

# HOOFPRINTS



A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTERN CASHMERE ASSOCIATION • [www.easterncashmereassociation.org](http://www.easterncashmereassociation.org) • VOLUME 20 • NO 3 • WINTER 2011

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**I**t's snowing outside, it's cozy by the fire, and I am trying not to think too much of all the things I meant to get done before winter!

I did agree to rescind my resignation as president, and will continue through this next year. We did not have a quorum for the directors' meeting in Vermont, and held that meeting earlier in November, where we elected to keep the same slate of officers. We also have two new Board members, Becky Bemus from Canada and Jana Dengler from Massachusetts. They both bring lots of wisdom, energy and ideas.

We had a great annual meeting in Vermont, with lots of active participation, and the surprise and much appreciated drop in of Wes and Marilyn Ackley, two of the original founders of ECA.

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We talked about shows, judges, the standard, membership, Hoofprints, the web site, and how to support ECA as a growing and vigorous association. We agreed to make an effort to hold next year's meeting (which will be in Richmond) in a place where members can participate via speaker phone or some such new technology.

A few new ideas came up. We decided to have a booth at the New England Fiber Festival, which went very well. We also have decided to pursue a presence and perhaps a buck show / sale at

**continued on next page**

### Photos Left:

**Top:** Beth Creamer, Wendy Pleh and Leanne Creamer with 1st Place Kid Buck "Elvis" from Croom Sound Farm.

**Center:** Wendy Pleh, Fleece Judge

**Bottom:** Jane McKinney won Doe Grand Champion "Starling" and Doe Reserve Grand Champion "Rhapsodie"



# ECA

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

President's message continued from page 1

ing two day event at the farm of Pam Haendle. We are working to collaborate with NWCA and CCPA on these two events as well.

That's it from here; please have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holidays,

Wendy ♦

### The Goat And I

by Robert William Service

*Each sunny day upon my way  
A goat I pass;  
He has a beard of silver grey,  
A bell of brass.  
And all the while I am in sight  
He seems to muse,  
And stares at me with all his might  
And chews and chews.*

*Upon the hill so thymy sweet  
With joy of Spring,  
He hails me with a tiny bleat  
Of welcoming.  
Though half the globe is drenched with blood  
And cities flare,  
Contentedly he chews the cud  
And does not care.*

*Oh gentle friend, I know not what  
Your age may be,  
But of my years I'd give the lot  
Yet left to me,  
To chew a thistle and not choke,  
But bright of eye  
Gaze at the old world-weary bloke  
Who hobbles by.*

*Alas! though bards make verse sublime,  
And lines to quote,  
It takes a fool like me to rhyme  
About a goat.*

# HOOFPRIINTS

Volume 20 • No. 3 • Winter 2011

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

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### 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](http://www.easterncashmereassociation.org).

### ADVERTISING

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<i>Hoofprints</i> advertising (3 issues/year):			Please send name, farm name, address, website, phone number and indicate lines of business (breeding, fiber, bucks for lease, etc).
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# Common Caprine Parasites

by Wendy Pieh, Springtide Farm, Bremen, ME

**I**nternal and external parasites seem to be a perennial challenge on the goat farm. I have spent the last several years researching and trying a variety of treatments. I have torn out most of my hair as I watched my intense attention to the issue make little progress with the strongyles until I vastly changed my treatment methods. This short article is based on our experience here at Springtide Farm, and is primarily anecdotal, although any recommendations presented here are consistent with current veterinary literature and controlled animal studies

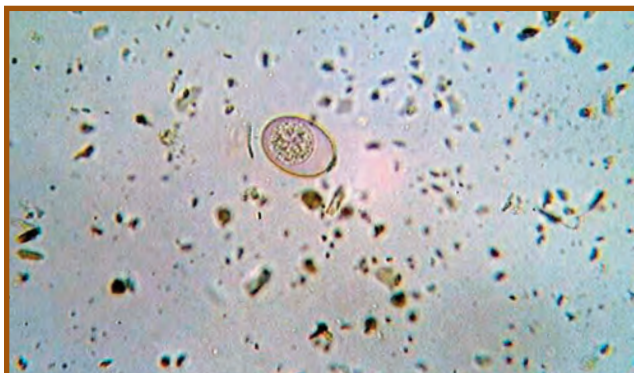
Various techniques are suggested for control, and various medications are suggested as being the best for your goats. Parasites are persistent, concerned about their own survival, and some do become resistant to the various medical treatments. Hopefully my experience will allow you to have a successful treatment program and still keep most of your own hair attached to your own head!

