

HOOFPRINTS

WINTER
GOAT
MANAGEMENT



A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTERN CASHMERE ASSOCIATION • www.easterncashmereassociation.org • VOLUME 19 • NO 3 • WINTER 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



ello everyone. Hopefully this newsletter will arrive at a moment when you can settle down and enjoy reading through it, all your wood and hay stored for the winter.

We had a wonderful turnout of quality goats and fleeces at our shows this year, and it is very gratifying to see the expanding level of interest in our Cashmere goats.

The web site is finally getting caught up to date! Please send any ideas you might have or photos that might be nice to display. It seems that more and more people are referring to the web site for information; hopefully you will get more inquiries about your goats.

I have had quite a time convincing various bucks that they are to stay in their designated pastures this breeding season. We have been working on putting a bathroom into our barn, and the carpenter got quite a kick out of watching one

buck purposefully stride by one day. I would put him back, fix some fence, go for a coffee, and he would be back, trying to be quiet as he was sneaking up to the fence to serenade a few ladies in heat. I finally gave up and put him in a stall with a doe I hadn't realized I was going to breed this year, but what the heck, she was in heat. Three days and several revolving does later I finally got him settled in with his "herd" for the breeding season. Thank goodness he has wonderful fiber, and a tenacious personality ... I guess.

I know that the weather throughout the country has been challenging this year, from drought to endless monsoons. I hope we all have a mild winter, and that all the does that you

have bred or are breeding will bring you healthy kids in the spring.

Take care,

Wendy



Welcome Kathleen Albee and Congratulations!

In this issue...

Annual Meeting 20102
VA State Fair Presentation.....3
VA State Fair 2010 Report10
VA State Fair Results11-13

Fall shows in the North East ...17
VT Goat Show Results18
How to: Crotched Earrings27



ECA

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

2010 ECA Annual Meeting

Caroline County VA
28 September 2010



FOLLOWING A PRESENTATION on cashmere fiber from 2010 Show Judge Mickey Nielsen of Yakima WA, President Wendy Pieh opened the meeting at 5:10pm in the Goat & Swine Building at the State Fair of Virginia. During introductions of the group, Beth & Leigh Ann Creamer counted mailed ballots. Quorum was established by the president.

Jane McKinney moved to approve the Secretary's Minutes of the 2009 ECA Annual Meeting as emailed. Jimmy Perry seconded. Motion carried. Jimmy Perry moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Jane McKinney seconded. Motion carried.

Appreciation was expressed to Anne Repaske for her efforts with Hoofprints. The email version has been well-regarded.

Under Old Business, Wendy Pieh encouraged promotion of membership, especially at local fiber festivals. Membership applications can be made available for those attending fiber events. Louise Scott discussed the important value of membership by being listed on the ECA website and by connecting with other producers. It was emphasized that this underscores the importance of keeping the website current. Shirley Richardson will be working to update the website, with assistance from Wendy Pieh. It was reiterated that the membership authorized \$2500 toward website improvements in 2009. Louise Scott moved to have the website updated by 1 November 2010. Melissa Paulson seconded.

Paul Johnson of the NWCA joined in on part of the spring Board of Directors conference call and indicated that their organization would like to collaborate with ECA for educational items relative to the world of cashmere goats.

Under New Business, Wendy Pieh updated the membership on the decision to move a cashmere goat show from Rhinebeck's Fiber Festival to Vermont's Fiber Festival. Jane McKinney reported that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

HOOFPRINTS

VOLUME 19 • NO 3 • WINTER 2010

DESIGN & PRODUCTION: Jason Caldwell, jasoncaldwelldesign.com

MASTHEAD PHOTO: Joe Cashin, tinyurl.com/agv7rn

EDITOR: Anne Repaske, cashmere@shentel.net

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Linda Singley, bearlin@pa.net

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

ECA OFFICERS...

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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

ECA MEMBERSHIP

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

ADVERTISING

Hoofprints advertising (3 issues/year):

| | PER ISSUE | ANNUAL |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| Business Card . . . | --- | ...\$22 |
| Quarter Page . . . | \$24 | ...\$70 |
| Half Page | \$43 | ...\$130 |
| Full page | \$75 | ...\$220 |

Website advertising: \$25/year

FOR ADVERTISING

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

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

Photo on page 28 courtesy of
Claudia Meyer, sxc, Paris

Virginia State Fair Presentation on Harvesting Fiber

GIVEN BY *Mickey Nielsen, Liberty Farm Cashmere*

libertyfarmcashmeregoats.blogspot.com



AFTER TWO YEARS OF RESEARCH and convincing my husband we started our cashmere herd with five does and what we soon learned was a lot of miss-information. But one truth

I did learn early on was; it cost just the same to feed a poor quality goat as a high quality goat.

Since that time one of my goals has been to help others as they maneuver into the Cashmere goat industry here in the United States. You will find that I have compiled bits and pieces of information from many sources which are listed at the end of this article Please do refer to the sources as their full content is worth reading by any one serious in producing cashmere.

In this article you will find information to help you with Cashmere Management, Skirting and Sorting Cashmere and Meeting Cashmere Processing Requirements.

Cashmere Management

PRE HARVEST

The important variable fiber properties are:

- fineness (fiber diameter)
- hairiness (medullation)
- fiber length
- fiber strength
- color fault(s)

As a general rule:

- Better cashmere fiber is produced from a dense-fleeced animal, which also produces more cashmere weight.

- The finer the fiber the lower the production, and the coarser the fiber the greater the weight.
- The coarser the fiber the lower the price, and the finer the fiber the higher the price (but generally only down to fiber diameter of 15.5 microns)

“Down Growth Rate” and Down Average Fiber Diameter are independently inherited traits that do not seem to be correlated in any way.

