

HOOFPRINTS



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello All! This is certainly a most welcome change of season for us, with more snow than I have seen in a long time.

Like us, I am sure you have large waddling ladies wandering around, or perhaps your kids are already on the ground. I hope they are all healthy and happy.

We just completed an exciting board of directors' meeting, joined by Crystal, president of the Canadian Cashmere Producers Association (CCPA), and Paul Johnson, president of the Northwest Cashmere Association (NWCA). It sounds like CCPA is moving along well, and Paul is working on a database that we can all use to put up animals for sale or trade, which can help us improve our herds and keep up a healthy diversity.

We spent quite a lot of time talking about our various organizations, and how we can work together on many projects, including newsletters

and perhaps a show in Iowa in 2012, at the National Goat Show Expo.

There are several events for you to look forward to: NWCA Fleece Competition, May 13th, CCPA annual event in Alberta in late June, the VA State Fair in late September, and the VT Show in early October. Comb those fleeces, fluff up those goats, and plan to participate and show off your goats. Send fleeces out west, to Canada, and to Virginia, and get back detailed evaluations from the judges.

We would like to expand the membership, and it would be great if you could encourage others

that you know to join. We want to increase our communications, and support Cashmere growers as they raise the most special goats around.

The annual meeting this year is in Vermont, and I hope to see you there as well as in Virginia!

Thanks,

Wendy



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ECA

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

If you will be in upstate New York this June... Pam Haendle

Please consider making your way to Bouckville for the newest fiber festival in New York State!

You might have seen an article I wrote last year about the work involved in starting a fiber festival. It was the tale of my experiences creating an exhibition within the nearby County Fair – sort of a fair within the fair. The “Focus on Fiber” fair almost doubled in size in 2010, and now we have taken the show on the road. We wanted to avoid the very hottest month of the year, and we knew we needed to get out of the boondocks and into a place more accessible to people with money to spend.

At first it was terrifying to be going off on our own, but now I am very glad we did. We are building an event that is drawing vendors and eliciting enthusiastic responses from individuals, livestock organizations, and fiber guilds from across the state. Best of all, we are building an organization of farmers and fiber artists with common goals, which include encouraging participation in and appreciation of the fiber arts as well as educating children and adults about natural fibers, raising fiber animals, and the connection between the animals and the finished products.

I admit that I expected the group that I founded, CNY Fiber Artists & Producers, to be just a necessary element to sponsoring a festival. To my surprise, the people who joined me wanted more – a group that could become the go-to group for information about fiber animals and all aspects of the fiber arts, a group that could sponsor educational outreach programs throughout the year, and a network for its members.

So – I leave you with two thoughts.

1) If there is a chance you can be in Central NY on the weekend of June 11-12, then you must come to CNY Fiber Artists & Producers’ Annual Showcase – From Animals to Art. (I know. The name is much too long!) You can find details on www.cnyfiber.org.

2) With the possible exception of the members in Maine and Virginia, most of us in ECA are rather isolated. ECA itself has diminished in size over the last decade. Nevertheless, by joining with people who raise sheep and alpacas and llamas, and people who are passionate about spinning, weaving, felting, etc., we can find support for our efforts and work together to find ways to solidify and expand markets for our products. It is a satisfying experience.

HOOFPRIINTS

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ECA OFFICERS...

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

Website advertising \$25/year


FOR ADVERTISING

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

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.

Herd Codes: The Discussion Continues

by Marilyn Ackley

 In 1991 CaPrA, our now departed national cashmere growers' organization, decided it was important to develop a list of the farm codes of North American cashmere herds. The underlying thought at the time was that, if there should ever be an American cashmere goat registry, there had to be a simple way of knowing which farm was responsible for which goats. A CaPrA committee began its work by studying the herd code protocols established by various livestock organizations. Ultimately they decided to follow the policy of organizations including those representing American Rambouillet sheep, angora goats, Maremma sheep-dogs, Limosin cattle, and others.

The concept is simple. A goat forever carries the herd code of the farm where it was born. The code is permanent, a part of the goat's name or number. No matter where the goat lives, it retains that code.

The concept may be simple, but new cashmere growers have not always had helpful mentors to explain the policy. Through the years Concerning Cashmere, the CaPrA newsletter, included a series of reminders. I contributed the following one to the September-October 1997 issue.

