

HOOFPRINTS



A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTERN CASHMERE ASSOCIATION • www.easterncashmereassociation.org • VOLUME 21 • NO 2 • SUMMER 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



ello Everyone! I hope you are all well, and your goats are too. We are in the midst of a second kidding season, thanks to a couple of tenacious boys. They quit getting out once I got the fence up to 6,000 volts, however, five does are complaining about the heat as they waddle around.

Vermont and Virginia have the same dates this year, with Becky Bemus judging in Vermont, and Joe David Ross going to Virginia. The Virginia Show will be at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival this year, which will be a wonderful venue. Please plan on attending and showing at one of them!

We had an ECA board meeting yesterday, and the board agreed to recommend to the membership that we combine our newsletter with the North-



Pavarotti
Photo courtesy of John Colm

west Cashmere Association (NWCA). Articles often overlap, it is hard sometimes to get articles, and we can also save money by going together.

The First National Goat Expo is being held in the first week of October at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa. ECA and NWCA will be sharing a booth, and several of us are planning to

bring some bucks to sell or swap. See the ECA minutes for more information. This is a great opportunity to bring diversity to our herds around the country.

Enjoy the summer,

Wendy ♦

In this issue...

President's Message	1
In Search of the Perfect Buck ..	3
ECA Board Meeting Minutes.....	6
Who's Got Your Herd's Back?...7	
Home in the Barn	11

ECA is On the Move	12
Silvopasture	14
ECA Vermont Show	15
ECA Goat Show Entry Form	18



ECA

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

NWCA Fleece Competition Congratulations!

"KTD Chris"
Reserve Champion Senior
Buck
Yvonne and Lance Taylor

TWIST FIBRE FESTIVAL

August 24-26, 2012

Twist Fibre Festival is an annual, creative fibre festival in Quebec. This year the theme is traditional meets contemporary.

Here is a preview of some of our guests giving workshops this year:

Lexi Boeger (www.pluckyfluff.com) Creative spinning

Stephanie Pearl-McPhee (www.yarnharlot.ca) A knitting superstar

Diane Gonthier (www.savoir-faire-textile.com) A world renowned felt artist

ALSO

- A yarn bombing workshop with Les Ville-Laines!
- Cashmere will be featured in our "From Cashmere to Shawl" event.

August 24, 2012-workshops only

August 25-26 -workshops, vendors and family activities

St-Andre-Avellin, Quebec (1hour 30 min from Montreal, and 1hour from Ottawa)

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/festivaltwist

www.festivaltwist.org

HOOFPRIINTS

Volume 21 • No. 2 • Summer 2012

DESIGN: Jason Caldwell, jasoncaldwelldesign.com

PAGE LAYOUT: Elizabeth H. Cottrell,
RiverwoodWriter.com

MASTHEAD PHOTO: Joe Cashin, tinyurl.com/agv7rn

EDITOR: Anne Repaske, cashmere@shentel.net

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Linda Singley, beurlin@pa.net

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

ECA OFFICERS...

PRESIDENT

Wendy Pieh
123 Rial Herald Rd
Bremen, ME 04551
207-529-5747
wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Anne Repaske
570 Paddy's Cove Ln.
Star Tannery, VA 22654
540-436-3546
cashmere@shentel.net

SECRETARY

Katherine Harrison
5278 Berger Rd.
Groveport OH 43125
614-837-7635
kmhh13@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Pamela Haendle
10601 Merrill Rd.
West Edmeston, NY 13485
315-899-7792
pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com

ECA MEMBERSHIP

Full individual membership is \$25/year. Junior (youth under 18 years of age) membership is \$15/year (non-voting). If you have not filled out a membership application for a year or two, it would be helpful to the association for you to do that. The application can be found under contact information at our website: www.easterncashmereassociation.org.

ADVERTISING

FOR ADVERTISING

Hoofprints advertising (3 issues/year): Please send name, farm name, address, website, phone number and indicate lines of business (breeding, fiber, bucks for lease, etc).

	Per Issue	Annual
Business Card	---	\$22
Quarter Page	\$24	\$70
Half Page	\$43	\$130
Full page	\$75	\$220

Website advertising \$25/year

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

In Search of the Perfect Buck:

One Farm's Perspective

by Becky Bemus, Roving Winds Farm, Coldwater, Ontario

I have recently been asked to mentor a new breeder in all things cashmere based on my experience and the mentoring I have received over the years and continue to receive from other breeders who have been at this much longer than I have as well as some new breeders who come to this with a very unique perspective that I have benefited from being exposed to. As part of this mentorship the topic of selecting the perfect breeding buck came up and I was asked to help this breeder find and select her perfect buck. Interestingly enough this was never something I could recall discussing in any great detail with any other breeder and that started me thinking about my own journey in buck selection since I certainly know what I am looking for first and foremost in a buck now a days and I also admit I am really hard on a buck around certain traits where others would not be.

I guess in a way we were very lucky that we asked the breeder from whom we purchased our starter herd to select a starter herd for us which would include a breeding buck. She was kind enough to ask us a simple series of questions and voila we had arranged to ship our first cashmeres from British Columbia to Ontario, pretty much not knowing anything about anything in the world of cashmere. In the end we were very fortunate in that our first buck was a very good herd sire that had lovely fibre and always produced beautiful kids as good as and usually better than both he and the doe. His kids were also very consistent in appearance and fibre quality. From there we purchased a series of bucks who just did not measure up. We began to see an incredibly inconsistent kid crop with

body and fleece styles running the full range of possibilities and we were always disappointed. Now this is not to say that the odd excellent kids did not appear, but in each case the lovely consistent kid was produced by a daughter of our foundation buck and/or from mother and daughter pairs. On occasion a mother or daughter produced the better kids with a new buck.

Being a bit neurotic about details, I soon realized that I could evaluate a new buck's ability by breeding him to a small test group of does made up of mother/daughter combinations from our different genetic sources. If the buck produced a consistent crop across the does, then he would be used more widely. If he produced consistent kids with the mother and not the daughter then we would look for the differences in their pedigrees and breed that buck to does with similar buck lines in their pedigrees. More often than not this seemed to do the trick in allowing us to take advantage of new genetics but to limit the variability sometimes created in an outcross.

