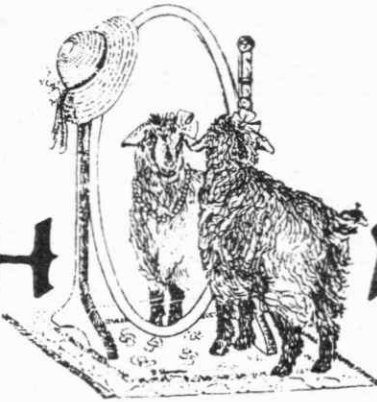
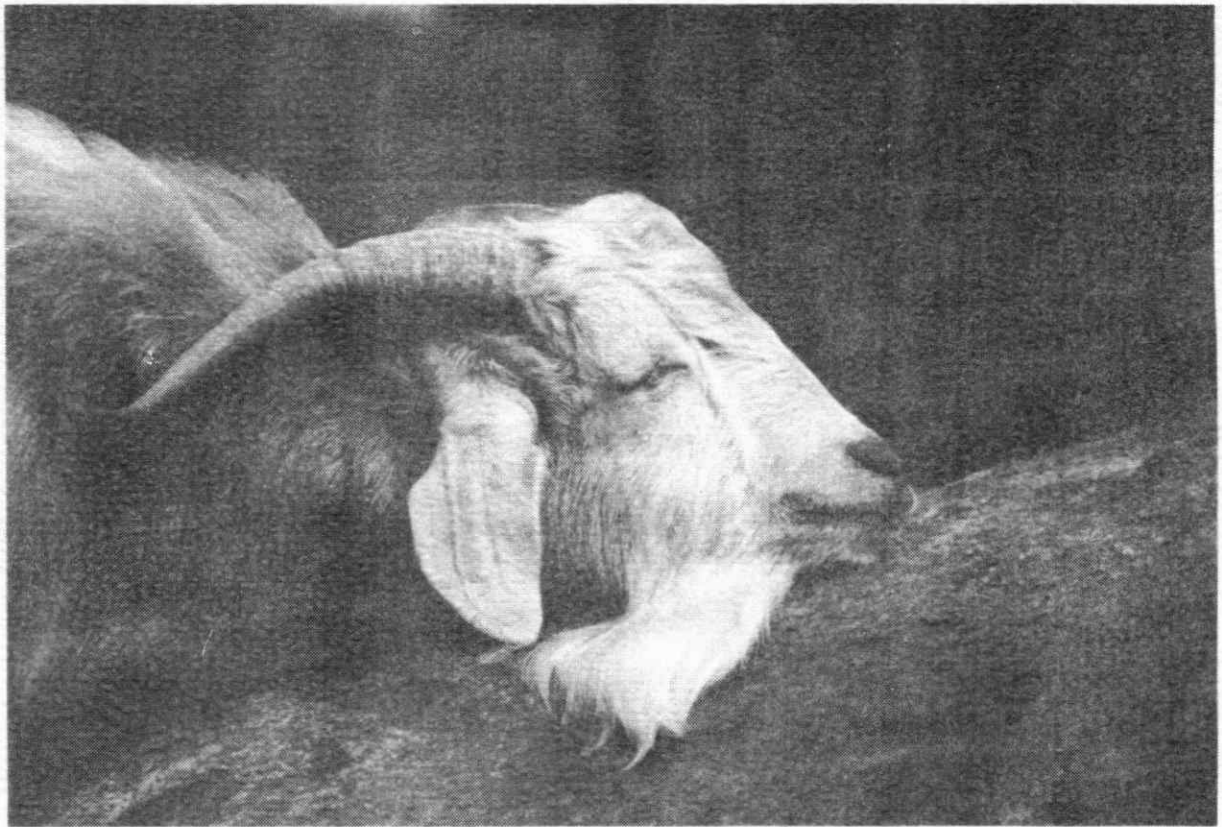


A black and white line drawing of two goats. One goat is standing and looking into a circular mirror. The other goat is standing next to it, also looking into the mirror. A hat is hanging on the wall above the mirror.