More on Herd Codes Like Diamonds, They're Forever

Questions about CaPrA herd codes continue to pop up, so it seems important to review the details of registering a herd prefix and to consider the purposes of having prefixes. Herd codes provide a quick and efficient way of identifying animals in relation to their breeders. If a farm registers the herd code XXX, only that farm has the privilege of adding the XXX prefix to the names or numbers of their animals. Their prize winning buck XXX Studly will maintain that designation his entire life, no matter who buys him. If I buy that buck, he will NOT change his prefix, although I could get fancy and add my code to the

end of his name, making him XXX Studly of QQQ.

If the owners of XXX sell the farm and never raise another goat, the privilege of giving kids the XXX code retires with them. The goats they tagged as XXX goats won't necessarily retire; they will continue with their XXX prefix as long as their tails wag and their rumens ruminate.

Whenever people discuss herd codes, somebody, envisions surprises. Consider this situation.

The good folks at XXX use their buck XXX Dude over their doe XXX Fluff. Then you arrive and purchase Fluff as a bred doe. She obviously keeps her XXX prefix, but what about her triplets

who are born at your ranch a few months later? Some livestock farm code systems would give credit to the folks who made the breeding decision and owned the animals at the time of breeding. That is not consistent with CaPrA's system. Place of birth is everything.



That 1997 article concludes with the excellent news that Marilyn Burbank in Rogue River, Oregon, is faithfully maintaining the list and recording new codes. The same is true today. (Do I hear a huge burst of applause for Marilyn B, the person who has provided continuity for American cashmere producers for years and years??) If you don't have a farm code, call her or e-mail her to register. Be prepared with an alternative. If you want to record CGC for Chubby Goat Cashmere, but Marilyn tells you that CGC is taken, be ready to switch to something like CGF for Chubby Goat Farm. Some of the existing codes include numbers – like 3RR. Several are four characters long, and several include an ampersand.

Remember to pass along all the herd code information in the pedigrees that go with your sale goats. It is definitely to your advantage as a breeder to credit all the herds that have con-

tributed genes to your pool. If a potential buyer has done her homework, she will recognize Black Locust Farm or Springtide Farm on your pedigree and will be grateful for your diligence in finding good foundation animals. If you use a computerized pedigree program that doesn't include a column for herd codes, don't fret. Just type the code prefix as part of each goat's name.

In 1999 Kris McGuire wrote a Concerning Cashmere article, reminding people to use their herd codes whenever entering animals in compe-

tition. She was careful to note that it is critical to use the appropriate code on each entrant. As Kris wrote, "Just because you were smart enough to identify a good goat and buy it, it is not 'your' goat. It must be forever identified with the herd code of the farm upon which it was born."

If you don't have a farm code, contact Marilyn Burbank now. Telephone: 541-582-4593. E-mail: marilyn6@q.com. (That is q as in quarry, not g as in grumpy goat.)♦

Scottish Appeal

by Linda Singley, Berlin Acres Farm, Shippensburg, PA



What comes to mind when one reflects on Scotland? A windswept mountain lair? Green hills covered with sheep? Porridge, shortbread and haggis? Perhaps kilted bagpipers? Nanny? Dark castle towers and works of Robert Burns?... Cashmere? I treasure my rescued cashmere "finds"- the \$3 burgundy, green and camel colored sweaters from the local thrift store. One does indeed have the label "Made in Scotland". Somewhere there must be a connection.

According to the Scottish Cashmere Club, "Craftsmanship and skills perfected in Scotland since 1797, ..." are responsible for the quality of the cashmere products hailing from Scotland. [1] In searching for clues I have looked through the poetry of Robert Burns, both pastoral and pithy, for any reference of goats. A prolific writer of domestic issues, Robert Burns lived from January of 1759 to July of 1796. [2] Sheep and cattle are in his lyrics. Weaving is mentioned for apprenticeships and family vocations in which all family members down to women and children were employed, but not one mention of goat or goat hair can be found. Where is the connection?