The other thing we noticed in our foundation does was that animals who produced the most consistent offspring were actually more line bred than those producing more variability. One group of does came to us with minimal pedigree information other than the fact that the owner had sourced his original herd from a breeder who brought recently descended Lismore animals to Ontario when she married and the seller had then run a closed herd from there. He did not know much about cashmere but he did know how to select for a good structure.

DNA research suggests this: If we think a combination will work well, then do it. If it doesn't work out, then cull and don't do it again.



"We tried to find our own dinner, but found a nice bed instead."

“In Search of the Perfect Buck...” from page 3...

He had used the same sire or the son of the original sire on all of his goats for a few generations so they were producing a very consistent type of goat. The fibre was cashmere but barely in some cases. However, when we crossed these does with our foundation buck, we got some pretty lovely dual purpose offspring. This led me to do more pedigree research and I found that some of the other does in our herd and our foundation buck were actually more line bred than had been originally suspected. At the time we had a beautiful buck who was pretty useless at producing anything of quality and was scheduled for the abattoir. I took a second look at his pedigree and decided to try line breeding on a common ancestor whom I was particularly impressed with in the pedigree of both our foundation buck and this buck. In addition we had also purchased some does with this buck in their background so we paired daughters of our foundation buck and does with the same sire as our foundation buck and suddenly found a use for this buck where he could produce excellent offspring more often than not. He still didn't produce as consistently as he could have but it was definitely an improvement and allowed us some confidence in his daughters' futures in our herd and as sales prospects. Thankfully the poor outcomes were pretty evident from an early age.

Prior to this experience it had been heavily impressed upon us that line breeding was a dirty word in livestock production in Canada and those who engaged in it were not serious breeders. Sadly this thought is still very pervasive in Canada. Around the same time as we were experiencing these line breeding successes, we became involved with our Black Welsh Mountain Sheep. These are a rare breed in North America in general, but the Canadian population is even worse off as the entire Canadian population was derived from the same small core group of animals.

As we got more involved in understanding rare breeds and the preservation breeding strategies suggested by the America Livestock Breeds Conservancy, it became more and more apparent to us that our Cashmeres in Canada were in the same boat genetically as our sheep, albeit with a few more members. This was because in the name of not inbreeding, previous breeders had outcrossed their lines so as to never exceed a very low in-



Bearlin Acres Farm

Cashmere, Wool and Alpaca



180 Mt. Ash Lane
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-530-3605
bearlin@pa.net
www.bearlinacres.com



Hermit Pond Farm

Cashmere Goats

Pam Haendle
10601 Merrill Road
W. Edmeston, NY 13485
315-899-7792
pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com

Cashmere “on the hoof”


Cashmere goat breeding stock & raw cashmere for sale
Wethers available for companions & brush control



The Leap Farm
Louise Scott & Joe Pasini
1003 Miller Farm Road
Staunton, VA 24401-6015
scott.pasini3@wildblue.net
540.887.8139

Stone Harvest Farm

cashmere, yaks, poultry, stone fruit



Jana Dengler
Maryanne Reynolds

stone_harvest_farm@verizon.net
978 724 0024

breeding coefficient. In effect, they created a breeding pool where every animal is related to every other animal and there are no real distinct breeding lines. As with our sheep we realized we needed to try and work our core of does back to line bred groupings. Easier said than done I am afraid, especially when fibre quality is the defin-

ing feature of membership or if you are breeding for distinct colour lines as well and can't find a buck from a certain line you feel is good enough for your girls. However that is the nice thing about line breeding in that a good quality line bred doe can be dominant enough in her traits to compensate for an average buck from time to time and get you to the next generation to produce that better buck.

Some other breeding strategies focus on creating consistency by pairing your best bucks with your best does and your second best with your second best animals and hopefully culling the bottom third of your stock. The main idea here is that if you breed similar animals together you will get more similar outcomes in the offspring. If you breed your best bucks to your second best does or vice versa, you may get some wonderful outcomes, but the variation you are building into the stock may be expressed in the next generation. This philosophy is similar to wanting to see the narrowest, longest histogram you can on a cashmere goat. A mean Fibre Diameter of 15 derived from a variation of 13 to 17 microns is a far more consistent animal than one with the same 15 MFD derived as the average of a micron range from 8 - 22 microns. I believe this was the issue with our second buck who produced every type of cashmere and non-cashmere-producing kids imaginable although a beautiful cashmere goat in and of himself.

All of these experiences have led us to the following conclusions. First of all, no "perfect" buck for everybody's needs exists. However, there are bucks for every purpose and every need. The key we have found to finding the buck that is best suited to your does is first to know your does and their production traits. What are they strong at, what do they need improvement with? Do they always produce better than themselves or do they need the buck to be strong with those traits? Secondly, you need to know the goals for your herd,



**RWF Hjooodlum a.k.a. BBQ Boy (he sleeps under it) -
"Didn't you want me to dust under the bed mom?"**

both long and short term. Then you need to prioritize these goals. Then you select bucks that can get you closer to your primary goal and hopefully add to your long term goal or at least not set you back. And remember that no one breeding strategy will work long term in any breeding program. From time to time we need new blood and from time to time we need to line breed to set the traits we have finally established in our herd. Keeping in mind that no one buck can do it all and once this buck has done his job he will need to move on so the

next buck selected can do his job to reinforce the work of the first buck and bring the next desired traits into the herd. Select the best of each year's crop for retention and sales and cull the rest. Eventually, if we figure out the right formula for our herd, fewer and fewer animals will need culling.

