

HOOFPRINTS



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



ello Everyone,
I'm not sure where the time goes,
seems like I keep trying to keep up.
A neighbor farmer told
me that

on a farm you never
can catch up, so you
might as well aim for
what you can do each
day. Hmm.

For those of you who
have been using Copas-
sure in dealing with in-
ternal parasites
(*haemonchus contortis*,
blood worms, barber
pole worms – all the
same horrible critter
who kills goats through
severe anemia), be sure
to stick with the brand
Copasure. I tried copper
oxide wire particles boluses
from another producer, and
they didn't work. Dr. Burke, who has done the
leading research at the University of Arkansas,
suggested staying with the Copasure, as they have
not had time yet to research other types of copper
oxide wire particles. I followed her advice and
gave the problem buck 4 grams of Copasure

(cow / calf size taken out of the bolus) on his break-
fast. His count of over 200 eggs in a sample went

to 10 eggs in
three days, and
2 eggs in five
days. His coat
is again nice
and shiny, his
eye lid color is
better, and he
is back to
being his old,
friendly and
obnoxious
self.

This is my
last presi-
dent's mes-
sage. I am
still under
water trying
to keep up

with all my commitments. I will stay on
the Board (I hope), and will stay involved and stay
very committed to Cashmere goats and all of you.
Thanks for your support over the years.

Thanks,

Wendy ♦



Chow time for bucks

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ECA

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



Top to bottom:
Cadenza, Telemann, Thumbelina

HOOFPRINTS

Volume 22 • No. 2 • Summer 2013

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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.

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

ADVERTISING

Hoofprints advertising (3 issues/year):

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

FOR ADVERTISING

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

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.

ECA At The Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival

Sept. 28-29, 2013 in Berryville, VA



The Eastern Cashmere Association is pleased to return to Berryville, VA for Mid-Atlantic Goat Show and Fiber Competition at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival! 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 28-29, 2013
Berryville, VA**

(Just a few miles east of Winchester)

**Judge: Mickey Nielsen,
Yakima Washington**

Mickey and her husband Cliff have been involved in raising quality show and breeding animals since high school where they were both active in FFA. In 1994, the Nielsen family began purchasing and breeding cashmere goats. Being trained in showing, breeding and judging livestock Mickey knows the importance and value of good conformation in livestock and how to look for these qualities. Her herd of cashmere goats has taken many top awards over the years both in live goat shows and in fleece competitions judged by a variety of cashmere judges. She has trained under Cynthia Heeren, Kris McGuire, Joe David Ross and Terry Sim. Mickey judged the Virginia State Fair Goat Show in 2010. As a past President of the Northwest Cashmere Association we welcome her as our judge at the 2013 Eastern Cashmere Association Goat Show at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival.

Eastern Cashmere Association, Goat and Fleece Competition, 2013

2013 Official Schedule:

Arrival and Check-in: Friday, September 27th,
12pm-6pm

Fleece Judging: Saturday, September 28th,
9am-3pm

Informal Seminar: Saturday September 28th,
4pm followed by an exhibitor's meeting and
dinner

Cashmere Goat Show Judging: Sunday, Sep-
tember 29th, 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.

- Goat Show (Does, Wethers, Bucks) Entry fee is \$7.00 per class due on or before September 1st, 2013. The only exception is the Dam & Daughter Class where only one entry fee is required
- 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.
- All entries will be made on-line using the ECA website, completing the entry form and providing payment.
- Age of the animal will be, as of the date of the show.
- Only goats entered and in competition will

“ECA at Fiber Festival...” from page 3...

be allowed on the Festival grounds. Dogs are prohibited.

- 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.
- All goats are to remain in place until the competition has been completed. All pens are to be left in their original condition.
- Check-in with the ECA Cashmere Goat Show Superintendent before unloading your goats.
- Be prepared to tie your buck if they prove to be difficult to contain in their pens.

Entries should be made On-line at www.eastern-cashmereassociation.org with payment via Pay Pal. Otherwise, checks payable in US dollars should be 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

*Please note that if you wish to sell your raw cashmere fleeces, you need to contact SVFF at www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com

Entries are due on or before September 1st, 2013!



