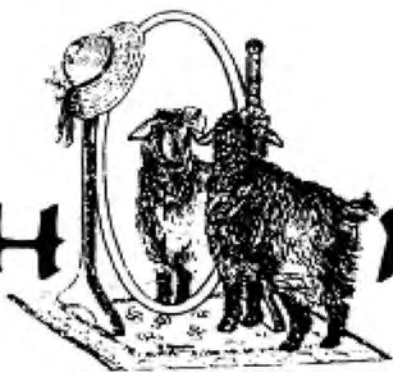




CASHMERE MIRROR

Volume 7, Issue 9

July 1996

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber

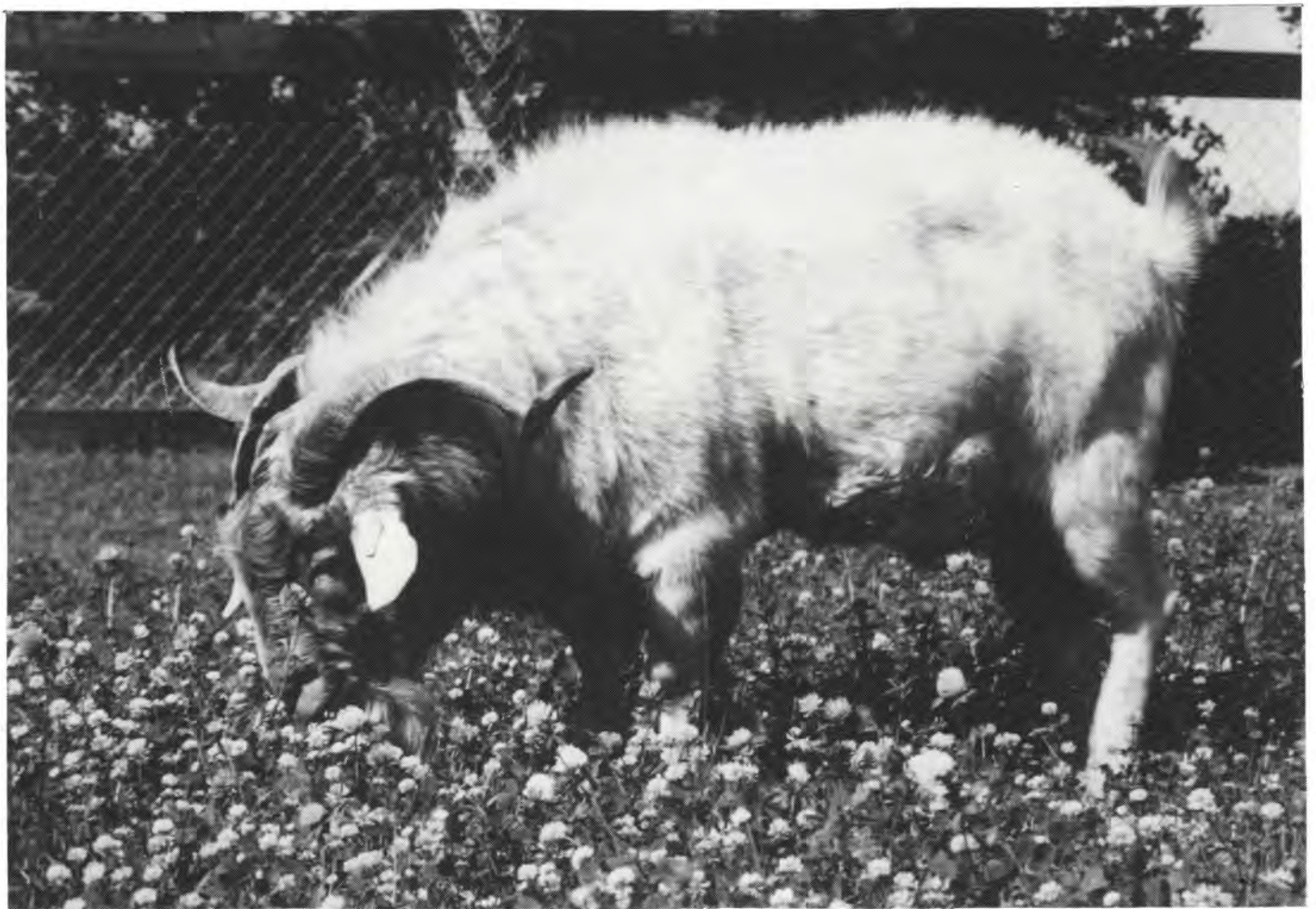


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The *CashMirror* welcomes contributions of articles and photographs. Submissions may be made by mail, fax or e-mail.

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

Cover photo: Gerry and Pat Fuhr, Giant Stride Farm
CCC Strider stops to smell the clover.

AgResearch
New Zealand Pastoral Agriculture Research Institute Limited

WFTC

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- § Full mohair testing: fibre diameter, medullation, kemp & down
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- § Individual reports for each test and summary listings
- § Data electronically transmitted to your personal computer
- § Follow-up questions, interpretation of data welcomed

Whatawhata Fibre Testing Centre lab is moving to Mosgiel on the South Island of New Zealand. They will be located at the AgResearch Invermay Research Centre. The new manager is Paul Turner.

New telephone numbers (from the USA):

Voice: 011-64-3-489-3809

Fax: 011-64-3-489-3739

We will have the full address and details in next month's *CashMirror*.

John Fitzgerald, Manager for many years, is moving on to other endeavors. We wish him the best of luck.



August *CashMirror* is Breeders Showcase Issue!

The deadline for ads in the annual *Breeders Showcase* issue is July 11th!!!

Don't miss this once a year chance to really showcase that special buck, or does and kids.

Copies of this special edition will be on hand at as many activities as possible including the Great Goat Round-up in Laramie, Wyoming and the Business of Cashmere Conference at Bozeman, Montana. Also contact us and we will make this edition available at your organization's annual meeting or special event. (We intend to print and distribute a lot of them!)

Give us a holler and we will work with you to design and lay out your display ads.

Ad rates are at the normal rates on the inside back cover of this issue.

If you wish to include photographs in your ad, please have them in by July 10th to ensure inclusion.

We are still looking for that special picture of a buck to feature on our Breeders Showcase cover. If you have a marvelous picture you would like to see on our cover, please send it asap!

Reflections

By Linda Fox

I'm not always a good farmer. I hate to admit this, but sometimes I do things which are not good farming practice. Like raising bottle babies. We had one this year who probably would have died. We didn't know if the mother was bred too young, had a difficult birth, or was just having a bad day when he was born. We came home to find a new, large, soft brown baby buck standing next to the dog in the barn door. It appeared the dog had cleaned him and tended him after his mother had deserted him. The mother was in the pasture grazing with the herd.

We captured the errant mother and penned her in the maternity ward (a set of seven temporary kidding pens) with her baby. She had no interest in him and refused to stand still so he could drink. For a week we left them penned and restrained her several times a day so Husker could drink. Then, we gave up and gave him a bottle.

A real goat farmer we talked to last weekend said we should have let nature take its course. We should have let Husker die and culled the mother.

"But, it may have been our fault for breeding her too early or for not being there to separate her from the herd while she gave birth," we told him.

"Doesn't matter", he insisted. "You may be propagating genetically inferior animals."

I agree with his point, but in the last two months, as Husker has grown fast and strong and become our special pet, I am inclined to give his mother one more chance next year for her maternal instincts to improve.

We have an old Spanish feral doe. She was captured and claimed by cashmere breeders because she happened to have a thick undercoat of cashmere. She is old--no one of her prior owners knows, or will admit, her age. Dusty is rust colored, has one broken horn and is blind in one eye. But, bred with a cashmere buck, her offspring continue to produce fine cashmere fiber. She is an excellent mother and very friendly. Except for her age and her loud bleating whenever she is displeased, which is often, she is the perfect goat.