Animals with a common genetic history and run in the same environment will have similarities. This is important as the bulk of the clip will be similar and require less separation.

Uniformity in your herd is important to the uniformity of the end product. The best way to increase uniformity is to reduce the average micron count. A finer fleece has less standard deviation.

It is imperative that you keep your goats lice free, in good health, and fairly clean to grow a fleece that is of value.

Often if the contamination is limited it will not show up after machine processing, but if the contamination is bad the processor will not accept it. Fiber artist require no dander or contamination.

A fleece with breaking points from ill health has no value because it breaks as you process it, this causes fibers shorter than 1 ¼ inch. Fibers that are less than 1 ¼ inches long cannot be processed properly and will cause noils in your final product.

TENSILE STRENGTH

The **tensile strength** of a material is the maximum amount of tensile stress that can be applied to it before it ceases to be elastic.

The **ultimate tensile strength** (UTS) of a material is the force per unit area at which it breaks in two. Tensile Strength - The ability of fabric or yarn to resist breaking by tension.

It is cost effective to pay attention to the mineral needs and parasite control of your goats. Allowing these things to ruin your fleece cost you time and income.

Dander in cashmere goats can be corrected with the correct mineral mix. The correct mineral mix can improve your yield and overall quality of your clip. Fiber yield is affected by nutrition, season and animal health.

AVERAGE YIELD PERCENTAGES

Shorn average yield 25%

Combed average yield 65%

THE HARVEST

Plan to harvest on days that are dry and your goats are dry. A fleece that is wet or damp from snow or rain is very difficult to harvest and does not store well. Depending on where you live you may have to shut them up for a day or two to

keep them dry before harvesting.

Draft your goats into handling pens noticing which goats look like their coats are lifting. These goats are the goats you want to harvest first.

This is a great time to also get a good look at the condition of your goats and to give any needed boosters or parasite control.

Consider how long your goats will be penned up and if they require shade, food and water. Also notice the conditions you will be working in and what your requirements will be.

FLEECE SAMPLE

Always evaluate the manner in which the fiber grows on each animal to compare uniformity and fineness grade.

Do this by pulling a pinch from a minimum of three areas the neck, side and rump, and compare them. Stay consistent in where you pinch on each animal you are evaluating.

Decide if you want the neck with your premium fleece. If not harvest it last or not at all, if you harvest it and it is coarser place it in a bag just for neck fiber.

Remember uniformity of fleece is a high priority. A uniform fleece helps to make a uniform clip with less sorting for you.

Also take note of vegetation in fleece and long guardhair. Decide what needs to be removed from the clip and if the clip needs to be sorted into different grades.

RECORD KEEPING

Before you begin to harvest take any samples you may need for testing and perform any farm evaluations you desire.

A picture is also a great idea. It is important to keep records on your harvest so you can keep improving your clip. Have each goat's records and record all information gathered. Do not assume you will remember.



The Untangler® Rake

<http://www.jefferspet.com/the-untangler-rake/p/56-N3/cn/1101418/>



If the above link comes up as an error, go to: [jefferspet.com](http://www.jefferspet.com) and click on DOG; Grooming; Undercoat Rakes, The Untangler® Rake. The extra-long, stainless steel teeth rotate 360° to roll out tangles quickly and painlessly, while collecting loose hair. Designed to handle tough manes and tails. Its patented, rotating teeth and comfort-grip handle virtually eliminate tangles. 5½" L

Record:

- fineness (fiber diameter)
- hairiness (medullation)
- fiber length
- fiber strength
- color
- fault(s)
- the method of harvest
- uniformity
- any other trait that you desire.

PRE-HARVEST BRUSHING

A long tooth pin brush used to groom dogs is of great help at harvest time. Use this brush to first comb out the tangles and as much vegetation as you can.

COMBING

Watch for your goat to begin shedding, you will notice a slight lift happening under the guardhair. You will need an undercoat rake to comb out the cashmere.

The average person can comb about five goats a day.

Begin combing; it may take 5-6 passes to align the fiber and for it to start to release on to your rake.

It is best to clean off the brush after each stroke to avoid matting the fiber.

Sometimes it becomes a real challenge as you are combing to get the cashmere to not stick to your hands, the comb, and anything else it touches because of the static. A spray bottle is helpful to give a light mist to the rake.

Plastic grocery bags make a great bag to comb into. Label them with the goat's information and the date, tie them to the panel or fence where you are working and place the fiber in them as you go. Then they easily tie up to be transported.

SHEARING



It is recommended that you shear your goats from youngest to oldest and white to dark. This helps to ensure two things:

- Shearing your younger goats first helps avoid accidentally spreading any illness or disease that your older goats may have.
- White to dark fiber keeps your white line of fiber pure from dark hairs.

Do not trim the goats hoofs at the same time you shear to avoid picking up hoof trimmings in your fleece; the processors do not like this!

You may not see the importance of these precautions right away but as you do more you will see the wisdom in these steps.

Timing is also important when shearing your goats. Ideally you want to shear just before they start to shed. This avoids losing any fiber to shedding and lessens the occurrence of matting.

If you are planning to raise goats to shear you have to think of your yield/production and breed for goats with shorter guard hair.

Shearing your goats also requires a stanchion, and a quality power shear with a 20 tooth goat comb.

Blades require a more precise “edge” to cut fine fiber, so you must keep your blades sharp, expect them to need frequent sharpening and keep them oiled as often as every 2 minutes while shearing.

Shearing requires you to be ambidextrous; you will shear the right side of the goat with your right hand and the left side of the goat with your left hand.

Start shearing with the top line first. Begin at the top of the tail head and shear towards the neck. If the top line is full of vegetation shear it off and throw it away. You don’t want this in with the rest of your fleece.

