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Goat Association

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

## A Message from the President

Hello everybody,

After a long and hard winter it is a relief to be able to open the gate to the yard from the barn area and let the goats stream out. They mow the lawn and go on to the weeds along the dirt road. Passersby are delighted by the antics of the kids, and sometimes I feel I should charge a fee for the show. If I let the horses out like that, they would be gone for miles after a few minutes, but not the goats - they stick around. And, wonder of wonders, they don't jump the fence into the garden. After a while they decide it is time for their grain, and they line up outside the gate. The pasture is green, but that can wait till the afternoon.

The board is busy as usual. The data base has progressed to the stage where board members will fill in data for 5 goats each, and we will see how that works out. We attempted to survey our venerable judges on some aspects of the data collection, and about half responded and were quite supportive of our endeavor. The shows are coming up - fleeces at Springtide Farm with Peter Goth as judge and live show at Tunbridge, VT, as usual. We will also, like last year, have a presence at the Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, N.Y. Christine M-H is busy with fund raising, while other

members are tackling issues for future issues of Hoofprints ranging from the workings of American fiber mills to an in-depth comparison of American versus Chinese/Mongolian/Afghan cashmere.



We have resigned ourselves to continue "underground" for the time being and not be counted by the goat census as a separate group of goats - but we are working on getting more of a presence. We are hoping that a registry will help us be more "legitimate" (or mainstream?) and visible, so that we are not considered just a "fringe" interest group enjoying hardy goats and exquisite fiber.

Hope to see you and/or your fleeces at the shows!

Yvonne

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## Counting Noses

By Maggie Porter

How many goats are raised in the US for cashmere production?

I don't have a clue. Do you?

For what it's worth, neither does the US Department of Agriculture. Also, for what it's worth, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which doesn't monitor cashmere producing goats in our country, has a very good idea of how many goats are raised for cashmere production in Asia. Google "Cashmere Value Chain Analysis Afghanistan" for USAID's overview and analysis of cashmere production not just in Afghanistan, but China, Mongolia and Iran. Our government is busy counting cashmere goats abroad, but not here at home.

Should we, as an association, even care? If so, why? Or if not, why not?

Our last issue of Hoofprints included an article by Ann Taylor querying why the USDA Census of Agriculture includes **zero** questions about US cashmere production. Gary Keough, a statistician with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), sent me the following email this past March:

"The NASS 2017 Census Content Team met earlier this week. Unfortunately the majority of the team members don't feel the cashmere fiber population is large enough to warrant a question on the 2017 Census of Agriculture form. Maybe if you, the NWCA, and any other cashmere association in the US could come up with a rough idea of cashmere production and value of production within the next couple months there may be a possibility for the question to be added."

This email begs the question: how would the USDA *know* what US cashmere production is and what the value of our harvest is if it doesn't have hard numbers to support its conclusions? We can all call around to goat associations, goat farms, and mills that process cashmere, and thereby cobble together a rough number of US cashmere producing goats. The USDA, however, is uniquely qualified to do this for us. In fact, the USDA is aware of its special role in amassing data (see question #2, below).

The following web site, [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Help/FAQS/General\\_FAQS/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Help/FAQS/General_FAQS/) provides the USDA's responses to 24 "frequently asked questions" about its survey. Three of these questions are presented below:

### 1. What is the Census of Agriculture:

The Census of Agriculture accounts for all US farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices and expenditures. [Emphasis added]

**All farms but not our farms!**

### 2. Why is the Census of Agriculture important?

The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the Census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture, and they can help influence the decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture for years to come. [emphasis added]

### 3. Who uses the Census of Agriculture data?

Census data are used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities – federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and many others.

[-Farmers and ranchers can use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.](#)

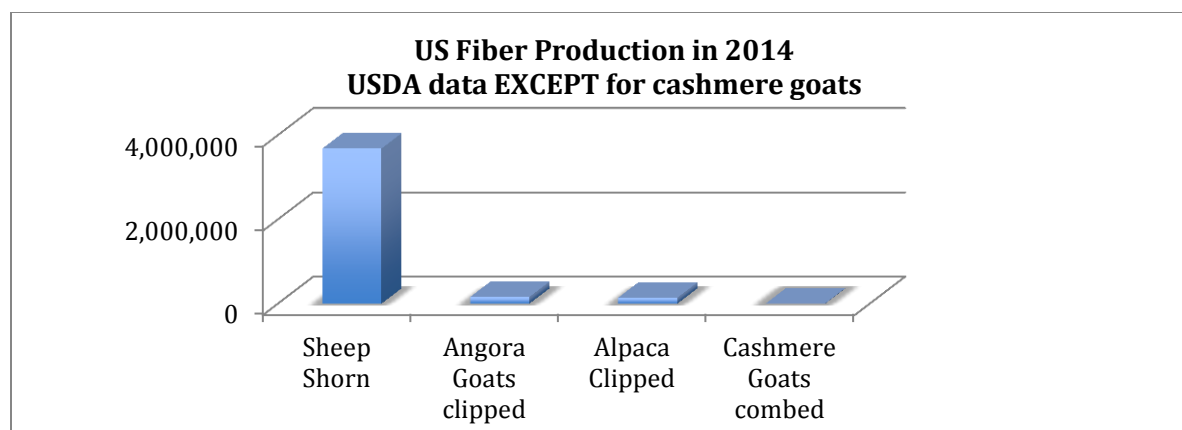
-Companies and cooperatives use the facts and figures to determine the locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers.

-Community planners use the information to target needed services to rural residents.

[-Legislators use the numbers from the Census when shaping farm policies and programs.](#)

## WHERE OUR GOATS FIT INTO THE OVERALL GOAT EQUATION

If we compare the number of cashmere goats in the US with the number of sheep, alpaca and angora goats raised for mohair, it's obvious our numbers are miniscule. In the chart below I assume that there are 10,000 goats in the United States that are combed for cashmere. (This number is entirely random. I challenge readers to come up with a better one!)



## HOW WE GET FROM NO DATA TO SOME DATA

Mr. Keough advised me, in a later email, that cashmere producers should report the value of their cashmere fiber sales in the “Miscellaneous Livestock Products” section of the Census of Agriculture. Cashmere would then join embryos, fur and pelts, horns, manure sold, semen, breeding fees and other animal specialties including sheep and goat milk sales.

In addition, cashmere producers should record their animals in both the Census of Agriculture and NASS’s annual January Sheep and Goat survey “meat and all other goats.” Cashmere itself would not be included in this count, but over time (if cashmere producers accurately fill out the surveys) we could get an idea of how many cashmere goats are out there.

We might, as an association, keep track of our own numbers. At this writing I’m in contact with some western cashmere goat producers (some are not

affiliated with the NWCA); this should bolster our awareness of who’s raising goats in this country. For example, Jeffrey Monteiro originally referenced Lyn Riffel of [Wild West Fiber Mill](#) in Colorado; I contacted her, and she gave me about ten names, including those of Ann Bertschy (200+ goats) and Lani Malmberg of EWE4IC Ecological Services. Lani runs a herd of 1,000, mostly Spanish cashmere goats – so there are some large producers out west. See [goatseatweeds.com](#) for more about Lani’s work.

Finally, if we compare the number of US cashmere producing goats with the number of these animals in China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Iran or even New Zealand, we become a statistical nullity. So what? We have to start somewhere. We are a fledgling industry, with a luxury product. We are serious about what we’re doing.

So let’s start counting, and perhaps in a few years the USDA will start counting our animals as well.



## TOP GOAT SPOTLIGHT!

### GRINGO

Yvonne Taylor Black Locust Farm Washington ME

Aegisthus came from Lydia Ratcliffe's farm in Vermont, and his sire was the famous white Chinaman in Australia. He had no name when he arrived. We saw a Greek tragedy around that time, where the original Aegisthus appeared, and we were told it meant "raised on goat milk". He was silver colored, and the friendliest buck we have ever had. At one point he stayed with our farm helper Phil. They were both a bit overweight, and they used to take long walks together. When Aegisthus died, Phil had his likeness tattooed on his arm.



**Aegisthus**

Pollux was his son with BOGF Batwing. Like his sire he was silver, and his fleece was best in show at the ECA fleece competition in 1998. Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth of Springtide Farm had made a down payment on him just before the show, and off he went, and was thus one of their foundation bucks. He was not a big buck, even though he had a big fleece, so Peter and Wendy ended up importing huge silver bucks from the West to add size to their herd - but that is another story, that I hope we will read about later.



**BLF Pollux**

Eventually Pollux ended up back here. He was as friendly as his sire. In his dotage he managed to breed BLF Verismo, who was visiting for the purpose from Bellevue Springs Farm in Connecticut.



The result was BSF Homer, third friendly buck in this silver line. He only took one prize (at our local Fiber Frolic) before he succumbed to meningeal worm. Before that, though, he managed to spend some time at Sara Faull's and Genio Bertin's Mandala Farm in Maine, where he met the white

MDF Dinah. Her parents were from our farm, but I never had the pleasure of meeting her. The result was a set of twin bucks, one silver and one white.

