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A Message from the President

Hello everybody,

First off, we are all very appreciative of Maggie and the job she did as our president. Despite many other commitments, she brought energy and dedication. Thank you very much, Maggie.

This has been an amazing year for the Cashmere Goat Association. It is incredible to me that so much gets done by a cast of volunteers. Not that many years ago we were struggling to stay alive, and now we are moving steadily and surely forward.

We agreed with the Northwest Cashmere Association (NWCA) to combine our fleece shows into one annual show. This year it was our turn to act as hostesses. Phil Smith came to be the judge, and he did an excellent job. He was very thorough and attentive, and we all enjoyed a lively discussion as he was judging the fleeces. Sister Mary Elizabeth brought her many 4-Hers to the show, and they demonstrated their very capable handling skills in an early obstacle course. Next came the regular classes. 4-Hers and others showed their

goats, with most classes being very competitive. Come join us



Wendy pictured with her buck
STC Hugo, named Grand
Champion of the Live Show and
Reserve Grand Champion Fleece
Show, VT 2017

entered every goat previously, along with its pedigree, so we ended up with over 250 goats already in the data base!

Inside This Issue:

- 1 Message from the President
- 5 VT Sheep and Wool Show Report
- 12 Database Statistics
- 14 International Workshop
- 27 Test Kitchen
- 32 NY Sheep Festival Report
- 34 2018 Fiber Shows Info
- 37 Photo Gallery

next year and bring some bucks!

Creating the data base is moving along well, with lots of input. Pam Haendle is the point person, combining knowledge of computers with a strong commitment to making the data base move forward successfully. As Phil was evaluating fleeces, Pam was entering the placements of each class into the data base. She had

The CGA booth at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck was a tremendous success. It offered many different cashmere products as well as promotional products from CGA. Plan to join us next year!

The year was topped off with the International Cashmere Goat Workshop, the brain child of Nora Kravis of Chianti Cashmere and Christine McBrearty-Hulse, CGA's secretary. Attendance was strong, with participation from all over the world. We were able to listen to the state of cashmere from many perspectives, from farmers to scientists.



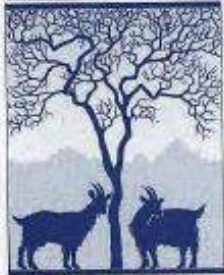
Nora Kravis and her beautiful Cashmere goats in Italy

Conversations went beyond the work sessions, and, I think, we all learned a tremendous amount from each other. Ron Fiorica, president of NWCA, attended as well as several of our members and others from the States.

These very informative issues of Hoofprints are the hard work of Maggie Constantine Porter and Becky Bemus. Submissions of articles are more than welcome. Your thoughts and experiences would be most beneficial to all of us.

Best,

Wendy Pieh,
President




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THE BUCK:

"Dress Like a Million Bucks!" So admonished an ad on the back of one of our weeklies.

In my mind's eye I saw a million bucks prancing over the Mongolian steppe. At 4-8 oz. per buck they would provide for quite a few cashmere shawls.

At the bottom of the ad it said: "Dressy? Check. Casual? Yep. Classic? You bet. Our European styled bucks wake up a pair of jeans, or raise the game of your favourite dress slacks. Crazy comfortable".



Caricature courtesy of Denis Gagnon,
Merrickville, Ontario, Canada

Don't know about "European styled", but the rest describes cashmere pretty well. And Samuel Hubbard sells bucks. Except they are shoes, presumably made from buck skins.

This got me thinking about the word "buck". It has been around for a long time and has developed

many different meanings. A casual search on the internet kept me busy for a couple of days.

A buck is indeed the male of a large number of species, not just horned and antlered animals, but also rabbits and hares and (yes!) shad, a type of herring. A female shad is, however, not called a "doe shad", but a "roe shad" - close enough. Further searching revealed a number of uses of the word "buck", most of which reminded me of various aspects of my smelly male companions.

A "buck" is a dashing ("smashing" kept coming to my mind) man or youth. I remember a gathering of us psychiatrists discussing the sleep issues of the elderly, when the statesman like older psychiatrist turned to our chief, Dr. Owen Buck, saying "...but to a young buck like you...", eliciting a smile from everybody.

A "buck" is a dollar, probably stemming from the use of buck skins as a unit in the trade between Native Americans and Europeans in the olden days.

A "buck" is strong and sturdy and is used in gymnastics as a leather covered block for vaulting. As a child in Sweden I played "hoppa bock" (jump buck), where one kid (human) stood bent over with hands on the knees or thighs for support, and the next kid jumped over her, pushing off with the hands on the other kid's back, and then positioning herself for the next kid's jump ad infinitum. Like leapfrog, except we could adjust the height of "the buck". And we all know about the "sawbuck".

We also know about President Truman's sign on his desk: "The buck stops here." This use of the word presumably comes from a buckhorn knife, that was used in poker games to indicate who should deal next. If this person did not want the responsibility, he would pass the buckknife to the next person.

It is used in military parlance, like the lowest of a particular rank, as in "buck private", meaning no rank at all - just being male.

Buck can also be a verb, like "to leap with arched back and come down with head low and forelegs stiff in order to dislodge something on the back". I have been "dislodged" from both horses and bucks (the latter when attempting to give them an injection somewhere in the behind). The rest of the verbs generally have to do with resisting or forcing your way through or proceeding against an obstacle, actions well known to goat owners.

The only positive expression (except for the strength and sturdiness) I found was "to buck up", meaning to become more vigorous. Never came across "buck naked".

Looking for similar things in other male farm animals, I did not find much. The bull has a venerable history in mythology, but nowadays this word is mostly invoked in connections with a certain bodily excretion, and it means nonsense. The ram is known for battering rams and for ramming: "hitting a target by running oneself into the target". Queen Vitoria supposedly had her "stallion", John Brown, (after her beloved Prince Albert died, of course), but except for sexual prowess the stallions don't seem to have impressed themselves very much on us.

I think all this means is that we have a lot of mixed feelings for our bucks, and I am pretty sure these feelings are reciprocated.

Yvonne Taylor
Black Locust Farm

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CASHMERE CARPET CUSHIONS

There are three types of carpet cushions, according to the Carpet Cushion Council in Pennsylvania: foam, rubber, and fiber. Foam and rubber cushions are made from manmade materials. Fiber cushions use existing fibers, which are interlocked into a sheet of felt.

Researchers at the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning have suggested use of cashmere for fiber carpet cushions. The project was part of a sustainable architecture model. They concluded that natural fiber carpet cushions can be made of virgin jute fiber with some cashmere fiber added for softness and resilience.

Maryanne Reynolds
Stone Harvest Farm



Hulse Hill Farm

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TUNBRIDGE SHOW REPORT

The Cashmere Goat Association held its annual New England Breeders North American Cashmere Goat Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival on Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, October 1, in Tunbridge, Vermont. We also co-sponsored with the Northwest Cashmere Association a first combined North American Cashmere Goat International Fleece Competition for our two organizations, which took place on Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29.

Our judge this year was Phil Smith of Roving Winds Farm in Coldwater, Ontario. He and his wife Becky Bemus have over 200 cashmere goats which they raise alongside Dexter cattle. He brought professionalism and skill both to the International Fleece Show judged on Friday and Saturday morning, and to the goat show that followed. Fleece and Goat Show results will be included in the developing North American Cashmere Goat Database when it is online later in 2018.

CGA/NWCA International Fleece Show Results

Eighty-two fleeces were entered in the CGA/NWCA Fleece Competition from farms across the United State. Judging began on Friday with final placements completed on Saturday morning.

Congratulations to Hulse Hill Farm, Fly Creek, NY, for the top honors of Grand Champion Doe and Best in Show which were awarded to the fleece from six year-old TFC Gwen entered by Christine McBrearty-Hulse. The Reserve Champion Doe ribbon went to STON Lily of Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA, entered by Maryanne Reynolds and Jana Dengler.

The Grand Champion Buck fleece was GK Orion of Caprette Cashmere, Wilton, CA, entered by Ron and Barbara Fiorina. The Reserve Champion Buck ribbon went to STC Hugo of Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME, entered by Wendy Pieh and Peter

Goth. The Grand Champion Wether fleece belonged to STC Paschal of Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, ME, entered by Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth. Reserve Champion Wether was awarded to CSM Pambana of St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY, entered by Sister Mary Elizabeth Garrett.