CASH MIRROR

VOLUME THREE, ISSUE SIX

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CASHMIRROR

CASHMIRROR REFLECTING THE CASHMERE INDUSTRY

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COVER PHOTO: Photo Courtesy of Wes and Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cashmere, Buckfield, Maine. "If your chin itches, find a rock."

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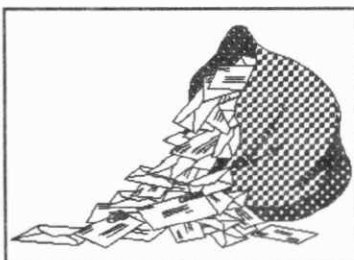
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The **CASHMIRROR** welcomes contributions of articles and photographs. If possible type articles in double spacing on one side of the paper.

No responsibility will be taken for material while in transit or in this office, although it will receive maximum care.

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Dear CashMirror:

In this letter I hope to explore spinning cashmere down into yarn. I am interested in finding out if down producers have an interest in this avenue for sale of their clip. I am interested to know if there are weavers or knitters who would be interested in being able to purchase skeins of yarn for producing sweaters and other garments.

I am not talking about hand spun yarns. I am talking about pooling a portion of our clip for spinning yarn by one of the leading commercial spinners in America.

Those of you who knit or weave are probably familiar with the brands "Nature Spun or Lambs Pride" worsted wool yarns. The company that produces these wool yarns is located in Scottsbluff, Nebraska

where I live and raise my goats. They have the capability of spinning single through 3 ply yarns from cashmere down that has been dehaired, carded and combed. After the down has been spun into yarn, they also have the capability of dyeing the yarn any color we would want.

Bob Brown, the co-owner of the company, is doing some checking on where the carding and combing process could be done, and how much it would cost.

It appears to me this would provide an alternative market for our cashmere clip. It would take some coordination and pooling to accumulate enough down for a minimum run.

I would like to pose these questions to Cash Mirror readers: Is there anyone

out there who would like to purchase cashmere yarn? How much will someone pay for this type of yarn? Are there any growers who would be willing to pool a portion of their clip to produce salable cashmere yarn?

If there is an interest in this, please write me a letter outlining your interest, your willingness to invest in this type of venture and any suggestions for pursuing this area. I would also like to hear from weavers or knitters interested in purchasing the finished product. Please write and tell me the quantities you would be interested in and what prices you would expect to pay for a skein of cashmere yarn.

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I anxiously await your suggestions and responses.

Sincerely,
John Harris
Nebraska Western
Cashmere

Dear CashMirror:

I have completed shearing my more than 30 goats this year and with aching muscles, sore hands, and broken back began anticipating the sale of my 35 pounds of cashmere. Where will I sell it this year? Not to Forte' Cashmere Co. The reply to my call to Forte' General Manager Hugh Hopkins was "We no longer provide that service."

Perhaps you breeders and growers have been coasting along fat, dumb and happy (like me) expecting Michel Paulin to provide all the answers to all the questions. I think he needs our help. This industry needs to communicate more on their plans and experiences.

Forte', Amicale and Dawson, tell us what you are doing and

experiencing. The farmers can take the ups and downs of the business if we can at least hear from our buyers.

Marketing co-ops and regionals share with us your prices, problems, and procedures on a monthly basis so we can participate. Here is a monthly voice to the industry and you are not using it.

Let's start telling each other what we know and have learned.

let's use our monthly journal as the forum to do it.

Sincerely,

John Harris, President
Nebraska Western
Cashmere

Editor's note: The publishers of CashMirror have regularly asked for information from breeders about themselves or the industry.

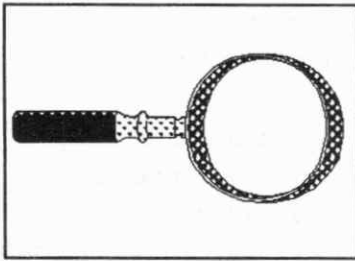
It seems as though our readers "love the magazine" and even "wait anxiously" for it to arrive every month but they want to be fed the

information - not participate in it.