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, 2013!

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 Ziploc 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 on-line you may send payment by check payable to the ECA and include the check in box when fleeces

“Forage-related health concerns...” from page 4...

are submitted.

Fleeces should be mailed to:

Liz Pack, SVFF/ ECA Fleece Secretary
1409 Dogwood Road
Staunton, VA 24401

Please write a note on the package to leave at the back door.

Any questions call: (540) 448-6251 Cell - Liz or email her at: jdeeregirl1@yahoo.com

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

Entries are due on or before September 1st, 2013!

For more information on the **Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival** go to their website at:

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

Hotel Accommodations

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Conference Room at the Hampton Inn. We are planning to link with the Vermont Show by telephone.

Jane and Mickey will be staying there. This is a busy weekend and there is limited space, so folks should contact the hotel a.s.a.p. if they want to stay there.

Hampton Inn/N. Convention Center
1204 Berryville Avenue
Winchester, VA 22601

Telephone: 540-678-4000

Fax: 540-678-8277

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Beethoven (1991-2003)

The Joy of Bucks

Pam Haendle • Hermit Pond Farm • W. Edmeston, NY



may be the worst person in the group to write an article about bucks, given my history of problems with bucks. On the other hand, having made more than a few mistakes with bucks, maybe I can suggest a few things to avoid.

First, though, I have to tell you how much fun it is to keep bucks. Really! They just seem to exude a joy in living that makes the “boy’s dorm” always worth visiting.

Bucks are different, I found, in some surprising ways. If I have to present the does with some less-than-wonderful hay, they will sigh (I imagine), then begin routing around in it to find the good stuff. Bucks, on the other hand, will ignore the mediocre hay completely and just stand there looking at me as if to say, “We know you have better hay than this. We’ll wait here while you bring it out.” I suppose that’s biologically logical, since bucks can afford to wait for their next meal while does are programmed to be able to nurture kids at all times. Maybe that’s also why the bucks will stay in the barn whenever it rains, even if the rain goes on all day, but the does will eventually give up and venture out to find some grass. The fact that bucks are also less enthusiastic about going outside in the winter stems, I think, from a different factor: a lower percentage of body fat.

Bucks seem to have a stronger bond with one another than does have. Perhaps it is because the doe herd is divided into little family groupings whereas bucks rarely have a recognizable relative in their barn. In any event, I have seen bucks who are actually reluctant to leave their herd-mates to take their turn with the does. I had one buck who repeatedly leapt over a fence to rejoin the buck herd despite the appeal of the ladies around him. You certainly don’t want to keep a buck alone.

Both does and bucks battle to establish a pecking order, but there is one extra factor at play among the boys. When I bought my first buck, I remember noticing how promptly my little clan of

wethers recognized that the buck I introduced to them was the real thing and worthy of their respect, irrespective of size. As the buck herd grew and the wethers disappeared, the maintenance of the pecking order remained a frequent amusement in the buck barn.

I did wait several years before keeping any adult bucks, and it was probably wise to wait. There are the additional logistical complications, of course, since a buck will be happy to breed as soon as he hits the 3-month mark, and both does and bucks seem to be pretty open-minded about the calendar. I have had “volunteers” breed in July and I understand that does who have been deprived of bucks’ company can cycle in the off-season.

Fences between does and bucks must be very solid/reliable/daunting/high, and of course it is better altogether to see that they don’t share a fence line at all. They do seem to respect electric fences, but once they have cleared a fence, nothing short of cement overshoes seems to keep them in place. I had a yearling jump a fence last summer and when I moved him so that two pastures lay between him and the does, he just jumped three fences instead of one. In desperation, I tied him. Of course, he managed to tangle the lead line thoroughly, so I couldn’t leave him in that situation for long. I discovered, though, that I could leave a very short lead line on him and he remained convinced that he could no longer get off the ground. (He still holds a record at my place, however, as his escapades resulted in the birth of 27 kids in the space of one very frigid week in January. Maybe I



“The Joy of Bucks” from page 6...

shouldn't have named him Odysseus.)

