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

## A Message from the President

Hello everybody,

Earlier this year, shortly after New Year's Day, my husband, Boone, and I transported one of our bucks, "Shilling," to Washington, Maine. Shilling's job was to impregnate a few of Yvonne Taylor's does at Black Locust Farm. It was a gray, dreary morning and my husband, annoyed with the prospect of sitting in a car for seven hours (three and a half hours drive time each direction), not to mention with a smelly male goat looking over his shoulder, was grumpy as I pulled out of our property to head east.

Because we wanted to get going early, breakfast was a Spartan mix of toast and coffee. We knew, based upon past experience, that Yvonne and her husband, Lance, would provide a nice lunch when we arrived. This knowledge, however, did not prevent Boone from complaining that he didn't like being rushed, that he was still hungry and, by the way, that my little "goat hobby" was wearing thin.

By the time we found our way up Yvonne and Lance's drive, Boone was in better spirits – it finally occurred to him that there'd be one less animal on our farm for a couple of months! Better yet, shortly after arrival, we learned that Yvonne had invited Linda Cortright, the publisher of Wild

Fibers

magazine, for lunch; Linda immediately charmed my husband and me with her sense of humor and extensive knowledge of remote areas of the globe, including the

Himalayas, South Africa, India and Mongolia. Finally, there was a delectable aroma emanating from the kitchen, one of those "I hope whatever they've got in the oven is for us" smells.

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Indeed, the glorious aroma was roasted goat shanks, prepared by Lance, served with a tasty broth that evoked juniper berries and rosemary and thyme and whatever else Lance had ground up in his mortar and pestle and rubbed on the meat.

The drive home went much easier, and it wasn't just because we were minus one large horned animal. It was the realization that my husband, an omnivore, really appreciated being served a foodstuff that he, too, could prepare, made

from meat produced on his own property.

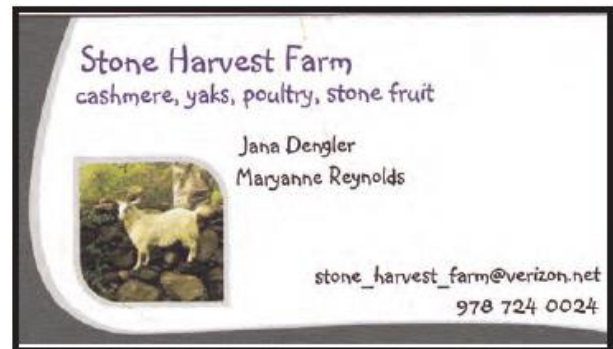
My focus, as a hand and machine knitter and beginning weaver, has always been on the fiber side of the Cashmere goat equation. I want to maximize my goats' cashmere production, and my breeding strategies reflect this. This is an interest my husband does not share. Now, with the goal of drawing Boone into my goat operation, I am committed to fully embrace the dual-purpose aspect of our goats. It's what will work best in our household.

So what about *you*, dear Hoof Prints reader? Are your goats raised for fiber, pelts, meat, horns or for sheer pleasure? Do they clear pastures or pull wagons? Some or all of the above? What about your household – are there

competing interests vis-à-vis your goat enterprise? The editors of Hoof Prints invite all of you to share your stories with us.

Meanwhile, I've rummaged around our freezer and pulled out some ancient goat stew meat. I will consult Lance Taylor's booklet, Cooking Chevon (more on this later in this issue) for appropriate seasonings, then double the proposed cook time given the age of this artifact. If this doesn't make my husband happy I don't know what will!

MAGGIE



## NOTABLE GOATS: THE STORY OF NANCY

Nancy was born in 1992 to Sumone Special, a docile Saanen doe, and BLF Jibreel, a spunky Cashmere buck, who had been imported from Australia in utero. My two original cashmere does had not been very nice to the hornless two Saanen sisters, whom I had acquired to practice on, before getting down to business with Cashmere goats. Sumone Special must have been horned pretty hard, because by the end of her pregnancy she could not get up and walk, although her appetite was good and she

delivered twins without difficulty. Because Nancy had to nurse with her mother lying down, she had to have some help with mother's position and in general a lot of fussing around. When Nancy was 6 weeks old, her mother was put down, and little Nancy was entirely dependent on human help. She grew up to be a big, badger faced doe, who was comfortable with both humans and goats. So comfortable that she took on a leadership role, being an intermediary between people and goats. She

would lead them on their walks, break up their fights and back bothersome goats into a corner and lecture them on their misbehavior (not that it had a lasting effect). At times she would stand in the barn opening and observe the milling about of her underlings, and when she perceived that most of them wanted to go in a certain direction, she would step down from her outlook point and gather everybody to go in that particular direction. I have been told that this is the sign of a good leader. She was deferred to, and always got the best hay pile, but she was never mean to anybody. She was a responsible monarch.



The best part of her leadership was that she could be bribed. If the goats were headed towards the neighbors, I could discreetly rattle the corn in my pocket and whisper to her: "Nancy, if you get them to go this way, I will give you some corn!" It usually worked.

Sadly, with old age her reign came to an end. Her daughter, Lykle, was very smart. She could open a latch that required moving a handle up, then sideways, after which she could march in and help herself to the grain of the other goats. She tried to take over her mother's position, but somehow she did not command the respect from the herd that her mother had.

Nancy is not remembered for the quality of her cashmere, which was rather mediocre (as could be expected from her parentage), but we have never again had a herd queen as wise as Nancy.


Yvonne Taylor  
Black Locust Farm



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

Send to:

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## Are You Kidding?

By Elyse Perambo

East Meets West Family Farm

It is that time of year where the kids have started arriving or we are still waiting patiently for them to join the farm. Being prepared with a birthing kit will have you ready to help your Cashmere doe or kids quickly when the time arrives. At our farm I like to think the kidding process actually starts in the fall when does are selected to be bred based on weight, health, and fiber records. Keeping notes on when does have gone into heat and when they were bred will help you estimate a birthing date and save some frustrations in the spring. Cashmere Goats usually have a gestation period of 148 days.

As the pregnancy progresses make sure the mothers are getting a good supply of hay, grain, and loose minerals. You can help protect the newborn kids from Tetanus and a possible selenium deficiency by giving the doe a CD&T shot and a BoSe shot at 6 weeks, and a second CD& T shot 4 weeks before the estimated delivery date.

As the date gets closer it is time to prep the birthing pens with clean hay and hang a water bucket so that is a foot up off the ground. Having the bucket up helps to ensure that an unsteady kid does not fall in. Because our Farm is in Northern Vermont we put sweaters on all the goat kids and have a heat lamp on in the birthing pens to keep the kids from getting a chill. I have added a hair dryer to my birthing kit to help dry off the new kids and ensure that their ears are fully dry to help prevent frostbite.

If a kid is born on a very cold night, after drying them off you can also put bag balm on their ears to help prevent frostbite. Since cold is a challenge for us I have a kit of supplies in the barn and a kit of cold sensitive materials that are kept in the house. No matter how well one

prepares there can always be an unforeseen issue that means it is time to call the vet. If you notice a doe's labor is not progressing, see abnormally colored mucus, or your gut is telling you that something is off then make the call.

### The Kit in the barn

Rubber Gloves  
Towels  
Hair Dryer  
Kid Sweater  
Kid Sling for Scale  
Plastic gloves that go to the Shoulder  
Powdered Colostrum  
Bottle  
Scissors  
Vet Wrap  
Feeding Tube  
Electrolytes  
Nasal Syringe  
Vaseline  
Drench  
Kid Milk Replacement  
The Vet's Phone Number

### Kit in the House

Betadine  
Thermometer  
Scale  
Molasses  
Nutra-Drench  
Bag Balm  
Needles and syringes  
BoSe  
CD&T  
Antibiotic

Please let us know what supplies you have in your birthing kit by posting them to our Facebook page: Cashmere Goat Association  
<https://www.facebook.com/Cashmere-Goat-Association-1019502644825398/>



## HOOF PRINTS TEST KITCHEN

TIPS ON COOKING CHEVON  
by MCP

It has taken me several years to fully appreciate the flavor of goat meat ("chevon"), mostly because it has taken me several years to understand how to cook it. I am indebted to Lance Taylor for a print-out of his "Cooking Chevon: Recipes Used at Black Locust Farm" which, unfortunately, I misplaced shortly after receiving, thereby causing me to make mediocre as opposed to excellent use of the goat meat in our freezer. Happily, I rediscovered the recipes last winter, and have enjoyed far greater success with cooking chevon at home.

Lance's tricks of the trade can be summed up as follows: goat meat is tasty, lean and chewy and will benefit from the liberal use of herbs and spices and a significantly longer cooking time than, for example, beef. I would echo this and add that Indian curries, Asian spices and hot sauces pair nicely with chevon.

Lance's go-to spices include rosemary, thyme, oregano and/or ground up cumin seeds, juniper berries, coarse salt and peppercorns. Mixing the above with olive oil and/or vinegar makes for a delicious marinade.

On cooking roasts, stews and soups: double the cooking time for beef!

On cooking ribs: Lance simmers them for an hour before grilling. "The usual BBQ sauces work well," he writes.

Note: A new recipe collection, *The Aleppo Cookbook*, came out in 2016. Many dishes in this book feature ground lamb. Ground goat can easily be substituted for the lamb. Popular spices in Syrian cuisine include cinnamon, cloves, paprika, nutmeg, ground cumin, allspice, ground ginger, pepper and seven-spice powder. Speaking of unusual spices, sumac is worth trying on chevon.

Because ground goat does not hold together well, Lance advises forming burger patties or meatballs, then refrigerating them for at least an hour before cooking. In *The Aleppo Cookbook*, recipes for lamb Kibbeh (a meatball-like dish) call for half ground beef and half ground lamb. Ground chevon can also be combined with ground beef, thereby increasing the fat content of the meat, as well as the structural integrity of the meatball.

### **Lance Taylor's Chevon Stuffed Peppers**

(modified Romanian recipe)

Recipe for 4-5 medium-sized peppers, prepared in a four-quart casserole.



Ingredients ready to go!

Heat a skillet with 1 tablespoon each of oil and butter until the foam subsides. Sauté a small onion diced small until it is translucent.

In a big bowl, mix the onion with a few cloves diced garlic, 1 pound of ground chevon, 1 egg, ¼ cup rice (Arborio, maybe), salt, pepper, and a good dash of paprika. Mix well.