As reported by the Cashmere Club website, the Scottish cashmere industry began in 1797 at the Johnstons of Elgin mill which to this day survives. Nearly 100 years later, Joseph Dawson ventured

to Inner Mongolia, observed the hand process of harvesting and sorting fleece, and followed this up with a transformation to machine processing that led the industry for creating fine knitted garments. Today the fibers come by "... the selection of only the finest hair from the Cashmere goats of the high, wind-blown plateaux of China and Mongolia..." [3]. When did the Cashmere goat actually put a hoof on the Isle of the Scots? How does all the fiber get here from Mongolia? What makes the Cashmere sweater from Scotland so much in demand? Is it the brushing with natural teasels or the hand done intarsia? Still I search the pages for the origin of true Scottish cashmere.

Bishop and Russel, reported that from 1986 to 1988 the Scottish cashmere herd developed from imports of kids, semen and embryos from Siberia, New Zealand, Tasmania and Iceland. [4] Selection research programs for fine fiber diameter does resulted in decreased weight of fiber produced per animal. The fine fiber doe group was dismantled. Choosing bucks with an eye for fiber improvement paid off in both weight and fineness of fiber produced. Further efforts headed in that direction. Crossbreeding with feral Scottish goats was also examined. Numerous traits were tracked for heritability. Improvements were made. Animals were examined for parasite resistance, white fiber production and fiber shedding synchronization. 5000 cashmere bearing goats were reported in Scotland

in 1995. 10,000 workers were supported by the industry. 1200 tons were reported in 1995 to have been processed in Scotland. [5] One estimate placed the number of goats needed to support Scottish cashmere manufacturing at 2 million breeding does! [6] Projections of the supply of cashmere needed to fulfill world demand of Scottish made goods were still, in no way, going to be met by Scottish goats.

Between the original imports and 1995, Scottish goat producers developed lines of goats with fiber equal to that of the finest in Mongolia according to James Sugden, the managing director of Johnston's in the mid 90s. In the opinion of Dr. Angus Russel, the reason for the lack of increasing herds in Scotland was the refusal of the UK government to issue agricultural subsidies like done for sheep producers. The irony was that frozen embryos and kids were exported to Italy for the herders to profit from the improved cashmere stock when it was not economically possible to realize a profit in Scotland. As of 1995 it was estimated that there were 100 cashmere farmers in Scotland engaged in fiber and stock improvement. At one point the Cashmere Producers Association's spokesman, John Barker, mentioned that the cooperative venture, Cashmere Breeders, was offering a "starter pack" of 12 does and a buck. The main bastion of Scottish cashmere improvement research in the end of the twentieth century was the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute's, MLURI, Sourhope Research Station through 1998.

Just as in the turn of the 20th century with the European Industrial Revolution, the 1990s closed with China's sweeping gains in fiber processing and major changes occurring in textiles. Emerging 21st century industrial ability in Asia and an increased demand for fine garments world-wide changed the demand for raw materials. Cashmere was a fiber caught in the economic crossfire. Not only were there insufficient goats in Scotland, but the inflow of cashmere became reduced. During the "Banana Wars" trade discussions between the EU and US, cashmere was threatened by tariffs.[7] Ensuing publicity boosted the Scottish market. Things looked better for a brief time.



Scottish Sweater

In 2001, the reduction of the Scottish cashmere profitability from Chinese competition for milling fibers and mass production, caused Scots to hire a Korean actress to act as the spokesperson in a world-wide advertisement campaign.[8] Also in 2001, the cashmere production firm of Pringle was sold to a Chinese based business, Fang Brothers of Hong Kong. (This firm did transform Pringle's out-dated image to a more current, fashion-conscious one.) From December of 2005 to March 2006, several more cashmere mills closed their doors.

In March of 2006, the industry suffered another hit. Environmentally focused media articles placed responsibility for the degradation of the Mongolian Steppes firmly on the world cashmere industry. [9] The 18 million goats of Mongolia were too destructive to be raised on the open areas. Pen feeding began to be the norm. Ten thousand of the 14,500 metric tons per year of the world's cashmere production were on restriction. Blame for the world demand and subsequent market flooding with cheap, substandard cashmere was placed at the doorstep of 2005 relaxed EU import quotas. Also noted was that, in 2006, the US market was the largest factor in determining price based on demand for cashmere garments.