Bucks can be a challenge, and I do try to remember that they are much bigger than I am. Breeding season brings out the aggression, and I have been interested to see that some of the worst physical damage to gates has come from the chosen buck who is in with the does beating the heck out of the barrier to remind the other bucks

that they can't come in.

The worst damage of all resulted, though, when I made the mistake of trying to use multiple bucks at the same time (with different sets of does) and had to put a relatively timid fellow with his ladies in full view of bigger bucks on the other side of a wooden barrier. It wasn't pretty.

If you hope to be able to control a big buck, then you have to begin training him early by tying him at dinner time. I say this from the standpoint of someone who has religiously failed to do so, and in fact I have probably made all of the mistakes one can make with bucks. Play with little bucks who want to push against you, and you will later have big bucks who think you are a peer and mash you against a wall. Hand-feed treats, and you will be in the biggest trouble of all. In fact, I once managed to take a well-mannered and disciplined buck and turn him into a dangerous animal. He was on loan, and that fall an extraordinary crop of apples was raining down at the edges of all my hayfields. Naturally, I began sharing the bounty with the goats, and this fellow quickly came to see me as an apple tree (appar-

ently), as he began to charge at me whenever I appeared, whether or not I was bearing apples. Hand-feeding treats through a fence does not seem to have the same effect, fortunately.

If you do end up with an aggressive animal, there are a couple of things you can do. I got control back over the apple fan simply by tying him every night when I served up the grain. I left him tied while doing evening chores but found that I could

do morning chores without worrying about him once he

had become used to the evening routine.

When another friendly buck became

suddenly and inexplicably

aggressive, I tried carrying a squeeze bot-

tle around to squirt at his face if he became threatening. My aim is not all that good when my arms are full of hay, and that may be why this technique had limited success. When the same buck attacked and injured a friend who was trying to protect me by helping with chores, I had to ask the same friend to help me put him down. Sometimes it's the only way.

But don't let me end on a somber note! Bucks are fun and a group of the big guys can make a very handsome tableau out on pasture. Let me just leave you with one last piece of advice from my own experience with bucks: When you have spent a hot afternoon trimming buck hooves and you come inside to head straight to the washing machine and shower because you are exceptionally smelly and gross, remember to take your cell phone out of your back pocket before depositing the jeans in the washer. ♦


“Bucks can be a challenge, and I do try to remember that they are much bigger than I am.”

New England
Cashmere Goats

Hay

**Muddy River Meadows
Farm**

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



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www.blacklocust.com

Eastern Cashmere Association Vermont Event

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, Vermont

September 28-29, 2013



Now is the time to begin preparing yourself and your goats for the ECA Goat Event 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.

We will not have a formal show with judge as few, if any, judges are available. However, there are many long time ECA members who are highly qualified, successful breeders and generous with their opinions and experience! They also most often participate in this event. Pam and I are confident we can have a productive conversation about best goat qualities, improvements we can make to our herds, and how best to accomplish improvements. We will evaluate our fleeces on Saturday at 1 pm in the cashmere barn and have an assessment of our goats 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 festival. 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, APHIS (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, and from any New Eng-land 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 (<http://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 re-quired- 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 so you can expect to have 2 to 3 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 2 to 3 pens as well, 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 '13, '12, combined '11 and '10-, combined '09, '08, '07 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 13th, 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 Event is scheduled to begin at 10:00 Sunday morning. However, on Saturday we 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.

FESTIVAL REQUIREMENT: All vehicles must be parked in general parking area once animals are unloaded, and please do not drive on the track.

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 \$150/+tax. 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 13, 2011. This is 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 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 Fourth Cashmere Event hosted by the VT Sheep & Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT and the Eastern Cashmere Association. We hope you enjoy your drive to lovely Vermont September 28 or 29th to participate with your ECA organizers. It's also the most splendid time to see Vermont as it'll be peak foliage!

REMEMBER: Entry Forms Due SEPTEMBER 13th - see next page

2013 Eastern Cashmere Goat Event

VT Sheep & Wool Festival

Tunbridge, Vermont --- September 29, 2013

- 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 2-3 pens for does and wethers and 2-3 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

Showmanship Class Entry _____

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

Junior exhibitor #1 _____ Age _____

Junior exhibitor #2 _____ Age _____

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

You may also visit the VT Sheep and Wool Festival website at www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org.