Thanks to all who sent in entries, and especially to Fleece Show Superintendent Pam Haendle who created the online registration system, monitored spreadsheets and received/returned fleeces not used in the goat show. Pam also worked tirelessly to enter all the goats whose fleeces were assessed into the new North American Cashmere database.

A complete compilation of Fleece Show placements follows.

The judge, Phil Smith, reviewing fleeces



FLEECE SHOW DOE CLASSES

Yearling Does (Born 2016) (14 entries)

1. STC Brina Hulse Hill Farm, *Fly Creek, New York*
2. BLF Nineve Black Locust Farm, *Washington, Maine*
3. EMW Bella East Meets West Farm, *Richford, Vermont*
4. CSM Vivian, Lady of the Lake St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
5. PHF Padme Pine Hill Farm, *Stockton, New Jersey*



Fleece Show Grand Champion and Best in Show Fleeces

Two Year-old Does (Born 2015) (8 entries)

1. BLF Chicory Black Locust Farm, *Washington, Maine*
2. BLF Nefertiti Black Locust Farm, *Washington, Maine*
3. STON Opal Stone Harvest Farm, *Petersham, Massachusetts*
4. CSM Kudala St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
5. STC Isadora Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine*

Three Year-old Does (Born 2014) (8 entries)

1. CSM Thanzi St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
2. HPF Rapunzel Hermit Pond Farm, *Edmeston, New York*
3. BLF Lisbeth Black Locust Farm, *Washington, Maine*
4. CSM Rye St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*

Four Year-old Does (Born 2013) (5 entries)

1. CPRC Diavola Spring Gate Farm, *Barboursville, Virginia*
2. CSM Kachiwiri St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
3. CSM Umboni St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*

Five Year-old Does (Born 2012) (8 entries)

1. SGF Lena Spring Gate Farm, *Barboursville, Virginia*
2. SGF Lyla Spring Gate Farm, *Barboursville, Virginia*
3. CSM Ebony St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
4. STC Cecily Casa Blanca Goat Farm, *Center Sandwich, New Hampshire*

Six Year-old Does (Born 2011) (9 entries)

1. TFC Gwen Hulse Hill Farm, *Fly Creek, New York*
2. STON Lily Stone Harvest Farm, *Petersham, Massachusetts*
3. CSM Vina Hulse Hill Farm, *Fly Creek, New York*
4. CSM Limbani St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
5. BLF Isadora Black Locust Farm, *Washington, Maine*

Senior Does (Born 20110 or earlier) (7 entries)

1. SFC Crow Stone Harvest Farm, *Petersham, Massachusetts*
2. SGF Lola Spring Gate Farm, *Barboursville, Virginia*
3. CPRC Armonia Caprette Cashmere, *Wilton, California*
4. HPF Lolita Hermit Pond Farm, *Edmeston, New York*

Grand Champion Doe: TFC Gwen, Hulse Hill Farm, *Fly Creek, New York*

Reserve Champion Doe: STON Lily, Stone Harvest Farm, *Petersham, Massachusetts*

FLEECE SHOW BUCK CLASSES**Yearling Bucks** (Born 2016) (5 entries)

1. STC Hugo Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine*
2. STC Kenji Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine*

Two Year-old Bucks (Born 2015) (4 entries)

1. GK Orion Caprette Cashmere, *Wilton, California*
2. HPF Sebastian Hermit Pond Farm, *Edmeston, New York*

Senior Bucks (Born 2014 or earlier) (2 entries)

1. CGB Ray Casa Blanca Goat Farm, *Center Sandwich, New Hampshire*
2. SGF Nico 352 Spring Gate Farm, *Barboursville, Virginia*

Grand Champion Buck: GK Orion, Caprette Cashmere, *Wilton, California*

Reserve Champion Buck: STC Hugo, Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine*

FLEECE SHOW WETHER CLASSES**Yearling Wethers** (Born 2016) (8 entries)

1. CSM Pambana St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
2. HHF Otto Hulse Hill Farm *Fly Creek, New York*
3. EMW Blaze East Meets West Farm *Richford, Vermont*

Two Year-old Wethers (Born 2015) (2 entries)

1. STC Pascal Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine*
2. CSM Livingstone "Rocky" St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*

Mature Wethers (Born 2014 or earlier) (2 entries)

1. HPF Olaf Hulse Hill Farm, *Fly Creek, New York*
2. CBG Percival Casa Blanca Goat Farm, *Center Sandwich, New Hampshire*

Grand Champion Wether: STC Pascal, *Springtide Cashmere, Bremen, Maine*

Reserve Champion Wether: CSM Pambana, *St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, New York*

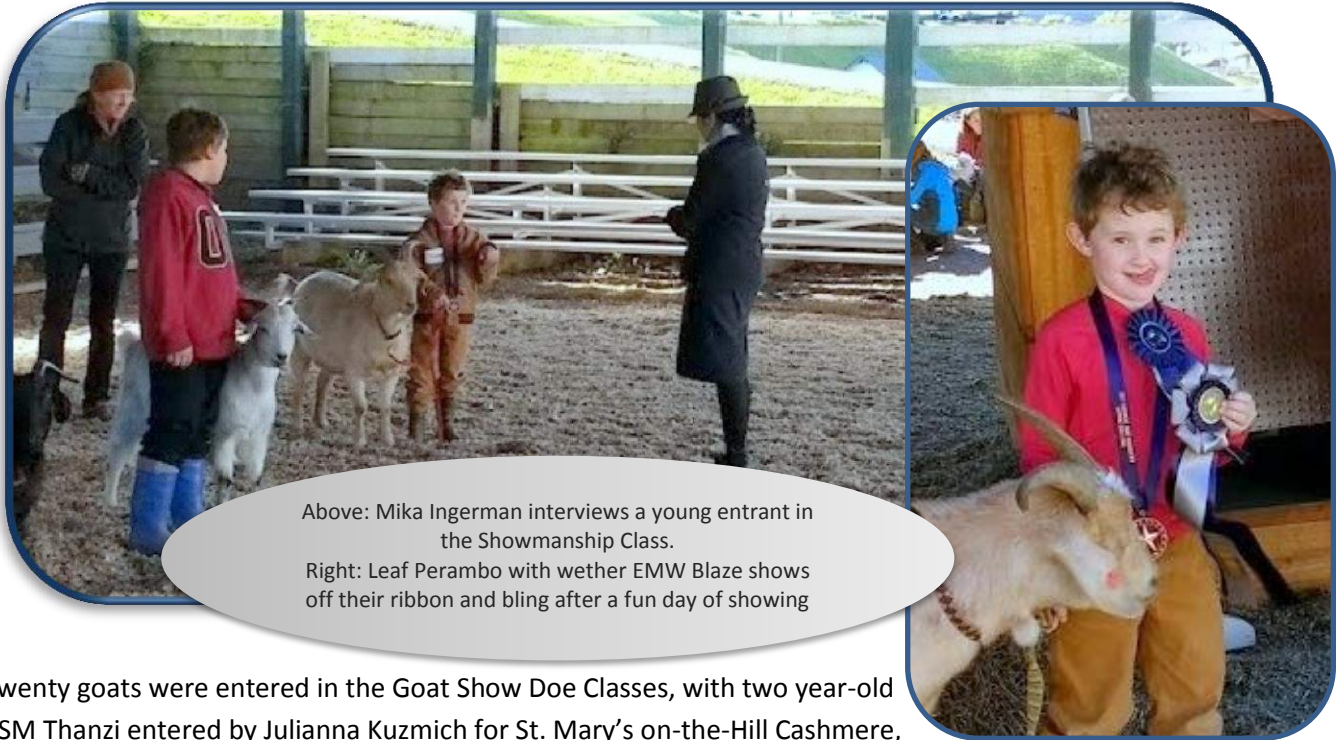
New England Breeders Show Results

Thirty-eight goats were entered in the goat show, representing eight farms from Maine, New York, New Jersey and Vermont. Most of the fleeces submitted for the CGA Goat Show were assessed as part of the CGA/NWCA Fleece Competition. Saturday afternoon Phil examined goats in their stalls for a portion of the animal conformation scores.

Show Day on Sunday began with a new event, the Caprine Challenge, open to youth and adults and directed by Mika Ingerman of Burlington, VT. This event involved walking goats through an obstacle course, showing handler skill and goat cooperation. The First Place medallion was won by Ella Derbyshire showing CSM Onyx (see photo below, right side), with second and third place medallions earned by Keegan Collins showing CSM Copper Penny (center) and Rose Derbyshire showing CSM Harry T. Happiness (left), respectively. Kudos to youth and adult challenge participants alike for trying our challenge course, some taking part without having worked with their goat before.