Clean out the seeds from the peppers (Lance uses various colors, as the goats like the seeds) and fill with the meat and rice mixture. Also make a few meatballs to toss into the sauce.



Stuffed and ready for cooking

For the sauce, use a 16-ounce can of tomato sauce mixed with a bit of water. In the casserole, heat 1-2 tablespoons of oil and stir in 1 tablespoon of flour. Mix briefly off the heat, then add the tomato sauce and water, and bring to a boil. Add a bit of sugar, a few bay leaves, salt and pepper, maybe a chopped jalapeno pepper and/or some diced eggplant. When the sauce is boiling, add the stuffed peppers and meatballs, and gently heat with casserole partially covered to reduce sauce.

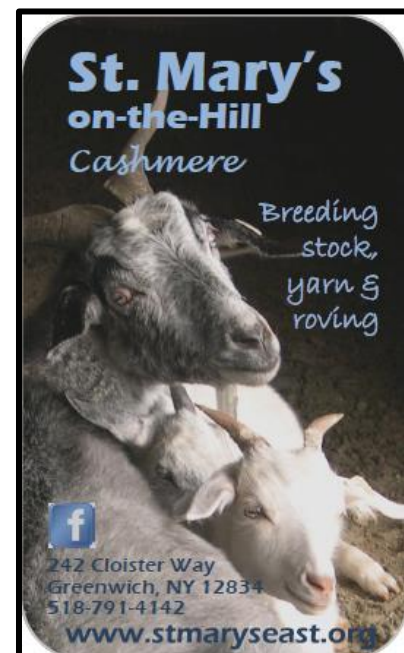
Usually done in an hour or two. Serve with chopped parsley and lots of sour cream.

Test Kitchen comments: I doubled the amount of sauce by adding a 16-ounce can of diced canned tomatoes, doctoring it with extra olive oil, garlic and Italian herbs on top of everything else. There wasn't enough meat for extra meatballs, and our larder lacked jalapeno pepper and eggplant, but this did not affect our overall

verdict of two thumbs up. This dish is even better the next day, after re-heating in the oven.



Dinner is served!



## HOW WE DO IT

We all benefit from hearing how other people handle some penning and feeding situations. Here in north central Ontario, Canada, we have experienced some atypical and erratic winters of late so I thought I would share how we have dealt with the snow and feeding.

We used to have a gradual change to winter and a gradual increase and subsequent decrease in snow levels with the occasional heavy winter storm. We learned early that stationary pin attached gates would not work for us in areas we needed to access daily or weekly over the winter as they would have to be hung too high or too low to be functional year round. Too high and kids and smaller goats would be under them in the summer time. Too low and in one snow fall or a windy night, they could be bogged down unable to move. If we experienced a wet fall the soil could also heave as it froze creating even bigger issues.

We also learned after a couple heavy snow falls followed by freezing rain, that traditional tube frame gates were not going to work for us as they are simply too heavy and time consuming to dig out and get moving in winter. Even lighter tube gates attached simply with loose wire around the post, will find a way of getting frozen tight to the ground several times during the fall to spring season. Since we don't have time to chase escapee goats nor to be constantly digging out gates in winter, we moved to a system that is easy to maintain and adjust with the ups and downs of winter. This year we learned just how many ups and downs there can be in rapid succession and were extremely pleased with the performance of our gates.

Our solution? We moved to purchasing 16 foot cattle panels for our gates. These are light weight, welded wire fence sections that can be purchased with graduated wire at the bottoms to keep heads, feet legs and especially kids inside. They are heavy enough for a few goats to stand on without bending too much but flexible enough to move in ways other gates cannot. If a heavy snow or freezing rain storm comes through they are easy to pull up out of the snow or lift and stamp the snow down underneath the bottom wire. The gate itself can be attached between two T-

bars easily with wire or quick links and easily moved up and down with the snow level. With wooden posts we use long shaft eyes and quick link clips at various intervals along the post so that as the fence moves up and down with the snow level, it will always have at least two attachment points. This past winter we saw heavy snow with up to 14 inches followed by a mass melt where the gates went up 5 or so inches at the start of the day and by the next afternoon they had been moved down several times to 6 inches below where they had started the day before.

Some of the gates we use to move hay into the goat pens double as access doors to their feed areas. During last trimester feeds we use panic clips on one end of the gate so once the feeders are filled we can quickly open them up and let the girls in before they get too pushy with each other. We have enough does in some pens to open a gate at each end of the feed area spreading them out and of course the 16 foot gate length is really important to ensure everyone has enough space to get through the gate with minimal pushing and shoving. We gradually increase the amount of grain the does are getting as they approach their kidding dates and find if they are starting to get pushy at the gate, we need to increase the feed volume. The older I get the less I want to move within the group with grain or treats, especially hungry, pregnant does and this system makes feeding as safe as possible for everyone. There is a trick to making sure you lift the bottom of the gate out first so legs are not caught but it is easy, fast and safe.

### THE GRAIN FEEDERS:

We have found the most versatile and economical feeders to be made from lengths of plastic eaves trough. These are relatively cheap to purchase at 8\$ CAN for a 10 foot section. Being made from smooth plastic they can be cleaned out easily and snow and freezing rain/ice can be removed with a quick wipe or by flexing the plastic. We use the troughs in a couple of different ways.

For the does/bucks, we construct an X legged feeder using 2X4's, then a 10 foot 2X4 is mounted to the top of the X on each side leaving a gap in the middle to keep the girls heads separated and allow more room for them to eat. 10 foot boards should be used on the top to prevent the ends of the eaves trough from hanging over the end of the boards as they are weak this way.



The depth of the 2X4 also allows reasonable length screws to be used to affix the trough sections to the wood making them more stable if someone decides to stand on one. The wide base prevents the goats from tipping them over most of the time. The ends are left open as we find this makes it far easier to clean them out in rain or snow conditions.



Our first prototype used the enclosed ends and we drilled small holes in the bottom along the length to allow for water to drain but the whole structure became more rigid and the goats would sometimes break the sections in extreme cold weather when hitting them, trying to make them produce more grain. These feeders work well for dedicated feed spaces but will not hold up well when left inside the main pen with the goats as they will take to climbing in them or bashing their horns against them when bored.

For these situations a simple wooden v trough will hold up much better. The same X shaped legs are used but wood is mounted inside the top V instead of along the outside. One section slides down all the way to the bottom of the V groove and the next one laid on top of it and the seam either glued or screwed to prevent the wood from shrinking apart and letting grain fall out the crack in the bottom. The wood can be sterilized from time to time or some roof flashing can be purchased and bent to fit over the wood making an easily cleaned surface.



In the kid pens where we want to feed a bit of grain after weaning, we simply mount a section of eaves trough to a thin 10 foot board and then affix hooks to the back of the board and hang the single row feeders to the fence, rigid panels or hook eyes. Typically we feed from the outside with the kids to train them how to remove their own heads from her panel sections as we use the same material for our hay feeders. When they are used to feeding like this they learn patience instead of fear if they do get tangled for some reason and can't get out on their own. We can also feed quickly from the outside and I can avoid being knocked around by overly eager eaters.

Obviously some care needs to be taken in the initial training period as small horned kids are creative and can get 3-4 heads in one hole sometimes, but they quickly learn to get their own heads out or to avoid holes already occupied. It helps that most of the kids have experience eating hay from feeders made of similar wire panel before they get to this stage as they would have used these when with their mothers. These hanging feeders work well with adult goats when left inside the pen with them. If they bash too hard on them they usually dislodge and their falling to the ground, usually only on one end scares the goats off this practice. Kids have a tendency to climb in them when they are left inside the pen and can pull them loose from the screws used to hold them to the wood; decreasing their useful life.

We have also simply mounted these sections to wooden board fence sections where there is a large long opening for adult goats to insert their heads to eat. The feeder sections can be filled quickly from the outside. The problem we found using the feeder like



this was that a goat can put its head in one end and then then effectively slide down the length of the feeder pushing gobbling grain and pushing other goats out of the way as they go. If they beat you to the feeder filling them can be difficult whereas with the wire cattle panels they are committed to their hole in the feeder and the penal can be leaned away from you as you are filling so even if their heads are already in the panel you can still make room to fill the feeder. I can usually move faster than they can maneuver to get their heads through the holes.



The feeders that are self-standing are obviously more versatile in terms of moving to areas where they are needed as feed requirements and animal numbers change over the production year. Hanging feeders weigh relatively nothing compared to either the wooden single feeders or the eaves trough double feeders. The double feeders are sturdier than the single feeders and so on. We typically have a variety of feeders so that we can quickly adapt to changing feeding and sorting/grouping situations.

We hope sharing this information has been helpful.

Becky Bemus

*Roving Winds Farm*



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

## The Global Market of Cashmere

Christine McBrearty-Hulse  
Hulse Hill Farm

Most of our CGA members raise cashmere goats for either their own personal use and pleasure, or for a specific niche of fiber artisans. However, we are still an important piece of the cashmere global community, whether it be by educating folks about cashmere goats or selling a superior final product.

It is difficult to gather any information on the number of cashmere goats in the US, let alone how much cashmere we are producing. There has been a shift that continues to grow in the mindset of consumers within the last ten years of not only wanting to buy “American” but know what they are buying. This can serve us well as small based business owners who can customize our products and provided that personalize piece of education.

One of the few places to find any data about the status of cashmere production in the world through the Asia Pacific Leather Fair (APLF).” APLF Ltd is a joint venture between UBM Asia (United Business Media) and SIC Group (Standard Industrial Classification) . The Hong Kong-based APLF Ltd. has been providing the global fashion & leather industry and manufacturing development training regarding all types of fashion materials from cashmere to leather and much more. A large amount of cashmere is sent to China to be manufactured. Below is a quick snap shot of the cashmere imported to China. Although most of us as small breeders do not compete with cashmere-made products from China, e.g., J.Crew, the Gap, it is important to understand the bigger picture of the cashmere market if we are to educate the consumer.

One of the goals of the upcoming International Cashmere Workshop in Italy 2017 is to bring together various breeders globally to learn about trends, the future market of cashmere, and learn about the most recent scientific developments as it relates to cashmere.



### Cashmere Information from main producing countries for the end of 2016

13 January 2017

#### China

Chinese cashmere market has seen no significant changes during the month of December. Due to a relatively active market in China, prices on RMB basis are going up.

