

HOOFPRINTS



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are now Cashmere Goat Association thanks to hard work from some board members! Tax exempt status to follow, we expect.

It is finally summer, and the goats are getting fat on pasture, unless they are raising twins or triplets, in which case their nutritional state might be more precarious. The farm will echo with the cries of the little bucks and their mothers, who have to be separated after just 3 months together. We worry about the hay harvest, and hope the baler will not break down.

A word of caution about an unusual form of poisoning from a plant. As the pastures wind down in late summer, the plants that were previously not considered palatable by the goats now become more acceptable and more visible. This includes a relative of the deadly nightshade, that seems to grow around old New England farms. It has pretty blue flowers with an intense yellow center and alternate, heartshaped glossy green leaves, that sometimes take on a reddish shine in the fall and a woody stem crawling along the ground. The



Stone Harvest Farm's Gallium is the Star of the Petersham 4th of July Parade

berries are bright red. Two bucks so far (in 25 years) have managed to get sick, dragging a foot as if they had meningeal worm, but with diarrhea and lack of appetite, that would not typically happen with the parasitic problem. They both got over it, and we have been weeding out nightshade assiduously.

The data base is slowly but surely taking shape, and, as before, I am pondering the issues of data base, registry, and breed. Wendy Pieh, who with her husband, Peter Goth, coined the term North American Cashmere Goat, has assured me that with an open registry (where any goat with acceptable cashmere can be included, regardless of parentage) you cannot claim an animal is "purebred". This is a difficult concept, which takes some thinking about.

Let us keep thinking and moving forward!

Yvonne ♦

In this issue...

President's Message	1	CGA Database.....	8
CGA Show in Vermont	3	CGA Board Mtg. Minutes	10
CGA Show Schedule	4	Better Fiber Through Genetic Selection, Part II	11
Histogram Blues	6	CGA Fleece Competition	19
CGA Show Application Form	7		



CGA

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



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


New England
Cashmere Goats

Hay

Muddy River Meadows Farm

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

Stone Harvest Farm
cashmere, yaks, poultry, stone fruit



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CGA MEMBERSHIP

Full individual membership is \$30/year or \$50 for two years. 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):

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

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: Jana Dengler, 60 Hardwick Road, Petersham, MA 01366. Make checks payable to Cashmere Goat Association or CGA.

Questions? Contact: Anne Repaske

Stonycrest Farm Cashmeres
50 Paddy's Cove Lane • Star Tannery, VA 22654
cashmere@shentel.net or call 540-436-3546

The Cashmere Goat Association Show

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival

October 4 & 5, 2014

Turnbridge, Vermont



he Cashmere Goat Association will once again offer a Cashmere goat show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival at Tunbridge, VT, on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5. The Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival has been a mainstay for New England fiber enthusiasts for 25 years and has been held at the Tunbridge fairgrounds for five years. Home of the Tunbridge World's Fair which has operated almost continuously since 1867, the fairgrounds offer a unique New England country fair setting largely unchanged for more than a century. Over 70 vendors have booths at the Festival, with both cashmere products and fiber mills that process cashmere represented.

CGA is pleased to continue their collaboration with the VSWF for a fifth year. This show has become the premier Cashmere goat show in the northeast, drawing goats and owners from New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont. We are planning an expanded educational display this year. The fabulous cashmere harness team – “Team Snazzy Goat” -- is expected to return, demonstrating the art of harness goat driving through the weekend.

This year's show judge is Pam Haendle of Hermit Pond Farm in West Edmeston, New York. Pam has bred and raised cashmere goats for 18 years, working a herd of approximately 60 goats at her property near Utica, NY. A past president of ECA (now CGA) she has co-lead the ECA show at Rhinebeck, NY, and Tunbridge, VT, for over a decade, retiring from that position in 2013. She founded the Central New York Fiber Festival in 2010 and has been instrumental in encouraging many to pursue their fiber farming/fiber art dreams.

Show Classes

Buck, doe and wether classes will be determined by the number of entrants with a probability of class divisions for does born in 2014 (kids), '13 (yearlings), '12 (two year-olds), and combined '11, '10, and older (senior). Wethers may subdivide this year into junior (kids and yearlings) and senior wethers. Bucks will show as kids, yearlings and senior bucks.

Judging is based on body and fiber, with fifty percent of an animal's score based on the past year's fleece and fifty percent on body conformation and movement in the show ring. Entrants need to re-

member to bring the past spring's combed fleece with their goat to the show.

Showmanship classes include the popular Open Showmanship class judged by Mika Ingerman which evaluates showmanship over a walking

course and is open to adult and youth entrants. Youth Showmanship showcases the knowledge and exhibition skill of our youth competitors. A cash premium has been offered for youth who show cashmere goats by Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth of Springtide Farm in Bremen, Maine.

Housing of Goats at the Festival

As you plan how many and which goats to bring, expect that the barn can generally house two doe/wether pens and two buck pens per farm. This number is flexible since we have not filled the barn to capacity in recent years. In most cases anticipate that two does will be comfortable in one pen, though some larger family groups may prefer to be together. Be prepared to tie bucks, aggressive does and/or “jumpers”, especially

Entry Deadline and Fees

Entries and fees must be postmarked no later than September 19. The cost is \$6 per goat (regardless of how many classes are entered.) A registration form follows (see pg. 7) and may also be found on the CGA website.

“CGA Show” continued from page 3

overnight – they should be accustomed to being tied before the show weekend.