They came to stay here age 3 months, like so many other little bucks, whose owners did not want the smelly creatures on their farm year round, potentially upsetting all manner of breeding plans.

Being from MANDala Farm, I called one Grey Man and the other White Man. When fibers were assessed, only White Man stayed, but he could not possibly have that as his official name. Sara came up with "Gringo", since he was a White male in slightly foreign environs.

## MDF Gringo

**DOB: April 2010**

**Tag#: Avid chip**

**Sex: Buck**

**Birth#: Twin**

**Color: White**

<p>Sire: <b>BSF Homer</b></p> <p>Color: Silver</p> <p>Age: 1.5 - Terry Simm MFD 16 - Fine, Style 3, 2+ on neck, 1.25</p>	<p>Sire: <b>BLF Pollux</b></p> <p>Color: Silver</p> <p>Age: 1 - James Barton MFD Fine, Style 3, 1 in</p> <p>Age: 2 - Bronwyn Schautze MFD fine, style: Excellent, long</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Verismo</b></p> <p>Color: Silver</p>	<p>Sire: <b>LLC Aegisthus</b></p> <p>Color: Silver</p> <p>Age: 6 - Terry Simms MFD Med, Style 2+</p> <p>Dam: <b>BOGF Batwing</b></p> <p>Color: Black</p> <p>Age: 6 - James Barton MFD Med, Style 2+</p>	<p>Sire: <b>LCB Chinaman</b> 0203</p> <p>WHT, Age 2.5 MFD 16.1</p> <p>Dam: <b>LCB 0412</b></p> <p>Grey, Age 5 MFD fine, Style 3</p> <p>Sire: <b>LCB Coultard</b> 0552</p> <p>MFD 14.5, CV 21.8</p> <p>Dam: <b>LLC Raisone</b> CB45</p> <p>Black</p>
<p>Dam: <b>MDF Dinah</b></p> <p>Color: White</p>	<p>Sire: <b>BLF Gingerman</b></p> <p>Color: White</p> <p>Age: 1 - Kris McGuire MFD 3 - Fine-, Style 2+, 5cm</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Petrushka</b></p> <p>Color: Black, white points</p> <p>Age: 8mos - Wes Ackley MFD fine, style: 2+/-, 1.75"</p>	<p>Sire: <b>STC Will</b></p> <p>Color: Silver</p> <p>Age: 5 MFD Fine/Med, Style 2+ long</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Carmen</b></p> <p>Color: Black</p> <p>Age: 1 Wes Ackley MFD Fine, Style 2+, 1.25"</p> <p>Sire: <b>ASB Cruz</b></p> <p>Color: White</p> <p>Age: 3 - Kris McGuire MFD Fine, Style: 3-, 6cm's</p> <p>Dam: <b>BGS Blanche</b></p> <p>Color: White</p>	<p>Sire: <b>JRW Silver Bart</b></p> <p>Silver, 9 MFD 17.08, CV 24.7 - 75.5</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Speckelbell Twist</b></p> <p>Sire: <b>MLB Imagine</b></p> <p>Black 3/TS-Fine, Style 2, 1.5"</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Monica</b></p> <p>Silver</p> <p>Sire: <b>BPC Easter</b></p> <p>White</p> <p>Dam: <b>BPC Della</b></p> <p>Sire: <b>Unknown</b></p> <p>Dam: <b>Unknown</b></p>
		<p>Sire: <b>CCB Zoroaster</b></p> <p>Color: Black, white fringes</p> <p>Age: 5 - Terry Simms MFD Med, Style 3, 1.25</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Coppelia</b></p> <p>Color: Silver</p> <p>Age: 2: MFD Med, Style 1, 5cm</p>	<p>Sire: <b>LCB Chinaman</b></p> <p>White</p> <p>Dam: <b>LCB 728</b></p> <p>Black/white fringes</p> <p>Sire: <b>MLB Imagine</b></p> <p>Black 3/TS-Fine, Style 2, 1.5"</p> <p>Dam: <b>BLF Giselle</b></p> <p>Silver, 2: JB- Med, Style 2, 2"</p>

We were having a problem with slightly narrow butts on our goats - but here was finally one with good conformation! The judge agreed. Wendy Pieh named Gringo Grand Champion Buck at the Vermont ECA live show in 2011, when he was a year old, and he was promptly snapped up by a farmer further south. His fleece took Reserve Champion at the ECA fleece competition in Virginia that same year.

Gringo was gone for two years, during which time he sired many white little kids, but the farmer eventually decided to concentrate on dairy goats, and Gringo returned. He was as handsome as ever, and in addition he had developed a keen intelligence and amazing athletic abilities, which he put to use getting through, under, or over our electric fences. Unfortunately we had no does he could breed, because he was too closely related to our white does. Fortunately the bucks were

housed a mile away from the does, so his antics did not work out the way he had no doubt planned.



**MDF Gringo**

We combed out a beautiful fleece in the spring, which proceeded to take several awards in 2014:

Becky Bemus awarded him Champion Buck Fleece at the Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition

Linda Fox and Diana Mullins gave him Reserve Grand Champion Buck at NWCA Fleece Competition in Dallas, OR

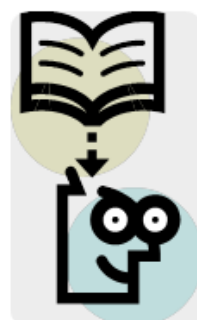
Joe David Ross gave him Champion Senior Buck at the ECA Fleece Competition in VA.

We forgave him his antics.

That fall he was so busy breeding at 4 different farms, that he was very well behaved. Sister Mary Elizabeth at Community of St Mary was very pleased with his performance, and Hatie Clingerman at DownEast Fiber claimed she had so many white kids she would have to go out and count them if I wanted a number. He even returned home to Mandala Farms, producing 4 white, 4 silver and 2 black kids who are reportedly growing out nicely.

Gringo is currently residing at Stone Harvest Farm, MA, from where Maryanne Reynolds reported that (as of this writing) they expected kids next week. He is behaving himself, and though still a bit skittish, he is settling down.

I hope that the "friendly genes" from his sire, grandsire, and great grandsire will prevail and that Gringo will produce many white, friendly, handsome kids with fabulous fiber! The ladies in his pedigree did, of course, provide as many genes as the bucks, but I did not meet all of them, and this was, after all, an article about bucks.



**We help each other by  
sharing our knowledge and  
experience. Please send us  
letters, pictures or news  
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## Nora Kravis of Chianti Cashmere

By Christine McBrearty- Hulse

Membership in the Cashmere Goat Association provides numerous benefits for remote Cashmere goat owners. This, in reality, is most of us. Many members I have had the pleasure of meeting are always searching for additional knowledge in raising cashmeres, whether it's about breeding selection, micron counts, worm load research, fences, feed, or combing tools. Out of curiosity, two years ago I started searching for Cashmere goat farms globally. It's true, I am farm obsessed. Nothing gets me more excited than talking to farmers and learning how their farms tick. I was looking to get a more international perspective about Cashmere goat farms. To my surprise there aren't that many!

I had assumed that cashmere goat farms are peppered throughout Europe, just as in the United States. Scotland and England have a handful of established herds, but very few exist in central Europe. (Central Asia and the Middle East are another story.) I did, however, find one gem of a farm in Italy. Nora Kravis owns and operates Chianti Cashmere in Radda, a small town located in the Chianti region of Tuscany. Nora raises a herd of about 200 plus cashmere goats. (The plus being the 50-60 kids to be born this spring.) Nora's cashmere "roots" actually began by meeting folks like Yvonne Taylor, CGA president and Black Locust Farm proprietor, and Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth, of Springtide Farm, many years ago. Nora is a former New Yorker and a licensed veterinarian who caught the cashmere goat bug while working in Italy. Chianti Cashmere was a featured story in the *Wild Fibers* Spring 2007 issue. Since then much

has changed in the world of cashmere, as Nora will be glad to tell you.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Nora during my visit to her farm in early April. What is most striking about this enterprising woman is how she has maintained the highest standards of cashmere production. It doesn't take long to see that Nora's herd of cashmeres are quality animals from their fiber to their amazing docile temperament. (However, her twelve Abruzzo working dogs really won the affections of my heart during this trip!) So while you read this short interview with Nora picture yourself in Tuscany, under the sun, combing goats, and feeling right at home!



***You refer to sustainable cashmere on your website. What does this mean?***

*Sustainable to me means producing more than my goats are consuming and having a positive effect on the environment. Goats are foragers, so benefits include increasing usable land, soil fertility*

and wildlife diversity. In a study done by a group of agricultural student researching our pastures over a two year time span, we were able to confirm that as goats browse noxious plants, the number and types of natural legumes increases. Goats break up the soil without compacting it, which translates into an increase in wildflowers, insects and, by extension, the bird population.