So there is no need to stress ourselves out over finding the holy grail of bucks for our wonderful girls, we just need to use wisely those we find. And the best advice I could pass on as a mentor to stress this point, was something a Canadian geneticist told me that really helped me. He said not to worry so much about what the pedigree says in terms of line breeding and out crossing. That if we think a combination will work well, then do it. If it doesn't work out, then cull and don't do it again. He bases this advice on his years of DNA research in breeds of animals raised in isolation from each other for sometimes hundreds of years that look totally different, but on DNA analysis might as well be full siblings. And of course to keep in mind that genetics will behave differently in different environments, even very similar environments. So if your ideal buck turns into a mess in your environment but was stellar where he came from, his genetics should still be passed on and his offspring can still be stellar since they don't know any other environment. Seems simple enough to me. <Smile> ♦

ECA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2012

Participating:

Pam Haendle, Becky Bemus, Jana Dengler, Anne Repaske, Katherine Harrison, Wendy Pieh

Board Members:

Katherine, Jane, Wendy, and Anne are up for renewal. Jane, Wendy, and Anne are willing to run again, Katherine will if need be. Any members interested, please contact Wendy as soon as possible.

Web Site:

The web site is up to date, thanks to Ginni Nichols, Jane McKinney, and Anne Repaske. Check it out.

Virginia and Vermont Shows

Both shows are all set for this year. Check for details on the web site and in this edition of Hoofprints.

Judge Training

Wendy has not gotten a judge training clinic organized yet. The plan is to start organizing it now, and have it in November, 2013. The clinic will be two days, with the first day focusing on how to assess Cashmere and conformation, and the second day to focusing on actually judging.

Hoofprints and NWCA Newsletter:

Wendy met with Paul Johnson, and Linda Fox, who are the president and treasurer of the Northwest Cashmere Association. We observed that there is overlap in what each newsletter prints, and perhaps it would be a good idea to consider combining the two. Linda and Paul produced the magazine "Cashmirror," and have the equipment and expertise to do a newsletter for the two associations at minimal cost. The NWCA board of directors agreed to recommend joining the newsletters into one, and so did our ECA board.

You will receive this as a ballot question along with the ballot for board members.

Finances:

Pam reported that we currently have \$7,329.00, so we are doing well as we move forward.

National Goat Expo and The Buck Swaps Here:

The first National Goat Expo will be at the Iowa State Fair in the first week of October. ECA and NWCA have agreed to have a booth, and to bring demonstration goats. This is an opportunity to also swap/sell bucks back and forth, and to spread diversity in both directions. Paul Johnson (paul@goatknollfarm.com) will coordinate the Northwest, Samantha Webster (fibrechick04@yahoo.com) is coordinating Colorado region, and Wendy (wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com) is coordinating the east. Contact any or all of us if you have a buck to trade or sell or if you want to arrange to get a buck. ♦



Who's Got Your Herd's Back?

by Linda Singley, Bearlin Acres, Shippensburg, PA

Look out in your green pastures and lush woodlots. What do you see? Goats of great conformation, excellent mothers with their kids running along beside them? Hours of brushing and hoof trimming just past for the spring? Years or decades of working with your goats? Do you have the genetics you want after finally finding the right buck? Maybe there are a few you wouldn't mind selling or frankly a few that need to be culled.

Now imagine going to the fence very early one morning only to have devastation greet you. The chilling cries in the night, now revealing the carnage of a coyote pack's visit. That total insecurity and emotional nightmare of wondering what to do next. Will they be back? Self incrimination. What could I have done differently? A part of your herd is wiped out and a piece of your soul is gone.

Many of us have learned the hard way in dealing with a herd for any time that you will lose some animals: to disease, to parasites, to freakish accidents, kidding problems, but to lose them to predators is a creepy feeling. Man does not often see himself as prey and to have your herd preyed upon leaves you feeling in the same boat. What can you do to prevent predator loss?

A frequent response, after better fencing, is to get a herd guardian. These come in species from dog to llama to donkey. Predators come in varying species too, from canines to vultures, and neighbors. The last one we will leave out of this discussion. The vultures are a class unto themselves and have their role on the decomposers' list, so we'll omit them as well. The key to minimizing predator loss is to match your guardian to you predator,

in kind, size and number to do the protection job effectively.

First look at your animals. What will get along best with your goats? Can you visit another farm and see how they work with a guardian? Do the goats behave better with a certain other species? Then look at yourself. Do you have a preference for working with dog, llama or donkey? Would you rather be spit on, bitten or kicked? Do you have the ability and time to train an animal? Do you have the resources for another expense: feed, housing and vet supplies? Can you find a breeder with animals of good temperament and agree on a price? What is your breaking point for more to do on the farm? Then do your research.

Would you prefer a donkey, an animal that usually gets a bad reputation as being stubborn, hard to handle and useless for anything but hauling? You can exploit their natural traits, like staying with the herd and disliking dogs, in order to protect your goats. According to Karen Briggs, a noted author of equine articles, donkeys also are not aggressive

toward humans in contrast to some of the guardian dog breeds. They will require hoof trimmings, but if you have a regular farrier, that is easily worked into the schedule. Feeds will have to be Rumensin free as well.

Some sources have done extensive research on guardian animals that you may like to consult. Each species has its own advocacy group. Livestock guardian dog groups like that for the Great Pyrenees, have entire sections devoted to training with livestock. Certain farms produce their own training and temperament DVDs which are available on the internet. The Akbash, Polish Tatra, Maremma and Anatolian Shepherd breeders re-



Kengal with goat

“Who’s Got Your Herd’s Back?” from page 7...

ally are more widely available than you may have thought. Llama and alpaca breeders are looking for ways to market their animals and are thinking along livestock guardian lines. Interestingly enough after agreeing to write this article I found four different recent magazines lying around the house featuring livestock guardians.

Hobby Farms Magazine contained a lengthy article by Briggs. In it, she highlights statistics for number of guardians per herd size, acreage and type of guardian. She also gives helpful guidance on when and how to introduce the animals to the herd or flock. Dogs need to be raised from puppyhood with the goats - and your supervision. Llamas and donkeys should be placed with the herd after reaching adulthood, and perhaps not be intact males. Donkeys and llamas eat the same food and graze with the herd or flock. On the flip side, their defenses against predatory canines are limited.