Bedding hay is available on site for \$3. per bale, but you must supply feed stuffs, water buckets, tools for barn clean-up at the end of show, etc. Owner/entrants are responsible for appropriate care of their animals through the weekend. Stalls should be broom-clean upon leaving on Sunday with bedding removed to a compost site near the barns.

See Sidebar for Show Schedule

Preparing for the Show

Preparation for show begins in late winter with the setting aside of the prospective show entrant's fleece from the past season. Combed fleeces should be reasonably free of excessive vegetative matter but otherwise not de-haired and should be submitted in a zip-lock type bag with an identifying tag inside.

The second step is to begin now to bring your goats up to prime condition and to accustom them to walking on a lead. Kids should be weaned from does intended for show at least ten weeks before the show date. They may be housed with their mother at show time but separation allows the mother to recover from the stress of nursing. Check for worm load and feed carefully to bring bucks and does into condition. Most judges penalize for poor conditioning, but under-condition animals may also pick up opportunistic infections under the stress of travel and being housed with other goats in an open barn. Hooves should be trimmed two or three weeks ahead of show to prevent the appearance of tender feet in the ring.

Vermont Health Requirements

All entrants must comply with the Vermont law concerning interstate transport of animals and will be inspected by the Show Superintendent upon arrival at the fairgrounds. **A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) of herd and specific animals to be transported, dated within 20 days of the show, is required.** The VT Department of Agriculture will mail to you a Permit to Transport document when your veterinary reg-

Schedule for 2014 Show

Friday, October 3, 2014

Noon Animals may begin to arrive at Fairgrounds.

Saturday, October 4, 2014

- 9:00 a.m. All goats must be in place in their stalls
- 9:30 a.m. Pen judging begins
- 10:00 a.m. Festival gates open
- 1:00 p.m. Fleece judging begins
- 4:00 p.m. CGA Annual Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Festival gates close
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner in South Royalton for Show Participants

Sunday, October 5, 2014

- 10:00 a.m. Open Showmanship Class
- 10:30 a.m. Doe & Wether Classes
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Showmanship Class

Short break for lunch

- 1:00 p.m. Buck Classes

REMINDERS:

Entry form and fees must be post-marked by Sept. 19. See Form page 7.

A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) of herd and specific animals to be transported, dated within 20 days of the show, is required.

Volunteers needed! If you can help, please let Sister Mary Elizabeth know.

“CGA Show” continued from page 4

isters the CVI with their office. The CVI should be brought with you and kept with your goats at the Tunbridge fairgrounds. Goats should be in good health and free of lice, hoof rot or anything looking like sore mouth. Rabies vaccination is “strongly recommended” but is not required by Vermont Agriculture regulations or Festival organizers.

The CVI requirement includes conformity to rules regarding the unique identification of goats under the guidelines of your home state’s scrapie eradication program. Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats which can only be addressed through post-mortem identification, tracing back to farm of origin. If you have not received ear tags or an identification number for your herd, you should call the appropriate USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) office immediately. If you need assistance in contacting the scrapie eradication program in your state, call 866-873-2824. Special rules apply for animals carrying microchip identification. Check with the Sister Mary Elizabeth before you come to show if you have any questions regarding the scrapie identification requirement.

Note that Herd Codes used by CGA custom are different from USDA assigned scrapie numbers or ear tags. Animals are identified through CGA and



Team Snazzy at the 2013 ECA Show in Vermont



other cashmere organizations by a three or four letter ID indicating the farm on which they were born. These letters generally precede the goat’s name -- for example, STC Lizzie. If you buy a cashmere goat and show her, she shows under her farm-of-origin Herd Code. Her children born on your farm should show under your Herd Code.

General Information

The Festival website is www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org and contains pertinent travel information, a map of the grounds, workshops offered by the Festival and other information.

Festival gates open at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and CGA goats are on display to the public at a barn near the river until closing at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. General admission is \$6; seniors--\$5; children under 12--\$1.

CGA show entrants have a free pass for the weekend. See Sister Mary Elizabeth to get your pass.

Parking is free but limited to designated areas, with no movement of cars on the fairgrounds during Festival hours.

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 reservations by calling 802-295-3051 or online at www.comfortinn.com. The reserved block status is only in effect until mid-September so make your reservations early. The Comfort Inn is 24 miles from Tunbridge with a drive time of 31 minutes to the fairgrounds. Let the Comfort Inn know you are with the Cashmere Goat Association.

It is also possible to sleep on the fairgrounds in a

“CGA Show” continued from page 5

tent or camper. Information about camping is available on the festival website, listed above.

Show Superintendent and Volunteers

The 2014 Show Superintendent is Sister Mary Elizabeth of St. Mary’s on-the-Hill Cashmere in New York. If you have a question, she can be reached by email at maryelizabethcsm@aol.com or by calling 518-791-4142. Her postal address is: Sister Mary Elizabeth, St. Mary’s on-the-Hill Farm, 242 Cloister Way, Greenwich, NY 12834.

Volunteers are needed through the weekend. Please let Sister Mary Elizabeth know if you can help.

The Cashmere Goat Association welcomes you to join us for this fifth CGA-VT show at the beautiful Tunbridge fairgrounds. The show is a rewarding opportunity for Cashmere goat enthusiasts from

across the northeast to see the best from various herds, to learn from each other and to share “goat stories” -- as well as to communicate our passion for cashmere and the goats that carry it with visitors who often drive for hours to see our animals. Join us!

