

# HOOFPRINTS



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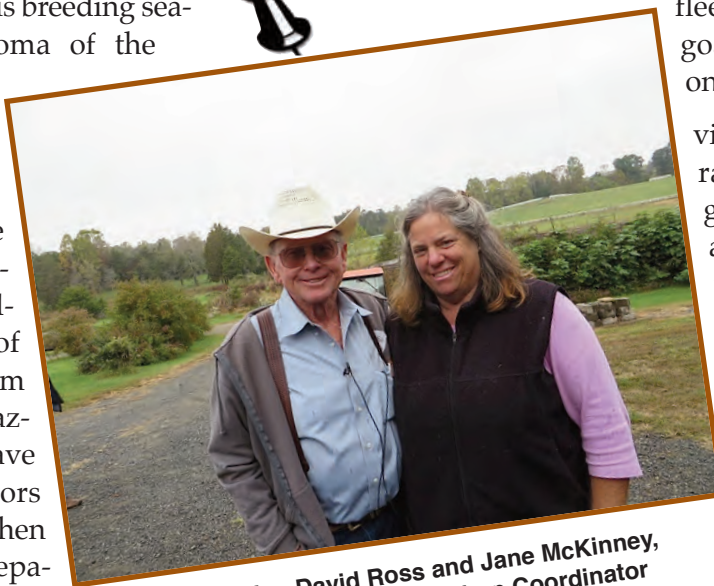
## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



ello everybody! It is breeding season, and the aroma of the bucks is in the air and in the clothes. I have realized that cashmere goat people don't have any down time—there is always something interesting happening. We have kidding season, then a period of complete harmony on the farm when does and kids are grazing together and the bucks have quieted down and the visitors keep coming to admire us. Then the little bucks have to be separated, then the show season rolls around with all its attendant excitement, then the breeding season. When most other farmers take a break in January and February, we have the combing season, my favourite. Then we start over again!

CGA had a successful educational booth at the Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, N.Y. and two great shows this fall. The first one took place in Tunbridge, VT, where our own Pam Haendle made her debut as a judge, and the next at Jane McKinney's Spring Gate Farm in Barboursville, VA, where Joe David Ross judged some 100

In this issue...



Judge Joe David Ross and Jane McKinney,  
CGA Educational Workshop Coordinator

fleeces plus some live goats and some goats on

video. While Pam has raised cashmere goats for many years and been involved with the ECA board for almost as long (including being its president), Joe David Ross was involved with goats before the Australian cashmere goats arrived on our

shores (the Spanish meat goats were already here, but were not generally appreciated for their cashmere). As a Texas rancher and a veterinarian he has brought knowledge of other fiber animals to our shows and has been a beloved teacher of cashmere goat people since the beginning of our existence on this continent. We fear this might have been his last show - but who knows?

Our committees are plodding along, and the judging clinic committee got a welcome boost from Pam, whose experience with judging led to

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**CGA**

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

## Editor's Note by Anne Repaske

When I first started doing the newsletter six years ago, one of my friends asked me why in the world I volunteered to take on the job.

I began to wonder, why did I?

Then I remembered. When I was 9 or 10 years old, my younger sister and I published a neighborhood newspaper. In those days -1930's - there were no computers, not even Xerox or mimeograph machines. We made something called a hectograph which consists of a thin layer of stiff gelatin in a large flat pan.. All the teachers had them .There was a special ink one could buy that would make many copies. We collected the news from other kids on the block, printed our paper and went around the neighborhoods delivering it.

So that is the answer to my question - I am in my second childhood. But enjoying it very, very much.

And I do want to thank you all for working with me to make *HOOFPRI*NTS an interesting and informative newsletter for CGA.

I want to give my very special thanks to Linda Singley who has contributed such well researched, important articles for every issue in the last six years.

I don't want to forget Elizabeth Cottrell of RiverwoodWriter.com for having patience with me and doing such a beautiful job with our lay-outs.

# HOOFPRI

NTS

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

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### CGA MEMBERSHIP

Full individual membership is \$30/year or \$50 for two years. Junior (youth under 18 years of age) membership is \$15/year (non-voting). If you have not filled out a membership application for a year or two, it would be helpful to the association for you to do that. The application can be found under contact information at our website: [www.easterncashmereassociation.org](http://www.easterncashmereassociation.org).