In essence, by substituting mowing with grazing, beneficial plants thrive. Mowing gives weeds, whose roots are deeper, an advantage over useful plants, so every time we allow grazing instead of mowing we help a whole mini-ecosystem of “good” plants survive.

**Could you explain what your production process is and who is your market?**

I send my fiber to a mill in Italy and then to another company that spins it into lace weight yarn for knitters and weaving. I have used hand weavers but it's difficult to find experienced weavers with the patience and the looms suitable for working with cashmere. A good percentage of my market is hand knitters. Cashmere is a luxury product and it should remain such. More recently, I have partnered with a specific pattern designer (Lee Gant) who is working to create a complete line of baby accessories (small projects for the eager knitter), especially interesting for the end-user thanks to the 100% traceability and non-toxicity of our finished products.

I believe you need to educate people about where their fiber is coming from, how the animals are raised, and how it is processed: much of the cashmere from countries like Mongolia and China, for example, is removed chemically from carcasses from the abattoir. How many of our consumers know this?

Note: Nora ships her products internationally from her website and has an established shop on the farm where she conducts classes and brings in guest speakers and fiber artists. Her products vary from yarn to finished products such as baby hats, booties, handbags, clutches, and scarves/ wraps. Woven and felted finished products make up the rest of the line.

**What is your most challenging obstacle with your farm?**

It would have to be the Italian bureaucracy. Everything requires a permit. Livestock operations are gradually disappearing, in part due to bureaucracy and in part due to high running costs. Add to that the presence of wolves, who are a protected species, whose numbers have increased over the last 25 years, and it is a loss for many farmers to stay in business

**What are you looking for in a quality animal?**

I am looking a healthy, rustic goat who is problem free, with finer fiber and more yield per animal and more recently, color.





*I had 96 births last year and almost all were trouble free and every generation has improved markedly since our beginnings in 1995; my benchmark for keeping an animal in the breeding line is >300 grams of raw fiber under 15 microns per year.*

***You have a unique cashmere color in your herd with Cappuccino that you call red. What is your breeding plan to make this unique color more available?***

*I am working with a geneticist from the University of Tehran, in Iran. In Mongolia this color cashmere is common, but it is tied to the region (and presumably to minerals in the soil); ours is transmitted genetically and this season we will be able to identify the genes responsible. Cappuccino is the major buck who carries these genes and I have bred him to my light browns this year. (I was able to see Cappuccino's processed fiber which had a beautiful pinkish tint.)*



***What is your greatest pleasure?***

*It would be seeing the results of the whole process from the very beginning to the final product, especially the improvement in our herd over the years....also, teaching people what I have learned is particularly rewarding. Producing a creative fiber product from start to finish gives you a sense of worth, pride and satisfaction*

***See what going on at Nora's farm at [www.chianticashmere.com](http://www.chianticashmere.com).***

***Plans are in motion for a goat/knitter farm stay with Nora in 2017. Please e-mail me at [mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com) if you are interesting in joining our adventure . This trip will include a fiber mill visit, connecting with international guests of the fiber world to teach us about their own research and production. Plus many more fiberlicious experiences!***



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## Introducing the American Goat Federation

The CGA recently received an invitation to explore membership in the American Goat Federation (AGF). The Board decided that we do not have available funds at this time to join as an organization. But, due to all that AGF offers, we wanted to bring the AGF to your individual attention. Both organizations and individuals can join.

AGF aims to promote the development of all segments of the goat industry including dairy, meat and fiber across the United States, by encouraging sound public policy, enhancing production and marketing of goat products, and promoting research beneficial to membership organizations and all producers. The AGF states that it “works to unify, improve and advance the American goat industry in an effort to assist producers achieve maximum success.”

The AGF's Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry National Convention in January each year. The 2015 Annual Meeting will include a day of seminars for goat producers and others interested in increasing their knowledge about production and health issues.

AGF policy development enables the goat industry to be at the table with federal agencies when rules and regulations are developed. Similarly, when programs are established to support livestock production, the Federation relays the unique needs of goat producers through the policies that have been developed. AGF is a national voice for the goat industry that interacts with the federal government, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on issues such as market collection and national statistics information and to ensure that goats are eligible to participate in new programs and animal protection initiatives.

Organizations that have joined include American Boer Goat Association, American Dairy Goat Association, the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, and the Mohair Council of America. Individual members include Lisa Cunningham of Wyoming Cashmere & Colored Wool and Sandra Solaiman of Tuskegee University, according to the AGF website. One of the people who laid the groundwork for the organization is Dr. Joe David Ross, a great friend of the CGA.

If you decide to join, the membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Whenever a new Member pays their first annual dues *after* September 1 of the year in which s/he makes application for membership s/he shall be credited with the payment of his/her dues through the following calendar year.

Further information is posted on its website:  
[www.americangoatfederation.org](http://www.americangoatfederation.org)

## Enjoying some summer fun in Virginia!



Photo courtesy of Jane McKinney –Spring Gate Farm



## Differential Diagnosis of Caseous Lymphadenitis in the Goat

by Christine S. F. Williams, BVSc, MRCVS

Caseous lymphadenitis, caused by *Corynebacterium ovis* (syn. *C. pseudotuberculosis*), is one of the more common bacterial diseases in goats. It results in abscesses in some or all of the external regional lymph nodes. 'Abscesses' is the common name for the disease, but not all abscesses in the goat occur in the lymph nodes; neither are they all caused by *C. ovis*.

The disease caused by *C. ovis* is well known to most experienced goat owners, and is the generator of considerable controversy. There are those who maintain that, unless evidence is produced to the contrary, a goat with a grossly enlarged lymph node can be presumed to have lymphadenitis, a contagious disease, and therefore, should be barred from the show ring. Naturally, this opinion is unpopular with owners of abscessed show goats, and a considerable number of those owners maintain that abscesses really do not matter, and that a goat with an unripe abscess is not infectious. However, since the introduction of an abscessed goat into a previously clean herd often results in a wave of abscesses during the next two or three years, the disease merits consideration.

Because of the rapid increase in the number of goats in North America, and most practitioners' lack of familiarity with this species, a misdiagnosis of caseous lymphadenitis is a distinct possibility.

Figure 1 shows *C. ovis* abscesses in the parotid lymph nodes. These lesions have burst, granulated, and recurred. Surgical removal of early unburst abscesses is often successful in controlling the infection, but surgery can be extremely difficult or impossible. This is especially so if granulating masses obliterate the view of the adjacent blood vessels, nerves, salivary glands, etc.



Figure 2 (below) shows caseous material oozing from a prescapular lymph node abscess which has burst spontaneously. This is the source of contamination of hay feeders, and other goats. Deposition of the organism *C. ovis* usually results in an abscess in the regional lymph node.

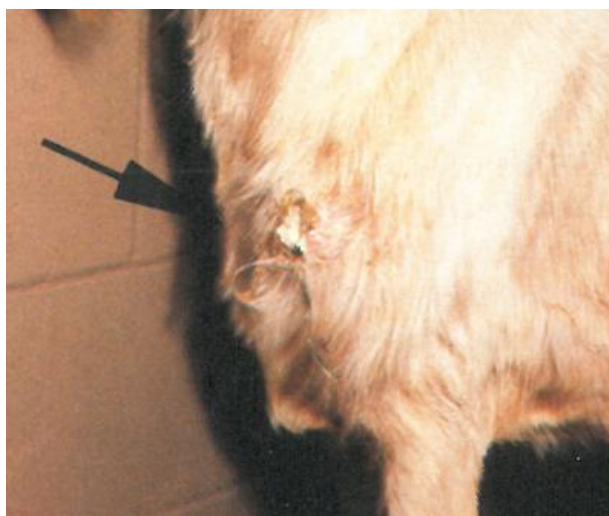




Figure 3 (below) shows a cluster of *C. ovis* abscesses in the brisket region of an aged goat. Although the possibility of a tumor exists, the probability of an abscess is always far greater whenever a slow-growing, painless mass of long duration is found on a goat.



Figure 4 (below) shows an abscess in the prefemoral lymph node. Before they burst, abscesses caused by *C. ovis* cause loss of hair on the overlying skin, making these lesions resemble slow-growing skin tumors.



*Abscesses should be cultured to determine the causative agent.* There are other causes of swellings on the head and neck of goats. The remaining photographs accompanying this

discussion show some of the conditions that must be considered in the differential diagnosis of *C. ovis* caseous lymphadenitis.



Figure 5 (above) shows a penetrating abscess of the cheek. Goats eat thorns and thistles far more readily than do sheep. This may account for the frequency of small abscesses situated in the cheek muscles of goats. When the abscess was lanced on this goat, a sinus opening into the mouth was found (Figure 6 below).



Generally a pyogenic bacterium such as *Corynebacterium pyogenes* or *Staphylococcus aureus* can be isolated, and drainage and topical treatment are sufficient to cure the condition without recurrence.



Figure 7 above, is an example of impacted cud. This usually results from the loss of a molar and consequent shifting, misalignment, and overgrowth of the other molars. In severe cases, loss of condition occurs because of disturbances in chewing. Proper examination of a goat's molars is virtually impossible without anesthetizing the animal.



