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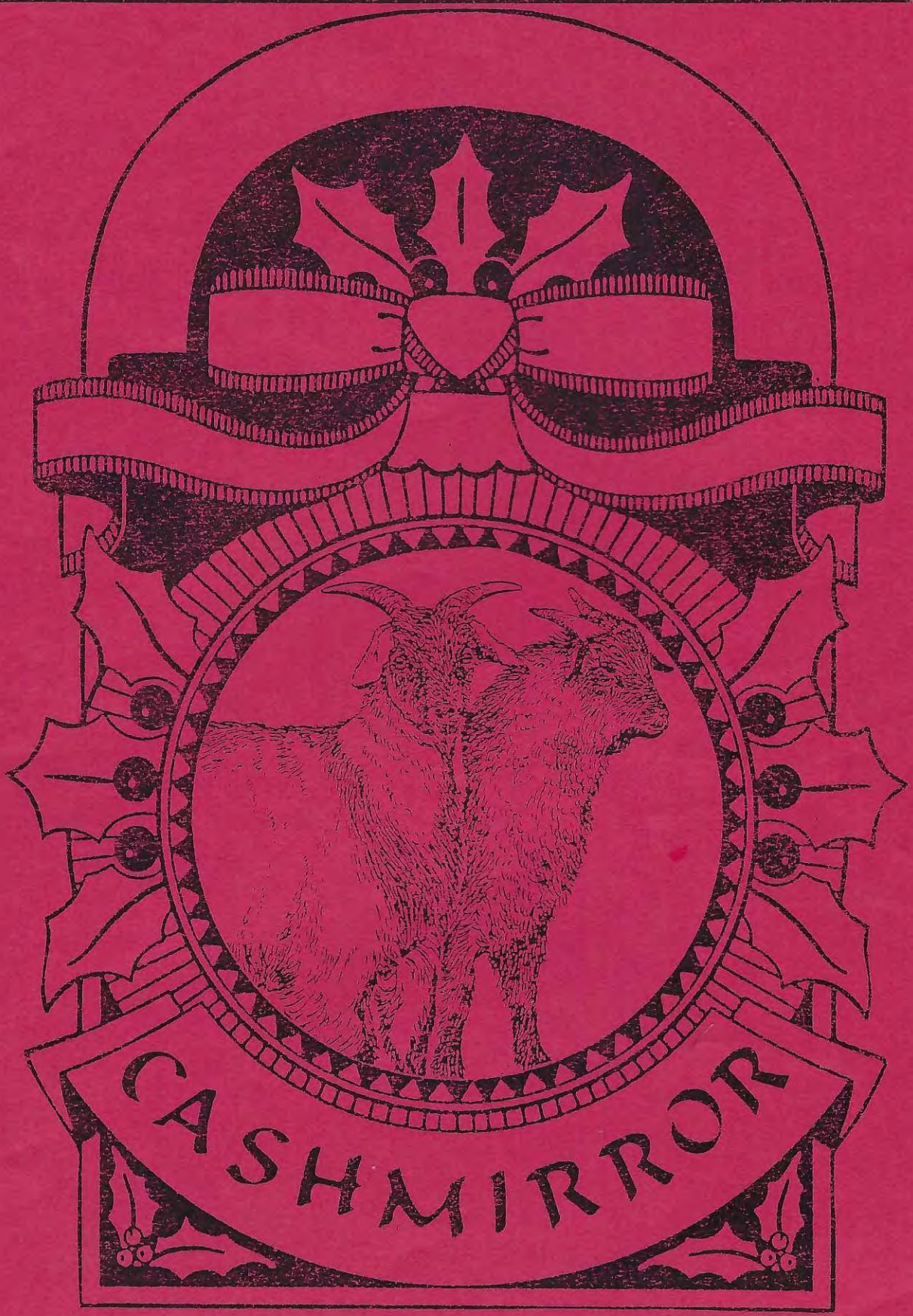

CASHMIRROR

CASHMIRROR
REFLECTING THE CASHMERE INDUSTRY

CashMirror Publications, 200 Larson Road, Silver Creek, Wa. 98585

Judith Richardson, Publisher
Wendy Paulin, Editor

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The CASHMIRROR welcomes contributions of articles and photographs. If possible type articles in double spacing on one side of the paper.