A book I read advised for the quickest genetic improvement in your herd, you shouldn't keep most cashmere goats longer than four years. Dusty is considerably over the four year mark, but she seems healthy with this year's fawn-colored kids, George and Gracie (twins born the day George Burns died) at her side.



Linda feeds Husker

She has odd habits. She stays out in the rain while the other goats head for the barn. I often have to shoo her in with the rest of the goats as she stands out eating in the rain while George and Gracie shiver and try to stay dry by standing underneath her.

Today, I let her in the yard to give her and the babies grain. She seems a little thin—perhaps because she has twins nursing or maybe because, at her age, it takes more to keep her healthy. After she finished the grain, she started to bellow. The rest of the herd had left to browse in the woods and she wanted to go with them. I let her out of the yard but, by then, the herd was out of sight. She continued to cry as she searched for the herd.

After ten minutes of noise, I put on my boots and led her down to the woods. We didn't find the herd, but when we reached the blackberries, she decided she really didn't care about the others, she just wanted company while she ate. So I sat and watched as Dusty and her babies munched oak leaves and blackberry vines.

As I watched, I decided that I really should get rid of Dusty after the kids were weaned. George and Gracie are healthy, but not growing as fast as the other kids and the supplemental feed I was providing for Dusty shouldn't be necessary; the other goats were raising kids and getting fat on browse alone. I certainly couldn't continue to spend my afternoons watching her eat! I really need to start being more businesslike in my farm decisions.

Then it started to rain. While Dusty continued to eat, Gracie, George and I were getting soaked. As I walked back to the barn, carrying George and Gracie nestled underneath my coat, with Dusty following, bellowing loudly, I decided to wait at least one more year to decide about Dusty.

And, I hope that when I am a little slower than I



Gussie and midwife Paul

Notes From the Publisher

Linda insisted that I be the publisher and she be the editor. I presume this means she gets the last word (as usual) and I get the complaints.

Anyway, this will **not** be a monthly column, but is used here to let you know our intent and direction for *CashMirror*.

First, I wish to thank "those who have boldly gone before" - Judith Richardson Haralson (publisher October 1989 - January 1991) and Wendy and Michel Paulin (publishers February 1991 - June 1996). We have found the boxes passed along to us containing old magazine issues and information records and files a valuable history and source of information.

Our "mission statement" is simply the following:
**To promote the cashmere goat industry as a whole;
 to provide a forum for education and exchange of
 ideas regarding cashmere goats and fiber; and have
 a little fun along the way.**

We are serious about the business of cashmere goats, but feel that if we cannot occasionally poke fun at ourselves, who can we poke fun at?—Besides politicians, of course.

Among our plans is to feature a farm or ranch every month. We want to find out how other people are "doing it". We will assume if we have an interest, you do too. We plan to distribute the *Breeders Showcase* edition (August) at as many functions as we can, either personally or by bribing some of our readers. If you have an upcoming event and are susceptible to bribes, call us.

We plan to cover any topic you, the reader, would like to have us touch upon.

While the focus is on cashmere, the classified section can be utilized for any purpose you have (within reason!).

As we are both avid readers and have a thirst for knowledge, we may become considered "pests" as we will be contacting anyone and everyone for ideas, articles, pictures and input. Yes, we even will accept criticism also.

We promise we will **try** not to bore you too much with tales of our own (70) cashmere goats or with too many pictures of our (24) kids.

We know there is a wealth of knowledge out there and we intend to tap it so that we, and you have the best and latest information available. We know we will probably make mistakes and hope you will bear with us.

There are many associations in this industry and we hope to report on all activities each has, but will be limited on time and space. Should your group be overlooked, don't get mad, give us a call or drop us a line.

There is room in this growing industry for all, large and small. Many of you were involved in cashmere long before us. You blazed the trail for all who come after.

While opinions may differ on some issues, it all comes back to goats and their fuzz. That is our central theme and the basis for what follows. We have much to learn from you and the research that is being done on all sides of the ocean

Anyway, we are excited about the journey we are beginning with this issue and hope you all enjoy the ride.



CHINA TRADE

A last-minute settlement was reached June 17th, averting for now, a trade war between the U. S. and China. Depending upon whom you choose to believe, the settlement will "bring lasting peace" or "It's the same stuff China agreed to 15 months ago." (Aren't election years great?!)

It had been speculated earlier, before the agreement, that there could be 100% tariffs on goods imported from China, such as silk and presumably cashmere. Should this have occurred, it will surely have had an impact on the cashmere fiber market.

Any stoppage, slow down, or large tariff could mean the major suppliers of cashmere would then be Iran and Afghanistan, two countries with less than stable markets for world wide importers.

The silk industry has been crying that their trade will be ruined by large tariffs. However, it could have the opposite effect on cashmere producers.

While it's sometimes difficult to believe that seemingly unrelated issues such as software piracy and missiles in Pakistan can have an effect on your goat-related markets, they do.



...Sweet Little Buttercup

The innocent buttercup, those sweet little yellow flowers often found in your pasture, contain a toxic compound which causes blistering, salivation, diarrhea, and abdominal pain in livestock. Severe toxicity can lead to convulsions and death.

The toxic compound is an acrid, volatile alkaloid-amenol, strong enough to blister the skin and cause inflammation of the intestinal tract. Poisoning symptoms are blistering, excessive salivation, production of bitter milk and a reddish color. Blistering may show up on the lips, tongue, nose or mouth before more serious toxicity or death occurs.

"In grazing studies with high infestations of buttercup species, sheep ingested lethal doses within five hours," per Mike Murphy, University of Minnesota veterinary toxicologist.

However, the toxic compound degrades quickly after the plant is cut, so hay containing buttercups would not be toxic.

It has been found that animals will naturally avoid buttercup where other forage is available, but if animals are grazing infested fields, watch for symptoms. If symptoms occur, provide non-infested forage to animals as soon as possible.

Buttercups grow well in poor soil. Their growth can be curbed by improving the soil. Have the soil analyzed. Ground lime and fertilizer application should help crowd out buttercups by increasing grass growth.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the largest cashmere goat herd in China today is only 150 goats? Per Tom and Ann Dooling, who recently returned from a trip to China, herds are small and goats are managed on a free range system. Also, all operations, from start to finished products are manual.

It's Barbecue Time!

Le Chevon Menu Goat Bar-B-Que

Butterfly leg of goat for barbecue. Remove leg and end bones. Carefully cut leg in half - do not cut true end. Butterfly. Brush inside with a little dill seasoning, salt, pepper and plenty of garlic.

Place on the barbecue with the inside of the leg over the coals first. Cook until done.

Enjoy!

The Publisher would like to feature one goat recipe each month. (He's probably just hunting for more recipes for his wife to cook, but let's humor him anyway.) If you have a favorite recipe for chevon and would like to share, please send it.

IV International Conference on Goats

Beijing, Peoples' Republic of China

By Tom Dooling

Tom and Ann Dooling, Pioneer Mountain Farm and Montana Knits, attended and participated in the Sixth International Conference on Goats in Beijing, Peoples' Republic of China, May 6-11, 1996. The Proceedings of that Conference included 267 papers presented by nearly 500 delegates representing 37 countries. The conference is conducted every four years, and the VII ICG will be held in Tours, France, in 2000. Its principal sponsor is the International Goat Association of Little Rock, Arkansas, and copies of the two-volume, 999-page **Proceedings** can be obtained through the IGA.

Approximately 100 of the 267 papers presented were on cashmere or a related topic relevant to the cashmere industry in the United States.

The highlights of the papers from the VIICG follow. These are generalized conclusions drawn from five days of multiple-session seminars, workshops and roundtables, and filtered through the experience of a chemist/biologist/science writer/goat farmer/manufacturer/lawyer/former Foreign Service Officer. On specific issues, you are referred to either the summary in PCMA's September 1996 Supplement or to the Proceedings of the VIICG themselves.