Sixteen youth exhibitors showed goats on Sunday, representing their family farms or showing goats that had been leased through the summer season as a 4-H project. Mika Ingerman also judged the Youth Showmanship Classes. Eva Sgambettera of Cambridge, NY, won Master Showman, showing buck kid CSM Sir Tristan, with Keegan Collins of Greenwich, NY, earning Reserve Showman honors with doe kid CSM Copper Penny.



Above: Mika Ingerman interviews a young entrant in the Showmanship Class.

Right: Leaf Perambo with wether EMW Blaze shows off their ribbon and bling after a fun day of showing

Twenty goats were entered in the Goat Show Doe Classes, with two year-old CSM Thanzi entered by Julianna Kuzmich for St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY, taking Grand Champion Doe and Best in Show honors. The Reserve Champion Doe was yearling doe STC Brina entered and shown by Christine McBrearty-Hulse of Hulse Hill Farm in Fly Creek, NY.

Out of eight bucks entered, Grand Champion Buck honors went to STC Hugo (see photo on page 1), with STC Kenjii taking Reserve Champion Buck, yearling bucks entered by Wendy Pieh of Springtide Cashmere. Eleven wethers competed with two year-old CSM Livingstone ("Rocky") of St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere shown by Keegan Collins earning the Grand Champion Wether ribbon, and yearling EMW Blaze of East Meets West Family Farm shown by Leaf Perambo taking Reserve Champion.

A more complete listing of placings in the Show follows.

GOAT SHOW DOE CLASSES

Doe Kids (Born in 2017) (1 entry)

1. CSM Copper Penny St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Greenwich, NY (Keegan Collins)

Yearling Does (Born in 2016) (9 entries)

1. STC Brina Hulse Hill Farm, Fly Creek, New York (Christine McBrearty-Hulse)
2. BLF Nineve Black Locust Farm, Washington, Maine (Yvonne Taylor)

3. SGF Dulcy, Pine Hill Farm, *Stockton, New Jersey (Loriann Fell)*
4. PHF Padme Pine Hill Farm, *Stockton, New Jersey (Loriann Fell)*
5. STC Bianca Hulse Hill Farm, *Fly Creek, New York (Christine McBrearty-Hulse)*



Two and Three Year-old Does (Born in 2015 & 2014) (5 entries)

1. CSM Thanzi St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Julianna Kuzmich)*
2. CSM Rye St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Chris Kuzmich)*
3. CSM Kudala St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Roxie Vanderhoff)*

Mature Does (Born 2013 and earlier) (5 entries)

1. CSM Umboni St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Eva Sgambettera)*
2. CSM Kachiwiri St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Alex Baker)*
3. CSM Sangalala St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Madison Wolff)*



Grand Champion Doe:

CSM Thanzi, St. Mary's on-the-Hill
Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York*
(Julianna Kuzmich)

Reserve Champion Doe:

STC Brina, Hulse Hill Farm
Fly Creek, New York
(Christine McBrearty-Hulse)

GOAT SHOW BUCK CLASSES

Buck Kids (Born 2017) (4 entries)

1. EMW Calistoga East Meets West Family Farm, *Richford, VT (Elyse Perambo)*
2. CSM Sir Percival St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*
3. CSM Sir Tristan St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*

Yearling and 2-year old Bucks (Born 2016 and 2015) (4 entries)

1. STC Hugo Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine (Wendy Pieh)*
2. STC Kenji Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine (Wendy Pieh)*
3. CSM Wolimba St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*

Grand Champion Buck:

STC Hugo Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine (Wendy Pieh)*

Reserve Champion Buck:

STC Kenji Springtide Cashmere, *Bremen, Maine (Wendy Pieh)*

GOAT SHOW WETHER CLASSES

Wether Kids (Born 2017) (5 entries)

1. PHF Caramel Pine Hill Farm, *Stockton, NJ (Loriann Fell)*
2. CSM Sir Gawain St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*
3. CSM Modzi St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*
4. CSM Sir Torre St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*

Yearling and Two Year-old Wethers (6 entries)

1. EMW Blaze East Meets West Farm *Richford, Vermont (Elyse Perambo)*
4. CSM Livingstone "Rocky" St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*
2. DFF Onyx Derbyshire Family Farm, *Cambridge, New York (Ella Derbyshire)*
5. CSM Sir Galahad St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*

Grand Champion Wether:

EMW Blaze East Meets West Farm, *Richford, Vermont (Elyse Perambo)*

Reserve Champion Wether:

CSM Livingstone "Rocky" St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, *Greenwich, New York (Sister Mary Elizabeth)*



By the time this issue of Hoofprints hits your mailbox, the CGA Cashmere goat database may be accessible to all online. I hope so, and I do know we are getting close! As I write this in early January, the database has been built and populated with a complete list of herd codes and the results from the 2017 CGA/NWC Fleece competition and the 2017 CGA goat show. Firefly, the company we hired to build an online interface to the database, is making good progress on the new software, so when you read this it may be possible to go online and search for goats by name or search for a list of goats with characteristics you specify.

As a research tool, the database is already available to us. (To be precise, it's available to me only at the moment – but I'll be happy to share with any techies out there.) Of course, the amount of data we have stored away is very small and I don't wish to suggest that we can draw any conclusions about goat characteristics from our tiny collection of information. The real research value of the database will be realized when we have collected mountains of assessment data and pedigree history from decades of shows and independent evaluations – well after those of us in my generation have hung up our hoof trimmers. But former programmers can't resist the urge to play around with data, so I thought I would run some queries against the current database to help us all think about the kind of information we will ultimately be able to glean from it.

First, here are some stats on the data we have collected. We loaded data on:

- 399 herd codes and associated farms and farmers.
 - We marked 64 farms as active. I hope that number will grow as we learn more.
 - The farms we know to be active represent 23 states and provinces, with the largest number of farms in Maine, Oregon, Vermont, and Virginia.
- 225 goats
 - 97 of the goats have evaluation data from the fleece competition and goat show and are eligible to be certified as meeting the CGA qualifications for cashmere goats
 - The remaining 128 goats are present as "pedigree only" entries, with just basic information

I hope that we will eventually use the database to investigate correlations between data elements. (e.g. Is really fine fiber more likely to have good style?) So – with a big caveat about the danger of extracting meaning from statistics drawn from tiny samples and a reminder that the evaluations all came from a single judge and from goats or fleeces from 14 farms, here are some examples of queries and results.

- Goats earning the highest scores on mean fiber diameter were indeed most likely to earn top scores for style.
 - 20 goats earned top scores in both areas, whereas 9 goats were judged to have top level MFD and style with a score at or below 2.0
 - 38 goats were given medium-range scores for MFD, and the majority of them (21) also had medium-range scores for style. Only 6 of them had top scores for style.

The news on yield is rather sobering. I know we like to talk about getting 4 to 6 ounces from our adult goats, but the average total down weight on the competition fleeces was only 2.3 ounces. This was

based on estimated yields that averaged 43%. Happily, there was a standout fleece that had a TDW of 5.83 ounces.

I had the privilege of sitting with Phil when he evaluated fleeces for the competition, so I wasn't surprised to find that the word "inconsistent" was recorded very frequently in the judge's comments field on the database. I would say we have work to do, in general, on differentiation in our fleeces, too, as the majority of our fleeces didn't earn top scores in this area.

Average length of our competition fleeces was a respectable 1.83 inches, and 43 of the fleeces were 2 inches long or greater.

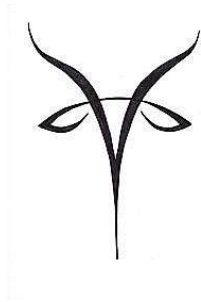
I have often wondered if coat color, fiber color, and guard hair length are correlated with other fiber characteristics, so I ran some queries on these elements. Warning: these stats are even more suspect than the others, since not everyone provided information on colors and guard hair length with their fleece entries, and we had lots more black goats with short guard hair and brown fiber than any other type. But, calculating a percentage for each represented color and type of guard hair, we see this:

- Fiber length was a little better on goats with short guard hair. (The best fiber length, on average, was on goats for whom guard hair length was not specified! Go figure.)
- Goats with long guard hair averaged slightly better scores on differentiation.
- The finest fiber was grey, although brown, white and tan tied for second place.
- Unfortunately, that same grey fiber had the shortest average fiber length.
- Goats with "multi-colored" and brown guard hair had the best differentiation scores.