Mail entry form and check, **Payable to ECA**, to:

Shirley Richardson
 173 Crystal Ave.
 Danville, VT 05828
 Phone (802) 535-4110
 Email: tanneryfarm@gmail.com

Is My Goat Sound?

How can I find out?

Charts and Instructions by Mika Ingerman • Ratios by Dr. Deb Bennett, Ph.D.



All of the information that I will be sharing was gleaned from *Principles of Conformation Analysis*, Volumes I -III by Dr. Deb Bennett, Ph.D.. Dr. Bennett's books teach the reader how to assess the agility and soundness (strength of frame) of an equine by observing the relationships between different parts of the skeleton that can be seen or felt on the living animal. Her methods are accurate on any breed of horse, and work well for goats too. This is because goats and domesticated horses have a very similar bone and muscle structures. Below is a step by step guide to assessing the soundness of your own goats.

Note: The following methods do not replace breed shows, as they do not measure breed specific proportions and weight patterns.

Why would I want to know how sound my goat is? When a goat has strong proportions and a sound structure, it is able to do whatever it was bred to do in a more efficient manner. A sound dairy goat will be able to carry her big udder with ease, and a sound meat goat will be able to handle his weight without straining his frame. A goat with a sound structure will also wear its feet down more evenly, and have better coordination. Breeding for a sound frame, as well as breed specific traits, keeps a breed strong and healthy.

To analyze your goat, start by taking a photograph of your goat standing squarely on a level surface. Try to keep the camera level with the goat, so that you do not distort the image by taking the picture from slightly above or below. Once you have a picture that you are pleased with, make a duplicate, so that you have one image to mark up, and one image for reference.

Materials list:

Your photographs

Ruler with centimeters

Thin Sharpie or ball point pen

Calculator

The next step is to mark important points on your photograph. Use a ball point pen or thin sharpie if you are working on an actual photograph. If you are working on a paper copy, any pen will do. My goat Harry, below, has all of his points marked. In the unmarked picture of Harry, you can see all the little lumps and bumps that his bones make. these show me where to put the marks.

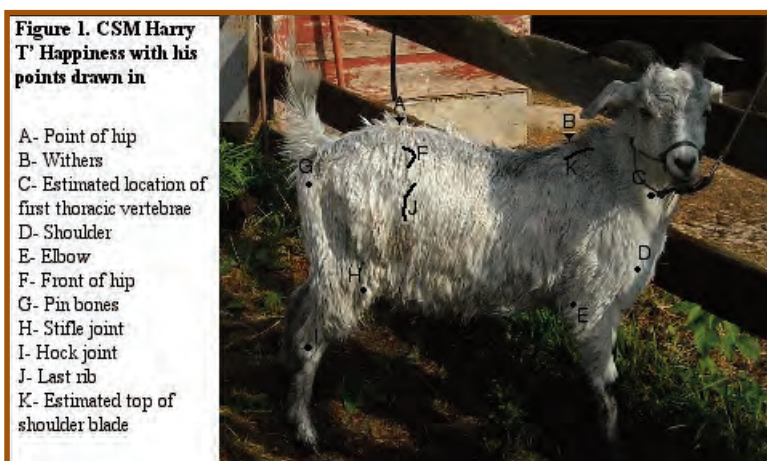




Figure 1.1 CSM Harry T' Happiness without his points drawn in



Figure 2. CSM Harry T' Happiness with his points connected

Now it's time to connect the dots. Take your ruler and make straight lines from point A to point B, point B to point D, D to E, F to G, G to H, and H to I. Figure 2 above shows Harry with all of his dots connected.

Next, measure the distances between points on your photograph. I like to use centimeters, because they are easy to turn into decimals for your calculator. Measure each distance carefully, then write it down in the blank chart below. Make sure and write everything in decimal form. If a measurement is two and three tenths centimeters you can write it as 2.3 centimeters.