1. Status of the Chinese Industry.

The Chinese are engaged, as part of the Ninth Five Year Plan, in a program to upgrade the profitability of cashmere production for individual farmers and cooperatives. To this end, the genetics of the Liaoning goat are being widely disseminated throughout China with a view toward a projected 9% annual increase in cashmere production, leading to 12,000 metric tonnes total output by the year 2000. The Chinese, incidentally, measure both individual animal productivity and total tonnage of cashmere as unscoured, unde-haired combed fleece. Scouring losses alone approximate 25-35%, and dehairing losses amount to 20-35% more. (And, see below: as Liaoning genetics become more widely spread, dehairing losses may climb.)

The Liaoning goat's cashmere-producing micro- and ultra-structure is indistinguishable from the Australian Cashmere goat. Its advantages are good frame size, a relatively high frequency of homozygous white, and a very dense fleece of commercially salable cashmere, reaching peak output at the age of two and through the age of six years. The Liaoning crossed with regional native goats, produces a hybrid with vastly improved cashmere producing capability, and the Chinese have had good results with AI using

highly diluted (1:50) fresh semen. The drawback of the Liaoning goat are that its progeny are 1 to 2 μ m coarser than the native parent, and maintenance of high yield and good body size has made reduction of fiber diameter impracticable. PREDICTION: MFD of the Chinese clip by 2000, especially if they get to 12,000 tonnes, will be 1 to 1.5 μ m coarser than at present. There are four separate fibers ubiquitous on the Liaoning goat. Substantial reduction of cashmere MFD brings down the MFD of these anomalous fibers and renders them virtually inseparable from the cashmere.

The Liaoning goat adapts well to most areas in China suitable for cashmere production, but does best in a high, arid, cold, northern environment, producing both finer and larger quantities of cashmere. Disease levels remain high among all Chinese livestock populations, as in most of the developing world, and veterinary medicine is rare and scarce.

There are limits to growth of the Chinese cashmere industry, including range degradation from overgrazing, animal health, funding for scientific research, and social/economic and political problems related to the peculiar Chinese mix (continued on next page)

of communist bureaucracy and free-wheeling laissez faire profiteer-

International Conference

(continued from previous page)

ing. The “good old days” of Chinese exports of tons and tons of raw fiber are over and will not return.

2. The International Cashmere Scene beyond China.

Conspicuously absent from the VIICG were any representatives from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, or the political act formerly known as the Soviet Union, so I have nothing to report on the status of their industries. There are minor cashmere introduction projects in Italy and Spain, under the sponsorship of the EU and with support from Scotland/UK, and expressed interest in Argentina. Results are very preliminary, and the cashmere enterprise doesn't look very competitive to dairying and cheesemaking. Australia remains an epicenter of higher-level research, including the interesting discovery of a population of inbred South African Angora X Dairy crosses producing the so-called Faure' Island goat, which produces phenomenal quantities of some kind of cashmiroid intermediate fiber. (But, see above: the Liaoning goat produces large quantities of some kind of intermediate fiber, too.)

3. The Adaptability of the Goat.

A large number of papers explored the almost unlimited ability of the goat to adapt to different circumstances, including a high tolerance for metallic poisons, a wide range of commensal capabilities allowing it to ingest and thrive on otherwise toxic plant species, and a variety of

social, biological and biochemical adaptive mechanisms that seem to allow it to thrive under a bewildering variety of circumstances.

4. Melatonin, the Magic Bullet that Isn't.

Several papers looked at the possibility of using “exogenous” or artificially-induced melatonin to increase cashmere production. The mechanism involving melatonin is very complex, apparently involving prolactin, and doesn't seem to work in wethers.

5. Nutrition.

The goat's famous ability to eat practically anything rages on. Goats can live for up to two weeks on dry feed with no water at all. Goats can eat agricultural residues of practically anything, Palm Kernel Cakes, rice straw, barley straw, sweet corn stover silage, water hyacinth, *atriplex halimus*, (don't worry about it; it only grows in the Mediterranean, and I don't know what it is either) beanstalks, oat straw, cornstalks, urea and straw, sago, olive leaves and twigs, coffee bean pulp, lucaena leucocephala (a toxic tropical relative of carragana) and the list goes on and on, are being routinely used for goat feed everywhere from Ghana to Malaya. The principal economic advantage of the goat is its ability to thrive on marginal or undesirable biomass, to produce meat, milk, leather and fiber as a cash crop in addition to the as-yet-unquantified value of range improvement and weed control, and its ability to add to the eco-

nomic well-being of women-centered families in the third world. A number of interesting papers presented tantalizing hints that appropriately chosen supplements from the very simple (buffers such as bicarbonate of soda, very simple sulfur compounds) to the bioactive (sybnergistes jonesii) can vastly broaden the range of biomass upon which goats can thrive and be productive. Goats exhibit a wide variety of biochemical and behavioral adaptations which allow a population to pass on “nutritional wisdom” to its young and to adapt to changing environmental conditions. There is a very definite causative correlation between a goat's ability to utilize available biomass and body size, and bigger isn't necessarily always better in terms of either survivability in harsh conditions or economic efficiency.

6. Fiber Analysis.

Several substantial advances in both technology and procedure have been announced that will allow much more accurate, rapid and cheaper objective analysis of MFD, SD, yield, color and fiber length.

7. Genetics.

A single Chinese paper postulates that white colorations in cashmere is determined by three allele pairs of varying degrees of interdominance, and postulates a protocol for breeding to homozygous white in five generations. (NOTE: This is of economic importance in the world cashmere market because Chinese manufacturers pay 100% of Canton Fair price setting for WW, 75% for

(continued on next page)

International Conference

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market because Chinese manufacturers pay 100% of Canton Fair price setting for WW, 75% for GY, and 50% for BR. And, incidentally, they don't use those terms: the Chinese talk about purple, violet and lilac colored cashmere. FURTHER NOTE: the 5-generation bit assumes you are starting with a population whose ancestry and pedigree are both unknown. If ancestral colors and pedigrees are known with any degree of accuracy, the process can be shortened further, but there are only a limited number of breeding herds with this information available.

Bioengineering or direct genetic manipulation is fifteen to twenty years down the road, but the livestock industry and ours may see some benefits from recombinant DNA research in animal vaccines and medications, perhaps allowing us to deal better with CAE, CL, brucellosis, TB and scrapie. The ability to eradicate these serious animal health problems by some method other than slaughter and sterilization may permit much more expeditious transfer of improved goat genetics internationally.

An approximately 20-page summary of the 267 papers presented at the VIIG, prepared and written by Tom Dooling, will be presented to PCMA's *Business of Cashmere Conference II* in Bozeman, MT September 20-22, 1996, and will be published in the *Supplement to the Proceedings* of that conference. Also, a seminar on breeding for homozygosity will be presented at the conference.



CCAGA

New Cashmere and Angora Goat Association Sponsors Show and Sale

By Carol Kromer

The recently-formed **Colorado Cashmere and Angora Goat Association (CCAGA)** sponsored the first annual Pikes Peak Fiber Goat Show and Sale on June 1, 1996, at the El Paso County Fairgrounds in Calhan, Colorado. The show and sale was a very successful event for the group and well-attended. Participants came from as far away as Fairplay and Indian Hills, Colorado. Some of the general public traveled from as far as Westcliffe, Colorado and Richmond, Indiana.

The show and sale was fun for the children and helped them gain experience in showing their animals. Ribbons and trophies were awarded to the Youth Show winners. Winners of the Open Shows were awarded ribbons, trophies and premiums. Most of the sale goats left for new homes directly after the show, with orders for more goats pending.

Mohair and cashmere fleeces were available for sale as well as goat products including goat art work, goat milk soap and goat halters. A drawing was held with prizes including a genuine mink cape, a complete collection of hard cover novels by Zane Grey and beautiful, handmade vests.

The purpose of the CCAGA is to provide cashmere and mohair producers the latest information on the care, feeding, fencing, kidding, fiber marketing and related subjects on cashmere and angora goats. They are striving to develop a network to assist one another by sharing ideas, problems and solutions and to connect with the many spinners, weavers and meat consumers. Another goal of the organization is to help shape the relatively new cashmere goat industry in the United States. As an organization, they are sponsoring 4-H fiber goat products and other related 4-H projects, such as spinning.

