



[www.cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

A Publication of  
the Cashmere  
Goat Association

Volume 24  
Issue 1  
March 2015

## A Message from the President

Hello everybody,

This should have been the combing season, but the snow and the bitter cold here in the Northeast makes me hesitate to comb out any of the cashmere underwear from the fuzzy goats. Some of them would look better, though, with a quick combing.



TFC Cairn enjoying some winter hay

The good news is that there is an increasing demand for our North American cashmere. Jeffrey Monteiro, for example, is a fashion designer from New York, whose work was described in *Remodelista* (the most influential home design blog according to my interior designer daughter-in-law). The URL is <http://www remodelista.com/posts/american-made-cashmere-throw-blankets-and-pillows-from-j-m-generals>.

He mentions an underground network of cashmere goat farms in North America. I don't think we should be underground any longer, and the board agrees. So far cashmere goats have not been counted separately in the USDA survey of goats, and the board is making a concerted effort to change that.

We will need your help in getting numbers and figures to the authorities to show that we matter financially. We already know that we matter in so many other ways.

In the meantime we continue to work on the long standing issues of a data base and a judging clinic and planning our booths at the Rhinebeck, NY, Sheep and Wool Festival.

Let us try to get above ground! We, the farmers, and our goats all deserve that!

And let us hope that by the time you read this we will all be dug out from under the snow and combing out handfuls of luscious cashmere!

Yvonne

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## Stoneycrest Farm

### Cashmere Goats

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## 'Tis More Blessed to Give...

Maggie Porter

Yawn.

Is this just a solicitation disguised as a Hoof Prints article? Yes?

Can't we talk about something else?

Who's got any cash, after buying hay, feed, vaccine, trimmers, kidding supplies and everything else goat-related to give money to our organization?

Answer: very few of us. That's the bad news.

But the good news is that **ideas and time also count as donations.**

Do you have a creative idea for a fundraiser? Now that the IRS has reinstated our nonprofit status, it's time to get serious about finding revenue to fund our mission. Membership fees and advertising revenues pay for Hoof Prints and keeping the web site up, but if we want cashmere goat experts to judge our animals and/or assess our fiber at shows, we need to find a way to pay their travel and lodging expenses.

Ditto creating a cashmere goat registry or hosting clinics on fiber assessment, breeding strategies and/or inviting national or international goat experts to share their ideas and experience with us....all this takes cold, hard cash.

We've thought of raffles for goat related items and farm stays. Does anything else come to mind? Please share your ideas with our fund raising committee and maybe even join in. Then, together, we can figure out how to make them happen.

**If you can't give (or even if you can), ask someone outside the CGA to give!**

Donors' gifts to the CGA are tax-deductible. Are you on good terms with the owners of your local feed store? Whom do you purchase fencing supplies from? Perhaps you could ask these businesses to donate to the CGA by helping underwrite one or more of our events. In return, they will receive

publicity in Hoof Prints, fair brochures and of course, our undying gratitude.

Do family members ask what they can get you for birthdays or major holidays? Family and friends want to give us useful and supportive gifts. They already know you're a nutty goat person so what could be better than a donation made in your honor to the CGA? The gift will be acknowledged in Hoof Prints, and who wouldn't want to be associated with the Cashmere Goat Association?!

Just think about all the fun and interesting ways you can help to generate income! It will help further our mission of educating others about these wonderful creatures known as cashmere goats, and we can have a lot of fun along the way. If you can, please get involved in this or any of the other committees and/or offer your ideas. We know you have great ones!

## TOP GOAT SPOTLIGHT!

### PACHELBEL

Anne Repaske Stoneycrest Farm Star Tannery VA

Pachelbel is named the wunderkind of the Cashmere world. At the CGA Fleece Competition and Workshop held at Spring Gate Farm in Barboursville, Virginia, on October 11 and 12, our beloved Joe David Ross proclaimed her as the finest Cashmere goat in North America. Now I know Joe David goes a little bit overboard when it comes to goats of any kind; many years ago, at the Virginia State Fair he evaluated the Grand Champion Doe as being so wonderful, she should be cloned!

Pachelbel is an all black girl, small by comparison to our other goats. The saying is that small goats have finer fleece so maybe that is true. She has a feminine head with a wide muzzle, deep jaw and a straight nose. She is a very handsome goat in general appearance. She has a sturdy, well balanced frame. Her chest is wide and full. Her legs are straight and well separated. She has a level top line with

only a small angle to her rump. Her hoofs are well proportioned to her size.



