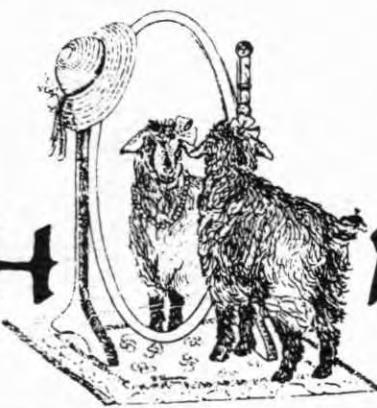




CASH MIRROR

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CASHMIRROR

CASHMIRROR REFLECTING THE CASHMERE INDUSTRY

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On the Cover: Cashmere goat wins best of show for mixed breed showmanship class in Washington!

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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.

Table of Contents

Letters	3
Lumps, Bumps & Other	4
Cashmere	7
Flies	9
Fiber Measurement	16
Calendar	19
Breeders Directory	22
Classified	26



Letters

Dear Miriam,

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your article "Lap Goats" in the May issue of CashMirror. We have a dozen lap goats.

The only difference is that only 3 of ours were bottle fed. My experience is that with enough petting and socialization even a wild 3 month old goat I've bought can become a lap goat in a short time. It usually takes about a week. About 3 or 4 times a day and then I trap and grab them. I sit them in my lap and be petted while the others crowd around me jealously.

Affection is affection, especially for a newly weaned kid. I also brush them a lot with a flat brush so they're used to this when it comes time to comb out their fleece. My babies who are born here like to dance on my back as well as sit in my lap. I need tame goats!

My maramma thinks he's a goat and my goats think they're dogs and every one follows me

around.

Thanks again for your article. I can't imagine not having affectionate goats.

Sincerely, Tia
Mountain Pond Farm
Weston, VT



CASHMERE GOAT TAKES OVERALL FIRST PRIZE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUTH FAIR HISTORY

This April the Lydon Washington 4-H Club held their 10th annual Northwest Youth Fair. For the first time in the history of the organization a cashmere goat participated and placed high in the show ring.

The object of the two day youth fair is designed to teach the participants how to prepare their animals for show, showmanship and judging. The kids, ages 6 to 16, are instructed in the procedures using their own or borrowed animals.

Twenty five kids took part in the goat division. There were goats of all breeds represented in the showmanship class including the

first cashmere goat. The goat was shown by Derek Pardon of Barrel Springs Cashmere, Bellingham, Washington. It was the first time 6 year old Derek participated in the program.

Not only did Derek have a great time with the other kids learning about the animals. He was able to see how his hard work and training could pay off. The younger kids learned by watching the older kids and everyone could observe different kinds of goats. Derek was able to show his unique cashmere goat which not surprisingly brought home the blue ribbon in the overall showmanship division.

Because of Derek's success in the regional youth fair, Barrel Springs Cashmere has been asked to exhibit their cashmere goats in the Northwest Washington State Fair. This is not only good for the Pardons and their goats, but it opens the door for other cashmere breeders to show opportunities for their goats.

Because many fairs and shows have already set their programs for the year it is difficult to get them to accept new classes for cashmere. But once cashmere breeders show their commitment and enthusiasm by attending the local 4-H or FFA events it is soon recognized that cashmere breeders are serious about their animals. It also becomes apparent to all what cashmere can add to american farms.

Contact your local extension agent for information on similar events in your area then take the time to show your goats!

Lumps, Bumps, and Other Disgusting Things

by Miriam Jeswine

Sometimes, for various reasons, goats get lumpy. Abscesses seem to be a way they have of responding to infection. Like cats, goats make abscesses more readily than other animals. In one way, that's a good thing for us as managers. We can see that there is a problem and deal with it, rather than wondering what is making the animal droop.

Not all lumps, bumps and abscesses are the same. Some are localized, the result of a sticker, an insect, or an injection. Others, like caseous lymphadenitis or mycoplasma, are systemic. They are the result of infections throughout the goat's body, and they require more extensive treatment.

Crowded, dirty housing, poor or inconsistent nutrition, and other stressors can result in more severe infections like mycoplasma or caseous lymphadenitis. Mycoplasma may show up as pneumonia, mastitis, or an abscess. The abscess form develops very quickly and may become very large. When it drains, the colorless liquid shoots out under great pressure, leaving the skin which had covered it very loose and thin, unlike the caseous lymphadenitis abscess which leaves very thickened skin. The material should be cultured for positive identification and for testing to determine what antibiotic will be effective. Fortunately, mycoplasma abscesses are not very common, although there are some regions of the country where mycoplasma infections of various sorts are more prevalent. Check with your

vet.