Next return the shears to the tail head and shear **horizontally** from tail to head, tipping the blade down to follow the curve of the goat’s body.

You want to avoid second cuts. Second cut is a term used to describe when you cut a portion of the fleece twice, thus cutting it in half.

Continue shearing down the side of the goat in this fashion until all the fleece is off on this side, gather it up and place in it in a bag. If the lower front leg fiber is short don’t put it in with your premium fleece.

Repeat on the other side of the goat using your other hand to shear **horizontally** from tail to head.

Areas on the goat to watch to avoid nicking

the goat are; the breech area, and just behind the front legs in the arm pit area.

Stretching out the goat’s body while shearing is helpful in avoiding nicks.

Shearing up the back of the hind legs must be done with care, goats have a major artery in the back leg. You do not want to nick this.

Shearing vertically down the side of the goat should be avoided because of the greater chance of nasty nicks.

Nicks happen on the edge of your cutter.

After I have sheared off the fleece I want to keep I than go back and do a clean up around the goats rear, or any other ugly spots that I will not want to look at for the next three months in the pasture.*

Skirting and Sorting Cashmere



SKIRTING

Objectives of Skirting

- removing fiber that may down grade your end product while maintaining a high percentage of yield.
- eliminating contamination of the clip by removing stained and pigmented fibers and by keeping out all foreign material.

Skirting the fleece can happen while you shear or after you shear.

Skirting must be done while you comb as trying to remove lesser quality fiber after you comb is more difficult.

To skirt while you shear, decide which areas of the fleece you will not be keeping in the clip and toss these areas aside as you shear.

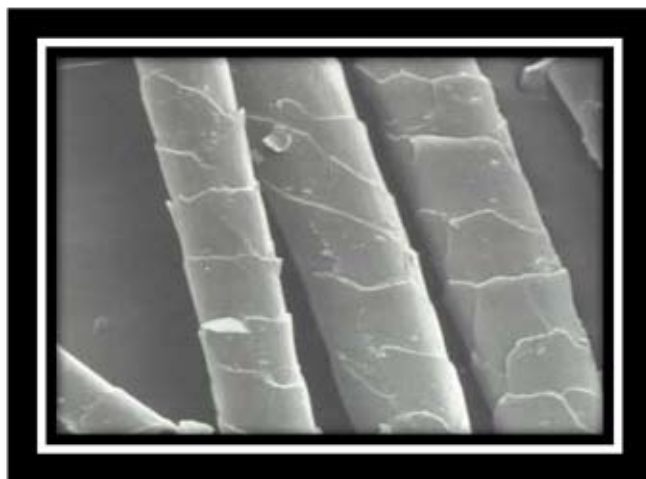
Some cashmere goats grow coarser fiber on their necks. It is general sheep-classing practice in the fine wool industry to class sheep on the back at a position that corresponds exactly to the Withers Mane. The accepted wisdom is that “good wool” at this point is “good wool” all over the body.

The fiber on the underside of the belly, and lower front and hind legs tends to be shorter and coarser.

The premium fleece is from the shoulders down the side of the goat to its rump.

You will not keep areas that have heavy vegetation (top line or neck), shorter than 1 ¼ inches, heavy stains, excessive guard hair to down ratio, matted or dung filled fiber.

- Contamination consists of man-made articles, packaging materials and other items which may find their way into the fiber before or during harvesting.
- Contamination is a very serious issue facing all animal fiber industries. It is essential that all stages of fiber harvesting, preparation and packaging contamination by foreign articles does not occur.
- No animal fiber should be shorn and pressed wet. This will cause the fiber to rapidly deteriorate in quality.



Electron Micrograph - Cashmere fiber (magnification x1100). Fibers are left to right 13.5um, 17.5um, 17.5um.
Photo by R. Couchman

SORTING INTO LINES

Objective of Sorting

- producing as few lines as possible from the clip, while maintaining an appropriate degree of uniformity within each line:

The important variable fiber properties are.

- fineness (fiber diameter)
- hairiness (medullation)
- fiber length
- fiber strength
- color
- fault(s)¹

“The aim of preparing animal fiber for processing is therefore to present lines that have acceptable uniformity of fineness, hairiness, length, strength, color and fault.”

FINENESS/FIBER DIAMETER

Soft garments which can be worn next to the skin are most expensive.

Cashmere fiber diameter is difficult to assess accurately with the naked eye, and objective testing must be used.

DESIRABLE AVERAGE FIBER DIAMETER

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1st year fleece | 14.5 AFD or Lower |
| 2nd | 15.0 AFD or Lower |
| 3rd | 15.5 AFD or Lower |
| 4th | 16.0 AFD or Lower |
| 5th | 16.5 AFD or Lower |
| 6th | 17.0 AFD or Lower |
| 7th | 17.5 AFD or Lower |
| 8th | 18.0 AFD or Lower |
| 9th | 18.5 AFD or Lower |

HAIRINESS

Fleece with “intermediate” fibers, essentially fine guard hairs cannot be properly dehaired and so reduces commercial value. These bloodlines need to be removed from the Cashmere breeding circles.

Testing for curvature does not cost more but you may need to request that information.

FIBER LENGTH

Increased length increases the manufacturers’ ability to spin finer and stronger yarns for weaving.

- Minimum average cashmere length 1 ¼ inches is required.
- Maximum length is not really determined, but 2 inches is ideal.

Fleece with variable lengths is not desirable because of the results while spinning. Yarns spun with variable lengths of fiber tend to pill more and not retain their integrity.

STRENGTH



Single Drum Separator

Cashmere under 15.5 AFD may have questionable tensile strength. Therefore it is important to keep your kid fleece lines separate for processing. Fleece with stress breaks, and weathered tips exhibit poor tensile strength.