### ADVERTISING

*Hoofprints* advertising (3 issues/year):

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

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

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# **The CGA Educational Workshop**

**with Dr. Joe David Ross**  
**Sunday, October 12, 2014**  
**Spring Gate Farm, Barboursville, VA**  
**Report by Jane McKinney, Spring Gate Farm**



**Workshop attendees with Joe David and Goat**

**W**e awoke to a grey day but no rain! Joe David still had some fleeces to judge so he got started at 7am and those attending the workshop arrived to engage in the process of observing how a judge looks over a fleece according to the North American Fiber standard. Everyone was able to see a judge in action and ask questions. This hands-on opportunity was invaluable and pretty soon everyone had a good understanding on what made a fleece exceptional and what was strictly average. Joe David's careful explanation and wealth of experience was extraordinary and all went home with a renewed desire to comb better and harvest their fleeces with an eye for style, length, differentiation and uniformity. We spent the morning on fleece analysis and then moved outside to start with bucks. The pictures say it all! Beginning with teeth (Joe David's starting point) we covered all aspects of a buck's confirmation stressing the importance of picking your breeding bucks very carefully as the sire of a herd is probably the most important decision you will ever make with respect to your herd.

We next moved on to the does and we looked at 3

does that were transported from MA and NJ. We looked at all ages and it was instructive to see the differences in growth and fiber. Moving through the North American Cashmere Goat standard, we discussed every aspect of a does confirmation focusing upon her reproductive assets. Finally we viewed some video of several bucks in Maine and everyone felt that this might be a useful means of looking at goats in the future.

Everyone commented on the volume of information given throughout the day and went home exhausted but grateful for the expertise shared by Joe David. Most of all everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get together with other breeders and exchange ideas and their enthusiasm for this wonderful breed of goat. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Joe David Ross for sharing his lifelong love of Cashmere goats with us all and we hope that he can return again to see the fruits of his labor.

Jane McKinney, Spring Gate Farm ♦

## **President's message, continued from page 1**

thoughtful recommendations for the process. The judging clinic may still become a reality, and we hope to have input from other cashmere organizations!

Sister Mary Elizabeth organized the Tunbridge show and also had a hand in the educational booth at Rhinebeck - we welcome her as our new board member!

We are lucky to have so many talented people among us, all working to spread the knowledge about our fuzzy, intelligent, beautiful animals, who provide us with meat, wonderful fiber, and, not least, entertainment.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Yvonne ♦

## **ECA (now CGA) Short History**

**Presented at the Annual Meeting in Tunbridge, Vermont**  
**Anne Repaske**



**I**n the late 1980s there was this woman from Australia named Shirley Levy, who was in New York City looking for a partner for her Cashmere goat business. She happened to meet Lydia Ratcliff, from Vermont, who was carrying meat carcasses to the back door of a fancy restaurant. The partnership followed. They started out with embryos and artificial insemination. That may not have turned out too well, because then, in 1989, they imported some of Shirley's Cashmere goats into the United States.

Interest was widespread. I know we found it exciting to be in on the ground floor of a new American industry. As result, the Eastern Cashmere Association, as it was called then, was started in Lydia's kitchen on January 11, 1992.

The first ECA Goat Show was at the Virginia State Fair later that year. In 1994 it was held at Saff, the Southeast Animal Fiber Fair, in North Carolina. That's where I first met Yvonne; who came all the way from Maine.

At that time the ECA had, as mentors, Dr. Joe David Ross from Texas, and Terry Sim from Australia. Terry travelled from farm to farm. He would evaluate each goat extensively for many different characteristics. He sheered our goats and did their hoofs. Then we drove him half way to the next farm where he would be picked up. He came for several years, to keep us on the right track, I think.

In 1996 the Virginia State Fair allowed us to show our animals there. They paid all expenses for the judge, they paid all expenses for a show superintendant and for an assistant superintendant, both of whom were ECA members. They paid for the ribbons and gave prize money to the champions. They did this for the next 15 years.

Then in 2002 the New England goat breeders decided to have a separate show at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. Since 2010, they have been at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT. In 2012 the Virginia State Fair declared bankruptcy. Therefore, for the last couple of years, the Virginia shows were held at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival in Berryville, VA.

In 2014, the name of the organization was officially changed to Cashmere Goat Association.