Bottom of the previous page, figure 8 illustrates a salivary cyst. These cysts resemble the penetrating cheek abscesses, but they can be differentiated by the fact that some of them fluctuate and some of them can be emptied by digital pressure and will refill. Rarely do these lesions cause problems, but clients may request corrective action for one of two reasons: the cysts might be considered disfiguring for a show goat, or any swelling might be interpreted as a sign of the dreaded abscesses caused by *C. ovis*. Concerned owners do not want casual observers to conclude that the herd is riddled with *C. ovis* abscesses just because one goat has a salivary cyst.



Cysts of the branchial cleft are shown in Figure 9 above. These occur at the base of the wattles. Because many owners remove the wattles when goats are born, branchial cysts can be seen on apparently wattle-free animals. These cysts are thin-walled and contain a clear, thin liquid. If aspirated, they will refill. They can be excised intact, but they lay against the jugular vein.

Bottle jaw (Figure 10, next page) occurs as soft fluctuating swellings under the jaw and is usually indicative of severe anemia. Often the lips swell, but there is never any edema or swelling in any other parts of the body. Bottle jaw is a sign of critical illness and immediate remedial action is required.





Figure 11 (below) shows a soft-tissue abscess. This may be caused by a foreign body reaction and therefore be similar in origin to the penetrating cheek abscess.



Usually *C. pyogenes* or *Staphylococcus* is isolated from the copious quantity of foul-smelling liquid

pus. This tends to be an individual problem of an individual goat. Therefore the consequences are not long term as with *C. ovis* lymphadenitis.



Thyroid goiter is shown above in Figure 12. In severe cases of iodine deficiency, kids are born with large goiters and probably will not survive. In marginal deficiencies, growing kids develop a swelling at the junction of the head and neck.

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[www.goatkeeper.ca](http://www.goatkeeper.ca)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## AN INTERVIEW WITH JEFFREY MONTEIRO: J. M. GENERALS

### Learning the Secrets of a Cashmere Fiber Alchemist

By Maggie Porter

This past winter I had an opportunity to sit down with Jeffrey Monteiro over a cup of coffee in New York City. One of Yvonne Taylor's "A Message from the President" columns in HOOFPRIINTS had included a link to a home design blog,\* wherein Monteiro's business, J.M.GENERALS, was profiled. The blog post intrigued me: here was an individual sourcing cashmere exclusively from American goat farms and, with the expertise and services of a family-owned company in Kentucky ("feltLOOM"), transforming that fiber into refined, luxurious blankets, throws and pillows.

What is striking about Monteiro's textiles is their understated elegance. His aesthetic doesn't interfere with the natural beauty of the animal's fiber; most of his blankets are constructed from un-dyed cashmere, with occasional indigo-dyed stripes adding subtle bands of color. As I sipped cappuccino and chatted with Jeffrey, it occurred to me that this former creative director of Bill Blass and veteran of New York's Fashion Week runway shows was as respectful of the "lowly" origins of cashmere as are those of us who - in between mucking stalls and hauling hay bales - actually harvest it.

FeltLOOM also takes a "less is more" approach in producing J.M.GENERAL's textiles. Despite being washed, dehaired and run through FeltLOOM's needle felting machines the cashmere blankets and throws retain a lightness reminiscent of raw fleece. Some felted pieces require only 6-8 ounces of raw cashmere, yet appear substantial and hold up under normal conditions of daily life.

Jeffrey's background is exotic and multi-cultural; he was born in Qatar, then spent his early years in India before moving with his family to Australia.

He received his formal education in fashion design in Australia before moving to London to work; eventually he made his way to New York City for a career in fashion. He spent over a decade in fashion before leaving that world altogether in 2012.

**Was there a specific moment when you decided, I'm done with fashion and now I want to create a line of luxury home products?**

Prior to leaving fashion I had visited Italy and toured a number of multigenerational Italian mills, where fabrics for fashion giants such as Chanel, Balenciaga and Dior are fabricated. This was when the seed of J.M.GENERALS was planted – it wasn't a conscious thing at the time.

Once I left fashion I took time to explore how best to channel my energy and talents; I was most interested in areas where technique and craft were key elements. My initial research began with the Wool Board's web site, [http://www.sheepusa.org/Niche\\_Marketing](http://www.sheepusa.org/Niche_Marketing); from there I began contacting small producers: first, small sheep farms and mills in Michigan and New England, then mills in the South, as well as operations in New Zealand and South America.

After contacting a mill in Michigan I was put in touch with a Montana sheep farmer and from there I migrated to other farms in the Northwest, eventually finding Sun Fiber Mills owned by Diana Blair. I was still in the sheep/alpaca/llama world, but with further introductions and research I contacted and met cashmere farmers in New York state and Oregon. Ultimately I gravitated towards US produced cashmere and Cormo wool because of the fineness and quality of these fibers.

### Talk about your first experiments with cashmere.

I started purchasing yarns and cashmere fiber from producers throughout the United States, including from Wendy Pieh, of Springtide Farm and Yvonne Taylor, of Black Locust Farm.

I originally experimented with using the cashmere yarn in machine knitted pieces, but this proved to be challenging and at times a disaster. The yarn didn't work in commercial machines, because it lacked consistency in tension, twist and strength. Since there was no finishing on the yarn it tended to leave a residue of fiber fluff in the machines – this was a concern for the factory as it was time consuming to clean the machines after knitting. Even flat bed knitting machines were an issue, as the yarn had no finishing, so it lacked the strength to survive the industrial process. Knitting machines stress the fiber, and therefore the yarn's loft was reduced.

[n.b. Spun yarn needs to be “finished,” that is, washed or steamed, to set the twist; there is also a wax finishing used in commercial yarn production – the yarn is coated with wax to give it strength while on the knitting machine, but is then washed off once the product is off the machine.]

Diana Blair of Sun Fiber Mills has a needle felting machine from FeltLOOM, so she suggested I try putting some of my fiber through it. She hadn't used it for cashmere, just wool and alpaca. I liked the results, but the fabric lacked stability. Creating stability required some experimenting. First, we tried a non-woven textile with the cashmere. Next, we used different woven base cloths with different gauze weights to stabilize the needle-felted fabrics. These worked better and after many, many trials we developed a process and produced a consistent product.

I'd learned of other needle felting machines in Michigan and Colorado, but these producers hadn't worked with cashmere and were reluctant to use base clothes. We then tried these different machines, but liked the results using a FeltLOOM best. Diana then directed me to Don and Lanette of FeltLOOM in Kentucky since Diana's machine was a smaller size and I wanted to do larger pieces. FeltLOOM had just developed large machines, so at the end of 2013 I went to see them and spent time getting to understand the machines and process first hand.

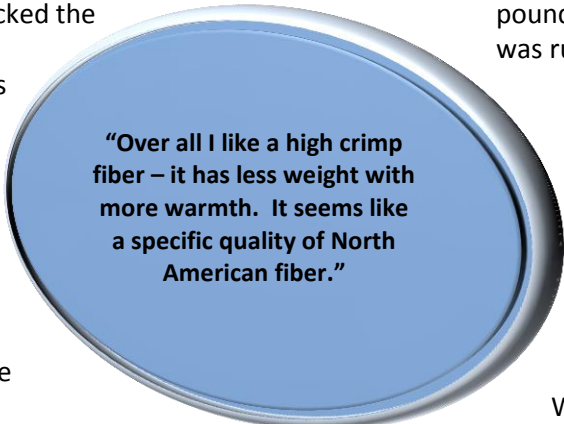
### Working with FeltLOOM – what was involved?

At the end of 2013 I visited [FeltLOOM](#). The owners and I began running my three pounds of raw cashmere through a dehairing machine, a half-pound at a time. The machine was run at different speeds, and we were continually adjusting the humidity in the processing area. Sixty percent or more humidity is ideal, so to achieve this we set up pots of boiling water all around us.

We also ran tests to compare washed versus unwashed fiber; if the dehairing machine is run at controlled and optimal speed, picking and carding is unnecessary – you'll get a nice batt [sheet of clean fiber] automatically.

Once we had batts of fiber, we put them through the needle felting machine. Here again we made continual adjustments – comparing different needle sizes, speeding up and slowing down the machine etc. The end result was a lightweight, stable fabric.

The owners of FeltLOOM are re-engineering their dehairing machine so the cashmere doesn't have to go through the picker or carder. This puts less stress on the fiber – the batts coming off the dehairer can go straight to the felting machine



**“Over all I like a high crimp fiber – it has less weight with more warmth. It seems like a specific quality of North American fiber.”**

bed, thereby reducing the damage to the fiber and speeding up the production process.

### **What is the ideal cashmere fiber for your needs?**

The fiber that performs best for me is around 15/16 microns, with a high crimp and good staple length. While I really like 14 microns and under for its softness, I've found that it lacks strength and breaks, causing pilling.