I hope that the database will eventually help us identify the goats – especially bucks – who produce the finest offspring. So, I experimented with one more query, linking the pedigree data with the evaluation data to see if any bucks frequently popped up as sires of goats who won top honors in the fleece competition or the goat show. Even though we only had 6 awards, one sire did appear more than once: SFC Gangotri, from the St. Francis Community! Looking then at the sires for all of the 1st and 2nd place winners, I found two stars who fathered five winners each: SFC Gangotri, and TFC Cairn. There were four bucks who each sired two of the winners: BLF Uther, CSM Tamanda, STC Lance-a-Lot, and TFC Ethan.

Forgive me if I remind you one more time not to attach significance to these results, coming from a small pool of data. Perhaps we would be justified in regretting the fact that Gangotri is no longer living, however. When the database access is live, you will at least be able to search for his descendants! Meanwhile, thank you for indulging me while I played around with queries. I hope we will think of more correlations and patterns to research and that we will want to run all of these queries and more when we have lots of data to analyze.

Pam Haendle
Hermit Pond Farm



2017 International Cashmere Goat Workshop

Discovering Your Cashmere World & Community

The Cashmere goat world just got a little smaller or should I say connected. In early November CGA and NWCA members along with many others from around the globe including those from locations in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Mongolia gathered for the sole purpose to pursue further knowledge in this ever changing world of cashmere. The location of the conference was a quaint village of Radda in Chianti, Italy. One might say this was a “Cashmere World Conference” for the *actual* cashmere producer! We met with the goal of explaining, comparing, evaluating and exchanging ideas on: genetics, fiber, preferences for short or long hair, for combing vs shearing, favor color, for harvesting tools, as well as discussing processing of raw fiber to the finished product. Examining the future of cashmere production on a small and large-scale production basis was a key topic.

The amount of information presented was *abundant* to say the least. Thus, conference organizers including Nora Kravis, proprietor of Chianti Cashmere, and I decided to hire a professional to record the program. This would allow for the information to be shared and used in the future. Outside the world of Lorna Piano, Brunello Cucinelli, Eileen Fisher and the Pringle’s of Scotland are cashmere producers who all are tackling the same questions. A *few* of the topics participants were educated about included:



Marketing, labeling and demand for cashmere regarding herd size



Sustainability and traceability of our cashmere production vs. Mongolia and China cashmere quality around the world and desired traits



Universal cashmere goat standards and amount of production



Milling processes and options



Product design and product processing chains



Breeding and fiber genetics (Follicle research)



Future advancement in cashmere genetics

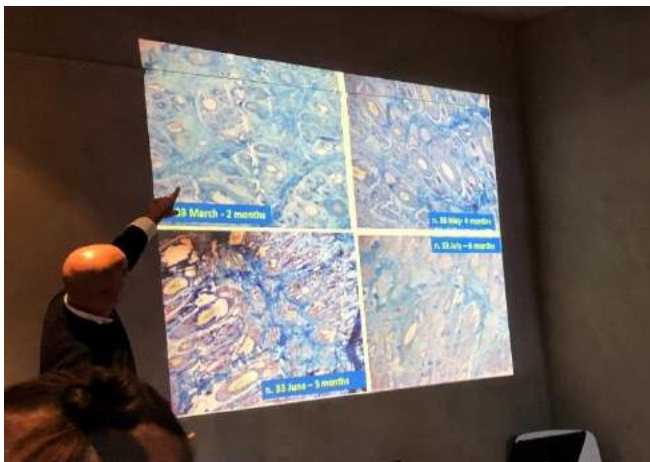
Presenters and their presentation topics included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Wendy Pieh | Springtide Farm, President Cashmere Goat Association
<i>The North American Cashmere Goat</i> |
| Micheala Zeiter | Alpine Cashmere Association, Switzerland
<i>The Swiss Alpine Cashmere Goat</i> |
| Sy Belohlavek | June Cashmere, Kyrgyzstan
<i>Cashmere as Catalyst</i> |
| Dr. Andrew James | President Australian Cashmere Growers Association
<i>Experiences in Breeding Australian Cashmeres</i> |
| David & Robin Shaw | Otago & Southland, New Zealand
<i>New Zealand Cashmere</i> |
| Dr. Primo Brachi | Brachi Testing Services
<i>International Cashmere Fiber Analyses, Identification and Comparison</i> |
| Dr. Marco Antonini | Professor of Genetics and Genetics Improvement
Veterinary Medicine School of Camerino
<i>Cashmere Fiber Production and Collection System in China</i> |
| Dr. Carlo Renieri | Professor of Genetics and Genetics Improvement
Veterinary Medicine School of Camerino
<i>Variability of Fiber Quality on Chinese Alashan Left Banner
White Cashmere Goat</i> |
| Nigel Thompson | Consorzio Biella the Wool Company
<i>Traceability and Sustainability in Wool and Cashmere</i> |
| Dr. Irene Pazzaglia | Professor of Genetics and Genetics Improvement
Veterinary Medicine School of Camerino
<i>"Genetic Basis of Early Activation of Hair Follicle in Cashmere Goat: An
Approach with Candidate Genes"</i> |
| Jeffrey Monteiro | J.M. Generals
<i>American Cashmere Processing and End Use in Finished Goods</i> |
| Deirdre Bushnell | Still River Mill, USA
<i>Trials and Tribulations of Small Scale Cashmere Processing</i> |

Each of these valuable presentations is now available on *Vimeo*. To download please go to the Vimeo link provided <https://vimeo.com/251470621> and choose the presentation you are interested in learning about. If you have any questions, please contact Christine McBrearty-Hulse at mcbrearty3@yahoo.com. More information about the presenters is available on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/International-Cashmere-Goat-Workshop-2017-Tuscany-Italy-1453834197989893/> or the program guide at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RJadmGOZBYjvOIKW4jebymJYSKShnqGIFuockjVz_mY/edit?usp=sharing_cil&ts=5a7b0598



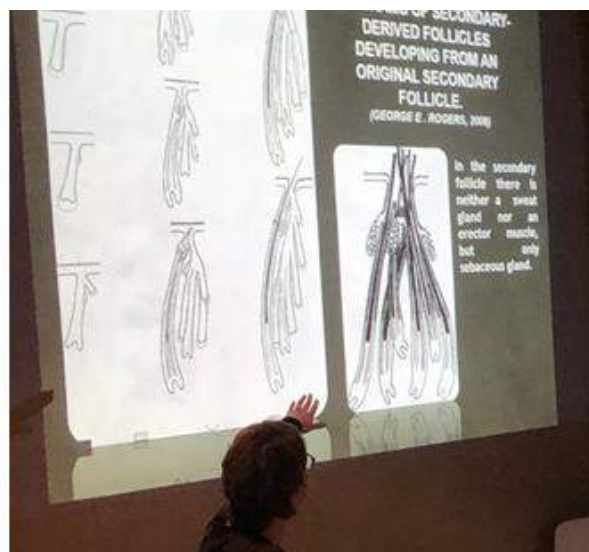
Two days of presentations in the heart of Radda, Chianti Italy. Our one and only Jeffrey Montero from J.M. Generals, discussing cashmere product composition, design and marketing.