**The Cashmere Goat Association Returns to  
the New York Sheep and Wool Festival  
at Rhinebeck, NY**

The Cashmere Goat Association has been seeking new ways to get the word out about cashmere and the extraordinary goats which produce it, and in October the organization returned in force to the New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck, New York, with a strong presence in the Exotic Fiber Animals Barn. The CGA display covered six stalls, two with educational displays and literature and the remaining four featuring goats from three farms. Several CGA members worked the booths, talking with the many visitors who stopped to read, handle cashmere, and ask questions. The display area featured a new handcrafted CGA banner and table frontal made by Maggie Porter of Casa Blanca Farm in New Hampshire, and ed-



## CGA Booth at the Sheep and Wood Festival in Rhinebeck, NY

educational displays assembled by Sister Mary Elizabeth of St. Mary's on-the-Hill in Greenwich, NY. On the principle table was an array of cashmere products, yarn and items contributed by CGA farms from all over New England, as well as literature, raw cashmere, a pelt and a set of magnificent goat horns.

Pam Haendle of Hermit Pond Farm in Edmeston, NY, has kept a presence for ECA/CGA at Rhinebeck for the past five years, ever since the organization moved its live goat show to Vermont. Once largely a fiber goat barn which paralleled the sheep breeds barn next door, the Exotic Fiber Animal display area currently hosts llamas, alpaca, and vicuña crosses, as well as Pygora goats. Pam's cashmere goats were joined by goats from Spring Gate Farm in Barboursville, VA, and St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cash-



### CGA Display with New Banner at Rhinebeck, NY



Sister Mary Elizabeth with Mwana kwa Fumu "Last Goat Standing in the Leaping Llama Contest"

mere in Greenwich, NY.

On Saturday CGA gave a demonstration on "What is a Cashmere Goat?" and its goats gamely joined in the exotic animal parades around the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. On Sunday three cashmere goats also participated in the Leaping Llama Contest, the first time that goats have joined in this crowd-favored and child-oriented entertainment provided by llama and alpaca 4-H Club youth. Sister Mary Elizabeth and her 2 year-old long guard hair doe Mwana kwa Fumu (translated: "Princess") took the first-ever title of "Last Goat Standing in the Leapin' Llama Contest" – quite a feat for an exhibitor and her goat both jumping over poles in long skirts.

The New York Sheep and Wool Festival is the largest fall fiber festival on the East coast with more than 20,000 visitors attending on each of two days in October. The Cashmere Goat Association is proud to be back, promoting the noble Cashmere goat and its fabulous fiber. ♦

## CGA Board Minutes 10/04/14

The CGA Board met on October 4, 2014, immediately after the 2014 Annual Meeting with members participating in person and telephonically. In attendance were: Becky Bemus, Jana Dengler, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Maggie Porter, Maryanne Reynolds, Anne Repaske, and Yvonne Taylor.

Per the By-laws, the Board elected its officers for the coming year:

- President: On motion of Anne, seconded by Jana, the Board elected Yvonne Taylor as President.
- Vice President: On motion of Maryanne, seconded by Jana, the Board elected Anne Repaske as Vice President.
- Treasurer: On motion of Yvonne, seconded by Becky, the Board elected Jana E Dengler as Treasurer.
- Secretary: On motion of Yvonne, seconded by Maggie, the Board elected Maryanne Reynolds as Secretary.

The next Board meeting will be November 9, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. Follow up email to circulate with call in number.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Maryanne Reynolds, Secretary ♦

# Cashmere Goat Association

## Annual Meeting Minutes 10/04/14 (Draft)



On Saturday, October 4, 2014, 4:00 p.m., in the Conference Room Below Grandstand, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, Vermont, the CGA's annual meeting was held. Members participated in person and telephonically.

**1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.**

by President Yvonne Taylor. A quorum was established with at least 10 regular members participating. (Membership, as of 8/31/14, totals 53 members: 49 regular members, and four junior members.) On motion of Anne Repaske, seconded by Jana Dengler, the membership approved the Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting, as published in Hoofprints Winter 2013 at pages 8-9.

**2. President Yvonne Taylor made welcoming remarks.**

She noted the substantial progress made in the last year, including increased membership, association name change from Eastern Cashmere Association to Cashmere Goat Association, our pending IRS application for tax exempt status, and committee activity, including competitions and educational events.

**3. Election of Board Members to serve 2014-2016 term.**

A call was made for nominations from the floor for persons to serve a two year term on the Board. Four nominees were previously made by the Board and their bios circulated to membership. No additional nominations were made from the floor. On motion of Maryanne Reynolds, seconded by Noreen Rollins, the membership decided to vote the four nominees as a slate. On motion of Pam Haendle, seconded by Ann Taylor, the four nominees -- Sister Mary Elizabeth, Jane McKinney, Wendy Pieh, and Anne Repaske -- were voted to two year terms on the Board to run 2014-2016. They join Board members serving 2013-2015: Becky Bemus, Jana E Dengler, Maggie Porter, Maryanne Reynolds, Abby Sadauckas, and Yvonne Taylor.