Body length (G to D)	Pelvis length (F to G)	Back length (A to B)	Rib cage length (J to D)	Femur length (G to H)	Gaskin length (H to I)

Humerus length (D to E)	Shoulder blade length (K to D)	From G to ground	From C to ground

Once you have filled out all of the required measurements, you can use them to calculate the soundness of your goat.

How strong a “motor” does my goat have? Your goat’s haunches propel it through life, allowing it to leap from rocks, gallop across fields, and rear up and clash heads with others. The following formula helps you calculate the strength of those hind quarters.

$$(\text{Pelvis length} \times 100) \div \text{Body length} = \text{ } \%$$

Powerful	Strong	So-so	Weak
> 35%	> 33%	< 33%	< 27%

How Sturdy is my goat’s “transmission?” The power of your goat’s hindquarters is channeled to its forequarters through the back and rib cage. To find out the strength or your goat’s midsection, calculate the following:

“Is My Goat Sound? ” from page 12...

$$(\text{Back length} \times 100) \div \text{Body length} = _____\%$$

Sturdy
> 50%

Not so sturdy
< 50%

$$(\text{Rib cage length} \times 100) \div \text{Back length} = _____\%$$

Sturdy
> 100%

Weak
< 100%

Also, compare the distance from point G to the ground, and point C to the ground. The closer the numbers are, the stronger the goat.

How Sturdy are those back legs?

$$(\text{Femur length} \times 100) \div \text{Gaskin length} = _____\%$$

Sturdy
> 100%

Weak
< 100%

How free and fancy are those front legs? A goat with free front legs and shoulders is an agile goat, able to climb rocks and navigate slippery grass or mud with ease. A goat with good shoulders also has a greater chance of catching itself if it slips. To calculate the athleticism of your goat's shoulders, measure the angle between the lines that connect points B, D, and E. You don't even need a protractor. Just take a corner of a book, and slide it into the angle. If the angle is greater than 90 degrees, your goat has a free shoulder. If the angle is less than 90 degrees, then your goat has a stiffer shoulder, with a smaller range of motion. Next, calculate the ratio of Humerus to Shoulder Blade, below. If Both the angle, and the result of your calculations indicate a free shoulder, then you have a goat with really mighty shoulders.

$$(\text{Humerus length} \times 100) \div \text{Shoulder Blade length} = _____\%$$

Free
> 50%

Stiff
< 50%

Once you finish all of the math, you can get an idea of your goat's strong and weak points on a skeletal level. It is almost like looking at your goat with x-ray vision. I learned a lot of things that I would never have guessed when I analyzed Harry. It turned out that his back is a little weak, but he has nice strong shoulders and powerful hindquarters. These two pluses help Harry hold up his back, but if he were a buck, I would not want to breed him to does with weak backs. I hope you learned something new about your goat, and had fun in the process. ♦



Data Collection on Cashmere Goats

Maryanne Reynolds • Stone Harvest Farm • Petersham, MA



here is a longstanding and growing interest in data collection on goats that meet the association's standards for conformation and cashmere production. Over the last several months, ad hoc discussions have confirmed this interest. Several themes have emerged that merit further consideration.

The core concept is a desire to have a system of recording goats that meet the standards of the association. It is generally accepted that each goat must be evaluated on its own merit. In this way, our data collection system would be a recordation system, distinguished from breed registries that accept animals for entry based on parentage.

Data collection is seen to be beneficial for persons serious about improving their herds and those interested in the development of the cashmere goat industry. Secondary benefits include the potential to coordinate with the U.S. government for purposes of streamlining registration requirements for interstate travel of goats.

Consideration must be given to criteria, logistics of goat entry, access to data over time, geographic service area, non-member access to service, and cost. Our approved standard sets requirements for conformation and cashmere (quality and quantity).

Goats that meet the standard should be eligible for entry into the recordation system. Our venerable judges could decide which goats make it. The logistics of making that decision and performing the corresponding 'paperwork' need to be efficient while sufficiently flexible. Practicality may require reliance on the person registering the goat to assess the required quantity of cashmere.