Caseous lymphadenitis, CLA, or "cheesy gland" afflicts goats, sheep, other livestock and, to a lesser extent, humans. It is an infection of the lymphatic system, the "second circulatory system" of the body, and the abscesses may show up anywhere. The most common sites are just behind the jaw, along the throat, near the point of the shoulder, just behind the elbow, or, more rarely, in the udder. The causative organisms, either *Corynebacter pseudotuberculosis* or *C. pyogenes*, are thought to invade the animal via tiny scratches, such as brambles,

practices. The worst cases I have seen have been in herds where the animals lived in crowded, filthy conditions. Some of the owners were goat traders, with strange animals coming and going all the time, bringing in infections, and causing fights. Some of the herds were poorly fed in winter, and lost a lot of weight, becoming almost emaciated by spring. CLA is an opportunist, showing up in times of stress like breeding season and kidding season. The more the goats are stressed, the more likely there will be a problem. Prevention is best. One preventive tool in a herd which is

Crowded, dirty housing, poor or inconsistent nutrition, and other stressors can result in more severe infections like mycoplasma or caseous lymphadenitis.

splinters, or shearing cuts. This type of infection is not highly contagious, particularly when animals are out on pasture, or have a roomy, clean place to live. Most commonly, an animal will show up with an abscess or two early in life, around a year or two old, and never get another one, if she is properly taken care of. Occasionally, an animal will have a great many, all over the body, and will not seem to respond to treatment. For the good of the herd, it is a good idea to dig a hole and bury that goat.

If a number of goats develop these abscesses, it is time to reconsider management

experiencing problems is immunization. A commercial vaccine is available which reportedly is effective. Another good tactic, particularly for a large herd, is to get a bacterin made from pus collected from several of the goats in that herd. If there aren't a great many new animals coming into the herd, such a bacterin can be extremely helpful.

The treatment for caseous lymphadenitis consists of isolating the goat, draining and irrigating the abscess, and following up with long term antibiotic therapy. Isolation is important any time infection is

present. The best isolation is in a separate building, or at least separation by enough distance that there is no contact between the infected animal and any others. Ideally, the isolation pen should be scrubbable, but in real life that rarely happens. On to reality.

A CLA abscess will usually develop fairly slowly, and it does no good to try to treat it before it is "ripe." In the last stage of development, the hair slips off the top of the abscess and it will feel soft in the middle, unlike the very firm feel of the earlier stage. Just before the

is quite sticky. I rinse the abscess clean with tamed iodine, penicillin, or some other antibacterial liquid. Then I follow up with three weeks of antibiotic injections. I don't use tetracycline or streptomycin, since they are not effective. Long-acting penicillin, 3cc per day is very effective. Usually, the infection does not come back. If it does, it could be that there was another abscess developing. Antibiotics can't get into abscesses since the goat does such an effective job of walling them off. I knew someone who tried injecting the abscess

time to dig a hole.

As with any infection, prevention is cheaper and easier than cure, but cures do are possible, and a healthy goat can usually deal with most exposures if her living conditions and level of nutrition are conducive to good health.

Lumps, bumps and other disgusting things. Goats do get them, and we have to deal with them if we want healthy animals. Fortunately, most of them do respond to readily available treatments.

Next month, more lumps and bumps.

The treatment for caseous lymphadenitis consists of isolating the goat, draining and irrigating the abscess, and following up with long term antibiotic therapy.

thing opens and drains, the skin will start flaking away from the spot. This is the time to beat it to the punch and drain it yourself, before it can spread pus around the world. Shave the hair away around the abscess, clean the area with a mild disinfecting soap, and open the abscess with a very sharp knife or scalpel. If the abscess is not ripe, you won't get anything but blood and an upset goat. If it is ripe, a greenish or yellowish cheesy material will ooze out. It's ugly but odorless. I put a plastic bag over my hand, massage as much of the material into it as I can, turn the bag over the gunk, and throw it all away. I wear surgical gloves to prevent infecting myself, since I usually am dinged up somewhere on my hands. It will take quite a bit of work to get the area clean since the pus

directly. There was so much pressure inside the abscess that the antibiotic wouldn't even go in. That's why we have to wait until the abscess drains.

If the abscess is close to the carotid artery, the thyroid gland, or some other vital area, it might be a good idea to have the vet remove the whole abscess surgically. This does not happen very often, but keep it in mind.