Over all I like a high crimp fiber – it has less weight with more warmth. It seems like a specific quality of North American fiber. In the yarns I've used, high crimp allows for a nice bloom, and gives the fiber/yarns some recovery – especially when used in knitted pieces.

There is a woman I've met and visited in Missouri with Paco Vicunas. She produces a beautiful 12/13 micron range fiber with a good staple length, but I think it lacks crimp so the pieces when knitted have little recovery and look a bit flat. It's a beautiful fiber, but its end uses are limited for me – good for weaving but not for knitting.

### **Now that you, along with FeltLoom, are successfully making beautiful cashmere and cashmere/Cormo wool blankets and throws, what are some obstacles facing you before going into full-scale production?**

There are issues with consistent quality and standards in this country in terms raw cashmere's crimp and staple length. There is also little consistency from the mills that process cashmere

yarns. These inconsistencies lead to tremendous variations in cashmere yarn in terms of twist, the amount of bloom and how the yarn handles. Hopefully this will change with time.

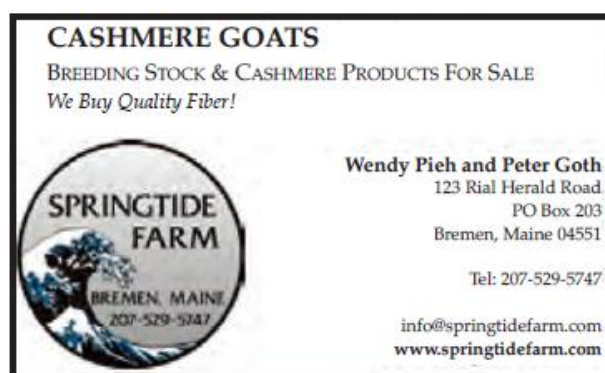
Sourcing cashmere in the US, either raw or processed, is a challenge. There's just not enough of it to meet demand, which is why designers usually source cashmere from Asia. Since I think it would be difficult to produce enough fiber in the US for weaving cashmere fabric, it would be better to concentrate (in my opinion) on fibers that perform well as yarns for knitting.

### **Besides cashmere and Cormo wool products, what else do you sell and where can they be purchased?**

I have an on-line presence at [www.jmgenerals.com](http://www.jmgenerals.com) Blankets and throws are currently made on a to-order basis. I also have woven blankets made with US produced yarns (not cashmere).

We also sell goat milk soaps – I work with an organic dairy goat farmer in the Midwest. The soaps are made in small batches, with scents that I create. Then there is a black goat skin pouch which I have just launched. The skins are made from meat goats, sourced and tanned in the Northwest.

\* <http://www remodelista.com/posts/american-made-cashmere-throw-blankets-and-pillows-from-j-m-generals>





## Experiments in Composting

By Becky Bemus

As farmers we must always be looking to maximize our income and to find a way to minimize the impact of our losses as well as create as many value-added products as we can. Losses to the herd happen for many reasons, including old age, accidents, and illness.

Last year we suffered a series of losses in our buck pen. Some were due to old age and the extra cold, extra harsh winter conditions we were experiencing and, as we found out later, some were from injuries caused by a young buck with a bad attitude who was trying to take over leadership of the buck herd. Once his inappropriate ways were discovered he was promptly removed from the herd and things went back to normal. However, some of the lost bucks had beautiful wide racks and I did not want to see them go to waste or be sold by dead stock pick up, but to be preserved for their skulls complete with their horns intact. I searched the Internet and found different options for removing the flesh from the skulls but none of them was something I was ready to tackle so we settled on experimenting with some above ground composting.

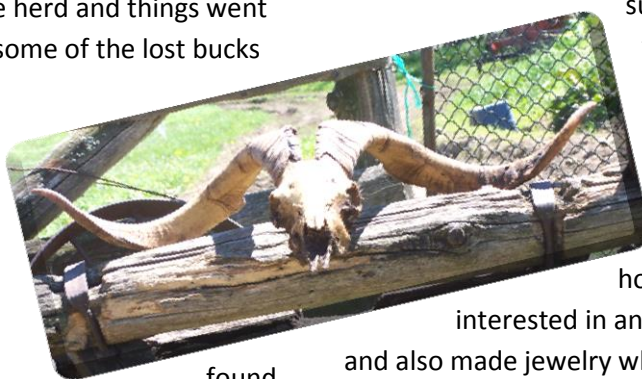
The first buck was placed directly on the ground and covered with a tarp as I was worried about the moisture in the top covering soil penetrating the horns and causing flaking or splitting to occur. We then covered the tarp with manure that was already well on its way to being fully composted. Because we placed the buck near our barn area,

we were worried about the number of flies so we put two Rescue Brand Big Bag fly traps near the area. We wanted to encourage them to do their job but we wanted to make sure the number of flies in the area was contained. For a couple of days there was a large number of newly hatched flies around, but the fly bags did their job in attracting and trapping the majority of the hatchlings.

The second buck passed away about a month after the first buck. It was winter so both bucks froze solid prior to spring thaw, at which point we covered them with dirt to help them compost quickly. The second buck was placed near the first buck, but this one was placed between two tarps and then covered over the top with composted manure similar to the first buck. The location had direct sun for most of the hottest part of the day. There was a slight odor on the hottest days of the

summer but otherwise there was little smell involved. We left both bucks like this for 17 and 16 months.

In May of this year we hosted a helper who was interested in anatomy, bone structure and also made jewelry which incorporated small bones she found while out on hikes. She saw beauty in the shapes and forms of the skeletal system. Knowing we needed to unearth the bucks and move the remains, I was thrilled to discover I had a willing volunteer as this was something I was not looking forward to in the least and cleaning the bones was something she had experience with. She was also excited to see an intact goat skeleton and to be permitted to collect some bones for future pieces of art and jewelry she was going to create.



We exhumed the buck we had laid between two tarps first. Here we found most of the body had broken down and the bones were fairly clean although they still needed a good cleaning. She recommended we do this by simply placing the bones in a powder laundry soap solution and leave it outside in the sun for anywhere from 3 weeks to several months. The skull was clean except for some debris that had collected in the eye sockets and inside the nasal cavity from the decomposing tissue pooling on the tarp. There was an area that was pretty icky to sort through with a fair bit of odor remaining. A few Turkey vultures started circling overhead and we both needed showers after that one.


A couple of weeks later she decided to tackle the buck who had been placed directly on the soil and covered with a tarp. This buck was much less icky having been able to drain off naturally into the soil as nature did its thing. The skull was perfectly clean and quite white already in comparison to the first buck who had a very yellow cast to him. She told me she finished him in half the time and there was little to no smell at all. These bones would require far less treating before being used.

The horns on both bucks were in good shape and tight to the skull although the first buck had more color staining on his horns. One buck has amber colored horns and the other black horns and the black horned buck has lost a fair bit of coloring but his skull was in better shape in general with all of his top molars still intact. The amber buck had none of his teeth in place and we did not find his teeth but he was considerably older at the time of death so we are not sure if this was because of the composting method or simply his age.

Both skulls have now been left out to bleach in the sun. I am hoping this will remove any remaining odor but I might have to boil them with the horns

above the water line to finish the process. Time will tell at this point but if anyone has experience with this I would love to hear from you. Once they are fully cleaned, we will be offering the skulls for sale. I am told some tattoo parlors like to have them on display and some offer hand painted skulls for sale. I am learning that using bones in art and in jewelry is a whole new avenue that I never knew existed. I was aware that some people like to buy our horns for carving, and when boiled and shaped they can be made into amazing looking cane handles but finding a market for the bones themselves is encouraging.

Of special interest to jewelry makers are the smaller bones. I had forgotten that we had also laid a lost newborn in with the bucks. Our helper was excited to find his tiny little jaw and rib bones. Some might find the whole idea of this morbid or disrespectful but I see it as a way to further celebrate their lives and have others appreciate their beauty in all its forms and as a reminder to us all, that they were here.



**Crooked Fence Farm**

Cashmere Goats  
CVM/Romeldale & Merino  
Sheep

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

## 2015 Cashmere Goat Show Information

### **CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION**

**August 1, 2015**

**SPRINGTIDE FARM, Bremen, Maine**

**Join us for a**

**Cashmere Fiber Assessment Clinic**

**2015 International Fleece Competition**

**Lobster Bake on the Shore**

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We hope that you will send in lots of fleeces for the competition, being judged by the highly qualified and respected Dr. Peter Goth. And, we celebrate cashmere with more .....

Come join us for a Cashmere Fiber Assessment Clinic AND an old fashioned Lobster Bake on the Shore!

CASHMERE FIBER ASSESSMENT CLINIC 8 – 10 am

FLEECE COMPETITION 10 am – 4 pm

LOBSTER BAKE – after the Fleece Competition

During the Fleece Competition, Wendy Pieh, co-owner with Peter Goth of Springtide Farm, will take those interested on a farm tour, and host a round table discussion to share thoughts and ideas both general and specific about raising Cashmere goats. This will be a chance to share our combined knowledge and expertise with one another.