Sister Mary Elizabeth

CGA-VT Show Superintendent ♦

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



CBG “Fluffarina”

microns

- 7 I
8 get
9 that my fiber
10 is long, luxurious and abundant;
11 it protects my scrawny frame throughout long winters.
12 My conformation is average, but I’m a “keeper,” a true fiber machine. Sure wish they’d explain
13 why year after year I get thrown into a stall with yet another smelly
14 buck. I’m tired of having
15 all these damned
16 kids!

CBG “He-Man”

microns

- 26 Look at my horns! Look at my wide and deep
27 chest! I’ve got personality and brains. OK, I’m not
28 perfect. Who is? They say I have extraordinarily
29 meaty shoulders and a gorgeous top line. Hey!
30 Why I am being put into this white truck?

“Histogram Blues” **A little goat lover humor by** **Maggie Constantine Porter**

2014 Cashmere Goat Association Show

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival

Tunbridge, Vermont --- October 4-5, 2014

Please complete fully the form below

- Bucks, does and wethers are invited.
- You may enter up to three goats per class.
- You pay one entry fee - **\$6.00 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

Open Showmanship Class Entry _____

Junior Exhibitors (CGA is 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 CGA**, to

Sister Mary Elizabeth, CSM
 242 Cloister Way
 Greenwich, NY 12834
 Farm (Cell) Phone (518) 791-4142
 email: maryelizabethcsm@aol.com

***Estimate number of pens you will need:**

Bucks _____ **Does & Wethers** _____

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

CGA Database Anticipated in 2014

by Maryanne Reynolds, Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA
and Noreen Rollins, Tilton Hill Goat Farm, Pittsfield, NH



he launch of the association's cashmere goat database is coming in 2014, subject to final approval by the Board. This introductory article provides you with the current vision.

The database will be searchable and capable of producing reports. We are looking at a standalone system (written using Open Office), to begin with and then later rewrite into a Web application.

A goat will qualify for entry upon an official evaluation of its individual merit. Entered goats will meet the North American Cashmere Goat Standard for fleece, at a minimum. Conformation data will also be recorded, when available. While achieving excellence throughout the standard is ideal, emphasis is placed on fiber diameter of less than 18.5 microns, length of at least 1.25 inches, style/crimp, and uniformity (coefficient of variation no greater than 24%). Each goat may have more than one assessment recorded, a feature that should be valuable for multiple purposes.

For accountability purposes, the data source will be a scorecard generated by a recognized judge or analysis performed by a recognized fiber testing lab. Scorecards are provided at shows, gatherings

or farm evaluations. A list of judges and fiber testing labs recognized by the Cashmere Goat Association will be compiled.

No charge for entry into the database is contemplated for an introductory period, but a fee may need to be charged eventually to make the database sustainable. As a benchmark, other organizations have kept their herd books open for 6 months to 2 years after which they charge for entry.

Goat data to be collected.

• General Goat Information

[contact info for current owner: name, e-address, phone]

o Herd Code [farm of birth]

o Name/Identification Number

o Gender

o Date of birth

o Birth number

o color [two color fields: coat color, and cashmere color?]



Stone Harvest Farm's Gallium is the Star of the Petersham 4th of July Parade

• **Conformation Information scores**

- o head
- o teeth
- o forequarters
- o barrel
- o hindquarters
- o feet
- o reproductive system

• **Fiber Evaluation**

- o Mean fiber diameter
- o Fiber length
- o Uniformity
- o Style
- o Total down weight
- o Judge / date of evaluation

• **Registry for Interstate Travel**

- o Type
- #61607; Micro Chip
- #61607; Tattoo
- #61607; Ear Tag
- #61607; Must be an open Registry

• **Pedigree**

- o Goat
 - o Sire Dam
 - o Sire-Sire
 - o Grandparents of Sire and Dam
- [If any animals in the pedigree have been evaluated, it would be great to have that noted and be accessible.]

As things progress, we hope to circulate an example query and solicit ideas. A couple of ideas under consideration are: (1) add "frame" to the conformation section, and (2) add a place to say if the goat is for sale and, if so, for how much. Anyone who has ideas to make the database successful, or who is interested in having their goats entered or becoming a recognized judge, is encouraged to contact the association.

We look forward to telling you more about the database in coming months. Meantime, if you are interested in broadening your knowledge of cashmere goat recording systems, these additional resources exist (and there may be others): Pedigree International at <http://www.pedigreeinternational.com/> and The Cashmere Goat Registry at <http://cashmeregoatregistry.blogspot.com/>

Wrap Yourself In Cashmere Basket Raffle

CGA will be organizing its first fundraising event with a cashmere basket raffle. If you are attending the Tunbridge 2014 show please consider donating fiber or something for a fiber enthusiast! If you cannot attend the show but would like to make a contribution it can be mailed to the address below. Tickets will be on sale during the Tunbridge show. Proceed will go directly into paying for such items as ribbons, judging fees, or other association bills.

Donations can be mailed on or before September 15th to :

Christine McBrearty-Hulse
P.O. Box 190
Fly Creek, NY 13337

Please feel free to contact any of the fundraising committee members if you have any questions .
(Maggie Contantine Porter at constantine.maggie@gmail.com / Sister Mary Elizabeth at maryelizabethcsm@aol.com / Christine McBrearty-Hulse at mcbrearty3@yahoo.com

CGA Board Meeting Minutes 6/15/14

by Maryanne Reynolds, Stone Harvest Farm, Petersham, MA



he Board of Directors met telephonically on Sunday, June 15, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were: Becky Bemus, Jana Dengler, Wendy Pieh, Maggie Porter, Anne Repaske, Maryanne Reynolds, and Yvonne Taylor, joined by member Sister Mary Elizabeth.