Caseous lymphadenitis is serious, but not the end of the world. Some people get very upset by it, and advise destroying the goat, or even the herd. I don't share in that opinion, but I am aware that sometimes there may be internal abscesses, which can cause a type of pneumonia, mastitis, or general wasting. If an animal shows any signs of these illnesses, or just slowly and inexplicably starts wasting, it is

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Cashmere

By Laura Dahl

The article presented is an excerpt from a fiber book compiled by a study group of the Skagit Valley Weavers.

The author, Laura Dahl raises primarily Angora goats on her Sedro Woolley, Wa. Farm, but she also has a few sheep and angora rabbits.

Laura is an accomplished spinner, weaver, and knitter. She also custom dyes yarns. She has created and sells a knitting kit of hand spun, hand dyed yarns called "Rapunzel's Choice" to stores in Washington, Oregon, Montana, California and Idaho.

Following is the first in a series about cashmere fiber by Laura Dahl:

The Goat:

Cashmere goats are classified by the fiber they produce not by a formal breed. The goats produce two fiber types, a longer coarse guard hair and a fine down under coat.

The Fiber:

The guard hair is usually discarded by hand spinners though it would certainly be useful in novelty or rug yarns. Cashmere down is the fiber by which all others are compared for beauty and fineness.

Compared to sheep wool cashmere down has insulating qualities up to 7 times that of

wool and is softer than wool of the same diameter.

Cashmere down is about 1-2" long and 12 to 19 microns in diameter. It is crimpy and lacks luster. It has a moderate resilience (memory), little strength and a low resistance to abrasion.

Cashmere is very absorbent and shrinks little. It comes in a wide variety of natural colors: White, grays, browns to red-browns and black.

"Cashmere fiber is sophisticated and subtle. It blends well with other fibers." ... "It is especially well suited to blending with merino wool and silk."

Processing:

Cashmere also has a good affinity for dye. It is however, very vulnerable to damage by chemicals and moths. When purchasing fibers check for a harsh or lifeless look and feel from mechanical and/or chemical damage. Also be aware that commercial combings are the short pieces left after processing, hence their lower price.

Sinking your hand into a cloud of cashmere is positively pleasurable. To maintain the qualities of your cashmere, store loosely in a rigid container to avoid felting.

Dehairing cashmere by hand is time consuming but not a difficult process. Work on a small handful at a time, folding the down and plucking the guard hair as it springs out from the fold.

Spinning Cashmere:

The fiber can be purchased raw or dehaired from local farmers or commercial processors located in the United States.

Because cashmere is susceptible

to damage in the preparation stage, fine toothed carding cloths like cotton cards are best. Do not card more than necessary.

Cashmere fiber is sophisticated and subtle. It blends well with other fibers, but be sure to spin samples when blending, as cashmere is easily overwhelmed. It is however, especially well suited to blending with merino wool and silk. It should not be necessary to wash cashmere before spinning.

A high twist yarn is required to secure the short slippery fibers. Adjust your spinning wheel to minimum tension.

Dehaired cashmere can be spun short draw right from the bag. A more even yarn and a truly woolen yarn will be achieved by preparing thin rolags (puni) and using Mabel Ross' long draw technique. Emerick recommends working from the fold with a cashmere/silk top and double drafting.

Double draft by drawing out, as twist advances, to half your reach and slightly thicker than you want the finished single. Pinch off the twist and fiber supply, continue attenuating, allowing small amounts of twist to enter as needed to keep the fibers from drifting apart, but not so much that thick areas can't be drafted. Don't forget to finish twisting before winding onto the bobbin.

A plied yarn yields the softest yarn with balance and structural integrity. The yarn will fluff after washing. Do not weight the yarn as it dries to maintain what elasticity it has.

A properly twisted yarn is suitable for warp. Take up should be less than wool. Woven or knit cashmere has a soft, pliable hand begging to be touched and worn next to the skin.

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Controlling Flies without Chemicals

Copyright 1992 Susan Lea Tooker
Arboretum Farm, Capay California

(This Article has been condensed from an article written several years ago; information germane to poultry operations has been deleted, and new strategies and products discovered since the original article was written have been included.)

Everyone has had the experience of visiting a farm where flies are crawling all over the livestock and everything else. We set out to eliminate flies from the farm because we didn't want the animals (poultry, horses, goats and rabbits) or ourselves to be bothered by flies, and we didn't want the potentially unhealthy consequences of flies.