Registrations can be made for the Fleece Competition [on-line here](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org).



If you would like to attend the Fiber Clinic and/or the lobster bake, contact Wendy Pieh at 207-529-5747 or via email at [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com) for any information and to register. There is no fee for the clinic, and there is a small fee for the Lobster Bake.

## Instructions for Submitting Fleeces

### Cashmere Goat Association's

## 2015 International Fleece Competition

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Judge: Dr. Peter Goth**

**Location:**

**Springtide Farm**

**123 Rial Herald Road**

**Bremen, Maine 04551**

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#### ***Competition Groups***

Fleeces are divided by age as follows: Kid -1st fleeces; 2<sup>nd</sup> fleeces; 3rd fleeces; 4th through 6th fleeces; and 7th and older fleeces. The age classes are subdivided by sex. Judge reserves the right to combine or divide classes dependent on the number of entries.

**All entries and payments** can be made below via PayPal or checks payable to the Cashmere Goat Association may be sent to: Springtide Farm, 123 Rial Herald Rd, Bremen, Maine, 04551, attention: Fleece Competition.

**Entries:** Only raw fleeces harvested this season are invited (please **DO NOT** wash or process fleece in any way, but **please DO** remove vegetative matter). The whole fleece, not just a sample, should be submitted. Combed fleeces and shorn fleeces are accepted.

#### ***Fleece Packaging:***

- Pack each fleece in a large 2-gallon zip lock bag. (DO NOT WRITE ON BAGS).
- Include ***inside the bag*** with each fleece an index card containing the following information: your name, farm name, address, goat's herd code (from farm on which it was born), goat's name, sex, date of birth,

and whether the fleece is combed or shorn. Also include in the box a self-addressed mailing label (**BIG lettering**) for return mailing of fleeces- if not picked up at the show.

- Entry fee is **\$10/fleece**, which includes return postage.
- Entrants are limited to three (3) fleeces per class!

Any questions about fleece submissions? Please Contact Wendy Pieh at 207-529-5747 or [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com)

**Entry form (please choose one to fill out and submit):**

- [Online \(google form\)](#)
- [PDF \(print and mail\)](#)

**Payment can be made via Pay Pal:**

Fleece (\$10/fleece. Adjust quantities in shopping cart if necessary.)

**Entries should arrive on or before July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

## **2015 CGA Competition Class Schedule:**

**DOES:**

Class 1 2014 Doe Kid (1st fleece)

Class 2 2013 Doe (2nd fleece)

Class 3 2012 Doe (3rd fleece)

**Junior Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Doe**

Class 4 2011 - 2009 Doe (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> fleece)

Class 5 2008 – older Doe (7th and older fleece)

**Senior Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Doe**

**BUCKS:**

Class 6 2014 Buck Kid (1st fleece)

Class 7 2013 Buck (2nd fleece)

Class 8 2012 Buck (3rd fleece)

**Junior Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Buck**

Class 9 2011 -2009 Buck (4th, 5th, 6th fleece)

Class 10 2008 – older Buck (7th and older fleece)

**Senior Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Buck**

**WETHER:**

Class 11 2014-2013 Wether (1st – 2nd fleece)

Class 12 2012-2011 Wether (3rd – 4th fleece)

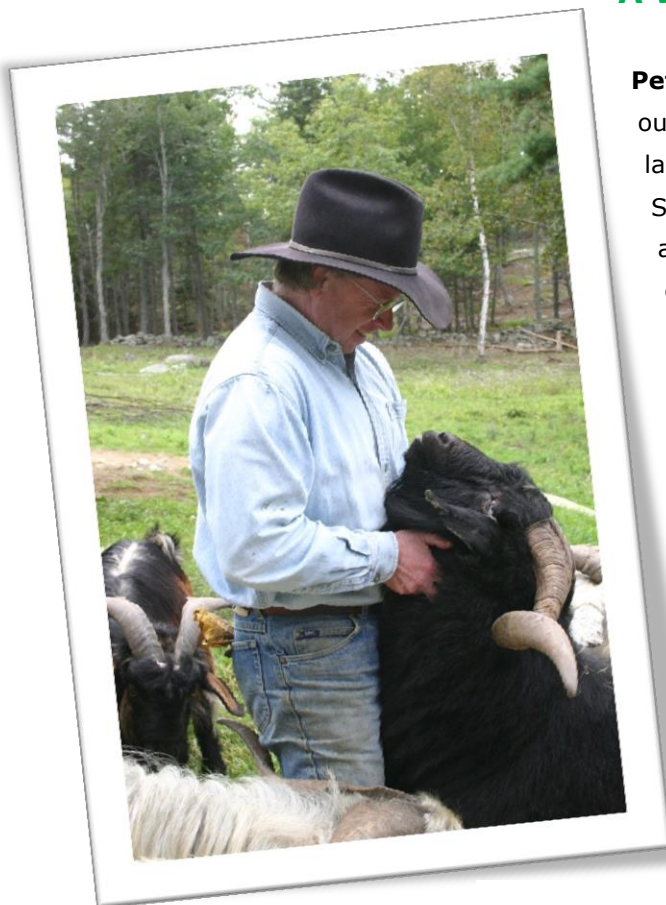
Class 13 2010 – older Wether (5th – older fleece)

**Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Wether**

**Classes may be combined or divided depending on the number of entries per class.**

**BEST IN SHOW FLEECE!**

## A word about our judge!



**Peter Goth**, of Springtide Farm in Bremen, Maine, will be our judge this year. Peter began judging fleeces in the late nineties, and has judged shows around the United States. He last apprenticed with several certified judges, and was the last judge certified by CaPra. An outstanding educator, Peter has taught many Fiber Assessment Clinics, and blends humor with his own special way of teaching that result in you being able to go home and assess your own goats' fiber.

### Special thanks are due to all Show Volunteers.

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact Wendy Pieh, 207-529-5747, or via email, [wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com).

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

### Remember...

Join us on Saturday, August 1, 2015, for a

Fiber Classing Clinic at Springtide Farm- 8 to 10am

Fleece competition- 10am to 4pm.

Lobster Bake on the shore after the fleece competition

**Please note:** Anyone wishing to send fleeces directly from the CGA event to the Canadian event being judged by our very own Wendy Pieh, can do so by indicating their intent with a note included with their entries sent to CGA and by including a mailing label addressed to the Canadian Fleece Competition along with a return label from Canada. Please include on the bottom of the label a declaration for Canadian Customs indicating "the box contains fleeces going to Canada for competition purposes only and will be returned to the owner after the show. No sale has taken place".

The fleece secretary for the Canadian Show will be attending our event and will take all fleeces entered in the Canadian show back to Canada with her for processing. Please see below for entry details to the Canadian show as you will still need to complete their registration process and pay the entry fees through their system to be officially entered in the show.

At this time we are told there are no plans underway for the North West Cashmere Association to hold a fiber competition this year. Their live show at OFFF is September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. For further details, please see: <http://flockandfiberfestival.com/index.php/goats>





## Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition

Invites entries from Canada and the United States

*This year's show will be judged by Wendy Pieh of Springtide Farm in Bremen, Maine*

CNCFC 2015 will be held August 22, 2015

at [Twist Fibre Festival](#) in Saint Andre Avellin, Quebec!

Please register and make sure your entries are in before August 14<sup>th</sup>

### Show Rules

1. Entries should be clean and skirted of vegetation;
2. Entries must not be dehaired or washed;
3. Entries must be of the current year's harvest;
4. Entries must be sent in a large ziploc bags. If a fleece is too large it can be sent in two bags, clearly identifying this;
5. Entries must have a completed Fleece Entry Form in the bag (available online at <http://www.cashmerecanada.ca/canadian-national-cashmere-fleece-competition-cncfc.html> or via email or below);
6. Entry fee is \$10.00 (return postage is included in entry);
7. Entry form and fees must be received by August 14, 2015;
8. Send fleeces to: Kathy Chapdelaine, Chambord Farm, 187 Hyatt's Mills, Compton, QC J0B 1L0;
9. Fleeces must be received by August 14, 2015;
10. Fleeces will be returned after Festival Twist, August 24, 2015.

Submission Form below, please include one with each fleece.