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REFLECTIONS

Dear friends,

Judith and the troops involved in the embryo transfer program are still on the road. It has been a very exciting two months; they were filled with work and fascinating adventures. While there is much to tell, it will take time for everyone to assimilate what has taken place and then pass it on to you. We are all waiting anxiously for their return.

The transfer program is now at its end for this year. The team will finish the last test farm on December 10, 1990. After their return it will not be long before they then look forward to a similar schedule for next October.

Also during the last two months, Washington state has again experienced a deluge of rain. The rivers have risen high above flood stage on two separate occasions and rainfall is way above normal. Our community again has made international news, and as a result, we received phone calls from friends all over the world. So far we have remained safe and our goats of course are where all good goats should be on a rainy day - in the barn eating hay!

We wish all of our readers a very Merry Christmas and of course a very cashmerely prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Wendy Paulin

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PYGMY GOAT DIGEST EXPANDING!

The pygmy Goat Digest will now feature and promote all miniature and exotic breeds of goats. The Digest is published bimonthly with deadlines set for the 10th of the month preceding publication. Subscription rates are $15.00 a year in the United States and $25.00 per outside the U.S..

For those interested in receiving the Pygmy Goat Digest please send Subscription to:

Pygmy Goat Digest
1320 Mountain Avenue,
Norco, Ca 91760 (714) 371-4307.
Fax Number (714) 627 8264.

THE CASHMERE CLASSIC AT STOCK SHOW

The first ever Cashmere goat show and sale will be at the National Western Stock Show, Denver, Co. January 15-17, 1991. The Cashmere Producers of America (CaPrA) is hosting the show and sale.

"The American cashmere industry is growing so fast and National Western is coined the "World most useful livestock event" we felt this was the place to make our entry into the industry", said Bron Schuetze, 1990, CaPrA president.

CaPrA is only 2 years old but represents over 200 members, up from 65 in 1989.

"Many may not realize it, but goats are browsers (consume broad-leafed plants including many weedy species) and will thrive on land unsuited for cattle or sheep", said Schuetze. Goats can also be used with cattle and sheep because they effectively control other noxious weed species such as spotted napweed, broom snakeweed, thistle, bindweed and wild rose. These traits offer a substitute for expensive and toxic chemicals for today's rancher. In addition, cashmere is a luxurious item with a growing demand. Last year only 69 pounds of cashmere was produced in the United States. Plus, chevon -young goat meat, is sold for between .75 and $1.00 per pound (depending where you are in the United States). Currently, American cashmere (under 16.5 microns or um) sells for $74.00 per kg.

The Stock Show represents the first cashmere goat show and sale to be held in the United States. Only the top 40 animals at the Stock Show will be offered for sale. The show is January 16 at 10:00 in the Concourse Arena. The sale begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Concourse Arena.

Sale catalogues will be available after December 10. To request a copy write: Cashmere Classic, c/o D. Sterkel, 2703 Stanford Road, Fort Collins, Co. 80525 or call 303-229-0774.

HE WON'T BE SHEARING MY GOATS!!!

David Murray in his book "Tall Tales and Easter Bunnies" a collection of 37 of his poems and three short stories, has included the poem "Cashmere Goats". It tells of the problems "Bluey" the shearer has with a mob of Cashmere goats. One thing for sure, Blue won't be getting the job of shearing our goats!

David's book is available for A$12.00 including postage from "Woodlawn", Lightning Ridge, 2834 Australia.

Reprinted from GoatKeepers, 1990

CASHMERE GOATS
DAVID MURRAY

A shearer man of great repute
Was engaged to crop the coats
For a lady's annual shearing of
Her herd of Cashmere Goats.

As shearers go, he'd been
around
Though never goats he'd shorn,
Reckoned that his skills could match
The worst goat ever born.

With Cotton-wool and bandages,
Disinfectant close to hand,
That lady sat down on a tin
Right next to Bluey's stand.

Now goats are born to kick and butt
and eat the strangest things-
Old Bluey soon found Cashmere Goats
do not enjoy shearing.

To her those goats were family pets,
She called them all by name-
Old Bluey soon did christen some
With meaning not the same.

For every time he nicked a hide She had to dress the sore
And made him pull back out of gear
As silently he swore.