Effective nonchemical solutions, applied in combination, can be implemented to radically control and eliminate any fly problems on your farm. Chemical controls are not a long term solution, and can be harmful to people, as well as animals. Fly control, as with other aspects of sustainable agriculture, is management-intensive.

The following are the basic nonchemical measures:

1. frequent removal of all animal wastes (including carcasses and afterbirths), manure or droppings, bedding and old feed material containing such matter;
2. the use of tubes, flat cardboard squares or cylinders covered with "sticky paper" hung between rafters or on walls in animal shelters and barns, or other spots where flies rest at night;
3. the use of fly catching boxes (in combination with the use of "attractants") that sit on the ground;
4. the use of fly swatters at opportune times (like dawn, dusk, windy and/or raining times);
5. the proper use of viable fly parasites;
6. the use of natural smells which repel flies and are not otherwise harmful; and
7. the proper storage or

removal of substances which attract flies such as rotting or wet grains, corn syrup, molasses, and rotting fruit.

Frequent Removal of Animal Wastes and Manure:

Anyone can see the multitude of flies swarming about a pile of animal manure, or even, a mass of bedding and stale feed materials containing animal droppings. Animal carcasses and afterbirths are particularly popular with flies. The flies become worse as animals are kept in closer proximity in feed lots or on production farms.

Flies belong to the large insect order, Diptera, which includes 5600 species. Adult flies resembling the common housefly (Musca domestica) belong to a group of Diptera called brachycera muscoid. Flies are mostly small to medium-sized with single-veined and transparent wings. It is important to recognize them in their

breeding sites as legless maggots or larvae. Flies present a health threat to both animals and humans.

The simple, frequent removal of all animal wastes, carcasses, afterbirths, manure and animal droppings, including bedding or old feed material containing such matter, will eliminate many flies as you are eliminating their breeding sites. Removing such material in the morning, as opposed to the evening, will avoid the laying of many fly eggs throughout the day as flies are active only during the day. The common housefly whose lifespan is approximately eight days will lay 1,000 eggs in manure or garbage within one week. It is more superior blood-sucking cousin, the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*)

looks like a housefly but lives outside for approximately twenty-four days and lays an average of eight hundred eggs per week for the more than three weeks of its life.

We take the animal wastes, manure and bedding to our compost area, and immediately begin the composting process. Interestingly, no flies can

be seen in the compost area. If you choose not to compost, you must bury or cover the material with dirt or ripened compost to prevent flies from accessing it for nesting their eggs. Flies dislike ripened (fully-composted) compost and will not lay eggs in it.

The Use of "Sticky Paper":

As darkness approaches, flies begin to migrate upward, usually onto the inside ceilings and rafters of the shelters or buildings inhabited by farm animals. Depending on the closeness of your home to the animals, flies may be under the eaves of your roof. Flies collect along any ceiling, whether it be a shed roof or peaked roof. They sleep close, or near, to other flies. Flies can be quite groggy at night. Some flies will sleep higher than others, but generally most flies will spend their nights in a sheltered spot far above the ground where most of their day was spent.

Since fly populations often explode in the Spring before fly parasites are fully available or functioning, we have found traps to be the critical

early Spring fly control method. Experience has shown that hundreds of flies can be caught each day on each "sticky paper" trap. "Sticky paper" traps can be rigged in the areas where flies have been observed to sleep or rest. Flat cardboard squares (covered with "sticky paper" can be stapled to the walls or ceiling, and if there are rafters, cylinders and tubes (covered with "sticky paper") can be hung or suspended by ropes or broom handles. It is easiest to cover the surface of your cardboard square or cylinder with "sticky paper" by using long paper clips. This allows the "sticky paper" once filled with flies to be easily removed, without moving the squares or tubes from their position.

The cylinders or tubes can be plastic or fiberglass sheets cut to fit the size of the "sticky paper" and rolled into a cylinder. The long paper clips hold both the "sticky paper" and the cylinder and keep the plastic or fiberglass sheet in a cylindrical shape. The authors have obtained the "sticky paper" sleeves and fiberglass tubes (biting and filth fly traps) from Olson

Products at P.O. Box 1043,
Medina, Ohio 44258.

It seems that the more flies that land on the "sticky paper" the more other flies are attracted to alight. Once landed, they are grounded permanently. The only negative to using these traps is that airborne dust landing on the "sticky paper" has the effect of reducing the stickiness over time. If your farm is in an area of frequent dust storms, and you weren't able to put these traps in an area relatively free of dust, the traps wouldn't have a very long life. In case you were wondering, the sticky part does wash off easily in warm water.