June 2009 headlines included "Dawson International's announcement today that it had sold its cashmere spinning division to Chinese cashmere business Ningxia Zhongyin Cashmere Company



Scottish Sweater

has been warmly welcomed by Todd & Duncan, the 140 year old cashmere spinning business based on the banks of Loch Leven, Kinross, Scotland.” [10] Todd and Duncan had been receiving fiber from this Chinese firm for over 5 years. The press release spin was all positive. In January of 2010, JJ&HB Cashmere Mills, formerly Ballantine Cashmere, was reported to be in dire financial circumstances. The business had transferred hands from Scottish to Italian and even had had portions sold to American interests since 2004. [11]

So where does this leave me in my search for the true Scottish Cashmere? With Brooks Brothers? Massimiliano Zegna Baruffa? Ningxia Zhongyin Cashmere Company? I’m back to my thrift store beloved find and my herd of fuzzy goats on the back 40, heavily wooded pasture, here in Pennsylvania... More digging through the web.

The Scottish Cashmere Club, founded in 1998, is now composed of ten companies: Alex Begg & Co., Clan Douglas & Cashmere Studio, Hawick Knitwear Limited, Johnstons, Lochcarron of Scotland, Scott & Charters, The Hawick Cashmere Co., Todd & Duncan, William Lockie & Co., Z. Hinchliffe & Sons. [12] Garments made by these companies must adhere to certain standards and receive a trademark on garments which aids in marketing. “Knitwear must be made from 100% Cashmere yarns of European origin using only high-quality fibre from China or Mongolia...a minimum length of 34mm and a maximum mi-

cron of 16.5.” Woven products still require 100% Cashmere fiber (origin not specified) with fiber minimum length of 30mm and micron limit of 17.5. Garments meeting these requirements get the seal of approval, exclusively from the SCC.

Marketing of the Scottish cashmere products is in a class by itself. In researching, I’ve scanned websites, on-line ezines, catalogs and fashion advertisements. I’ve also checked out Amazon listings and random Google results for “cashmere sweaters”. Scottish makers have the classiest screens to view. Perusing the sites of the SCC members is an evening’s entertainment. Every emphasis is placed on simple, focused displaying of the wares to their advantage. The ads are artwork. You will also find pictures of the “raw materials”- Mongolian cashmere- with the goat and goatherd. [13] At last I’ve found a definite answer! Scottish cashmere fiber comes mostly from China. The quality garments are still made in Scotland due to their undeniable skill in fiber preparation and spinning, knitting and finishing, dyeing and marketing. What should one look for in a quality Scottish creation?

First expect a high price. Search in stores and sites that offer premium products at gasp-producing prices. This approach comes recommended from several sources. You get what you pay for. Check out the heft and hand of the garment. The initially softest one with a large amount of drape will not always wear the best, nor the longest. Quality cashmere wears well its age and increases in softness, not pilling or twisting out of shape. Check out the knitting gauge verses the size of the yarn. Small yarns knitted over a large gauge will not be the best buy and will often give an open look to the knitting. Check the seams. If hand finished seam are done well they will not pucker, scrunch, poke nor even be visible at all! Using the newest technology from Japan, Shima Seiki, Hawick Cashmere of Scotland makes one collection entirely of seamless knitwear.[14] One can order a custom sweater or a wholesale shipment from the website. It’s amazing what can be found at the SCC site!



Thrift Shop Finds

What you won't find is a country of origin label, COOL, on European goods! The EU rules for production and labeling do not encourage that type of disclosure

in the current day since it would detract from cooperation within the EU. This is in definite contrast to US labeling requirements. One should also watch out for labeling like "Knitted in Scotland" since that does imply that the finishing was done in another location. [15] Product names that sound just "too Scottish" are another give away to products that are probably not Scottish made. Gregor McGregorton may have a mill in Asia.

Or in the US? In New Mexico, one small company, backed by a New York investor, is making machine-knitted accessories for winter wear entirely from Scottish spun cashmere yarn. Golightly Cashmere is the "cottage industry" in its fifth year of production. Haleigh Palmer makes caps and other items that sell well and she is planning to expand. [16] Why Scottish spun Mongolian fiber and not American cashmere? Food for thought?

