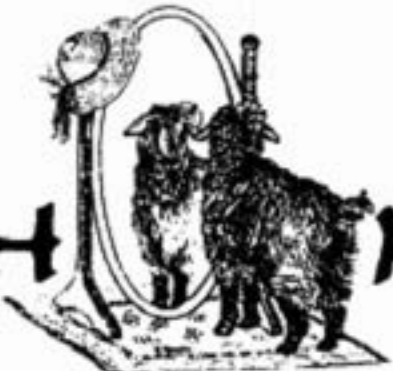




CASHMIRE MIRROR

Volume 7, Issue 10

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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: Paul Johnson, Goat Knoll

CC Pearly Sue and daughter Mini-pearl go for a browse in the woods.

Attention all Subscribers In Our Breeders Listing!

We need more information from you - quickly (sorry!) for the September Breeders' Showcase issue. In this issue, we will list additional information about your farm/ranch at no extra charge.

Mail, e-mail or call this information to us asap. If we get close to our printing deadline (August 15th), we will be contacting you. You may list any information about your herd, services available or animals or products for sale with your Breeders Listing in the September issue. It is not intended to be a classified ad, but general information about your farm.

We will include two extra lines with your current listing. This is approximately 60 characters including spaces. An example (watch out--this is subtle advertising coming up):



This is a great opportunity for you to list information about your animals and services. Depending on response, we may make this feature (or a shorter version of it) a permanent feature in our Breeders Listing. Let us know what you think.

This is a good deal!

Totally confused? Contact us.

You TOLD us that the August *CashMirror* was going to be the Breeders Showcase Issue!

Where is it? What is this? There isn't even a buck on the cover!

Oops...We had intended that the August issue be the Breeder's Showcase, as in past years. However, due to our inexperience and lack of overwhelming reader interest, we did not bring together an adequate amount of ads/information in time to justify labeling the August issue a Breeders' Showcase. Rather than add a label to the August issue which we felt it did not warrant, we are postponing the event for a month.

So, don't despair. It'll be next month for sure! We are offering special advertising rates for the next issue only (see inside back cover). We will also list a few lines for each participating breeder in the Breeders' Listing showcasing what each breeder is doing/selling.

And, next year, we'll get our act together a little earlier...



Reflections

By Linda Fox

There are several things you should not do on the farm with your spouse. At the top of the list is fixing electric fences. It seems like there is always some little misunderstanding which results in someone getting a shocking experience. Like when someone tells you to turn the fence back on after they yell from the upper pasture? Wouldn't you think that turning on the fence would mean flipping the switch by the back door which activates the fence? It would seem to me that reconnecting a wire across a gate on your way to the house should have no effect. I wondered why he yelled so soon—twice actually. As it was explained to me later, by someone with hair standing up on his arms and a slight twitch in one eye, reconnecting a wire is what some people mean when they say, "Turn on the fence." He yelled twice because after he got shocked the first time, he touched the wire again—he couldn't believe it was really on.

Another thing that is best not done together is giving shots to goats. My husband had never given shots to animals and it had been several years since I'd had the pleasure. We decided that he needed to learn so I held the goat and he played vet. We had received instructions from the vet, read all the fine print on the medicine bottle and reviewed all the gruesome pictures in our reference books. It looked unpleasant but fairly simple. We caught the first available goat—Ashley, my favorite. She was easy to catch as she's always hanging around for pats.

I held her tight, scratched her neck and told her everything would be alright. Paul clenched his teeth and quickly gave her the shot. She immediately started jumping around and bleating, and then fell down like she'd lost her balance. At the same time, I was running after her screaming, "Call the vet, quick! My favorite goat is dying! What have you done to poor Ashley?"

After phoning three vets (it was Sunday) and getting recorders or no answer, we tried to figure out what had happened—by now Ashley was fine. Had he injected into a muscle instead of just under the skin? Had he given the shot too fast because he was nervous? Had the vet given us the wrong medicine?

We finally located a friend who is a veterinarian. She said the reaction was normal—an Ivomec shot stings, especially if you don't inject very far beneath the skin.

After completing the shots on does, we moved to the bucks. We decided that Paul, with his greater strength and size, should be in charge of restraint and I would give the shots. The bucks are used to being handled and were not difficult



Results of working together tagging little ears - Linda held kids, Paul crunched ears (ouch!)

to restrain—once he discovered an effective method. Actually, the best restraint is a headstall or chute, but we don't have these yet, so we are limited to more primitive methods. Paul first tried restraining the buck by straddling him and hanging on to the large horns. This left the back end free for me to poke with a large needle and inject a medication which gives some goats a nasty reaction. We learned quickly that you don't poke a two hundred pound buck with a large needle with someone astride. It makes for a brief, but wild ride and nasty horn bruises on the thighs. (He was lucky.)