Jane and her beautiful Multi Gr.Ch. doe Pachebel

Her fleece is fine, very crimped and has good length. Her micron count was 16. Her fleece yield is an amazing 10.7

oz. Her awards in various fleece competitions are as follows:

- 2014 CCPA Champion Senior Doe  
BEST IN SHOW  
10.7 oz fleece  
Becky Bemus - judge
- 2014 CGA Champion Senior Doe  
Dr. Joe David Ross - judge
- 2013 CCPA Senior Grand Champion  
BEST IN SHOW
- 2013 ECA Senior Grand Champion  
BEST IN SHOW
- 2011 ECA-VSF Grand Champion doe  
Wendy Pieh - judge
- 2010 ECA-VSF Reserve Grand Champion  
Mickey Nielson - judge

Stonycrest Farm on Paddy Mountain Anne & Roy Repaski 570 Paddy's Cove Lane Star Tannery, VA 22654 540-436-3546		Sire: SF-R20 I.D. Number: Franz LISZT Color: Black Judge/Year: Chris McGinnis/2005 Grand Champion Buck Micron: fine Fiber length: short Style: Excellent Yield: Average Differentiation: Fair Age tested: 1 yr.		Sire: Handel 77 1st place buck I.D. Number: SF-K7 2005 Grand Champion Color: W/B Buck 2000 1st place buck Micron: fine Length: 2" Style: 3 Age Tested: 1 yr. Dam: Cantata I.D. #: SF-1326 5th place doe ECH/08 Color: W/B Micron: fine Length: Med Style: good "very fine fleece" Age Tested: 2 yrs.		Sire: Babbler Color: W/B Micron: fine Style: 4 Age Tested: 7 yrs. Dam: Bellini SF-H5 Color: B/W Micron: fine Style: 2 Age Tested: 1 yr.	
I.D. Number: SF-S14 Name: Pachebel MO: 4-6-03 DOB: 4-6-03 Color: All black Description: 2nd place doe in class Judge/Date: Peter Goth/2005 Micron: 18.2 at 3 years TARO Fiber length: Style: Yield: Sold McGinnis 10-19-07 Differentiation: Age tested: Comments:	Dam: Concertina I.D. Number: SF-R16 Color: Black; small white bangs Judge/Year: Micron: 16.2 Fiber length: 2+ Style: Yield: Differentiation: Age tested: 3 years		Sire: Niccolo VA State Fair I.D. #: SF-101 2nd place Buck Color: Black NWSA 3rd place Micron: 16.0 Length: Style: 2+ Age Tested: 2 yr. Dam: Perelli 1999 2nd place doe I.D. #: SF-L7 1st place Get-of-Sire Color: B/W Badger 4th place fleece Micron: Med Length: Med Style: 2+ Age Tested: 1 yr.		Sire: Schubert SF-H7 Color: B/W 1st place buck Micron: 16.2 Style: 2 1997 Reserve Age Tested: 4 yrs. Champion Dam: Correlli SF-H2 Color: B/W 1st Grand Champion Micron: Med Style: 2+ 1st Reserve Champ Age Tested: 1 yr. fleece		