Will the allure of Scottish Cashmere fade in the next few decades? Will the up and coming Asian market eventually hire skilled finishers from the EU or buy up the mills in Scotland as is seeming to be the current trend toward vertical growth in the industry? Where will the new labels of distinction appear?

From the field with thirty or so fuzzy goats, I think of all that I've discovered about the venerable Scottish cashmere industry. I never really cir-

culated in the world market where I could own custom made seamless cashmere sweaters. I still have my thrift store foundlings. They may be the only Scottish cashmere (Pringle and Hawick by the way) I'll ever afford so I'll make them last. ♦

REFERENCES available on request from:
bearlin@pa.net

"Made in Scotland" Cashmere Woven in China

The Gold Brothers' chain, which runs a string of tartan souvenir shops in Edinburgh' Royal Mile, has been fined 4,500 pounds for selling cashmere garments manufactured in China, when the label on the shelf stated that they were made in Scotland.

The company pleaded guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court to the charges that between 27 August and 15 September, 2009, while trading as "Abercrombie Cashmere" in the Royal Mile, they supplied and offered for sale cashmere garments which had "a misleading statement of geographical origin."

Source: The Scotsman
Date: 18 January 2011
Location: Edinburgh



Made in China

2011 Northwest Cashmere Association Fleece Competition: May 13, 2011



The fleece competition will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011, in Dallas, Oregon, at Goat Knoll Farm. The fleeces will be judged on May 13th and will be on display at the Northwest Cashmere Association Field Day (also at Goat Knoll) on Saturday, May 14th.

Our Judge

We are excited to have Diana Mullin from Twisp, Washington as our judge this year. Diana and her husband, Moon, raised cashmere goats in Washington for 15 years. Diana is an avid spinner, weaver and knitter and is very knowledgeable about fiber and cashmere goats. She has trained under Terry Sims and spent many years analyzing and grading fleece on her own farm, as well as assisting other producers. Diana jointly judged the NWCA fleece competition with Mickey Nielsen in 2006. She is a past President, and current Vice-President of the Northwestern Cashmere Association.

Instructions for Entering

Fleeces and entry forms should be delivered or mailed to Linda Fox, Fleece Competition Chair, by Wednesday, May 10th. An entry form is included as a separate file and can be downloaded from the Club website: www.nwcashmere.org. An entry form must be submitted for each fleece entered.

Fleeces should be raw fleeces—not dehaired or washed. Fleeces may be entered in any bag. NWCA will place fleeces in a show bag for judging. Please submit your fleeces, entry forms, entry fee and return address label to: Linda Fox, Goat Knoll, 2280 S. Church Rd., Dallas, OR 97338. Entry fee is \$6.00 per fleece. Check can be mailed or delivered with the fleeces or you can elect to



pay fees by credit card from the Club website using our Pay Pal link near the bottom of the first page.

Return postage within the US will be paid by NWCA. Out of Country entries must pay return postage. Fleeces will be mailed to entrants May 16th after the show. Fleeces may also be picked up by entrants on May 14th at the NWCA Field Day.

Classes

Fleeces entered must be from the current year harvest. Fleeces will be divided by age groups:

- Kid Fleeces (1st year)
- 2nd fleeces
- 3rd fleeces
- 4th – 6th fleeces
- 7th – 9th fleeces
- Senior fleeces (10th and over)

The age classes are subdivided by sex (doe, buck, wether) and as combed or shorn. There is no per-farm limit to the number of fleeces that can be entered in each category.

Awards

Ribbons will be awarded in each category through 5th place. Rosettes will be awarded to Champion and Reserve Champions – Junior Doe, Senior Doe, Junior Buck, Senior Buck and Wether. Rosettes will also be awarded to overall Grand and Reserve Champion Doe and Bucks.

Entry deadline: Entries must be received by Fleece Competition Chair no later than Wednesday, May 10, 2011.

Questions? Linda Fox: 503-623-8575, email: lindafox@fibergoat.com
2280 S. Church Rd., Dallas, OR 97338

Entry Form next page:



Fill out one form (half page) for each fleece entered. Copy as needed.