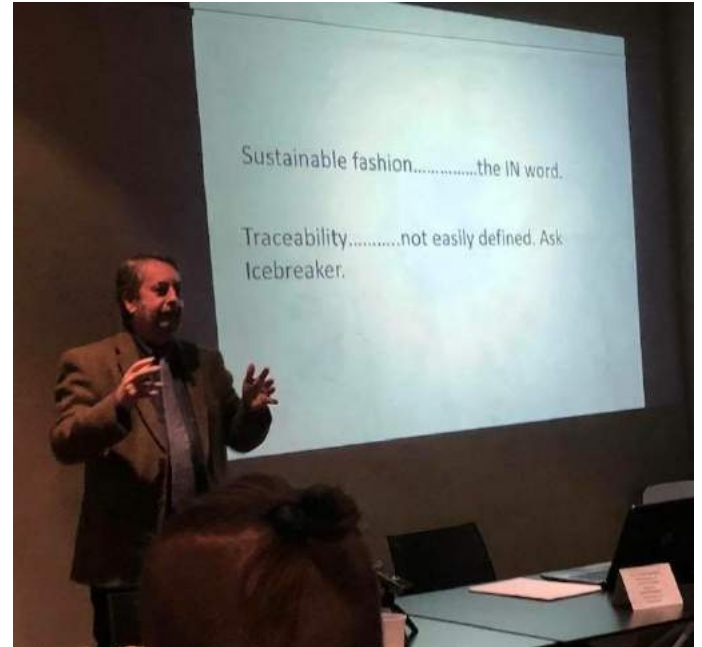
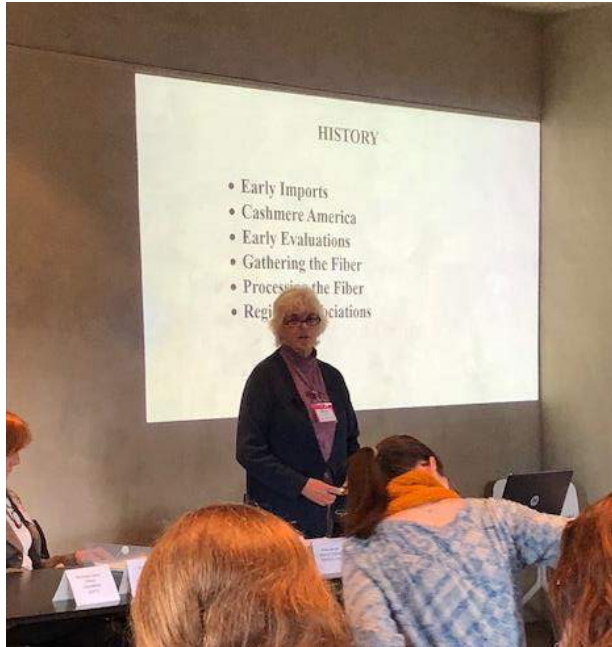
Dr. Marco Antonini discussing fiber growth and harvesting volume in white Chinese cashmere.



David Shaw from New Zealand Cashmere and Dr. Andrew James from Australia presented detailed fiber production value chains also speaking to the genetics qualities of their fiber.



Sy Belohlavek from June Cashmere shared his journey to discovering how to organize and process cashmere from Kyrgyzstan nomadic herders. Dr. Irene Pazzaglia reviews her recent finding in first year follicle growth in cashmere goats.



Our own Wendy Pieh, from Springtide Farm in Maine, does an amazing presentation on the North American Cashmere Goat Breed Standards. Nigel Thompson from the UK presents on the most recent value and understanding of the terms sustainability and traceability.



Primo Brachi from one of the largest cashmere fiber testing labs in the country, Brachi Testing, discussing grading cashmere and references examination of the makeup of the length, scales, and diameter of cashmere. He also notes the most recent observations in cashmere traits being harvested in cashmere from around the world. Deirdre Bushnell from Still River Mill in Connecticut explains the details of mill processing for cashmere and its challenges.



Dr. Carlo Renieri discusses his findings between genetics and nutrition in regard to fiber quality in the white Chinese Cashmere goat. Micheala Zeiter from Switzerland shares traits of the Swiss Alpine Cashmere Goat. Her presentation included data on the migration patterns of her herd using GPS tracking collars.



Participants experienced a private tour of the DGH dye facility.



Prato Textile Museum and UCAM University lab visits.



Round table discussions with our presenters occurred for the afternoon.



The opening and welcome to the workshop occurred at Chianti Cashmere with host Nora Kravis.



Left: Always a chance to help with farm chores!

Right: Workshop hosts and organizers, Nora Kravis from Chianti Cashmere and Christine McBrearty-Hulse from Hulse Hill Farm.

Looking forward to the next International Cashmere Goat Conference 2020..... New Zealand?

INSIGHTS FROM ITALY:

Cashmere Farmers in Australia and New Zealand

This past fall after great deal of planning and saving I boarded a plane to Italy for the International Cashmere Goat workshop. It was an amazing week of immersion into the world of Cashmere from the view of small-scale farmers, large-scale farmers, designers, mills, and scientists. I am of the view of the small-scale farmer and it was quite inspiring to get to talk with folks from all aspects of the Cashmere industry.

During the conference I met farmers raising Cashmere goats in Switzerland, Northern Italy, Australia, New Zealand and across the United States. I was especially intrigued with what has been evolving with Cashmere goats on the large-scale farms of Andrew James in Australia and David Shaw in New Zealand. Cashmere goats were first brought down under by sailing ships in the 1800's and eventually became feral. In 1972 a scientist discovered that some of the feral goats had cashmere and efforts were made in the 80's to develop a cashmere industry in Australia and New Zealand.

Andrew James began raising Cashmere goats in Australia in 1982 and currently has around 300 goats. He spoke about the "Merrrit" Cashmere goat, which the Australian Cashmere Growers' Association considers to be a new breed of high quality Cashmere goats. The "Merrrit" Cashmere goat has been developed through selective breeding of the best Cashmere goats in

Australia based on statistical analysis of the animals down weight, MFD, and genetics. The

"Merrrit" Cashmere goats have also been selected to be white and are shorn. Andrew spoke about the future hopes to breeding out the guard hair to help bring down fiber processing costs and to retain the percentage of the down weight loss that happens in the dehairing process.

David Shaw's farm is in New Zealand and he has around 700 goats. In New Zealand they have also been using statistical analysis to make breeding decisions from their Cashmere stock. Some of the attributes of the Cashmere goats that are bred on David's farm are that they are selected for white fleece, low MFD, good down weight, and sturdy feet with a good distance between the toes. Their fiber

is also harvested by shearing. Since the goats in New Zealand and Australia have been developed separately from each other there is growing interest in crossing these lines. David recently brought in two of Andrews bucks and is in the process of analyzing the data from the 140 kids born this year from the cross.

In comparison the Cashmere Goats in the United States have not undergone the same large scale breeding management plans. Many large farms have used best breeding practices, but we lack the sheer volume of genetic diversity that New Zealand and Australia have from the feral herds. Since breeding has also been more subjective due to a farmer's personal preference we have a large variety of colors and guard hair lengths. Like all good shepherds we were sharing photos of our farms and goats. Since most of our genetics came from New Zealand and Australia



our goats look much like the feral goats, which I believe Andrew and James found quite entertaining.



Both of Andrew and David's talks highlighted the importance of fiber analysis on all the goats in a breeding program and how bucks should be selected for the best qualities you would like to see in a herd. Also it is important to collect data on the offspring to see if the traits desired are being expressed. Interestingly, I learned from the conference that animals with the highest down weight are most likely to have a higher MFD. China's Cashmere industry inadvertently brought their overall MFD up by selecting animals with higher down weights.



Through connections made at this conference farmers in the United States are in the process of importing David Shaw's Cashmere goat genetics. I am left wondering if this fresh line of genetics will change the feral look of our goats? Will this be considered a different type of Cashmere goat? But as all patient farmers knows only time can answer these questions.

More information can be found at:

cashmeremerritt.com
www.bathamptoncashmeres.com
www.nzcashmere.com



What the Heck is a buck Apron? And Why the Heck would You Use One?

The dilemma: Our buck was living at a family member's farm while we worked on getting a barn and fencing set up for him. But around the time we brought him home to breed our does, New England winter unexpectedly set in with full force, and setting fence posts took a backseat to keeping warm and moving snow.

We have four does, but only wanted to breed two of them this year, so simply running him with our herd wasn't an option. We could bring him back to the other farm for the winter, but we like the big guy and really wanted him to stay home. Keeping him isolated didn't seem like such a great idea either...no goats, not even stinky bucks, like being alone.

So, what to do?

Enter the buck apron.

It's a simple idea, a barrier method of birth control. A flap of material is secured to the buck around the girth, just behind the forelegs. When the buck mounts the doe, the flap of material creates a physical barrier over the doe's hindquarters, preventing the buck from breeding her. He can court her, blubber all over her, sniff her and lick her to his heart's content,



but the buck apron stops him from sealing the deal.

An online search found a lot of folks on message boards who had tried to fashion their own, homemade buck aprons, but the failure rates seemed high. Smooth-coated dairy goats with slim bodies would slip out of them. The aprons would turn, or twist, or be found on the ground when a determined buck decided he was done wearing this thing.

But one lady who kept Boer goats in Colorado perfected her design, and now sells them online. Boasting of a zero failure rate in more than two years of testing, the Bacchus Johnson Anti-Mating Shield is made-to-order out of nylon in a variety of sizes, and a few color options, with an adjustable strap. The flap itself is weighted, which helps to keep it from shifting out from under the buck.

After measuring my buck's girth, I ordered him a "large," and it arrived about a week later. We fitted him with the apron right away and, after a couple of peanuts for being a good boy, he seemed completely over the fact that it was even on him.