Double Drum Separator

COLOR

Fleece should be classed for color as:

- **White:** white down with white guard hair only
- **White and Colored Guard Hair:** no pigmented down fibers
- **Light Gray**
- **Brown:** all pigmented down fibers.

White is quoted at about twice the price of brown, with light gray midway between on the commercial market.



Cashmere in various colors

MEETING PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS

Before you harvest your cashmere it is important to understand the mechanical processing of cashmere. Because the Cashmere goat has a dual coat (guard hair and down) it must be placed through a separator/dehaired.

This separator/dehairer works by centrifugal force. As it spins around the heavier weight guard hair is thrown down to the under bins and the lighter cashmere fiber continues to travel to the end of the processor.

When the guard hair is too long and fine it holds tight to the spinning drums and is not thrown down. Then the processing must stop to clean all the long guard hair from the drums as no other fiber can be processed until it is removed.

This causes time loss and added cost to you the client. At times the guard hair cannot be completely removed from the clip; if it is too long or too fine then processing has to stop.

The scoured cashmere is placed through the double drum separator a minimum of five times and it takes a minimum of six hours for each pound of cashmere.

What causes your fleece to travel through that separator more than the minimum is what you need to know about. Because the more times your fleece has to go through the separator the more potential damage happens to your delicate cashmere.

THE LIST OF QUALITY INHIBITORS LOOKS LIKE THIS:

Too much guard hair, too long of guard hair, too fine of guard hair, matted down, short down, inconsistent length of down, weathered tips, vegetation contamination, and mixed grades.

Too much guard hair: this can be something that you need to correct in your breeding. As in some goats have high density of down and some have low density of down in relation to the guard hair. If you want to improve your yield improve

your density first.

The other reason you may have too much guard hair is the failure to skirt your shorn fleece before sending it into the processor.

Many cashmere goats have excessive guard hair on the breech area taking a close look at this area before including it in your line can improve your end product.

Too long of guard hair: this too can be changed with your breeding program. Any guard hair

more than an inch longer than the down is too much. This can also be changed in the shearing shed by doing a double shear. Double shear means cutting off all the excessively long guard hair before you shear off the complete fleece.

Skirting your fleece after you shear to eliminate the long guard hair is another option, but this is very time consuming and for most producers it just doesn't happen. This is done by spreading the fleece out and pulling all the long guard hairs out of the shorn fleece.

Too fine of guard hair: can only be corrected through breeding. This is a really nasty problem to deal with because the dehairer cannot remove guard hair that is of the same micron as your down. You want the guard hair to be two to three times the micron of down.

Matted down: it is important to harvest your cashmere goats before they start to shed when shearing and soon after they start to shed when combing or the down becomes trapped in the guard hair and if not removed quickly it becomes matted.

Some goats will shed their short summer fiber, this is common in kids. This must be removed or it will matt up on the ends and cause dehairing problems.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Report on the State Fair of Virginia 2010

Jane McKinney, Show Superintendent



WHILE A HURRICANE threatened the coast of Florida we gathered in Richmond, VA for the Annual ECA Goat Show at the State Fair.

This marks the second year in our new location at the Meadows and we continue to enjoy our “new digs”. We had 79 entries in the Open Goat Show and 80 entries in the fleece competition. It was fun to welcome a new participant in the show from North Carolina, Kathleen Albee. She brought both does and bucks as well as a nice display featuring her farm.

Our judge, Mickey Nielsen went right to work along with our Fleece Secretary, Beth Creamer and her assistant, Liz Pack sorting through the fleeces and determining the winners. Congrats are due to our neighbors to the North in Canada for a fine representation of their fleeces! We are sad to have Beth retiring from her duties but look forward to her participation in next year's show by bringing her goats! She was accompanied by her daughter who assisted her Mom well and is pictured below in front of a new banner that they made for the show. Many thanks Beth for all you have done to advance the speed and efficiency of our fleece competition. You will be sorely missed! She will be replaced by Liz Pack who assisted her this year and we look forward to a seamless transition for next year's competition! Welcome aboard!

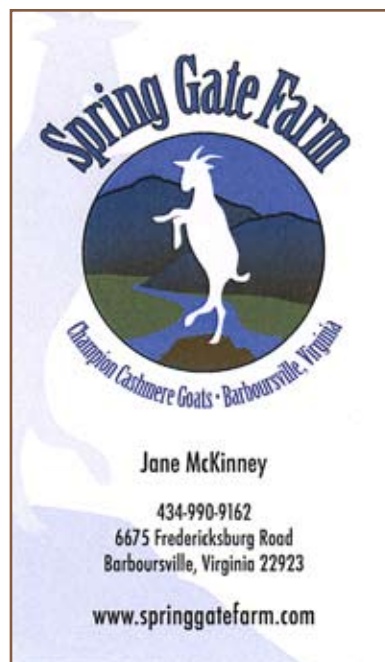
Despite some rain, we were off to a good start and Mickey delivered a wonderful power point talk on Harvesting Fiber. She went through the practical do's and don't of relieving our goats of their luxurious fleeces. It was most informative and useful as we prepare to do it all over again this winter.

Our open goat show went off without a hitch thanks to the wonderful, and informative commentary provided by our able show secretary,

Katherine Harrison. As the public watched the show she kept everyone entertained by fun and unusual facts that you have always wanted to know about the world of cashmere goats. There were entries in every class and top honors were awarded to Spring Gate Farm for both their Does and Bucks as they swept Grand and Reserve Grand Champion. While I don't have as long an institutional memory as others in the ECA I think that may be a first!