## INTERNAL PARASITES

The most common parasites that we deal with are coccidia, a protozoa, and *Haemonchus contortus*, or “Barber Pole” or “Blood Worm” or “Round Worm,” which is a strongyle.

### Coccidia

Coccidia are parasites (protozoa - similar to giardia) that live in goats’ intestines. The trick with



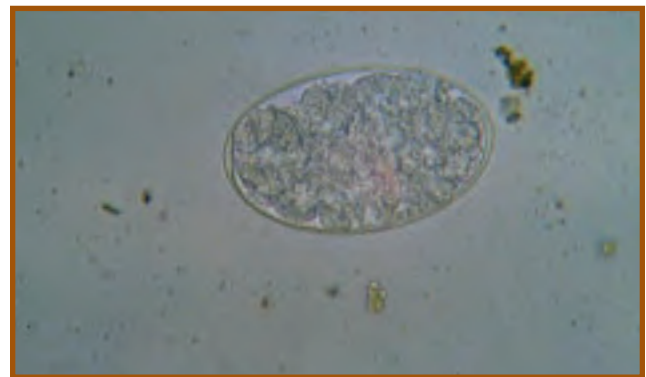
This is coccidia. It is approximately one-fifth the size of the strongyle worms.

them is not to eliminate them but to keep them in balance.

Coccidia are found primarily in youngsters up to six months of age. Normally the young kid will develop a natural immunity as they age, and it is unusual to find coccidia in an adult goat.

### Strongyles

The *Haemonchus contortus* strongyle worms tend to be harder to get rid of, and they have adapted to survive various worming medications. In large numbers in the intestine, they can cause severe anemia, “bottle jaw,” and even death in the affected goat.



This is the *Haemonchus contortus* strongyle worm egg, in its early stages. As it develops into the larval stage it looks more like a worm, but is still inside the egg.

## Diagnosis

Before treating your goats for worms, you want to ascertain that worms are indeed the problem, and that the worms will respond to your method of treatment. Fecal tests are quite easy to do, and they will give you an idea if you are working with a coccidia, a strongyle, or both.

There are many recognized fecal testing methods. Below is a description of what I do, developed over time as the quickest and easiest way for me to get a reading. Whatever method you choose, standardize it (do it the same way every time), so that your outcomes are consistent and the information you get is useful for comparisons over time.





Wendy Pieh, Judge giving Seminar on Common Caprine Parasites. She is examining the stool samples.

For a fecal test, you need:

- Labeled feces from the goat
- Microscope that can magnify to 10X
- Microscope slide and cover
- Fecasol
- Tweezers
- Fecalyzer sample holder
- Small container with eye dropper to hold Fecasol

My process:

- Gather two to three berries or equivalent (If you are dealing with diarrhea, even a small amount can be helpful in diagnosis) from the goat, as fresh as possible
- Put them/it in a sandwich bag and label it
- Using the tweezers, put one good sized berry or equivalent in the Fecalyzer sample holder
- Add a little Fecasol, just enough to cover the poop
- Stir with the tweezers
- Rinse tweezers so it is clean for next sample
- Put the green part of the holder in, being sure to push it down fully and twist clockwise until tight
- Pour in Fecasol to create a "bubble" on top
- Put the slide cover on the "bubble"
- Wait fifteen minutes to allow the eggs to float up to the surface of the slide cover
- Lift slide cover off "bubble" carefully, preserving as much liquid as possible on the cover

- Place slide cover on slide, liquid side down
- Put in microscope
- Set microscope to 10X
- Find a corner of the slide through the scope
- Work through the entire slide in a grid pattern, counting eggs
- Write down date, name, and findings
- Clean materials with hot water, Fecalizers can be re-used

I tend to do five or six goats at a time, which takes me a bit over an hour to diagnose.

Wear protective gloves and thoroughly wash your hands when you are done.

Many people are also trained in the FAMACHA method. This method is less precise but is recognized as a helpful diagnostic tool. I do not have enough experience with this method to comment on it.

## Treatment

### Coccidia

If you have a problem with coccidia, it will usually show up as diarrhea and a loss of thriftiness in the affected goat. Coccidia problems generally come from overcrowding, and from eating leftover foods and bedding that contain feces. If you change the eating environment, and/or your feeding practices, the balance should reassert itself quickly without medical treatment. Once you have a problem it is a good idea to move the herd immediately to a cleaner pasture, as the problem will intensify and spread quickly as the affected animals discharge more eggs. Moisture doesn't help either, so a wet spring may increase the problem.

When I have had a problem with coccidia, even with high numbers (50+) in a fecal sample, I have been able to cure the problem simply by moving to a clean feeding environment. There are medical treatments available, but I don't feel competent commenting on them since I have not used them. Even if you use a medical treatment, it is unlikely to be lasting without a change in the feeding environment. Coccidia can move very quickly through your herd, so close attention and immediate actions are needed to avoid losing any goats.