We made him wear it for a few days in isolation, just to make sure he couldn't slip out of it or move it out of place. But, his ample belly and longer guard hair hold the apron right where it should be. As of this writing, we've gone through two heat cycles with the open does where they have been allowed to run with the aproned buck, and they are still unbred, while

the two does I planned on breeding this year were successfully bred and are due to kid in early May.

A nice bonus of the apron is that it has curtailed the buck's ability to urinate on himself, meaning less staining on his legs and face and reduced risk of urine scalding. Our lucky buck also gets to stay with his girlfriends, and he seems pretty happy being a part of the herd.



Side view of EMW Aeros wearing his buck apron. The apron has greatly reduced the urine accumulation on his face and forelegs. The doe beside him was in standing heat at the time of this photo, but has remained unbred despite running with Aeros full-time since early December 2017.

There are some downsides. Buck aprons aren't foolproof, and they can fail. I check the tension on the strap every few days and adjust as needed to make sure it's not too loose as to slip or shift, but not too tight as to cause him discomfort. If the buck is slim in the barrel, or sleek-coated, the apron may not work ideally. The apron also needs to be removed regularly and scrubbed down, as the buck will urinate on it. Our buck is very easy to catch, handle and work with, but if he were not, all of this might not be possible.

Like with a collar, there is a risk of the buck getting caught up or tangled on something, though I haven't yet experienced a problem. If there's more brush or catchy things in your pasture or enclosure, this may not be a great option for you.

Finally, the strap does cause some matting of the cashmere where it rests, though it seems minimal on our buck. I've chosen to accept some cashmere loss from him this year because of this, but it's something to consider if choosing to use a buck apron.

If you're interested in learning more, you can find the Bacchus Johnson Anti-Mating Shield online at

www.houseofbacchuspetsupplies.com.

I've found the owner and apron-maker, June McLean, extremely responsive and helpful in answering questions and giving tips on how to best use her buck aprons. Please note: The weighted flap on the large-sized Bacchus Johnson Anti-Mating Shield shown above is about 14 inches long, and the strap is adjustable.

Jaclyn Severance,
Hidden Brook Farm, Eastford, Conn.



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

Send to:

Maggie Porter
Constantine.maggie@gmail.com

AN OKIE IN ITALY

Since I am new to the Association, allow me to introduce myself. I am Heidi Dickens, owner and manager of Myers Family Farm in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. We bought our first cashmere goats from Jane & Garth TenNapel of Terrell, Texas in 2013. About 2 years ago I formed a closed Facebook group specifically for cashmere breeders to learn from each other in an interactive format. (Here is my shameless plug for everyone to send a member request to join the Cashmere Collaboration Facebook group.) It was through this Facebook group that I began to learn how cashmere herds were developing differently, not only in the US, but around the world. Going to the International Cashmere Conference was an opportunity to meet all my new cashmere “friends” in person and to further investigate my cashmere questions.

One of my cashmere passions is natural colored cashmere. Surprisingly, there has been very little research done on the genetics of cashmere color and whether it is inherited the same way as guard hair color. In Italy, I was able to sit down with Dr. Carlo Renieri and discuss secondary follicle physiology and color inheritance. Even with the language barrier, I was able to further my knowledge and better focus my future breeding plans to intensify different color lines.

Another of my goals has been to make raising cashmere more economical for our farm. Through the Cashmere Collaboration I learned

that cashmere goats in Australia and New Zealand were capable of producing eight times more cashmere per goat than what is typical in most US herds. I then began the process of importing goat semen from the Australian Merrit herd of Andrew James and the New Zealand herd of David & Robin Shaw. This process has been a learning experience for all involved and requires a bit of blind faith. In Italy, we were able to negotiate in person and build a trust that would not have otherwise been possible. I am happy to report that David Shaw is graciously sending extra straws, along with those I have purchased, to be sold on a consignment basis. They will be available this summer for purchase. David & Robin have just launched a beautiful new website, NZCASHMERE.COM, where you can see pictures of their beautiful herd. If you are interested in adding these genetics to your herd, please contact me by email: heididickens@yahoo.com for more information. (That is my last shameless plug.)

I find that farming can be isolating at times. I’m not gonna lie, that is part of the reason I like it. Going to Italy was an important step for me to connect with others that face my exact challenges and share my exact goals. While in Italy, I learned that cashmere people are pretty

special. Maybe it’s the patience that harvesting demands. Maybe it’s the high proportion of artisans. I like to think it’s our constant awe that nature can make a little puff of heaven right here on earth.



HOOF PRINTS TEST KITCHEN

Phil Smith's Curried Goat Stuffed Manicotti

It was a rare week alone on the farm. My wife and an AG student had driven several hours south-east for a 3 day seminar leaving me in charge of the daily farm chores, etc. On the day of their return, they endured car troubles which made for a longer day than they anticipated, so I decided to look for an interesting recipe for dinner. One that would be tasty and satisfying. I also thought I should practice my Indian cooking abilities.

After some research I was unable to find just the right recipe. However, I found 2 that interested me and I decided to merge them into one; hoping it did not end in disaster! Kheema is a traditional ground meat and pea curry dish from South Asia. This recipe is familiar to me having had it alongside other Indian curry dishes at restaurants. The second recipe has Italian roots.

Notes: The Kheema recipe calls for black cardamom, but doesn't specify when to add it. I threw it in at the beginning with the other whole spices. I didn't have shredded coconut so I just added more coconut oil at that step.



Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground lamb or goat meat (kheema)
- 1 cup green peas (fresh or frozen)
- 2 tbsp oil (I used coconut oil)
- 1 dried bay leaf
- 2 small sticks of cinnamon
- 3-4 whole cloves
- 1 black cardamom (badi elaichi), optional
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium tomatoes, finely chopped
- 1 Tbsp ground paste of ginger and garlic
- 1/2 tsp ground turmeric powder (haldi)
- 1 Tbsp ground coriander powder (dhaniya)
- 1 tsp red chili powder
- 3/4 tsp ground cumin powder (jeera)
- 1/2 tsp garam masala
- salt to taste
- Pepper and Cayenne to taste (Optional)
- 2 tbsp shredded unsweetened coconut, made into a thin paste with 1/3 cup water (or use 1/2 cup coconut milk)
- a few stems of fresh cilantro, finely chopped for garnish
- 1/2 Tbsp juice of lemon, (optional) for garnish
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan
- 2 cup grated mozzarella
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 box of Manicotti

Directions:

Heat oil in a skillet.

Add the bay leaf, cinnamon, cloves and black cardamom and let it temper in the oil for a few seconds.



Saute the Big Items First

Add the onions and some salt to allow the onions to cook faster and brown well, takes about 7-10 minutes on med-high heat.

Add turmeric powder and ginger-garlic paste and sauté for a minute.



Add tomatoes and the spices (coriander, chili, cumin & garam masala), along with a cup of water to prevent the spices from burning, and sauté for a few minutes on medium heat.



Add the ground meat cook with the lid on, stirring occasionally, on medium heat for 12-15 minutes until the meat is fully done and oil begins to separate from the mixture.

Add the coconut paste and bring to a simmer. Add more water if needed to thin the curry to desired consistency.



Give it a taste test and add a few shakes of pepper and a little cayenne if desired.

Add the peas and chopped cilantro and let it all simmer with the lid-on for about 3-5 minutes or until the peas are fully done.

Turn off the heat and let cool for a few minutes.

Cook Manicotti until soft but firm (about 6-8 minutes). I used a package of 14 pieces.

Remove manicotti when done and place in casserole dishes.



Stuff with cooked mixture above and cover with diced tomatoes, mozzarella and parmesan.



Cook at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 40 minutes.

Dinner is Served!



Unimpressed dinner guest, RWF Nolan

Recommended wine pairing:



Serve with a bottle of Chilean Carmenera.

Enjoy!

Phil Smith,

Roving Winds Farm, Ontario, Canada





Dear Professor Hircus,

Do goats get bored? Whenever my herd goes outside in the winter they just stand around, chew their cud and once back in the barn they pretty much do the same thing. I also worry that they aren't getting enough exercise, because it's impossible for them to navigate very far outdoors with all the snow and ice we get in the Midwest.

Sandy in La Crosse, Wisconsin

Dear Sandy,

I think what you may be describing is a contented herd especially since, as you point out, it's difficult for hooved animals to run around a pasture during a Wisconsin winter. Just because an animal is standing still or hunkered down in the snow doesn't mean it's not active. It's listening to and watching what's going on. Is the annoying, dominant herd queen far enough away for comfort? Ditto her bratty bucklings? Did I just hear a bird or was it something else?

