON GOAT GENETICS from 2009 Show Judge Kris McGuire of Laramie WY, President Wendy Pieh opened the meeting at 5:50pm in the Goat & Swine Building at the State Fair of Virginia. During introductions of the group, Lisa Vailes & Janet Jordan counted mailed ballots. Quorum was established by the president.

Treasurer Louise Scott presented the ECA financial report. The primary financial expenses from 2008-2009 were those involved with the presence of Terry Sim in the United States during the fall of 2008. These expenses were offset by the income from farm visits, donations, a workshop at Rhinebeck, and Rhinebeck judge's fees. Discussion was offered on the resulting benefits of the expenses ECA incurred in bringing Terry Sim to the States.

Chuck Vailes moved to increase the ECA Board of Directors by one member for the upcoming term. Chuck McKinney seconded. Motion carried. Pamela Haendle, Jimmy Perry, Shirley Richardson, M Warrin, and Debora Evans were elected to the Board of Directors for 2009-2011.

Anne Repaske indicated that she was willing to continue overseeing the production of *HoofPrints*. Discussion ensued on the viability of attaching the newsletter to the website. Jimmy Perry moved to authorize the Board of Directors to research hiring someone to maintain the website with input from the membership and to allocate up to \$2500 for this task.

Chuck Vailes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wendy Pieh brought up the need for efforts to increase membership. Chuck Vailes indicated that a job description was needed from the Board of Directors to define what the responsibilities would be of a membership coordinator.

The number of animals exhibited at Rhinebeck's fiber festival has been decreasing. In contrast, Wendy Pieh noted that local festivals are increasing in exhibition of animals at shows. Thus, she encouraged the membership to consider making financial commitments to these local festivals. Jane McKinney moved to authorize funding (approximately \$290) to fund a tent at the Montpelier Fiber Festival in 2010. Kathie O'Connor seconded. Motion carried.

Louise Scott moved to begin operations to permanently approve nine members of the Board of Directors at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Jane McKinney seconded. Motion carried.

Jimmy Perry moved to approve the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting as electronically mailed. Kathie O'Connor seconded. Motion carried. Jimmy Perry moved to adjourn. Louise Scott seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm, to be followed by dinner at the Smoky Pig in Ashland VA.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine M Harrison

ECA Board of Directors Meeting

CAROLINE COUNTY VA, 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

PRESIDENT WENDY PIEH CALLED THE MEETING of the Board of Directors to order at 7:00 pm at the State Fair of Virginia. Jane McKinney, Jimmy Perry, Anne Repaske, and Katherine Harrison were in attendance.

Nominations for officers for 2008-2009 were opened. Anne Repaske nominated Wendy Pieh as president. Jimmy Perry seconded, motion carried. Wendy Pieh nominated Anne Repaske as vice president. Jimmy Perry seconded, motion carried. Wendy

Pieh nominated Katherine Harrison as secretary. Jane McKinney seconded, motion carried. Jimmy Perry nominated Pamela Haendle as treasurer. Anne Repaske seconded, motion carried.

Ideas on promoting membership were offered. Jimmy Perry & Katherine Harrison agreed to spearhead work on the ECA website. Ideas on the nominating committee will be brought up during the winter meeting in January.

Meeting adjourned by committee at 7:15pm.



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