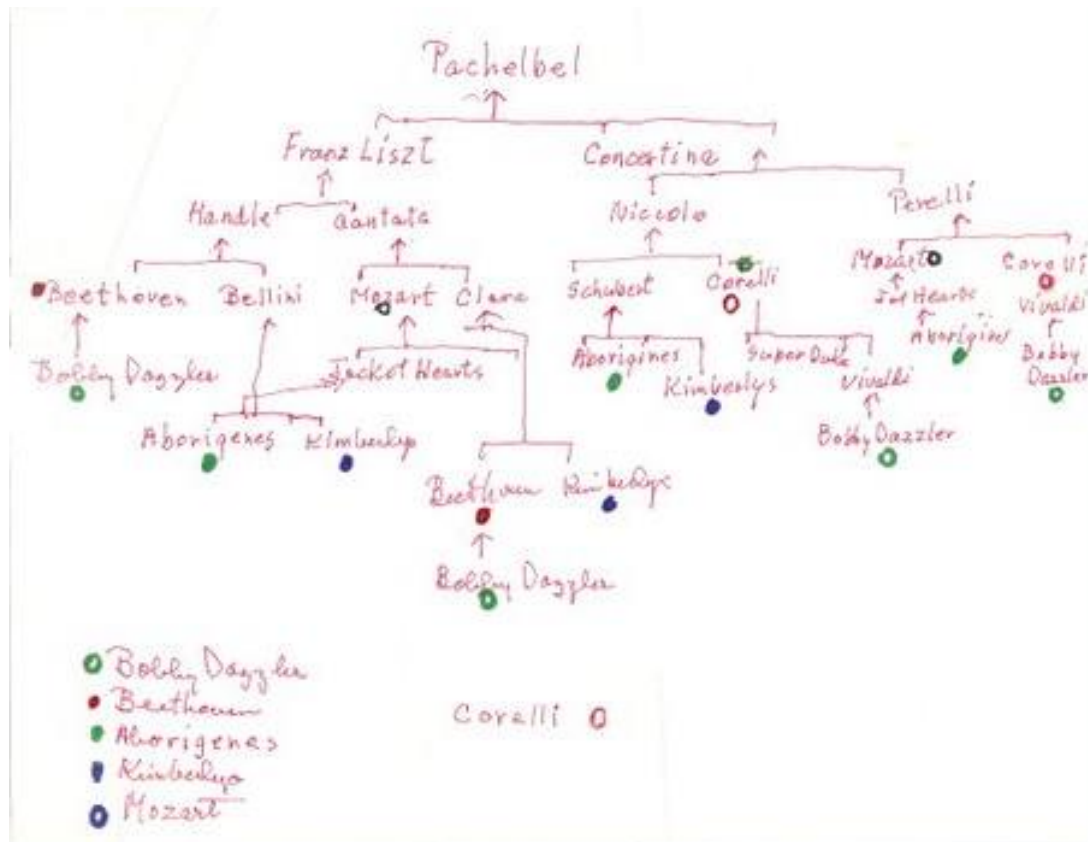
It is interesting that a variety of different judges all felt her fiber was the finest. She is truly an exceptional animal.

So how did she come about? We started our herd in 1994 with 3 pregnant does and 2 bucks, all descended from Shirley Levy's herd in Australia. The three does had been mated to three different bucks. Two of these animals, Beethoven and Vivaldi, were the direct offspring of Shirley's famous buck, LCB Bobby Dazzler.

We essentially started with a gene pool from five different LCB bucks. Our herd was a closed herd. We never felt the need to add any animals after the initial five. Therefore we had strictly Australian Cashmere goat genes in our herd. From there we carefully linebred the animals, calculating the % relatedness for each pair. You can see from Pachelbel's chart that there is no line breeding until her great-grandparent's generation. At that point Mozart is present in the dam's and also in the sire's

background. In the maternal line, Corelli is present twice.

As you go back several more generations in Pachelbel's hereditary tree, one can see Bobby Dazzler's name mentioned four times. Aborigenes' name come up three times. At the Langston University Goat and Research Extension, Will R. Getz has the following to say about linebreeding: "Linebreeding can be defined as the mating of individuals within a particular line. A line may be considered a group of related individuals within a breed. Lines usually have a famous ancestor in common among all individuals. While inbreeding generally has an undeserved bad reputation, this mild form of inbreeding called linebreeding does not. It is a mating system designed to maintain a substantial degree of relationship to a highly regarded ancestor or group of ancestors, without resulting in high levels of inbreeding. Due to the absence of very close matings, linebreeding is a slow form of inbreeding."



Then there is the ever present question of nature versus nurture. We used the same breeding philosophy with all our goats. Why is Pachelbel so special? She was born a singleton. Perhaps she was nourished better at birth. We feed all our goats grain once a day. In the feeding frenzy was she left out, timid, standing in the doorway, waiting to pick up the tailings when everyone else had gone? That may have influenced her growth, kept her small and

hungry and therefor produced her prize winning fleeces

And finally, it is really Jane McKinney who had an eye for quality and chose to take Pachelbel home with her. Pachelbel was 4 years old at the time; now she is almost 12. In the intervening years she was nurtured at Spring Gate Farm and was recognized as being a special goat.



## THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Becky Bemus

For many people Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. It means spending time with those we care about and finding the perfect gift to show how much we appreciate them. Mostly, it's a time to think about what is important in life. We count many HoofPrints readers amongst our extended family, with the shared bond we all have with these amazing creatures who have taken over our lives and made it better – as inconceivable as that may have seemed in the beginning.

Christmas is one of the few times that we really slow down and spend personal time with our mischievous Caprine family. The holiday begins when we see a parade of cars and pick-up trucks driving by the farm, loaded with Christmas trees freshly harvested from the tree farm just around the corner. It takes me back to my childhood, when my father took us to get a real tree – it was to this particular tree farm. It's

like a step back in time for me: I'm standing and watching trees go by, just as the former owners of this property must have seen my family's car go by.