We think the shortage of correspondence to CashMirror is perhaps for three reasons: 1) everyone is so damn busy trying to make a living; 2) Because this is a young industry there are still many systems, markets, and procedures being developed so therefore there are many unanswered questions; and 3) There is an unfortunate lack of trust that has developed between breeders which prevents open honest shared information; 4) Then of course there is always a risk of criticism.

It is our feeling the breeders are beginning to open up and old wounds are healing. It is our hope that those in the industry do begin to cooperate - they have every reason to want to do so.

In the meantime, CashMirror will continue to give you the best we can. If you feel we haven't covered what you need please write - we will try our best to provide answers.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

I just finished reading the package of information delivered to me this week from the American Cashmere Growers Marketing Cooperative. The good news is they are recognizing the true markets for fleece in 1992. The bad news is there are some problems with the system.

The ACGMA is an integral part of the development of the cashmere industry. We should all give credit to those who are working so hard to develop this important system.

I am delighted the ACGMA finally recognizes what others have been preaching for years. This industry can not survive by selling \$10.00 fleeces. Somebody smelled the coffee. That price may be fine for a few

breeders with ideal raising conditions, but not for the industry as a whole. The ACGMC brochure goes on to say, "the handspinning and weaving market is one chance for the U.S. growers to justify and increase cashmere production until world prices recover." Does this mean that if world prices recover we should dump the spinning and weaving market? The weaving market is a viable commercial market now and will continue to be.

I, for one, like the idea of a pool for the producers who like to sell their fleece with minimum involvement in the fiber. However, in the United States one enjoys economic freedom through a free-market system, I resent the patronizing tone of page 2 - "They (the breeders) can succeed as long as they think and act united through CaPrA and the ACGMC and do not split the national clip and membership, causing a myriad of small lots to pass through many inexperienced hands and be spoiled for future

marketing. Come on! Give me a break! This country, unlike Russia, was not built on socialism. The serious breeder within or without the system will succeed. Like it or not, this country stands for independence.

On page 3 of the ACGMA information package, growers are warned, "Growers should beware of backyard dehairing operations or private buying deals offering a return down service without any marketing assistance, no fleece advice, service, or loose-buying criteria and price/payment system not guaranteeing maximum return to the grower." Hey, let's talk about maximum return to the grower - growers are not stupid. Any grower can have their fleece tested by WhataWhata of New Zealand or subjectively analyzed by an expert similar to what the ACGMC provides. Many farmers sell goats every day based on just this analysis. As for guarantees, I don't see price guarantees or maximum return to the growers from ACGMC.

I read and understood very well the "ACGMC - TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR FIBER HANDLING....All the costs and charges to be deducted from the sale, (with no costs stated). ACGMC also promises that "In the event of proceeds from this consignment being insufficient to cover charges, that such amount outstanding shall be reimbursed to the ACGMC upon demand."

I see guarantees here, but not for the grower.

I urge you all to re-read the ACGMC offer again and come up with a return on investment for your operation. If you come up with one, let me know.

The ACGMC fleece pool is and will be an important part of the cashmere industry. I just hope its leadership will not fall into the trap of a cartel mentality

Respectfully submitted,

Michel Paulin

GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE!

In last months issue, Issue Five, March 1992, the fabulous article titled **POLIOENCEPHALOM ALACIA** (or *Goat Crashes*) was written by our famous goat expert Miriam Jeswine of Glacier Cashmere Company in Dexter Oregon.

Also, the front cover photo last issue of Furry Down Benrolf was "Courtesy" of Beverly Rolfe & Rolf Pinkwart of Penn Valley, California.

NO SECOND CUTS PLEASE! was written by Wendy Paulin.



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What is a Realistic Price for A Goat?

by Miriam Jeswine

About the time I am thoroughly weary with wrassling hay bales and trimming feet, I ask myself if all the work is worth my while. Physical fitness is nice, but I can do without the little dime-sized bruises on my legs. Ankle-length skirts may go out of style some day, and it's nice to wear shorts when it's hot. Some financial returns would really help keep me in long skirts and pants. Some things I read about, though, make me pretty nervous.