### Haemonchus contortus

If there are more than fifty strongyle eggs in a sample, I treat the goat, and check it again in two weeks. I have had over two hundred eggs in a sample, with a seemingly healthy goat smiling at me.

Here is our story of dealing with a pretty heavy and very persistent Haemonchus problem, which I hope can help you.

We began by treating our goats with Ivermectin injectable three or four times per year. This was not fun because the injection is irritating and painful. The occasional goat would lie down, put his/her hooves in the air, and loudly proclaim that, "Death is imminent!" Over time I learned that a little bit of grain goes a long way, offering an apology and delightful distraction all at the same time.

This method seemed to work well for several years, our goats were healthy, had good growth, and I just kept going. Over time, and researching various treatments, I decided to do a fecal count of a few less thrifty goats via the veterinarian. She said we had a high count of strongyles, and that we needed to change our treatment method. Ivermectin injectable was no longer recommended, and to try Safeguard paste. I did this, and decided (without any testing) that rotation of types of medicine moving forward would be the answer.

Meanwhile we were rotating our pastures and making sure all feeding areas were clean. I did learn how to do my own fecal samples, and was demoralized to see that we weren't really coming down significantly in our worm load, particularly with lactating does and kids, who are much more susceptible to parasite infestation.

We then paid to have our parasite resistance

tested, and learned that we should use Ivermectin Drench, which we did. On weaning day for the bucklings I had done a fecal count, and several were over 100 eggs. So we did the drench, and then repeated it the next day. Imagine my horror when two weeks later not only did we still have eggs in our bucklings, they were doubling in count. Either we (three of us had administered it at different and multiple times) were doing it wrong or it wasn't working or both. It felt hopeless.



Wendy Pieh, Judge administering copper oxide supplement called Copasure to "Sting," who has been found positive for Haemonchus contortus.

However, in doing more research, I learned that testing was being done with copper oxide wire particles. The goat ingests the particles, which stay in the goat's stomach and the tannins in the particles kill the adult Haemonchus contortus strongyles. I decided to try it, using a product called Copasure. This is a supplemental made up of the copper oxide wire particles. It comes in boluses large enough for cattle, so I made them into smaller two gram boluses for our goats. It took some extra effort to get the bucklings to keep the boluses down (after all they are experts at regurgitation), but the results were spectacular.

Seven days after treating them, all egg counts had dropped to none or very few, from as many as 194 eggs in a single slide to just four. Dancing in the barn yard immediately took place.

### How to prepare and administer a Copasure bolus:

#### Equipment

- Small gelatin capsule (1 inch long, ¼ inch wide),
- Pill dispenser, pet size
- 50 cc syringe, either a feeding syringe, drenching syringe or a regular syringe with a catheter end
- Handful of favorite food
- Copasure

## Procedure

- Put 2 grams Copasure (a little less than a ¼ teaspoon) into the bolus
- Put 20+ cc's water in feeding syringe
- Stand over goat's neck, nestling head against your legs
- Use your thumb to hold open the mouth, putting it along the lower gum where there are no teeth
- Put pill pusher end far back into the mouth and push plunger
- Immediately use drenching syringe to follow up with water, putting it in slowly so the goat does not aspirate (if s/he starts coughing, slow down)
- Watch for the goat to either swallow the bolus or start chewing it, which will also get most of it down
- A handful of favorite food also helps goat to ingest the bolus
- Watch closely afterward to be sure that the goat does not spit out the bolus

It really takes a helper to do the bolus, plus a lot of time, so I then treated the rest of the herd with one quarter teaspoon Copasure sprinkled on a bowl of grain for each goat. I did a little less on the doelings, and a little more on the largest goats. Everyone ate just about all of the particles, and I began to see weight gain within three weeks of even the thinner of the nursing does. If a goat does not show improvement within two weeks, I go to the bolus method.

Dr. Joan Burke (USDA, ARS) has done the leading research on copper oxide wire particles, and much of her work is available on line. It does appear that giving goats the particles mixed in their feed is equally effective; just make sure they eat the particles, which have some tendency to drop to the bottom of the feed bowl.

I now feed Copasure three times per year, plus more on an as needed basis, particularly with lactating does and kids, who are more vulnerable to parasites.

Parasites and parasite resistance continue to be a

challenge for goat farmers. It is worth it to keep up with what is currently happening in terms of the latest research, and to stay open minded to trying different methods of treatment.