Chewing on a cud is a good thing, a healthy activity in and of itself. So if you see your goats' jaws going back and forth in the pasture, relax! Ruminating generates warmth and indicates a certain level of contentment. Also, if a goat has found a wind-free and/or sunny spot in a winter pasture, he or she isn't going to leave it unless, of course, pushed aside by a higher status goat.

Goats are naturally inquisitive, so let's assume for the sake of this column that your otherwise healthy goats are bored out of their minds. What to do? Never mind that wild goats, or domesticated goats on large ranches, are too busy worrying about predators, starvation and hypothermia to concern themselves with much beyond

survival. Thankfully, your goats aren't in this situation and you want to keep them alert and happy.

A very interesting article recently appeared in the February 7, 2018 on-line edition of Science Magazine. It was written by David Grimm, and titled "Are happy lab animals better for science?" Grimm not only discusses enriching the lives of lab mice and rats, but of rabbits and sheep. The general consensus among scientists who collect data on confined animals is that animals perform better if they are physically and mentally stimulated. Presumably this is true of goats as well.

According to Grimm:

"In the past decade, a growing body of work has suggested that rodents and other animals have complex mental lives and can experience a range of emotions once only attributed to people. Scientists have learned more about the power of enrichment, too. In 2010, cancer biologist Lei Cao—inspired by a family member who had died of cancer—wondered whether she could combat it by looking beyond drugs or genes. Her team at OSU created a 1-square-meter enclosure filled with so many mazes, running wheels, and bright red, blue, and orange igloos that her daughter dubbed it "Disneyland for Mice."

When injected with cancer cells, animals housed there developed tumors 80% smaller than those in control mice, or no tumors at all. Cao even discovered a possible mechanism: A stimulating environment seemed to activate the brain's hypothalamus, which regulates hormones that affect everything from mood to cancer proliferation. "We showed that there's a hard science behind enrichment," she says. "You can't just treat the body—you have to treat the mind."

Now, back to your herd: take a hard look at the areas where your goats congregate, both indoors and out. Besides water buckets, mineral licks and hay, what else is there for your goats to do? If the answer is, "not much," consider adding any of the following to your barnyard environment, bearing in mind that goats like to climb, roam and explore:

Wooden cable reels, with or without a plank
Homemade see-saw (instructions on the internet)
Homemade jungle gym
Tree stumps/fallen trees



Rock piles provide entertainment for all seasons!

Rock piles
 Sand boxes
 Stair steps
 Barrels
 Old tires, especially tractor tires filled with cement (or not)
 Plastic slides and toddler tables (often available at garage sales)
 Tether ball
 Mega-size exercise ball
 Hang cow bells or treats – make it a challenge for the goats to get to them
 Build structures with mulch hay bales

There are numerous other ideas out there including goat treadmills and goat hot walkers (!) – let's just say that fact is often weirder than fiction....

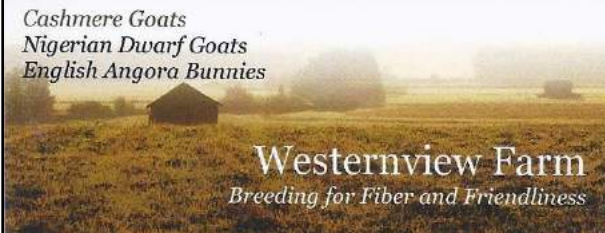
By the way, if you don't have the desire to fill your property with goat toys or exercise equipment, remember this: the most important interaction your goats can have, after interactions with herd mates, is with you. Groom them as frequently as possible, offer them little rewards, take them for walks in nice weather, play music in the barn – all these things will enhance their lives by staving off boredom and encouraging exercise. And it might bring pleasure to you, as well.

USDA 2018 SHEEP AND GOAT SURVEY

The United States Department of Agriculture released in December 2017 its 2018 Sheep and Goat Survey for the Northeastern Region and possibly other regions in the country. Once again, the USDA failed to collect data on cashmere production. Cashmere goats needed to be reported with the "meat and other" goat category. Before cashmere will get express recognition, a case needs to be made to the USDA that the value of the cashmere produced is significant enough to merit a place in the survey. There do not appear to be any fixed rule establishing a necessary aggregate value of cashmere produced, but it is unlikely to be anything less than \$500,000 annually in the United States.

Maryanne Reynolds
Stone Harvest Farm

*Cashmere Goats
 Nigerian Dwarf Goats
 English Angora Bunnies*



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2017 NY SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL

Cashmere Goat Association was well represented this year at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck, October 21-22. Five member farms participated in the Camelid and Exotic Fiber Goat exhibition barn, with others sharing vendor space in the CGA Booth in Building 22.



Our CGA Booth showcased our educational and North American Cashmere Goat-centered mission, and offered fund raising items for sale to support the development of our new database. We also continue to expand this as a venue for members and nonmembers to sell cashmere products at the Festival who might not have quantity or resources to take a booth as a single seller.



Farms in the Exhibition Barn included Hermit Pond Farm of Edmeston, NY; Hulse Hill Farm of Fly Creek, NY; Stone

Harvest Farm of Petersham, MA; Derbyshire Family Farm of Cambridge, NY; and St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere of Greenwich/Easton, NY. CGA display items were located at the Stone Harvest Farm stalls including a short film about cashmere goats. Demonstrations through the weekend included "What is a Cashmere Goat?", "How Is Cashmere Assessed and How Does it Differ from other Fibers?" and "Hand-spinning Cashmere and Camelid Fibers."

The farms also participated in the Llama and Exotic Goats parades on Saturday and Sunday and the "Meet and Greet" gathering in the Sheep Arena on Sunday, including recognition of the 4-H youth present from the Cashmere Kids and Spitters Club 4-H Clubs. Our farms also participated in the Leapin' Llama Contest on Sunday with Ella Derbyshire's wether, CSM Onyx, leaping to glory on Sunday – nearly matching the longer-legged camelids.



Ella Derbyshire and CSM Onyx in the Best Leap of the Day Contest.

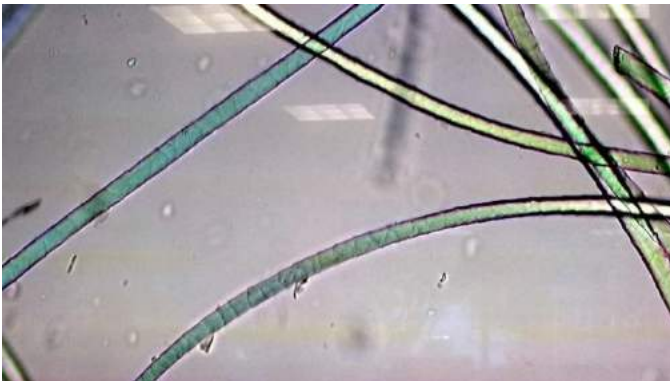


Bringing together breeders, fiber artists and others interested in these charming animals and the luxurious fiber they grow.

A Trip to Jack's Lab

The Cashmere Goat Association's standard for judging cashmere does not require an evaluation of the fiber's "handle" – in other words, how it feels against your skin. This is because there is no known objective way to judge the fiber's handle when judging a raw fleece. Since "handle" is often recognized in commercial circles as the selling point of cashmere, efforts are underway within the CGA membership to better understand it, and to possibly find a way to objectively measure other features of fiber beyond diameter and crimp/style that could contribute to how wonderful cashmere feels against the skin.

Modern Testing Services Global, a lab located in Norwood, Massachusetts, generously hosted a group of cashmere producers who arrived with raw fleeces. An expert evaluator of cashmere fiber put fiber samples on slides coated with mineral oil. The slides went under a Leica DM 2500P microscope and the image was projected onto a color screen for everyone in the room to see. The microscope was set to 100 magnification.



Projected image of a Cashmere sample showing coronal bands

Magnification revealed characteristics of individual fiber's scales, but did not reveal the magic of "handle." We saw fiber that had garnered a judge's compliment for "handle" and compared it to other fiber not so noted, with both fleeces having been judged by the same person. We also tried to judge handle ourselves, and then see the magnification results. An interesting note was that

attendees did not reach consensus among themselves as to which fleece had "better handle" than another. Since handle proved to be elusive, we did not draw any conclusions from what was seen on the slide.