Camelid Quarterly from June 2012, mentions ten myths about guard llamas, and dispelling them. Carol Reigh discusses everything from spitting rumors to gender and age of the most suitable guardian. She cited \$1000-1500 as a fair price to pay for a well tempered candidate. Her article is written in reference to guarding an alpaca herd.

Here on the author’s farm we had a gelded llama as a guard and it worked only fairly well with sheep and the few goats we had at the time. He was timid, slightly barn sour and stayed with the flock after the initial introduction period. He was curious and would go to see new things I had in my hand or people visiting at the fence. He tried to take down ewes and rams initially and had to

be trained not to attempt to breed the sheep. The added expense of special wormers and feed, and the work of shearing did detract from his positive image a bit. It also required cross ties and a chute to handle him for these tasks. He respected board fence. He took down other fences like tape and netting. He had great fiber!

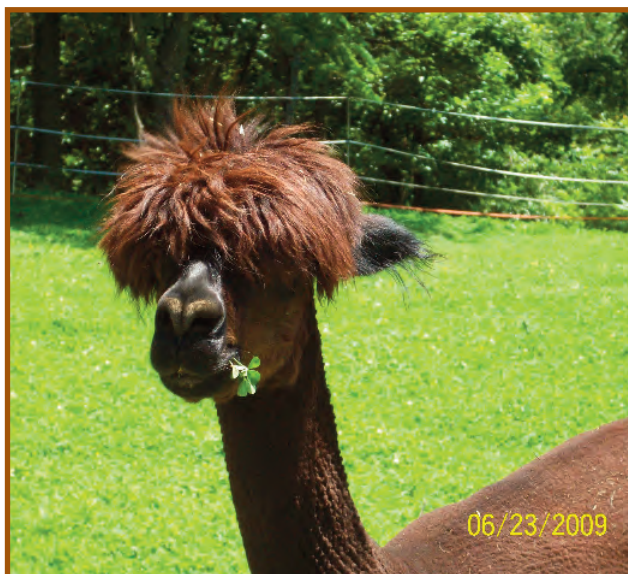
Llamas and other camelids are reported to hate dogs. They defend themselves by shrieking, stomping the feet and kicking a predator senseless

with the sharp toed feet. Ours got a bit spooked by our Labrador being around in the barn, but was more upset by pushy goats with horns and tried to bolt through the barn rollback door instead of the door that was open. Add to his expense one barn door latch. When outside he seemed to need guidance finding open gates as well. Perhaps he was a rare llama low on the

intellectual scale or one with eye problems. For a large herd totally outside with several llamas the outcome may have been better. On

the positive side is the fact that we never had any predators in that time or any animal attacks. Had the llama been pressed to perform, the outcome may have been uncertain. Llamas as guardians- love ‘em or leave ‘em? We gave up after ours tangled himself in the high tensile electric fence and left us - on a truck with an Amish buggy horse and a spent Holstein.

Also in the camelid family are alpacas. In contrast to the llama, the three alpacas in our herd get along quite well with our goats. The goats are calm and dominant. The alpacas are calm and respectful. The alpacas get second dibs on all feed troughs and hay racks as the goats have their horns and know how to use them. The “boys” are comfortable with the goats and curious about the sheep, which are out in a separate pasture, when



“...the three alpacas in our herd get along quite well with our goats.”

“Who’s Got Your Herd’s Back?” from page 8...

they approach the sheep across the fence. If the alpacas are let into that pasture with the sheep, chaos ensues. The sheep run, which leads to faster moving alpacas, then faster sheep, ..., until it turns into a frenzied blur of alpacas herding sheep. Enough said. They also herd wild turkeys and will put them all up in the trees. As a guard they work well with the goats. When stray animals such as deer or the neighbor on his tractor are sighted, the alpacas line up, turn toward the disturbance and hum loudly. They point and hum at almost anything visual that might need your attention. The alpacas also get along well with the guardian dog which we eventually decided to bring home after we had the rabid fox attack and a six month, state mandated quarantine.

Choosing a guardian dog for your livestock is a big investment in time and an exercise in patience. Do you bring home a pup or should you bring home a much more expensive, trained, mature animal? How do you make the decision about which dog to bring home when you are standing with the litter before you? According to one breeder, Janet McNally at Tamarack Lamb and Wool in Minnesota who has been personally helpful, the decision rests on evident behavior. “Most of the traits we are looking for in the LGD, things like trustworthiness, attentiveness, and protectiveness do not become evident until puberty (six months to twelve months of age). Therefore the best selection criteria is to choose pups from working parents that exhibit the traits you are looking for. Beyond that, sometimes a strong prey drive (an undesirable trait, we want 0 prey drive in the



Akbash

LGD) is evident in 8-12 week old puppies. So about the only temperament test that is useful, is to roll a ball into the litter and see if any of the

pups want to chase and pounce on the ball. Do not select a puppy that chases and pounces on the ball. Testing for dominance can help determine which puppies are easiest to get along with. Test for dominance by rolling the pup over on its back, and hold it there. A dominant pup will object strongly. This test will be greatly influenced by how much handling the pups have had prior to testing. Overly dominant puppies may pose a challenge in day to day management.”



Great Pyrenees

In the US, breeds commonly used for guardian dogs are Great Pyrenees, Akbash, Maremma, Anatolian Shepherds and crosses of these breeds. These breeds will exhibit more or less of certain traits, like people friendliness, than others. Depending on whose point of view you want, you can get varying answers to all of your questions regarding each breed. Some have very long heavy coats which means increased maintenance and costs to keep them comfortable through the seasons. Others have fewer maintenance issues, but are more difficult to socialize if you are going to need them to accept intrusions from other people, like caretakers if you go away on vacation, or visitors if you do farm tours. In making your decision as to breed, you’ll have to do the pros and cons list.