His patience tried, but still tongue tied, he maintained a poker face
While those goats did kick and gouge
His every tender place.

By midday when the lady left
For luncheon at her home,
The blood had gone from Bluey's cheeks-
His mouth was flecked with foam.

He started up that shearing plant-
Thought, while she ate her lunch,
He'd empty out his catching pen
And educate that bunch.

He hamstrung one big wether goat
And cut the ears off two-
Then he really hit his straps
And, by George, the cashmere flew.

He settled scores and wiped the floors
With that crimson, kicking crew
And swore that they would mark the day
That they'd be shorn by Blue.

His dungarees were plastered thick
With blood and bits of goats;
He quickly emptied out that pen-
Grabbed the last one by the throat.

A billy goat of noble strain
Who'd cost a thousand pounds,
Old Bluey with his blood right up
Sent his hand piece whistling down.

The Billy kicked, old Bluey slipped,
His flashing handpiece scythed
The pride of all the lady's flock
of his goathood was deprived.

He looked up then, the boss was back
Felt shivers down his spine-
That look of rage-could just mean
Transplants were on her mind.

She chased him round the old wool press.
She chased him up the board-
He swiftly grabbed his shearing gear
And bolted out the door.

And often at the Diggers Rest
While soothing thirsty throats
He warns the boys of dangers dread
in shearing Cashmere goats

Fast food for Goat Farmers.....
GOAT IN PLUMB SAUCE

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 15 minutes

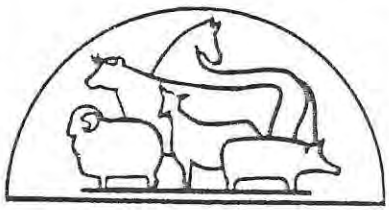
1 lb goat strips
1 tablespoon oil
1 onion, cut in 8 wedges
1/2 red bell pepper cut into thin strips
1/2 cup plum sauce
1 teaspoon cumin powder
2 cups frozen snow peas
1 cup bean shoots (optional)
2 packets quick-cooking noodles

1) Heat oil in a wok or fry pan over high heat. Toss in onion and bell pepper, stir fry 1-2 minutes. Add meat, stir fry 3-5 minutes or until brown all over.

2) Put 4 cups water on to boil for noodles.

3) Add plum sauce to lamb, stir in cumin, then add vegetables. Stir to combine well. Bring to boil, turn down heat and simmer 4-5 minutes, or until cooked.

4) Cook noodles according to directions on packet. Drain. Divide into four serving portions, top with Goat and vegetable mixture.



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US AND MONGOLIA IN CAMEL-HAIR VENTURE

Reprinted from Wool Record September 1990

The Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic have announced the establishment of the first joint venture between a Mongolian company and a United States company. The joint venture, called Mongol Amicale, will become Mongolia's only integrated producer and distributor of dehaired camelhair, camelhair fabric, and finished products. The two partners are Amicale Mongolia, Inc. a subsidiary of Amicale Industries, Inc. of New York, and the Mongolian Camel Wool Company, of Ulan Bator.

Modern camel-hair processing equipment will be installed at the new company's Ulan Bator facility. "This joint venture is a landmark event in world production of fine camel-hair fabric," sad Mr. Boris Shlomm, president of Amicale Mongolia and Amicale Industries. "I am confident we can look forward to a higher quality of camel hair and more reliable supplies than ever before."

Amicale Industries Inc. are manufacturers of fabrics and other products from luxury animal fibers-cashmere, camel-hair, alpaca and angora. They were founded in 1941 by Mr. Shlomm's father, Gregory, and employ 400 people in three factories; one in North Carolina and two in Pennsylvania.

The Mongolian Camel Wool Company is an enterprise formed by the Council of Ministers of Mongolia for the purpose of upgrading camel-hair processing in Mongolia through co-operation with foreign countries.

Initial annual capacity of the facility will enable Mongol Amicale to dehair 750 tons of camel-hair sweaters. Mr Shlomm will serve as chairman of Mongol Amicale and Mr. V. Gongor, head of the Mongolian Camel Wool Company, will be president.

THREE YEAR PLAN FOR CASHMERE IN SCOTLAND

The Highlands and Islands Development Board are invest 71,000 pounds over the next three years to allow the Scottish Agricultural College to continue a programme of research into cashmere fiber production. The work is being handled at Kirkton, near Crianlarich, where a three-year programme is being handled by Dr. Tony Waterhouse and a team of specialists.