Herewith the latest figures from China for dehaired cashmere exports by country:

Exported Quantity of Dehaired Cashmere	
Country/Region	Quantity (kg) October 2016
Italy	184,434
UK	22,800
Hong Kong	20,659
Japan	10,494
Korea	9,949
Germany	5,511
Mongolia	1,600
India	1,120
USA	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>256,647</b>

#### Iran

The market in Iran is firmer but local producers believe that is mainly due to recent devaluation of Iranian Rial and also massive purchase by one local manufacturer. As usually happens when prices rise, quality tends to deteriorate as local traders start blending inferior quality into normal quality.

In general, not many buyers showed up in November, but on the other hand many sellers kept selling amongst their own circle at slightly increased prices.

#### Mongolia

Because of the Mongolian dangerously cold winter, markets in every region have been closed in December. Herders are trying to safeguard their animals from the

terrible cold, since temperatures are ranging between -26°C and -38°C.

The biggest importer is still China, but dehaired cashmere has been also exported mostly to Italy (361.9 tons) and in smaller quantities to England (55.1 tons), Hong Kong (39.6 tons), India (10.3 tons), Korea (9.4) and Japan (7.7 tons).

Information courtesy of The Schneider Group

<http://www.aplf.com/en-US/leather-fashion-news-and-blog/news/34369/cashmere-information-from-main-producing-countries-for-end-2016>

### FEBRUARY 2017 CASHMERE MARKET REPORT

*Posted on: March 10th 2017*

#### CHINA: CASHMERE

Cashmere is in big demand now in China and prices are still going up. Italy is the biggest exporter of Chinese dehaired cashmere with more than 75% of the total production.

#### MONGOLIA: CASHMERE

Market is still closed. It is expected at the end of March, with the beginning of new season, that there will be a good incentive to the Mongolian market.

#### IRAN: CASHMERE

Market has been stable but two factors affected the prices most. First of all, the local money has gained around 10% within the last two months leading to an increase of raw materials prices in terms of dollars. Secondly, Chinese buyers seem to have definitely entered Iranian market and based on experience of previous years this will both increase price and decrease quality. The new clip will gradually be out immediately after New Iranian Year (March 21st) and from April new material will start emerging. It is expected that this year there will be less quantity due to a dry year, causing a further increase of prices.

<http://www.gschneider.com/market-reports/viewreports.php?id=7418>

## WHY LEARN TO SORT, GRADE, & CLASS FIBER?

By Christine McBrearty-Hulse

Hulse Hill Farm

***“A Basic Fiber Sorting & Grading workshop series, designed to help natural fiber producer’s access new market opportunities and enhance their businesses. Participants in this one-day program will gain the background knowledge and technical skills necessary to ultimately take part in an intensive, multi-day fiber grading and sorting certificate program, offered in partnership with “Sorting, Grading & Classing” and fiber expert Wini Labrecque.”***

This is the description that sparked my interest and which eventually led to me attending one of the most informative workshops about fiber. Although the class itself was designed by a group of fiber experts with roots in alpaca industry, the class covers and applies to every type of fiber. The program offers a certificate at each of its levels. Those being:

- *Basic Fiber Sorting and Grading* is a day-long workshop for .8 CEUs (Continuing Educational Units). The goal for the Basic Course is to have natural fiber producers gain the knowledge to return to their farm and organize their fiber for production. Management, harvesting and sorting are the building blocks for the workshop with hands-on time to gain experience.
- *Advanced Fiber Sorting and Grading* is a three-day, hands-on course. It is geared to those individuals who want more in-depth education and/or are interested in developing a business sorting for other fiber bearing livestock owners or fiber purchasers.
- *Apprenticeship program* is two years of field work in sorting, grading and classing of a minimum of 250 fleece. Each apprentice has a mentor providing guidance and feedback throughout the apprenticeship.

### **Why sort, grade and class fiber and how does it even apply to a luxury fiber like cashmere?**

The goal is to sort fiber into categories of uniformity. Better uniformity means decreased pilling and prickling factor, better handle, less waste and a superior product. This in turn means you can expect a premium price. The more uniform a fiber, the better the final product will show that uniformity as well helping to identifying its best use. (Spinning, blending, and it’s eventual product purpose) The process begins by sorting fleeces, examining and categorizing fiber by:

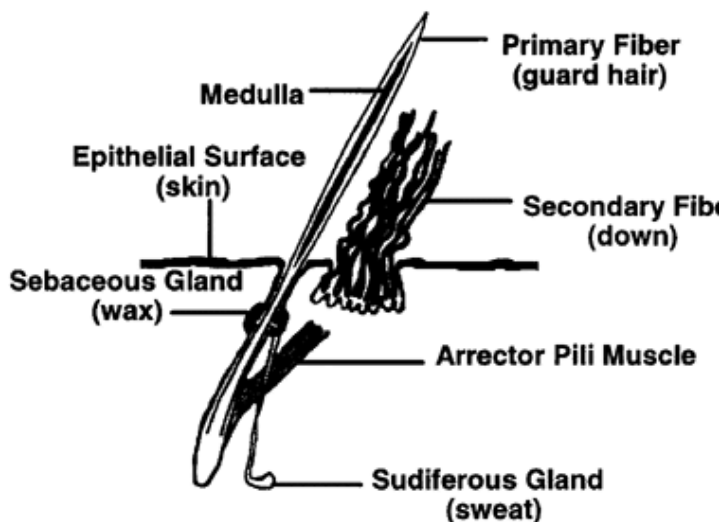
- ✓ Lack of guard hair
- ✓ Handle
- ✓ Style (What we typically term as “crimp” was termed as “crinkle”)
- ✓ Character
- ✓ Length

The class is designed to help students begin to acquire these assessment skills of fiber **visually**. Thus practice on every type of fiber was necessary and continues to be requires at each of the three levels of training. Presently certified sorters, graders/classers can earn between \$10.00-\$15.00 a fleece. A certified SGC travels to farms after sheering or combing and will divide fleeces based on the above characteristics. Once fleeces are processed and divided by their fibers traits they are assigned to be used for various items such as socks , knit wear or for the softest fiber , close to the face products.

The Basic Fiber Sorting and Grading Class introduces not only these skills but the science of fiber. Uniform language about fiber physiology must be used so producers can agree on the understanding of various fibers. As cashmere farmers, we are familiar with



primary follicles (guard hair) and secondary follicles (cashmere). The ratio of secondary to primary follicles becomes critical in cashmere production and culling decisions. The alpaca industry began a while ago to conduct skin biopsies to identify this information. Terms such as medulation and scales were discussed in depth. Primary hairs are fully medulated, completely hollow. However secondary hair is intermittently medulated, allowing them to be more flexible. Although it has been argued that full mediation allows a warming regulatory process to occur it is actually the way the fiber is spun that creates the fibers ability to trap heat.



Goat Skin Follicle

<http://www.infovets.com/books/srmr/A/A286.htm>

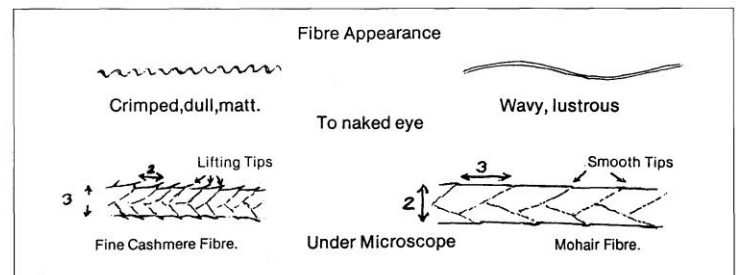
Scales are different on different types of fibers. Rabbit scales look more like a tape worm. Sheep scales are more open than in cashmeres. Certain scales, like wool, are more "open" and allows more debris to stick to the fiber, thus those with allergies might have problems with wool fiber. Cashmere scales are quite low and flat allowing very little debris to stick. This makes cashmere a good choice for people with allergies. Thus, a great way to market cashmere. Open scales can contribute to the "itch" factor but can make the felting process easier. Scale length and height directly affects the brightness and luster of the fiber, as well as what is termed "handle". Under the microscope, at 1000 x magnification, all true cashmere shows short scales (length: diameter = 2:3) and the tip of the scale has a

noticeable lift (see diagrams). This characteristic is probably responsible for the matt appearance and flexibility so desirable and indeed essential for handling qualities in cashmere fibers compared to the sheen and resilience of the longer-scaled, smooth mohair fibers. It has also been argues that it is also a factor in the difference in dye absorption between the two fibers which gives uneven colors in mixed tops. The degree of scale shortness and tip lift appears to have strong relationship to stability of micron and handle and can therefore be used as selection criteria.



Wool and other fibers under a microscope

<http://www.tafalist.com/felting-techniques-on-tafa/>



Examples of scale structure

<http://www.acga.org.au/goatnotes>

I have only touched upon a very small piece of what was taught during this workshop. The program was well organized giving each participant a booklet with all the content and a universal fiber sorting and grading card. The class brings to light that knowing the characteristics of other fibers allows the potential to blend cashmere with fibers that might help it serve a unique purpose. Mixing your 16 or even 17 micron cashmere with 14 micron will change the quality of your product. When

fibers are spun commercially the higher micron fibers typically are weighted to the outside of the yarn, while the softer micron fiber is encapsulated. Therefore, it could mean that your 14 micron fiber is trapped inside yarn that's outer fiber is 17-18 microns. I do not have a large herd of cashmeres and do not cull since my animals serve as an educational piece on the farm for our farm stay business, but I will be starting this year to separate some of my poorest fiber goats (17-18) microns to keep separate for processing and potential blending.



A variety of fiber types to sort, grade & class

The Fiber Sorting, Grading and Classing workshop provided a huge amount of hands on experience in practicing each step with multiple types of fiber. The final exam at the end of each class looks for confirmation that knowledge is being acquired universally. I entered cashmere farming by learning everything I could about cashmere. This class allowed my bird's eye view of fiber to open to the unique qualities of all fibers. Marketing cashmere as the luxury fiber means that it's producer knows what unique qualities their fiber is providing to their buyers. Presently I have only attended the Basic SGC workshop and plan to attend the second class this summer. I highly recommend this class to anyone working with fiber at any level.

