



A Publication of  
the Cashmere  
Goat Association

Volume 27  
Issue 2  
July 2018

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

## A Message from the President

Hello to you all,

I hope kidding has gone well for all of you who are kidding this year. It is such a joy to watch them play, sleep, lift their mothers up so they can get a good drink, and start all over again. And of course, there's always trying to be creative with names!

One of the primary areas that the board has been continuing to work on is the database. Shepherded by Maryanne and Pam, we have all put in our thoughts and ideas. We are very close to something we will be able to use. I am amazed at the energy and focus that individuals and the board as a whole have brought to this endeavor. The database will be a great service to both our association members and to cashmere breeders everywhere.

This year the Northwest Cashmere and Cashmere Goat Associations will host our second annual combined fleece competition, located in Oregon. It will be on August 4<sup>th</sup> and the judge will be Linda Fox. There will soon be more information available.

We hope you will bring lots of goats (especially bucks!) to the annual Cashmere Goat Association show in Tunbridge, Vermont the last weekend in September. This is a fun event, with great 4-H participation and a booth of donated items

for sale to benefit the association. Heidi Krause, of Quesnel, British Columbia will be the judge.

We will once again have a booth at the Rhinebeck Sheep and Wool

Festival October 20 -21. Booth details are still being worked out. We will send you details as soon as we have them.



Several members are working on a Cashmere goat workshop. Christine sent out a survey which indicated a lot of interest. Several sites are being considered and we are looking for a location potentially at a college that would offer us the widest array of offerings for participants. Stay tuned!

We are always looking for articles for Hoofprints. Send us a story, or article about something you have learned, or

anything else that you think would benefit the membership. Humor is always welcome!

Best,

**Wendy Pieh**

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## OUR SEVEN LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOGS

Yvonne Taylor, Black Locust Farm

We are on our 7<sup>th</sup> Livestock Guardian Dog (henceforth referred to as LGD). We used to call them guard dogs, but there is apparently a difference – it seems that a guard dog is a more sinister creature, but a guardian dog takes care of you and your critters.

Warning: This is an account of our personal experience and should not be confused with expert recommendations on how to choose and train a LGD.

We got our first one in 1990, and he was called Björn, Swedish for “bear”, because he looked like one. He was a Great Pyrenees, like all our subsequent dogs. He came from a local breeder, who said that the top dog of the litter would be a show dog, the second would be a LGD, and the rest would be just pets. She pointed out that a LGD should be confident, not shy or aggressive. Björn was confident. We gleaned from the literature that Great Pyrenees were bred to work independently, and if the herder called them, they had to be able to decide whether they should heed the call or take care of the wolf threatening the herd in the other corner. Björn would always carefully consider the merit of coming, when we called him versus the importance of exploring what was going on in the other corner of the field. A combination of laziness on our part and a genuine appreciation of the intelligence of this breed let him get away with this, but I am not sure it can be recommended.

### Active Puppies.

Like all puppies Björn was very active. Fortunately we had an overactive house dog, and the two of them would race each other around inside our property and exhaust themselves.

This is an important point – if you are not young and vigorous (or have young children or another active dog) and enjoy playing with your dog, your young LGD will try to play with your goats, and they do not like that. In general, the puppy will have to be protected from the goats’ horns, till he learns to show respect.

Björn lived a long and (I hope) happy life. Like our other dogs he communicated with the coyotes over the fences. I still remember the winter he dragged himself out of the barn, hearing coyotes at the edge of the field. He was so old, he could barely walk, but he could bark. In the spring we found the remains of a deer where we had heard the coyotes – but they never dared to come close to the barn.

### Two Brothers.

Next we got two brothers, Oso (Spanish for “bear”) and Bhaloo (Hindi for – you guessed it – “bear”). We had originally wanted just one dog but were talked into taking the two of them, and we were glad we did. We no longer had the overactive house dog to keep a LGD company, and the two puppies entertained each other and largely left the goats alone. The recommended way is to have an adult dog around to teach the young one the ropes, but we never have seen the need for that. We show the dogs the fences, and they may or may not patrol, and in fact usually seem to be either playing or sleeping. Even if they appear to be fast asleep, they will be off like rockets, if they perceive something suspicious. Another LGD owner described it as the dog being like Clark Kent and suddenly changing to Superman, only to fall back to sleep as Clark Kent the moment the danger is perceived to be over.



Björn, Oso and Bhaloo had all been neutered, which was supposed to diminish their wish to wander, but that tendency is hard to conquer in the Great Pyrenees. They have been bred to track wolves for miles, and it is hard to keep them in. Usually they will just go for a spin and come back, but even so, it is not a great idea for them to be out and about. During the deer hunting season a flash of white can be deadly, and in the winter motorists will have trouble seeing them against the snow. Oso and Bhaloo also lived long lives in spite of their wandering tendencies.

### Herding

LGDs do not herd. Or do they? Jasmine was our next dog, a rescue several years old. She was wonderful! Once a hunting party with dogs after coyotes managed to get through our fences and was cutting across our field. The goats bunched up in a tight circle, as they do when scared. Jasmine positioned herself between the goats and the yapping hunting dogs, as I expected her to do. The dogs had no interest in the goats, of course. They were after coyotes. A few minutes later, two kids got bored with sitting in a circle and broke out to play. Jasmine herded them back in and then resumed her position.

So I think they will herd, but only if absolutely necessary.

### A “rescue” with a problem

Luc came from a farm with electric fences, and he would not stay inside them. It was thought we would have better luck, since our fencing was a combination of electric and metal. Not so.

He would find ways over, under, and through fences, no matter what. He was otherwise a good dog, and no coyote ever came close. He eventually hurt himself going through a fence (we think) and had to be put down. Moral: Think hard before you accept a rescue with a problem!

### Beware the Breeder

Jasmine was getting old, and we got a puppy, Karu (Estonian this time for...). Recommended breeders were in the Midwest, far away, and when a friend of a friend of a friend mentioned a breeder close by, we jumped at it. One puppy was supremely confident and just about mauled his littermates, and we picked him over the other available one, who had an annoying bark. His mother seemed nice enough, but his father was confined behind a fence with some sheep and barked furiously at us. This surprised us, since all our dogs had been friendly with visitors. The owner explained that he would probably just cower in a corner, if we entered, and we felt reassured – he was just afraid. At the time we did not know that fear aggression is the most difficult to control.

### Aggression



Our new puppy did not have anybody to play with. We were old and grumpy, and so was Jasmine. So he chased the goats and the horses, and when they eventually got angry with him and butted and kicked respectively, he retaliated by scratching and biting. We could not stop him. He was so strong willed that he tried to stop a truck from going past the farm on the road. The truck could not stop in time,



and his hind legs got run over. Many surgeries followed, with the attendant issues of being confined or on a leash. He recovered, but this incident may or may not have contributed to the next problem. At 18 months he unexpectedly bit a carpenter, who had upset him by making a lot of noise across the road. And then he bit another person. None of the bites were serious, so we put up a lot of signs warning people of our guard dog. He was fine when away from the farm and with everybody he had known as a puppy. He continued to be very strong willed, and he eventually met his death by suffocating trying to escape from a "safe" kennel. He was fiercely loyal to us, but had apparently inherited his father's aggressive instincts.

### Rhone

We spent a few nervous months without a guardian dog after Jasmine passed away. We felt we were too old for a puppy, and we finally located an adult rescue dog through Northeast Pyr Rescue. She is called Rhone after the river that flows not far from the Pyrenees in southern France, and she is another wonderful dog. Like our previous female dog she does not challenge fences, but if a gate is left open, she moves surprisingly swiftly and quietly, spends a while in the woods, and always returns.


The coyotes are thriving around us, keeping the population of deer and rodents under control out there, while our domestic animals live happily with a big, white dog that looks a bit like a bear.