I keep reading statements to the effect that Cashmeres are too high-priced and that it won't be worth getting into Cashmere until the average price is the same as meat animals. This is pretty horrifying to those who have invested substantial money in imported stock and, I believe, it is erroneous thinking. A good analysis of what it costs to keep an animal shows that it costs the same amount of money to keep a really

productive one as it does to keep an average one. The difference is that the average one will never improve the productivity of the flock, and her kids will never be worth more than the average, which is the meat price.

I look at the meat price as being the salvage or bottom value of the goat. That is, if she can walk into the sale ring, she will bring this much money. I need to do a good job of keeping records, and really attribute all the costs to that goat that belong to her, not only feed, health care and shearing costs, but also appropriate sums for utilities, taxes on land and livestock buildings, pasture costs, maintenance on improvements, opportunity costs and my labor (yes, my labor is worth something). When I figure all this out, that goat might cost me about \$45 or more per year to keep.

If she is an average goat, she will,

according to Hugh Hopkins, produce \$3.40 worth of fleece per year. If she produces one kid her first time and twins after that, she will produce about nine kids at \$50 apiece at meat prices. It won't be until you sell her second and third kids that she will return a profit. Not very encouraging. In fact, if you look at it from an investor's point of view, it is really discouraging. The following table shows what a bred doe is worth at various points in her life, if your investment goal is to earn %18 on your money. I assumed some things about the cost of keeping her, and assumed that her fleece would be worth \$3.40 and her kids worth \$50 each year. (You have to assume some things when you make forecasts. You also have to assume she stays alive that long.)

I used a procedure for calculating the present value of a future stream of income. Financial calculators and

spreadsheet programs can do these calculations in the wink of an eye. You take the gross amount of income you expect, ($FV = 208.63$), the rate of return you want ($\%i = 18$), the number of years it will take to get it ($N = 5$), and the payments ($PMT = 0$). Plug these into the calculator or spreadsheet, tap the present value (PV) button, and presto! You can decide how much to pay for an animal, or how much to ask for one you want to sell based on this information. Of course, there is an element of risk, and the riskier the investment, the greater the rate of return ($\%i$) you want. That, in a very condensed nutshell, is how investors in bonds, real estate, or anything else calculate what they will pay.

Perform the same kinds of computations assuming that you have a good kind of a doe whose fleece is worth more than average, the kind of doe who can produce a buck which will improve the productivity of the flock. You come up with a vastly different value for

that animal, assuming you will sell one meat kid and one breeding animal per year from her. Now, if no goat is worth more than meat, there is little point in keeping her, but if her offspring are worth more than meat, there is a lot of point in all that hard work and money.

Of course you will have to spend some money on fleece testing and on promotion to sell kids for more than meat price, and I did not include those in computing the net lifetime income, but you get the idea. So the Potential Net Income row reflects calculations of gross lifetime income minus gross lifetime costs, based on a whole lot of assumptions.

It is useful to sit down and work out the numbers, play "What if" with the numbers, and see what the results are in your

particular set of circumstances. Your numbers won't come out the same as mine, but they will be very informative. If your record-keeping is complete and accurate, giving you real numbers, you should be able to come up with realistic prices for your animals. Although Cashmeres are fun, interesting, and they improve pastures, that isn't the whole picture to a prudent investor. After all, there are other ways to improve pastures that won't leave bruises on your legs.



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The Present Value of an Average Meat/Cashmere at 18% Return on Investment

	Bred Yearling	Bred 2 Year-old	Bred 3 Year-old	Bred 4 Year-old	Bred 5 Year-old
INCOME -- Fleeces	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
Meat kids		50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	3.40	53.40	103.40	103.40	103.40
POTENTIAL NET LIFETIME INCOME	208.63	197.68	173.72	115.42	57.71
VALUE at 18% return on investment.	91.19	101.96	105.73	82.89	48.91