The next Fiber Sorting, Grading and Classing workshop will be offered August 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the New York State College at Cobleskill. [www.sortgradeandclass.com](http://www.sortgradeandclass.com)



Final products after the SGC process



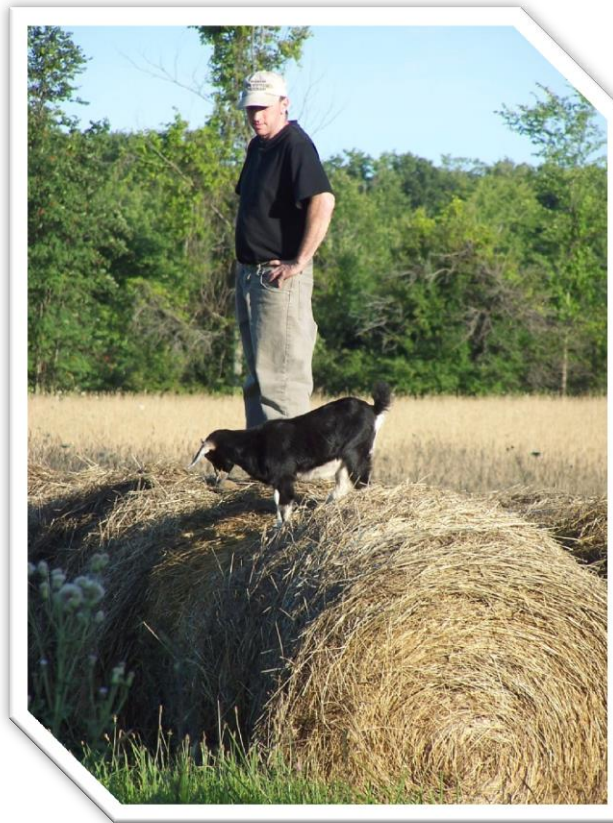
Wini Labreque was our instructor. Wini is an AOA Alpaca Fleece Judge for the alpaca industry. She is also a certified Camelids Fiber Grader/Sorter/Classer through the Olds College in Canada. Wini is trained in grading /sorting cashmere fiber and judging of cashmere fiber. She has developed a fiber evaluation protocol for the International Yak Association (IYAK) and is a fiber judge on yak.



## PHIL SMITH TO JUDGE THE 2017 CGA NORTH AMERICAN CASHMERE FLEECE COMPETITION AND NEW ENGLAND BREEDERS GOAT SHOW

The Cashmere Goat Association is pleased to announce that Phil Smith of Coldwater, Ontario, Canada, has accepted the invitation to judge our 2017 North American Cashmere Fleece Competition and New England Breeders Goat Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival, September 29-October 1.

Phil and his wife Becky have produced cashmere goats on their Roving Winds Farm in Coldwater, Ontario, for over twelve years, alongside Dexter cattle and Black Welsh sheep. Members of both the Canadian Cashmere



Producers Association and the Cashmere Goat Association, Phil judged the Canadian Producers International Fleece Competition at the Woodstock Fleece and Fiber Festival in Woodstock, ON in 2016. Phil has extensive skills in fleece classification and has worked closely with CGA in our development of a database for North American Cashmere goats.

More information about the International Fleece Competition and the New England Breeders show will be available on the Cashmere Goat Association website soon.

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

*Membership: Maggie Constantine – [Constantine.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:Constantine.maggie@gmail.com) Jana Dengler- [Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com)*

*Fundraising: Christine McBrearty-Hulse [mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com) Shows: 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: Noreen Rollins – [nikkinomar@yahoo.com](mailto:nikkinomar@yahoo.com) Meat & Coat Color: Becky Bemus- [cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca](mailto:cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca)*

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





## Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition

Invites entries from Canada and the United States

CNCFC will be held at the Wool and Ewe A'Fair, Cloverdale BC, on June 10 2017

Dear Cashmere Organizations

The Canadian Cashmere Producers Association would like to invite your membership to participant 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 2017 CNCFC. It will be a mail in competition judged by Diane Thompson, with the fleeces displayed at the Wool and Ewe A'Fair, Cloverdale BC, on June 10 2017.

Sorry, the Fleece Auction is available to Canadian producers only.

Diane Thompson developed an exceptional breeding herd, producing high quality and top winning fleeces at her Riversong Farm until her retirement. Many of her goats are still producing beautiful fleeces and offspring on farms from one end of Canada to the other and her herd code still appears in the placing at various fibre shows. Diane was a previous judge of the North West Cashmere Association Fibre and Farm day show as well as the CNCFC during fibre week at Olds College. She was the founding force of the CCPA and is well respected in the cashmere community.

### Show Rules

1. Entries should be clean and skirted of vegetation;
2. Entries must not be dehaired or washed;
3. Entries must be of the current year's harvest;
4. Entries must be sent in a large Ziploc bags. If a fleece is too large it can be sent in two bags, clearly identifying this;
5. Entries must have a completed Fleece Entry Form in the bag (available online at <http://www.cashmerecanada.ca/canadian-national-cashmere-fleece-competition-cncfc.html> or via email or below);
6. Entry fee is \$10.00 (return postage is included in entry);
7. Please send your fleeces to:  
**Christina's Bookkeeping Plus**  
**3736 French Rd.**  
**Quesnel, BC V2J 6L6.**
8. **They must arrive no later than Friday, June 2 2017**

Submission Form below, please include one with each fleece.

Please complete one of these **for each fleece** that you are entering.



Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition 2017

Date: June 10 2017

Judge: Diane Thompson

Location: Wool and Ewe A-Fair

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Goat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID/tag #: \_\_\_\_\_

Goat's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Class (circle one)

Class 1: 1 <sup>st</sup> fleece doeling	Class 6: 1 <sup>st</sup> fleece buckling
Class 2: 2 <sup>nd</sup> fleece doe	Class 7: 2 <sup>nd</sup> fleece buck
Class 3: 3 <sup>rd</sup> fleece doe	Class 8: 3 <sup>rd</sup> fleece buck
Class 4: 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> fleece doe	Class 9: 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , fleece buck
Class 5: 7 <sup>th</sup> and older fleece doe	Class 10: 7 <sup>th</sup> fleece and older buck
	Class 11: all wethers

## THE USE OF GOAT HAIR

An Introductory historical Review by Michael Ryder

A very interesting paper on the history of the use of goat hair can be found here:

<http://sciencepress.mnhn.fr/sites/default/files/articles/pdf/az1993n17a5.pdf>

## U.S. Fiber Mills

### Processing Cashmere



The following is a list of some of the fiber mills that responded to a recent CGA survey about processing cashmere in the United States. It is by no means a complete list, but rather a list of mills that are presently accepting cashmere. CGA does not endorse any specific mill as many of our members use a variety of mills. If you have questions regarding the workmanship of any of the mills listed here, please send us an e-mail and we will try to put you in touch with a member that has used at specific mill. If you know of a mill that is presently processing cashmere and would like to be added to this list please let me know at [mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com)

#### Falls Edge Farm & Mill

132 Tripp Road  
Benton, Pa. 17814  
[ellie@fallsedge.com](mailto:ellie@fallsedge.com)  
570-477-2665  
[www.fallsedge.com](http://www.fallsedge.com)

#### Fire Mountain Fiber

30000 L Road  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419  
[firemountainfiber@tds.net](mailto:firemountainfiber@tds.net)  
970-872-SPIN (7746)

#### Wild West Fiber Mill

4330 County Road 106  
Elizabeth, CO 80107  
303-243-4343 [Lyn@wildwestfibermill.com](mailto:Lyn@wildwestfibermill.com)

#### Sill River Mill

P.O. Box 397  
210 Eastford Road, Eastford, CT 06242  
[sales@stillriverfibermill.com](mailto:sales@stillriverfibermill.com)  
860-974-9918

#### Wayland Fiber Mill

Renne Truax  
3688 10th St.  
Wayland, Michigan 49348  
United States

#### Mill at Meadowlands

4231 Wards Chapel Rd, Marriottsville,  
MD 410-9165126 [info@themillmeadowlands.com](mailto:info@themillmeadowlands.com)

#### The Shepard's Mill

839 Third St Phillipsburg, KS 67661  
[sally@kansasfiber.com](mailto:sally@kansasfiber.com)

#### Legacy Lane Fiber Mill

56 Vail Court  
Sussex New Brunswick  
E4E 2R9  
Canada  
(506) 433-5604  
[www.LegacyLaneFiberMill.ca](http://www.LegacyLaneFiberMill.ca)

#### Sun Fiber Mill

805 Kienas Road  
Kalispell, Mt 5990  
[montanamill@gmial.com](mailto:montanamill@gmial.com)

#### C & M Acres

33707 663rd Ave  
Maxwell, Iowa 50161  
Phone 515.387.8607  
[cmacres@cmacres.com](mailto:cmacres@cmacres.com) C&M Acres

#### A Simpler Time Mill

1802 Alta Pl, El Cajon, CA 92021  
619 579 9114  
[ddavies@dslextreme.com](mailto:ddavies@dslextreme.com)



**Cas-cad-nac Farm**

E-mail: [alpacas@cas-cad-nacfarm.com](mailto:alpacas@cas-cad-nacfarm.com)  
 Telephone: (802) 263-5740  
 Fax: (802) 263-9482  
 Mail: Cas-Cad-Nac Farm  
 490 Wheeler Camp Road  
 Perkinsville, Vermont 05151

**Wayland Fiber Mill**

Renne Truax  
 3688 10th St.  
 Wayland, Michigan 49348  
 United States  
 Phone: 269-792-0069  
 E-mail: [waylandfibermill@gmail.com](mailto:waylandfibermill@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: Wayland Fiber Mill Processed Phone:

**Zeilinger Wool Company**

1130 Weiss Street  
 Frankenmuth, MI 48734  
[www.zwool.com/fiber-processing/dehairing](http://www.zwool.com/fiber-processing/dehairing)  
 (989) 652-2920

**Rach-Al-Paca Fiber Processing**

Hastings, MN  
 email: [rachalpacafarm@aol.com](mailto:rachalpacafarm@aol.com)  
[www.rachalpacafarm.com](http://www.rachalpacafarm.com)

**Arctic Qiviut**

PO Box 58617  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99711  
 MILL LOCATION:  
 North Pole, Alaska  
[vivian@arcticqiviut.com](mailto:vivian@arcticqiviut.com)  
 907 490 6722

Diane Johnson, Administrator

**Natural Fiber Producers**

1552 Sanctuary Lane  
 Homedale ID 83628  
 208-337-3371  
<http://naturalfiberproducers.com>

**Coyote Trail Farm & Fiber Mill**

1669 Coyote Trail  
 PO Box 84561  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708  
 1-907-699-3262  
[katewattum@yahoo.com](mailto:katewattum@yahoo.com)