Membership in the Colorado Cashmere and Angora Goat Association is not dependent on actually owning fiber goats. All those who are considering raising fiber animals or are interested in fiber-related projects, such as spinning and weaving, are welcome to join. Senior membership dues are \$25 per year and Junior memberships are available for \$5 per year for children 12-18 years old. Junior members must be sponsored by a senior membership. The Association prints a quarterly newsletter for members. CCAGA meets the second Monday of every month at 7 PM. For more information, call Carol Kromer at 719-347-2329.

Cashmere Market



Discover the "Fiber of Kings"!

Cashmere Market is currently undergoing development and construction. Please check back often to see more information on breeders and merchandise.

New Items added November 4, 1995!

Fiber ● Fleece Sales ● <u>Fiber Ready for Spinning</u>	Breeding Stock ● <u>Breeders Directory</u> ● <u>Sales by Region</u>
Cashmere Goods ● Yarns ● <u>Garments</u>	Other Cashmere Items ● <u>The Cashmirror</u> Read The Cashmirror On-Line! ● <u>More Items</u>

● [More About Cashmere Market](#)

Request more information about how to register your cashmere items in this directory.

Web site created by Jackie Gregory - jackie@prairieweb.com Copyright © 1995, PrairieWeb Corporation

Return to Main Directory, Little Mall on the Prairie Directory, or Top of Document.

http://www.prairieweb.com/nw_cashmere

Goats in Cyberspace

By Paul Johnson

Are you looking for additional information about cashmere goats? Many people are tapping into the internet for information on goats as well as other critters. Two of the best sources I have found are NETVET and THE VIRTUAL VETERINARY CENTER.

NETVET is found at <http://netvet.wustl.edu> and contains a variety of information including access to veterinary schools. Of interest to goat owners are the Veterinary Medical section and the Electronic Zoo. A side trip to Sounds can be entertaining also. A shortcut to goats is <http://netvet.wustl.edu/smrurn.htm> and then click on "goats."

GOAT RESOURCES at Oklahoma State University and THE NATIONAL GOAT HANDBOOK at the University of Maryland are just two of the many choices for exploration. The NATIONAL GOAT HANDBOOK, in particular, has great links to goat-related issues, including cashmere, CAE, pinkeye, goat behavior and much more. Addresses for these resources are listed below.

Also accessible through "commercial" at NETVET is the SMALL FARM RESOURCE, which has information for beginners and experience goat folk alike, through its links.

The VIRTUAL VETERINARY CENTER is located at: <http://www/sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/vet.html> and has such a wealth of information that it is doubtful one could read it all as new items are added all the time. Topics range from genome research and gene mapping to nutrient management, with links to universities, libraries and researchers throughout the world.

Both of these websites provide useful information to new and experienced goat folk alike.

Other .edu addresses to check out are:

<http://www.luresext.edu/goat-text.htm> - Langston University goat page

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/vetfda.html> - FDA approved animal drug data base search engine from the FDA and related universities

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/library/goats.html> - Goat references, veterinary medicine and general information from Oklahoma State University. Also at Oklahoma State check out www.ansi.okstate.edu/goats/cashmere/

<http://www.inform.umd.edu:8088/EdRes/Topic/AgrEnv/ndd/goat> - University of Maryland

<http://www.aps.uoguelph.ca:80/cgil> (Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock - University of Guelph, Ontario Canada - a super site!) Or <http://bert.aps.uoguelph.ca/cgil>

<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~pazzani/4H/Goats.html> - University of California at Irvine. Very good source and links! Be sure to check out their goat sounds.

<http://www.cas.psu.edu/> - Penn State agricultural and veterinary science.

<http://www.fao.org> - U. N. Food and Agriculture organization

Three commercial sites about cashmere goats are:

http://www.prairieweb.com/nw_cashmere/ - John Harris's

Cashmere Market

<http://www.ibpcug.co.uk/~ecs/mall/mall03.htm> - The Johnstons of Elgin - Scotland

<http://www.cygnus.com/~ian/black-locust-farm.html> - Yvonne and Lance Taylor's Black Locust Farm

Both Cashmere Market and Black Locust Farm sites have great goat pictures. The Johnstons of Elgin, Scotland buy, manufacture and sell cashmere and related items.

And, don't forget to visit CashMirror's new home page at <http://www.teleport.com/~goatknol/>

On the opposite page is a good example of what is available. This is John Harris's home page. Wherever you search for cashmere on the internet, you will find that John has usually been there first!
Ed Note: Let the editor or ace reporter know of other interesting/ useful web sites and ftp addresses off the internet and we will pass them along.

CashMirror's e-mail address: goatknol@teleport.com

Computer Quotes

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."--Bill Gates, 1981

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."--Popular Mechanics, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."--Thomas Watson, Chariman of IBM, 1943

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."--Ken Olson, Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"...data processing is a fad that won't last out the year."--Editor of Business Books, Prentice Hall 1957

The Goat Widow's Tale

Reprinted from
Australian Goat Farmer, Vol. 6
Author unknown

I know middle age brings its problems and many women end up golf widows or bowler widows, which is fairly respectable, but I am a goat widow!

After years of talking about farming goats my husband levered himself out of his armchair, turned of the tele and went out and bought four goats. Clarissa, Bubby, Soo-soo and Dell. I think I would rather he had found a twenty-year old cutie. His passion for these goats makes Romeo's obsession with Juliet seem like a casual acquaintance.

While the whole harem demands all his time he seems particularly bewitched by one of the old dears, Clarissa. Now, I'm no raving beauty, never have been, but to be spurned for a goat, who isn't even young, is most humiliating. Without word of a lie she is ragged, hairy, large horned and bearded. He found her in the local classifieds, drove two hundred kilometers to meet her and it was love at first sight. (Why can't he read the "Escort" columns like other men?) He was quite unaffected by her bad breath and lack of good looks. He simply placed a towel on the back seat of our family Kingswood and lifted her in.

He arrived home with Clarissa on his lap and covered in goat dung but smiling as if he had won Lotto.

After that, I've hardly seen him. He spends every waking hour in the goat shed blissfully attending to his new loves, hand feeding, clipping their toe nails, drenching them and doing exactly what to their udders I scarcely dare imag-



"Daaaaady!!!"

ine. Every part of our savings has gone to provide a home for these hussies.

This week, though, has been the very hardest to take. Last Tuesday, in the dead of night, a piercing sound shattered my sleep. My reaction was that we were being raided by the PLO at least but, to my dismay, it was the sophisticated alarm system my once beloved has installed to indicate any excitement in the Taj ma hall (goat shed).

With towels and hot water and squeals of delight he disappeared, apparently to assist his loves with their reproductive endeavors.

Just before breakfast he re-appeared, slamming the back door, kicking the dog and frightening the cat half to death. Proudly he announced that Bubby had a boy and Soo-soo a girl. After checking his goat bible he began to elaborate on fibre, density, frame size and scrotum shape and proclaimed that Bubby's boy will be worth a positive fortune as a stud buck. The next day Dell did her job and produced a boy too, which caused great

pain as this fellow is certain competition for Bubby's boy now named Hercules.

Clarissa, however, has her special wiley ways of demanding attention. For nights he lay sleepless waiting for her to need him; by day he dashed home from work at lunch and tea breaks. But Clarissa disdainfully chewed her cud and refused to tell him "when".

And, of course, it happened between his visits. To his total dismay Clarissa did not wait upon his professional assistance; she produced two girls all by herself. I was abused, not her ladyship, for not sending for him at the first signs of labor so he could make a mercy dash.

After watching the coos and sighs of delight as he frolics with his so called kids I feel so left out. A golf widow has others who understand; I could join a club, so to speak. If my rival was another woman I could fight back, and sign up with Jenny Craig.

But how can I compete with these goats?