The Present Value of a Good Cashmere Doe at 18% Return on Investment

	Bred Yearling	Bred 2 Year-old	Bred 3 Year-old	Bred 4 Year-old	Bred 5 Year-old
INCOME -- Fleeces	3.40	12.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Meat kids	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Breeding stock		1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	53.40	1062.00	1065.00	1065.00	1065.00
POTENTIAL NET LIFETIME INCOME	4097.97	4078.42	3058.52	2038.62	1019.31
VALUE at 18% return on investment.	2544.52	2785.62	2297.91	1684.81	926.65

Private Property Rights Hinge on Supreme Court

Reprinted with Permission "Farm Bureau News"
Joan Waldock, Editor

Editor's note: The reprint of this article comes as a result of a visit and conversation with Judith and Duane Haralson of Cascade Cashmere Company. We were discussing the fear that has possessed our county as farms in the area have been rendered inoperable or condemned because of wetlands designations and preservation.

Farmers in all parts of the United States need to be aware of regulatory agencies that may have jurisdiction over them or their property.

Written by Hertha Lund

The future of private property rights hangs in the balance as all three branches of government decide the preservation or demise of this cornerstone of a free society.

The basic philosophical questions of how best to govern society and who should pay for the cost of the collective good -

individuals or society - is at the core of current debate in Congress, in cases before the Supreme Court and decisions to be made by the president.

At the fore-front is the Fifth Amendment, which states "...no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

This sounds straightforward until it gets into legal interpretations.

What is liberty, due process of law or just compensation? And when does a state's police power enable it to regulate property without compensation. On these questions lies the future of farmers' and

ranchers' rights to their property unhindered by overzealous government regulators.

Environmental groups argue that the air and the water are not owned by anyone and in order to protect the environment, private landowners must bow to the public good and give up their property rights. Landowners argue that this is in violation of constitutional guarantees and that land is best cared for by individual owners, pointing to Eastern Europe's and

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Russia's environmental debacles as examples of central ownership's enhancement of the environment.

Private property rights scholar Richard Epstein, professor of law at the University of Chicago, says, "In effect, the position of environmentalists on this issue is that 'we'll allow you to keep the rind of the orange, just to make sure that we can suck out all of its juice and keep it for our own particular benefit.' "

Under wetlands, endangered species and other strangling regulations, the environmental groups and government bureaucracies want to be able to control the use of the land without compensating for it. However, the Supreme Court made it clear in a 1922 case, *Pennsylvania Coal vs. Mahon*: "If regulation goes too far, it will be considered a taking."

Since 1987, courts have begun to reaffirm that "regulatory takings" or "inverse condemnation" without the physical

taking of the property are worthy of compensation when the government regulation destroys the owner's "economically viable use" of the land. It is this doctrine that most concerns environmental groups.

Many state and federal courts continue to decide property rights cases as though the constitutional landscape hadn't changed in the late 1980's. A trilogy of 1987 Supreme Court rulings with provocative language on private property rights - *First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glendale vs. County of Los Angeles*, *Nollan vs. California Coastal Commission* and *Keystone Bituminous Coal Association vs. DeBenedictis* - created a window of opportunity for private property owners and may have set the platform for a clarification by the Supreme Court on the relationship between private property rights and legitimate police action in government regulation.

What many landowners

may not understand is that the government can take property for certain reasons. If there is a legitimate public purpose, the government may exercise its eminent domain powers and take private land with compensation. The question of what constitutes a taking for which the Fifth Amendment guarantees

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"just compensation" arises.

A common test for determining a regulatory taking by a government action is the Agins test, a two-pronged test developed by Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell: "The application of a general zoning law to particular property effects is a taking if the ordinance does not substantial advance a legitimate state interest...or denies an owner economically viable use of his land."

The "legitimate state interest" has been defined as an activity that fits with in the realm of police power and protects or promotes public health, safety or welfare. Numerous cases have held that there is no formula to define the "economically viable use of property" prong of the Agins test and therefore it is open to new interpretation with each case.

Another way Government agencies have gotten out of paying for land they have regulated is by relying on the "nuisance

exception." This interpretation of the law has allowed regulators to disallow use of property if they could prove that a public nuisance resulted from the use of the land. This brings up the question of when a "legitimate nuisance" regulation turns into one that goes too far?