**4. Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Jana Dengler reported that our starting balance in calendar 2014 was \$4,884.27, and that our current funds, as of close of business October 3, 2014, are \$5,348.96. Jana noted that some of these funds reflect two year memberships, which were inaugurated at last year's meeting. Our previous checking account and investment account at Bank of America have been merged into a single account at Citizens Bank. On motion of Noreen Rollins, seconded by Maggie Porter, the treasurer's report was accepted.

**5. 2015 Annual Dues for 2015.** On motion of Maryanne Reynolds, seconded by Anne Repaske, annual dues were set at \$30/year for regular members, \$15/year for junior members (18 years of age or younger, or a high school student), and \$50/two years for regular members. This is the same rate as established last year.

**6. Reflections on CGA's History -- Anne Repaske.** Anne presented an engaging reflection on the CGA's history. The CGA has roots back to the late 1980s when Lydia Radcliffe had a chance encounter in New York City that spurred formation of the association on January 11, 1992, and our continuing efforts to develop the North American industry for cashmere goats. Anne was asked to publish her reflection in an upcoming issue of Hoofprints.

**7. Committee Reports:**

**Tax Status:** Maggie Porter reported that the IRS is reviewing our application for tax exempt status.

**Communications:** Noreen Rollins volunteered to help with our ongoing website issues, once her time frees up in February 2015.

## CGA Annual Meeting Minutes from page 7

**Database:** Project is progressing. Noreen will hold an informal meeting open to all on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 9 a.m. in the goat barn on the show fairgrounds.

**Fundraising/Membership:** More members are needed to become involved with fundraising. Christine McBrearty-Hulse reported that the raffle basket at the Vermont Show is going well.

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*Wethered goats available for companions & brush control*



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Louise Scott & Joe Pasini  
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Staunton, VA 24401-6015  
[scott.pasini3@wildblue.net](mailto:scott.pasini3@wildblue.net)  
540.887.8139

New England  
Cashmere Goats

Hay

**Muddy River Meadows  
Farm**

Joann Gwozdz  
207-671-8388  
[muddyrivermeadows@roadrunner.com](mailto:muddyrivermeadows@roadrunner.com)

**Stone Harvest Farm**  
cashmere, yaks, poultry, stone fruit



Jana Dengler  
Maryanne Reynolds

[stone\\_harvest\\_farm@verizon.net](mailto:stone_harvest_farm@verizon.net)  
978 724 0024

**Judging Clinic:** Wendy Pieh reported that the committee is studying how to manage expenses of the proposed judging clinic. The Northwest Cashmere Association has expressed interest in working together on the clinic. On Oct 12, 2014, Joe David Ross will be presenting a workshop hosted by Jane McKinney at Spring Gate Farm.

Members who want to participate in the judging clinic committee (or any other committee) should contact Becky Bemus for access to the committee electronic forum.

**Meat:** Becky Bemus reported that more input from members is desired. Shirley Richardson expressed interest and was made part of the committee.

**Shows and Events:** We are in the middle of the two-day live goat and showmanship competitions in Vermont. Eight farms and 40 goats are participating. Next weekend is the fleece competition at Spring Gate Farm on Saturday, and Joe David Ross workshop on Sunday. The following weekend is the Rhinebeck NY festival where we will have a large educational display.

8. Other Business: CGA Archives -- Yvonne noted that the association has historical material. Ann Taylor volunteered to archive it, on the condition that the Board first determine what should be done. The matter will be brought up by the Board. Citizens Bank account -- on motion of Maryanne, seconded by Sister Mary Elizabeth, the CGA President and CGA Treasurer are duly authorized to utilize the Citizens Bank account for CGA purposes.

9. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m., with a Board meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Reynolds  
Secretary ♦

## The 2014 Cashmere Goat Association Show at the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival Tunbridge, Vermont

**T**he Cashmere Goat Association gathered on the first weekend in October for its only live goat show in 2014, held in conjunction with the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge, VT. CGA welcomed Pam Haendle of Hermit Pond Farm in Edmeston, NY, as the show's principal judge, assisted by Jana Dengler of Stone Harvest Farm in Petersham, MA, and Shirley Richardson of Tannery Farm Cashmere in Danville, VT. Mika Ingerman of Team Snazzy Goat in Burlington, VT, returned as judge for the Open Showmanship Class.