2011 Northwest Cashmere Association Fleece Competition

Date: May 13, 2010

Judge: Diana Mullins

Location: Dallas, Oregon

Farm Name: _____

Owner Name: _____

Goat Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Goat DOB: _____

Division (Circle One):

1. Combed Doe
2. Combed Buck
3. Combed Wether
4. Shorn Doe
5. Shorn Buck
6. Shorn Wether

Class (Circle One):

- A. First Fleece (DOB 2010)
- B. 2nd Fleece (DOB 2009)
- C. 3rd Fleece (DOB 2008)
- D. 4th – 6th Fleece (DOB 2005-2007)
- E. 7th-9th Fleece (DOB 2002-2004)
- F. 10th Fleece and over (2001 and prior)

Fill out one form (half page) for each fleece entered. Copy as needed.

2011 Northwest Cashmere Association Fleece Competition

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- B. 2nd Fleece (DOB 2009)
- C. 3rd Fleece (DOB 2008)
- D. 4th – 6th Fleece (DOB 2005-2007)
- E. 7th-9th Fleece (DOB 2002-2004)
- F. 10th Fleece and over (2001 and prior)

Determining the Age of a Goat

By Suzanne W. Gasparotto, HC 70 Box 70, Loyn, TX 76852

Phone 325/344-5775 • www.tennesseemeatgoats.com



determining the age of a goat is easy to do for the first few years of its life. The procedure is called toothing a goat.

A goat has no teeth in the upper front of its mouth, but it has eight teeth in the lower front. The size and condition of these eight teeth is the best gauge to determine the goat's age.

A goat is born with eight baby teeth in the lower front gum. All eight teeth are similarly small sized. When the goat approaches a year of age, give or take a few months, the two center front baby teeth are replaced by two permanent teeth. Therefore, a goat with only two permanent teeth is called a two-toother and is considered at least one year old.

The same procedure occurs again as the goat approaches two years of age. The next two baby teeth, one on each side of the two permanent teeth, are replaced by two more permanent teeth. This goat is called a four-toother and is two years of age. A goat who is between one year of age and two years old is called coming two's.

At three years of age, the third set of two teeth, one on each side of the permanent teeth, is replaced by permanent teeth, and this goat is now a six-toother. Soon it will be coming three's, age-wise. And the last two baby teeth become permanent teeth as the goat approaches four years of age, hence the animal is an eight-toother.

From age four onward, the process for determining the goat's age becomes less precise and an

exact age is difficult to determine. As the goat grows older, the teeth begin to buck out and spread. By the time the goat is ten years old, the teeth are generally pretty worn depending upon



Dirty Faces Already?

what the goat has been fed or how tough its forage has been or whatever injuries the goat may have sustained to its mouth during its lifetime.

Summary:

- One year old = two permanent teeth (two-toother)
- Two years old = four permanent teeth (four-toother)
- Three years old = six permanent teeth (six-toother)
- Four years old = eight permanent teeth (eight-toother)
- Older than four years of age is pretty much a guess.

By the way, don't assume that because a goat has no teeth in the upper front gum that there are no grinding teeth in the upper jaw. A goat has some ferocious grinding teeth in both upper and lower jaws. Stick your fingers in there and that goat will make mincemeat of them! ♦

Hoofprints corrects the results from the 2010 VA Show as follows:

TFC Dante - Grand Champion Buck

TFC Ethan - Reserve Champion Buck

SF Violet- Grand Champion Doe

SF Pachelbel - Reserve Champion Doe

**SHF Flutter - Grand Champion Doe
Fleece**

**SHF Ebony - Reserve Champion Doe
Fleece**

BLF Duke - Grand Champion Buck fleece

**SHF Highlander - Reserve Champion
Buck Fleece**

**TFC Dakota - 5th Place in Two-Year Old
Fleece**

Membership Survey

ECA in 2011



With a few more promised membership checks due to arrive, ECA's 2011 membership stands at 28, including four new members. The numbers are certainly lower than they were a few years ago, although it is good to see that new members continue to arrive. We can also be encouraged by the fact that most of the members in 2011 are active members who are interested in attending at least one of the two annual gatherings.

Of the twenty people who completed the survey attached to the membership application, eight are planning to attend the gathering at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival, six are planning on being at the Virginia State Fair, and two hope to attend both. Nearly everyone cited "meeting other cashmere producers," "attending clinics," and "a subscription to Hoofprints" as reasons for joining ECA. Many agreed that education and the opportunity to attend or participate in shows were important, and eight people indicated their interest in setting or maintaining standards for cashmere goats as a reason for their involvement with ECA.