The work has demonstrated already the scope for running goats, with a projected return of between 20 pounds and 40 pounds per doe dependent of the quality of the fiber, the market for goat meat, and other factors involved.

TESTING AGREEMENT EXTENDS TO CHINA

A World "first" has been achieved by the Australian Wool Testing Authority, with China signing a protocol which means that Australian pre-sale tests for fiber diameter and yield are officially recognized by China.

No other commodity can be imported into China without compulsory re-testing. Raw wool trading with China is now on a similar basis to normal trading with other countries. Delays and disputes will be reduced and a more confident trading basis established.

SCOTTISH WOOLENS

A Wool Record Special Survey

Mr. Miller perceives a glimmer of light

The chairman of Scotland's most prominent textile group, Dawson International PLC, believes that the industry's markets are showing new signs of life. Mr. Ronald Miller says there are one or two indicators that the low point of the infamous textile cycle has been reached, and that the future will be brighter–for those who have learnt a lesson "from this particular hurricane".

"Sales for next autumn are about the same level as last year, whereas last year they were lower than the year before, which leads me to believe things have levelled off." he told the "Wool Record." "The knitted look is also the subject of a lot of renewed interest and we are pleased with the way our new ranges have sold."

Mr. Miller adds a not of caution, Many changes have taken place in the world market-place and only those companies which have heeded the warnings of the difficulties experienced in the downturn and which have implemented changes to respond to the demands of the 1990s will be truly successful.

Having been involved in the textile industry for more than 20 years, Mr. Miller is acutely aware of the cyclical pattern of business. however, even he admits that this time the level of activity has been lower than he has seen for a long time. The reasons are familiar: the move away from the woollen look, reaction to the sharp rise in prices, and the succession of warm winters.

For major exporters, the strong British pound and varying exchange rate proved a further burden. The combination of all these factors produced "a bigger wave" than usual for an industry, famous for its ability to ride out the not infrequent storms.

Dawson have fared better than most. Mr Miller observed: "If we had not had the problems associated with cashmere supplies from China, which exacerbated the situation, we would have had a very good performance." The fact that 50% of the group's operations now include a giant thermal underwear/shower curtain business in the United States had helped Dawson to consolidate their strong position.

On a topical note, Mr. Miller says that the possibility of a shortage of oil, or the higher prices being asked for oil, may prove of benefit to the knitwear industry. He predicts that "cool customers" will turn to warmer clothes rather than central heating next winter.

Mr. Miller attributes Dawson's success to a better response to the market-place – in short, "a great many initiatives and investment in people and machinery". He adds: "The input of design has been much greater than in the past, which has resulted in significantly more interest in our products.

"For example, at Pringle the applique' effect is experiencing particularly strong growth as is the new "Faldo Collection", which has considerable design input. At Ballantyne Cashmere, where products are quite different from the traditional classic styles, customers have been prepared to invest, despite higher prices." Revitalization of production is also considered an important priority, even when budgets are tight and interest rates are high. For Dawson, a substantial investment in new machinery has provided greater versatility, and therefore a swifter response to their customers" enquiries.

Dawson International are firmly committed to a united industry, and believe the industry's response to the re-negotiation of the MultiFibre Arrangement has underlined the importance of the various trade bodies. He emphasized Dawson's role, commenting "as a Group we will do all we can to encourage the trade bodies to pull together". Although the Dawson Group believe in the principle of free market trading, Mr. Miller considers that it is only possible to be competitive when "a level playing field" exists, and is a reality in practice. Hence, in view of the expiry of the MFA in July next year, he suggest that necessary safeguards should be put in place to ensure some degree of protection for textile companies within an acceptable framework of rules.

"In order to give some comfort that our future is secured, it is imperative to ensure that action is taken now in specific areas," he stated. "These should include more effective regulations governing dumping, with greater emphasis on the threat from the Far East; a continuation of the MFA until a suitable framework to replace it is in place; and a review made of the accessibility for the UK

textile industry in world markets. Action should also include an emphasis on breaking down the existing tariff barriers."