1. Meeting Minutes

On motion of Anne, seconded by Wendy, the May 4, 2014, meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

\$5,376.29 is our current total account balance. (At the last meeting, the lower figure reported reflected only the checking account balance.)

3. Tax exempt status

Maggie will soon make the necessary filing with the IRS to apply for tax-exempt status. Jana will e-mail Maggie the 2014 revenue data, so Maggie can complete the filing.

4. Database

Maryanne and Noreen are working on an article for the summer issue of Hoofprints about the database.

5. Show status

Vermont Show. The CGA's Vermont show will be held at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT, on Oct. 4 & 5, 2014. It will be a live show. Sister Mary Elizabeth is organizing it. She will contact Shirley for guidance; and, she will submit an informational article for the summer issue of Hoofprints, which is the last issue before the shows. The judge has not yet been selected. On motion of Wendy, seconded by Becky, the entry fee will be \$6/goat (a \$1 increase from prior years). Virginia Show. Discussion on this show was tabled, as Jane was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Judging Clinic

Wendy is exploring the possibility of collaborating with Northwest Cashmere Association. There was discussion about the event date and cost, without any resolution at this time.

7. Rhinebeck booth

The New York Sheep & Wool Festival Rhinebeck 2014 in Dutchess County will be held Oct. 18 & 19, 2014. We are seeking a booth for purposes of educating people about cashmere goats. Wendy has submitted a fiber workshop curriculum to the festival organizers; Maggie has a booth design that we could use at the festival and other venues. We await a response from the festival. If we are assigned a booth, we will coordinate with Pam, who annually has an education booth at the festival.

8. Website

We have secured a new domain: www.cashmere-goatassociation.org. Jana and Abby will work on getting a quote from our current web vendor to make website updates/transition to our Eastern Cashmere Association site, now that we have a new association name: Cashmere Goat Association. Anyone who knows of website updates/corrections needed is asked to contact Jana (jana@stoneharvest-farm.com), so the fix can be scheduled.

9. Fund Raising

The fund raising raffle continues to be planned. Yvonne and Maggie offered to participate as host farms. Others expressed a willingness to consider it.

10. Wild Fibers magazine ad

The summer issue of Wild Fibers is out. It was noted that we had once envisioned running our ad in this issue, but we are holding off until we have regained tax exempt status.

11. Next Meeting

Sunday, July 13, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

12. Adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Reynolds, Secretary

Better Fiber through Genetic Selection

Part II. Advice from Current Breeders and Future Directions

by Linda Singley, Bearlin Acres, Shippensburg, PA

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is the second in a series of 3 parts

In the Spring 2014 issue: Part 1: Introduction and History of Genetic Selection

In this issue: Part 2: Advice from Current Breeders and Future Directions

Part 3: Breeding Programs for Limited Herd Sizes



Linda Fox Goat Knoll: A few breeders with several decades of Cashmere goat raising experience have kindly provided answers to some of my questions. Linda fox of Goat Knoll in Dallas, Oregon stated that she selects for fiber diameter, length, style and color, preferably gray and white. A large framed goat that is healthy with correct conformation is a goal as is good attitude. In response to the question, "How closed is your herd?", she responded, "We're careful, but not closed. I define closed as no outside exposure - no shows, no goats in, no goats out and then back, no outside breedings. I think some others define it differently."

Her lineage is as broad as we can be with a smaller herd. She purchases bucks from other farms when she needs new blood, which means every couple years. She doesn't inbreed. They did on the farm in earlier years- 20 years ago. Only once have they outbred to another breed of goats. They experimented years ago to 3/4 angora and didn't like the results (fiber). They culled them all two years later.

In looking to new potential bucks or does from other herds she indicated that they are looking for something that fits the traits we select for as well as being different genetics. In their own bucks for potential sellable stock they look for either something we do select for, but can't use because they're related or something that is a good cashmere goat for others, but doesn't fit our criteria - ie: wrong color for them.

They cull animals that could be otherwise healthy for reasons of poor fiber, small body size, bad horns (on bucks), or bad attitude (difficult to

catch and handle). Cull doesn't mean selling to another breeder; culling means selling for meat.

Goat Knoll sells animals for breeding stock that are good cashmere goats that either don't meet their criteria or ones that do meet their criteria, but have to be sold due to simply having too many related animals.

The decisions on keepers are primarily governed by fiber rather than conformation, as long as a conformation fault doesn't make them unhealthy or dangerous to other goats.

As to how much she sees in reproducible traits in one generation that may be masked in the very next generation and then reappear in the later generations Linda responded, "We're not large enough to see this much and have usually gotten rid of or at least not allowed to reproduce, a goat that has a trait we don't like, but I know it happens, so we're careful about breeding a goat that looks like our criteria, but it's parents don't."

Yvonne Taylor Black Locust Farm:

Yvonne Taylor, one of the long term breeders in New England, contributed this brief summary. Yvonne sells any good quality animal, unless she particularly needs them for breeding purposes. Which goats make the keeper group? The animal has to be healthy and with a decent conformation. Bucks should have good conformation and good style to their fiber. If they also have good volume of fiber; that is a plus. Given that, she selects for good style of fiber first, then volume. "The reason is that I think good style is the hardest to come by. I cannot judge diameter, so I rely on crimpiness for that (they are correlated). In regard to fiber vs. conformation - see above. On the

“Genetic Selection...” from page 11

whole I give more emphasis to fiber.”