This size of the average ECA herd has diminished a bit from prior years, with eleven respondents reporting owning fewer than twelve goats. Five members have more than forty goats. When asked about topics of interest, one person mentioned an interest in combs, deworming schedules, and a goat stanchion that would be easy for a goat to mount and safe to use.

Linda Singley, from Bearlin Acres in Shippensburg, PA, added an interesting invitation on her membership form. She will be hosting a field day

for the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture on June 15th of this year. The focus of the event will be fiber, and Linda would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in submitting pieces for a fashion show. Submissions can be sent to Linda at 180 Mt. Ash Lane, Shippensburg, PA, and I am sure that she would be happy to answer your questions if you contacted her at bearlin@pa.net.

To those of you who haven't yet sent in a membership renewal, please do so soon and we will make sure that HP keeps coming to you. To those of you who did send in renewals or applications for new membership, thank you! If you sent in a request for advertising on the website, please be assured that the website will be updated very soon with your information. ♦





Hermit Pond Farm
Cashmere Goats

Pam Haendle
10601 Merrill Road
W. Edmeston, NY 13485
315-899-7792

pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com

❖ ❖ ❖

Stone Harvest Farm

Petersham, MA 01366
978-724-0024

Fine cashmere from fine lines

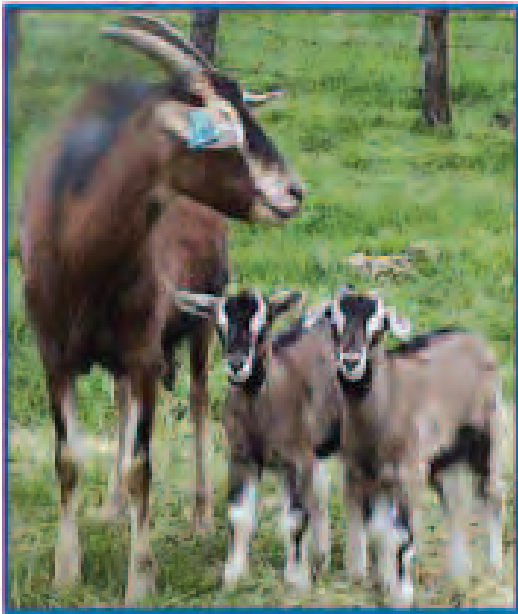
Questions About Johne's Disease

From a booklet developed by USDA/APHIS/VS by the National Johne's Education Initiative.
For more information, see www.JohnesDisease.org

Q: What is Johne's disease?

A: Johne's (YO-knees") disease is a fatal gastrointestinal disease of goats and other ruminants (including cattle, sheep, elk, deer, and bison) that is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP). Also known as paratuberculosis, this infection is contagious, which means it can spread in your herd.

The MAP organism is most commonly passed in the manure of infected animals. The infection usually spreads from adult goats to kids and occurs when a young animal swallows the organism via water, milk or feed that has been contaminated by manure from infected animals. Most owners are taken by surprise when the infection is diagnosed,



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and learn too late that the infection has taken hold in multiple animals in a herd.

Due to lack of testing and reporting, it is not known how widespread Johne's disease in goats in the United States. The infection has been confirmed, however, in many goat herds throughout the country – in milk, meat, heritage and other breeds – and it is a problem in most other goat-rearing countries as well. The costs of this infection range from economic losses – due to reduced production and increased culling for meat and milk animals – to emotional losses – for those whose goats are more pets than agricultural investments.

There is no cure for Johne's disease, and there is not an approved vaccine for goats in the United States to help protect them from infection. Therefore, prevention is the key to control.

Q: How do I know if my herd has Johne's disease?

A: A goat that appears perfectly healthy can be infected with MAP. Although goats become infected in the first few months of life, many remain free of clinical illness until months or years later. When goats finally do become ill, the symptoms are vague and similar to other ailments: rapid weight loss and, in some cases, diarrhea. Despite continuing to eat well, infected goats soon become emaciated and weak.



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Since the signs of Johne's disease are similar to those for several other diseases – parasitism, dental disease, Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) and Caprine Arthritis-Encephalitis Virus (CAEV) – laboratory tests are needed to confirm a diagnosis.