The reward of the experience was gaining insight, if not answers. It helped open our eyes to scale shape, scale height, and scale frequency of fiber, which starts us on a path.

Cashmere scale shape is coronal. Coronal means crown like, and refers to scales in which the visible scale edge completely encircles the fiber, according to our host and the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists. Cashmere scales should not overlap, because of the coronal characteristic. It can be hard to see the coronal characteristic of cashmere under a microscope, when you see through the thin, translucent fiber to the backside.

The frequency of cashmere fiber scales is 6 to 7 scales per 100 micron. The fewer scales, the better quality the fiber.

There is debate about the correct height of a cashmere fiber scale (so no number provided here). The lower the height, the better then quality fiber.

Cashmere fiber does not have a medulla (it is not hollow), unlike the guard hair. Fiber has density (specific gravity).

Other tidbits: When a garment is "washable wool," the fiber scales have been taken away by chemicals. A common blend is 85% silk and 15% cashmere for garments. The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists studies and reports on the characteristics of fibers with scales on surface, including alpaca, camel, cashmere, horse, llama, mohair, vicuna, wool and yak.

Maryanne Reynolds
Stone Harvest Farm



Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition

Invites entries from Canada and the United States

CNCFC will be held at the British Columbia Ag Expo held in Barriere, BC, September 20-24th, 2018

The Canadian Cashmere Producers Association would like to invite your membership to participate again in the Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition (CNCFC). We are grateful for your support in the past and would like to see that continue.

We are excited about 2018 CNCFC as we hope to also host a live show at the venue as well as hold the fleece competition to further raise the profile of Cashmere Goats in North America as a viable and sustainable farming option.

The fleece competition will be a mail in competition and the judge will be decided upon shortly with details posted to the CCPA website as soon as they become available. Please visit:

<http://www.canadiancashmere.ca/canadian-national-cashmere-fleece-competition-cncfc.html>

For venue details please visit: <https://bcagexpo.ca/>



Northwest Cashmere Association

NWCA will be holding their 2018 Fiber Competition in late May. Set aside your fleeces from this year's harvest for this event! Full details will be coming soon.

Linda Fox of Goat Knoll Farm, Dallas, Oregon, will be this year's fiber judge.

All the particulars, mailing information/date/entry forms/fiber presentation, etc. will be available on our website very soon.

Please see: <http://www.nwcashmere.org/events.htm>

Diana Blair of FernHill Farm is the Fiber Competition Chair this year and the judging will be hosted in their new red barn at FernHill. We're looking forward to your entry and wish you the very best in the 2018 competition!

Update on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2018

By Maggie Porter

Last year, on January 3, 2017, the CGA was contacted by Brad Gehrke, an agricultural economist and trade analyst with the United States International Trade Commission ((USITC). Mr. Gehrke asked if the CGA had an opinion one way or the other regarding the temporary suspension of tariffs on various cashmere products that appeared on four* tariff lines in the “Miscellaneous Tariff Bill of 2017 (MTB).”

I think it is accurate to say that initially no one in the CGA had any idea what Mr. Gehrke was talking about. Nonetheless, after investigating this issue, CGA Board of Directors voted to respond via the usitc.gov’s “designated secure web portal” that our association was in favor imposing tariffs on imported cashmere, be it carded, combed, uncarded, uncombed or spun into yarn. Our rationale was that as an “infant” or “emerging” industry US cashmere producers could possibly benefit from special protections from overseas competition.

In January, 2018 the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the MTB over the CGA’s objection. Now, with a new name, “H.R. 4318,” the bill is on its way to the US Senate. It should be noted that H.R. 4318 must either pass in full or fail in full. Our representatives in Washington can’t say, “let’s suspend the tariffs on cashmere, but keep the import tax on sparklers” (an actual tariff line).”

It’s easy to see why our voice was ignored by Congress; the four tariff lines in the bill pertaining to cashmere are dwarfed by nearly 1,700 other tariff lines, many of them components in the manufacturing of herbicides, fungicides and trucks or, bizarrely, the finished product itself, e.g., “metal bowls for use with food stand mixers with capacity of more than 3.3 liters and not more than 4.8 liters.” Furthermore, we don’t have a cashmere trade

association with lobbyists advocating for our interests.

Question: should any of us care if the Senate passes HR 4318? Does this issue of imposing tariffs on cashmere matter to you? If so, would you consider contacting your senator and – acting in your individual capacity – asking your senator how he or she ought to vote on this bill? If asked by your senator (or senator’s staffers) why you want your senator to vote for or against the H.R. 4318, what would your argument be?

The reality of the situation is that US apparel or textile manufacturers making sweaters, blankets or other items with cashmere will likely source this cashmere from China or Mongolia. Frequently this same cashmere is then shipped to Scotland or Italy, where it is spun into cashmere yarn, then shipped back to the US where manufacturers make luxury garments or household goods from it. US manufacturers want Congress to suspend tariffs on imported raw cashmere as well as the spun cashmere, so that their costs are kept as low as possible.

Our representatives in the House and Senate review tariffs schedules every three years and try to determine whether or not raw materials such as cashmere are available in the US, or available in quantities adequate to meet the manufacturing needs of (for example) J Crew, Garnet Hill, LL Bean, Lands’ End and the like. US manufacturers are correct: the supply of domestic cashmere is simply not adequate to satisfy domestic demand for cashmere sweaters, shawls and other textiles; all mass-produced by US companies and, in the case of cashmere sweaters, sold for less than \$150 a pop.

Is the MTB (H.R. 4318) True to its Stated Purpose?

One aim of the MTB is to eliminate tariffs on imported goods for which there is either no or insufficient domestic availability. Critics have noticed that many of the MTB tariff lines include finished products such as tennis racquets, toaster ovens, sweaters, shoes, engine blocks, crankcases - this seems to be contrary to the spirit of the MTB, since domestic manufacturers could easily meet consumer demand by domestically producing toaster ovens (to cite one example).


The types of cashmere imported into the US include:

1. *Certain cashmere, carded or combed (there is no current tariff suspension on this tariff line prior to the MTB; the other three cashmere lines are currently subject to a tariff suspension and this bill would extend these suspensions);
2. Yarn of carded cashmere, less than 19.35 count (this form of cashmere along with the next two have been subject to tariff suspension;
3. Yarn of carded cashmere, equal to or greater than 19.35 count;
4. Certain cashmere not carded or combed.

Note that two forms of imported cashmere are yarns. Couldn't an argument be made that yarn is not a raw material? Yarn is a product made from carded and combed fiber. We don't have a

lot of native cashmere, but we have plenty of technology for spinning skeins of yarn. Furthermore, this technology does not require a lot of human assistance so labor costs are not what they would have been a century ago.

What if raw or semi-raw cashmere imported from China or Mongolia were spun by American mills, instead of being sent somewhere else to be spun? Wouldn't this both help the American textile industry as well as reduce the traveling cashmere's carbon footprint? Could economic and environmental arguments be made to persuade politicians to impose a tariff on spun (not raw) cashmere?



Crooked Fence Farm

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PHOTO GALLERY



Sister Mary Elizabeth with CSM Sir Elyan & Donna McAdams with CSM Sir Pellas competing in the low jump at Rhinebeck



Judge Phil Smith examines a buckling at the Tunbridge Show, assisted by Wendy Pieh



Cashmere cart goats David & Harry with Mika Ingerman work the crowd at the VT Sheep and Wool Festival



Cashmere Mountain Goat



Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds of Stone Harvest Farm with BLF Tattoo and STON Jet competing in the Leapin' Llama competition at Rhinebeck



Who can resist those sweet cashmere kid faces?

HOOFPRINTS

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Hoofprints is the official newsletter of the Cashmere Goat Association. It is published 3 times per year and sent to all members. If you have comments about articles you've seen in *Hoofprints*, any farm tips, or personal experiences you'd like to share, please send them to us. Please note that Hoofprints is sent electronically.

CGA MEMBERSHIP

Full individual membership is \$30/year or \$50 for two years.

Junior (under 18 years) membership is \$15/year (non-voting)

If you have not filled out a membership application for a year or two, it would be helpful to the association for you to do that. The application can be found under contact information at our website:

www.cashmeregoatassociation.org

Send membership and advertising information and checks to: Jana Dengler, 60 Hardwick Road, Petersham, MA 01366. Make checks payable to Cashmere Goat Association or CGA.

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REMINDER!!!!

Submission deadlines are February 15th, June 15th and October 15. All BOD members are required to submit a written article, an interesting web link or photos for each HoofPrints edition.