Do you bring home just one guardian or several? Will you be running them and your stock on one main area, or will you rotate pastures necessitating working with your guard to make sure it understands that the framework has moved a bit. Two acres or 200 will make quite a bit of difference in the working space for your dog, llama or donkey. The size of your predator problem will also determine how many guardians it will take to protect your herd. A wolf pack of ten or twenty will be too much for any single dog or pair of dogs to manage. According to Briggs, one llama can work a pasture of 250-300 acres with 250 sheep or goats. In this article, a shepherd, Cottrell, is quoted as using three Maremmas to handle 60 acres with 400

“Who’s Got Your Herd’s Back?” from page 9...

ewes. They work in tandem and switch off as to who’s on patrol and who’s with the flock. There is a difference in how these dogs, llamas and donkeys work the herd. Dogs tend to guard perimeters and spaces where the herd is staying. Llamas and donkeys tend to stay with the herd and patrol fences less.

Will the season determine how your guardian is managed? Numbers of predators can change throughout the year. During hunting season will you have to lock your dog in the barn? Last fall our Great Pyrenees had a run in with the hunter who decided to put a deer stand in the adjacent fence row to his herd’s pasture. A loudly barking dog could be easily silenced with a deer rifle to improve the hunting. Breeding season may have bucks in the pastures. Our bucks are not as kind to the dog as the does. Kidding may require additional supervision with a new dog to be sure he understands his job in the delivery area.

Sharon Costello provides quite a good discussion on living with a guardian dog through the year. She emphasizes patiently watching your dog from being a playful pup until he is a trustworthy dog, to see exactly how he is going to behave and how much intervention he is going to need to be in line with your needs. She advises introducing a young dog to the herd under the guidance of an experienced dog and being present yourself during dicey times like kidding, to be sure that he clearly understands what he is not permitted to do.

Noise is just one of the things that having a guard dog will give you on the farm. Many of these dogs patrol all night long barking at many disturbances. Will the neighbors view that as positive?


At times the GP has gotten away from one of us when moving goats from barn to pasture or to car for a trip to the vet. Then the neighbors find a large white dog eating cat food on their porch slightly intimidating. This happens with all pet situations as well, but



Maremma Sheepdog

guardian dogs are often not as well behaved as pets. If something other than you poses a threat, then it gets first attention. Your command is on the back burner. Despite good training and a responsive animal, the instinct to guard the goats overrides his training.

How much time and self talk does it take to train a good livestock guardian dog? From puppyhood up it can be an ongoing process for two years. Again, Janet McNally who has raised many LGDs gives a good estimate. “Juvenile LGDs, in particular those between ages 8 months to 18 months of age, are a lot like teenaged humans. They will make a few mistakes along the way. Just because your kid puts the car in the ditch, does not mean he/she will never be a good driver. Like wise with the LGD. They will make a few bad judgments, goof around a bit too much, sometimes ending in a wreck. But with proper guidance, they will grow out of that awkward juvenile period into trustworthy adults.” In this author’s experience, patience is the key. Refocus, redirect and reward.



Cashmere Goats
Wethers trained to pack
Norwegian Fjord Horses

Yvonne & Lance Taylor

P.O. Box 378
Washington, Maine 04574
207-845-2722



Spring Gate Farm
CHAMPION CASHMERE
GOATS AND FIBER

Barboursville, VA 22923
www.springgatefarm.com

Jane McKinney
434.990.9162
Springgte@aol.com



Donkey

These animals are not designed to fetch tennis balls. They guard well, are attentive to every noise, movement and animal in their herd. Everything they can see is their kingdom. Instinct provides the basis for a LGDs behavior, but trust between you and your dog developed through working together determines the success of the investment.

When considered from a financial point of view the cost of a guardian can be a considerable sum of money. Initial expense of LGDs run from \$300 to thousands depending on training, type and genetics. Llamas and donkeys, as stated before, run in the \$1000-2000 range. Non breeding alpacas are about the same. Feeds, vetting, tags and other necessities can total \$500 per year. In its lifetime a good LGD could cost you \$5000. The final decision comes down to this. Who’s going to be out there in your pastures when you’re not, day and night. 24/7, happily guarding your growing cashmere habit?

References:

Karen Briggs, *Hobby Farms Magazine*, “Livestock Lookouts”, January / February 2012.

Shelene Costello, *Dairy Goat Journal*, “Good Guardians are the Result of Proper Selection, Training and Time”, Vol. 88(2), March / April 2010.

Carol Reigh, *Camelid Quarterly*, “Dispelling the Myths About Guard Llamas”, Vol. 11(2), June 2012. ♦

Home in the Barn

by Sue Bowker

She loves the countryside
And craves the view of hills for miles.
But entering the barn behind the farm house
feels like a coming home
she doesn’t really understand.
She was not a child
who grew up with a barn nearby,
yet it relentlessly pulls her in.
She smells the sweet fertilized air
and feels the stirring of animals
who call this home.
She is warmer here than
her frozen breath would indicate.
There is nothing extra in this building.
Every board, every nail
is there for a purpose.
Patched, and re-patched,
to keep this fragile home together,
it is barely a refuge
and certainly not one that draws others.
She is here alone
leaving the fireplace in the farm house
without a backward glance.
She witnesses lives here
where shelter is defined by
narrow, painted boards
and safety by a few degrees of warmth.
She lingers to talk with the animals
who seem to barely notice her.
Takes in the smell of layers
of lives, lived, and gone
til the cold finally pushes her out,
back home,
where she will look out the window
to the chores that will bring her
back to the barn
tomorrow.

Written for and about Pam Haendle by her sister

ECA's Southern Goat Show & Fiber Competition is "on the move"

by Jane McKinney



he Eastern Cashmere Association is "on the move" relocating its Southern Goat Show and Fiber Competition to the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival in Berryville, VA! Pack your goats and fleeces up and join us for a fun-filled weekend in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains! There will be fiber vendors, sheep and goats and plenty of activities for the whole family.