She occasionally brings in a new buck - otherwise (her herd) is closed. She doesn't do inbreeding. She reports, “In the few cases I tried it in the past, the offspring seemed very high strung and nervous.” Nor does she practice outcrossing. She defends the cashmere, “The cashmere goat already has the best fiber, and many people prefer its meat to that of the Boer goat.”

How much has she seen in reproducible traits in one generation of her years of breeding that may be masked in the very next generation and then reappear in the later generations? It happens, but she cannot quantify the occurrence.

A healthy animal would be culled from Yvonne's Black Locust Farm herd for any problem with fiber quality and problems with conformation, particularly teeth and teats and testes. Also if they are unusually aggressive and hurt other animals - out they go.

Becky Bemus Roving Winds:

Becky Bemus of Roving Winds Farm, in Coldwater, Ontario provided the following detailed information. In response to “What traits do you select for and why?”, she responded, “From a cashmere perspective I select for increased fibre volume on each animal as it costs just as much to feed low volume animals as it does high volume animals, assuming all other fibre traits are also acceptable. It makes more financial sense to feed fewer animals for the same production of fibre and since the only thing that makes a cashmere goat a cashmere goat is its cashmere fibre, enhancing this trait as the primary consideration is my priority but at the same time I want to select for animals who are maintaining cashmere production for their entire lives.

From a structure perspective I am trying to select for sound balanced animals which have a good frame that can support a good musculature. Ex-

cellent feet are a must in any bucks used on the farm or purchased as potential sires.

Good health and longevity are also important. I do annual disease screenings of my herd and pay for disease testing prior to purchase, and typically quarantine for at least three months upon arrival and they have to pass a second disease screen before coming out of quarantine.”

Animals in her herd are culled if otherwise healthy when body traits and

production traits are not up

to par. Each year Roving

Winds raises their mini-

mum harvested fibre

volume criteria. They

do also try and raise our

criteria for meat traits and

structure traits and foot/hof qual-

ity. Because they breed for colour lines, some colours are further along in those traits than others so there is still variability in the herd because of that.

Also typically too low a volume of fibre and too short a fleece are her primary decision makers. However she has culled excellent volume and length animals for fence crawling, being aggressive with other goats and for having really poor structural traits or feet.

“We strive for excellent conformation but I have been known to allow a poor framed, slow maturing doe with excellent fibre traits a chance to redeem herself through her progeny. I generally give ANY doe three chances to prove herself. If she can not produce kids at least as good as, but preferably better than, herself having been paired with three different bucks, no matter how nice her fibre is she is usually gone. I won't sell these does to others.”

They try to sell animals that they would be happy to keep in breeding production here. “Realizing that we ask buyers what their intended end usage for the fibre is and their goals in cashmere and we find a group of goats that best suits their needs, both long and short term. Culls are culls and we don't sell them, but there is the odd exception of an the animal that has defied the odds to survive

*“It costs just as much to feed
low volume animals as it does high
volume animals”*

Becky Bemus

“Genetic Selection...” from page 12

something, it just seems wrong to me to then slaughter that animal, so we find pet homes for those if we can not carry them on here. Sometimes I sell animals I don't want to sell, but there is a bond with the new buyer and that particular animal that overrides my need to retain a doe. I would also sell the superior doe to someone, in most cases, to try to start them out better than I felt I did, as I have more diversity of genetics than most people starting out. Chances are I can recreate that animal a whole lot easier than they can. Helping people to have early success in their breeding program for me means that person is likely to stay in cashmere goats for the duration and that those animals will have a long and happy life. I tend to grill potential purchasers before agreeing to sell to them because I really like my goats and I want to know they have the right home. Sometimes I talk people out of the sale but as sad as it sounds I would rather I had to make the hard choice to end an animal's life because I can not keep them on here, knowing they had a good life even if it was short, than to send them on to endure uncertainty and potential abuse and neglect that is often the result of making a quick sale to someone who was not prepared and finds out a month or so later they don't really want them."

Addressing which decisions are governed by fiber



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"Select for fiber diameter, length, style and color, preferably gray and white. A large framed goat that is healthy with correct conformation is a goal as is good attitude. "... Cull doesn't mean selling to another breeder; culling means selling for meat."

Linda Fox

with each of them, twinning every year since. Usually they get an awesome fast maturing body too. So she is still here and her fibre is still fine and her volume is now acceptable. Her offspring are 10X's better than she is, overall, so I am glad to have had that accident. But in general –and this sounds horrible, I have enough animals who are as good as or better than I can afford to make the

odd mistake in culling that perhaps I shouldn't have. I

don't agonize about my culling choices as much as I once did. I mean I still do but usually once they are gone I can move on. Although I have two

bucks hides here that I still kick myself over I have

to remind myself that I culled one for not having a good body and the other I really did not like the shape of his scrotum and I can repeat the breeding at least on that one."

Bucks have always been selected primarily for fibre traits and good feet, but more recently I am weighting more and more on good meat/body traits as well. Sometimes I still retain those who seem to be able to have good structure and have excellent fleece to see if the body comes on later if they are a particular line breeding or colour I really want. Most don't make it past 18 months if I have not seen a real change by then towards what I was looking for.