It has taken me years to connect that childhood memory to this neighborhood, and to realize how our route into the tree farm was different from our route exiting and heading back home. This round-trip is common with families from the local town, and it takes them right past our door. I wonder if there is a future farmer in one of these passing vehicles, someone who will stand where I do sometime in the future. I never dreamed I would be where I am now, watching cars slow down to look at our goats as they pass by, with the goats and us looking back in sheer anticipation.

We are not big on the hectic pace of Christmas, but with the first trees going by, our radar kicks in and all

eyes suddenly focus on these trees. I stop and look at the girls lining up at the fences, or hear them calling to each other in their excitement. Our eyes meet momentarily and we all know it's that time of year again! The countdown to the real holiday has begun! I consult the recycling calendar and tell the girls how many sleeps are left before those trees make their way back to our farm.

A few years ago we sent postcards to our closest neighbors, asking for donations of their gently used holiday trees. Many neighbors chose the drop off service, so they could come and toss their tree right into the goat pen and see how happy it makes the girls! They can't believe how excited the goats get, and how fast they devour a tree, especially one of their favorite varieties. This gives us a chance to educate a few more people about these goats and their uses. They, in turn, tell family members about the goats, and the word spreads.

We have a few faithful tree delivery sources, including a man who collects trees from his extended family and even drives to his church to take down and deliver that tree to us. Nevertheless, we're never satisfied with the number of trees that are donated, so we gleefully make covert plans for "Operation Tree Liberation." We head out after dark to patrol local neighborhoods to collect as many trees as we can. Last year we collected or had donated 75 trees. Our goal this year is 100 trees. We currently have a helper with us who is ex-military. He and Phil have worked out their hand signals and are having a grand time on their after dark "raids."

The beauty of this type of food, besides the free part, is that it keeps in cold weather for as long as it takes the animals to work through the trees. Goats strip the bark from the trees as well as eat the needles, and both are full of natural vitamins and minerals. Evergreen is a natural wormer and I prefer its use to chemical wormers when the does are pregnant. The barns smells awesome each day because the goats have been ruminating pine all night. Finally, the denuded tree husks are bashed around by the herd (mostly by the bucks); what ever is left after this is chipped for use as bedding or to mix with manure in

the gardens or wherever we need fill or soft foot paths.



Nicolas with some of his liberated trees

There are a couple caveats to tree liberations. First, if the trunks are left too long in the pens their remaining branches become little tendrils that reach out and steal shedding cashmere. Of course, the animals know when you plan to comb, and will seek out the tree just as you're heading to the barn with your combing gear. Also, you should be careful that the trees haven't been treated with pesticides or, if treated, when the last application was made. Our local trees are generally pesticide free, but that might not be the case in all areas so find out what your local tree practices are.

An added bonus to Operation Tree Liberation is that we have a new and ever-growing ornament collection. If we find an ornament on a tree when loading, we return it to the house it belongs to. Inevitably, however, some ornaments make it home and these become keepsakes from that year's haul and a fond memory for us.

Word has spread in the neighborhood of our goats' affinity for shrubs, brush and evergreens, and this has translated into trees and shrubbery being delivered to our farm throughout the year. Sometimes we simply awake to find a pile of pine boughs on the side lawn, or our landscaping neighbor backing in with a load of trees removed from a job site. Once I even replied to an on-line ad posted by people seeking a goat farm for the pine trees they were taking down around their house – and they delivered the limbs from 45 minutes away

in a dump trailer in eight trips! The goats were ecstatic, since this was summer - when they rarely get much evergreen to munch on.



RWF Does enjoying the holidays

Of course if you are taking browse from neighbors you need to be sure there is nothing poisonous to goats mixed in. Most of our neighbors ask if it's true that we will take their browse, and then we tell them what is safe to bring and what is not. In our area smaller acreages haul tree and yard waste to the dump, sometimes incurring a dump fee for disposal. Consequently, they don't mind bringing the browse to us. Our farm used to have plenty of it for goats, but they have done such a good job clearing our pastures we are now dependent on and very appreciative of anything donated. It is a good way to educate people, establish new partnerships and, most importantly, keep our girls happy and healthy.



### Hulse Hill Farm

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*Harvest farm fresh vegetables and eggs for meals*

*April/May help comb out cashmere goats*

*Assist with morning and evening farm chores*





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*Live, Laugh & Love on the Farm*



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

### Stone Harvest Farm

cashmere, yaks, poultry, stone fruit



Jana Dengler  
Maryanne Reynolds

[stone\\_harvest\\_farm@verizon.net](mailto:stone_harvest_farm@verizon.net)  
978 724 0024



**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](mailto:Constantine.maggie@gmail.com)**



## YEAR OF THE *WHAT?*

This past February 19 marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year, a twelve year lunar cycle with each year represented by a different animal. 2015 is Year of the Yang, “yang” being a generic term for sheep and goats.