Twenty-two does, twelve bucks and seven wethers representing eight farms competed in various classes. Five youth exhibitors and five adults also showed their skills in Open and Youth Showmanship classes. The competition included pen judging with individual evaluation of each goat for body conformation on Saturday morning and fiber judging in the afternoon. The composite scores were reviewed in the show ring on Sunday with top honors going to Grand Champion Buck STON Rebel of Stone Harvest Farm in Petersham, MA, (Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds, owners) and Grand Champion Doe CSM Ebony of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill Cashmere in Greenwich, NY,



**Dana Ann McAdams  
with Grand Champion, Doe CSM Ebony**

(shown by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, CSM.) The Reserve Champion Buck for 2014 is STON Granite, also of Stone Harvest Farm, and the Reserve Champion Doe is WWF Hibiscus from Wolf Well Farm in Harvard, MA, (Ann Taylor, owner). Complete results from the 2014 Vermont Show are shown below.



**Yvonne Taylor, CGA President, Mika Ingerman,  
Maggie Porter**

New to the CGA Vermont Show was a very successful "Wrap Yourself in Cashmere" basket raffle organized by Christine McBrearty-Hulse. Items were donated by various farms and tickets sold for a chance to win throughout the Festival weekend. The winning ticket was drawn at the end of the Show on Sunday, with a local Tunbridge resident taking home the basket. The money raised will help support future CGA shows and events.

# CGA Vermont

## Cashmere Goat Show Results

### Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival

#### Tunbridge, Vermont



Angelina Dill, Isabella Dill, Matthew Hulse, Juliana Kuzmich, Madison Wolf

### Open Showmanship Class

**First Place:** Julianna Kuzmich showing CSM Thanzi

**Second Place:** Dona Ann McAdams showing CSM Umboni

**Third Place:** Beth Kuzmich showing CSM Rye

**Fourth Place:** Christine McBrearty-Hulse showing TFC Gwedolyn

**Fifth Place:** Matt Hulse showing RSC Giselle

**Sixth Place:** Madison Wolf showing CSM Sangalala

### Doe Classes:

**Does born in 2014** (Kids) (4 entries)

1	STON	Blondie	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds
2	CSM	Thanzi	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Julianna Kuzmich*
3	STON	Janus	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds
4	CSM	Rye	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Madison Wolf

## Cashmere Goat Show Results from page 10

### Does born in 2013 (Yearlings) (7 entries)

1	CSM	Sangalala	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Madison Wolf*
2	CSM	Chiritsa	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Julianna Kuzmich*
3	WWF	Myrtle	Wolf Well Farm	Ann Taylor
4	CSM	Umboni	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth
5	DILL	Lucille	Dill Farm	Isabella Dill

\* Showing under 4-H lease arrangement. Youth showman had primary care for this goat through the summer.

### Does born in 2012 (Two year-olds) (4 entries)

1	CSM	Ebony	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth
2	STON	Belinde	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds
3	CSM	Mwana kwa Fumu	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Madison Wolf
4	STON	Pearlton	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds



Julianna Kuzmich with  
CSM Thanes

### Does born in 2011 (Three year-olds) (4 entries)

1	TFC	Gwedolyn	Hulse Hill Farm	Christine Hulse
2	STON	Estrella	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds
3	CSM	Limbani	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth
4	TFC	Giselle	Hulse Hill Farm	Matthew Hulse



Madison Wolf  
with  
CSM Sangalala

## Cashmere Goat Show Results from page 11

### Does in 2010 or earlier (Senior Does) (2 entries)

1	WWF	Hibiscus	Wolf Well Farm	Ann Taylor
2	CSM	Kuunika	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth

**Grand Champion Cashmere Doe** – CSM Ebony, St. Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere, Sister Mary Elizabeth

**Reserve Champion Cashmere Doe** – WWF Hibiscus, Wolf Well Farm, Ann Taylor

### Wether Class: (7 entries)

1	CBG	Percival	Casa Blanca Farm	Maggie and Boone Porter
2	CSM	Raphael	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth
3	CSM	Harry T. Happiness	Team Snazzy Goat	Mika Ingerman
4	CBG	Trevor	Casa Blanca Farm	Maggie and Boone Porter
5	CSM	Michael	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Madison Wolf

**Youth Showmanship Champion** (5 entries) – Julianna Kuzmick showing CSM Thanzi

## Buck Classes

### Bucks born in 2014 (Kids) (3 entries)

1	THGF	Bing	Tilton Hill Goat Farm	Dave and Noreen Rollin
2	THGF	Yoda	Tilton Hill Goat Farm	Dave and Noreen Rollin
3	CBG	Shilling	Casa Blanca Goat Farm	Maggie and Boone Porter