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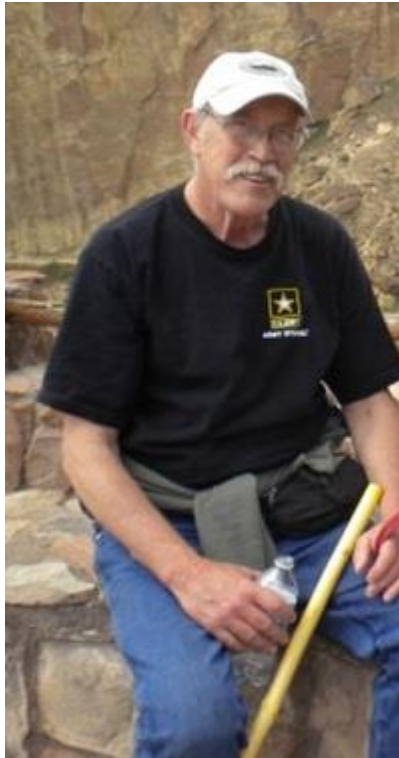
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123 Rial Herald Road  
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[www.springtidefarm.com](http://www.springtidefarm.com)



## IN MEMORY

## Paul Johnson

Goat Knoll Farm, Dallas, Oregon



Paul Gaylord Johnson

October 20, 1946 – April 10, 2018

Paul G. Johnson, resident of Dallas, died in Salem on April 10, 2018, at the age of 71. He was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, in 1946, to Paul Ganson Johnson and Thelma Augusta (Boeka) Johnson. He was the eldest of two boys. The family lived in Wood River, Nebraska. Paul was a somewhat wild and imaginative kid and caused his father, who served on the school board, some grief. After graduating from Wood River High, Paul attended college and began working in Nebraska. His early jobs included working in Johnson's Grocery (the family-owned market in Wood River), drilling wells and timekeeper/accountant for Silas Mason Company. He married young and started a family shortly after high school. He worked in Labor Relations for Safeway for 17 years, relocating the family several times for promotions to Denver, Colorado, the bay area of California, Tulsa, Oklahoma and Phoenix, Arizona. He continued to attend college as he relocated for his job.

Paul loved the desert and the mountains. He hiked extensively with his boys as they grew up and had numerous stories about their adventures. He learned to rock climb with the Sierra Club in California. He told stories of his rock climbing experiences including rappelling down a rock wall in Berkley with the group to listen to a concert. On an Arizona hike with his son, he claimed they teleported to a high rock ledge after being startled by a large rattlesnake. He liked to pan for gold and hunt for arrowheads in the desert. He coached soccer for his son's team and took his sons turkey, javelina and bear hunting. He took a trip with his youngest son to the Arctic to see polar bears. He liked to fish.

In Phoenix he worked as a volunteer for the Arizona Attorney General's office, conducting mediations in connection with court cases and training other mediators. He left Safeway to take a job with the Arizona Employers' Council where he worked for 13 years. He moved to Oregon in 1991 for a job at Northwest Food Employers where he served as Executive Director and Chief Negotiator. Later jobs included Executive Director for the Polk County Victim Offender Reconciliation program (VORP/CMS), Mediator for the State of Oregon and contract mediation with the Oregon University system.

Paul met Linda Fox, an accountant who owned a business in his office complex in 1992. They had lunch to talk about Linda taking over accounting for his business and decided to date instead. They married in 1995 in Supai, Arizona, an Indian village at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It is accessible only by trail and is an eight mile hike down to get there with no vehicle access. No guests came to the wedding. Paul and Linda moved from Portland to their small farm in Dallas shortly after they were married where they improved the farm infrastructure and built their dream house. They found local jobs and settled into the community. They started a small business (Goat



Knoll) raising cashmere goats and Shetland sheep. They built a greenhouse and tended an extensive garden. Paul loved to write. He wrote short stories that he tried to market, a self-published book for his grandkids and he wrote and published a monthly magazine (Cashmirror) about cashmere goats for eight years. Paul and Linda continued to hike extensively around Oregon, in Utah, Arizona and Hawaii. They hiked across the Grand Canyon.

After retirement, Paul continued to stay busy on the farm and pursued other interests. He was a major computer geek and studied for and acquired his technician and general amateur radio licenses (W7COB). He had an interest in astronomy and studied the sky with his telescopes. He trained a Border Collie. He loved his guns and shooting and was an early member of the Single Action Shooting Society. He was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He served on the VORP/CMS Board, was a member of the Oregon Employment Advisory Council, the Polk County Dog Board and the Polk County Planning Board.



Paul loved his wife, his family, his farm animals, coffee, cookies, Star Trek and a good Irish whiskey. He loved the Rolling Stones, car dancing and read extensively, primarily science fiction. He enjoyed people – all kinds of people. He was well-liked and outgoing and had stories to tell. He was generous and had a quick wit, an easy smile and was a good listener. He was always kind, friendly and caring to everyone. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, hiking, rock climbing and working on the farm. We will miss him.

Paul is survived by his wife, Linda, his brother, Bill, his sons Brian and Mark and his three grandchildren – Matthew, Stephanie and Samantha. Family members reside in Nebraska and Arizona.

A celebration of Paul's life [was] held at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 2 pm. To share online condolences and stories: [www.dallastribute.com](http://www.dallastribute.com)  
Donations in memory of Paul may be made to VORP/CMS in care of the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

[Send a gesture of sympathy to Paul Gaylord Johnson's family](#)

<https://obitree.com/obituary/us/oregon/dallas/bollman-funeral-home/paul-johnson/3483647/>



This Floral spray was sent to the funeral home by our President, Wendy Pieh, on behalf of the Cashmere Goat Association.

6/1/18

Your kindness is warmly appreciated.

Thank you for the lovely flowers you sent to Paul's service. They were awesome. I brought them home after the service and hung them in our screened porch where they lasted for three more weeks!

Thanks for thinking of me,  
Linda Fox

## Paul Johnson, a Cashmere Goat Pioneer and Farmer

By Ron Fiorica

Paul and his wife Linda lived in Dallas, Oregon. He recently passed suddenly and will be missed in the northwest/west cashmere goat community. Here are some stories of my interactions with him. He'll be missed.

- I first met Paul when my wife and I were touring Oregon and Washington, looking for some bucks on ice (semen). I had scoured the Internet looking for cashmere breeders. And with the list of breeders in hand we travelled through Oregon and Washington. Having visited a couple of other breeders we made our way to Dallas, Oregon where we located Goat Knoll Farm. After a few attempts of trying to contact Paul and Linda, Paul came to the gate and let us in. We found Paul and Linda very congenial and knowledgeable about cashmere goats. They did not have any semen, however, were good enough to provide some insight as to who to contact. It was getting late, so we were about to leave when Paul and Linda offered a bed for us to sleep in for the night. Their hospitality was great as was their home. When we left, Linda offered a "Mild Goat Man" T shirt to me that she said Paul suggested. Though it has been many years since this meeting, I still have that T shirt.
- Our second meeting was when we purchased some goats from them and met them in Ashland Oregon to do the swap, (goats for money). We met at a park and parked our respective vehicles tail to tail. Paul got into the back of his truck and I into mine, we opened our respective tail gates and camper lids and he chased the goats into our truck. Though you had to be there to appreciate the comedy, it was quite a sight watching this operation.



Paul became the narrator at the cashmere shows at the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival where he would explain the goats and other tidbits to the audience as well as announcing the placings of the winners.

Paul was a long time President of the Northwest Cashmere Association.

Paul loved to write. He wrote short stories that he tried to market, a self-published book for his grandkids and he wrote and published a monthly magazine (Cashmirror) about cashmere goats for eight years.

**RON FIORICA**

President, Northwest Cashmere Association



## A DISCOURAGING SEASON FOR MY BUCKS

by Pam Haendle, Hermit Pond Farm

Despite the 28 healthy kids frolicking in the barnyard, I have to regard 2018 as a year of low productivity and problematic breeding. Only two does snuck into the buck barn early and gave birth to kids from unknown sires in the dead of winter, but the remaining 25 breeding does produced a discouragingly low number of kids. Six of them failed to conceive at all; several others – including experienced mothers – produced singles; none had triplets. Sadder still was the story of Tristan, a handsome yearling who made his way to Maine to mate with four of Yvonne's loveliest does. He showed interest and seemed to know what to do, but the breeding failed to produce any kids.

Obviously, does have a pretty significant role in conception, but since some of the failures and single births occurred with does who had given birth to twins in prior years, I decided that research into elements impacting buck fertility was my top priority.

The first thing I learned was that when one enters "goat" and "impotence" into a Google search, one finds many, many sources for a product called "Horny Goat Weed Extract" that apparently works wonders for human males. That's already more than I wanted to know.

Ultimately, I'm not sure that I found the answers to my quandary about Quandary, the buck who failed to get 6 does pregnant or to my questions about Tristan, who is too good to be casually tossed onto the meat man's truck. Some further experimentation and reading is needed. Meanwhile, here is some of what can be found online and through casual questioning of a visiting vet. The best information I found was from an article by Carol Raczykowski called Fertility and Sterility in the Buck.