**Hermit Pond Farm**  
 Cashmere Goats

**Pam Haendle**  
 10601 Merrill Road  
 W. Edmeston, NY 13485  
 315-899-7792  
[pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com](mailto:pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com)



**Spring Gate Farm**  
 CHAMPION CASHMERE  
 GOATS AND FIBER

Barboursville, VA 22923  
[www.springgatefarm.com](http://www.springgatefarm.com)  
 Jane McKinney  
 434.990.9162  
[springgatefarm@gmail.com](mailto:springgatefarm@gmail.com)



**Hulse Hill Farm**  
 Authentic Farm Stay Experience

*Hike with cashmere goats*  
*Harvest farm fresh vegetables and eggs for meals*  
*April/May help comb out cashmere goats*  
*Assist with morning and evening farm chores*



Visit us at [hulsehillfarm.com](http://hulsehillfarm.com)  
 Private suite/bath with views of the farm  
 Located in the Leatherstocking Region  
 Like us on Facebook  
 Live, Laugh & Love on the Farm

# NORTH AMERICAN CASHMERE GOAT

## GRADING SYSTEM

**Reviewed April 1, 2017**

### **NACG Grading System**

The North American Cashmere Goat Grading System described here reflects the North American Cashmere Goat (NACG) as a dual-purpose animal, providing both fiber and meat products, with relative market values currently defined as: FIBER 50% and CONFORMATION 50%. This ratio has been a long-held and consistent position over many years for most NACG breeders and producers. That ratio can be modified over time, however, to meet the needs of a developing NACG industry. For example, if the NACG industry requires more attention to fiber quality and production, and less attention to meat production, that ratio might in the future be changed to something like: FIBER 60% and CONFORMATION 40%.

The NACG Grading System can assign a decimal score (0-3) for each of the scoring traits of both FIBER and CONFORMATION. This system can also assign descriptive terms (Description) to these traits. A simple conversion table translates between 0-3 and Description scores:

	<b><u>0-3</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
3.0	Excellent (best)	
	2.0	Medium (average)
	1.0	Poor
	0.0	Disqualified (DQ)

Note that high numbers (e.g. 2.8) are always better than low numbers (e.g. 1.8), and this is consistent across the board for all traits to be scored. In this scoring system, therefore, excellent Style would score 3.0, and poor Style would score 1.0.

The NACG Grading System can also assign an objective measurement (Data) when available. In some cases, this objective measurement is most useful in assigning value to a specific trait.

Example:

<b><u>0-3</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Data</u></b>
3.0	Excellent (best)	MFD 14.7 microns

In order to correlate objective Data scores with 0-3 decimal scores and their corresponding Description scores, an expanded set of conversion tables is needed. These conversion tables are currently under development by the Cashmere Goat Association.

### **Part 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION (no scores)**

In this section, standard identifying information is recorded. This includes:

- ID, Sex, Age, Birth Date, Birth Number

Also in this section, certain characteristics of the goat are described and recorded, but scores are not assigned. These characteristics include:

- Management issues that do not necessarily represent genetic traits.

Examples: Condition, % Yield.

- Traits or characteristics that might be important to some breeders, but do not currently represent a consensus of NACG breeders.

Examples: Color Down/ Color Guard Hair, D:G Ratio, Wattles, Disposition, Frame.

**Cashmere Goat ID** (name, ear tag number, tattoo number, microchip number, etc.).

**Sex/Age/Birth Date/Birth Number** (birth number: single, twin, triplet, etc.)

**Color Down/Color Guard Hair** (e.g. Light Brown/Black)

Note that there currently is no consensus among NACG breeders regarding the relative practical value or desirability of the various colors of down or guard hair on cashmere goats. For this reason, colors of down and guard hair are listed and described here as traits under GENERAL INFORMATION, and left as a breeder preference without a value score.

**D:G Ratio (Down length:Guard Hair length)**

D:G Ratio describes the length of down fiber (D) compared to the length of guard hair fiber (G), and the result is expressed as a ratio. A goat with medium guard hair length, whose down fiber is the same length as the guard hair, would have a D:G Ratio of 1:1. A goat whose down fiber extends beyond the guard hair would have a D:G Ratio that is greater than 1:1 (e.g. 2:1). A goat with relatively long guard hair length, whose down fiber is shorter than the guard hair, would have a D:G ratio that is less than 1:1 (e.g. 0.5:1).

Examples:

- Goat A has medium guard hair length, and the down is the same length as the guard hair. The D:G ratio is 1:1.
- Goat B has relatively short guard hair length, and the down is twice as long as the guard hair. the D:G ratio is 2:1, and the fleece could be described as an “open fleece.”
- Goat C has relatively long guard hair length, and the down is half the length of the guard hair. The D:G ratio is 0.5:1, and the fleece could be described as a “closed fleece.”

D:G Ratio can provide useful practical information, mostly related to planning the process of harvesting the down fiber, and also to the final quality of the down fiber after processing:

- Long guard hair (a “closed fleece” with a low D:G Ratio) serves to protect the more fragile down fibers from sunlight and other environmental damage that can cause fiber breakage and shortening in the dehairing process. If a low D:G ratio fleece (“long guard hair”) is to be shorn, the down might be of good quality, but a great deal of guard hair will be included in the Total Fleece weight as waste, which must then be removed at additional expense in the dehairing process. If the low D:G Ratio fleece is to be combed, however, most of the guard hair will still remain on the goat, with much less guard hair being included in the Total Fleece weight as waste.
- Short guard hair (an “open fleece” with a high D:G Ratio) usually cannot protect the fragile down as effectively as long guard hair. At the same time, if the high D:G Ratio fleece is to be shorn, there will be relatively little

guard hair included as waste in the Total Fleece weight, and relatively less expense in the dehairing process.

Note that D:G Ratio is can be related to % Yield, but it is not the same thing, and that is why it is described separately. D:G Ratio is based on relative length of fiber types, not weight. % Yield is based on



weight, and is generally estimated from a Total Fleece that has already been harvested. (See below for more description of % Yield).

Also note that some NACG breeders prefer relatively long guard hair and some prefer relatively short guard hair. Currently there is no consensus among NACG breeders regarding the ideal D:G ratio, so the D:G Ratio is included here under GENERAL INFORMATION, and not as a trait for scoring in the NACG breed standard.

### **%Yield (Down weight/ Total Fleece weight)**

% Yield describes the weight of down fiber compared to the weight of the Total Fleece (total raw fleece after harvest), and is expressed in %. Determination of % Yield is generally done by examination of a Total Fleece that has already been harvested. A Total Fleece with a low % Yield (e.g. 25%) would generally have a large amount of “waste” in the fleece in addition to the valuable down product. This “waste” is a combination of guard hair and foreign material such as hay chaff, dust and dirt, etc. A Total Fleece with high % Yield (e.g. 50% ) would be expected to have a smaller amount of guard hair and other waste relative to the down product.

% Yield can be related to D:G Ratio, but it is not the same thing, and that is why it is described separately. While D:G Ratio is based on length, % Yield is based on weight. While D:G Ratio is easily determined on the live goat, % Yield is determined from a harvested fleece (Total Fleece). While D:G Ratio tells us only about relative fiber lengths, %Yield is affected by all types of “waste” in the harvested fleece, including hay chaff, dust and dirt, etc., as well as guard hair as “waste.”

If a goat is shorn, % Yield and D:G Ratio can be closely correlated. All other factors being equal (like vegetable matter and dirt as waste), a goat with a low D:G Ratio (relatively short down/long guard hair) will produce a shorn Total Fleece with relatively low % Yield, since a large amount of guard hair will be included in the Total Fleece. If that same goat is combed, however, there will generally be little correlation between %Yield and D:G Ratio, because most of the guard hair (much of the “waste” weight in a shorn Total Fleece) stays on the goat during combing.

Example:

Assuming that the amount of vegetable matter, dust, and other foreign material is constant, a typical % Yield on a shorn fleece with long guard hair length (D:G Ratio of 1:2) might be about 25%. A typical % Yield on a combed fleece (regardless of guard hair length) might be about 50-60%.

Summary:

% Yield is defined as the % of down by weight in the harvested Total Fleece. It is included under GENERAL INFORMATION, but is not given a score because it is so largely correlated to the method of harvest. % Yield is also used as part of the calculation formula for Total Down Weight (TDW), and TDW is a scored trait. For more information on Total Down Weight (TDW), see TDW under FIBER traits.

### **Wattles**

The presence or absence of wattles is essentially a cosmetic issue that might be important to some breeders, but not to others. The presence of wattles might also have some practical significance if the goat is to be shorn (vs. combed), but even then, wattles can be noted if only to be avoided during shearing. This information is therefore listed under GENERAL INFORMATION and described, but it is not a trait in the NACG breed standard that is scored.

### **Condition**

Condition is included with GENERAL INFORMATION and is not scored as a genetic trait. Condition usually has more to do with the way the goat has been managed than it does with genetics and breeding choices. So it is described, but not scored. Any practical effect on fleece (e.g. “hunger fine”) should be

reflected in FIBER scores, and any additional practical effects on carcass quality should found in CONFORMATION scores.

### **Disposition**

It is unreasonable to try to define a universal standard ideal disposition for a North American Cashmere Goat. Disposition should ideally match the conditions under which the animal is to be raised. Quiet dispositions might be best for small herds or for animals that are frequently handled. Animals raised under open range or near-feral conditions, however, might need a disposition that is better suited to “fight or flight.” And some of the behavior problems that are seen today even in some working dog breeds should teach us that disposition should not be a trait that is selected and scored primarily for the show ring.

### **Frame**

In this grading system, Frame is simply defined as the overall size of the animal, and does not indicate the “shape” or conformation of the animal. Note that Frame is often (but not always) correlated with live body weight. If live body weight is measured on a weight scale, adjustments would need to be made for the Condition of the animal when trying to determine an objective measurement of Frame. If Frame were to be determined from live body weight, it would need to be measured as “ideal body weight” as it would be with the goat in ideal Condition.

Example:

A goat might weigh 180 lbs. on the scale, and that weight can be recorded as “live body weight.” If the goat is obese, however (noted under Condition), live body weight would not be closely correlated with “ideal body weight” – i.e. what the goat would weigh if it were in proper good Condition. So while “ideal body weight” might most accurately reflect the true “genetic frame” of the goat, objective measurement of this trait is currently too imprecise to be scored.