A third project which is difficult to do together is building fences—field fences. Especially when one person thinks the fence line should be straight and likes to use a level to straighten up the fence posts, while the other person just wants to get the damn thing up. Especially when one person thinks the line should be straight even when going through house-height blackberries or a major forest, while the other person thinks you should take a little jog with the fence if you have to and just get the damn thing up.

I believe that working together as a couple on a farm strengthens a relationship. However, my husband who still has that slight twitch, numerous goat-inflicted bruises on his legs which are just now turning from purple to an interesting shade of yellowish-green and a recently turned ankle from stepping into an empty post hole which I insisted he re-dig because it was not exactly in line, is withholding judgment.



Wendy and Michel Paulin's home looks strangely empty without the goats

Down on **THE FARM**

Wendy and Michel Paulin of the Farm Cashmeres have sold their goats and maremma guardian dogs. Their farm now looks strangely vacant. On our first visit with the Paulins, the pastures were teeming with goats and dogs. On our last visit, the pastures were practically empty. Wendy says she misses the goats, but also enjoys the quiet and easier pace to their lives. Even though they are no longer "in the business" we can benefit from their years of experience.

History of The Farm

Wendy and Michel Paulin, owners of The Farm Cashmeres, bought their first cashmere goats in 1990. Wendy had been working as a consultant for Judith Richardson Haralson (Cascade Cashmere) on a SBIR research project which studied the feasibility of raising cashmere goats in rural America for the production of supplemental farm income.

Paulins purchased 20 kids from Mrs. Haralson to start their herd. These kids were born at Cascade Cashmere from imported Tasmanian stock. The 20 kids, some does and some bucks, were purchased at a young age, before their first fleece. They had good potential, but at this age, were unproven as breeding

stock or fleece producers. Per Wendy, they just got lucky. One of the buck kids was Genghis Khan who would become the nucleus of their herd.

These 20 kids were moved to the Paulins' newly purchased farm in Toledo Washington. As the herd grew over the years, Wendy and Michel built a successful farm business with the cashmere goats. They also started a bed and breakfast venture and published the *CashMirror* magazine.

The Farm became one of the test farms for the SBIR project and participated in embryo transplants. It was recognized early by U.S. cashmere breeders that good genetics were extremely important. Importation of cashmere stock proved to be an expensive way to acquire goats. Cost per goat imported could be \$3,000 while cost for a goat produced by embryo-transplant was \$400. Paulins noticed no difference in the quality of the goats obtained by transplant vs. import, but the cost difference was significant enough to justify the extra work required.

Success rate for embryo transplants the first year was low. Twenty tries produced only three does. The second year's success rate was better and, as a result, over the next five years, the herd increased to 100 breeding does.

Paulins attribute their success to three major factors: producing your own hay, doing your own goat management and having a good customer market for culls. They raised all their own hay and didn't need to hire outside labor for goat management. A local meat market provided ready customers for culls.

The Paulins focused their breeding goals around the parameters of the Chinese cashmere product—fine, white-white cashmere with lots of crimp, low luster and long guard hair. They culled heavily after the first fleece (six months of age), keeping only a couple of bucks each year.

They recognized early that Genghis Khan was going to be "really good." To study the predictability of his offspring and ensure that his desirable traits would hold with no creation of homozygous undesirable traits

Continued on next page

(double teats, etc.), they bred him back to daughters for three successive years.

They noticed that it was easier to put long guard hair on bucks than on does. However, by the third generation, they were seeing long guard hair on their does as well. After three years, they brought in another white buck for breeding.

Paulins believe that long guard hair is important. Fleeces with long guard hair are easier to dehair and the long guard hair protects the cashmere from environmental damage. Per Wendy, "the longer the guard hair, the better." They also believe that there may be a genetic correlation between long guard hair and quality of fiber.

Management Practices

Paulins feed their goats grass hay raised on their farm. They also use grain as a supplement for flushing of does prior to breeding and for cyclical feeding during pregnancy. They do not believe that goats need to be underfed to produce low luster, fine cashmere, but feed their goats well to enable them to reach their maximum genetic potential.

Housing provided for the herd is minimal. Small three-sided shelters provide cover from the harsher elements and a place for supplemental feeding. Does with newborn kids are penned separately for two or



Michel feeds Maremma pups



The kids play at the Paulins'

three days after birth and then turned back out onto pasture.