The good news is that sterility in bucks is indeed rare, and it is often temporary. The factors affecting fertility in bucks are numerous, but my online sources seemed to describe elements in four categories: buck anatomy (general health and reproductive organs), sperm health, herd management (and its impact on the buck's health), and breeding practices. There were also passing references to elements like seasons of the year and elevated temperatures.

### Buck health and reproductive organs

I think we all know that the buck must be in good health, with sound nutrition, and not overweight. Age impacts fertility, making it risky to put a yearling in with too many does and risky to ask a senior buck to cover the 30 – 50 does that a buck in his prime can handle. Not only may a 10-year-old buck have a reduced sperm count, but arthritis may make mounting a doe uncomfortable for him.

Even a buck with perfect reproductive organs may be sidelined by illness or endocrine imbalances. A high fever in a buck can render him temporarily or permanently sterile. Sperm is produced at an optimum temperature, and this process is very sensitive to heat. If the temperature is increased dramatically, it affects the testicles and the quality and life span of sperm. Did you know that a buck regulates the temperature of the scrotum and testes by controlling the distance they are from the body? I certainly didn't.

Infections may also cause sterility. If the penile sheath is injured it is vulnerable to infection. Also, if I'm translating the medical terms correctly, then greasy secretions from glands in the skin can accumulate on the sheath and the buck may develop lesions and transmit them to the doe. Although Google took me to

references related to stallions, not bucks, when I looked up the terminology, Carol Raczkowski reported the condition and stressed the importance of cleanliness of the buck. She went on to advise that we wash the buck's penis monthly with soapy water, or a 1:5,000 dilution of Nolvasan™. I'm not sure I can picture myself doing that, I confess. Feel free to call me an inadequately devoted goatherder – or a coward.

Various infectious diseases can reduce or prevent the development of healthy sperm. Staph, coliform, and pseudomonas bacterial infections, trichomoniasis, granulomas, and herpesvirus can impact the buck's breeding ability. Trichomoniasis is a protozoan that lives in the urethra and/or its sheath and can prevent insemination. I will leave it to you to look all of those up for the details!

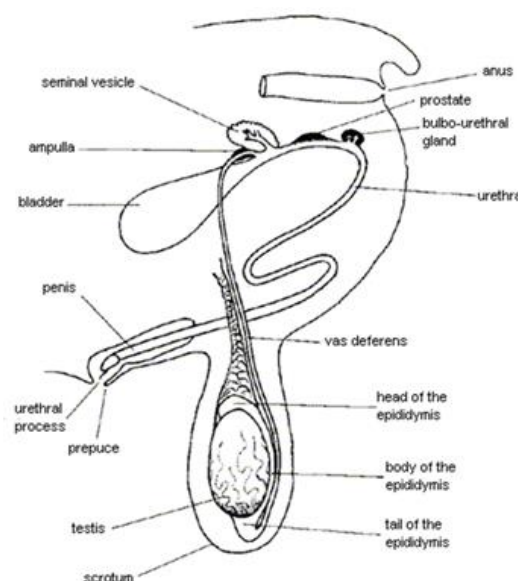
Once we have established that the buck has good general health, I'm afraid we have to face up to examining his reproductive parts. The author who suggested I "set the buck on his rump and push down on his shoulders" has clearly never seen me struggle to get one of the big boys restrained for a simple hoof-trimming. So, let's skip over the details of *how* we manage to examine his male parts and review what we should find.

I was surprised to read that mites can be a major cause of infertility, but it goes back to the importance of temperature. If a buck's scrotum is infested with mites, sperm production declines because the scabs that form on the surface of the scrotum hold in heat.

Ulcerative posthitis (pizzle rot) is painful and interferes with breeding. The pizzle is the curly appendage on the end of the buck's penis. Pizzle rot may be caused by a high-protein diet, which can result in the production of excess ammonia, a happy breeding ground for bacteria. Urinary calculi, which I mostly worry about in wethers, can be critical for bucks, too. If stones become blocked in the urethra, they

can cause sterility (as neither sperm nor urine have a way out of the body). Happily, we should be able to avoid this by not overfeeding those yummy grain mixes and by using feed with at least a 2 to 1 ration of calcium to phosphorus. Another factor that was new to me was the danger of fertilizing hay fields with chicken manure. Apparently, the stuff is high in phosphorus, so I'd better be ready to add calcium to the mix if my hay guy follows through with his threat to cover my fields with chicken poop.

If the buck fails to ejaculate, one of the first things to check for is a condition known as a persistent frenulum. This membrane usually detaches as a buck matures and thus allows the penis to extend from the sheath but in rare cases, it fails to detach. Not good, but fixable.



The scrotum should be firm (like muscle), symmetrical, and well-attached with both testicles fully descended into the scrotal sac, and yes – size matters. The circumference of the scrotum should be considered in the context of the size of the goat, with extra points going to the big ones. (Go for 10 inches or more on an adult, and measure during the breeding season to give the guy a fair shot at measuring up.) Occasionally a buck will have swelling in

the testes, and chronic inflammation can cause sterility. If the buck is unfortunate enough to have pizzle rot (mentioned above), you'll see scabs on the prepuce. It can be treated. Bucks occasionally contract orchitis, an inflammation of the testis, through an injury or infection. Caseous lymphadenitis, spermatic granuloma (a lump of sperm!), and calcification of the testicles all reduce or eliminate the buck's fertility.

The sources online mentioned a few other obscure conditions, but wounds and injuries and frostbite are more common, and we would have a decent shot at spotting them. If all the external parts on a young buck are fine, but he has failed completely to impregnate anyone, there is a slight chance that we have an intersex goat on our hands: all buck on the outside but not genetically male.

#### Sperm quality

Collecting sperm for examination is also not for the faint of heart, but it is an important part of evaluating the buck's potential. Sperm should be plentiful (about 2,000 per ml!) and lively, but most of us are not going to have the equipment and skills to make this evaluation. If we are just going with a visual examination of the fluid, we should look for thick, milky stuff.

#### Management

OK, so how do we ensure that we have bucks that are in top condition and ready to breed?

Preventing malnutrition requires attention to the quality of feed and forage and special diligence with respect to minerals. A malnourished buck is unable to effectively service as many does during a breeding season; and the semen he produces is lower in quality and has less potency. Proper nutrition is a year-round commitment, although increasing the nutrient availability for any doe or buck for short amounts of time substantially increases their reproductive capability. Flushing

(providing additional high-protein grain for 3 – 4 weeks before breeding) is a sure way to increase the likelihood of more productive animals. We just need to be careful not to overfeed.

An adequate supply of minerals was emphasized in most of the articles and by my vet. Selenium is particularly important, and those of us who live in selenium-deficient areas might be wise to buy selenium (and Vitamin E for its absorption) separately rather than counting on the selenium in mineral blocks or loose minerals formulated for all areas of the country. One author, Irene Ramsay, recommended that we also be attentive to levels of copper, iodine, phosphorous, and Vitamin A in a buck and suggested kelp powder as a good remedy for any shortcomings.

If hay is allowed to get damp, the resulting mold can produce several nasty toxins that can lead to reproductive failure. Fortunately, I have always found bucks to be the first to turn up their noses at any hay that is the least bit dusty. A couple of sources recommended avoiding certain kinds of hay that had a high estrogen content, but they disagreed on the types of hay to avoid.

Stress is one more factor to consider in managing the bucks, as stress hormones can reduce reproductive hormones. I suspect that most of our boys have pretty cushy lives, but fighting with their barn-mates and dealing with temperature extremes, travel, and injuries can produce stress.

#### Breeding Practices

It seemed to be difficult for the (limited) online resources on buck potency to state an ideal number of does for a mature healthy buck to service, but they did warn about overwhelming a buck with does, especially does who were coming into heat at the same time. Sperm count is reduced after about three ejaculations, and after seven ejaculations, the buck is unlikely



to impregnate anyone until he has had a rest period. Fortunately, we are talking about hours, not days.

According to Raczynski, we can tell that a buck has ejaculated when he jerks his head back right before he dismounts. She also suggests that we might improve the concentration and number of sperm in the semen by leading the buck and allowing him to make a few false mounts on the doe before he ejaculates. (I'm just quoting here, folks. Personally, I consider interfering with a buck in love to be a dangerous business.)

Finally, if you are watching the weather because you know that very hot weather can cause temporary sterility, keep in mind that the sperm a buck produces today were created 4 – 6 weeks ago. Probably not a big concern in our part of the world anyway.