**The Eastern Cashmere Association Goat and Fleece Competition at
The Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival
September 29-30, 2012
Berryville, VA
(Just a few miles east of Winchester)
Judge: Dr. Joe David Ross, Senora, Texas**

We are thrilled to have [Dr. Joe David Ross](#) to be our judge this year! He is no stranger to judging ECA shows. He is well respected as a judge of not only Cashmere but also Angora goats and judged the Eastern Angora and Mohair Association Fall Show at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival last year. Dr. Ross received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M University in 1959, established a large animal practice in Sonora and ranched with his father and mother. He sold the veterinary practice in 1971 and began to ranch full-time, raising angora goats, cattle, sheep, Boer and Cashmere goats and wildlife.

Ross has served as president of the Mohair Council of America, the American Angora Goat Breeders Association, and the Cashmere America Co-Op. He served as chairman of the United Food Animal Association (IR-4 program for minor species drug approvals), as chairman of the TSGRA Animal Health Committee, as vice-president of the Angelo Community Hospital Board, and as a director of the Sutton County Underground Water District.

Joe David will be sharing some "pearls of wisdom" on caring for and raising Cashmere Goats

immediately following the Fleece Competition.



Eastern Cashmere Association, Goat and Fleece Competition, 2012

2012 Official Schedule:

Arrival and Check-in: Friday, September 28th, 12pm -6pm and/or by Saturday September 29th by 4pm

Fleece Judging: Saturday, September 29th 9am-3pm

Informal Seminar: Saturday September 29th 4pm followed by an exhibitor's meeting and dinner

Cashmere Goat Show Judging: Sunday, September 30th 9am -3pm

Release Time: Following the Goat Show

Goat Show Rules:

The Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival Livestock Rules and the Show Ring Code of Ethics apply to this entry and by submitting an entry you agree to read and abide by these rules.

1. Goat Show (Does, Wethers, Bucks) Entry fee is \$7.00 per class due on or before September 1st, 2012. The only exception is the Dam & Daughter Class where only one entry fee is required.
2. All goats in competition are required to send in last year's fleece to the fleece show secretary so it can be judged on Saturday and will be available for pick up by competitors before they enter the show ring on Sunday.
3. All entries will be made online using the ECA website, completing the entry form and providing payment.
4. Age of the animal will be as of the date of the show.

“ECA on the move” continued from page 12...

5. Only goats entered and in competition will be allowed on the Festival grounds. Dogs are prohibited.
6. All goats must arrive with a certificated of veterinary inspection issued in their home state. Additional requirements apply for out of state entries and info is available through your local vet for interstate transport.
7. All goats are to remain in place until the competition has been completed. All pens are to be left in their original condition.
8. Check-in with the ECA Cashmere Goat Show Superintendent before unloading your goats.
9. Be prepared to tie your buck if they prove to be difficult to contain in their pens.

Entries should be made online at www.eastern-cashmereassociation.org or <http://easterncashmereassociation.org/eca-2012-show/> with payment via Pay Pal. Otherwise, checks payable in US dollars, made out to the Eastern Cashmere Association, should be sent along with a hard copy of entry form mailed to:

Jane H. McKinney
6675 Fredericksburg Rd.
Barboursville, VA 22923

Any questions please call or email show superintendent Jane McKinney at (434) 990-9162 home, (434) 531-8547 cell or springgatefarm@gmail.com

**Entries are due on or before
September 1st, 2012!**

Fleece Competition Rules:

Entry Fee is \$7.00 per fleece, which includes return postage. Should you wish to have expedited return service you will need to provide a prepaid label for a major carrier. It is wise to request tracking info just in case things go awry in the mailing process. Please contact the fleece Secretary if you have any questions. You will receive email confirmation of the receipt of your fleeces within a week after the deadline. Please be sure to include your email address on your registration.

**All entries MUST be received on or before
September 1st, 2012!**

All entries must:

1. be from the current year's harvest
2. be clean and skirted of vegetation
3. not be washed or dehaired
4. must be combed
5. be placed in a large ziplock bag or bags with a 3X5 index card containing the following information, Your name, your farm name, your physical address and email address, your goat herd code (from farm on which it was born) goat's name, sex, date of birth
6. include a self-addressed mailing label. We urge everyone who is able, to pick up their fleeces following the fleece competition.
7. Absolutely NO fleeces will be accepted for competition at the festival.

If you absolutely cannot make your entries online you may send payment by check payable to the ECA and include the check in box when fleeces are submitted.

Fleeces should be mailed to:

Liz Pack, SVFF / ECA Fleece Secretary
1003 Miller Farm Road
Staunton, VA 24401

Any questions call: (540) 448-6251 Cell - Liz or email her at: lpack@jamesriverequipment.com

Thank you for your cooperation and Good Luck to everyone!!

**Entries are due on or before
September 1st, 2012!**

For more information on the [Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival](http://ShenandoahValleyFiberFestival.com) go to their website at:

www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com for directions and info re: RV / Camping facilities. ♦

Silvopasture

Innovative Use of Forest to Feed Goats

by Maryanne Reynolds, Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, Maine

This is the second in a series about the “Silvopasture” project ongoing at Stone Harvest Farm in Petersham, Massachusetts, home to a growing herd of North American Cashmere Goats.

Now that our goats have gifted us with this year’s cashmere, they are helping us reclaim over an acre of land near the barn. Overgrown with invasive species, the area was nearly impenetrable due to thorns and vines. The does have proven themselves up to the task of defoliating multiflora rose and gobbling up bittersweet.

Since goats do not eat trees down to the ground and can only stretch so far on their hind legs to reach food, we have a role in the clearing process. Our primary tools are an electric chainsaw and hand loppers. The leftover slash is getting piled and will be burned in the winter.

Much to everyone’s delight, large boulders have been discovered amid the mess. Their presence, originally camouflaged by the growth, may account for why the area was let go. These boulders will be a perfect spot for goats to lie and bask in the winter sun or for us to sit and goat gaze.