Of course, the best treatment is to not have a problem. Rotational grazing and treating any newcomers to your herd a week before integrating them should help you keep well ahead of any parasite challenges. Parasite resistance is also a genetic trait, and you will want to keep a log of the fecal counts in your goats to help you make breeding and culling decisions that minimize the problems with internal parasites.

## EXTERNAL PARASITES

External parasites live in balance on the goat. When they get out of balance, they may show up as recognizable lice, loss of and/or shedding of hair, red or hot spots or as what we have come to call "skuzzy" skin. We treat it all with a topical insecticide, Permethrin CDS (7.4% Permethrin and 7.4% Piperonyl Butoxide Technical). One treatment often cures the problem. What it is most important to understand is that external parasites such as lice, mange, etc. are fairly easy to treat if treated early.



Chrystall got pneumonia, got over that, and then got the skuzzy skin all over her face. Being careful not to get the medicine in her eyes, she healed completely after one topical treatment.





Viola got red, swollen, and itchy, her own variety of skuzzy skin. One topical treatment of the Permethrin CDS cured her problem.

Permethrin CDS has now been banned in several states. When I asked our Department of Agriculture to look into it, they could not figure out why, even though it is now banned here in Maine. You can get permectrin at a 10% level, but that is too strong, and will burn the goat's skin. There is another product, Ultra Boss, which I am trying now; it is 5% and 5%, where the Permethrin CDS is 7% and 7%. I think it will work, and it is still legal to ship it to Maine.

Please contact me with any ideas that you have that could help us all do a better job dealing with parasites.

### Resources

Boluses – local health food store or health food section at the grocery store or pharmacy  
 Copasure – [www.jefferslivestock.com](http://www.jefferslivestock.com); [www.valleyvet.com](http://www.valleyvet.com)  
 Fecasol and Fecalyzers – [www.lambertvetsupply.com](http://www.lambertvetsupply.com)  
 Feeding syringes – [www.valleyvet.com](http://www.valleyvet.com)  
 Permethrin CDS – [www.jefferslivestock.com](http://www.jefferslivestock.com)  
 Pill dispenser – [www.jefferslivestock.com](http://www.jefferslivestock.com)  
 Ultra Boss – [www.jefferslivestock.com](http://www.jefferslivestock.com); [www.valleyvet.com](http://www.valleyvet.com)

I would welcome news of other resources.

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# 2011 Vermont Cashmere Goat Show Results

Wendy Pieh, Judge

## Bucks born in 2011

1st KAF Avatar	David & Angela Bell
2nd STON Pollux	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler
3rd KAF Fly Away	David & Angela Bell
3rd STON Paul	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler
3rd STON Granite	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler
4th STON Burton	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler

## Bucks born in 2010

1st MDF Gringo	Yvonne & Lance Taylor
2nd BLF Uther	Yvonne & Lance Taylor
3rd BLF Uintas	Yvonne & Lance Taylor

## Wethers

1st NY101462 1038 Harry T. Happiness	Mika Ingerman
2nd NY101462 1039 David Delivers	Mika Ingerman

## Grand Champion Buck:

MDF Gringo Yvonne & Lance Taylor

## Reserve Champion Buck:

BLF Uther Yvonne & Lance Taylor

## Does born in 2011

1st CSM Umbani	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2nd STON Helena	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler
2nd STON Orion	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler
3rd STON Birch	Maryanne Reynolds & Jana Dengler
3rd TFC Gala	Shirley Richardson & Mike Smith
4th WWF Juniper	Ann Taylor

## Does born in 2010

1st WWF Hibiscus	Ann Taylor
1st CSM Cholinga	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2nd HPF Noel	Pam Haendle
3rd HPF Nicea	Pam Haendle
4th HPF Natalie	Pam Haendle

## Does born in 2009

1st CSM Wezzie	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2nd CSM Kuunika	Sister Mary Elizabeth
3rd Blue	Carolyn Holt

## Does born in 2006

1st Khumbo	Sister Mary Elizabeth
------------	-----------------------

## Grand Champion Doe:

CSM Khumbo Sister Mary Elizabeth

## Reserve Champion Doe:

WWF Hibiscus Ann Taylor ♦



Leanne Creamer, Show Secretary, VA State Fair



Virginia is helping show the kid bucks at the Virginia State Fair Goat Show.