### Conclusions

When I started this quest, I was hoping for a revelation that would explain my 2017 breeding problems. Alas, life is rarely that simple. I suspect that most of us will never see the nasty infections and diseases that undermine potency and most of us would have already noticed an undescended testicle, but there is still an assortment of potential causes to wade through.

It was a relief to learn that that sterility is often temporary. The emphasis on certain minerals and trace elements gives me hope, too. Since I never had concerns about buck potency in prior years, I have never used the buck supplements offered by goat supply companies. Maybe it's time to try. And a selenium/Vitamin E supplement? An easy fix to implement. I used to add it to the buck feed, but I got out of the habit.

Quandary and Tristan, my under-performing boys, are still here. After I beef up the nutritional supplements for all of the boys, I may use one of them here for several weeks this November and then bring in a ringer to cover a second three-week period. I'll let you know how that works!



**We help each other by  
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Send to:

**Maggie Porter**  
**Constantine.maggie@gmail.com**



*Hermit Pond Farm*  
Cashmere Goats

**Pam Haendle**  
10601 Merrill Road  
W. Edmeston, NY 13485  
**315-899-7792**

[pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com](mailto:pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com)

**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](mailto:cashmere@shentel.net)



## De-hairing Cashmere at Home

by Maryanne Stevens, Stone Harvest Farm

Sahara Briscoe is a fabric developer for the textile and fashion industry. She is fond of saying, "Without fiber, there IS NO fashion!"

Sahara has updated an old technique for de-hairing cashmere at home with the help of your clothes dryer and nylon stockings. You will still be hand de-hairing throughout the process, but it won't be nearly as painful as doing it all by hand. If you would like to do it yourself, go for it!

The amount shown is one ounce. She uses 100% nylon stockings, which can be found on Amazon and EBay. Sahara finds their stiffness effective in pushing the guard hairs out during tumbling and that they will work for many tumblings.

Photos and description by Sahara Briscoe:



1. Raw, unsecured cashmere, no hairs pulled.



2. & 3. Scouring using Unicorn Power Scour (I LOVE them!). Only one scour and rinse.



I let the fiber air dry, and it was very easy to remove hairs from the mass while opening up the fiber to place into the stockings. Use only 100% nylon!



4. In the laundry room with stockings loosely filled with fiber. The setting for the dryer was placed on low; it tumbled for about 25 minutes.



5. After tumbling, I loosened the slightly compressed fiber in the stockings and used the lint remover to roll up and down the legs.



6. If you don't see much hair on the paper, here's why—make sure to clean your filter and drum!



7. The stocking after tumbling and being rolled—  
—not bad!





8. There were still a few stubborn, fine hairs that were very easy to remove, but this is beautiful! It's now ready for combing.



9. I used cat combs (removing fine particles) to make clouds (only one pass), but carding would be okay, especially for larger amounts.



10. I'm spinning a 3-ply for gloves; 3 more easy ounces to de-hair! I can honestly say that, fine hairs and all, 95% were removed from my ounce!

Spinning has given me access to affordable luxury!

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

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

Fundraising: Christine McBrearty-Hulse [mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com) Show: Sister Mary Elizabeth- [maryelizabethcsm@aol.com](mailto:maryelizabethcsm@aol.com)

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

Website: Noreen Rollins – [nikkinomar@yahoo.com](mailto:nikkinomar@yahoo.com) Coat Color: Yvonne Taylor- [yvonne.taylor@myqait.com](mailto:yvonne.taylor@myqait.com)

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

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# “Long Live the Packgoat”

-Curtis King, President, North American Packgoat Association

by Christine McBreaty-Hulse, Hulse Hill Farm



Just as all human beings are created with different gifts and talents so are our goats. I have been hiking with my cashmere goats for years. It just makes sense. They are herd animals with agility that allows them to climb and navigate diverse terrain. Goats also make you happy unlike some of the folks we might be forced to be with. Hiking with your goats only brings more joys as well as a special connection of purpose between owner and goat.

One of my goats seems to be more of a natural than the others. Olaf is a strong Alpine wether who can hold a pack and leads the others. One of the attractions to our farm-stay experience for our guests is taking them on a 2-3-mile hike with our goats with light packs to hold our cheese and wine.

I decided to join the North American Packgoat Association to gather more information about training packgoats, as well as learning about this adventuresome group. I had the pleasure of interviewing Curtis King who has taken the lead with this organization in protecting the rights of packgoat owners to have access to hike on state lands with their goats. Curtis is not only an expert packgoat trainer, but he is deeply rooted in the packgoat community, organizing weekly treks up mountains and trails. The organization is

growing in numbers especially on the West Coast and Mid / North West.



Curtis started his journey with pack goats starting around 1994 after reading an article in a sportsman magazine called “Packgoat Wisdom”. Curtis, himself an avid outdoorsman, was hooked on the idea and began his research. Hunters, hikers, fisherman were starting to use goats on their long excursion to carry anywhere from 50-70 lbs. of gear. Goats ranged from 150-200 lbs. in size. Back then there was not a lot in print to learn about packgoats.



-Kate Albiston

A book entitled The Pack Goat by John Mionczynski was one of the few resources in print. More difficult was finding any training manual for packgoats. Curtis said that the training of pack goats is very similar to that of dogs. Commands such as “stay, back, walk on/up” are primary. In his experience Alpines, Kikos and crosses make great instinctual pack goats while the milking breeds are more difficult to train. However, you will find a large variety of breeds and mixed breeds at the rendezvous.

Repetition of skills and routine for the first 2 ½ years is imperative for a trained packgoat, starting with 5-10 minutes daily. Getting on and off the trailer in the same place, using the same commands, working from short hikes to longer ones is also important. No doubt it does involve the investment of time. Thus, your typical trained packgoat sells from anywhere between \$700 to over \$2,000. By age three goats are typically ready for the trails and can carry up to 30% of their body weight.

Curtis shared that there are all kinds of training techniques that are now standard and taught in their workshops. A primary goal is to make sure the goat respects the boundaries between the human and themselves. A spray bottle can be used as a tool to remind goats of the boundaries, but Curtis emphasized that praise and affection are the primary tools used. They are never grabbed by the horns or hurt during training sessions. Their primary goal/reward is to be loved. Treats such as peanuts are an added reward used in training, but affection is primary.

It is common for owners to also have working dogs along the side of the goats. However, the dog's presence is not for the sake of the goat but rather typically for the hunting excursion. Curtis stressed that dogs need to learn to stay out of the “circle” unless invited in with the goats. An added plus to having dogs is that they act to protect the goats from bears and cougars, the two biggest threats in the terrain they hike.



Curtis explained that there are very specific “best management practices” that everyone using packs goats must adhere too. Their organizations work at training and educating others about these practices. One of these practices involves the routine of tying animals up at night. Two kinds of methods referred to as high lining and low lining are used. When tying goats up Curtis emphasizes that the goats must be able to see each other and you. Some put bells on their herd leaders to hear any possible threats to the pack .

NAPgA works continually to protect access of packgoats to state land; it is now educating state park officials to the fact that packgoats are not a threat to the health and wellbeing of the Bighorn Sheep. A legal battle over restricting terrain access is ongoing based on the results of one flawed study in which goats were accused of spreading pneumonia to Bighorn Sheep. Marc Warnke's article, *Packgoats ARE NOT a hazard to Bighorn Sheep*, explains that, “a pinkeye outbreak coincided with the appearance of a herd of 4800 domestic brush clearing goats that were **legally released** onto a state land grazing allotment in the Silver Bell Mountains in Arizona. Pinkeye can be caused by a number of bacterial agents and the cause of the Silver Bell bighorn sheep pink eye outbreak was determined to be the bacterium *Mycoplasma conjunctivae*, not to be confused with the pneumonia-associated *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*.”

Considering the large number of domestic goats that were released, it is certainly possible that at



least a portion of them were carrying the causative pinkeye bacteria, *M. conjunctivae*, and brought it into the area with them. In reading the conclusion in the papers, the authors give even more evidence that the goats were not the cause of the Bighorn Sheep's pneumonia outbreak by clearly stating that the bacteria isolates that were obtained from the goat "were not isolated from any of the other bighorn sheep in groups A and B, there is no evidence that those organisms were associated with the subsequent disease or deaths" in Bighorn Sheep. In other words, there was no evidence that the goats had anything to do with the pneumonia outbreaks, and much of the information directed herein at Packgoats, is speculative and unsubstantiated. It is academic that promulgating 'rules' for Packgoat use as was done in this article, has no real value as the recommending individual clearly had/has much more to learn about Packgoat behavior in the wilderness."