Note also that there currently is no consensus among NACG breeders regarding the relative practical value or desirability of goats with either small or large Frames. Some breeders simply prefer large goats, and some prefer smaller goats. For this reason, and because the process of assigning a score is so variable, Frame is estimated and described here as a trait under GENERAL INFORMATION, and any perceived value is left as a breeder preference without a formal score.

## **Part 2 – FIBER SCORES**

Many of the NACG FIBER traits can now be scored by using objective data obtained from computer scanning techniques and histograms. These traits can also be scored with reasonable accuracy by eye, using a 0-3 score or Description score.

### **Mean Fiber Diameter (MFD)**

A smaller fiber measurement (in microns) is associated with a finer fiber and a softer fleece, and a better (higher) score on the 0-3 scale. MFD is most accurately determined by computer scanning, and the aggregate micron measurements are then plotted on a histogram (“MFD Histogram”). MFD can also be estimated by eye, and scored in either the 0-3 or Description score columns. A conversion table can then translate between objective micron measurement (Data score) and estimates done “by eye” (Description and 0-3 scores).

There is some varied opinion around the world regarding an acceptable range for MFD in cashmere fiber. In the NACG breed standard, however, 19.0 microns is the upper limit that defines North American Cashmere, and anything coarser than that is better described as “cashgora,” and would not qualify as North American Cashmere.

### **Style**

Style is another term for the “crimp” that is seen in cashmere fiber. Fine fiber (small MFD measurement) is usually associated with crimpy fiber (good Style) but not always. Most experts agree that good Style is important to the quality of a cashmere product. In some testing labs, Style can now be measured objectively by computer scanning techniques. Results are reported as “deg/mm.” A very crimpy fiber would have a lot of curvature over a standardized length of fiber, expressed as more degrees of a circular arc (deg) along a measured millimeter (mm) of fiber length. A conversion table can then translate this objective Data score (deg/mm) into a Description score or 0-3 score (still using 3.0 as the best score). There currently is no specific required Style score in the NACG breed standard.

### **Uniformity**

Cashmere down fiber should be fine, as defined by Mean Fiber Diameter (MFD), and should also have a “uniform” pattern of fiber diameter and Style, defined in this grading system as Uniformity. An objective measurement of Uniformity can be found on the MFD histogram as the Coefficient of Variation (CV) of the aggregated fiber diameter measurements, and seen also in the shape of the plotted histogram curve. A “tight” curve indicates that most of the fiber diameter measurements are close to the mean, so the sample would have a small CV and the Uniformity score would be high. A “broad” curve indicates that whatever the mean fiber diameter (MFD) might be, individual fiber diameters are not uniform and differ widely from each other, so the CV would be a high number, and the Uniformity score would therefore be low. The NACG breed standard currently does require that, when plotted on the MFD histogram, the CV must be no greater than 24%.

In addition to defining the uniformity (vs variability) of the diameter of down fibers in a cashmere sample (Coefficient of Variation or CV), the Uniformity score will also be affected by the presence or absence of “transitional fibers” in a cashmere sample. These fibers show significant variability (vs. uniformity) in Style as well as in fiber diameter, with transitional fiber diameters measuring somewhere between down and guard hair, usually in the 25 micron range. The plotted curve of the MFD histogram will typically show a “second spike” or will appear to be “skewed to the right” if transitional fibers are present. When examined by eye, individual fibers also appear to lose Style as they become more coarse over the length of an individual fiber. In other words, part of the transitional fiber is fine and crimpy, and part of that same transitional fiber is relatively coarse and straight.

The problem with transitional fibers is that they essentially ruin the rest of the good cashmere in the product. All cashmere is “soft” when it is 19.0 microns or less, because the fine individual fibers will “bend” when they contact skin. Fibers over 20 microns, however, will not bend as easily, and are more likely to “prickle” the skin on contact. That is why transitional fibers (since they are coarser than 20 microns) are sometimes called “prickle fibers.”

### **Summary:**

Uniformity can be determined with objective measurement (Data score) from the MFD histogram, by looking at the CV of the plotted curve, and also looking for a curve that shows transitional fibers by being “skewed to the right.” Uniformity can also be determined with reasonable accuracy by eye, using a small fiber sample (swatch), and looking for variability (vs. uniformity) in fiber Style (crimp), since transitional fibers also lose crimp as they increase in diameter. These Uniformity scores determined “by eye” are recorded as Description or 0-3 scores. The NACG breed standard currently requires that when plotted on an MFD histogram, the CV must be 24% or less. Again, a conversion table can translate between Data, Description, and 0-3 scores.

### **Differentiation**

Differentiation refers to the difference in diameter between guard hairs and down fibers in a given sample. Ideally, guard hair would be very coarse, and down would be very fine. If a fleece is well “differentiated” in this way, the down separates from the guard hair much more easily in the dehairing process, and more clean down is produced with less time in the dehairing machine. This translates into better quality (and longer) cashmere with less fiber damage due to breakage. But if down hair and guard hair are too similar in diameter, the dehairing machine cannot clearly tell the difference between them; the result is that either too much guard hair will go into the final product (“porcupine yarn”), or too much down will be broken and damaged or lost as waste.

Differentiation can be evaluated with reasonable accuracy by eye. Therefore it is usually not reported on a conventional MFD histogram which usually reports diameter measurements only up to 30 microns, which will include all of the down fibers, but not the guard hairs (which are usually about 50 microns in diameter). The MFD histogram can be expanded by request, however, to include both down and guard hair fibers, and Differentiation could then be more clearly, accurately, and objectively measured in micron units. So although objective Differentiation can sometimes be available, it is rarely needed. Differentiation is currently scored as a Description or 0-3 score, and there currently is no specific Differentiation Data requirement in the NACG breed standard.

### **Length**

Length refers to the relaxed length of the cashmere down fibers. Generally this is simply measured with a ruler positioned next to individual fibers in a swatch sample. Length is an important FIBER trait for scoring, since short fiber tends to “pill” when made into yarn, is much more difficult to spin, and can significantly reduce the overall tensile strength of the processed yarn.

There is some varied opinion around the world regarding an acceptable range for length of cashmere fiber. In the NACG breed standard, however, 28 mm (1.25 inches) is the minimum length that defines North American Cashmere, and anything shorter than 1.25 inches would not qualify as North American Cashmere. Note that there is currently no upper limit to acceptable down length in the NACG breed standard.

### **Total Down Weight (TDW)**

TDW refers to the Total Down Weight, or net amount (by weight) of down fibers that are obtained from any given fleece after the guard hairs (and other waste and impurities such as hay chaff, dust and dirt, etc.) have been removed by processing. TDW is also sometimes referred to as “production.” Total Down Weight (TDW) can be calculated from Total Fleece weight and % Yield. With some experience, the relative % of down in the Total Fleece can generally be measured by eye with reasonable accuracy. TDW (the actual weight of the final cashmere down product) is then determined by weighing the raw Total Fleece (including guard hair and other waste and impurities), then multiplying that weight by the estimated % Yield.

#### **Example:**

A complete raw shorn Total Fleece weighs 480 grams. Estimated % Yield is 25%, which would be a typical % Yield on a shorn fleece with relatively long guard hair, or a D:G Ratio of 1:2, with minimal dirt, chaff and other impurities. So this goat’s TDW is  $480 \text{ grams} \times 25\% = 120 \text{ gram}$  (about 4 ounces).

It is important to understand the difference between %Yield and TDW. %Yield is simply the % of useful product (down) in the raw harvested Total Fleece. So the total weight of the raw harvested Total Fleece (including guard hair and other waste) multiplied by % Yield = Total Down Weight or TDW. Note that the method of harvest (shear vs comb) is generally the most significant factor in determining % Yield. Note also that good TDW scores can therefore come from raw fleeces with either high % Yield or low % Yield, depending on the weight of the complete raw Total Fleece after harvest. And good TDW scores



can come from goats with either a high D:G Ratio or a low D:G Ratio, depending primarily on the method of harvest – shear vs. comb.

While there certainly is a strong argument for establishing a minimum TDW for the NACG breed standard, there are practical technical issues for consideration before requiring a specific qualifying score on this trait. The essential problem is that unlike other required scores for the primary required CACG traits (MFD, CV, and Length) there is no universally accepted standardized method for determining TDW that is objective enough to be practical. A value for % Yield is still required to determine TDW ( $\% \text{Yield} \times \text{Total Fleece weight} = \text{TDW}$ ). When this % Yield value is assigned by a judge after examination of the previously harvested raw Total Fleece, that value is still necessarily somewhat inexact and uncertain, and is largely based on the experience and reliability of the judge. There currently is no widely available and reliable objective method for determining % Yield, and various cashmere processing facilities even differ on their % Yield results depending on the dehairing machinery that is used. For this reason the CGA has decided that while 2 ounces of final cashmere product (TDW) might be a reasonable minimum for breeding goats for cashmere production that should not yet be a specific requirement to register a goat as a North American Cashmere Goat. Until a better way is developed to assess TDW objectively and with some practical certainty, TDW is still included as a scored FIBER trait, and the NACG breed standard currently states that TDW “should be a minimum of 2 ounces.” Over time, if and when a more reliable objective assessment of TDW becomes available, the expectation is that “should” will be changed to “must.”

Note that even though there is not yet a required minimum for TDW, scores (with the evaluating judge identified) for this important FIBER trait may still be entered in the North American Cashmere Goat Breed Registry database.

### **Cover**

Cover refers to the distribution of down fiber over the four harvest sites (neck, shoulder, side, and hip) on the goat. Cover should be both complete and consistent. Complete Cover means that each harvest site actually grows useful cashmere. Consistent Cover means that the cashmere that is grown at each site is of the same type and quality.

Examples:

- A goat might grow lots of down on the shoulder, side, and hip, but little or none on the neck (the neck might even grow guard hair only). This goat would have a low Cover score, because down growth is not Complete on all four harvest sites.
- A goat might grow down on all four harvest sites, but the growth on the neck is more coarse and less stylish than the down on the other sites (possibly “cashgora”), and is therefore of lesser quality than down growth at the other sites. This goat would have a low Cover score because although down growth might be Complete on all four harvest sites, the type and quality of the down does not show Consistent quality throughout each of these four sites.

Since Cover is a trait that is important to the evaluation of the goat’s ability to produce a consistent quality of cashmere fiber, it is included in this NACG Grading System as part of the FIBER score. Note that Cover scores are listed only as Description or 0-3 scores, and there is no specific qualifying score that is required in the NACG breed standard. Note also that Cover is the only FIBER trait that can only be evaluated on the live goat, and not from a single bag of harvested fleece.