Mr. Miller said the textile industry generally was well placed to meet the market's requirements. He predicted that 1991 would be a good year for knitwear, but concluded, nevertheless: "The strength of the upturn, however, as far as exporters are concerned will be throttled by the strong pound and uncertainty arising from the Middle East situation."

FASHION SHADES IN CASHMERE

Todd & Duncan of Kinross, the cashmere woollen spinning specialists, are unveiling a new range of 42 fashion shades and including eight melanges.

Available in cashmere in 1/14 NM and 2/28 NM, suitable for 15gg. and 21gg. knitting, the range is supported by an extensive stock service of classic colors.

Todd & Duncan say that the stunning colors they are able to offer is a result of the most modern spinning techniques allied to the traditional woollen method. Their loose stock-dyed yarns have fastness and permit the knitter to match shades with accuracy.

The company also offer Super Geelong and "Stirling" lambswool and a range of camel-hair yarns together with luxury blends such as cashmere/silk.

*For further information contact: M.C. Gilbert, Todd & Duncan Ltd., Tel: 0577 63521.

FORTE CASHMERE COMPANY, INC
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OR

The Secretary, CaPra
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Longmont Co. 80501

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Foundation Member Cashmere Producers of America

NATIONAL MINIATURE DONKEY ASSOCIATION

Attention...Miniature Donkey owners and breeders. We are pleased to announce the start of the first miniature donkey association. (N.M.D.A.)

The purpose of this non-profit organization is to unite owners and breeders to work together to PROTECT the miniature donkey as a breed; to PROMOTE the unique little donkeys and popularize the breed; and to EDUCATE and facilitate communication among owners.

The NMDA is planning a number of educational videos for sale or rent to members. Also, an informational brochure about miniature donkeys will be available for distribution.

The NMDA will also publish a quarterly newsletter. NMDA would like to invite you to become a member and help them bring credibility to the niniature donkey breed by providing a foundation for its future. For a limited time their membership dues will be only $10.00. They also offer a "contributing member" for $25.00 or more.

For more information please write:

National Miniature Donkey Association
Rd 1, Box 472 Dewey Road
Rome, NY 13440

CASHMIRROR

A Newsletter discussing

Cashmere

and the U.S. Cashmere Industry

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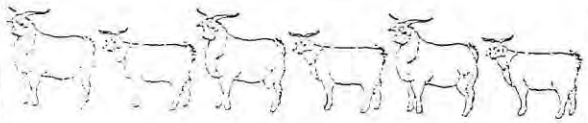

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CASHMIRROR'S FEATURE FARMER OF THE MONTH.....

CASHCO GOATS AMERICA

The drone of the engine began to lull me into a dream state as the Boeing 747 sped toward Australia. Australia, how I have learned to love that country and its people! For twenty years my attachment to that country has grown, ever since I first met Robin Kissel my AFS sister and good friend. After all this time I find myself headed for a reunion with my Australian family and I muse about what this reunion will mean to me. Little did I know that this trip Down Under would be a career and life changing event for me. This was my introduction to the cashmere industry because Robin and her sister Leal own and operate one of the largest and most successful cashmere goat herds in Australia.

It was six months later that I nervously awaited the arrival of the first cashmere goats to set hoof on U.S. soil. I'll never forget the excitement and exhilaration I felt when I saw those beautiful animals. But that excitement quickly faded when I detected the effect of 90 days of importation that had stressed these animals and before I headed for home I called my best friend and cried HELP! So the partnership called Cashco Goats America was formed and Jill Darrah became my partner in January of 1986.

The goat herding began in earnest and together Jill and I built sheds, fenced our acreage and became knowledgeable in goat veterinary medicine. When the bulk of the work was done time was spent planning our future and the future of the cashmere industry in the United States. Hugh Hopkins and Dick Forte' were contacted and with their guidance we learned that Texas was full of goats that produce cashmere or have the genetic potential to pass the cashmere growing trait to it's progeny.

Off to Texas we went haunting sale barns and growers and selecting goats to use as foundation does for our imports. It was on this trip that we learned the value of these goats and that many of these animals are of commercial quality displaying superb down weights. We carefully selected the animals we bought and shipped them to Colorado to begin a program of cross-breeding with our imports.

Since that first trip to Texas we have returned to select additional foundation goats to expand our doe herd, add new genetics and to select bucks to use in our program.