A few recommendation from Curtis if you are considering getting into packgoats (and possibly training your beautiful sturdy cashmere goat to be a packgoat):

- Join the North American Packgoat Association for education and networking
- Consider attending a training seminar with professionals such as Maggie Highland  
Clay Zimmerman [www.highuintapackgoats.com](http://www.highuintapackgoats.com)  
Marc Warnke [www.packgoats.com](http://www.packgoats.com)

- Be aware of the responsibility of training a packgoat, time and dedication
- A bulletproof plan will include good screening for a packgoat, training and use of best practices. (All available in more detail through NAPgA)
- Book a packgoat excursion to test run the experience personally.

[www.highuintapackgoats.com](http://www.highuintapackgoats.com)

*\*The author is presently in the process of booking her first trek in Wyoming that will merge her love of hiking and goats.*

Resources:

<https://www.napga.org/>

<https://packgoats.com/packgoats-bighorn-sheep/>

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/330191150406380/?ref=group\\_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/330191150406380/?ref=group_header)

<https://www.napga.org/2018/05/10/goats-help-carry-the-load-during-hiking-trips/>

Maggie found this interesting article earlier in the year that seems to fit perfectly with this theme: Please enjoy the read

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/05/14/golf/goat-golf-caddies-silvies-valley-ranch-spt-intl/index.html>



## Using CIDRs for Heat Synchronization as Part of a Breeding Plan

by Jaclyn Severance, Hidden Brook Farm, Eastford, Conn.

My first breeding season was the fall of 2016. At the time, we didn't own a buck to breed our three does, so we decided to breed to a buck we really wanted at St. Mary's in New York, about a six-hour round-trip drive.

Because of the distance and the cost to breed – breeding fees, boarding fees, gas and travel expenses all add up – I wanted to make sure that the does were ready to breed when they arrived in New York. Without a buck on site, none of my does were giving me any noticeable, outward signs of when they were cycling, and I wanted to maximize our chances that a single breeding would be successful. After months of research<sup>1</sup>, I settled on a method relying solely on controlled intravaginal drug release inserts, more commonly called CIDRs (pronounced "cedars").

A CIDR is a flexible T-shaped nylon insert with a progesterone-laced silicone skin that is inserted into the doe's vagina using a plastic applicator. The insert remains in place for a duration of time, the length of which depends on the protocol you select. While in place, the insert releases progesterone that is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream through the vaginal walls. When the insert is removed, the doe's progesterone levels drop rapidly, triggering the onset of estrus, followed by ovulation, within 24 to 48 hours.

In the goat world, CIDRs seem most commonly used in dairy production artificial insemination (AI) protocols, usually in some sort of combination with injectable hormones like PG600, PMSG or lutelyse. The idea behind their use in AI protocols is to bring the doe to ovulation at a predetermined time as accurately as possible in order to maximize the effectiveness of the AI. This article, though, will focus on my experience using CIDRs outside of AI, when a buck will be used to naturally cover the doe.

While injectable hormones may bring the doe into a standing heat, if she doesn't ovulate, she won't be bred. The benefit of CIDRs in non-AI applications, as opposed to just using injectable hormones, is the progesterone drop, which mimics the ovulation-inducing drop experienced by the doe when she naturally cycles. But rather than just tracking the doe's natural cycle, the CIDR allows you to time when the doe will ovulate, to bring multiple does to ovulation at either the same time or at predetermined intervals, and to know with a good degree of accuracy when the doe should kid. Unlike hormonal sponges, which operate in a similar manner as the CIDR, the inserts are impenetrable, meaning that they won't rapidly develop bacterial colonies and risk infection in the doe.



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

<sup>1</sup> I did months of research on the best ways to manage our breeding program before deciding that this method was right for us. Here are some of the articles and studies I found when developing our plan and protocol:

- “Estrus Synchronization for Timed Artificial Insemination in Goats,” May 2013, <http://articles.extension.org/pages/63472/estrus-synchronization-for-timed-artificial-insemination-in-goats>
- PharmPlex, EAZI-BREED CIDR Sheep and Goat Devices, [http://pharmplex.com.au/Products/eazi-breed\\_cidr\\_sheep\\_goat\\_device.htm](http://pharmplex.com.au/Products/eazi-breed_cidr_sheep_goat_device.htm)
- COMPARISON OF SHORT-TERM VS. LONG-TERM ESTROUS SYNCHRONIZATION PROTOCOLS USING CIDR DEVICES IN SHEEP AND GOATS DURING AND OUTSIDE THE NATURAL BREEDING SEASON, Audra Harl, 2012
- An update on oestrus synchronization of goats in Nigeria, 2016, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2305050016000117>

Using sheep CIDRs, Mickey Burch, <https://www.premier1supplies.com/sheep-guide/2012/10/using-sheep-cidrs/>

For my first season using CIDRs, I planned for a 21-day protocol using the buck for natural cover. I knew we would be transporting the does on a particular Saturday morning, so I counted back on the calendar and placed CIDRs in the three does so that transport day would also be Day 21 in the protocol.



*EAZI-Breed CIDR sheep and goat inserts are available from a number of livestock supply retailers. The applicator is an extra cost, but is highly recommended and can be cleaned and reused between seasons. Cattle CIDRs, which are larger and contain greater amounts of hormones, should not be used on goats.*

A bag of 20 sheep and goat inserts costs about \$125 from most online livestock supply stores, and the applicator – which can be washed and

reused between seasons – is another \$10. I used a pair of scissors to remove the small ball of plastic from the end of the removal tab on the CIDR, which reduces the likelihood of the doe or another goat removing the insert by grabbing it between their teeth. (Always wear disposable medical gloves when handling CIDRs; the progesterone can be absorbed through your skin and mess with your own hormonal levels.) Removing the ball doesn't make it any more difficult to ultimately remove the CIDR.



*Snipping off the small plastic ball on the end of the removal tab before insertion will help reduce the ability of the doe or a herd-mate to remove the CIDR with their teeth.*



The CIDR is then placed into the applicator, coated very liberally with obstetrical lubricant, and inserted on a slightly upwards angle into the vagina (think the opposite angle from pulling a kid). The applicator is depressed while inserted, the CIDR is placed with the removal tab remaining just outside the doe, and the applicator is then removed, cleaned and set up for the next doe. The entire insertion takes just a couple seconds, and the doe expresses no more discomfort than if she were getting a vaccination (in most cases less...mine are pretty dramatic about their CD&T shots).



*Once loaded into the applicator, the CIDR is ready to insert after being coated with a generous amount of obstetrical lubricant. The t-shaped wings will expand upon insertion, helping to keep the CIDR in place for the duration of the protocol.*

Over the course of the protocol in my first year, only one doe showed a small amount of vaginal discharge while wearing the CIDR, though it was a normal color and she showed no discomfort from it. I would check daily during feeding times to make sure each doe still had their removal tab showing; though it is possible for a doe to expel a CIDR, all of my does retained their CIDRs for the duration of the protocol.

On Day 21, the transport Saturday, I caught each doe, removed their CIDR with a quick downward tug on the removal tab (again wearing disposable gloves), sealed the used CIDRs in a plastic bag for disposal, gave each doe a dose of oral probiotic paste to help reduce transport stress, and loaded them for the ride to New York. When we arrived three hours later, the does were immediately placed with the buck.

Wezzie, the first doe, began to show interest in the buck immediately and was in full standing heat by Sunday. The other two does were in standing heat and had been covered by the buck by Monday. Having all three does covered so quickly meant only paying one week of boarding fees and meant that the sister could coincidentally (and very conveniently) bring my girls back to Connecticut for me that same Friday while on her pre-scheduled trip to the fiber mill that's just two miles away from our farm – which also saved me another 6-hour trip back and forth to New York.

All three does were confirmed bred by blood test 50 days post-transport to New York. Because the CIDRs allowed me to effectively control their heat cycles, I knew exactly when they were bred and exactly when they should kid. I was able to plan my first kiddings to all happen around the same time in late April when weather would hopefully be less of a factor (as a first-timer, I didn't want to have worry about freezing babies) and when I knew my day-job schedule would allow me the flexibility to be home for the kiddings.