### **Part 3 – CONFORMATION SCORES**

CONFORMATION traits are based on the principle that the North American Cashmere Goat is a dual-purpose animal, producing both fiber and meat. While many of these CONFORMATION traits are certainly important to meat production, the importance of some CONFORMATION traits is not limited to the meat market. So CONFORMATION includes traits such as hooves, teeth, and reproductive organs that might not directly increase the carcass weight or meat quality, but would certainly promote hardiness, thriftiness, and reproductive ability of the North American Cashmere Goat.

#### **Head**

North American Cashmere Goats almost always have beautiful heads and horns, and most of them score high (i.e. 3.0). There are certain horn configurations however, that are truly dangerous (i.e. 0-3 score = 0) and should prevent the goat from breeding.

One of the most dangerous horn patterns is a pair of horns that rise together steeply, then flute out to the right and left. The vertical space between the two horns forms a steep, narrow wedge that can tightly hold and break a captured leg. Another dangerous pattern is a pair of horns that flare out horizontally and widely to each side, with short upturning tips at the end of each horn. When fighting or even sparring, these goats can drive the upturned tips into an opponent's abdominal wall, and can easily rupture internal organs, particularly the rumen.

Goats with dangerous horn patterns often “know their own strength,” and are often aggressive with other goats in the herd. These types of horn configuration can also be dangerous for the handlers. So here is an example of a trait that might promote the survival of the individual goat, but is dangerous enough to the rest of the herd (and even to the handlers) to prevent the goat from breeding.

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

#### **Teeth**

Good teeth are important to the health of any browsing animal, who regularly forages on very rough material. Different goat breeds have different standards for teeth, but in this NACG Grading System, the lower teeth ideally meet perfectly flush with the upper pad, and the side view shows symmetry between the upper and lower biting structures. These teeth would score high (i.e. score = 3.0 or Excellent).

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

#### **Forequarters**

This conformation trait is scored in the same way that meat goats are scored.

The ideal is a neck that is strong and well-proportioned to frame. Shoulders should be well-muscled and strong. Legs should be strong, well-muscled, and well-proportioned to frame. Shoulders, knees, and pasterns should be correctly angled and strong. Forequarter movement should be free and correct.

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

**Barrel/Back**

This conformation trait is scored in the same way that meat goats are scored.

The ideal is a barrel that is long, broad, and well-muscled. Chest should be wide, with ribs that are well-sprung, and with adequate girth in proportion to frame. Back should be strong and straight from shoulder to rump.

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

**Hindquarters**

This conformation trait is scored 0-3 or by Description in the same way that meat goats are scored.

The ideal is a rump that is broad, long, and well-muscled, with only a slight slope between hook bones and pin bones. Hind legs should be strong, well-muscled, and proportional to frame. Hips, hocks, and pasterns should be correctly angled and strong. Hindquarter movement should be free and correct.

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

**Hooves**

The ideal hoof has the correct size, strength, and shape to carry the weight of the animal without predisposing to injury, arthritis, hoof rot, or similar problems. It should be sturdy, broad, well-formed, and proportional to frame. Interdigital separation should be adequate to prevent hoof rot in moist conditions. Both sides of each hoof should be symmetrical and straight (not “collapsed”) Here again, it is the “genetic foot” that should be judged, not management practices or trimming proficiency of the owner. Sometimes it helps to trim a foot correctly in order to better evaluate the “true” shape and size of the “genetic foot,” and to score it after a trim.

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

**Reproductive**

Scoring here should be based strictly on function, and criteria can be straightforward and simple. Both males and females score high (3.0) as long as reproductive organs are healthy and “normal,” and no significant functional deformities are present. While this might sound easy, experts sometimes disagree about what is “normal” and what is “significant” regarding deformities.

**NACG Grading System:****Does:**

Udder should be well-proportioned with good suspension, with two (only two) functional teats and vulva normally developed for age. Note that other breeds (e.g. Boer Goats) have applied a different standard, and some Boer breeders have actually bred for extra teats (with the associated problems).

**Bucks:**

Two testicles are present that are correctly sized for age. Scrotal measurements are of uncertain value.

Two (only two) undeveloped teats are present. A split scrotum is a finding of uncertain significance, and until more evidence-based data is available, no points are deducted for small splits that involve 1/3 of the scrotum or less. Sheath should be normally developed for age.

Since there is currently no objective method for evaluating this trait, it is scored only in the 0-3 or Description columns, and not in the Data column.

# NORTH AMERICAN CASHMERE GOAT GRADING SYSTEM SCORECARD

Reviewed: April 1, 2017

## GENERAL INFORMATION (no score)

Cashmere Goat ID \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex/Age/Birth Date/Birth Number \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Color Down/Color Guard Hair \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 D:G Ratio (Down length:Guard Hair length – (ratio)) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yield (Down weight/ Total Fleece weight – (%)) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wattles \_\_\_\_\_  
 Condition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disposition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Frame \_\_\_\_\_

## FIBER SCORES

Traits	Data	0 – 3	Description
Diameter (MFD)	_____	_____	_____
Style	_____	_____	_____
Uniformity	_____	_____	_____
Differentiation	_____	_____	_____
Length	_____	_____	_____
Total Down Weight (TDW)	_____	_____	_____
Cover	_____	_____	_____

## CONFORMATION SCORES

Traits	Data	0 – 3	Description
Head	_____	_____	_____
Teeth	_____	_____	_____
Forequarters	_____	_____	_____
Barrel/Back	_____	_____	_____
Hindquarters	_____	_____	_____
Hooves	_____	_____	_____
Reproductive	_____	_____	_____



## TARIFFS ON IMPORTED CASHMERE

By Maggie Porter

Earlier this year the Cashmere Goat Association (CGA) was contacted by Mr. Brad Gehrke, an agricultural economist with the United States International Trade Commission (USITC). Mr. Gehrke sought the CGA's input regarding our position on tariffs on imported cashmere fiber and yarn. We responded by filing a formal response on the USITC.gov web site (note: the 45 day comment period is now closed). A thoughtful letter written by Maryanne Reynolds was appended to our official comments opposing the tariff suspensions. A copy of Maryanne's letter can be found at the end of this article.

While our board took a position opposing the temporary suspension of a tariff on "certain cashmere (see below)," no CGA board member is an economist or well versed in issues such as free trade, protectionism or duties/tariffs to. Nonetheless, the Board, after some discussion, made the decision to act in favor of protecting our "infant industry." After all, the government asked for our opinion – so we gave it!

### How the Tariff Issue on Cashmere Arose

Late in 2016 the USITC received petitions from two US companies requesting the temporary suspension of duties currently imposed on the following cashmere imports:

- 1) "Certain cashmere, carded or combed";
- 2) "Certain yarn of carded cashmere < 19.35 metric yarn count\*;
- 3) "Certain yarn of carded cashmere > or equal to 19.35 metric yarn count;
- 4) "Certain cashmere, not carded or combed"

*\*Nm or Metric Yarn Count is calculated in terms of 1,000 meters (1 kilometer) per kilogram of yarn. This number indicates how fine a yarn is.*

USITC economists and trade analysts are tasked with determining the effects temporary tariff suspensions on imported goods might have on domestic producers of these same goods. When I spoke with Mr. Gerhke on the telephone after receiving his email he told me, "What I'm attempting to determine is if US cashmere producers are actually producing any of these forms of cashmere."

If there is no significant cashmere production in the US, what would be the point of a tariff? Why cause domestic consumers of this imported product to pay more (the tax is always passed on to the purchaser). If, however, domestic cashmere producers can show that they are or will be harmed by the suspension of a tariff, the USITC will seriously consider keeping the tariff in place. Herein lies a huge conundrum for our association: to date there is no accurate study reflecting the number of cashmere goats in the United States, never mind how much cashmere is produced from them. If we don't know how much cashmere we sell, how can we say what economic effect a tariff might have?

US cashmere farmers do not produce anywhere near the volume of cashmere that China and Mongolia do. This does not mean that US producers could not, at least in the future, supply at least *some* domestic companies with raw or processed cashmere. In fact, JM GENERALS, a US company owned and run by Jeffrey Montiero, sources all of its cashmere from domestic producers.

The company seeking a tariff reduction must show it cannot source that input/good domestically. According to Maria D'Andrea-Yothers, a trade specialist with the Office of Textiles and Apparel in the US Department of Agriculture, this company can't use as an argument, "We are able source the input domestically, but it'll cost us an arm and a leg – therefore please lift the tariff." D'Andrea-Yothers says it is irrelevant if the domestic input is far more expensive than what would be paid for the imported input. If the domestic input is available, even if costly, and even if in significantly smaller amounts than what would be available with imported input, the tariff stands.

For further information about how and why our on-line comment opposing the USITC's temporary suspension of "certain cashmere" was submitted, please contact the author at [constantine.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:constantine.maggie@gmail.com).

#### **Appendix 1: Subject: Cashmere Goat Fiber Tariff Reductions Reply Letter**

Dear Mr. Gehrke,

Thank you for your communications of January 3 and 6, 2017, informing the Cashmere Goat Association of the petitions on Cashmere Goat Fiber Tariff Reductions that are pending at the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) and requesting information. On January 8, 2017, the Board of the Cashmere Goat Association met and approved the following response.

Your inquiry concerns petitions filed by two U.S. firms that seek to have duties on imported goods reduced or eliminated for a 3-year period. American Woolen Company of Connecticut seeks a 3-year suspension of duties on yarn of combed cashmere, fine animal hair of cashmere goats processed beyond the degreased condition, yarn of carded cashmere of 19.35 metric yarn count or higher, yarn of carded cashmere of less than 19.35 metric yarn count not up for retail sale, and carded or combed cashmere. American Woolen Company proposes to import these products from China, Italy, or the United Kingdom. ANN, Inc., of New York seeks a 3-year suspension of duties on hats and headgear wholly of cashmere from China. Most, but not all, of these products have been under a temporary suspension from previous procedures, according to your records.

As part of the new USITC procedure for determining the effects of temporarily suspending the duties on these products, the USITC is in the process of estimating various quantities and values. These include: (1) Volume or value of U.S. production of these and similar products; and (2) Volume or value of imports of these and similar products. The USITC will determine if U.S. domestic Cashmere growers and processors are actually producing any of these specific forms of Cashmere, such that this manufacturer would be able to source these fibers domestically.