The various gray areas on takings law provide fertile ground for the Supreme Court to refine this area of law in three cases it is now considering - Yee vs. City of Escondido, PFZ Properties vs. Rodriguez (not a takings case, but a substantive due process case). which already have been heard, and Lucas vs. South Carolina coastal Council, which is being heard this week.

Depending on how the Supreme Court rules on these cases, Congress will proceed accordingly with wetlands, endangered species and other environmental legislation. If the takings concept becomes more established in law, then members of Congress will be reluctant to pass expensive legislation.

This means that whether or not Congress passes more regulatory laws or how it words these laws hangs in the balance of the Supreme Court rulings.

If environmentalists, some members of Congress and bureaucracies can regulate without taking because of certain provisions in the law that ignore the Fifth Amendment, they will do so. On the other hand, if the Supreme Court comes out strongly in favor of private property rights, government agencies will back off from heavy-handed regulation because of the high cost of compensations for such activities.

FB: AGRICULTURE RESTRICTED BY WETLANDS POLICIES

Farmers and ranchers have been increasingly challenged by wetlands regulations and restrictions on the use of their land, Farm Bureau said in a statement submitted to a House Interior Committee hearing last week.

Farm Bureau pointed out the need for a common-sense definition of wetlands and urged passage of legislation (H.R. 1330 and S. 1463) to provide regulatory guidance to the wetlands issue.

"For much of our history, wetlands have been viewed as a problem to be eliminated, rather than a resource to be protected," the Farm Bureau statement said. "Only recently has the emphasis shifted, with a new focus on the unique and valuable functions of wetlands in their natural state."

This shift does not always mesh with the fact that about 70 percent of wetlands are on private land, which individuals have purchased, mortgaged and pay property taxes on, Farm Bureau said. "From an agricultural standpoint one of the major shortcomings of the current wetland regulatory system is the failure to recognize and respect private property rights."

Farm Bureau said it is encouraged by the Bush

administration's steps toward a common-sense wetlands definition through its proposed revisions to the federal delineation manual.

"One of the most welcome revisions is the requirement that all three wetland criteria - hydrology, soils and vegetation - must be independently satisfied in order to define an area as a wetland," Farm Bureau said. Other positive manual changes include requiring at least 15 days of inundation or at least 21 days of soil saturation to the surface for a wetland determination to be made.

Farm Bureau pointed out that the Corps of Engineers last fall issued a regulatory guidance letter to exclude prior converted cropland from the scope of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Prior converted croplands are lands brought into agricultural production before December 23, 1985, the date the swamp buster provisions of the 1985 farm bill were enacted. They include lands that have been ditched, tiled

leveled, drained or otherwise physically altered for the purpose of food production.

"They no longer functions as wetlands, nor, as the Corps indicated, do they show important wetland values," Farm Bureau said. "The 1985 farm bill specifically excludes prior converted cropland and we believe a similar exclusion should be carried through in Section 404."

The Farm Bureau statement also noted that Section 404 intended for farms, ranches and forestry operations to continue "normal" farming and ranching activities without obtaining individual permits. Yet, many of the conflicts between farmers and regulators are "due to attempts by field office regulators with no familiarity with agriculture to define what constitutes a normal farming practice."

Changes to Section 404 should include a system of classifying wetlands, recognizing that not all

wetlands share the same ecological value of perform the functions, Farm Bureau said.

"Those that are truly unique maybe deserving of greater protection, while those that are marginal or that only technically meet wetlands criteria should be subject to less stringent oversight."

Compensation is also an important issue, Farm Bureau said. "If society values this resource and

removes most of the economic value by restricting the use of the property, then society has the obligation to compensate the landowner."

Certain types of agricultural production, such as forestry, cranberry production, haying and grazing and some types of aquaculture, are compatible with conserving wetland functions and values,

Farm Bureau pointed out. Production of such commodities, when it can take place in a manner consistent with overall wetland functions, "should be encouraged and allowed to expand."