So, what’s the deal? Those of us who raise goats see a vast difference between our animals and a flock of sheep. Not so much in the Chinese culture. The language can, indeed, distinguish between goats and sheep with the use of modifiers (“shangyang” = goat; “mianyang” = sheep; “gongyang” = ram; “lingyang” = antelope), but the Chinese aren’t too caught up in creating separate categories for hooved ruminants that travel in herds. So if the CGA celebrates the Year of the Goat and a merino wool association celebrates the Year of the Sheep, both sides are correct....

.....or are they?

[www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/goat.asp](http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/goat.asp) makes the following argument in favor of the goat over the sheep in answering the Year of the *What?* question:

“Firstly, the Chinese zodiac is an invention of the Han Nationality, and goats were widely raised by the Han people (unlike sheep), so the zodiac animal is more likely to refer to a goat.

“Secondly, a Goat image often appears on Chinese zodiac stamps, New Year’s paper cuttings, and New Year’s paintings (not a sheep).

“Thirdly, the Goat was one of the 12 bronze statues of the Chinese zodiac at the Old Summer Palace. Although its head was lost, its present reproduction according to historical records is the image of a goat.”

Before we get carried away with the importance of our favorite animal, we ought to consider this: a Discovery.com article titled, “Big Yang Theory,” reveals that some Chinese mothers actually scheduled Caesarian sections so to give birth during 2014, the Year of the Horse. The Year of the Goat is

not considered as auspicious in Chinese culture. Clearly we have some public relations work to do!



*This buckling tells me based on a very good authority that it is most definitely the year of the GOAT!*

He was born at Stone Harvest Farm, in spring 2014, and has been a trooper in winter 2015, but he wonders, ..... will it ever end??? Haven't we had enough snow already!?

### *Did you Know?*

That goats can move from USA to Canada, but not vice versa. Currently only a general health certificate is required to export bucks to Canada. Does require full enrollment of at least one year in the Federal Scrapie program on both sides of the border with at least one annual inspection having been completed. There is pressure to have bucks meet the same requirements as does. We hope the situation will change so we can all have access to a broader range of choices for our herds.



## COUNTING GOATS

### Where are the Cashmere Goats?

by Ann Taylor

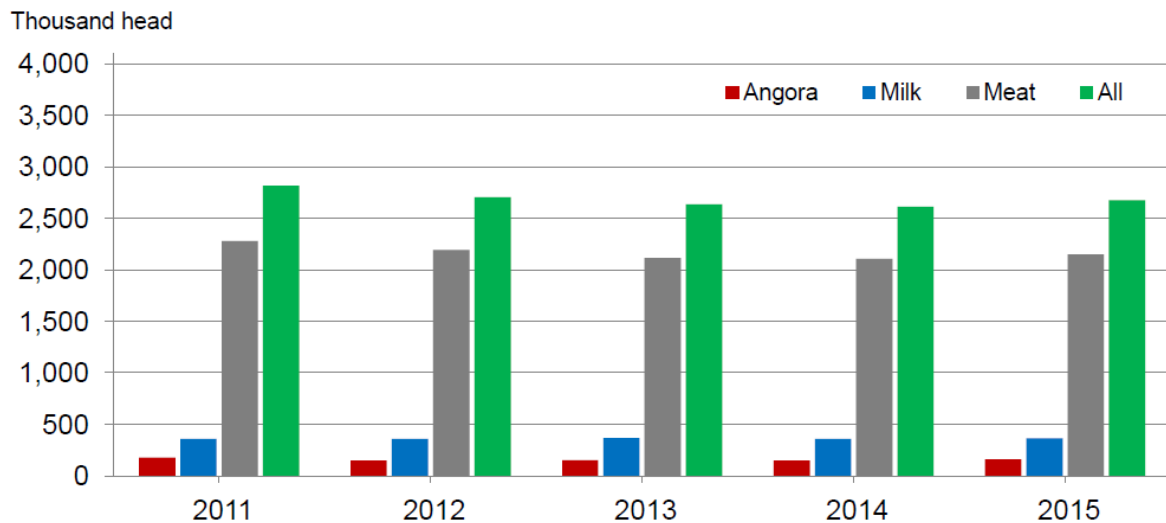
Did you see the recent Washington Post article on the sheep and goat census? On January 30, 2015, there were 2,675,000 goats in the United States. Did you see how many cashmere goats were counted? No, you didn't. Cashmere goats don't count! The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) census division, NASS, does an annual count of sheep and goats in the US. The categories of goats counted are: Milk Goats; Meat and Other Goats; and Angora Goats. Under those categories are subsets of goats, including does, bucks, kids, breeding does, and this year's kids. Where are the cashmere goats? They go into the Meat and Other Goats category.