The Use of Fly Catching Boxes:

Like "sticky paper" traps, ground traps are a critical component of early Spring fly control management. These traps can hold up to 25,000 flies before cleaning is required. Flies buzzing in these traps, as well as the attractant used, actually attract other flies.

In the past year, an inexpensive and highly effective jar/patented lid trap has emerged on the marketplace. It is called

the "Fly Terminator" or "Mighty Max Fly Trap", and has been available in farm supply stores and hardware stores. We now highly recommend this simple and very successful trap. The gallon plastic jar that sits on the ground has a unique, patented screw-on lid which allows flies to enter but not exit (the secret ingredient of all fly catching boxes). The handle attached to the screw-on lid allows you to carry the trap easily.

Over the past few years we discovered something incredible about the use of these fly traps. Because we knew that flies will travel up to a mile (following their "noses"), we decided NOT to place the traps around or about the animal pens. Instead, we put all of the traps on our borders. Of course, if your property is over fifty acres, you may want to put the traps on the borders closest to the animal pens, but at least two hundred feet away. As a result, we have no flies around the animals or around our house. All of the flies are on the borders, swarming about these "Fly Terminator" traps. Consequently, less flies are laying eggs in a fly's

natural bedding, so there are less flies being bred, and there are very few flies actually in the areas where we or the animals live.

We are located adjacent to a large commercial gamebird breeding operation. Poultry operations have one of the worst fly records. We placed almost twenty of these fly traps along our common border to the gamebird farm, and during the Spring, we caught 15,000 to 20,000 flies per day in each trap. This meant that the traps had to be emptied and renewed daily. Now that the summer heat is here, there are fewer flies, and the traps can stand untended for several days. "Fly Terminator" traps are easily cleaned out as the patented lid trap is unscrewed and the contents of the jar, the liquid attractant in which the flies have drowned, is dumped into a deep hole and buried.

Before the "Fly Terminator" traps were readily available, we built screened traps that were approximately twelve inches by twelve inches ("12x12"). These traps used the principle that flies

fly upward. In the fly traps we built, the fly attractant would be placed in a low pan (pie pan) between the legs of the trap.

Immediately above the pan would be the trap's funnel enclosed by the four sides and ceiling of the trap.

After a fly entered between the legs of the trap, the fly would exit upward going through a small hole in the top of the funnel. Once the trap was filled, one side of the trap could be opened so it could be cleaned out.

The "Fly Terminator" traps come with their own attractant (bait), a natural and harmless substance. If you decide to build your own traps, you can make your own bait (fermented yeast, water, molasses and ammonium carbonate blend), or you can buy liquid fly pheromone. The pheromones are amazingly attractive, so do try to obtain it and use it alone or in combination with other baits.

The Use of Fly Swatters:

Most fly swatters are inexpensive, although they seldom last long after vigorous use. Fly swatting is not to be underestimated. Diligent

fly swatting at opportune times can be one of the most effective fly reduction methods used. A study of fly habits and behaviors reveals which times and under what conditions swatting is the most advantageous.

Flies migrate down toward the ground in the morning and upwards as it gets dark. They like to sun themselves for awhile when they first awaken before getting to work eating, drinking, breeding and laying eggs. Since they must fertilize each other, they have to spend time socializing. Their quickness and alertness is diminished at night, during the early morning, when it is extremely hot and once it begins to get dark. They may nap in the shade in the middle of a particularly sunny, hot day. Flies do not like very windy and/or rainy, wet conditions, and will seek shelter under those conditions. Flies often leave the ground, but do not go as high as their final resting spot for the night, in order to catch the last few rays of the late afternoon sun.

Although it is possible to swat flies on the ground, especially if it is hard and

not dusty or full of materials, it is generally not very productive. With a few exceptions, once flies have reached the ground stage of their day, they are too dispersed to swat in great numbers. It is easier to swat flies which are situated on an upright surface.

We leave fly swatters in and near all of the animal shelters. Swatting has its therapeutic qualities as well as its pest management benefits. It is probably not necessary to clean up after a swatting session. Pincher bugs, ants, wasps and mealy bugs carry away the fly carcasses, neatly disposing of any remains, and providing food for these insects. In terms of technique, the squash player will have an advantage over the tennis player in this endeavor. In sum, strike swiftly with your arm already poised.