This year we will be breeding our fifth generation of Australian crosses. We continue to run a straight imported line of goats. Following a large second importation, with progeny our Australian herd exceeds 100. In addition, we maintain a line of straight American goats which continue to show beautiful fleece and improved down production.

Our herd now stands at 600 breeding does and forty bucks that we use for breeding and for sale as breeding stock. Two hundred young bucks (those not kept for breeding) will be shorn and sold for meat. Each fall we cull our herd dramatically no matter how difficult it is at the time. We believe that optimum gains can only be made through severe culling procedures.

Cashco is located in Colorado about 30 miles north of Denver. Most of the 200 acres is fenced in 4 to 5 strands of high tensile wire. We find this type of fencing easy to erect, cost effective and highly effectual in containing goats. We have two sets of yards because our goats are located on two properties separated by a distance of a mile.

Our best hired hands go by the names of Ethel and Pat with occasional assistance from Cash. These three eat their share of dog food each month and have recently learned that rolled corn is as good for dogs as for goats. Pat is the senior member of our dog squad. Although a little "sticky" she is a pretty good border collie. Ethel is somewhat stuck-up due to the fact that she is fairly rare in the United States and has recently switched citizenship from being an Australian Kelpe to an arrogant American. Her sister Blue arrives on our place in December - Hopefully trained! Our Great Pyrenees, Y'all, from you guessed it, Texas, guards our animals and even though we have animals in 5 separate pastures he has learned devious methods of escape and roams from pasture to pasture doing his job.

Record keeping is priority for Cashco. We keep ongoing records on management, pedigrees and fleece results. All this is supposed to be computerized and when things get really boring we fight with our Epson.

Fiber holds a fascination for the two of us and we have both spent many hours training our eye. Both Jill and I have helped in shearing over 4000 goats in Australia and concentrated on the grading of fiber so we could better make decisions in our own herd. Since that time we've sheared our animals three years in a row and have evaluated hundreds of cashmere fleece. We start the process in October and finish after shearing.

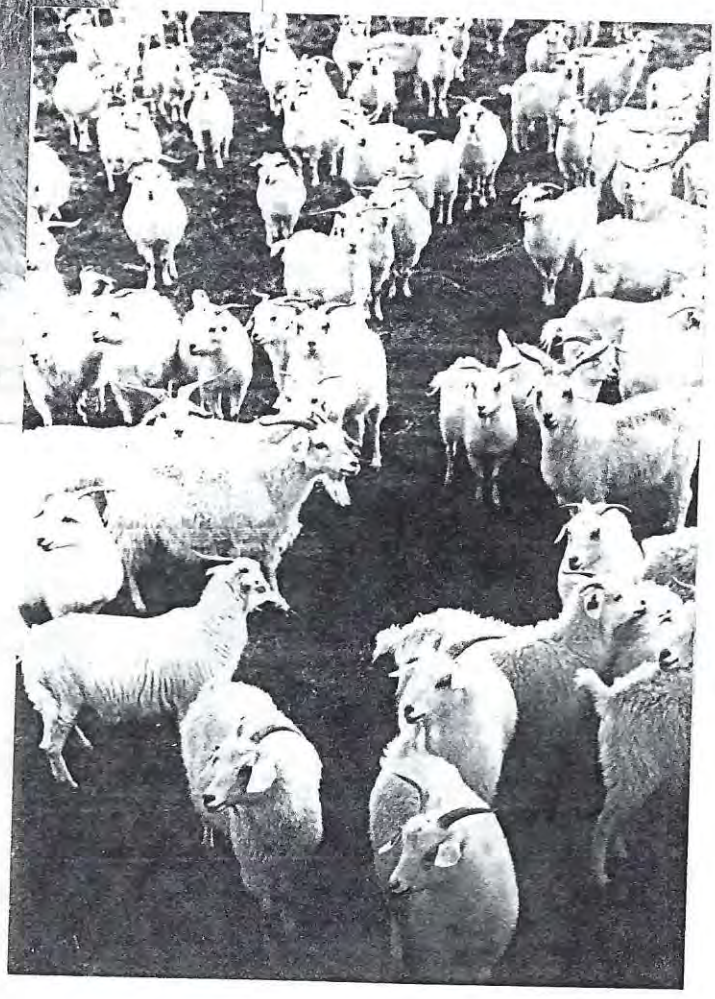
This year we sheared over 400 goats and were pleased with the results. Through our culling we now boast a Spanish (foundation herd) goat herd average of 16.2 microns with an average return for these goats of $9.46. A very respectable return on a micron so fine.