In mid-December I received a census form from NASS for sheep and goats, asking me to fill it out and return it. I looked at the form briefly (the form itself is not brief), and not finding cashmere goats as a

category put it aside. Holidays came and went. In early January I got a call from NASS asking if I had filled it out. And then the question, could we discuss the census over the phone? Sure, but where to put cashmere goats? The census taker was surprised when I said my goats were cashmere, and therefore should be counted in a "Fiber" category. This argument was to no avail; my cashmere goats ultimately disappeared into the Meat and Other Goat category, the largest category of goats.

Another member of the Cashmere Goat Association also received a census form, and wrote all over it directing the compilers to add in cashmere goats as a category. Did anyone else receive census forms? If not, you can access this information at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

### Goat Inventory – United States: January 1



In 2015, from a total of 2.68 million goats: 2.15 million are Meat and Other Goats; 365,000 are Milk Goats; and 160,000 are Angora Goats.

How can we get cashmere goats counted and recognized? Maggie Porter has spoken with Gary Keough of USDA-NASS about this question. Mr. Keough told Maggie that one of the main purposes of the USDA census is to collect and report the value in sales of farm products, e.g., what does the farm take in (revenue) from the sale of its cashmere?

We can't know how much revenue is generated in the US from the sale of our cashmere if the USDA doesn't make it possible for us to report it! Therefore, the Cashmere Goat Association is working with Gary Keough to include a question on the 2017

USDA-NASS survey seeking data on the number of cashmere-producing goats in the US. Producers would report their total goat inventory as either Milk Goat, Angora Goat or Meat and Other Goat. Then there would be a follow-up question (and the wording is still a work in progress), "How many of the previously reported goats were either shorn or combed for cashmere?"

So everyone: Kidding and combing season is upon us. Let's count those kids and pounds of fiber produced and get cashmere goats recognized!

## Short Reflections on CGA Membership in 2014

Stone Harvest Farm: Jana E Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds

Membership in the CGA has helped enormously as we build our farm's cashmere goat enterprise. CGA members, events and publications have helped guide us and provided inspiration. We are truly thankful to all of you for your support of this association.

In 2014, to illustrate a few examples, through the CGA we were able to enter goats in a live goat show dedicated to cashmere goats (a great opportunity to see goats from other farms and talk shop), and to enter and attend an international fleece competition (an eye opening experience to see over a hundred beautiful fleeces from throughout North America in one place that helped focus us on the economic importance of proper combing). It was all great fun and valuable learning experience.

Being a part of the CGA also offers opportunities to help shape the cashmere industry in North America. We saw this first hand through the work of the Board and its committees, and have high expectations for 2015. We encourage anyone interested in serving on the Board next year to run for election, or start slow by joining a committee. Committee work is open to all members.

If you have any questions about how to take advantage of the benefits of your membership, the website has lots of information. We, like all Board members, would also be happy to field any questions. All contact info is posted on the website: [www.cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

*Happy Year of the Goat!*

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

*Fundraising/Membership: Maggie Constantine – [Constantine.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:Constantine.maggie@gmail.com)*

*Shows: Jane McKinney [springgatefarm@gmail.com](mailto:springgatefarm@gmail.com) & Sister Mary Elizabeth- [maryelizabethcsm@aol.com](mailto:maryelizabethcsm@aol.com)*

*Judging Clinics: Wendy Pieh – [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com) Archives: Ann Taylor- [ataylor31@charter.net](mailto:ataylor31@charter.net)*

*Website: Jana Dengler- [Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com) Meat & Coat Color: Becky Bemus- [cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca](mailto:cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca)*

*Database: Maryanne Reynolds- [Maryanne@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:Maryanne@stoneharvestfarm.com)*

# CGA: Minutes of Board Meeting

January 11, 2015 (FINAL, approved Feb. 8, 2015)

The Board of the Cashmere Goat Association met telephonically on Sunday, January 11, 2015. Members of the Board who were present were Yvonne Taylor, Jana Dengler, Wendy Pieh, Maggie Porter, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Anne Repaske and Jane McKinney, with member Ann Taylor also attending to give a presentation. Secretary Maryanne Reynolds was unavoidably detained, and Sister Mary Elizabeth agreed to substitute in taking Minutes, with Jana also taking notes.