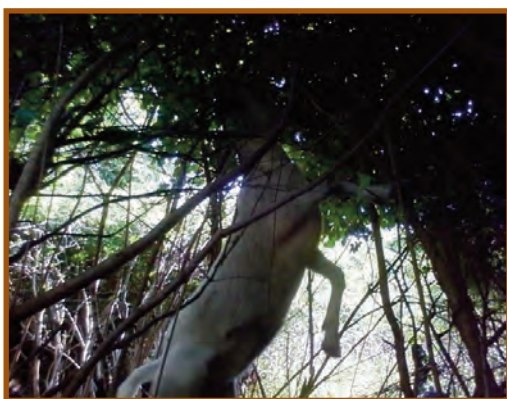
The plot serves as a testing ground for aspects of the farm’s upcoming silvopasture project. We have learned that the goats eat tender bark, such as birch bark. This behavior has been observed despite provision of selenium supplement and an abundance of other things to eat. Even this year’s kids go for the bark! This important lesson has resulted in a redoubling of our commitment protecting tree regeneration when the goats are introduced into the forest. ♦



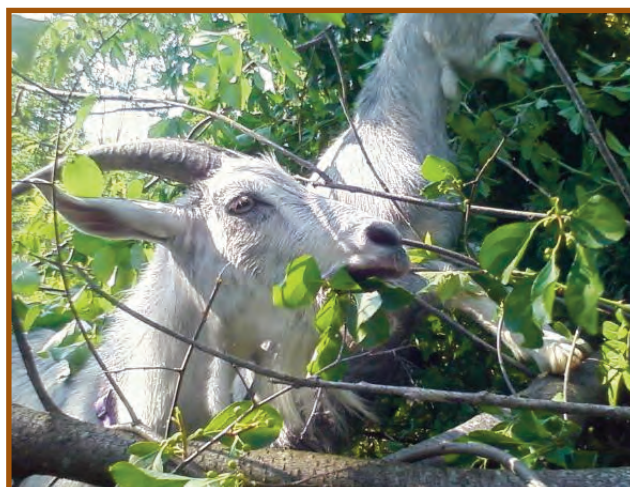
Growing brush pile on the left



Preparing for a fence line



Natural foraging activities



Goats at work on bittersweet

Eastern Cashmere Association Vermont Show Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival

September 29 & 30, 2012 (New 2012 dates)

Tunbridge, Vermont



Now is the time to begin preparing yourself and your goats for the ECA Goat Show in Tunbridge, VT! Please contact Pam Haendle at Pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com or me – Shirley Richardson at tanneryfarm@gmail.com to be sure you are on our mailing list for communications, especially if you haven't entered goats for the ECA competition in the past two years.

This year's show will feature Becky Bemus, as our judge. We're very excited to have Becky judge this year's show. Becky Bemus and her husband Phil own and manage Roving Winds Farm in Coldwater, Ontario. They are members of the Canadian Cashmere Association and long time cashmere breeders with a prize winning herd. This will be Becky's first time judging in the US although she has attended many of our shows and has been very active in the Canadian shows. Becky, assisted by Phil, will be judging our fleeces on Saturday at 1 pm in the cashmere barn and our show on Sunday at 10 am in the show arena.

Our winter task was harvesting the fleece from any prospective show animals and saving it for the Vermont show. Kids are judged on what they are wearing on show day, but mature animals are judged largely on the quality and quantity of the fleece in the bag. Remember those fleeces when packing up for Vermont!

For anyone who has not entered the scrapie eradication program by procuring tags or an identification number for tattooing, you should call your proper USDA, AHPIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) office immediately. Here are the phone numbers for most peoples' states:

- VA 804-771-2774
- PA 717-782-3442
- MD 410-349-9708
- NJ 609-259-8387

- OH 614-469-5602
- NY 518-453-0187
- From any New England state 508-865-1421.
- Or you can call this number and you will be put through to the office for your state: 866-873-2824.

If you wish to read more on scrapie, visit www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie. If you use microchip, you must register your goats on Pedigree International (www.pedigreeinternational.com) and bring the registration with you.

Remember that we require all entrants to follow the state law for animals crossing into the state. You will need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) **dated within 20 days prior to show** that documents the vet's inspection of your herd. We want only animals in excellent health who are also free of lice, hoof rot or anything looking like sore mouth. Rabies vaccinations for your goats are "strongly recommended" – but not required- by the Vermont Department of Agriculture or the VT Festival organizers.

To have your mother does looking good for showing, separate them from their kids at least ten weeks before the show. Make sure they are not carrying a worm load, and then take care to feed them well. Most judges penalize any goat that is not in top condition for the show.

We recommend that you handle and walk the show goats to have them ready for the ring. Hoof trimming is best carried out two or three weeks before the show to avoid any chance of tender feet. Note that any buck you bring should be used to being tied up, as he will need to be hitched in his pen at night. Aggressive does also tend to relax when tied.

As you consider how many and which goats to bring, know we have an adequate number of pens

“ECA Vermont show” continued from page 15...

so you can expect to have 3 to 4 doe pens. Keep this in mind for compatibility of individuals to avoid the stress of crowding. Two adult goats (does or wethers) to a pen are generally considered enough, but if you have a family group, more may be okay. As for bucks, you may have three pens, and two adults plus two kids would probably be close quarters. Also consider the space in terms of planning a display. The festival organizers request that we use pens only for animals. We do, however, have display space outside the pens in the barn area.

Classes are: birth years will be separate or grouped, dependent on numbers entered. Going by previous year's turnout, we should have classes for does born '12, '11, combined '10 and '09, combined '08, '07, '06 and older. There will probably be just one class for wethers. Buck classes will be kid, yearling, and a third for all older animals. Junior handling has been popular in the past, and we hope there will be good participation this year.

The Entry Form is included in this Hoofprints issue and will also be attached in an August email. Your entry form with payment is due **postmarked no later than September 10th**, so we know the number of pens to reserve, amount of bedding hay to order, and for time to put together the Show Book with correct information. The entry fee for each goat is \$5.00 and the bedding hay will be \$3/bale.