You asked for the following information:

- 1. Does your trade association have any information or knowledge of the volume or value of U.S. production and the volume or value of imports of any of these products? If so, can you please provide estimates?**

First, let us make a brief introduction. The Cashmere Goat Association is a non-profit organization. It exists: (a) To promote the development of cashmere goat herds; (b) To conduct and encourage research and development to improve fiber and animal health among cashmere goats; (c) To disseminate information concerning the development, breeding, herding, care, veterinary medicine, marketing and all other matters relevant to the production and enhancement of cashmere goats and their fiber; and (d) to promote and regulate matters pertaining to the history, publicity, breeding, exhibition, and improvement of cashmere goats. We adhere to the North American Cashmere Goat Standard, which recognizes that cashmere goats are a dual-purpose animal producing cashmere fiber and goat meat. Currently, the vast majority of members are cashmere goat producers, though membership is open to others.

We know first-hand that cashmere products are being produced domestically across the United States. Those products include combed cashmere (unprocessed), degreased combed cashmere, carded combed cashmere, and combed cashmere yarn, as well as other cashmere products such as shorn cashmere products and cashmere pelts. Currently, the cashmere products are primarily sold at retail in specialty venues, such as annual wool shows. Wholesale sales are also reported to a domestic company, J.M. Generals – see <http://www.jmgenerals.com/american-cashmere/> Members also report exploring other efforts to improve domestic markets such as relationship-building with the Natural Fibers Producers, an organization with a new commercial dehairing machine, located originally in Kentucky and now located in Maine – see <http://naturalfiberproducers.com/>

Currently, all our producer members have “small herds” (under 500 goats), as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the report that you provided. USDA. 2011. Small-scale U.S. Goat Operations USDA–APHIS–VS, CEAH. Fort Collins, CO #602.0611. Since you are focused on fiber, please note that the USDA erroneously refers to the characteristics of cashmere fiber. Contrary to its report on page 16, cashmere fiber most definitely has crimp! Indeed, cashmere’s fineness and resistance to compression (a function of crimp) is what makes cashmere fiber a luxury fiber commanding higher prices than other wool fibers.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide you with reliable volume estimates of the domestic cashmere products. Any number that we provided would be undercounting production. Therefore, we refrain from offering an opinion on whether domestic production is “insufficient” and on what the revenue effect of the duty suspension might be.

We request, however, that the USITC not readily assume that renewing existing suspensions would not have an impact on domestic producers. Our producer members report that sustaining their cashmere goat enterprises in the United States is economically challenging. We can confidentially express a level of member frustration around official recognition of and support for cashmere goat producers.

The Cashmere Goat Association is making efforts to better quantify domestic production, with mixed results. In March 2015, we contacted the 2017 Census Content Team formed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service and asked them to include a question on the 2017 Census of Agriculture form about cashmere goats. A majority of Census Content Team members felt

that the cashmere fiber population was not large enough to warrant a census question. Our contact person, the State Statistician of Field Operations for the USDA's New England Field Office, recommended that we would need to come up with rough idea of cashmere production and value of production if we wanted to pursue inclusion of a question in the future. Of course, it is hard to do that on a national scale without the assistance of the USDA. We suggested a good first step would be to add a question on the USDA's Sheep and Goat Survey, yet, the January Sheep and Goats Survey for 2017 again denies any opportunity to our cashmere goat producers to identify themselves. The survey applies only to Angora (angora fiber is not cashmere fiber), Milk (dairy is not a purpose of cashmere goats, though the goats can provide milk), and "Meat & Other" (the only choice offered that arguably fits, but it denies any recognition of the cashmere fiber).

In the future, data collection may improve. Significantly, the Cashmere Goat Association is actively in the process of collecting data on cashmere goats in North America that are evaluated by a CGA-recognized judge to meet our North American Cashmere Goat Standard. The CGA and a vendor have entered into a development agreement to design and develop a web application to collect data. Our vision is to have the information publicly available through a friendly interface that will make it possible for data to be searched, records selected for display, and possibly printed reports. We anticipate a launch of the new system in 2017. Access to the database (for making entries and/or searching) is expected to be free for a period of time; but eventually, a fee system may apply to assist CGA in covering the annual costs of maintaining the database.

The database will collect information on individual goats. Multiple entries per goat are desired to help educate breeders and others about what happens to a goat over time. The data fields will include: Registry-type information about the goat, e.g., photograph, date of birth, hair color, and unique identifier; Third-Party Evaluation of fiber characteristics, e.g., diameter, style ("crimp"), length, uniformity, differentiation, and of body conformation; Multi-generation Pedigree; and Farmer/Owner information.

**2. Does the association have information or knowledge of any U.S. domestic firms that either produce or import these products or similar products?**

Yes. See above, identifying J.M.Generals and Natural Fiber Producers. Other mills make yarn from the cashmere our members produce, including but not limited by any means to Still River Mill in Connecticut.

**3. Whether the association's members would support the elimination of duties on these products, object to the elimination of duties on these products, or benefit from the elimination of duties on these products.**

The Cashmere Goat Association supports having tariffs on imported cashmere.

The Cashmere Goat Association cautions that any actions taken on the petitions should be undertaken in light of the requirements on proper identification of cashmere products as enforced by the Federal Trade Commission. See -- <https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/cachet-cashmere-complying-wool-products-labeling-act>



The Cashmere Goat Association thanks the USITC for this opportunity to comment. We would appreciate it if the USITC would provide us with a copy of its decisions on the pending tariffs.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact the undersigned or visit our website for further contact information. [www.cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

Sincerely,

Maggie Constantine Porter

President, Cashmere Goat Association

**Appendix 2: Acknowledgement Letter Received:**

Dear Maggie,

I would be very interested in talking to any of you that produce cashmere fiber, that is carded or combed, as well as carded cashmere yarn – that you produce for the commercial market (not fiber and/or yarn that is produced for captive consumption).

I want to do my best to analyze the domestic market and capability for producing such fiber and yarn, and to insure no harm comes to domestic producers of such products by the temporary suspension of tariffs.

I welcome a phone call or email from you to better assist, to answer any additional questions you may have – and to appropriately reflect your views and position on this issue.

Kind regards

Maria D'Andrea-Yothers

Supervisory International Trade Specialist

Office of Textiles and Apparel

US Dept of Commerce

Washington, DC 20230

Telephone: (202) 482-1550

Email: Maria.D'Andrea-Yothers@trade.gov

Visit us at: otexa.trade.gov

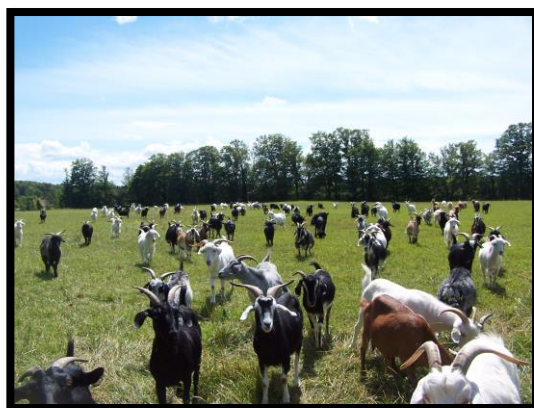
## PHOTO GALLERY



Goat Farmers!! What would you think if you found this on your kitchen floor? What is it?



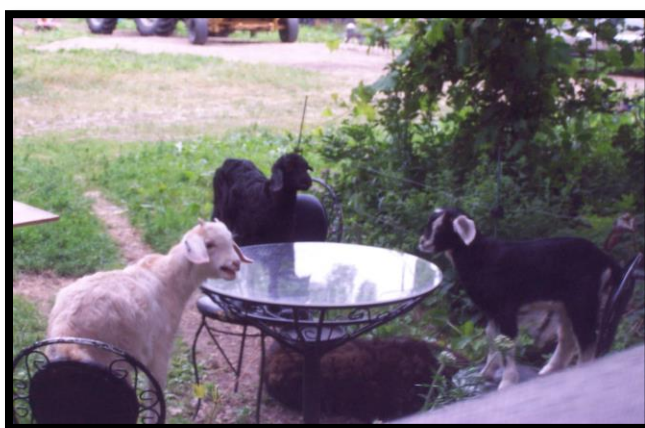
The one that got away!



When does the grass start growing mom?



Kids and puppies



The Garden Party: Bottle kids waiting for Lunch



Nothing beats curling up with a good friend!

## ROSIE'S UPDATE:

Rosie is doing very well.

It is about 5 months post-surgery and she did well through the winter. Her coat did not grow back much at all and so she spent the winter blanketed to stay warm. The incision site healed perfectly and she has not had to see a vet since the surgery which speaks to the quality of work done by Dr. Weinstein at GVS. She hopped about most of the winter and was much less social but much more dependent which concerned us. It also made Milo a little bossy as he missed having Rosie to run around with.

However, as the weather has gotten warmer and the snow has melted, she is beginning to really move well with the three legs and Milo is quite happy about that! We made a small dirt mound in the paddock and that has helped. She can no longer climb on structures, but she enjoys being up on the mound and it gives her good leverage for head butting her brother.

We have been exploring various outreach opportunities for Rosie as we think her story is one worth telling. For us, it has been a lesson in the value of farm life. We are so glad that we did our research and for all those folks who stepped up to educate us on alternatives to putting Rosie down. It was the best decision for all. She is minus one leg, but up one great happy life!

Very kind regards,

Dina

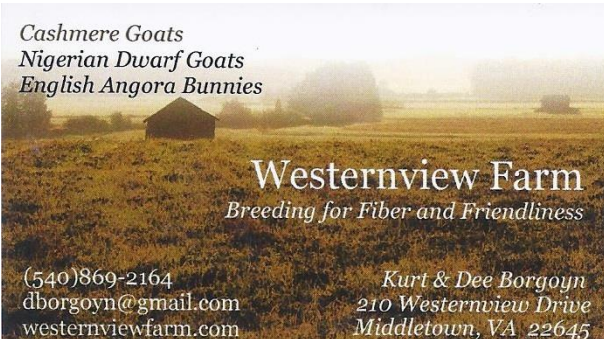


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717-530-3605  
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*Cashmere Goats*  
*Nigerian Dwarf Goats*  
*English Angora Bunnies*



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# HOOFPRINTS

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

## 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)

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 15<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15. All BOD members are required to submit a written article, an interesting web link or photos for each HoofPrints edition.