# 2011 Virginia State Fair

## Fleece Competition Results

### Buck Kid Fleece: 8 in Class

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. BLF Gringo       | Yvonne Taylor |
| 2. SGF-158 Amador   | Jane McKinney |
| 3. BLF Scherz0      | Yvonne Taylor |
| 4. SGF-176 Salvador | Jane McKinney |
| 5. BLF Uther        | Yvonne Taylor |
| 6. SGF-175 Enrique  | Jane McKinney |

### Bucks Second, Third Fleece: 6 in class

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. CYP Bibbles      | Yvonne Taylor |
| 2. BSF Jumping Jack | Yvonne Taylor |
| 3. TFC 5059 Ethan   | Jane McKinney |
| 4. STC Jacoby       | Yvonne Taylor |
| 5. BAMR Y4          | Linda Singley |
| 6. SGF Castor       | Jane McKinney |

### Bucks: Fourth Year Fleece 1 in class

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. TFC Cairn | Shirley Richardson |
|--------------|--------------------|

### Wethers: 2 in class

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. BAMR A4 Half Pint    | Linda Singley |
| 2. VA7OHSC 0121 Pancake | Nicholos      |

### Doe Kid Fleece: 8 in class

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. TFC Fern         | Shirley Richardson |
| 2. SGF-157 Lola     | Jane McKinney      |
| 3. BAMR A13 Harmony | Linda Singley      |
| 4. SGF-183 Bella    | Jane McKinney      |
| 5. SGF-170 Honey    | Jane McKinney      |
| 6. TFC Fae          | Shirley Richardson |



Beth Creamer assisting with Fleece Judging, Elizabeth Pack, Fleece Secretary, Wendy Pieh, Judge



Elizabeth Pack, Fleece Secretary, VA State Fair Cashmere Goat Show

### Does: Second, Third Fleece Fleece: 12 in class

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. TFC Eve            | Shirley Richardson |
| 2. VA37010 005 Kaylec | Ginni Nichols      |
| 3. SGF-133 Sally      | Jane McKinney      |
| 4. TFC Dahlia         | Shirley Richardson |
| 5. BAMR Z13           | Linda Singley      |
| 6. SGF-100 Cadence    | Jane McKinney      |

### Does Fourth through Seventh Fleece: 4 in class

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. TFC Char        | Shirley Richardson |
| 2. TFC Bell        | Shirley Richardson |
| 3. SGF-25 Crocus   | Jane McKinney      |
| 4. SF-V9 Rhapsodie | Jane McKinney      |

### Does: Eighth and Later Fleece Senior 4 in class

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. SF-S14 Pachelbel | Jane McKinney |
| 2. SF-P6 Daisy      | Jane McKinney |
| 3. MDRHF 38         | Linda Singley |
| 4. RHF-39 Ginger    | Jane McKinney |

### Buck Grand Champion:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| CYP Bibbles | Yvonne Taylor |
|-------------|---------------|

### Buck Reserve Champion:

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| BLF Gringo | Yvonne Taylor |
|------------|---------------|

### Doe Grand Champion:

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| SF-S14 Pachelbel | Jane McKinney |
|------------------|---------------|

### Doe Reserve Champion:

- |          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| TFC Char | Shirley Richardson |
|----------|--------------------|

## 2011 Virginia State Fair

### Cashmere Goat Show Results

Owner	Goat	Place	
<b>Does Born in 2011 (milk teeth)</b>			
Jane McKinney	Maria SGF200 US0707	1	
Louise Scott	Suzanna VA8220-0054	2	
Jane McKinney	Elena SGF-226-US0733	3	
Louise Scott	Liz VA08220-0051	4	
Jane McKinney	Ana SGF-224-US0731	5	
Louise Scott	Martha VA08220-0050	6	
<b>Does Born in 2010 (Two Teeth)</b>			
Jane McKinney	Felicia SGF-145US0650	1	
Jane McKinney	Lola SGF-157US0662	2	
Jane McKinney	Rosita SGF-184US0690	3	
<b>Does Born in 2009 (Four Teeth)</b>			
Jane McKinney	Amelia SGF-115US0619	1	
Jane McKinney	Johanna SGF-119US0623	2	
Jane McKinney	Sally SGF-133US0637	3	
<b>Does Born in 2008 (Six Teeth)</b>			
Jane McKinney	Starling SGF-90US0586	1	Grand Champion!
Jane McKinney	Oberon SGF-84US0580	2	
Jane McKinney	Cadence SGF-100US0596	3	<b>CONTINUED NEXT PAGE</b>

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e-mail: cashmere@shentel.net