The Proper Use of Viable Fly Parasites:

There are in the insect kingdom vast numbers of species which are beneficial to man and animal and deleterious to insects responsible for damage to crops and

damage to crops and livestock. Fly parasites occur naturally but often not in the population densities necessary to reduce population explosions of detrimental flies. Fly parasites are extremely small parasitoids or wasps which are species specific. They do not bite or sting animals or people. Fly parasites lay their own eggs in the larval stage of the fly life cycle. The young parasitoid hatches or eats its way out of the body of the immature fly, mostly at night. In this way, fly parasites suppress fly populations.

It is important to begin using fly parasites as early as possible in the Spring and to continue their use every two weeks throughout the Summer and into mid-Fall. Using total fly parasites equal to between 150 and 250 fly parasites per animal on your farm, every two weeks throughout this period, you will suppress fly populations within thirty days and substantially eliminate fly populations within ninety days. Thus, if you have ten goats, that would be 1500 to 2500 fly parasites used every two weeks.

The program requires that you release the fly parasites (at the ready to be hatched stage) near manure piles. A fly parasite lives for between two and four weeks, and during that time a single fly parasite will be responsible for destroying approximately fifty pupae, and will upon maturing parasitize other fly larvae.

Many biological laboratories or firms provide fly parasites. However, you must be sure to order the species of fly parasite that matches the climatic conditions of your farm. Fly parasites thrive under specific climatic conditions. We purchase the fly parasite for hot, dry climates which happens to be a native, muscidifuraxzartor. Some firms will sell a "mixed bag" group of three types in the hopes that one will be the perfect predator under your conditions. Spalangia endius does well in moist temperate conditions, but poorly in dry hot climates.

Fly parasites alone will not provide total relief from fly problems. Moreover, the fly parasites won't work at all unless you have been

careful to check to see that they are properly hatched before putting them out. You must properly place them in areas where they will survive and encounter the fly larvae. When the fly parasites arrive at your farm, they are still living in fly eggs reared in the insectary. Unfortunately, some firms are unreliable in that orders arrive late or with inaccurate hatching dates. Talk to your farm advisors and neighbors for recommendations about reliability before purchasing fly parasites. Also check with your farm adviser and any fly parasite firm to find out whether any chemical you are currently using on your farm is deadly to fly parasites.

The Use of Natural Repellents:

Sometimes we put natural repellents directly on certain individual animals who seem most susceptible or sensitive to fly bites. We have used tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil, clove oil, some citrus oils, citronella oil and the like. Many of these substances or products containing them are carried by health food or herb stores.

Proper Storage or Removal of Attractant Substances:

Attractants used in our fly traps and other natural attractants, such as wet or rotting grains, rotting fruit and sweets are kept in jars with lids, or cleaned up and removed to the compost area, frequently and as necessary.

In conclusion, the farmer interested in utilizing nonchemical means to reduce and eliminate fly populations has a variety of approaches. However, since no single approach is completely effective, we recommend a combination of approaches. Initially, the farmer should use fly parasites, and continue their use for several years, until fly parasites become established at your farm. Getting the flies away from the animals, their pens and shelters, and away from your house can be immediately accomplished by using effective fly traps along borders at least two hundred feet from the animals, their pens and your house. Killing any flies that remain at the animals' pens with "Sticky Paper" traps and opportune swatting should effectively suppress the flies. Good farm management, by

timely and early removal of manure and attractant substances, will complete your eradication program.

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Understanding Fiber Measurement

Part 2: Fiber Diameter Measurement and the distribution histogram Introduction

A major component of any cashmere fiber measurement report is the fiber diameter information. This is because, although the selection pressure applied may vary between traits for reasons of economic return, cashmere production is fundamentally defined in terms of fiber diameter

provided and recognize what factors may contribute to the give result. The article provides some tips on interpretation.

The Measurement Procedure

While the MFD may be incorporated in a selection index, it is more appropriate to independently select or cull on FD distribution. Weight the latter up against other economically significant traits.

characteristics.

Key patterns have been recognized in the growth or maturation of the fleece. Fiber diameter can be influenced by nutritional management, and seasonal conditions. Processor requirements are linked to fiber diameter, not only the down portion, but the guard hair component also.

As breeders you must be able to interpret the fiber diameter information

There are several methods used worldwide for measuring fiber diameter. Whatawhata Fiber Testing Center uses the Fiber Diameter Analyzer or FDA which employs a technique called the light occlusion principle. Snippets (2mm length) of cashmere fiber, randomly cored from the sample of dehaired cashmere, are placed in the FDA and carried in a solvent to a measurement cell that is intersected by a laser

beam. The shadow that is produced by each snippet, as it passes through the center of the beam, is electronically converted to a fiber diameter measurement. The FDA stores this "electronic picture" of the diameters of the individual fibers and when 1000 snippets have been measured, calculates the average, standard deviation and coefficient of variation of the sample. The FDA system has been programmed to ignore fibers that have a fiber diameter of greater than 40 microns, so these do not appear on the distribution histogram or are included in the calculation of MFD, SD or COV.