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Maremma Livestock Guardian Dogs

Commercial vs. Home Mixed Lamb Feeds

University Extension, Lincoln University

Written by DR. Helen A. Swartz, Sheep, Goat and Small Livestock Specialist

A study in Minnesota (Jordan and Hanke, 1987) on Commercial ground lamb creep diet and a home-mixed lamb creep diet showed costs of creep feed per lamb daily or per 100 lb. grain was two to four times greater for lambs fed the commercial diet. The commercial grower diet consisted of a special premix of undisclosed content added to cracked corn. The home-mixed diet for

creep and grower-finishing feed is shown in Table 1.

Differences in ADG between treatments of commercial and home-mixed feed were not significant. The lambs fed the commercial creep diet gained .792lb. daily compared to .755lb ADG for the lambs fed the home-mixed 16.2% protein, commercial 18.0%).

In this study, there was no difference in lamb mortality between diets. Neither group was ready

for market, so no advantage from higher selling price/100 lb. accrued.

The higher cost of the commercial creep diet and slightly more feed per unit of grain resulted in \$7.66 vs. \$2.87 cost per 100 lb of lamb gain for the commercial and home-mixed diets.

Sheep producers consider feed costs of production at least 50% of total costs. Lowering feed costs will result in more overall profit.

Table next page.

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Table 1. Composition and cost of "Home-mixed" Creep and Grower Diets in Comparison to proprietary creep and grower diets.

Ingredient	Home-mixed creep, percent of diet	Cost/ lb.	Cost to include/ ton of creep feed
Cracked corn (\$1.50/bu)	68.9	\$.027	\$ 37.20
Soybean meal (\$183/ton)	27.6	\$.092	\$ 50.00
TM salt with selenium	.5	\$.139	\$ 1.40
Gr. limestone	1.0	\$.049	\$.98
Antibiotic (Aurofac 10A, 50 mg/lb. of diet)	.5	\$.700	\$ 7.00
Ammonium chloride	.5	\$.342	\$ 3.42
Rumensin (from beefcake M-600), 12g/ton	1.0	\$.117	\$ 2.34
Mixing and grinding cost/ton			\$ 6.00
		Total cost/ton	\$109.14
Percent protein: 18.5			
	Commercial creep feed		
		Total cost/ton	\$255.00
Percent protein: 20.0			
	Grower-Finishing Phase		
<u>Home-mixed</u>			
Cracked corn (\$1.50/bu)	75.5	\$.032	\$ 48.40
Soybean meal (\$183/ton)	21.0	\$.090	\$ 37.80
TM salt	.5	\$.139	\$ 1.40
Gr. limestone	1.0	\$.049	\$.98
Aurofac 10A	.5	\$.700	\$ 7.00
Ammonium chloride	.5	\$.467	\$ 4.68
Rumensin (12g/ton)	1.0	\$.163	\$ 3.76
Mixing and grinding cost/ton			\$ 6.00
		Total cost/ton	\$110.02
Percent protein: 16.2			
<u>Commercial grower mix</u>			
Cracked corn	72.5	\$.032	\$ 46.40
Special pellets	25.0	\$.176	\$ 88.00
Antibiotic mix	2.5	\$.200	\$ 10.00
Mixing and grinding cost/ton			\$ 6.00
		Total cost/ton	\$150.40
Percent protein: 18.0			

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Recognizing Birth Defects

Reprinted from GoatKeepers Magazine

By Dr. Max Merral
Senior Lecturer in
Veterinary Medicine at
Massey University, New
Zealand

There are a number of defects which may be present in animals at the point of their birth. These are referred to as congenital defects. Some of these are heritable defects where the genes supplied by the buck and doe determine that the kid will be of this nature. Others are classed as developmental accidents, genetically the kid is sound and no blame can be attached to either parent. A third form is due to the influence of teratogens, these are chemicals consumed by the doe in the early weeks of her pregnancy which cause an alteration in the form of development of the growing foetus. Examples of a heritable defect in humans is hemophilia, a developmental accident is a harelip and cleft

palate and the thalidomide babies are the result of one of the best known teratogens.