## 2011 VA State Fair Results, continued...

Owner	Goat	Place	
<b>Does Born in 2007 and Earlier (Full mouth)</b>			
Jane McKinney	Rhapsodie SF-V9US0698	1	Reserve Grand Champion
Jane McKinney	Pachebel SF-S14US0605	2	
Jane McKinney	Crocus SGF-25US0509	3	
<b>Dam and Daughter</b>			
Jane McKinney	Starling SGF-90US0586	1	
<b>Bucks Born in the year 2011 (Milk Teeth)</b>			
Beth Creamer	Elvis MD-CSF-01000	1	
Jane McKinney	Alejandro SGF-215US0722	2	
Jane McKinney	Diego SGF-229US0736	3	
Louise Scott	VA 08220-0055	4	
Beth Creamer	Sting MD-CSF-01001	5	
Jane McKinney	Carlos SGF-219US0726	6	
<b>Bucks Born in 2010 (Two Teeth)</b>			
Jane McKinney	Fernando SGF-180US0686	1	
Jane McKinney	Rafael SGF-156US0661	2	
Jane McKinney	Amador SGF-158US0663	3	
<b>Bucks Born in 2009 (Three Teeth)</b>			
Louise Scott	Pewter VA08220-0031	1	Grand Champion!
Jane McKinney	Ethan TFC 5059	2	Reserve Grand Champion
Louise Scott	Pascal VA08220-0027	3	

Cashmere Goats  
Wethers trained to pack  
Norwegian Fjord Horses

Yvonne & Lance Taylor

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# Winter Goat Management

by Anne Repaske • Stoneycrest Farm, Star Tannery, Virginia



Our Cashmere goats, mostly derived from feral stock, are hardy goats. They came from ancestors that knew how to find food and water, how to give birth and how to survive harsh weather without human help. But now that we raise large numbers of these goats in rather confined areas, we have to help them along. They are not free to wander the hillsides to find sheltered nooks and crannies to keep them warm; they are not free to find streams that do not freeze over in winter; and they are not free to dig up snow to find mast (acorns and other tree nuts)) or berries for nourishment. Now they have to live by our rules and we have to take care of them.

In winter, that means water, shelter and nourishment.

**WATER** Water is one of the most important resources on earth and is essential for all living organisms. Therefore it is the most important requirement for survival of our goats in winter, as well as year round. It is required for all body functions such as digestion of food, carrying nutrients to body cells, and carrying away waste products.

Goats will consume from ½ gallon to 4 gallons of water per day depending on conditions, such as hot or cold weather and the presence of pregnant or lactating goats. It can be supplied in buckets, troughs, stock tanks or automatic waterers. One foot of space is required at the trough for 15 to 25 goats. Goats will eat more feed and hay if they drink more water. And they will drink more water if it is warmed in winter. Water heated to 40 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal to help warm up cold animals. Most commercial water heaters have thermostats that maintain this temperature. Animals that are sick or stressed, as well as bucks and wethers can even benefit from very hot water once or twice a day. This will encourage them to

drink more and is very important in the prevention of urinary calculi, especially in wethers.. In the absence of electricity and water heaters the goats must be given water at least twice a day. Frozen water buckets and frozen ponds have to be de-iced.

There are several types of water heaters for stock tanks and buckets. First are **submersible/sinking** de-icers. In these, the heating element is entirely enclosed and the unit can rest on the bottom of the tank. Others have an exposed heating element with a wire cage supporting the element at the bottom of the tank. Then there are floating de-icers which are kept afloat with Styrofoam enclosed in a protective housing. When these are used in a plastic tank a guard has to be attached to keep it from melting the plastic.. **Tankside** de-icers clamp to the side of a tank or bucket. It prevents the animals from throwing the unit out of the tank. **Drain Plug** de-icers are mounted through the drain holes of tanks that are equipped with them. The advantage of these units is that the cord is not in the water. The cord is on the outside of the drain hole and can then be protected by a metal tube leading to the electric outlet. This setup prevents curious goats and mice from chewing the cords. The units are firmly attached through the drain hole and the goats can not throw them out of the water either. **Pail** de-icers are also available in submersible and nonsubmersible form. The nonsubmersible heaters are used like a hotplate under metal pails, waterers and fountains.

**SHELTER** Goats do not have a thick layer of fat under the skin like cattle, pigs and horses. The fat supplies energy and insulation to these animals. Goats mostly store fat internally which does not help to insulate them.. Even though they carry

***“Winters can be hard on animals. By giving our charges the best of care in the winter, they will reward us with a new crop of kids in the spring”***

continued on next page

### Winter Goat Management continued from page 12...

a heavy coat of fleece most of the winter, they do need shelter from wind and wet, cold rain and snow.

An open shelter system works best. Here they have a barn where the doors are usually wide open, allowing the goats free access to go in or out. In this system each goat will require about 10 square feet of barn area. Dirt or stone floors are recommended. They should be covered with 5 to 6 inches of straw or waste hay and allowed to build up in winter. When it is very wet and cold the goats can huddle together, usually in family groups, deriving heat from their mattress of hay and manure. Even a three sided shed or plastic calf shelter will do. The barn or shelter should have good ventilation. This is especially important in the winter. When it is cold and the animals are closed in, the air becomes very moist and humid and precipitates on the cold walls and windows. Ammonia builds up. All this results in clammy, cold conditions that may give susceptible animals pneumonia.