### Canadian National Cashmere Fleece Competition 2015

Date: August 22, 2015

Judge: Wendy Pieh

Location: Festival Twist, Saint Andre Avellin, Quebec

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

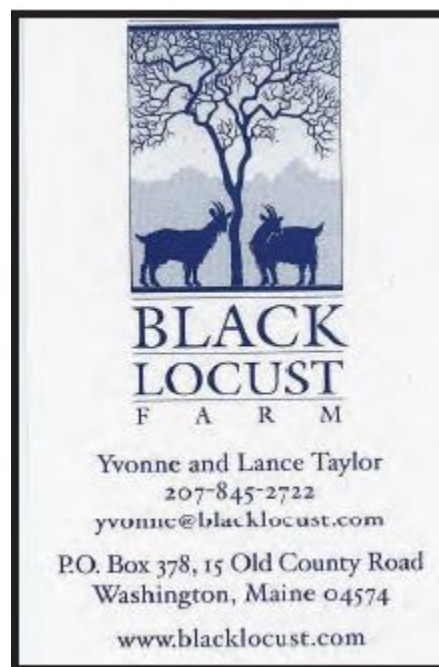
Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Class (circle one)

111 1 <sup>st</sup> Fleece 2014 Doe	121 1 <sup>st</sup> Fleece 2014 Buckling
112 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fleece 2013 Doe	122 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fleece 2013 Buck
113 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fleece 2012 Doe	123 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fleece 2012 Buck
114 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> 2009-2011 Fleece Doe	124 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> 2009-2011 Fleece Buck
115 7 <sup>th</sup> fleece, 2008 & Older Doe	125 7 <sup>th</sup> fleece, 2008 & Older Buck



**Cashmere Goat Association**  
**New England Breeders Goat Show**  
***at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival***  
**Tunbridge, Vermont**

**October 3 & 4, 2015**

The Cashmere Goat Association invites Cashmere goat owners, breeders and youth from across the northeast to gather and show their goats in the annual CGA New England Breeders Show to be held once again at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival at Tunbridge, VT, on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4.

The CGA New England 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 gather to benchmark and learn from our judges and each other. New owners (and owners new to the show) are encouraged to bring their favorite goats and share in the weekend's hands-on learning.

Our youth contingent continues to grow. Families with children who have cashmere goats at home are encouraged to join in the fun – or to “come and see” this year, checking out the Ring Show on Sunday to see if this is something your child might enjoy doing next year.

Mika Ingerman and Team Snazzy Goat are expected to return, demonstrating the art of harness goat driving. Check out the link [here](#) to a video of their driving at the 2014 Tunbridge Show. Mika is one of our youth who is now a young adult in university studies whose expertise in harness training goats is renowned as far abroad as England. Mika returns as the judge for our Open Showmanship Class. Originally intended as a clinic to help our cashmere farmers step up their rusty showmanship skills, this class kicks off our Ring Show and is a source of enjoyment for adults and youth alike.

The judges for the 2015 New England Cashmere Goat Show are Bob and Pam Marshall of Wellington, Colorado. Bob and Pam have raised cashmere goats since 1996, starting with 4-H projects for their two children, Patrick and Heather. Marshall's Organic Acres at one time numbered 80 goats, and now maintains a smaller herd of less than 15. Bob spins, weaves, knits, and sells products while Pam manages care of the goats and paperwork. Bob and Pam have shown and judged shows in Colorado, and have served as the superintendents for the Cashmere goat show at the Estes Park Wool Market for many years. They bring many years of experience and commitment.

CGA is pleased to continue their collaboration with the VSWF for a sixth year. 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 six 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.

### **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 2015 (kids), '14 (yearlings), '13 (two year-olds), and combined '12, '11, and older (senior). Wethers will subdivide this year into junior (kids and yearlings) and senior wethers. Bucks will show as kids, yearlings and senior bucks. Farms may enter up to three goats



per class. (Youth exhibitors showing goats leased through a local county extension program may enter goats without restriction to the farm's total.)

Judging in a CGA Show 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 should bring the past spring's combed fleece with their goat to the show.

Judging begins on Saturday with Pen Scoring during which the Show Judge examines each goat in their stall for basic soundness and conformation. Owners gather for this more intimate examination of their goats as individuals, with this assessment becoming an open forum both for breed improvement and general husbandry tips. In the afternoon fleeces are scored separately, owners welcome to attend, watch and learn. The two scores are brought to the Show Ring on Sunday, where the animals are compared moving as a group in a standard Ring Show competition.

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.

## Entry Deadline and Fees

**Entries and fees must be postmarked no later than September 18.** The cost is \$7 per goat (regardless of how many classes are entered.) A registration form follows and may also be found on the CGA website.



2014  
Champion Does

## 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 overnight. They should be accustomed to being tied before the show weekend.

Bedding hay is available on site for \$4 per bale, but you must supply feed stuffs, water buckets, tools for barn clean-up at the end of show, etc. Stalls should be broom-clean upon leaving on Sunday with bedding removed to a compost site near the barns.

***Owner/entrants are responsible for appropriate care of their animals through the weekend.***

## Schedule for the 2015 Show

### Friday, October 2, 2014

Noon                      Animals may begin to arrive at Fairgrounds.

### Saturday, October 3, 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 4, 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

### 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.



Tunbridge 2014 –Judge Pam Haendle

### 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 registers 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 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 show under your Herd Code.

### General Information

The Festival website is [www.vtsheepandwoolfest.org](http://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 the Riverside Barn until closing at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. General admission is \$6; seniors--\$5; children under 12--\$10.

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. Show Exhibitors may park near the Riverside Barn but may not move their cars while the public is moving about the grounds.

### 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](http://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 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](mailto: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.

*Note that the Superintendent will be out of the country through much of September and inquiries will be redirected while she is away.*

### 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!



## *NOTES FROM A BONESMITH*

By Claire Odrach

From Paleolithic times to ancient Indian and African tribes, people have always hunted and used animals to help them survive. One of the most common uses of animals, other than as a means of food, was using their bones to make various tools, instruments, and decorations. Bone-use for jewelry quickly became very popular. Many different tribes and societies shared the belief that wearing the bone of an animal was a way to respect and feel connected to that animal. Native Americans went so far as to believe that the soul of the animal was in the bone and after it passed its soul lived on. Though there is still bone jewelry on the market today, with the coming of “civilization”, butcher shops and the disconnect with animals, bone work and jewelry had pretty much become a marginalized cottage industry.

However there is a growing popular movement today called “vulture culture”. It is a term coined in the 21st century and refers to people who respectfully find and scavenge naturally-deceased animals for their bones, skulls, or pelts. They are often used to craft jewelry, art pieces, or as display pieces. As with the Native Americans, this movement puts a focus on appreciating the animal as well as its parts that would otherwise be discarded.

As a vegetarian, I put a strong emphasis on respecting all life, and I believe that an animal’s life is just as sacred as that of a human’s. I make sure that all the bones I collect and use are ethically sourced and that no animal is harmed in the process. There is something really personal and beautiful about ethically-acquiring parts of an animal for jewelry, art, or simply for decoration. You are not only appreciating life but paying tribute to and celebrating it.

If you keep your eyes open, you can find and scavenge animal bones in so many different places: the lake shore, on the side of the road, train tracks, on pastures, in the woods or old buildings. Almost all of the bones that I find are either road kill or have died a natural death. Living in the city, I

mostly find and work with bones that belong to smaller animals such as mice and raccoons. However, bones that belong to bigger animals provide more opportunity for painting and carving, and to create larger, statement pieces. I like to use vertebrae to make necklaces and rib bones to put into small vials. I also like to pair bones up with other natural materials such as driftwood, found metal, and encapsulated dried flowers and plants.



Through [HelpX](#), I had the pleasure of staying with Becky and Phil on Roving Winds Farm. Becky took notice of the raccoon-vertebra necklace draped around my neck. Before I knew it she took me beside the barn and showed me where a buck had been placed for composting and now needed to be moved. Soon, I was uncovering an old buried buck named Harley. Upon initial sight, my eyes were drawn to the hundreds of maggot casings that had collected on the tarp and around his body. The maggots colonized on his decomposing flesh and removed it from his bones. After 16 months of being under the soil, Harley had most of his fur intact but only small remnants of tissue remained on his bones. These remnants were carefully removed by hand. His fur was placed into a bag for further composting and then his bones were soaked in warm soapy water. The soaking of bones is a process known as maceration. After letting the bones macerate for up to two weeks, they were cleaned and ready to be handled. I excitedly started making plans for jewelry.

There are so many things you can do with bones to make them decorative. Once the cleaning process is complete, I like to put some of the bones into a jar with either coffee or a dark tea and let them sit for up to one day. This will stain them to be whatever colour was in the jar. I also like to paint the bones with different colours and patterns. I use watercolour paint and then coat it with shellac, a resin made from an African insect, so that the paint will not wash off the bone. I also like to wire wrap the bones, similar to what is often done with crystals, which I also incorporate into my works. Leather and natural fabrics can



also be used. The possibilities for bone art are endless. You can also carve intricate shapes into them with a drill, mount them to wall pieces, and coat them in different materials such as metal and matte finishes for different effects.

Our world is filled with natural treasures, and these treasures, including bones, can be used as a means to make really beautiful art! Demand for bone art and jewelry is increasing and it is beginning to move

back to the main

stream which is helping to restore the link between humans and animals.

## Bottle Babies



**RWF Kathmandu practicing his penmanship during a home schooling session**



**Story Time for Peter and the kids**



**Stone Harvest doe**

## FOOTNOTE

**By Willi Boepple (from “Willi’s Notebook” in the April 2015 GoatKeeper)**

With winter coming to an end, the mud appears, or, if you are in the Specific NorthWet, the mud has been around since October. As we know, this wreaks havoc on hooves. Weeks or months of slogging through the stuff will challenge even the healthiest feet, and goats can turn up lame. Let’s have a look at assorted problems.