Abbey kidded first on a Monday morning, delivering triplets at 149 days after her CIDR removal. Wezzie kidded twins on Tuesday afternoon, and Belinda delivered a single doeling on Friday at 153 days post-CIDR

removal – all big, healthy babies with only a couple minor kidding complications that were easily resolved.

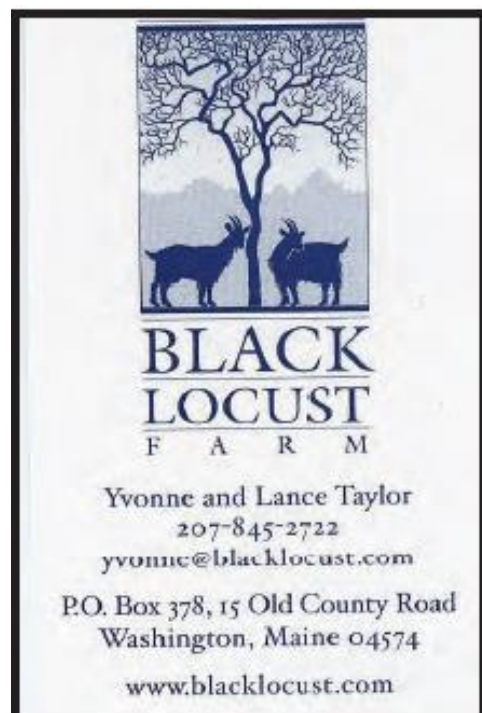
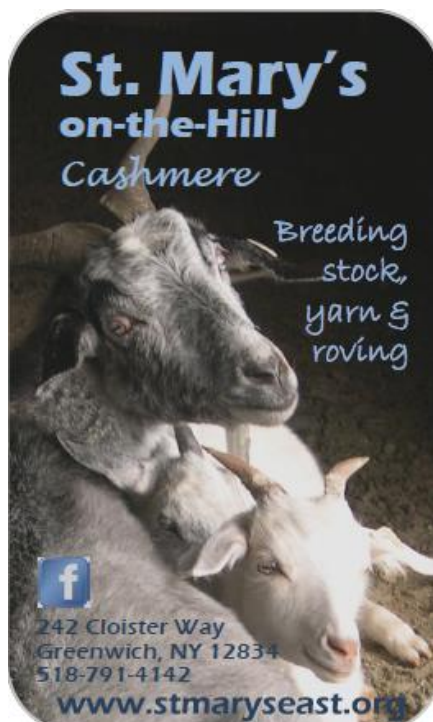
Our first-year results were so positive that I opted to again use CIDRs as part of our 2017 breeding season plan even though I now have my own buck on-site and only planned to breed two does. I again used a 21-day protocol with natural cover. Both does came into standing heat about 24 hours post removal of the CIDR and both were successfully bred from that one heat cycle. On May 8, 2018 – Day 150 – Belinde had a nice easy birth, delivering a healthy set of triplets, and Abbey kidded a perfect set of twins less than 24 hours later.

Synchronizing heat cycles when breeding a small number of does has allowed me to wrap up our kidding very quickly, which benefits me in managing both my work and my farm. If I were planning a larger breeding program, though, the management benefits of CIDRs could even be more pronounced in that does can be induced to ovulate at prescribed

intervals, instead of relying on their natural cycles.

For example, I only have three kidding stalls. If I planned to have six does kidding all around the same time, I would quickly run into a space-management issue. With CIDRs, I can plan for three does to kid all around the same time, and then for the remaining three does to kid one, two or three weeks later, simply by staggering application and removal of the CIDRs. The CIDRs themselves are relatively low-cost, and because they are available without a prescription, no veterinary costs are incurred in using them to synchronize heat cycles when a buck will be used to cover the does.

Like anything, CIDRs are not 100 percent guaranteed to get a doe pregnant at the exact moment you want every single time. But I have found them to be a very easy and extremely effective tool and will continue to use them in future seasons to synchronize heat cycles and plan for spring kidding.



## “JUNK” CASHMERE SWEATER

by Linda Fox, Goat Knoll Farm

Early in 2002, I sent 37-pounds of raw shorn cashmere fleece to a dehairing company to have it processed—washed, dehaired and spun into yarn. I had divided our harvest into four colors—two flavors of brown, white and a silvery gray. When we received our finished product back, along with the beautiful yarn came eight ounces of washed, dehaired cashmere labeled as “usable waste.” The mill indicated one of the “waste” bags might be suitable for spinning and the second might be suitable for felting. The two bags contained separate pieces of various shades of cashmere, rather than one blended color. I wasn’t sure where in the process these bits were generated, but upon inspection, it all looked like a spinnable product to me.

I used to have an old cotton sweater, retired after I had worn it long past when it looked new. It was simple, short-sleeved and short-bodied. It had an oatmeal look to it which reminded me of the colors in the bag of waste I was becoming excited about. I decided to find a pattern similar to this old sweater to try and make use of my “junk” cashmere. I located an old pattern which I had knit in 1971—a simple short-sleeved stockinette sweater with ribbing at the neckline, sleeves and bottom. The original pattern called for stripes of various colors, but I would knit it all with my variegated cashmere yarn.

I spent the next couple of months spinning the yarn. I spun the yarn fine, but not quite as fine as I would for two-ply lace-weight yarn. I spun the singles using



*The original pattern—from a Bear Brand Fleisher Botany yarn, Leaflet No. 460. Not to say it is old, but it cost me 50 cents in 1971. You may not be able to find the original pattern. The original leaflet contains 5 fairly ugly sweater patterns to knit or crochet. I knit this sweater from wool in the early 70’s, wore it a lot and eventually donated it to Goodwill after I finally realized it was fairly ugly.*

the various colors as I came to them in the bag. I made no effort to keep the various colors together. In fact, I made an effort to switch from time to time when I felt I had spun quite a bit of one continuous color. From the singles, I made a three-ply yarn. Again, I made no conscious decision on which singles to ply together. The resulting yarn was beautiful; the three-ply made a soft, rounded yarn which I couldn’t wait to get on the knitting needles.

I washed the skeined yarn, fullled it a little, let it dry and then wound it into balls for knitting.



During the next couple of months, I knit the sweater. The pattern called for size 8 knitting needles for the body of the sweater and size 6 for the ribbing. The gauge for my yarn was similar to the purchased yarn called for in the pattern and since the sweater is fairly loose and unfitted, I figured it would be close enough.

The sweater has four parts—the back, the front and the two little sleeves. The ribbing on the sleeves and bottom are knit along with the pieces, but the ribbing around the neck is added after you connect the front and the back together at the shoulder seams. This is a typical construction method for a sweater of this type. Since the knitting is mostly knit one row, purl one row ad nauseam, with a few spots of stitch decreases around the arms, the knitting was fast and mindless. Even the most exciting movies or chatter could be enjoyed without worrying that a mistake might creep into my project. The yarn fluffed up as I knit to make a gorgeous halo.

Each year, our family gets together at my parents' place in Redmond, Oregon, for the Labor Day weekend. I had the front and back complete before then and I knit most of one sleeve on our drive over. Usually reading or knitting in a moving vehicle makes me carsick, but I was on a mission to finish the project and it didn't seem to bother me on this trip.

During the weekend get-together, I finished the two sleeves, joined the pieces together and completed the neck ribbing and proudly modeled the completed sweater for my family.

The sweater turned out well and I wear it a lot. I have hand washed it several times since its completion and it still looks new. My coworkers admire it and it has helped them decide that goats may not be such a bad deal after all.



*The “junk” cashmere sweater made from the pattern above it, using 3-ply hand-spun cashmere yarn. It has an “oatmeal” look to it and I love it! The variation in the natural cashmere colors isn’t captured here, but it is beautiful. I wonder if I will look at it twenty years from now and finally decide it, too, is ugly?*

My greatest fear for this project was that the sweater would be too warm to wear outside of the Arctic. It isn't exactly a lacy pattern and it would contain a full eight ounces of cashmere. However, it hasn't turned out to be overly warm. I'd label it a “toasty” sweater. It's definitely not for summer wear, but it is very comfortable even for indoor wear.

I would recommend this type of sweater for anyone with cashmere to spare. Eight ounces is a lot of fiber for a simple cashmere sweater and this would be an expensive sweater if you had to buy the fleece to spin, or purchase ready-made yarn for you non-spinners. However, for the cashmere I had and the sweater I wanted, this was a perfect solution. This is also an incredibly easy and quick pattern to knit—very suitable for a beginner who doesn't want toil for years on their first sweater project.