### Bucks born in 2013 (Yearlings) (4 entries)

1	CBG	Ray	Casa Blanca Goat Farm	Maggie and Boone Porter
2	CSM	Ufulu	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth
3	CSM	Lirima	St. Mary's on-the-Hill	Sister Mary Elizabeth

**Bucks born in 2012, 2011 and earlier** (Mature Bucks) (4 entries)

1	STON	Rebel	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds
2	STON	Granite	Stone Harvest Farm	Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds
3	BLF	Gangotri	Black Locust Farm	Yvonne and Lance Taylor

**Grand Champion Buck** – STON Rebel, Stone Harvest Farm, Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds

**Reserve Champion Buck** – STON Granite, Stone Harvest Farm, Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds



Jana Dengler and Maryanne Reynolds with Grand Champion Buck STON Rebel and Reserve Champion Buck STON Granite and Pam Haendle, Judge



# **CGA International Fleece Competition**

**October 11, 2014 • Spring Gate Farm, Barboursville, VA**  
**with Dr. Joe David Ross, Judge, Senora, TX**

**by Jane McKinney, Barboursville, VA**



It was one of those magical weekends with the arrival of 110 fleeces from 17 farms from all over the United States and Canada. This was a marked jump from 88 fleeces from 12 farms in last years competition and it was inspiring to see many new farms sending fleeces for the first time. Welcome, we are so excited to see more cashmere pouring in from new states and goat farmers.

Joe David got off to a good start at 8:30am on Sat. and began the arduous task of carefully inspecting the fleeces according to the North American Fiber standard. Our largest class was 22 and the competition was fierce. The judge commented on the extraordinary progress that he saw in the quality of the fleeces represented. We have come a long way and each one of you is to be congratulated. The results are attached below and congratulations are due to our winner of Best in Show, Becky Bemus with RWF Ghanna. Here is what you've been waiting for!

## **CGA International Fleece Competition Show Results**

**Judge: Dr. Joe David Ross, Senora, TX**



**Dr. Joe David Ross Judging Fleeces**

### **Class 1-2013 Kid Doe: (15 entries)**

1st place: Liberty Farm- LIBERTY Principal  
2nd place: Harmony Farm- HFC Patricia  
3rd place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Amaya  
4th place: Blackwalnut Cashmere- CFH Storm  
Honorable Mention: Roving Winds Farm-RWF Iz-zadora

### **Class 2-2012 Doe: (19 entries)**

1st place: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Hjokulani  
2nd place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Berta

3rd place: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Harlequin  
Rasbora

4th place: Springtide Farm- STC Blythe  
Honorable Mention: Liberty Farm- LIBERTY Spice

### **Class 3-2011 Doe: (14 entries)**

1st place: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Ghanna  
2nd place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Bandida  
3rd place: Saint Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere-  
CSM Limbani  
4th place: Stone Harvest Farm- STON Lily  
Honorable Mention: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Mar-guerite

### **Class 4-2008-2010 Doe: (22 entries)**

1st place: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Flax  
2nd place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Cadence  
3rd place: Springtide Farm-STC Francesca  
4th place: Fuzzy Goat Farm-SGF Tilly  
Honorable Mention: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Elita

### **Class 5-2007 & Older Doe: (12 entries)**

1st place: Spring Gate Farm-SF Pachelbel  
2nd place: Spring Gate Farm- Oprah  
3rd place: Saint Mary's on-the-Hill Cashmere-  
CSM Khumbo

## Fleece Competition Results from page 14

4th place: Roving Winds Farm- RSC Giselle  
Honorable Mention: Springtide Farm- STC Lolipop

### **Class 6-2013 Kid Buck:** (5 entries)

1st place: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Iriquois  
2nd place: Springtide Farm- STC Magellan  
3rd place: Liberty Farm- LIBERTY Madison  
4th place: Casa Blanca Goat Farm- CBG Raymond  
Honorable Mention: Weesner's Bittersweet Farm- CWF Fairfax

### **Class 7-2012 Buck:** (4 entries)

1st place: Harmony Farm- HFC Orion  
2nd place: no award given for 2nd place  
3rd place: Stone Harvest Farm-STON Rebal  
4th place: Liberty Farm- LIBERTY Polar  
Honorable Mention: Stone Harvest Farm- STON Apollo