CHEVRESSE™

Lynn Venteicher, Columbia Falls, Montana, has focused on a new project using a product most growers try to avoid in their herds—the dreaded cashgora, the cashmere goat fiber of lesser style and larger diameter which is not classified as cashmere under today's often-debated standards. She believes this fiber has been overlooked as a marketable fiber and that it is a luxury spinning fiber which will stand on its own regardless of the fact it does not qualify as cashmere.

Lynn is in the process of obtaining a trademark for Chevresse™ in the United States and Canada. Chevresse™ is defined as the fine fiber from a cashmere goat which is greater than 1-1/2 inches in length, greater than 17 microns in diameter and which has a more open (less crimp) style than the traditional cashmere.

She is actively soliciting, for purchase from producers, at \$2/oz for **combed** fleeces which contain fiber of at least 2-1/2" length and 17-35 micron diameter. The fleeces can contain intermediate, straighter fibers. Per Lynn, these intermediate fibers are removed in the dehairing process if they are coarse. If they are fine and straight, they are workable in spinning Chevresse™ because the fibers are longer.

Lynn has her fleeces dehaired at Rocky Mountain Exotic Fibre, a worsted mill in Canada. They currently dehair and spin small lots of exotic fibers including qiviuk (musk ox), llama, alpaca, silk, mohair and angora. The mill is currently testing a prototype machine which effectively dehaired small sample lots (500 grams or more) of combed fiber. Lynn is very happy with the quality of her returned fleeces.

Chevresse™ dehaired fleece in natural colors will be sold for spinning and weaving at \$6.50/

half oz. Lynn also intends to sell Chevresse™ blended with silk suitable for making fine undergarments, scarves and fancy light sweaters. Also slated for sale is a sport blend, Chevresse™ blended with a long-stapled wool suitable for heavier weight sweaters and other garments. She is researching working with other Montana vendors who specialize in "Made in Montana" products. Samples for spinning will also be made available.

Lynn obtained her first cashmere goats as weed goats from a friend who was removing cashgora producers from her herd and, knowing Lynn was a spinner, thought that she might want to try spinning the fiber from these goats. Lynn quickly found that the cashgora was wonderful to spin—it spun "mildly" easier than cashmere, perhaps because of the longer fibers or the thicker diameter, and she liked the more lustrous look.

Early on, Lynn got rid of her old buck and obtained a new one in an attempt to upgrade her goat herd's annual fleece crop to the more acceptable cashmere product. She eventually managed to get her old buck back "because he had such a great crop of Chevresse™."

To obtain more information about Chevresse™, contact Lynn at Ten Tine Ranch, 2715 Witty Lane, Columbia Falls, MT 59912, phone 406-892-1626. Or, you can catch up with Lynn for a visit at upcoming conferences. She will be attending the August 1996 CaPrA convention in Laramie Wyoming and Soar '96 in November in Snowbird Utah. You can catch up with her for a visit



About Rocky Mountain Exotic Fibre

Rocky Mountain Exotic Fibre Mill, located in Innisfail, Alberta, Canada, was founded in 1993. Per Darcy Luterback, Vice-president of Marketing, the mill has been in full operation for one year. The mill is a worsted processing mill and custom processors and manufacturers of their own yarns. They specialize in custom processing of exotic fibers. Many of the exotics have longer staple lengths that require specialized equipment to handle without damage.

Tours of the mill may be arranged and a factory outlet store is available.

The mill uses a worsted process which involves combing the fibers parallel which they believe gives you the advantage of a sleeker, more durable yarn. They have procedures to ensure that each order is kept separate, with little or no contamination from one order to another. They indicate that they process custom orders year-round with a turnaround time of 4-6 weeks.

The owners of Rocky Mountain Exotic Fibre are contemplating purchasing dehairing equipment for use on cashmere and other fibers. They now own a "laboratory" dehairing machine (used on Venteicher's fleeces - see article to the left) which can handle very small quantities of fleece.

The owners are currently conducting market research to enable them to make a decision on their purchase. For more information about the mill, contact them at 1-800-909-9665 or access their information on the internet at <http://www.rmefyarn.com/rmefyarn/index.html>

Conversion Chart

for the "Metric-Impaired"

Most of us (in the United States) don't think in grams and centimeters. Not that we shouldn't. Not that a more logical system of weights and measures isn't a good idea. It's just that it doesn't come naturally.

To help mentally convert to pounds and ounces when prices for our fleeces are stated as such, and to convert what we know we have in pounds of fleece weight to grams just so it sounds like more...here is help:

Weights

1 kg (kilogram) = 1,000 gm (gram) = 2.2 lbs = .000032 oz
1 gm = .032 oz = .0022 lb
1 lb = 454 gm = .454 kg
16 oz = 1 lb (you knew that)
1 oz = 28.35 gm = .028 kg

Lengths

1 cm (centimeter) = 10 mm (millimeter) = .3937 in
1 m (meter) = 1,000 mm = 39.37 in
1 in = 25.4 mm = 2.54 cm

Volume

1 ml (milliliter) = .0338 fluid oz
1 liter (l) = .264 gallons = 1.06 qt
1 oz = 29.6 ml
1 gallon = 3.79 liters

1 cc (cubic centimeter) = 1 ml (milliliter)

I only list this last conversion as I remember late one evening rummaging through every book in the house trying to figure out how to convert the ml dosage listed on the medicine bottle with the cc markings on the syringe. The most definitive authority I could find was a listing in the Caprine Supply catalogue for Tetanus Toxoid--you could buy a 10 ml vial which consisted of 20 doses of 1/2 cc. dosage per goat. I notice the new catalogue has a conversion listed on the bottom of page 39--I must not be alone...

In case you were wondering why metrics are so logical:

Weight

Base unit = gram which is the weight of distilled water at 4° C contained in a cube whose edges are one-hundredth of a meter.

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Length

Base = meter which is one ten-millionth part of the distance measured on a meridian from the equator to the pole.

Volume

Base = liter which is the volume of a kilogram of distilled water at 4° C.

Units (These are the prefixes for the units)

kilo = 1,000, centi = 1/100, milli = 1/1,000



Okay, did you get all that? Let's practice.

This is a picture of Warf on April 21, 1996 (his birthday). He's real new and just getting his first drink from his mother. This great picture will probably be on the January magazine cover, unless we receive a better New Year's picture.

I'm guessing Warf weighs about 3632 grams (3.6 kg - don't we wish our fleeces were that heavy!)

His ears are about 7 cm long (don't we wish all our cashmere was that long!) and I hope he gets 118 ml of milk.

If you send us the above three metric measurements in correct pounds, inches and ounces along with a box top from Teddy Grahams, we'll send you a real nice note.

A Conversation with Terry Sim

After a very busy shearing/classing season, Terry is headed home to Australia. I asked him for a few remarks before he left, on the state of the North American cashmere industry as he sees it.

He found the quality of North American cashmere improving, with most fleeces grading fine or medium. Growers are doing a better job of culling than they have in past years. The volume of fleeces this year remains about the same as in 1995. There is noticeably less cashgora, despite a need for it by hand spinners.

While yields were down in some clips over prior years', overall, the North American yield is improving as the quality of the goats improve. The actual number of goats in North America is increasing, as expected, although not as quickly as some predicted.

In the clips where yield is down, possible reasons could be overall stocking rate coupled with nutrition and general management, especially in the period of fall through winter. This time of year, when fiber is growing and does are pregnant, a management system or plan is necessary to ensure good kid rates and weights, in addition to achieving fiber goals.

Culling is as important as ever. Keep only those goats which are good producers commercially. All of these elements are critical to realizing the full potential of your herd.

The US industry seems trending towards longer, finer fiber which will be distinctive from cashmere produced in other areas of the world. The market for longer fiber is there now.

An important factor to be aware of, and follow is, how or when China is granted "Most Favored Nation"

trade status with the USA and whether or not extra taxes and tariffs are added to imported Chinese cashmere.