When asked, "How closed is your herd?" she responded. "I have imported bucks over the years

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“Genetic Selection...” from page 13

but have not introduced a doe since 2005 and will not do so. Buck risks are manageable with my inspection, testing routine and my on farm management of bucks to non kidding or kids pasture areas of the farm, but does are too risky. Once an animal is sold they can not come back here, end of story. We do not and would never offer buck services. Does can be bred before they leave our farm but nothing comes back here.”

“When we started here the main breeder for a long time bred with the philosophy of not exceeding an inbreeding coefficient of 3.25%. As you might imagine with limited cashmere genetics in North America and even more so in Canada, this meant in a very short time everything was crossed to everything else, essentially leaving nothing unique genetically. After we had evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the animals we started with, we chose one line we had seen the most success with and started line breeding those animals. Thankfully, our line was different than the one that two other breeders who were beginning to line breed in Canada were using. That meant that at least three farms were working on three different genetic line breeding programs. This was a very positive thing for salvaging the genetics here in Canada. At that point we began importing bucks and even in that we are working on two separate lines and inbreeding a bit with those lines. We monitor the outcomes and then tend to make similar choices, pedigree wise, to establish some more unique groups of genetics within our population. Some are still outcrosses and can be used in different breeding groups on any given year and others are line breeding in 3 directions. We have also tried to import genetics different from what other farms had imported so we can continue to have some unique lines in the future should no more outside genetics be available. We try to follow the ALBC approach and treat our animals as rare breed animals. I think realistically we should admit they are, at least here in Canada, but I would suggest considering them to be rare in North America as a whole. However, because we also breed for colour, colour determines in some cases the final choice. In general



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www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org

NY Sheep & Wool Festival
October 18-19
at Rhinebeck, NY (Bldg. 22D)
www.sheepandwool.com

the line bred animals are giving by far the most consistent results, moreso than we saw in the beginning. I suspect this consistency to reflect a fair bit of line breeding in our selected bucks' backgrounds.”

Important criteria she uses for selecting for inbreeding are summarized as follows. “When line breeding we are usually looking to maintain fleece traits and hopefully enhance any body weaknesses in one of the pair. Ideally we have two animals we are really happy with and are looking simply for them to duplicate themselves. Through this they would be setting their traits as the dominant genes to influence the next generation in the direction I want my herd moving in, more consistently. However we have had a buck in the past who although beautiful himself seemed to be a culmination of recessive traits and as such he could not improve any doe. In cattle they would describe him as a bull to reproduce a good cow, or one who leaves very little of himself behind. Since one group of our initially purchased does were very line bred already we were able to use him to reinforce the fibre traits but the does dominant genetics did all the work in terms of recreating herself. Add the luck of a good dominant foundation buck who produced excellent daughters from those line bred does who could be paired with this recessive buck in a line breeding scenario based on a common stellar ancestor and

“Genetic Selection...” from page 14

sometimes we get lucky. We saw immediate progress and it taught us how line breeding works. One needs to cull carefully though, as it can also bring our hidden recessives which might not be something one wants to breed into one's herd so be prepared to cull if it does not work out. You can get the best of the best, but potentially also the worst of the worst traits. Some horned sheep breeders will purposely breed a ram to their daughters to see if any horn malformations exist before using a ram more widely on their flock.

Usually I am trying to set fibre traits or dominants for body traits or good feet when I line breed by creating groups within the herd of more related and less related animals. I can also use line breeding to try to establish a generation of more genetically distant animals from how the past breedings have started to send the herd, not trying to maintain overall genetic diversity within the herd. I mean on paper I can breed for what I want, but once I cull and select, sometimes things went in a direction I had not intended. Then I have to breed in a direction I might not have originally to maintain the diversity overall.”

She has crossed out to another breed of goat also having had some Pygmy/cashmere outcrosses. These were mostly by accident although she does have a line of smaller, almost pure cashmere producing animals who are more suited to the pet market (due to their general mild demeanor as compared to that of a pygmy. She adds, “We do not market these as cashmere goats, but they are winter hardy and they do have nice harvestable fibre. My pygmies like many dairy/cashmere crosses have always produced beautiful fine crimped fibre but typically it was too short to qualify as cashmere. I do have one very large cashmere/Pygmy doe with the most beautiful shade of silver blue grey fibre and the nicest histogram

I have ever seen, and yes I have sold stellar offspring from her but with full acknowledgement that there is pygmy blood in there.”

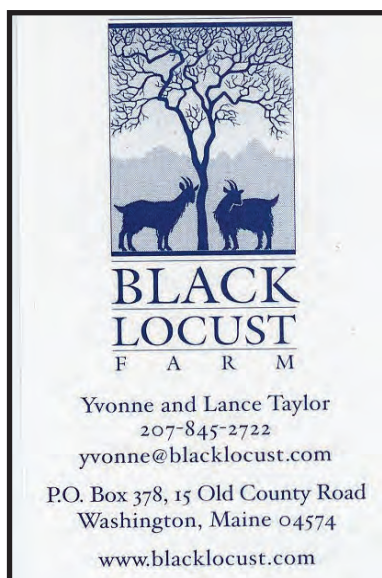
She was told by some long time breeders in the past that they knew for a fact pygmies were used in the original expansion of the genetics and of course Kris McGuire's (ed note: former owner of Capricorn Cashmere) experimental herd used dairy crosses to enhance milk traits and the physical size of cashmere's years ago. Since cashmere are not an official breed, as long as breeders are selecting for animals that meet a standard for cashmere, Becky is fine with that. She would just like to see the heritage be tracked to reflect that.