When all was said and done it was a fun time had by all and we look forward to next year when our ECA President, Wendy Pieh will return to judge the Show for her first time! While she has been a steady help to all the judges in the past few years we are delighted that she has accepted the task of judging our show next year!

Attached are the results from the Open Cashmere Goat Show as well as the Fleece Competition. It is our hope that we can continue to attract more participation in the Show and encourage breeders to tell their customers about the show. It is a fabulous opportunity to spread the word about this wonderful breed! Have a warm and safe winter!



2010 VA STATE FAIR

OPEN CASHMERE FLEECE COMPETITION

| PLACEMENT | DIVISION | CLASS & CLASS DESCRIPTION | NAME | EXHIBITOR |
|--|----------|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 ENTRY FOR BUCKS FOURTH THROUGH SEVENTH FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st | Shorn | 1017 - Bucks Fourth through Seventh Fleece | MEXPBC 00272 - Mike | Louise Scott |
| 10 ENTRIES FOR BUCK KID FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st | Combed | 1024 - Buck Kid Fleece | STC Newman | Wendy Pieh |
| 2nd | Combed | 1024 - Buck Kid Fleece | BLF Bo | Yvonne Taylor |
| 3rd | Combed | 1024 - Buck Kid Fleece | BSF Jumping Jack | Yvonne Taylor |
| 4th | Combed | 1024 - Buck Kid Fleece | 08220-0028 - Azur | Louise Scott |
| 5th | Combed | 1024 - Buck Kid Fleece | 0631 - Fraser | Jane H. McKinney |
| 6th | Combed | 1024 - Buck Kid Fleece | 5048 - Elmo | Jane H. McKinney |
| 14 ENTRIES FOR BUCKS SECOND, THIRD FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st (GrCh) | Combed | 1025 - Bucks Second, Third Fleece | BLF Duke | Becky Bemus |
| 2nd | Combed | 1025 - Bucks Second, Third Fleece | BLF Castano | Yvonne Taylor |
| 3rd | Combed | 1025 - Bucks Second, Third Fleece | TFC Cairn | Yvonne Taylor |
| 4th | Combed | 1025 - Bucks Second, Third Fleece | STC Jacoby | Yvonne Taylor |
| 5th | Combed | 1025 - Bucks Second, Third Fleece | 5033 - Dakota | Denise Trumpore |
| 6th | Combed | 1025 - Bucks Second, Third Fleece | 0588 - Castor | Jane H. McKinney |
| 4 ENTRIES FOR BUCKS FOURTH THROUGH SEVENTH FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st (RGC) | Combed | 1026 - Bucks Fourth through Seventh Fleece | SHF 4-05 - Highlander | Helene Adolphson |
| 2nd | Combed | 1026 - Bucks Fourth through Seventh Fleece | BLF Leif | Yvonne Taylor |
| 3rd | Combed | 1026 - Bucks Fourth through Seventh Fleece | SHF-8-06 - Iman | Helene Adolphson |
| 4th | Combed | 1026 - Bucks Fourth through Seventh Fleece | KTD Chris | Yvonne Taylor |
| 2 ENTRIES FOR WEATHERS | | | | |
| 1st (RGC) | Combed | 1028 - Weathers | CWF CB 05 Dakota | Melissa Paulson |
| 2nd | Combed | 1028 - Weathers | W122 - Willis | Denise Trumpore |

| PLACEMENT | DIVISION | CLASS & CLASS DESCRIPTION | NAME | EXHIBITOR |
|--|----------|--|--------------------|------------------|
| 9 ENTRIES FOR DOE KID FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st | Combed | 1029 - Doe Kid Fleece | STC Francesca | Wendy Pieh |
| 2nd | Combed | 1029 - Doe Kid Fleece | STC Reilly Rose | Wendy Pieh |
| 3rd | Combed | 1029 - Doe Kid Fleece | SF Z4 - Minstrel | Anne Repaske |
| 4th | Combed | 1029 - Doe Kid Fleece | 0640 - Calire | Jane H. McKinney |
| 5th | Combed | 1029 - Doe Kid Fleece | STC Moxie | Wendy Pieh |
| 6th | Combed | 1029 - Doe Kid Fleece | 0619 - Amelia | Jane H. McKinney |
| 13 ENTRIES FOR DOES SECOND, THIRD FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st | Combed | 1030 - Does Second, Third Fleece | RWF Camilla | Becky Bemus |
| 2nd | Combed | 1030 - Does Second, Third Fleece | STC Susan | Wendy Pieh |
| 3rd | Combed | 1030 - Does Second, Third Fleece | 39-08 - Katrina | Helene Adolphson |
| 4th | Combed | 1030 - Does Second, Third Fleece | 0586 - Starling | Jane H. McKinney |
| 5th | Combed | 1030 - Does Second, Third Fleece | RWF Daramascotta | Becky Bemus |
| 6th | Combed | 1030 - Does Second, Third Fleece | CWF CC 09 - Tinker | Melissa Paulson |
| 20 ENTRIES FOR DOES FOURTH THROUGH SEVENTH FLEECE | | | | |
| 1st (GrCh) | Combed | 1031 - Does Fourth Through Seventh Fleece | SHF 43 - Flutter | Helene Adolphson |
| 2nd | Combed | 1031 - Does Fourth Through Seventh Fleece | BT | Becky Bemus |
| 3rd | Combed | 1031 - Does Fourth Through Seventh Fleece | RSC Giselle | Becky Bemus |
| 4th | Combed | 1031 - Does Fourth Through Seventh Fleece | SHF 52 - Heather | Helene Adolphson |
| 5th | Combed | 1031 - Does Fourth Through Seventh Fleece | STC Vivian | Wendy Pieh |
| 6th | Combed | 1031 - Does Fourth Through Seventh Fleece | SF T4 - Caprice | Anne Repaske |
| 7 ENTRIES FOR DOES EIGHTH AND LATER FLEECE - SENIOR | | | | |
| 1st (RGC) | Combed | 1032 - Does Eighth and Later Fleece - Senior | SHF 31 - Ebony | Helene Adolphson |
| 2nd | Combed | 1032 - Does Eighth and Later Fleece - Senior | SHF 28 - Eve | Helene Adolphson |
| 3rd | Combed | 1032 - Does Eighth and Later Fleece - Senior | STC Starlight | Wendy Pieh |
| 4th | Combed | 1032 - Does Eighth and Later Fleece - Senior | STC Viola | Wendy Pieh |
| 5th | Combed | 1032 - Does Eighth and Later Fleece - Senior | SFS2 - Cary | Anne Repaske |
| 6th | Combed | 1032 - Does Eighth and Later Fleece - Senior | SHF 15 - Bjoux | Helene Adolphson |