Overall, Terry felt the USA, with its varieties of climate, herd management practices, and individual goals, is producing a fiber of fine quality. Cashmere markets are used to dealing with the "bulky" Chinese fiber and will have to be convinced there is sufficient quantities of distinctive USA quality cashmere to make us a major factor in the world of cashmere.

Although Terry feels our long-term aim or goal should be to produce fine fiber and quality commercial goats, we must not overlook the markets available for today's clips. Style 1 and 2 fiber, which is longer than 6 cm (2.36 inches) would be suitable for the worsted trade, if sufficient quantities were available. These long, sleek fibers, with good luster which do not pile, are in demand by hand spinners as well. This often-overlooked market has seen a much-needed price increase lately. Australia has always been in this

market, but there is room for others.

So, don't despair over style 1 or 2 fiber that is 6 cm or longer and has a distinct slick handle. There is a market.

Volume is, and will continue to be, both a problem and a goal for the USA cashmere trade. Volume is desperately needed to realize the economies of scale in fiber manufacturing and to establish USA cashmere as a distinct product in its own right.

A growing area, and one which should not be overlooked, is fleece competitions. As the field of entrants expands, more breeders and growers are watching the various competitions to see the potential for breeding stock to build their own herds. It is important for those selling breeding stock and having bucks for breeding, to participate in these contests now, more than ever.

The North American cashmere
(Continued on next page)



"Terry went thata way."

industry has its problems, but all these are (or should be) short-term only. Per Terry, "All that is needed are vision and attitude. Then turn that vision into dollars!"

Terry's present plans are to participate in Australia's shearing season which is getting underway now and then, hopefully, to return to North America in December or January.

Ed Note: The above article was based on two lengthy telephone conversations with Terry at the end of May, 1996. Any errors in the above article were probably caused by a combination of Terry's accent and Paul's failing hearing.

Coming Attractions! in the CashMirror

Farm Features:

August - The Farm (Wendy and Michel Paulin)

September - Nebraska Western Cashmere - visit with John Harris

October - A farm on the east coast.

November - Texas!

Feature Articles:

Crossing state/national lines
with goats

Dehairing options

Fleece competition results -

Black Sheep Gathering

Fiber news from Convergence
1996

Drought Wreaks Havoc with Texas Herds

The second worst drought in Texas history is causing ranchers in the Lone Star State to drastically cull their goat herds.

"The lack of a decent rain since September of 1995, has caused wells to go dry, river levels dropping to all-time low," according to Dr. Don Huss, President of the Texas Cashmere Association. He, like others, has had to reduce his herd of goats by 50%, due to lack of water and vegetation. He talked of rivers that used to provide a boundaries for herds, becoming so dry that the goats can walk across to neighboring property—not without some objections on the part of the neighbors.

Because of the additional goats on the market, the price for goats has dropped from \$60-75 to as little as \$38 for 95-100 lb. nannies.



Guardian dog keeps the kids in line.

Update on Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) Virus

Questions Goat Owners Most Often Ask

Issued by the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

January 1996

Caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE) is a viral infection of goats which may lead to chronic disease of the joints and on rare occasions encephalitis in goat kids less than six months of age. The CAE virus is intimately associated with white blood cells; therefore, any body secretions which contain white blood cells are potential sources of virus to other goats in the herd. Since not all goats that become infected with CAE virus progress to disease, it is important to test goats routinely for infection by means of a serology test which detects viral antibodies in the serum.

Over the past several years, we have had numerous inquiries about CAE virus, how to test for it, and most importantly, how to take steps to control the infection in goat herds. We have taken some of the most frequently asked questions and presented them along with some short answers.

1. What are the major means of spread of the virus? The CAE virus is primarily transmitted to kids via colostrum in the first few feedings after birth. Contact transmission between adult goats is considered to be rare except during lactation.

2. As an owner, may I sample my goats myself and send the serum directly to the lab? The diagnostic laboratory primarily provides services to veterinarians. However, we will test goat serum samples mailed directly from an owner. We suggest that owners provide the name of their veterinarian. We can send results to the veterinarian, and also to the owner if requested.

3. How should I ship samples for CAE virus antibody testing? We recommend drawing blood into a five or ten ml. "red-top" clot tube or serum separator tube, and im-

mediately sending the packaged samples by overnight mail. There is no need for an ice pack if shipped by an overnight mail service. We do not recommend separating the serum from the clot prior to shipment. Overnight package delivery should be sent to WADDL, Bustad Hall, Room 155N, W.S.U., Pullman, WA 99164. The address for post office mail is Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL), P.O. Box 2037, Pullman, WA 99165-2037. An ice pack is recommended if shipment is expected to take several days in warm weather.

4. How long does it take to get CAE virus serology results? CAE ELISA tests are generally run once a week, on Thursdays or Fridays. Depending on the day the samples arrive, it may take up to a week to get results. Results can be phoned or FAXed to the veterinarian or owner.

5. What does it cost for testing at WADDL? Instate (WA) costs are \$10 accession fee per case, and \$3.00 for each of the first ten samples, then \$2.40 each from 11 on. Costs for out-of-state residents are \$10 accession fee and \$4.50 each for the first 10, then \$3.60 each from 11 on. Please do not send payment with the samples. We will bill the veterinarian or owner directly.

6. What does a positive, negative, or suspect result mean? A positive result means the goat has been infected with the CAE virus and has made antibodies reactive with the CAE antigens used in this test. This goat is a potential shedder of the virus, especially if lactating. The antibody against CAE is not a protective antibody, and although strong antibody reactions may be detected in this test, infectious virus can still be shed by this goat. As many as 70% of positive goats may be free of clinical signs of the disease, and

remain so for years or life. A young goat which has received heat-treated colostrum containing CAE antibodies may also test positive for several months because of passive transfer of maternal antibodies. We recommend retesting these kids between six and nine months of age to determine their status. A negative result means that this goat is either not infected, or has been recently infected and is producing amounts of antibody too low to be detected. This latter case, the false negative, does not appear to be common, but it is a good reason to retest all negative goats when not in a closed herd. Goats that are negative should be periodically tested (annually, if not twice a year). A suspect result may reflect recently infected goats, young animals who have received colostrum containing antibodies or animals reacting abnormally in the test. Predictability (or reliability) of a test result is often used to assess the overall accuracy. For the CAE ELISA, the predictability of positive and negative test results is very high. Unfortunately, the ability to predict that a suspect test result represents a true positive or true negative is low, necessitating the retesting of suspect animals. Likewise, data indicate that the actual ELISA score within the suspect or negative range, whether high or low, is a very unreliable indicator of whether an individual animal will become positive or negative in the future. Consequently, management decisions based on these values are not valid. There will be no charge for retesting suspect sera submitted between 30 and 90 days after the original samples. Please include the original WADDL number when submitting the follow-up sample.

7. Can an animal testing positive ever test negative on future tests? It is unlikely that a CAE virus infected adult goat which has tested positive would ever test negative in the sensitive ELISA test. Occasionally a very young animal, fed heat-treated colostrum containing CAE antibodies may test positive and

later negative from
(Continued on next page)

CAE

(Continued from previous page)

the decline of passively acquired antibodies in the colostrum. In some goats, seroconversion may be delayed for months after exposure. These "silently" infected animals test negative for antibody until the viral infection is activated by stress or other factors. It was not determined whether these goats were infectious to other goats during the time they harbored the virus but remained seronegative.

8. Is there a difference in the types of serology tests available for making a diagnosis of CAE virus infection? Yes, WADDL has a kinetic Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) for CAE virus antibodies using detergent disrupted whole CAE virus as the antigen. This test is more sensitive (detects true positive animal) than the agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test. Values for the CAE ELISA have been set by double testing goat sera by ELISA and a very sensitive research assay, called *immunoprecipitation*. The positive cutoff score for our CAE ELISA had a sensitivity of 95.2%, with no false positive results. This is a great improvement over the CAE/OPP AGID test, which had a sensitivity of 56.1% in one study. It is also an improvement over the 90.7% sensitivity of our CAE virus AGID test. We have found no CAE-AGID positive, ELISA negative animals in double testing of over 1,200 samples.