Access issues include custody of the data collection and the level of public disclosure. Cost will be a key driver of success. The financial cost must be reasonable. Another open question is whether to start a new database or whether to join an existing one that could accommodate our purposes.

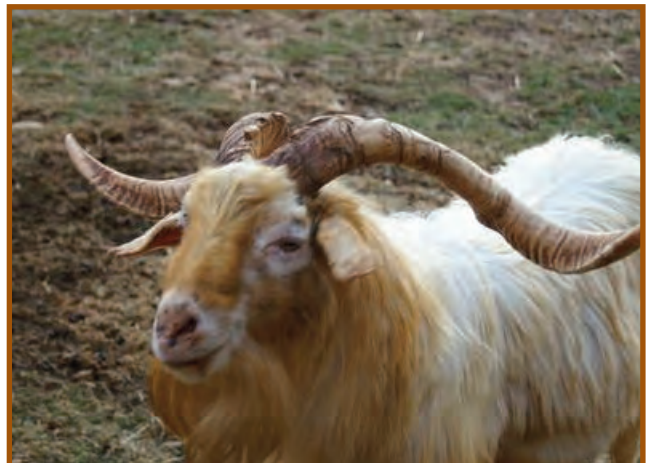
There are pros and cons of joining forces with an existing organization. Several ideas have emerged and are being explored at the time this article went to press. The primary effort, however, is first giving full consideration to what the association wants from a system.

Contributors to this article were Yvonne Taylor of Black Locust Farm and Becky Bemus of Canada.

The author wishes to thank all who contributed thoughts for this article, particularly Yvonne Taylor of Black Locust Farm and Becky Bemus of Roving Winds Farm who engaged the author in lively discussions!

"There is no house possessing
a goat but a blessing abideth
wherein."

~ Mohammedan saying



Pavarotti



Announcements

Welcome to new ECA members:

Marlene Hays and Carol Cox

WANTED: Quality Cashmere Fleece.

Looking to purchase quality, combed, clean, raw Cashmere fiber from members' herds. Please contact:

Norma Bromley, c/o Boreas Farm Cashmere

For more information 802-467-3222 or email boreasfarm@gmail.com

Judge for ECA Show at SVFF

This year we are pleased to welcome **Mickey Nielsen** from Yakima, Washington as our judge at the 2013 Eastern Cashmere Association Goat Show at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival. Mickey and her husband Cliff have been involved in raising quality show and breeding animals since high school where they were both active in FFA.

In 1994, the Nielsen family began purchasing and breeding cashmere goats. Being trained in showing, breeding and judging livestock Mickey knows the importance and value of good conformation in livestock and how to look for these qualities. Her herd of cashmere goats has taken many top awards over the years both in live goat shows and in fleece competitions judged by a variety of cashmere judges. She has trained under Cynthia Heeren, Kris McGuire, Joe David Ross and Terry Sim. Mickey judged the Virginia State Fair Goat Show in 2010 and is a past President of the Northwest Cashmere Association.

Jackson, Great Pyrenees Extraordinaire

Wendy, Peter, and M at Springtide Farm, Bremen, ME



W e picked up Jackson as an 8 week old puppy from a small farm in central Maine. His color was different, called "Blaireau," which means "Badger" in French. He looks kind of mottled, and has an unstoppable grin. Lexie, our four year old white Great Pyrenees, decided he was okay after a few days of snarling and being offended. They are now the best of buds, knocking each other about, and helping us in any way that they can, especially when we are trying to tie up the does, take a ground level photograph, or trim feet. Jackson has been a hero and an ongoing delight (usually) with his activities.

One night during kidding season, the weather had turned very cold and wet, with sleet coming down, and a strong wind blowing. We had six does due, all of them indoors out of the wet and wind. One of those, named Belle, had had a still born in 2012, her first pregnancy at age three. Naturally I was very concerned about her.

It was clear earlier in the day that she was going to kid sometime within the next 24 hours, so I brought her in to the last available area. She was whimpering, kind of crying around 11:30 at night, so I sat with her and petted her, which calmed her considerably (or maybe me). Around one am I got really tired, so I grabbed a blanket and laid down near her. She snuggled up next to me, got very quiet, and had a little doeling at 2:00 AM, then a little buckling about a half hour later, both smooth and easy deliveries.

