

Minutes: Cashmere Goat Association Board of Directors
July 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Wendy Pieh.
In attendance: Danielle, JoAnne, Heidi, Ron, Wendy, Ann, Pam, Elyse.

JoAnne moved that we approve the minutes for the June 6th board meeting; Heidi seconded the motion; motion passed.

Elyse presented the Treasurer's report. We had 2 new members complete forms and request calendars this month; one of them also submitted payment via PayPal. Our only expense this month was a fee for the bank account. The balance stands at \$7,951.95. Once the check for the Firefly payment is cashed, it will be \$6,751.95. JoAnne moved that we approve the report as presented; Heidi seconded the motion; motion passed.

Pam presented a report on the database. There has been very little activity against the database, but a request has been renewed for the automatic generation of a certificate for kids who cannot yet qualify for registration, having not yet produced a fleece for assessment, but for whom a certificate of enrollment in a registry is required for shows. Danielle confirmed that such a certificate is important for 4-H shows, and we noted that goats with 840 microchips need to be associated with a registry. We also discussed the possible use of the enrollment certificate as a reminder to owners that a transfer of ownership should be documented within 60 days of the sale of a goat. Danielle noted that the USDGA certificates include information on ownership transfers. JoAnne moved that Pam be authorized to design the process for automatic assignment of "enrolled, pending registration" status to any goat added to the database who is under one year of age and to ask Jeremy for an estimate of the work required to make this assignment and to make it possible for owners to retrieve a system-generated Certificate of Enrollment. The Certificate would only be available until the goat's first birthday. Danielle seconded the motion; motion passed.

Danielle reported on recent developments regarding research to be done on the Texas A & M fiber testing processes. A productive meeting with the Texas A&M lab was held; they are eager to support our needs. They need shorn samples in order to measure yield and may be able to use samples previously delivered by Heidi. (Otherwise, Heidi will produce 50 shorn samples.) The lab will run the samples free of charge if no identifying information on the goat is returned; samples can be prorated if we request identifying goat data. Samples will be evaluated on the OFDA 100 in snippet mode and on the OFDA 2000 in snippet mode.

TAMU will determine the feasibility of a cashmere yield calculation from shorn samples, but the measurement may not be validated in time to be included with this dataset. There is currently no ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) or IWTO (International Wool Textile Organization) method for measuring cashmere yield.

TAMU will also determine the feasibility and reliability of measuring cashmere length by hand, but this measurement also may not be validated in time for this research. Current methods used with sheep require approximately 60 staples, so even if the method is validated, it may require extra fiber and expense.

TAMU will consider removing the current length readout from OFDA 2000 cashmere data sheets as it measures guard hair as well as cashmere and thus is misleading.

Regarding the Langston genomic study, Heidi reported that she has spoken with Roger (at Langston) about her conversations with the folks at TAMU, and Roger is going to be consulting directly with them. Gearing up for the study is not a quick process, so we are looking at next winter/spring's cashmere harvest. CGA and Langston will work together to present a tutorial on collecting a sample. Now that we are facing charges of \$15 per sample, Langston may be able to compensate us for the testing costs.

JoAnne contacted our attorney, Gail, to talk about the changes she would like to see in our by-laws, but she has not heard back from her. Elyse will check with Gail too.

The recent webinar with John Wade concerning microchips covered the rules for compliance, the technique for inserting them, the requirements re accompanying tattoos, and the importance of ownership transfer records. It was well-attended and well-received and has been added to the website.

We discussed ideas for the next webinar, including how to manually process a raw fleece (skirting it for the mill, assessing its prospects for successful processing). Elyse mentioned that Diedre from Still River Mill did a video on how to prepare a fleece for the mill, and we may be able to film something right at Still River. (Heidi and Christine will be visiting.) A second proposed topic is the dewormer BioWorma. JoAnne has used it successfully. Danielle will look for a contact at BioWorma and will check to see if Tatiana did a study on its use.

The judging committee had one meeting and an invitation for another meeting on a judging clinic will be coming out soon.

Elyse reported that Rhinebeck is going to be holding a live festival this October and has saved us a booth. It will be in a new location, as the festival is putting 10 feet between booths. Danielle moved that we pay the \$400 now to hold the booth. JoAnne seconded and the motion passed.

Sister Mary Elizabeth was not available to discuss plans for the show in Vermont, and Pam could only report a lack of activity in the planning for the fleece competition. Wendy, who will be judging, confirmed that we will once again offer fleece assessments (outside of the competition) for a reduced price. Elyse reported that Christine is hoping to have a raffle at Tunbridge and is looking for donations for the booth and volunteers to staff the booth.

Heidi's daughter is working on cleaning up our logo so that it will reproduce clearly.

Danielle reported that membership is growing on both of our social media platforms, and the most recent photo contest winner was from Australia!

Wendy reported that Ann Bertchy in Colorado is downsizing her farm and is willing to deliver does to Dayton, Ohio. Anyone interested can reach out to Wendy.

Since many of us have significant stashes of old Hoofprints and CashMirror issues, JoAnne suggested that we look into reprinting some of the articles. Ann volunteered to look through some old issues, and Wendy will make sure that Linda Fox is OK with having some articles reprinted.

Heidi told us about a mill in Oklahoma that is doing dehairing and spinning of cashmere. Pam mentioned that Norma Bromley has found a new mill in Vermont that does cashmere very well.

The next meeting will be on August 8th. Meeting adjourned at 8:38.