9. Is it okay to drink raw milk containing the CAE virus? There is no evidence that the CAE virus can infect humans. However, there are other serious human pathogens which have been shown to be transmitted through raw milk. Consult your veterinarian regarding the public health hazards of consuming raw milk.

10. In heat treating colostrum, what times and temperature should I use? Colostrum from any doe may be heated to between

133° and 138° F (56° to 59° C) and held at that temperature for one hour to inactivate the virus. An accurate thermometer is important. It is recommended to use a water bath or double boiler to regulate the temperature more closely. A large batch may be heat-treated and frozen in small feeding size portions for later use (about one pint per kid). If heated higher than 140° F, the usefulness of the colostrum will be greatly reduced due to denaturing of proteins, including antibodies.

11. How often should I test my animals? Yearly testing is suggested for herds which are primarily negative, with testing before kidding recommended. Any new animals brought into the herd should be quarantined and tested before introduction to other negative animals. For herds with both positive and negative animals, negative animals should be tested more often to adjust the milking order so that negative animals are milked first.

12. Are there new test methods on the horizon? Yes. WADDL is working with USDA scientists in the development of "competitive" ELISA using monoclonal antibodies against the immunodominant CAE virus antigen. This test appears to be both very sensitive and highly specific. Perhaps in the future, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for viral specific nucleic acid will become practical and financially affordable enough for routine testing, especially in goats that have delayed seroconversion.

Additional information on CAE virus and other infections of livestock can be obtained by contacting the diagnostic laboratory at 509-335-9696, FAX 509-335-7424.

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If "pro" is the opposite of "con", what is the opposite of progress?

How to Become a Better Sheep Manager

Reprinted from Sheep Production Newsletter

University Extension, Lincoln University

Helen A. Swartz, State Sheep, Goat and Small Livestock Specialist

Ed Note: This article talks about sheep, but the concepts apply to any livestock (or any other mission in life, for that matter).

In any livestock enterprise and especially in a sheep operation, management is the name of the game. Good management involves more than raising sheep, selling lambs and wool and paying bills. To be profitable, it requires a method of controlling production factors all year and being prepared to be flexible to meet change that is always inevitable.

Good sheep management is a process of goal setting, developing plans and organization. Management requires knowledge of specifics about a sheep operation such as feed costs, lamb gains, wool weights, lambing rate, number of lambs marketed per ewe, interest rates, selection, reproduction and health. The first step to improved management is goal setting.

Goal Setting

Now is the time to set your goals for next year. Determine your present lambing rate, weaning rate, 60-90-120 day weights, present marketing strategy, feed costs and health program. Put your goals into writing. Set goals that are achievable. Calculate your present lambing rate, feed costs, weaning weights, etc. Then set goals to raise those that are reasonable. For example, if your lambing rate is 125% this year, set your goal for next year above that with a reasonable increase, let us say 135%. More than likely, your lambing rate is high enough but you lost too many of those lambs and your weaning rate can more easily be increased.

Look at your feed costs. Plan to lower these costs by selecting feeds that are lower or projected lower for next year. If you are paying \$100/ton for alfalfa, consider meeting the NRC requirements of the flock by substituting corn and SBM and decreasing the alfalfa fed per day. Other feedstuffs may be available that you have grown, such as milo than can save on feed costs. Decrease feed costs by timely purchasing at harvest.

Writing goals results in three things:

1. It forces you to identify each component part of your sheep operation.
2. If requires that you know where you are before you decide where you are going, like a road map. You look at a map from where you are presently located to determine which road you will take to get where you want to go.
3. Goals provide you with a foundation which can be revised to help build future goals beyond next year.

Goals should consider the economics and quality of life provided for the family. Consider how these goals will affect your family, both positive and negative. Determine how you will prioritize your time to carry them out. Consider how these goals may affect employees, if that would be necessary to reach your goals.

Now is the time to set goals for next year because you will be selecting your replacement ewe lambs, purchasing rams, culling ewes and starting your fall lamb crop by turning in intact rams.

Plan Development

Once you have set your goals, you

know where you want to go, like your road map. There are many roads that lead to most destinations. Most people take the Interstate. Others like the scenic route. I consider the Interstate the economic route and the scenic route the quality of life route. Perhaps in your family, raising sheep to teach the children responsibility, sharing and meeting people at shows and fairs is more important than an increase in economic return. That is for you to decide. However, make your goals realistic and the plans will succeed.

Organization

Organization is the name of the game in any livestock enterprise. Organize your plan. Put it on the calendar. Develop your own calendar to follow your plan and help you achieve your goals. Making plans and not carrying them out will result in very little change. Define activities clearly and who should do what. A division of labor in a sheep operation is cost effective. Decide who is best at what and then agree that they will do that job.

Sheep raisers need a record of how well they are progressing toward their goals. With specific information on lambing rate, weaning rate and weight, herd health problems, feed cost, income per ewe, both lamb and wool and quality of meat and wool, the sheep producer can measure progress toward the goals set in an operation at a particular time. Then you can reset your goals to optimize profits in your sheep operation.



SKIN DISEASES

PRESENTED BY DR. DAVID SHERMAN AT ECA SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM

By Marilyn Ackley

The Eastern Cashmere Association (ECA) sponsored a symposium June 1st and 2nd at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, Massachusetts. Dr. David Sherman is co-author of *Goat Medicine* (with Dr. Mary Smith of Cornell University). Dr. Sherman presented information on skin diseases.

After spending a day presenting his material and answering ten million questions, Dr. Sherman returned the next morning for the fiber classing workshop which was led by Becky Wright. He was as gracious and involved as a learner as he had been as a teacher.

It was great to have his wisdom and his microscope when a bag of fleece produced a dramatic lab experience with little tan lice.

Dr. Sherman reviewed diseases that we may actually meet, ranging from the grossly life-threatening to the yucky nuisance. For those of us who always expect the worst, it was very reassuring.

Dr. Sherman's central theme—skin diseases—was prompted by his own most recent assignment overseas. In Ethiopia, where the goat hides are important to the economy, goats were afflicted by a skin disease that resulted in lesions. Hides were being rejected because the lesions left holes in the hides. It was Dr. Sherman's task to solve the problem—for the good of the goats and the good of the Ethiopian economy.

Skin is important for growers of fiber goats also since healthy skin and good fleece are related. There's a second reason to focus on skin right now. With international attention on "mad cow disease" (BSE), it is important for us to know about the goat version, **scrapie**. An early sign of scrapie is itching. To find relief from the itching, goats and sheep scrape themselves along fences and buildings—thus the name scrapie.

First, Dr. Sherman offered a quick summary of scrapie—to distinguish it from other skin ailments. It is infectious, but the causative agent is unclear—perhaps an atypical virus. It is more common in sheep than in goats. Infected goats always have mingled with sheep. It is a slow-progressing disease with the first symptoms appearing years after an animal is exposed. Symptoms include progressive weight loss, changes in behavior including itching, hypertension, picking up legs too high when walking and finding it hard to get up. If you scratch the back of an affected animal, its lips will move convulsively as through it were talking.

In 1952, the USDA created its first control program. They kept tinkering on the program for years before they admitted they didn't know how to react since they didn't know crucial things—like the cause. Now, there is a voluntary scrapie control program where a herd which is closed for five years (no new animals brought into the herd) and shows no signs of the disease, is considered to be scrapie-free.

The BSE scare will certainly result in research that will answer many of the questions. Meanwhile, don't panic—there have been just five cases of scrapie in goats reported in the US since 1952—and in all five cases, the goats were co-mingled with sheep.

Dr Sherman divided his presentation on skin diseases into four sections—parasitic (the most common), infectious, nutritional and other.

Parasitic Skin Diseases

Sucking **lice** are more dangerous to goats, but biting (chewing) lice are harder to find. They're the small tan dots which live on flakes of dander and are most frequently found near the tail head, on the shoulders, or near the horns. The sucking lice are

big and attach at the skin so they appear perpendicular to the goat.