Abbreviations

GrCh – Grand Champion
RGC – Reserved Grand Champion

2010 ECA CASHMERE GOAT SHOW RESULTS

State Fair of Virginia

CLASS 1: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2010

1. Melissa Paulson, Ireland
2. Jane McKinney, 0689-Bella
3. Jane McKinney, 0675-Honey
4. Melissa Paulson, Malta
5. Kathleen Albee, 1012-Asia
6. Jane McKinney, 0690-Midnight

CLASS 2: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2009

1. Jane McKinney, 0615-Cecile
2. Jane McKinney, 0637-Sally
3. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Mia
4. Jane McKinney, 0629-Gracie
5. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Meg
6. Melissa Paulson, Sassafras

CLASS 3: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2008

1. Jane McKinney, 0586-Starling
2. Melissa Paulson, Venus
3. Jane McKinney, 0580-Oberon
4. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Mongo
5. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Margaret
6. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Tate

CLASS 4: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2007

1. Melissa Paulson, Blondie
2. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Gwen
3. Melissa Paulson, Esmeralda
4. Jane McKinney, 0550-Alberta
5. Jane McKinney, 0552-Ninaver
6. Jane McKinney, 0648-Diana

CLASS 5: DOES BORN IN THE YEAR 2006 OR EARLIER

1. Jane McKinney, 0009-Violet
2. Jane McKinney, 0605-Pachebel
3. Jane McKinney, 0509
4. Melissa Paulson, Concertina
5. Melissa Paulson, Alabama
6. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Melanie

GRAND CHAMPION: Jane McKinney, 0009-Violet

RESERVE CHAMPION: Jane McKinney, 0605-Pachebel

CLASS 6: DAM & DAUGHTER

1. Melissa Paulson, Concertina & Esmeralda
2. Jane McKinney, Crocus & Honey
3. Kathleen Albee, Claire & Asia
4. Lisa Vailes, Gwen & Paige

CLASS 7: GET OF SIRE

1. Lisa Vailes, SBF-Quinton
2. Jane McKinney, Dante
3. Kathleen Albee, Tumeric

CLASS 9: BUCKS BORN IN THE YEAR 2010

1. Melissa Paulson, Portugal
2. Jane McKinney, Amador
3. Jane McKinney, Attila
4. Kathleen Albee, Amos
5. Jane McKinney, Aksel

CLASS 10: BUCKS BORN IN THE YEAR 2009

1. Jane McKinney, Ethan
2. Jane McKinney, Linus
3. Melissa Paulson, Hickory
4. Jane McKinney, Gaston

CLASS 11: BUCKS BORN IN THE YEAR 2008

1. Jane McKinney, Dante
2. Jane McKinney, Castor
3. Jane McKinney, Titus

CLASS 14: GET OF SIRE

1. Chuck & Jane McKinney, Dante
2. Louise Scott, Grover

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK: Jane McKinney, Dante

RESERVE CHAMPION BUCK: Jane McKinney, Ethan

Also!

Spring Gate Farm also placed: **Grand Champion Doe Violet** and **Reserve Champion Doe Pachebel**. This is a First! Congratulations, Jane McKinney!

at the Virginia Goat Show



Images, from top to bottom: Beth and Leanne;
Show Secretary Katherine Harrison and Fleece
Secretary, Beth Creamer



Images, from top left, clockwise: Kathleen Albee; Mickey Nielsen;
Mickey Nielson Judging Fleeces; The Fleece Show sign!

at the Virginia Fleece Show



Images, from top to bottom: Lining up the winners;
Ibid.

Autumn shows in the Northeast



THIS OCTOBER, ECA moved its annual Northern show from the NYS Sheep & Wool Festival in Rhinebeck to the VT Sheep & Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT.

By all accounts, the move was a smashing success. Fifty goats were entered into competition, including a record number of bucks. Members came from Canada, Virginia, Maine, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont to admire one another's goats, share news and ideas, and learn from judge Wendy Pieh and her assistant, M Warryn.

Thanks to months of preparation and planning by Shirley Richardson, the weekend in a new location came off without a hitch. The festival organizers welcomed us with open arms, and we had ample space in a barn to ourselves. Even the weather cooperated, providing us with two glorious autumn days. The VT festival is much smaller than the festival at Rhinebeck, resulting in a more relaxed atmosphere. There were still plenty of vendors selling fiber and yarn and finished goods, and Pygora goats, Angora goats, Angora rabbits, alpacas, and sheep were on hand.

On Saturday Wendy and M closeted themselves (with a few observers) in a rented RV to evaluate all of the fleeces. In the afternoon, they went from pen to pen evaluating the conformation of each goat, as a scribe recorded their observations and a small group of onlookers listened and asked questions. Wendy explained that the most recent standard has replaced the categories referring to size with a quality called "body balance". Thus a goat whose body is in perfect

proportion might outrank the bigger goat in the next pen. Numeric scores were assigned to each individual category, but Wendy noted that we no longer sum the scores when comparing the goats in the show ring. The scores provide owners with details on each of their goats, but the relative weight of the categories is left to the discretion of the judge.