The distinction between all these three categories is not clear by any means as they are not always present in 100% of the population. Thus statistics are important. There are claims concerning a drug taken during pregnancy by three women in the south Island, all of whose children have the same defect. However, the drug firm claims that three out of a large number of women who have taken this drug is the same as this particular defect occurs in a population not taking the drug. Some developmental accidents including some quite complex disturbances are repeatable which tends to suggest that they are heritable when in fact they are not.

Some of the more common "defects" seen are:

Overshot and Undershot Jaws

The first thing to be aware of here is that the United States naming of these conditions is the reverse of the New Zealand Australian so I often use the terms hog mouth and parrot mouth. In parrot mouth the upper jaw is longer than the lower and droops over it, this is called undershot jaw in New Zealand. Because correct opposition of the teeth and the dental pad does not occur than loss of ability to compete successfully in conditions of limited feed can restrict growth and reproduction. In hog mouth (what we would call overshot) the reverse occurs but with the same end result in terms of feeding and growth. Although King in Australia has suggested mating overshot with undershot to correct the condition, this is a rather simplistic approach. Both these conditions are reported to be inherited by a

recessive gene. This mating would thus ensure that these heritable faults are perpetuated in a flock.

Supernumerary and Double Teats

Evidence is that if it is indeed heritable it is a multifactorial inheritance and selection of the dams may have little influence on the condition.

Some owners however, report that selection against it has resulted in dramatic reductions in herd incidence. On the male side however, I would tend to select against extra teats or more particularly, double teats.

Intersexuality

This is a condition which may affect polled goats of all breeds. It affects males and females differently.

The female may show a varying degree of masculinization. This can vary from looking and behaving like a doe but with some buckish behavior through to having one to two

testicles in nearly the usual location and even more abnormal forms. The illustration is one of the more common aberration with one visible testicle, a very prominent clitoris, and the habit of spraying itself with urine.

In the male there is infertility with the abscesses in the epididymis at the top of the testicle rendering them infertile.

Contracted Flexor Tendons

This condition occurs quite frequently in calves and is one I have observed over the years in kids. I am not sure if it is increasing in frequency or whether it is just that there are more goats around.

In this condition front and occasionally back legs are bent unable to be straightened. In calves it readily rights itself in most cases as the animal tries to walk, the stretch on the tendon causing it to grow to normal lengths. Shortened tendons seems to be the primary problem.

In kids however, they do not straighten themselves and if left the leg assumes a twisted and bent shape incapable of correction. If calves are severely affected I use a splint to straighten the defect and I have used this in kids with mixed success. The leg needs good lateral support as well because the limb is apt to twist in these cases also so that the pastern bends outwards and the digits tend to rotate outwards. I have had some success using this method.

The condition is apparently genetic in cattle so it is quite possible of genetic origin in goats also.

Arthrogryposis

Sorry about that. It is referred to in cattle in the U.S. as the crooked calf syndrome. In cattle it is caused by a variety of factors including a genetic tendency, by the consumption of large quantities of lupin bushes (teratogens), possibly spontaneously as a development accident, and there is a suggestion that an infection is involved.

The signs are most commonly, malpositioning and malalignment of the elbow joint, various other joints of the limbs and of the spine. In cattle, difficult calvings generally result during which the calves legs are frequently broken. I did not check, in the outbreak I was discussing, whether difficult kidding also occurred in goats. The kids are usually unable to stand and as in the case of calves many have a cleft palate. The difference between the genetic and toxic induced condition in

calves is that in the cases of genetic origin cleft palate was a constant feature, there was a prolonged gestation and the calves were of a lower birth weight. These features may also apply to the difference between genetic and the teratogenic disease in kids.

CRYPTORCHIDS

This also is thought to be genetic. There may be one or no testicles descended and they may be intra abdominal or palpated as a lump in the abdominal wall

(believed to be due to a recessive gene). Those with one testicle descended (monorchid may be fertile).

DO NOT USE THEM.

This is by no means a full and complete list of defects but merely a catalogue of those I have seen or been consulted about over the past few months.

It is important that a register of these is kept, especially so with the advent of AI, where if a buck is carrying a defect the number of does that may be affected can be very great.



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