Then I heard Jackson barking outside the front

door, definitely outside the pasture where he belonged. I went outside to put him back in, wondering why he was out. As I passed the outside pen, I could see Reilly Rose, not due yet, standing out in the dark, in the sleeting rain, not in the available dry shelter. I put Jackson in, and was heading back to the barn, when I heard a kid yelling. This wasn't any yell, it was tired, hungry, cold, wet, and mad. I suddenly understood that Jackson had come to tell me Reilly Rose had a kid;

she had had her first born early and right out in the middle of the storm.

I scooped up the doeling, brought them both into a corner of the warm inside room, laid out a bunch of straw, and quickly had a warm, dry, fed, and sleeping kid, with one relieved mom. Jackson got hugs and kisses for that rescue.

And that's not all.

The does have been getting through the fence lately, munching on shrubs, young trees and weeds that grow along the old road. Then they wander back in later to

chew their cud and nestle into the barn for a good night's sleep.

Every morning I either tie up all 44 of them for breakfast (they all have individual breakfast requests), or do an inventory if I am just going to throw out some hay or cut a tree or two to try to distract them from going outside the fields. On this particular morning I did an inventory, and Ruby was missing. Ruby is a yearling doe, with a big strong body and fabulous Cashmere fiber. I felt desperate and at a loss as to how to find her, and at least to know whether she was even alive.



Smiley Jackson

Our goats are mostly the color of the granite rocks that pepper the hillside, so finding a missing goat is not an easy challenge.

I headed up the hill with the ATV and some hay, looking everywhere as I went. No Ruby that I could see. (We're talking 60 acres of mixed woods and hills and very rocky terrain). I headed back down to the barn, discouraged, and decided to head a bit more south toward where I had seen them the evening before. Jackson came along, with me calling "Ruby" as loud as I could.

Jackson went off to the left, to a gray hump that was near the fence line. This was some distance from me, and I thought it was another rock. Then I got to thinking, "Hey, this IS Jackson, you know, going over there."

I walked over, and there was Ruby, tangled in a netting gate, not panicked, just quiet. Now I knew why Jackson had been covered in dew and all wet, he had spent the night with her. I untangled her, she got up and went back to the barn, where I gave her some oats and almost as many kisses as I gave to Jackson.

The herd came down to claim her back, and they all went off to find goodies to eat.

When we were then working on the fencing repairs and removing the offending netting gate, Jackson wanted, as usual, to help out. All of a sudden I looked up the fence line and yelled, "Oh no, Look!" M ran off with the camera and relieved Jackson of the power drill. Not sure where

he was headed.

Just the other day Jackson was furiously barking, and Peter, M and I all headed out to see what the trouble was. Lexie was standing on guard with the herd, and Jackson was crouched in some deep grass, very upset. He was staying between the herd and the perceived fierce threat, and seemed to saying, "I've got it covered, I'll protect you." Wouldn't you know, there was a six inch painted turtle, refusing to expose any part, and determined not to move. Peter took the turtle down to the creek, and Jackson was again very proud that he had saved the day.

Jackson, we hope, has learned that porcupines are best left alone. He has had them all around and in his mouth, in his paw, and lastly in his chin in large numbers. Seems like three times should be enough, although we check him carefully every morning now, just in case.

Just the other night I heard Jackson barking, then suddenly stopping, and I wondered what kind of mischief he would have gotten into. Sure enough, Jackson had decided maybe skunk odor is similar to "Eau de Buck" and the does would like him better. Yuck is about all that any of us can say to that one.

In our years on a farm surrounded by woods and coyotes, we have never yet lost a goat to predators. The dogs travel with the goats, lie down in their midst when the goats are cudding, and chase away all planes, big birds, and who knows what else. ♦



Jackson with drill



Jackson and Lexi Lounging



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*

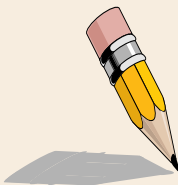
*Breeding Goats • Fleece
Meat Goats • Kids*

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

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