### **Class 8-2011 Buck:** (7 entries)

1st place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Enrique  
2nd place: Roving Winds Farm- RWF Gitannoe  
3rd place: Black Locust Farm- STC Lance-A-Lot  
4th place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Toro

### **Class 9-2010 Buck:** (3 entries)

1st place: Black Locust Farm- MDF Gringo  
2nd place: Black Locust Farm- SFC Gangotri  
3rd place: Bearlin Acres- BAMR Hermes



Workshop: Buck Conformation



Joe David Discussing Fleece Samples with Louise Scott, Dana Dangler, Maryanne Reynolds, Ginni Nichols and Wendy Pieh

### **Class 10-2009 & Older Buck:** (3 entries)

1st place: Cachemire Farm- RWF Chaplin  
2nd place: Black Locust Farm- TFC Cairn  
3rd place: Black Locust Farm- STC Jacoby

### **Class 11-2013 Kid Wether:** (1 entry)

1st place: Weesner's Bittersweet Farm- CWF Winchester

### **Class 12-2011-2012 Wether:** (3 entries)

1st place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Alberto  
2nd place: Spring Gate Farm- SGF Pinto  
3rd place: Bearlin Acres- BAMR Jack

### **Class 13-2009 & Older Wether:** (1 entry)



Fleece samples from one class laid out for comparison

### **Fleece Competition Results from page 15**

**Champion Junior Doe:** Roving Winds Farm- RWF Ghanna

**Reserve Champion Junior Doe:** Liberty Farm- LIBERTY Principle

**Champion Senior Doe:** Spring Gate Farm- SF Pachebel

**Reserve Champion Senior Doe:** Roving Winds Farm- RWF Flax

**Champion Junior Buck:** Spring Gate Farm- SGF Enrique

**Reserve Champion Junior Buck:** Harmony Farm- HFC Orion

**Champion Senior Buck:** Black Locust Farm- MDF Gringo

**Reserve Senior Champion Buck:** Cachemire Farm- RWF Chaplin

**Champion Wether:** Spring Gate Farm- SGF Alberto

**Reserve Champion Wether:** Spring Gate Farm- SGF Pinto

**Best In Show:** Roving Winds Farm- RWF Ghanna

A big thank you goes out to everyone who registered fleeces for the CGA's 2014 International Fleece show. A total of 110 fleeces were entered and judged this year!



**Joe David Comparing Fleece Samples**



**Joe David with Dana**

## Better Fiber Through Genetic Selection

### Part III. Breeding Programs for Limited Herd Size

by Linda Singley, Bearlin Acres, Shippensburg, PA

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

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

In the Summer 2014 issue: Part 2: Advice from Current Breeders and Future Directions

In this issue: Part 3: Breeding Programs for Limited Herd Sizes



If we consider our cashmere variety of goat to constitute a rare breed that requires carefully organized breeding to preserve desirable characteristics, then we may choose to examine a breeding scheme suggested by Spönenberg and Christman from their 1995 publication. Although nearly 20 years old, it remains to be the one frequently referenced publication regarding genetics on a limited DNA diversity budget. In fact, *A Conservation Breeding Handbook* has developed a following across several species. The material can be found summarized by Karen Gerhart on the St. Croix Sheep Breeders' web pages.

The scheme goes roughly as follows. You have few bucks, or only one available. So...

Thanks to this page from Critter Haven, here is a small summary. Ram and ewe have been replaced with buck and doe for the goat set. You breed your buck, A, to four does of differing lineage, B, C, D and E, each having traits you want to see in your herd. Repeat with the following year's breeding. You now should have buck kids from each pairing of does to this buck, i.e. four different genetic composites: AB, AC, AD and AE. The next seasons, breed buck AB to does C, D and all their daughters. Do the same for bucks AC to does D and E and daughters, AD to does B and E and daughters and AE breeds to does B and C and daughters. Keep the best bucks from these pairings.

At this point the barn and pastures are getting full and confusing. The successive breeding seasons look like a jumble of letters, but they are well thought out by the experts. In three years there will be four usable bucks with a variety of genetics better explained by the charts in the

book and online. The above scenario is listed as rescue breeding.

**Conservation breeding** is also outlined in this article. Rules of thumb look to be simpler to keep in mind than the tables and charts. "Labeling the lambs after the second breeding cycle can get complex because of all of the letters involved. You can simplify things by using this rule of thumb: if a lamb is more than 50% of a line, you can combine the letters used. For example, the lambs born from the third breeding cycle are C/A, C/B, C/C, C/AB, and C/AC. The C/C lambs are 100% of line C and the C/AC lambs are 75% of line C, so you can simply call both groups C."