When it was determined that a quorum had checked in, President Yvonne Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting held November 9, 2014, were approved as submitted, on the motion of Maggie, seconded by Jana.
2. Yvonne presented a few remarks touching on hopes for the New Year, including moving forward with the database, producing an educational video from the Joe David Ross clinic in October and new interest for creating an organizational archive.
3. Wendy brought forward deferred business of CGA application for a cooperative commercial booth at the 2015 New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck. The application deadline is February 28, with a booth rental fee of \$325 due with the application. After lengthy discussion, Wendy moved and Maggie seconded a motion to release \$325 to secure this application for a commercial booth and the motion carried. Jana will follow through with the filing and will facilitate organization of booth if the application is accepted. It is hoped that the combination of the success of the educational booth in the Exotic Animal barn in 2014, the promise of the addition of yaks to that barn by Maryanne and Jana, and Wendy's offer to present a workshop on cashmere fiber assessment will help move the application process forward.
4. Having been formally accepted as a tax exempt charity by the IRS since the last Board meeting, new business regarding our status included information on upcoming IRS filings in 2015 presented by Maggie, including mandatory paperwork required of the Board.
5. At Yvonne's invitation Ann Taylor discussed the archival work she has done for other organizations and how she might apply her experience in organizing CGA materials, which exist both in tangible and electronic forms. Several approaches for securing archival information were discussed, as were persons who might be contacted to secure an oral history of the organization. The task of archiving CGA materials was entrusted to Ann by the Board.
6. Jana reported that Maryanne has put out renewal notice to the membership. The issue of updating the website with up-to-date information regarding members was raised, and Jana noted that she has secured someone who can update the site for \$35 per hour. Wendy moved that four hours of web work be approved to cover immediate needs – for a total of \$140. Jana seconded and the motion passed. Jana will present to the next

CGA



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



meeting with a proposal from this vendor for a contract which would provide all services for a single fee.


7. Maggie and Becky have taken over publishing CGA's *Hoofprints* publication from Anne beginning with the upcoming Winter Issue. Maggie noted that she and Becky have divided the editorial task between them, with Becky tackling technical aspects for electronic publishing and Maggie working the editorial side. Becky was unable to attend the Board meeting but had sent an e-mail outlining progress in setting up a *Hoofprints* template. Ideas for articles were discussed. Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is mid-February.

The next meeting will be held Sunday, February 8, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully, and with special thanks to Sister Mary Elizabeth for preparing the minutes,

Maryanne Reynolds


Secretary

**BLACK  
LOCUST**  
F A R M

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**Crooked Fence Farm**

Cashmere Goats  
CVM/Romeldale & Merino  
Sheep

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802 387-5790  
crookedfence@gmail.com  
crookedfencefarm-vt.com

## Simple Scarf- Cashmere Goatherd Glam!

Linda Singley-Bearlin Acres Farm

If you want beads in your work string them all onto your yarn skein, and use one of the bead placement methods easily found online. To select a reasonable size needle for this scarf, use one to start that is three times the thickness of your yarn.

Cast on over two needles 30 stitches on a size US 6 needle and fingering weight yarn. If you like a more open scarf use a larger needle. To get a denser fabric use a smaller needle. Remove one needle.

R1: K3, P6, K6, P6, K6, K3

R2: K3, K1 Slip 1, repeat (K1, Slip1) to last three sts, K3

R3: K3, P6, K6, P6, K6, K3

R4: K3, K1 Slip 1, repeat (K1, Slip1) to last three sts, K3

R5 and R6: Repeat rows 3 and 4.

R7: K across

R8: K across

R9: K3, K6, P6, K6, P6, K3

R10: K3, K1 Slip 1, repeat (K1, Slip1) to last three sts, K3

R11: K3, K6, P6, K6, P6, K3

R12: K3, K1 Slip 1, repeat (K1, Slip1) to last three sts, K3

R 13 and 14: Repeat rows 11 and 12.