So does she outcross regularly on purpose? No, but will she use good cashmere producing animals who happen to bring along some more unique genetic material to my herd, “Yup! “

Roving Winds owners have friends that run a pure group for cashmere production and then cross with dairy goats for meat animals and the stellar growing meat animals are then retained and bred to a terminal meat cross for their market kids. They are not selling these does as cashmere or making any claims and it is excellent for their meat business which helps support the cash-

mere's in their lives, but Becky knows that some would frown on that. Ideally cashmere's could do it all themselves but she thinks with all the mixed opinions we, as cashmere breeders are a long way from that goal and we all need to stay in business in the meantime.

She has also been told by friends who used to raise Angoras, that the dairy/Angora cross for meat market kids are the best. She has some does whose kids are not stellar ever, but their fibre is amazing. These potential crosses to dairy could be an additional opportunity to generate more market kids, assuming no better overall cashmere doe and maintaining a certain herd number, for fibre production purposes. Why not take advantage



“Genetic Selection...” from page 15

and cross those does with dairy goats for market kids?

In my case I would never introduce a dairy goat to my herd for potential health reasons, but I would love to see AI developed more so that people could enhance their meat potential now without any risk. I would LOVE to see the cashmere industry develop to a point that sires were available freely through AI as I think we could make huge overall gains. I also think it would encourage more people to breed cashmere's if they did not have to keep a buck.

In reply to the question of what she looks for in new bucks Becky comments, “I think the answer to that changes over time as a herds breeding program progresses and (hopefully) improvements on some traits are realized. So for us at the moment and after 10 years of breeding and importing bucks, I think we have cracked the fibre consistency nut although I am still struggling with maintaining coarse guard hair. We are trying to shift the herd to producing a consistent minimum 2” long or greater fibre and maintain the increase in fibre volumes we have been seeing. SO aside from the cliché “I want it all in a buck” which I do, but there is no perfect buck, I look for one who is perfect for me.”

So reinforcing volume, excellent feet, ease of combing and hopefully producing daughters with good fibre length are initial considerations. Now her focus is shifting to better meat capacity/muscling. Traditionally she has found the increased volume, but it usually came on a poor meat frame. She is super critical on their bucklings and their potential as breeding bucks here or elsewhere. As a result, 99.9% of her bucks in the last 10 years have not made the cut. In the last couple years after the imports and line breeding, she is starting to see some animals who almost have it all. She is now trying some of these

guys on her herd to see if they can produce as well as and hopefully more consistently as their sires and replace their sire. “I mean you don’t move a breeding program forward if you never replace the bucks and if you don’t find a good enough replacement for the sire was he really that good a sire?”

She will continue to import when she can afford it because she thinks at some point she won’t have access to new genetics, but as mentioned above if she does not manage those new genetics accordingly, with sound line breeding practices, they will be lost and that serves no one, especially these animals we all love so dearly.

How much does she see in reproducible traits in one generation that may be masked in the very next generation and then reappear in the later generations?

Her response- Line bred, dominant animals will reproduce beautifully in one generation most of the time no matter the traits of the animal they were paired with. However I have been able to bring back lost traits in a couple generations by studying the pedigrees of the animals in question identifying the animals in the pedigree that possessed the traits I want to bring out and then strategically line breeding on that animal over time.

An outcross between two line bred animals can be as consistent as a line breeding scenario if the animals outcrossed possess the same set of desirable traits. My goal when looking for my next imported buck, will be to find a buck that possesses the best meat and structure traits I can find and is a line bred buck. Of course I would love stellar fibre traits too, but I am finding I can improve those easier than I can breed for a meat body, so personal bias always comes into those considerations. We all need to outcross now and then and if we don’t get the results we want we can still use the best of those animals to keep us moving in and

“Bucks should have good conformation and good style to their fiber. If they also have good volume of fiber; that is a plus.”

Yvonne Taylor

“Genetic Selection...” from page 16

out of relatedness by then crossing that animals back in to a line breeding scenario to bring back out the traits we seemed to have lost. Those line crosses as outlined in ALBC strategies can flip between line breeding group A and B and serve us well over the years to maintain our flow “in and out of relatedness” if we don’t have access to unrelated genetics.

“The cashmere goat already has the best fiber, and many people prefer its meat to that of the Boer goat.” Yvonne Taylor

Part of my interest in colour genetics is that they allow us to see uniqueness’s in the current animals that might be traceable back to an ancestor we are interested in recreating in the future. I am also learning, though, that some colours represent a heterozygous expression of the genetics (turns out I have a lot of hetero in my herd) and from a rare breeds genetic diversity perspective, those animals are carrying more unique genetics than those who fall into the more commonly expected colours. Plus those funky patterns and colours in the culls are much more quickly saleable hides than the standard colour patterns.

As far as strategies, Tom Syfan (Ed Note: Three Mill Ranch, TX) told me he always paired his best does with his best billies, next best with next best and in good years third best with third best (bad years those groups all got culled). Animals may change the group they are in in any particular year based on the quality of subsequent animals in the herd. In reading on breeding strategies, it seems he was breeding towards the norms of each group and creating less variability in each group and therefore more consistent end results.

The is the same idea as breeding your coarse does to your super fine bucks. The offspring will naturally gravitate towards the mean micron wise, but they can fall anywhere along a very large micron range. So an improvement can be realized but a lot of culling needs to take place. Where as if you are breeding similar entities with a more narrow range of potential outcomes, you will get more consistency overall, still averaging towards the

mean, but with less extremes to either end. I have seen this in effect over the years here with regards to micron.