With all of the fleece and conformation evaluations documented in advance, the public show on Sunday moved along quickly and held the interest of our audience. Of course, the antics of the rambunctious goats and the creative efforts of the handlers trying to coax the goats into walking or standing like show goats probably captured their attention as well. Wendy introduced each goat to the audience, summarizing its qualities and observing its movements in the ring before making a decision on the placements in each class.

Top honors in the buck show went to Yvonne Taylor's Castano, with her Bo taking second place. In the doe show, Bailey and Eve from Tannery Farm Cashmeres took first and second place.

ECA still had a presence at the NYS Sheep & Wool Festival, albeit a much smaller one. Wendy, Andrea, and M ran a very popular booth full of cashmere goods and kits, and a couple of pens in the llama and alpaca barn were occupied by cashmere goats and an educational display. The llama/alpaca barn is very close to the main festival entrance, so a constant stream of visitors passed by, admiring the goats, taking pictures, and often remarking upon the prominent "Cashmere comes only from goats!" sign.

RESULTS OF THE CASHMERE GOAT SHOW

Wendy Pieh, Judge

at the Vermont Sheep & Goat Festival, Tunbridge, Vermont, October 3, 2010

Bucks

BUCKS BORN IN 2010 (OUT OF 2)

1. HPF Nathaniel, owner Pam Haendle
2. CSM Moto Tooneka, owner Sister Mary Elizabeth

BUCKS BORN IN 2009 (OUT OF 7)

1. BLF Bo, owner Yvonne Taylor
2. PBP 007 (Double 07), owners, Beth and Scott Record
3. PBP Q, owners, Beth and Scott Record
4. CSM Pulumutsani, owner Sister Mary Elizabeth

BUCKS BORN FROM 2005 TO 2008 (OUT OF 5)

1. BLF Castano, owner Yvonne Taylor
2. TFC Cairn, owner Yvonne Taylor
3. KTD Chris, owner Yvonne Taylor
4. HPF Lazarus, owner Pam Haendle

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK

BLF Castano, owner Yvonne Taylor

RESERVE CHAMPION BUCK

BLF Bo, owner Yvonne Taylor

WETHERS (OUT OF 3)

1. Camp, owner Maggie Constantine
2. Aesop, owner Maggie Constantine
3. Billy, owner Maggie Constantine

Does

DOES BORN IN 2010 (OUT OF 14)

1. Hannah, owner Maggie Constantine
2. CSM Timba, owner Sister Mary Elizabeth
3. WWF Hibiscus, owner Ann Taylor
4. BLF Ink, owner Yvonne Taylor

DOES BORN IN 2009 (OUT OF 7)

1. TFC Eve, owner Shirley Richardson
2. CSM Kunika, owner Sister Mary Elizabeth
3. PBP Xena, owners Beth and Scott Record
4. CSM Wezzie, owner Sister Mary Elizabeth

DOES BORN FROM 2006 TO 2008 (OUT OF 6)

1. TFC Bailey, owner Shirley Richardson
2. TFC Dahlia, owner Shirley Richardson
3. PBP Topsy, owners Beth and Scott Record
4. TFC Chai, owner Shirley Richardson

GRAND CHAMPION DOE

TFC Bailey, owner Shirley Richardson

RESERVE CHAMPION DOE

TFC Eve, owner Shirley Richardson



Cashmere Goats
Wethers trained to pack
Norwegian Fjord Horses

Yvonne & Lance Taylor

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

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

at the Vermont Sheep and Goat Festival



Images, from top, clockwise: Shirley Richardson with son, Serif and Grand Champion Doe Bailey; Ann Taylor with friends; Emily Backels and Reserve Champion Doe Eve



Images, from top, clockwise: Junior exhibitors and Judge Wendy Pieh; Checking Fleeces: Lisa Vailes and Judge Mickey Nielsen; Doe Line-up



Sister Mary Elizabeth and Yvonne Taylor, Holding Their Winning Bucks



Images, from top, clockwise: Judge Mickey Nielsen evaluating goats; Judge Mickey Nielsen and Ring Stewart Wendy Pieh; Fleece competition sign.



If you cannot easily pull the mats apart with your fingers the separator cannot dehair it.

Short down: is generally a breeding problem and needs to be corrected there. If you have goats with short down (less than 1.25 inch) it may be best to comb the down out as this does not cause any loss of length as shearing does. Short down may be kicked out of the separator with the guard hair, and may cause noils.

Inconsistent length of down: is a breeding

issue and a skirting issue. If you have a goat with major inconsistent lengths of down, separate out the areas of different lengths into different lines. Consistency is very important to look at when considering a goat for breeding.

Weathered Tips: is caused when guard hair does not cover the down. This must be taken into account when measuring the length of the fiber, and placing it into a processing line as these tips will become noils and may cause processing problems.

Vegetation contamination: Some parts of the fleece you just have to throw away because of the vegetation. If you don't take it out at harvest time it will contaminate the whole clip.

Mixed grades: can ruin your end product. Educate yourself to detect fine from coarse fiber. Know what cashmere is and what cashgora is.

The first year clip is actually the hardest to dehair. The micron count between the guard hair and down is almost the same, plus the down tips may be what the goat was born with and may have very poor tencel strength, thus causing breakage and noiling. Some producers shear off the baby fleece in June for this reason. Keep the baby fiber out of your other fiber.