*Author Note 6/25/18: It hasn't quite been 20 years yet, but I still wear the sweater, it still looks like new and isn't ugly. Maybe it will be ugly in 5 more years...*

## HOOF PRINTS TEST KITCHEN

### Boone Porter's Amazingly Succulent Brined Goat Shoulder Roast

Ingredients (apart from the roast itself):



1. Coarse Salt - 1 cup
2. Brown Sugar - 1 cup
3. Garlic - two very large cloves, smashed
4. Cloves - 4 individual cloves, crushed with mortar & pestle
5. Caraway seeds - 1 heaping tablespoon
6. Fennel seeds - 1 heaping tablespoon
7. Smoke flake sea salt - 1 teaspoon, used while crushing garlic
8. Mustard seeds - 1 heaping tablespoon
9. Coriander seeds - 1 heaping tablespoon
10. Juniper berries - 6-8 individual berries
11. Fresh squeezed lime juice - two - three limes

Put meat in 5 gallon bucket. Fill the bucket with water, then:



The seeds, berries, and garlic are crushed in a mortar and pestle with some salt. The crushed mix is then placed in the brine bucket with salt, sugar, and water. The meat is placed inside for several days.





It is then removed and baked at low heat until it peels from the bone - about 6-8 hours at 275 F.



Bon Appetit!

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## CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION

### **CGA's New England North American Cashmere Goat Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival Tunbridge, Vermont September 29 & 30, 2018**

The Cashmere Goat Association invites Cashmere goat owners, breeders and youth to participate in the 2018 North American Cashmere Goat Show to be held at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, Vermont, on Saturday and Sunday, September 29 & 30.

CGA welcomes Heide Krause from Quesnel, British Columbia as the judge for this year's North American Cashmere goat show. Heide currently serves as the Vice President of the Canadian Cashmere Producers Association. She and her husband raise cashmere goats and Icelandic sheep at their Harmony Farm in the Caribou region north of Vancouver. Learn a little more about Heide and her Harmony Farm through this video [link](#).

### **Premier East Coast Cashmere Goat Show**

The CGA New England Show has become the premier North American Cashmere goat show in the northeast, drawing goats and owners from New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont. This is our eighth year at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT.

All goats shown which meet the North American Cashmere breed standard are eligible for Certification and Registry within the North American Cashmere Goat database, to be established soon.

An emphasis on raising up the next generation of North American Cashmere goat enthusiasts continues with a Junior Showmanship class for youth aged 5 through 18, emphasizing ring skills and knowledge about cashmere goats. The Caprine Challenge, an obstacle course event returns for a second year, showcasing the handling skills of youth and adults alike as they walk their goats through various challenges. Mika Ingerman of Burlington, VT, returns as Junior Showmanship and Caprine Challenge judge.

### **Entry Deadline and Fees**

The cost is \$10 per goat (regardless of how many classes are entered.) Registration for the Goat Show may be found on the CGA website: [www.cashmeregoatassociation.org](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org) and payment may be made through PayPal.

***The entry deadline for Goat Show entries is September 15.***

### **Goat 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 2018 (kids), '17 (yearlings), '16 (two year-olds), combined '15, '14, and older does (senior). (Further division may be made depending on entries.) 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.) This year there will be a final "Best in Show" ribbon awarded to the best among our

Grand and Reserve Champion Does, Wethers and Bucks.

Judging is based on both the goat's 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.

Whole, unprocessed, combed fleeces from the most recent harvest should be brought to the show with the entered goat in a zip-lock type bag with identifying tag inside (but no identification written directly on the bag.) Fleeces will be scored on Saturday morning and owners are encouraged to learn about fleece assessment by sitting in on the fleece scoring.

In the afternoon the judge will examine the goats in their pens, checking for basic soundness and conformation. The score cards with both fleece and pen judging scores are then brought with the animals to the Show Ring on Sunday, where the animals are compared as a group in a standard Ring Show competition.

### Schedule for the 2018 Show

#### Friday, September 15, 2018

Deadline for Entries for the 2017 CGA New England North American Cashmere Goat Show – submitted online or by mail.

#### Friday, September 28, 2018

Noon                      Animals may begin to arrive at Tunbridge Fairgrounds.

#### Saturday, September 30, 2017

- 9:30 a.m.
  - All goats must be in place in their stalls at the Riverside Barn and checked against CVI paperwork.
  - Fleece judging begins in Bandstand Office
- 10:00 a.m.
  - Festival begins
  - CGA Fundraising

#### Activities begin at Riverside Barn

- 1:30 p.m.                      Pen judging begins at the Riverside Barn
- 4:00 p.m.                      CGA Annual Meeting in the Bandstand Office
- 5:00 p.m.                      Festival gates close
- 6:00 p.m.                      Dinner in South Royalton for Show Participants

#### Sunday, September 30, 2017

- 9:30 a.m.                      Caprine Challenge followed by the Youth Showmanship Class
- 10:00 a.m.
  - Festival opens
  - CGA Fundraising and Fleece Show Display Tent opens
- 11:00 a.m.                      Doe Classes begin
- Short break for lunch
- 1:00 p.m.                      Wether & Buck Classes
- 4:00 p.m.                      Festival closes

#### 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 will be provided but entrants 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. Our display of North American Cashmere Goats is an important part of the total Vermont

Sheep and Wool Festival and VSWF organizers ask that clean-up not begin until the Festival gates close at 4 p.m.

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

## 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 (or her designees) 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.

## USDA Scrapie Identification.

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.

## Herd Codes

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 \$155/ +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 August 30 so make your reservations soon. The Comfort Inn is 24 miles from Tunbridge with a drive time of 30 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.

## Support Your Show!

Show organizers are committed to bringing top judges from outside the east coast cashmere world *and* to keeping costs down. The Show cannot be run on a \$10 per goat entry fee! Fundraising efforts and private and/or corporate donations make the Tunbridge show possible. Visit our fundraising tent at Riverside Barn and/or directly donate to the Show, if you have the means and wish to see continued top judges brought to Vermont, with their fresh perspective on the North American Cashmere goat.

## Show Superintendent and Volunteers

The 2018 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.

***Volunteers are needed through the weekend, especially manning the Fundraising Tent.***

Please let Sister Mary Elizabeth or Christine McBrearty-Hulse know if you can help.



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



### **Northwest Cashmere Association**

#### **2018 Fleece Competition – August 4, 2018**

The NWCA fleece competition will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2018, at Fern Hill Farm, Dallas, Oregon.



**Our Judge:** Linda Fox, owner of Goat Knoll Farm in Dallas Oregon is our judge this year. She has been evaluating fleeces on her farm for over 20 years and has attended numerous cashmere classing trainings including with Terry Sim, Joe David Ross, Wes Ackley, Ann Dooling and Wendy Pieh. She has assisted several other judges with cashmere fleece competitions over the years.

#### **Instructions for Entering:**

Fleeces and entry forms should be delivered or mailed to Diana Blair, Fleece Competition Chair, by Wednesday, August 1, 2018. An entry form is included as a separate file and can be downloaded from the Club website: [www.nwcashmere.org](http://www.nwcashmere.org)

An entry form must be submitted for each fleece entered.

Fleeces should be raw fleeces – not dehaired or washed and they can be harvested by either combing or shearing. Fleeces may be entered in a 2-gallon zip-close type bag. We will use this bag for judging. Please do not use bags with any marking/numbers/writing – only clean, clear bags.

You can use more than one bag per submission if the quantity of fleece requires (please include explanatory notes in all bags). Please submit your fleeces, entry forms, entry fee and return address label to: Diana Blair, Fern Hill Farm, 15400 Ferns Corner Road, Dallas, OR 97338. Out of country entries must include return postage.

## Classes and Awards

### Classes

Fleeces entered must be from the current year harvest. Fleeces will be divided by age groups as follows:

Kid Fleeces (1<sup>st</sup> year)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fleeces  
3<sup>rd</sup> Fleeces

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Fleeces  
7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Fleeces  
Senior Fleeces (10<sup>th</sup> & Over)

The age classes are subdivided by sex (doe, buck, wether). There is no per-farm limit to the number of fleeces that can be entered in each category. Fleeces will be available to be picked up at Fern Hill Farm, or they will be mailed back to you. Entry fee is \$10 each (out of country, please add return postage). Part of the fee covers the postage for returned fleeces.