**NOURISHMENT** Cold weather makes extra demands on a goat's body. There is an increase in demand for energy to generate body heat. In ruminants, this extra body heat can be obtained from the huge number of bacteria and protozoa digesting roughage in the rumen. The heat of fermentation can warm the animal from within. However, to accomplish this, the bacteria must be well fed. The right amounts of energy, of nitrogen and of all other requirements for microbial growth must be met. All nutrients must be supplied at proper intervals and proportions to keep the microbial population healthy and prevent rumen acidosis which can kill them. This can be accomplished by feeding a high roughage diet of good quality hay. Concentrated feed mixtures produce less heat than hay and forage. They do produce more total digestible energy than hay, but the total amount of heat given off by the digestion and fermentation of hay is greater.

The critical temperature is when the animal will require more feed to maintain body temperature. This is usually 32F but adjustments must be made

for wind and wet animals. For each degree below 32F, the animals with a dry coat should be fed 1% more; animals with a wet coat should be fed 2% more. Good quality hay should be provided and concentrate mixes should be increased slowly, preferably at a different time of day. In winter an adult goat will eat 2 to 4 pounds of hay per day. Unless animals are fed individually, care must be taken that the timid goats get their fair share of feed and hay. Sometimes an alpha doe has to be tied up at feeding time; the others then will know it is safe to feed.

Winters can be hard on animals. By giving our charges the best of care in the winter, they will reward us with a new crop of kids in the spring. ♦



### The Goat

by Aaron Fogel

*If you are a goat, do you believe  
What people tell you about  
Goats, and eat  
Tin cans?  
There's no goat that foolish.  
Or is there?  
The goat of the universe believed  
What people told him about universes  
And came into existence.  
Bang! How naive can you get?  
Even the scapegoat is not as naive  
As (God help him) the universe that  
Agreed to exist.  
A word to the wise: Don't eat tin cans.  
Don't listen. Don't exist.*

# Annual Gathering in Vermont

by Pamela Haendle



Vermont was still recovering from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Irene when ECA members from all over the Northeast gathered at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds on October 1st and 2nd. The fall colors were still radiant, however, and it was a full and satisfying weekend.

## Attendance and Offerings

### Procedure

**The Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge** is a relatively small fiber festival and the weather was not entirely cooperative this year, but we still had a good stream of visitors passing through the long building reserved just for cashmere goats. This year, there were displays to admire along with the goats, and Yvonne Taylor offered cashmere yarn, pelts, and felted toys for sale. Nine farms were represented by a total of 35 goats.

On Saturday morning, **judge Wendy Pieh** moved from pen to pen, evaluating conformation while a volunteer recorded scores for each element. We knew that the final assessment of conformation would come in the show ring, when the goats could be seen moving (however reluctantly!) around the ring, but the pen grading gave us a good head start and improved the pace of the show.

### Fleece Judging

In the afternoon, Wendy began the task of judging fleeces for the goats entered in the show. Since our numbers were small, Wendy turned the judging into a learning experience for those of us gathered informally in the room reserved for the fleece judging. As each bag was opened, three or four people grabbed samples to evaluate, and we all got a chance to see how our assessments compared that of the other members and our judge. Later, Wendy gave a brief presentation on dealing with parasites, and left us with several new ways to deal with the increasing resistance to wormers.

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting followed shortly thereafter. **Two new people joined the Board of Directors:** Jana Dengler from Petersham, MA, and Becky Bemus from Ontario, Canada. The Treasurer's report showed that ECA lost money this year, although we received a very generous gift from Maggie Porter, who was unable to participate in the show this year. Maggie asked that her contribution be used toward the cost of training new cashmere goat judges, and the need for new judges was one of the main topics of discussion at the meeting. The group agreed that ECA should hold a training clinic for future judges in 2012.

Other topics discussed included revamping the ECA website, participating in the National Goat Expo to be held in Iowa in June 2012, and an ECA booth at the Fiber Festival of New England.

**A beautiful new ECA banner, woven by Marilyn Merbach** and incorporating a logo designed by Mary Matthews, was presented.