Keds are wingless bloodsuckers, much bigger than lice. Like lice, they live their whole lives on the host animal and can re-attach in different places.

Fleas from dogs and cats can be transferred to goats. They can contribute to anemia in compromised young animals.

Ticks cause trouble on several levels. They damage the hide by piercing it with their mouths, a major problem for the leather industry. They cause local secondary infections at the site of attachment. And, they carry disease by transferring blood from an infected animal to a healthy animal. This includes diseases like anaplasmosis—mostly diseases that are not common in the US—except somewhat in the southern states. Adult ticks are not the only threat. Even larval ticks attach to a host and drink blood in order to develop. Interesting item: adult dog ticks are species specific, but younger stages may attack goats.

Five kinds of **mites** affect goats. They are microscopic and usually round, except for demodex, which are cigar-shaped. Eradicating them usually involves treating the environment as well as the animals.

Sarcoptic mange is known as **scabie** or sheep scab. This mite tunnels through the epidermis and feeds on tissue fluids. It causes thickened, ropy skin and terrible itching. Sometimes healthy animals can limit infection to the area around the ears, and it can look like the thickened skin which comes from zinc deficiency. Take a skin scraping to differentiate. Ringworm can be distinguished from mange as it affects only a tiny area.

If a goat scratches its ear with a rear leg, it may be ear mites which can affect the goat's balance. Use

Continued on next page

Skin Disease

(Continued from previous page)

dog ear mite medicine for a goat with ear mites.

Demodectic mange which appears as nodular lesions on the skin is really the cigar-shaped mites living in the hair follicles. If you squeeze a nodule, a grey waxy paste will come out. The paste is solid mites. With a mild case, it is often possible to squeeze the nodules, apply iodine and wait for the lesions to vanish.

Corioptic mange, a common problem in the US, typically affects the feet and pasterns, but may also be seen on udders and scrotums. These mites don't burrow, but live on the surface of the skin and eat dander. The best way to get a sample for microscopic examination is to press scotch tape on the affected skin surface. Antibiotic treatment is only effective in stopping secondary infection. A good treatment for the mites themselves is to clean off the accumulated crustiness and apply iodine. With a big herd of goats, a dipping tank is essential.

Infectious Skin Diseases

Dermatophilosis is caused by bacteria that are fairly common in the environment and are often found on the skin of healthy animals. It usually appears during rainy periods, or when there is condensation in the barn. The goat's skin gets softened by moisture and all it takes is a thorn scratch or bug bite to allow the bacteria in. When the organism gets under the skin, it creates pus which makes the hair mat so that it forms little clumps like wet paint brushes. In time, the clumps of sticky pus and skin fall out. It is treatable with penicillin or tetracycline. Equally important: it is preventable. Give the goats dry places during rainy periods. (Humans can get this stuff too.)

Sheep and goat pox is not the same as the parapoxvirus which causes soremouth. Goat pox caused by parapoxvirus is mostly a problem

in Africa and the Middle East. A benign form of goat pox has appeared in California, but this is not one to worry about.

Soremouth (orf or contagious ecthyma) is caused by parapoxvirus. It can be contracted by direct contact with infected animals or carrier animals, or indirectly through scabs which have fallen to the ground and remain infective for weeks or months. Most typically, crusty lesions appear around mouth corners or teats, but legs and flanks can also be affected. It is so painful on teats that affected does won't let kids nurse, so kids can starve. A vaccine is available, made from live virus. The skin under the tail is broken and the vaccine is spread there to create the disease. To mess with this vaccine or an infected goat, wear rubber gloves and be careful; this disease is transmissible to humans. (We learned a new word for diseases that can be communicated to humans: zoonotic)

Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) transmission is through burst abscesses or, technically, when the responsible bacteria (*Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*) is expelled in the cough of a goat with abscesses in its lungs. In fact, only 5-10% of abscesses are internal, so visible abscesses are the real source of spread. The vaccine seems to be "reasonably effective" at least in slowing the progress of the disease. There is a serum test available; however, a positive result may mean either that the goat was exposed to the disease or had been given the CLA vaccine.

Pyogenes, another bacterium, can also cause abscesses. Unlike CLA abscesses, which only appear at lymph sites, pyogenes abscesses can be anywhere. The pyogenes bacteria are everywhere in the environment and can cause infection at any skin opening, including bee stings or scrapes. The goop in the abscess has mayonnaise consistency and has a recognizable odor. It is not infectious like CLA.

Ringworm is a fungus which

causes circular lesions. Treat topically by washing away debris and then treating with a disinfectant like Betadine or a human athlete's foot preparation. The best treatment is sunlight. And remember that this one is zoonotic!

Nutritional Skin Diseases

Zinc deficiency disease appears in some parts of the US where soils are zinc deficient. If a crusty thickening of the skin appears on goats' feet, looking suspiciously like mange, treat for mites. If the condition doesn't go away, give a zinc supplement.

Vitamin A is abundantly present in fresh greens, but very scarce in dry feed. Actually, a fair bit of vitamin A survives in hay cut the previous summer, but virtually all vitamin A will have vanished from two-year old hay. A symptom of vitamin A deficiency is heavy dandruff. Dr Sherman noted that a layer of dandruff is normal at shearing time. Prior to shearing, the daily shedding of skin would not be noticed as it is trapped by the fleece. However, excessive dandruff, night blindness and abnormal fetuses with domed heads indicate that the goats have not been getting adequate vitamin A.

Selenium deficiency can also produce flaky skin as well as a ring of hairlessness around the eyes.

Other Skin Diseases

Sunburn is a particular problem for pink-skinned goats. Certain plants cause photosensitization, a condition in which the chlorophyll in some plants (like St. John's wort) make sunburn worse. Light-colored goats are at risk for this problem which can result in puffy skin and runny eyes.

And of course, there is **urine scald**, a problem when bucks with sensitive skin spend too much time spraying their forelegs. It can help to trim the hair so that the moisture can't get trapped, or to apply Vaseline.

Calendar of Events

July 14-21

The Handweavers Guild of America Convergence '96 Portland, Oregon. For Convergence details, send SASE to PO Box 3378, Portland, Oregon 97028-3378.

August 7-11

Fiberfest '96 - Kalamazoo County Fairground, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Forum is August 7,8,9 and Festival is August 10 and 11. For information write Fiberfest '96, PO Box 46, Freeport, MI 49325.

August 22-24

CaPrA 6th Annual Convention - University of Wyoming campus, Laramie, Wyoming. Pre-conference workshops August 20-21. Post-conference workshops August 23-24. For information contact Karen Fenton 307-766-4325.

September 20-22

PCMA Business of Cashmere Conference II - Holiday Inn, Bozeman, Montana. For information contact Tom and Ann Dooling, 406-683-5445.

September 30-October 3

1996 ECA Goat Show and Fleece Competition - Virginia State Fair. For information call 207-935-3843.

October 20

Paul Johnson's 50th birthday
(Send us more events so we don't have to fill up space with trivia like this!)

Your event could have been here, instead of this picture - it is a cute picture, however...if you would rather see pictures of our kids...don't send us events!



Mini-pearl

Association Contacts

American Meat Goat Association

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Cashmere Producers of America (CaPrA)

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Cashmere America Co-operative

Joe David Ross, Manager, 915-387-6052

Colorado Cashmere and Angora Goat Association (CCAGA)

Carol Kromer, Club Contact, 719-347-2329

Eastern Cashmere Association

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North West Cashmere Association

Marilyn Burbank, President, 541-582-4593
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Professional Cashmere Marketers' Association (PCMA)

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Texas Cashmere Association

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Western Prairie Cashmere Association

John Harris, President, 308-635-1579
JHarris@Hannibal.WNCC.CC.NE.US

Wild Goat Women

Debbie Walstead 719-495-4342
Goat Hotline 719-495-2962

Mild Goat Men

Paul Johnson, Only Member So Far
503-623-5194

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