### Awards

Ribbons will be awarded in each category through 5<sup>th</sup> place. Rosettes will be awarded to Champion and Reserve Champion: Junior Doe, Senior Doe, Junior Buck, Senior Buck and Wether. Rosettes will also be awarded to overall Grand and Reserve Champion Doe and Buck.

**Entry deadline:** Entries must be received by Fleece Competition Chair no later than Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

Questions: Diana Blair: 503.623.5500, email [MrsDiana@Outlook.com](mailto:MrsDiana@Outlook.com), 15400 Ferns Corner Road, Dallas, OR 97338.





*Fill out one form (half page) for each fleece entered.*

**2018 Northwest Cashmere Association Fleece Competition**

Date: August 4, 2018

Judge: Linda Fox, Goat Knoll Farm, Dallas, Oregon

Location: Fern Hill Farm, Dallas, Oregon

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

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

Goat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Goat DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

**Division (Circle One):**

1. Doe
2. Buck
3. Wether

**Class (Circle One):**

- A. First Fleece (DOB 2017)
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fleece (DOB 2016)
- C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleece (DOB 2015)
- D. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Fleece (DOB 2012-2014)
- E. 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Fleece (DOB 2009-2011)
- F. 10<sup>th</sup> Fleece and over (2008 and prior)

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*Fill out one form (half page) for each fleece entered.*

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Judge: Linda Fox, Goat Knoll Farm, Dallas, Oregon

Location: Fern Hill Farm, Dallas, Oregon

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

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Goat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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- F. 10<sup>th</sup> Fleece and over (2008 and prior)

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**SAVE THE DATE** **SEPTEMBER 16-18**

## **NATIONAL GOAT CONFERENCE**

### **Meeting Venues**

Tuskegee University Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center  
Tuskegee Airmen Historic Site  
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

### **Conference Topics**

Nutrition & Pasture Management  
Herd Health & Management  
Marketing & Processing  
Reproduction & Biotechnology  
Genetics & Breeds  
Hands-on Training

PRESENTED BY: THE NATIONAL GOAT CONSORTIUM  
HOSTED BY : TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY



### **Partnering Institutions**

Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alcorn State University  
Florida A&M University  
Kentucky State University  
North Carolina A&T University  
South Carolina State University  
Tennessee State University  
University of Arkansas -Pine Bluff  
Virginia State University

Alabama A&M University  
Florida Dept of Agriculture Consumer Svcs  
Fort Valley State University  
Langston University  
Prairie View State University  
Southern University  
Tuskegee University  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

### REGISTRATION FEES & DEADLINES

General Registration	Deadline
\$225 Producers, \$350 Professionals, \$75 Students	May 1 - Aug 31, 2018
Late Registration	Deadline
\$300 Producers, \$375 Professionals, \$100 Students	After September 1, 2018

## Conference Facilities



Tuskegee University is pleased to host the 2018 National Goat Conference. This year's event will take place in historical Alabama, offering participants an opportunity to take part in the program's events in not only the historic Tuskegee, AL which is home to Tuskegee University, but Montgomery, AL. Lodging is available at the Renaissance Hotel.

**MEETING VENUES** – The National Goat Conference events will take place at three venues (see below). Transportation between the conference hotel and the conference events will be provided.



### Tuskegee Airmen Historic Site Tuskegee, Alabama

<https://www.nps.gov/tuai/index.htm>



### Tuskegee University Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center Tuskegee, Alabama

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/kellogg-hotel-and-conference-center>



### Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center Montgomery, Alabama

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mgmbrr-renaissance-montgomery-hotel-and-spa-at-the-convention-center/>



## INNOVATIVE PRODUCER AWARDS

[Find Out How to Apply](#)

**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS WHO WANT TO ATTEND  
BUT DO NOT HAVE THE NEEDED FUNDS**

[Find Out More](#)

**ORGANIZATIONS and BUSINESSES MAY REGISTER to be  
EXHIBITORS or VENDORS at the CONFERENCE**

[Find Out More](#)

## Special Conference Events



The **2018 National Goat Conference** will host two special events, including the Opening Reception (Free to all registrants) that will be held at the **Tuskegee Airmen Museum** (at Moton Field) National Historic Site at Moton Field. This event is sure to delight with a number of tasting stations that will include novel items, including *goat cheesecake, goatburgers, goat sausage, goat tacos, an array of goat cheeses and*

*much more!*

Conference goers will also have the opportunity to re-live history while enjoying a relaxing cruise on Montgomery's greatest downtown attraction, **the Harriott II Riverboat**. Docked beside the uniquely built Riverwalk Amphitheater, this elegant 19th Century riverboat is center stage of Montgomery's entertainment district and is just steps away from the host hotel. The Harriott II offers dinner, dancing, and live entertainment, making this a perfect night out for all ages at the low cost of \$40 (this fee is not included in registration fee). ***Don't delay, as this event is limited to only 200 participants.***

**For more information about the conference contact**

**Dr. Nar Gurung at (334) 727-8457 [ngurung@tuskegee.edu](mailto:ngurung@tuskegee.edu)**

**Angela McKenzie-Jakes at (850) 875-8552 [angela.mckenziejakes@famu.edu](mailto:angela.mckenziejakes@famu.edu)**

or

**[GO TO THE CONFERENCE WEBPAGE](#)**

AGENDA AT A GLANCE		
Sunday, Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9AM-1PM	Vendor/Exhibit set up	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
10AM-4PM	Registration	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
11AM-1PM	NGC Group Lunch Meeting (Invitation Only)	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
1-5PM	Vendors/Exhibitors	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
2-4PM	Poster Session	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
3-5PM	Beginning Farmer Workshop	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
5PM	Transport to Tuskegee	Buses will run every 15-20 minutes beginning until 6:00PM
6-8PM	Reception at Tuskegee Airmen museum at Moton Field (Heavy O'dourves)	Tuskegee Airmen Museum, Tuskegee, AL
8PM	Transport back to hotel (buses)	Buses will run every 15-20 minutes beginning at 7:30PM
Monday, Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>		
6:30AM	Transport to Tuskegee University	Buses will run every 15-20 minutes until 7:30AM
7AM	Registration	Tuskegee University, Kellogg Conference Center
7AM	Continental Breakfast	Tuskegee University, Kellogg Conference Center
8AM	General Session (AM)	Tuskegee University, Kellogg Conference Center
10AM	Break	Tuskegee University, Kellogg Conference Center
10:15 AM	Concurrent sessions (4)	Tuskegee University, Kellogg Conference Center
12:15 PM	Lunch	Tuskegee University, Kellogg Conference Center
1:45 PM	Transition to Afternoon Activities	
2-5PM	Hands On and Demonstration Activities	Tuskegee University, Caprine Research and Education Center
3-6:30PM	Vendors/Exhibitors	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
3-6:30PM	Poster Session	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
6PM	Transport back to Renaissance Hotel	
7PM	Dinner on your own	<i>Harriott II Cruise (OPTIONAL - \$40/person, not included in registration fee, limited TO 200 PARTICIPANTS.</i>
Tuesday, Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>		
7:00 AM	Registration	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
7:00 AM	Vendors/Exhibitors	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
8AM	Speaker	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
830-10	Concurrent Sessions	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
10-10:20	Break	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
10:20-11	Ask the Expert	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
11-1	Lunch	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
1-3	Concurrent Sessions	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
3-320	Break	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
3:20-5	Concurrent Sessions	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL
6-8	Closing Banquet	Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL

AGF is a national nonprofit organization serving the United States goat industry and is supported by 20,000 individual, affiliate and association members benefiting the interests of more than 158,000 goat producers in the United States.

[Find out more about the American Goat Federation](http://www.cashmeregoatassociation.org)

# HOOFPRINTS

Editor: Maggie Porter [constantine.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:constantine.maggie@gmail.com)

Layout: Becky Bemus [cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca](mailto:cashmere@rovingwindsfarm.ca)

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

## CGA MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

## CGA Officers:

### President

Wendy Pieh

123 Rial Herald Road.

Bremen, MN, 04551

[wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com](mailto:wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com)

### Vice President

Elyse Perambo

East Meets West Family Farm

112 Coy Rd

Richford VT

[eastmeetswestfamilyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:eastmeetswestfamilyfarm@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Christine McBrearty-Hulse

P.O. Box 190

Fly Creek, NY 13337

[mcbrearty3@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbrearty3@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Jana E Dengler

60 Hardwick Road

Petersham, MA 01366

[Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com](mailto:Jana@stoneharvestfarm.com)

## REMINDER!!!!

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