Tips

*Kid fleeces are still maturing and the mean fiber diameter distribution may change significantly by the second year.

*Coarser fleeces tend to have a wider standard deviation.

*It is sometimes better to

use the coefficient of variation which is the standard deviation expressed as a percentage of the mean fiber diameter, when comparing fleeces differing in mean fiber diameter. As for SD, a high COV is potentially detrimental trait.

While I have concentrated on the fiber diameter distribution in these notes, it is important that I stress that the mean fiber diameter (MFD) is the value of more economic significance. While the MFD may be incorporated in a selection index, it is more appropriate to independently select or cull on FD distribution. Weight the latter up against other economically significant traits.

The MFD, SD, COV and % fibers over 28 microns will give you a good basis to compare animals. However, don't be afraid to use your calculator on generating some of the relationships mentioned above.

The Fiber Diameter Result

On the report for Animal ID 9254, the DISTRIBUTION OF FIBER DIAMETER shows

three columns. The left column shows the fiber diameter value measured in microns. The second column records the number of fibers detected at each micron value and the third column is the percentage cumulative frequency of fibers.

The percentage cumulative frequency value tells us the percentage of fiber counted that measured coarser or equal to the given fiber diameter value. A point to note however, is that only fibers up to and including 40 microns are measured. Therefore, for example, 70.2% of the fibers measured had a diameter between 15 microns and 40 microns, and 10.8% of the fibers were between 20 microns and 40 microns.

It is generally accepted by processors that cashmere down fibers should not have a diameter of more than 27 - 28 microns.

The percentage cumulative frequency value at 27 microns is therefore a measure of undesirable fiber production between 27 - 40 microns.

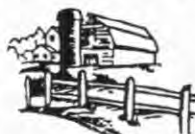
How are some of these values linked?

Mean Fiber diameter (MFD). The mean of average fiber diameter is the most important value. If the fiber diameters are evenly spread, and you can gauge this from the shape of the curve of histogram that is shown on your report, then close to half the fiber will be below 16.1 and half above; or the percentage cumulative frequency for 16 (the nearest whole value) will be close to 50% standard deviation (SD). The SD records how large the spread is of fiber diameters about the mean fiber diameters. A high SD is a potentially detrimental trait. It is a statistical term that measures spread in microns either side of the mean. One standard deviation unit, in this case 3.1 microns, means that approximately 2/3rds of the fibers measured between 16.1 minus 3.1 microns, and 16.1 plus 3.1 microns. Looking at the % cum values, you will see that, between 13 and 19 microns there are indeed $921.3 - 26.5 = 65.8\%$ or 2/3rds of the fibers. However, the SD calculation assumes that the distribution is similar to what is called a normal curve. Essentially, this means that the distribution

is symmetrical in a special way about the mean value. The fiber diameter distribution of Animal: 9254 is very symmetrical. Often the distribution is not as symmetrical and a higher SD is usually caused by a skewed distribution, where there is a "tail" of fibers up to 40 microns in diameter.

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CASHMERE

Animal ID: 9254

Sample Type: Random
Sampled by: MAF Whatawhata
Fleece Weighed by: MAF Whatawhata

Animal information supplied by client.

Sex: Buck
Class: Cashmere
Year of Birth: _____
Date Sampled/Shorn: 10 JUL 91 Fleece W 245
Previously Shorn: 16 JUL 90

DISTRIBUTION OF FIBRE DIAMETERS

µ	Count	Cum %
6	1	100.0
7	1	99.9
8	1	99.9
9	1	99.8
10	1	99.7
11	14	99.3
12	56	97.9
13	100	92.3
14	129	82.2
15	157	70.2
16	160	54.4
17	116	38.4
18	75	26.5
19	61	17.0
20	39	10.8
21	33	6.9
22	13	3.6
23	7	2.4
24	6	1.7
25	1	1.1
26	1	1.0
27	1	0.8
28	1	0.7
29	1	0.7
30	1	0.7
31	1	0.6
32	1	0.6
33	1	0.5
34	1	0.4
35	1	0.3
36	1	0.2
37	1	0.2
38	1	0.2
39	1	0.1
40	1	0.0

(Cut off at 40 microns)