**See meeting minutes on next page of this newsletter.**

### ECA Show

On Sunday, everyone returned for the ECA show. A small group of visitors listened as Wendy explained her decisions in the three buck classes and four doe classes, while the participants struggled to keep their goats in line. **Winners in each class are listed on page 8 of this newsletter.** As the weekend drew to a close, at least four goats went home with new owners, and we all agreed to return to Tunbridge, VT in 2012. **ECA's thanks go to Shirley Richardson** for making all of the arrangements for a well-organized weekend.



## Eastern Cashmere Association Annual Membership Meeting Minutes: October 1, 2011



he meeting was called to order at 5:05 by President Wendy Pieh, and a quorum was established.

The reading of the minutes from the prior annual meeting was omitted, as the secretary was not present.

Pam Haendle presented the Treasurer's report, which showed a current balance of \$7,538. The total income and expenses for the year resulted in a net loss on \$471.68, despite a very generous gift of \$300 from Maggie Porter. The contribution is to be put toward the training of new cashmere goat judges.

Two questions were raised with respect to the Treasurer's report:

1. Re the proposed move of the VA show from the VA State Fair to the Montpelier (VA ) Fiber Festival: The move has been suggested because the group has found it to be very difficult to provide the number of entries required for the VA State Fair to support the show. In addition, attendees at the Montpelier Fiber Festival are expected to be more interested in fiber than fairgoers. The move will mean, however, that ECA will have to pay for the judge's fee and for show ribbons.

2. Re the anticipated expense for an overhaul of the website: Jason, the webmaster, has urged the group to upgrade the Content Management System used for the website. This will make it much easier to update the site. Shirley mentioned that her recent experience with websites built using Word Press has shown that it is easy for group members to be trained to maintain a website. We should make sure that the upgrade will make it possible for members to learn to maintain the site.

The Treasurer's report was approved, on a motion made by Shirley Richardson and seconded by Yvonne Taylor.

Ballots for the openings on the Board of Directors were opened. Elected for two-year terms were:

Jana Dengler

Becky Bemus

Shirley Richardson

Pam Haendle

**Hoofprints:** The layout charges for the two most recent issues of Hoofprints were \$240 and \$300. Since we cannot sustain the group for long with the current income/expense ratio, we discussed ways to reduce this cost. Fewer pages, fewer pictures would reduce the cost somewhat. Unfortunately, no one in the group is able to take over the layout work at this time, and the group felt that having news and information on the website alone was not enough. A separate newsletter fills a need.

**Membership:** Membership has fallen from 41 in 2010 to 36 in 2011, although 8 of the 36 were new members.

**Upcoming events:** Maryanne Reynolds has arranged for ECA to be represented at the Fiber



**VA State Fair Cashmere Goat Show  
4th Place Kid Buck "Phillip" from Louise Scott's Farm**

Festival of New England on November 5th and 6th at the Big E grounds in West Springfield, MA. ECA will have a 10' x 10' booth at no cost, for promotion of the organization. Maryanne and Jana will organize the exhibit and can man the booth on Saturday; Pam will cover on Sunday. A National Goat Expo will be held in Iowa in 2012. Wendy has been in touch with NWCA and CCPA about a presence there. The Expo organizers would like to feature cashmere goats. One possible attraction would be a buck swap.

Future shows, judging: Wendy noted that the carding system we have been using at recent shows has been popular, and she is willing to teach the process. There really are no other active judges on the East Coast. The group agreed that it is critical for us to hold a judging clinic soon. Carolyn reported that the 4-H groups in CT are very interested in learning how to judge goats. Wendy reported that NWCA is considering adopting a standard but are debating how to represent "frame" within the standard. There followed a discussion on the meaning of "frame" and the characteristics that we need to include when judging a goat's value as a meat animal. We considered references to bone and muscle, a broad chest, and a "blocky" shape. We agreed to avoid just weighing or measuring animals but we will still seek to assess meat value. Sister Mary Lucia mentioned a 4-H website that had information on measuring body mass on a goat.

Annual meeting in 2012: Given that it is very difficult for a majority of members to travel to annual meetings, Wendy proposed that the annual meeting in 2012 be held online – via email – over the period of a week or so.

New banner: A handsome banner for ECA was presented, woven by Marilyn Merbach. It will be displayed in the ECA booth at the Fiber Festival of New England.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Haendle

### Whimsical Thing

Some may think goats  
are a whimsical thing,  
Like zip-a-dee zip  
and zing-a-dee zing

But if you ask me  
goats are made from the stuff  
that bonds with a tender heart  
and makes softies of the tough

### Kid's Play

Who can see the goat kids play,  
Running and leaping for glee all day  
And not feel a little younger too,  
Frolicking like the goat kids do?

Poems by "Poetic Homemaker:  
<http://poetichomemaker.hubpages.com/>

### A Little Goat Humor

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

"Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth,  
"Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"



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

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