**DEHAIRING CHARGE IS BASED ON
WASHED WEIGHT.**

CASHMERE DEHAIRING PRICING
COMBED CASHMERE \$35.00 PER LB
SHORN CASHMERE \$45.00 PER LB
1 LB MINIMUM CHARGE



SUMMARY

Your net return depends in part on your understanding of the Management, the Skirting and Sorting of your cashmere harvest in order to better meet the Processing Requirements for cashmere.

The more understanding you can gain of maintaining the general health of your goats, how the cashmere grows on your goats, how to correctly harvest the down and the processing of cashmere fibers the more successful you will be in your enterprise.

Learning the different pitfalls to avoid in your clip, and a better idea of what your animals produce the greater chance you have of producing quality cashmere products with less waste of your time and money.

The need to place your fiber into as few of grade lines as possible and the need for a quality end produce have to be balanced.

This is why consistency in your herd is important. All of this will help to ensure a quality return product in the end. ***

Great References

Australian Government, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation:

- Down Production on Cashmere Goats- Genetic Implications:
<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/downloads/04-027>

Bruce McGregor – Goat Specialist Agriculture Victoria Australia:

- Increasing Cashmere Production with Improved Nutrition:
<http://www.acga.org.au/goatnotes/C007.php>

- Softness Attributes of Australian Cashmere:
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nreninf.nsf/childdocs/-89E7A8DAFEA417624A2568B30004C26A-137DAF9DA8A8FB47CA256BC700811CDA-6229990E97971F634A256DEA002786EE-91C701C793F438BDCA256C1A001B3BDC?open>

Diana Blair – Going To The Sun Fiber Mill, Montana, USA

- <http://www.gttsfibermill.com/>

Joe David Ross- Ross Ranch, Texas, USA

Karakan Cashmere – Australia:

- Investigation into the Basis of Down Production in Cashmere Goats and its Improvement by Genetic Means:
<http://www.cashmere.au.com/research/index.html>

The Cashmere Goat Registry, Washington State, USA

- <http://cashmeregoatregistry.blogspot.com/>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:

- Harvesting Of Textile Animal Fibres:
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/v9384e/v9384e00.HTM>

The Australian Cashmere Growers Association Ltd. (ACGA)

- <http://www.acga.org.au/index.html>

Northwest Cashmere Association

- <http://northwestcashmere.blogspot.com/>

Tired of Dealing with Bucks??

Want to introduce highly acclaimed
Australian blood lines into your herd?

AVAILABLE: Semen and embryo transfers from
Shirley Levy's Australian Lismore stock

Lydia Ratcliff, 2604 East Hill Road, Andover VT 05143
or call: 802-875-3159

Timberwood Farm

www.timberwoodfarmandfiber.com

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



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

CASHMERE GOATS

BREEDING STOCK & CASHMERE PRODUCTS FOR SALE

We Buy Quality Fiber!



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

Tel: 207-529-5747

info@springtidefarm.com
www.springtidefarm.com

Bearlin Acres Farm

Natural Fibers in wool, alpaca, and cashmere

FLEECES AND BREEDING STOCK:

BORDER CHEVIOT, BLUE FACED AND LONGWOOL
LEICESTERS, CASHMERE, NUBIAN AND CROSSES

180 Mt. Ash Lane Shippensburg, PA 17257

Telephone/web

717 530-3605/ www.bearlinacres.com

bearlin@pa.net

Hermit Pond Farm Cashmere Goats



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

pamela.haendle@bnymellon.com

Cashmere "on the hoof"

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




The Leap Farm

Louise Scott & Joe Pasini
1003 Miller Farm Road
Staunton, VA 24401-6015

scott.pasini3@wildblue.net

540.887.8139



Tannery Farm Cashmeres

Cashmere Goats

Breeding Goats • Fleece
Meat Goats • Kids

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

Hatie Clingerman's Crotched Earrings

MATERIAL:

- small amount of lace weight cashmere yarn
- size 00 crotch hook
- pair of earring wires.

ABBREVIATIONS:

- **RS**-right side
- **Ch**-chain
- **Sc**-single crotche
- **Hdc**-half double crotche
- **dc**-double crotche

When crotching I carry 2 strands of yarn.

DIRECTIONS:

Chain 12, join with a slip stitch to form a ring.

Round 1. (RS) Ch 1, work (3 sc, 3 hdc, 6dc, 3hdc, 3 sc) into the ring. Slip stitch into first sc to form a ring-18 sts.

Round 2. With RS facing, ch 1, sc into each of the next 3 sc, 2hdc into each of the next 3 hdc, 2 dc into each of the next 6 dc, 2 hdc in each of the next 3hdc, sc into each of the next 3 sc, slip stitch in first sc to join.

Fasten off and weave in the ends. Attach to a pair of earring wires.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

State Fair of Virginia is allocating less funds toward the ECA show and does have concerns that many fiber show premiums are going to Canadian competitors. For the first time, ECA covered part of the cost of the judge in 2010. Evaluating the premium dollars offered by the fair, the space available, and the other amenities, Jane advocated that the State Fair of Virginia is still an excellent venue for the ECA show. Discussion ensued on ways to encourage the State Fair of Virginia to retain the ECA show: remove premiums on the fiber show, increase entry fees for non-members.

Jimmy Perry moved to hold the ECA Annual Meeting in Vermont in 2011, provided that the facilities are suitable. Louise Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There were no Bylaw change suggestions offered for this annual meeting.

Results of the elections were announced. Wendy Pieh, Anne Repaske, Jane McKinney, and Katherine Harrison were re-elected.

Louise Scott moved to adjourn. Melissa

Paulson seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm, to be followed by the Board of Directors meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine M Harrison





Wendy Pieh, Judge and "M", Assistant



Eastern Cashmere Association

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



[Momma and her kid]