TEST RESULTS

MEAN FIBRE DIAMETER: 16.1 micron
STANDARD DEVIATION: 3.1 micron
COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION: 19.2 %

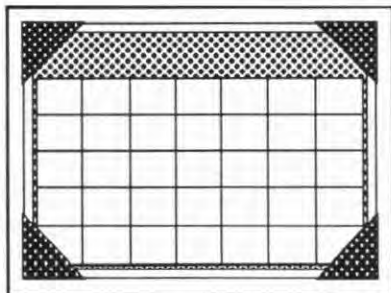
DOWN LENGTH:
DOWN YIELD: 50.4 %
TOTAL FLEECE WEIGHT: 245 g
CALCULATED DOWN WEIGHT: 123 g
COLOUR: WWL (Superwhite)

CLIENT: A SMITH
Whatawhata Cashmere Company
Private Bag 3000
HAMILTON

RECEIVED: 28 FEB 92 BATCH NO: 1209/90
COMPLETED: 16 MAR 92 SAMPLE NO: 194524/90

STANDARD ERROR OF MEAN FIBRE DIAM. = 0.17 micron
FOR CALIBRATED BY INTERMOCOLLABS TOP

STANDARD ERROR OF DOWN YIELD = 2.55%
Percent fibres over 27 micron 0.80



CALENDAR

August: Northwest Fair held in Lynden Washington. Contact Linda Pardon 206-724-5371

August 5-8, 1992 Fiberfest 92-Kalamazoo, MI - Angora Goat, Wool Sheep, Llama, Angora Rabbit, Kalamazoo Fairgrounds, Kalamazoo, MI. Contact: Lyn Briel (616) 765-3047.

August 12, 13, 14, and 15, National Symposium on Dairy Goat Production and Marketing. Dr. T.H. Teh, E. de la Garza Institute for Goat Research, P.O. Box 730, Langston, OK 73050 405-466-3836

August 20-30, Missouri State Fair. Contact Diane Larkin, (816) 826-0570

September 6 and 7, 1992: Whatawhata Fiber Seminar and meeting of the Northwest Growers Co-operative, The Farm, Toledo, Wa. 206-864-4200

October - Texas State Fair, Dallas, Texas.

November - CaPrA Conference - San Angelo.

106,000 CATTLE LOST TO PREDATION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reports that producers and farmers lost 106,000 head of cattle and calves, worth \$41.5 million, to predators during 1991.

According to findings compiled by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, coyotes were responsible for 62 percent of the total cattle and calf losses. Dogs, wolves, bears, mountain lions, bobcats and other animals accounted for the remaining 38 percent of the losses.

"APHIS's knew predation by wild animals was significant in the cattle industry, but these statistics confirm how serious the problem really is," said Bobby Acord, deputy

administrator of APHIS's Animal Damage Control Program.

Acord said 70 percent of the losses were in the western and mountain regions of the United States. Texas suffered the most damage, losing 3,000 cattle and 23,400 calves to predators.

This year's survey follows a 1991 USDA report showing \$27.4 million in predation losses to sheep and goat producers in 1990.

Copies of the cattle survey are available for \$5 each from NASS by calling 1-800-999-6779 weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT) or by writing to P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, MD 20849-1608.

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Cashco Wins Estes Park Fleece Competition!

Quality fleeces made judging difficult for CASHMERE AMERICA, judge Terry Sim.

Sim judged the fleece competition June 11-14 at the annual Estes Park Wool Market.

A total of 88 fleeces from four states were entered. States represented in the competition included Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, and Connecticut.

Best fleece of the show and champion adult doe fleece was shown by Cashco Goats, Brownwyn Schuetze of Longmont, Colorado.

Cashco also exhibited the champion kid doe fleece. Capricorn Cashmere, Virginia Dale Colorado, exhibited the first and second place fleeces in the adult buck class, second and third place fleeces in the kid doe class and was second in the kid buck class.

Champion fleece in the kdi buck class was shown by the Turney Ranch, Sonora, Texas, and third place was taken by Airy Knoll Farm, Cozad, Nebraska.

Texan Carroll Looney, from Menard, entered the third place fleece in the adult buck class and Harmony

Ranc, Steamboat Springs, to third in the adult doe class.

Fleeces were judged on down diameter, length, character, yield and total fleece weight. Age and total fleece weight were also considered.

According to Judge Terry Sim, "Only a few fleeces entered were classed as cashgora or below the minimum commercial shorn down length of 1.25. The overall best fleece shown by Cashco was finer and longer than the kid buck and doe champions."

Way to go Cashco!

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