**WYSIWYG or not?** Keep in mind that in genetics the terms dominant and recessive come up quite a bit. Heterozygous means that the alleles of a particular gene in the animal are different, while homozygous means they are the same. At a fundamental level, amino acids make up proteins, protein base pairs make up the nature of DNA, genes are parts of chromosomes and these are what determine heredity of traits. Breeding is a discussion of the myriad possibilities in mixing and matching of these bits of life. Dominant traits are those that have a higher probability of occurring in this mishmash. Which animals are paired determines the movement of tiny bits of the genetic code in a dance of statistically mind-boggling possibilities.

Inbreeding, linebreeding and line crossing are varying turns on a theme of using a limited genetic pool to increase a herd size without having every animal sharing a majority of genetic material. From Gerhart, "Inbreeding: Defined as mating together animals which are related so that the

## Genetic Selection from page 17

resulting offspring have one or more ancestors that occur on both the sire's side and the dam's side of the pedigree. Close inbreeding would include the mating of full siblings, or father to daughter; more distant inbreeding might involve second cousins."

The second type of making use of the genepool is linebreeding. Again from Gerhart, "Linebreeding: A form of inbreeding, linebreeding involves concentration of a particular ancestor within a pedigree (rather than several ancestors, as in other forms of inbreeding). Usually, this individual is a particularly excellent representative of the breed. The goal is to create a flock as much like this individual as possible, so matings often involve breeding half-brother to half-sister. ...Strong selection and strict culling are necessary in a successful linebreeding program." Variability in goat traits will be reduced. Without knowing exactly how DNA transmits which traits and which traits are coupled, there is a certain risk in removing desirable traits of the genotype, by selecting based on the phenotype, or observable traits.

When individual animals from two strings of linebreeding are mated, the resulting pairing is referred to as linecrossing. So in the long run, if a breeder bred one line for a certain color and another line for trait A, you could then cross these refined linebred animals to produce an animal of selected color AND trait A with high frequency.

**A few caveats-** linebreeding and inbreeding can lead to the expression of extreme traits and undesirable ones. Vigor of animals and kidding rate can decrease. Linebreeding generally does give a high incidence of the desired traits with heavy culling and removal of the other undesirable traits (at what cost and what short term genetic loss?). Line crossing can restore vigor to the herd, but gives more variability in the outcome.

What do we know from experiments with fiber production and body type in relation to environment, nutrition and genetics?

### Environmental correlations:

Lesser nutrition--> finer fiber, to the point of star-

vation fineness.

Older animal, larger body--> larger fiber volume, but coarser fiber.

Rougher living conditions--> finer fiber?

Fiber changes can be noticeable in one generation-in either good or bad direction.

Fiber length, crimp, style and fineness are somehow related. According to Bishop and Russel, certain traits are heritable at the following values, where 1 would represent extremely high heritability: fiber diameter-0.68, diameter standard deviation-0.45, Cashmere weight-0.73, estimated cashmere weight-0.67, fiber length-0.57, and live weight-0.35. Their analysis, "In terms of the relationships between traits, fibre diameter, weight and length were all strongly correlated, both phenotypically and genetically. The fibre traits and live weight tended to be uncorrelated. Regression of cashmere weight on fibre diameter showed cashmere weight to be proportional to diameter. This power relationship helps to explain the disproportionate decrease in cashmere weight when selecting to reduce fibre diameter."

Janice Spaulding, in her web page, Goat Breeding, has listed these traits and the success of moving these traits by each of the different breeding schemes. Based on the chart on the next page, you may want to look at the pros and cons of which direction you want to take in your herd's breeding program. You also might want to evaluate how you keep records.

The breeding charts suggested in some of these articles have had me seeing things in a new light.

For sheep, the National Sheep Improvement Program, NSIP, plots data for major sheep breeds showing heritability and lines for improving various traits. If you need a long term read, this may be it. The NSIP describes itself as a "Profit Driven Genetic Selection Tool". Nearly twenty breeds have summarized data for heritability of wool, lambing percentage, growth and terminal sire performance. Is this what could happen if the Cashmere producers across the continent organize? Who wants to start?

Trait	Inbreeding	Line breeding	Out breeding
Uniformity	good	good	fair to good
Fertility	poor	good	good
Growth	poor	good	good
Predictability	good	good	Fair
Overall Vigor	poor	good	good
Longevity	moderate	good	good
Uniform kids	moderate	good	good
Rapid growth	poor	good	excellent

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National Sheep Improvement Program, NSIP,

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