I have had some start off in the medium range and many would have culled them but what I had learned from their having been line bred was that these animals would never change over time. Since I/we sell fibre by weight, I am fine with that, assum-

ing all other traits are acceptable. Those who select their keepers from kids that are below a certain micron may be shooting themselves in the foot if they have animals who are maintaining the fineness over time. They won’t necessarily produce enough weight in their fleece to cover their expenses. I mean ideally we have both but it is all still cashmere and it has not been proven that 12 micron fleece is necessarily softer than a 15 or even 17 micron fleece. I would suggest micron is only one factor in that equation. I have my theories. In anything under our skin’s ability to perceive sensation it is very difficult to feel variances and I have seen very fine fleeces that felt like Brillo and coarse fleeces that were like warm butter.

Anne Repaske, Stonycrest Farm, Star Tannery, Virginia

Anne recently commented on their farm’s past successful breeding program. “ We had a division of labor on our farm. I handled all health problems - vaccinations, worming, hoofs and when to give Pepto-Bismol. Roy handled all breeding decisions. I really knew very little about how he made his decisions. He would have huge charts recording the genealogy of our whole herd. They would be spread out on the dining room table for weeks before the breeding season. Roy used the methods described by B.J.Restall and W.A/Pattie in Breeding Cashmere Goats, a publication put out by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, North Coast Agricultural Institute and the Department of Farm Animal Medicine and Production, University of Queensland, Australia.

“Genetic Selection...” from page 17

We had a closed herd. We started with two bucks and three pregnant does, each of which had been impregnated by a different sire. Roy diligently figured out what percent relatedness the goats had to each other and made his decisions from that. I believe his method was pretty successful. Even now one of the goats from our farm is recognized as Grand Champion in fleece competitions.”

So how does this information boil down? Is there any clear way to make sense of inbreeding, line breeding and outcrossing to improve the Cashmere goat? Outcrossing is in itself material for another paper and doesn't seem to be in the best interest of refining the cashmere-bearing goat population. Can we truly improve the North American herd's fiber and confirmation while maintaining the current restricted blood lines in our small farm herds that are relatively far apart geographically? You want to improve the traits of your herd: fiber, body, feet, teeth, temperament, etc. You want to breed viable, sound and healthy stock having a particular trait set. Are you willing to take a risk on making mistakes in judgment in breeding?

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fibre volume on each animal as
it costs just as much to feed low
volume animals as it does high
volume animals, assuming all
other fibre traits are also
acceptable.”*
Becky Bemus

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CGA Annual Fleece Competition

Spring Gate Farm, Barboursville, VA

Saturday, October 11, 2014



The Cashmere Goat Association is having its annual Fleece Competition on Saturday, October 11th, 2014 to be held at Spring Gate Farm, the home of Jane McKinney in Barboursville, VA.

The Cashmere Goat Association Fleece Competition at

Spring Gate Farm, Barboursville, VA

Saturday, October 11th, 2014

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 our shows. He is well respected as a judge of not only Cashmere but Angora goats and judged the Cashmere and Eastern Angora and Mohair Association Fall Show at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival in previous years. 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 conducting a workshop on Sunday, October 12th where he will be assessing fiber and conformation on live goats as well as reviewing the results of the fleece competition.

Cashmere Goat Association, Fleece Competition, 2014

Entries should be made On-line at www.cashmeregoatassociation.org with payment via Pay Pal. Otherwise, checks payable in US dollars should be made out to the Cashmere Goat 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 October 1st, 2014!

Fleece Competition Rules:

Entry Fee is \$8.00 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 October 1st, 2014!

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. be combed
5. be placed in a large ziplock bag or bag's 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 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 October 1st, 2014!

**Cashmere Goat Association
Educational Workshop
Sunday, October 12, 2014**

We have a unique opportunity to have Dr. Joe David Ross come to Virginia to judge a Cashmere Goat Association Fleece Competition on October 11th as well as a Fleece and Confirmation workshop on Sunday, October 12th at Spring Gate Farm, 6675 Fredericksburg Rd. Barboursville, VA. 22923
Dr. Ross is one of the most respected Cashmere and Angora judges in the United States. He has served as president of the Mohair Council of America, the American Angora Goat Breeders Association, and the Cashmere America Co-Op.

Registrations should be made On-line at www.cashmeregoatassociation.org with payment via PayPal. Otherwise, checks payable in US dollars should be made out to the Cashmere Goat Association should be sent along with a hard copy of registration form mailed to:

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

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

Registrations are due on or before October 1st, 2014!


This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your goats to be evaluated by Dr. Ross. This would involve transporting your goats to Spring Gate Farm on Saturday October 11th, 2014. All goats would need to be in place by 5pm. Bucks would need to be tied up or kept in your trailer overnight. All goats from out of state would need to have appropriate health papers. Please also bring last years fleece if you still have it. Joe David will be conducting a workshop where he will be assessing fiber and conformation on live goats as well as reviewing the results of the fleece competition.

There will be a charge of \$8 per goat with a maximum of 3 goats per attendee. The cost of the workshop on Sunday would be \$50 which includes lunch.



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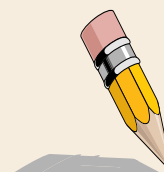


Cashmere Goat Association

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



Stone Harvest Farm's Gallium is the Star of the
 Petersham 4th of July Parade



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

Anne Repaske, editor
 cashmere@shentel.net