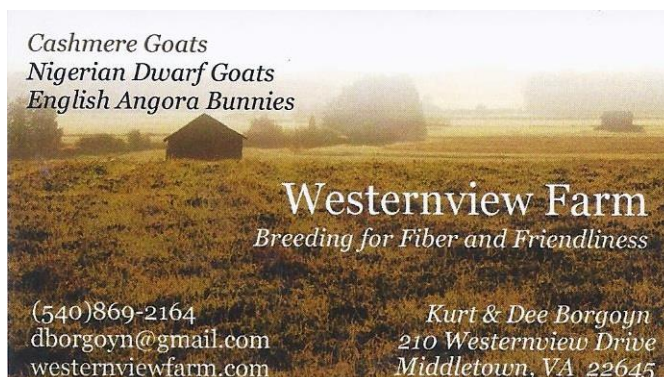
R15: K across

R16: K across

Knit, repeating rows 1-16 as long as you like, End with Knit across one row. Bind off loosely in knitting. Fringe if you like. Add beads to the fringe.



For a cowl, leave last row on needle. Pick up 30 stitches along the beginning edge using a size needle one or two sizes down. Use three needle bind off on beginning and end edges to seam together.



## WINTER IN COLDWATER, ONTARIO

By Becky Bemus

I want to pass on some observations from this winter related to keeping open water in our goat pens without remortgaging the farm to pay for power to keep heaters in all the buckets. We once used bucket and tank heaters for winter water troughs, but last year we had enormous amounts of drifting snow so ended up with whopping electric bills. We decided this year we couldn't afford to go that route. We had an average or below average amount of snow this winter, but were in a deep freeze for most of January and February. We struggled with water, but have come through the worst without resorting to bucket heaters.

So how did we survive -30 to -40 C (-22 to -40 F) winter temperatures? First, we found 15 gallon rubber buckets. These are actually feed tubs, but they hold enough to make them worthwhile, yet small enough to flip over and beat with a sledge hammer to remove ice without damaging the tubs themselves. Rubber leaches sulfates so it's not the ideal water receptacle, but there's more harm going without water for pregnant does and for proper rumen function than what trace sulfates can cause. Thick rubber insulates water from drastic temperature drops, which keeps the surface of the water open longer. Many days we'd just lift the edge of the bucket and drop it against the packed snow beneath and there was enough force from the still fluid water to break the surface ice and allow us to clear the bucket of debris.

We placed a 3 inch piece of rigid Styrofoam underneath our large (46 gallon) Rubbermaid tub, and then wrapped the outside with basement wrap insulation. Around this we built a wood case to keep goats from eating the insulation. The tub froze over on the top, sometimes almost 3 inches deep, but it was still fairly easy to break with a hammer or metal bar. The ice only built up where the top froze, but never coating the insides of the tank.

Our cow tank (75 gallons) never did get insulated, and some days "grew" about 4 inches of ice. We had



ice build-up down the sides so we worked hard to ensure it stayed open. I noticed, however, that when I filled the tub with the hose, the ground water was warmer than the tub water, so the pressure and warmth of the hose water actually broke up and loosened the ice from the edges of the tank. We'd break ice and remove as many floating bits as we could. Tubs and buckets were filled once a day. In the afternoon we'd break enough ice so the goats could drink but not remove the whole ice coating.

In former years when we used heaters, they'd melt a ring around the sides of the water troughs. This made it dangerous for some animals to get close to the tanks without falling face first when their footing gave way. It also left the sides of the tank open to wind chill. Adding water to the heated water in the tanks did more harm than good: the heater worked over time, and we saw more ice buildup on the top and sides of the tanks making an ever smaller reservoir to water. On days when there was a wind chill with blowing snow, the tanks would fill with snow and then freeze right up, despite having the heaters in place.

Although breaking ice daily was extremely hard work, the electricity saving was worth it and we had more water available for our animals than in any year with heated buckets. We plan on getting the solar and wind stations up for next winter, but if we have to we can get by with simply insulating the larger buckets pretty easily.



# Winter Photo Gallery

When will it end?!



Stone Harvest Boys



STC Opal and Blythe



STC Makutsi



Snowed in!



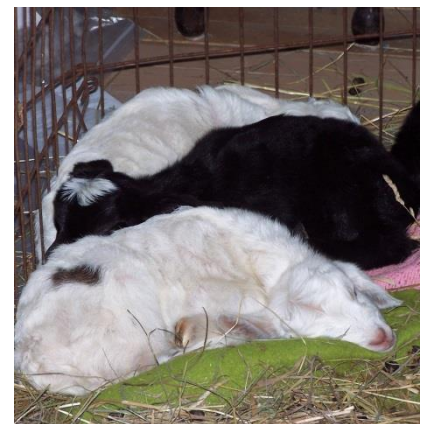
Herd mates enjoy some greenery



Basement goats!



Kitchen goat helping make kindling!



Spare room goats...HELP!

# 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](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

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*~Let the kidding begin~*