Our bred-on goats (foundation/Australian) reflect our attention to fiber with our yearlings averaging 15.2 microns and our two year olds holding at an average of 15.8 microns. Also interesting is that our second generation crosses demonstrate an increased production level over the foundation and first crosses. This is contrary to some of the genetic research often quoted. It appears that this may be another place where the cashmere animal does not follow some of the typical genetic patterns. Oh, for a University study to help us growers on the real nuts and bolts of cashmere growing!!

Let me get back to the story of Cashco. Colorado being a high 5280ft. above sea level, low humidity and suffering from brutal winter storms make this a challenging location to raise cashmeres. Shearing is the cause for most of our concern. This upcoming year we will shear our fourth clip in January. Every year we face this event anxiously. However, knock on wood, even with high winds, zero temps and foot deep snow we've not lost an animal yet due to cold. We are careful to see that all animals have some form of shelter (three sided sheds) and we keep the feed supply abundant during those stressful times. We have found that the first place to look, when things go wrong in the herd, is at nutrition.

Our herd health management, due to our environment is simpler than in other parts of the U.S. We give yearly shots for enterotoxemia. Because we rotationally graze our animals, we need only to worm two or three times yearly, depending on the weather. Hoof maintenance is minimal because of the dry climate. We believe that healthy herds maintain themselves so we do not assist in births nor do we bottle feed orphans. (unless we have an order for a pet) We keep other medical attention to a minimum both for reasons of economics but also to protect the hardiness of the herd.

Jill and I believe cashmere has great potential to be a significant industry in the U.S. Everything is in place. We have the goats (imports and Spanish meat goats). We have an existing meat market with untapped potential, we have a buyer (the Forte" Cashmere Company) and an active and productive association, CaPrA. Nowhere do all these elements come together so beautifully as here in the U.S. and with the mohair and wool markets being depressed, the potential of cashmere is even more impressive. Being part of the beginning and the growth of this industry has been a profitable undertaking from many points of view. We encourage all growers to become actively involved in this new and thrilling adventure.



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National Western Stock Show

January 16,1991

The first CaPrA sanctioned Show and Sale will be held at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado on January 16, 1991. This event will consist of two shows and an auction to follow that evening. The first show will be for show goats only and is an opportunity for breeders to "strut their stuff". The second show will be for the sale goats and will determine the order of sale at the auction.

Goats will be judged on fleece and conformation. Fleece points will constitute 60% of the total points and conformation the additional 40%.

Check-in time will be January 15, 1991 before 3:00pm and goats will need to be checked out with the cashmere goat superintendent by 12:00 noon on January 17, 1991.

Entry fee for Show Only goats is $20 per animal. Entry fee for Show for Sale goats is $10 per animal. Entry fees for non-CaPrA members are $25 and $15 respectively. A 10% commission will be charged on the sale price of each animal. Entries close November 12, 1990.

Entry Form

Owner(s) _____ Herd Code _____

Address _____

Show Goats: please indicate the numbers entered

Milk tooth does_____ bucks_____
Two tooth does_____ bucks_____
Four tooth does_____ bucks_____
Six tooth does_____ bucks_____

Total number of goats entered in the Show Only category: does_____ bucks_____

Entry fee for CaPrA members at $20 per head $ _____

Entry fee for non-CaPrA members at $25 per head $ _____

Sale Goats: please indicate the numbers entered

Milk tooth does_____ bucks_____
Two tooth does_____ bucks_____
Four tooth does_____ bucks_____
Six tooth does_____ bucks_____

Total number of goats entered in the Show for Sale category does _____ bucks _____

Entry fee for CaPrA members at $10 per head $ _____

Entry fee for non-CaPra members at $15 per head $ _____

CaPra membership (if not current) $50.00 $ _____
Total amount enclosed $ _____

CaPra is not responsible for goats entered in the show or sale and will not be held liable for any representations made by an owner as to the quality of an animal.

Signed_____ Date_____

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