The Cashmere Goat Show is scheduled to begin at 10:00 Sunday morning. However, on Saturday Becky will be in the barn ready to evaluate the goats fiber and conformation. All goats must be

in their pens by 9:30 A.M., Saturday. You may arrive on Friday. Pam or Shirley will inspect all animals before they are unloaded into the barn.

GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

The festival website is www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org. The VT Sheep and Wool Festival Planning Committee heartily welcomes the Eastern Cashmere Show to the festival fairgrounds. Their website has a map to guide you to the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. A map of the grounds will be available at the festival. There is also a schedule of events, which will probably be generally accurate for this year, too. We'll also have passes available for all cashmere show entrants. Please find Pam or Shirley to get your passes. The festival ends on Sunday late afternoon and early evening when all vendors and animals must exit the fairgrounds.

HELP:

Volunteers will be needed to help run the show. Feel free to call or email Shirley if you can volunteer.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

We have reserved a block of 10 rooms at the Comfort Inn in White River Junction, VT. The cost per room is \$160. You can make your reservation by calling 802-295-3051 or online at www.comfortinn.com. The reserved block status is only in effect until September 10, 2011. Peak foliage season in VT so make your reservation early. The Comfort Inn is 24 miles w/drive time of 31 minutes to Tunbridge Fairgrounds.

Let the Comfort Inn know you are with the Eastern Cashmere Association. It is also possible to

New England
Cashmere Goats

Hay

**Muddy River Meadows
Farm**

Joann Gwozdz
207-671-8388
muddyrivermeadows@roadrunner.com

**CASHMERE CABIN**
Come sit by the fiber.

**Cashmerecabin@aol.com**

Goats
Yarn
Fiber

Jodie Richards
119 Nash Road
Windham, ME 04062
~~www.cashmerecabin.com~~
207-892-4040

“ECA Vermont show” continued from page 15...

sleep on the grounds in your own tent, camper or a rental camper. All information about camping is available on the festival website – www.vt-sheepandwoolfest.org

REMINDERS:

If you are wondering about any aspect of the weekend, contact Shirley. The festival people know little about our show details; they will refer you to her. You can email her at tanneryfarm@gmail.com. Postal address is Shirley Richardson, 173 Crystal Ave., Danville, VT 05828 or you can call her at 802-535-4110.

TUNBRIDGE, VERMONT DIRECTIONS:

Please visit www.maps.google.com or www.new.mapquest.com for directions from your location to Tunbridge, VT.

Pam and Shirley look forward to your participation at the third Cashmere Show hosted by the VT Sheep & Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT and the Eastern Cashmere Association. We hope you enjoy your drive to lovely Vermont Sep-tember 28 or 29th to participate with Becky Bemus and your ECA organizers. It's also the most splendid time to see Vermont as it'll be peak foliage!

REMEMBER:

Entry Forms Due SEPTEMBER 10th

MAIL TO:

Shirley Richardson
173 Crystal Ave.
Danville, VT 05828
802-535-4110

EMAIL:

tanneryfarm@gmail.com



**Top: Anatolian Shepherd
Bottom: Polish Tatra**
See “Who’s Got Your Herd’s Back,” page 7

CASHMERE GOATS

BREEDING STOCK & CASHMERE PRODUCTS FOR SALE
We Buy Quality Fiber!



Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
123 Rial Herald Road
PO Box 203
Bremen, Maine 04551

Tel: 207-529-5747

info@springtidefarm.com
www.springtidefarm.com

Stoneycrest Farm

Cashmere Goats

Anne Repaske
570 Paddy's Cove Lane
Star Tannery, VA 22654



phone/fax: 540-436-3546
e-mail: cashmere@shentel.net

2012 Eastern Cashmere Goat Show & Competition

VT Sheep and Wool Festival

Tunbridge, Vermont — September 30, 2012

Becky Bemus, Judge

- Bucks, does and wethers are invited.
- You may enter up to three goats per class.
- You pay one entry fee - **\$5.00 per/goat**, even if it's competing in more than one class.
- Herd Code for an entrant is that of the farm where goat was born.
- Each exhibitor will be allowed two pens for does and wethers and two pens for bucks. However, we'd like you to estimate the number of pens you'll need for the group of goats you'd like to bring. Depending on the number of entries, the number of available pens could shift up or down.

Goat owner _____ Phone _____
Farm name _____ Email _____
Address _____

Scrapie Tag #	Herd Code + #	Goat's Name	DOB	Sex

Junior Exhibitors (*Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth are offering cash awards for junior handlers.*)

Junior exhibitor #1 _____ Age _____

Junior exhibitor #2 _____ Age _____

You may also visit the VT Sheep and Wool Festival website @ www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org. Mail entry form and check,

Payable to ECA, to:

***Estimate Number of Pens you'll need** _____

Shirley Richardson

173 Crystal Ave.

Danville, VT 05828

Phone (802) 535-4110

Email: tanneryfarm@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2012



Crooked Fence Farm

Cashmere Goats
CVM/Romeldale & Merino
Sheep

Betsy MacIsaac
Putney, VT 05346
802 387-5790
crookedfence@gmail.com
crookedfencefarm-vt.com



Tannery Farm Cashmeres *Cashmere Goats*

*Breeding Goats • Fleece
Meat Goats • Kids*

Shirley Richardson
Michael Smith
173 Crystal Ave.
Danville, VT 05828
802-684-2293
tanneryfarm@gmail.com

Timberwood Farm

www.timberwoodfarmandfiber.com

Nigerian Dwarf & Cashmere Goats
Clun Forest Sheep
Wool & Cashmere Yarn
Goat's Milk Soap
Honey



Barbara F. Johnson
29221 Gen. Rhodes Lane
Rhoadesville, VA. 22542
(540) 854-4192
barbarafrilingjohnson@msn.com



Eastern Cashmere Association

Anne Repaske
570 Paddy's Cove Lane
Star Tannery, VA 22654



**We welcome input from
readers. Please send us
letters, pictures or news
from your farm.**

Anne Repaske, editor
cashmere@shentel.net