The simplest problem, especially on sloping land, is an ordinary sprain. Pick up the sore foot and examine it; trim it if needed. If all looks normal, give it a squeeze. If this doesn’t hurt, and the foot doesn’t feel warmer than usual, your goat has a sprain. Time will fix this. Just because they have twice as many legs as we do doesn’t mean animals don’t trip or slip on occasion. I’ve seen long “divots” on mossy rock faces in the woods where deer have lost their footing. (Aren’t you glad to know that other animals can trip, too, not just us?)

A certain amount of “white line abscess” or dirt pocket between the hard hoof wall (or, horn layer) and the softer “frog” is pretty unavoidable when there is mud for any length of time. Usually this can be trimmed away. However, occasionally the rot advances up into the hoof, well into the “quick,” where your knife cannot follow. When this happens, the foot will be very sore, and the poor goat will really favour it; she may walk on tip-toe with that foot. There may be heat in the foot. This is “hoof rot,” and the bacteria which cause it are very sensitive to penicillin. Within a day or two of a course of injections, the pain will ebb dramatically so that by day three or so, the goat is back to normal! Be sure to shake the bottle before withdrawing the drug and guard it against freezing, which renders it useless. (Even here in the “Banana Belt,” the stuff can freeze solid.) The shots can be given subcutaneously, but be sure to administer it for at least three days in order to ensure the bug is killed and to prevent any drug resistance from

developing.

Optimal zinc supplementation can reduce or even eliminate problems with hoof rot, but with enough mud for long enough, one can still have the occasional case; this last winter there were two in my fairly large herd (these were elderly does; older animals are not as efficient at utilizing the minerals in their diet as younger ones are).

As I’ve written elsewhere, at this time of year the zinc and copper stores in a goat body seem to bottom out. If your goats are rubbing their feet on things or biting them, the skin between the toes and the back of the pasterns likely itches. If you scratch these areas, especially any scabby spots, your goat may get an ecstatic silly grin on her face.....she needs extra zinc. If not attended to, the problem can become so severe that the foot and lower leg may be chewed raw. The condition looks exactly like “digital dermatitis” which afflicts dairy cattle (and which I believe is caused by a zinc deficiency to begin with; the integrity of the skin is damaged and bacteria are allowed to enter). Interestingly, topical zinc doesn’t seem to help nearly as much as zinc given orally, but it takes several weeks of supplementation before you see improvement. For a standard dairy goat, the dose would be about 3/4 of a teaspoon of zinc methionine per head per day, with zinc oxide, about 1/2 teaspoon. Too much won’t kill but may upset the stomach and it can cause scours. Application of a topical solution, such as “Dr. Naylor’s Hoof-and-Heel” or “Kopertox,” may help kill bacteria and speed healing.

Interestingly, some goats who are deficient enough to get scurfy patches on the skin of their withers and backs don’t have itchy feet. Why this is, I couldn’t tell you. (We don’t all have the same enervation.....one day years ago I was walking in



town with my friend Val the Marine Biologist when I realized there was a hair down my sock. I cannot think clearly when there is a hair down my sock. I had to pull off my boot, pull off the sock, and extract the hair..... "I wouldn't have believed it," commented Val as I dangled the offending hair for her to see. Possibly this is why some goats never seem to have itchy feet even when the scurfy lesions are present.) I can tell you that the itch can appear before any physical changes in the skin become apparent.

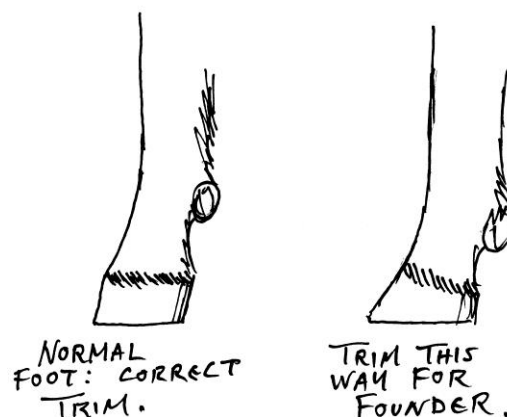
A diet high in selenium raises the requirement for both zinc and copper. Dairy cattle nowadays are fed more selenium than they were allowed some decades ago, but, judging by the plague of digital dermatitis now afflicting dairy cattle, it seems that dietary zinc levels were not raised accordingly.

A fourth problem can strike at any time of year: founder. This usually, but not always, follows a sudden binge on grain or illicit, stolen chicken feed. It can also happen after a period of high grain feeding which was built up to gradually. I discussed founder at length in a previous article, but basically it is like this: a goat suddenly turns up lame on one or both forefeet. In a really bad case, all four feet could be affected, but it always hits the front feet first. She uses a peculiar high-stepping gait when walking; this is diagnostic. If severely affected she may crawl on her carpi ("knees"). Where there is a wooden floor the foundered goat walks with a distinctive "clomp clomp" instead of the normal "trip trap" sound. This is because she isn't putting her weight on her toes, but rather on her heels (the opposite of what she would do if she had hoof rot anywhere but in her toes). If you hold the foot, you will find that it is warm. If you squeeze it - - be gentle! - - this REALLY hurts.

With founder, swelling in the soft tissues between the outer wall and the internal bones forces the tip of the pointed toe bone downwards. This pinches the sensitive laminae underlying the sole against the ground, which is why the technical name of this condition is laminitis. You will find that a foundered goat will walk much more willingly on soft grass rather than on rock or concrete, as this hurts less.

If you discover the condition soon enough, force the goat to stand with the affected foot or feet in cold water. You can tether her in a low spot and run a hose into the depression. If you have any antihistamine, give her double a human dose. This only helps if you can catch the condition at the onset.

You must reduce the grain ration; a baking soda drench will help combat the acidity in the rumen (2-3 TBSP in warm water; she won't like this). If she is in kid, you still have to reduce the grain ration so you have to find a high-quality feed to make up the energy. Once foundered, a goat must never go back to her original grain ration or she may founder again, and founder may take many weeks to subside, be warned. (By the same token, don't shoot a foundered goat just because two weeks later she is still crawling - - she WILL recover in time!) Three quarters of her old grain ration should be all right. Build back up to that amount slowly. Soaked beet pulp, and black oil sunflower seeds will help add energy to the diet, as will really good hay. (Make the changes gradually!) And, last but not least, the foundered feet must be trimmed often, but LEAVE THE TOES LONGER THAN THE HEELS; this would be incorrect in a healthy foot, but for a foundered one, it reduces pain by taking weight off the toes. You will notice that the foundered hoof is much harder than normal. This will grow out in time. Once all pain is gone, resume normal trimming, where the sole of the foot is parallel to the coronet (band of fur).



W. Boepple 2010.

The susceptibility to founder can run in some bloodlines. Provision of free-choice baking soda may prevent it. I haven't had a case since I started adding baking soda to the milkers' mash, but then, I don't feed a lot of grain anyhow.

Which brings us handily (or should I say footily?) to Problem #5: what are those dark red patches I see in the "frog" when trimming? Almost thirty years ago, a very experienced goat breeder asked me to trim the feet of a problem doe. There were red patches which would appear as soon as she started shaving off layers, and she didn't dare trim past those, and as a result the doe had chronically crooked, misshapen hooves. I recognized the red as "old blood" and so was able to correctly trim the feet, to the owner's delight.

The red patches are old bruises. When a goat walks on stones or other hard surfaces with a rain-soaked, soft hoof, they can bruise. Once dry and hard, hooves don't bruise easily, but hooves softened by rain or mud assuredly can. I must be dense, as it took me years to figure out what caused the "old blood".

As long as the colour you are seeing is red or dark red and not pink, you can safely trim on.....but go

carefully. OOPS! She's gone into Acute Vibrattofoot and you've quicked her! Don't panic, it will stop on its own. Of course, if you've cut the toe off, better ring the vet.....but luckily I've never known that to happen. A really bloody cut can be staunched with a dried puffball gleba stuck onto it (or, lacking that, a piece of gauze) and wrapped well with the papery teat tape (the stuff that breathes). Don't wrap it too tightly, just enough to keep the dressing on. By the time it falls off, the hoof will have stopped bleeding. Lessee.....in the decades I've had goats, I've only had to do this a very few times. On a Saanen, it can look much worse than it is.

Hopefully the above will help you and yours to start off spring on the right.....better run before the bricks start flying!

*Willi Boepple  
Saanich Peninsula, B.C.  
13. March, 2015.*

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CGA



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

# HOOFPRINTS

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

## CGA MEMBERSHIP

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

Junior (under 18 years) membership is \$15/year (non-voting)

If you have not filled out a membership application for a year or two, it would be helpful to the association for you to do that. The application can be found under contact information at our website:

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

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Masthead designs provided by Ryan Sweeney, UK - HelpX helper at Roving Winds Farm in May of 2014