When an animal with signs of Johne's disease is discovered, it is very likely that other infected animals – even those that still appear healthy – are in the herd. Control of the infection requires that you and your veterinarian address it in the whole herd and not just on an individual animals basis. ♦



A goat showing symptoms of Johne's disease

Call For Winners: ECA Virginia Show

September 26-28, 2011, State Fair of Virginia
The Meadow Event Park, Caroline County, VA

Judge: Wendy Pieh
Bremen, Maine
President of the Eastern Cashmere Association

Cashmere Fleece Show

Combed and Shorn classes divided by age

1st - 3rd place: Cash awards!

Grand Champion for Combed Buck/Doe and Shorn Buck/Doe

Cashmere Goat Show

Classes divided by age

Doe Show:

1st – 3rd place: Cash awards!

Dam and Daughter, Get of Dam, Get of Sire, Grand and Reserve Champion:

Buck Show

1st – 3rd place: Cash awards!

Grand and Reserve Champion

All entries will be processed on-line! Please email or call me if you experience any difficulties. springgatefarm@gmail.com (434) 990-9162 Jane McKinney, VA State Fair Superintendent

For More Information

Check ECA Website www.easterncashmereassociation.org

We are thrilled to have Wendy Pieh as this year's judge! Wendy and her husband Peter live in Bremen, Maine. Wendy is no stranger to the VA State Fair and has participated numerous times in the show ring. We are so pleased that she has accepted the call to judge our show this year and to lend her expertise in the evaluation of our goats this year.

In the 1980s Wendy was a dairy goat farmer in Alberta, Canada, where the goats taught her how very special they were. When she and Peter established Springtide Farm in Bremen, they de-

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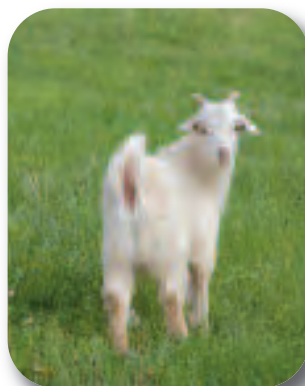
cided to experiment with Cashmere goats. Wendy arranged to purchase two Cashmere does from Yvonne Taylor of Black Locust Farm for Peter's birthday, and they came home with eleven! Never looking back, they decided to focus on goats with silver guard hair, and imported JRW Silver Bart from Goat Knoll Farm in Oregon. Today, they average a herd of 100 goats, and continue to be completely committed to the industry. Wendy and Peter have been strong proponents of establishing a North American Cashmere Goat Standard and have advanced the overall breeding and development of the Cashmere Goat.



For several years Wendy has judged local shows in Maine. In 2010 she and Peter co-judged the Estes Park Show, and Wendy was the judge at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in October. She will judge against the North American Cashmere Goat Standard, and goats will go home with a card evaluating both their fiber and conformation. When asked if she has any particular bias when judging goats, Wendy admits that she likes a really good foot on a goat. While her farm has many goats with longer guard hair she is most interested in the overall quality of the fiber.

Please note!!!

She has requested that all entries in the goat show must submit their fleeces in advance to the fleece show secretary to be judged with the fleece competition. This means that they must be sent out before Sept 1st, which is the deadline for the fleece competition. There will be no extra entry fee for this as all fleeces will be picked up by competitors for the goat show.



Once again we will be having a fun and informative seminar immediately following the fleece competition on Tuesday, Sept 27th. Wendy will be discussing: **Parasite Control and Goat Husbandry**. This is a timely subject as we are seeing changes in the ways that cashmere

breeders are tackling the challenges of Parasites that are becoming increasingly resistant to current methods of control.

Check Virginia State Fair Website


www.statefairva.org for online entry forms, health requirements, and directions to the Meadows Event Park (1311 Dawn Blvd., Doswell, VA 23047) available sometime in June, 2011

We really need to increase the number of people participating in the show so please tell your friends and other cashmere enthusiasts to come and bring their fiber and goats.

See you soon!

Jane McKinney,

VA State Fair Show Superintendent, 2011



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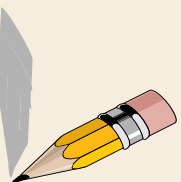


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