Vaccinations include only CD&T twice a year, once prior to breeding and once after kidding. They feel that attention to worming is extremely important. "You can lose a goat fast from worm infestation." They check for parasites on the farm themselves. (A prior *CashMirror* issue gives details of this procedure.) They worm the goats when required—which is often. The worming products they use are Ivomec pour-on and Panacur paste, in rotation. The more goats you have, the more important it is to worm often.

Paulins also stressed the importance of having a herd free from all disease and practicing good barn management. However, perfection is not the goal. The goal is to maximize output. "Perfection is but a wonderful surprise when it happens." You can get hung up in striving for perfection or get hung up in the process and not have enough time or energy left to get the job done.

The does are bred in a group, by running the buck with the group for two or three cycles. Kidding is planned for May, to coincide with lush pasture growth. Buck kids are weaned in August (at three months of age) while doe kids are usually left with their mothers until sold.

The Products

The Paulins have retained all fiber produced by

Continued on next page

PAULINS

Continued from previous page



Wendy Paulin

their animals over the years and have purchased cashmere fleeces from others. Wendy has always had an interest in fiber and they used a lot of it in the development of their dehairing machine. They also sent cashmere, after being dehaired, to Canada to be spun into yarn. They then sold the yarn or products made from the yarn on the farm. They still have cashmere fiber/fleeces which they plan on continuing to use.

Culls are sold off the farm, primarily as meat. They have found a ready, local market for their goat meat.

The Future of the Industry as They See It

Even though Paulins have sold most of their goats (to a cattle rancher in Oregon) they believe these are exciting times for the cashmere industry. There is, for the first time, a major shift from the hobbyist to the rancher. Cashmere goats are being raised on a larger scale by farmers who are diversifying by adding cashmere goats as a supplemental income source to existing farms. As ranchers observe the land improvements gained by running goats on their land and as they see the meat prices for goats holding steady, they begin to see goats as a viable venture on their own ranches.

For American cashmere producers to be successful in the cashmere industry, they must produce what

the processors are buying. Right now, this is the "Chinese-style" cashmere, the cashmere of fine diameter, which is very crimped and has a low luster. For the most part, American cashmere producers are not currently producing what the processors want.

If the Paulins were to continue breeding cashmere goats, they would continue to work toward their original breeding goals, those of trying to duplicate the Chinese product.

They have some concern that the United States producers will never be able to totally duplicate Chinese cashmere. Even if we genetically produce identical cashmere on the goat, our processing methods will remain different. The Chinese use of hand labor for combing and cleaning leaves little guard hair to be removed in the dehairing process. Our system of shearing and then removing all guard hair in the dehairing process, subjects the cashmere to additional stress not borne by Chinese cashmere. Our cashmere may always be different.

The Paulins' Plans

Paulins have left the "goat business" for health reasons. Last year, as they were sitting in their vehicle at a stop sign, they were rear-ended by a van. Ensuing medical problems have taken away their ability to make their own hay and do their own labor on the farm. Since these are two of their three "secrets of success", they had to make a tough decision. They decided that the goats were no longer a viable project for them. In addition, Wendy's part-time employment with the Port of Centralia, started in mid-1990, has now turned into a full-time plus job.

They have kept only ten goats to keep the weeds under control in their fields and they have

The Farm for sale. They hope to move to a smaller, more easily-managed home on a few acres in the same general area of Washington. We wish them luck and thank them for generously giving their time for this story.



Goateaters Anonymous or Natural Disasters on Four Feet

By Paul Johnson



As far as I know, no one has started a "Save the Coyote" movement yet. They certainly are not an endangered species. After decades of poisons, traps, hunters (both professional and amateur), there are now more coyotes in more states than when Columbus first set foot here.

Coyotes howl around our place any time a siren in town goes off, day or night. Coyotes also hunt anytime, day or night. Our Veterinarian lost a lamb at 10 am, while his guard dog slept.

Linda came home from her "day" job to hear our maremma guard dog barking wildly, down pasture. She paused long enough to strap on her .38 and headed out, still in her work dress! I would like to have had a picture of that! She found the herd of does, with the dog between them and a coyote. Undoubtedly there were several other coyotes watching. It left when she arrived, not giving her a clean shot.

It is one of their favorite tricks to have one coyote lure the dog away from the herd, leaving the herd unprotected from the rest of the

pack. For some reason, this trick doesn't work with Maremmas. They stay with the herd.

Coyotes are extremely adaptable and have been reported living in major cities. I have seen them in Phoenix on several occasions. They steal pet food and an occasional poodle. I believe Hawaii is now the only state without coyotes.

They will kill and eat goats, especially kids, and do it without making a sound. Their usual method of dispatching a victim is to go for the throat, crushing the windpipe before the goat can cry out.

Coyote "scat" or feces is similar to a dog's, except for content. It will usually contain bits of fur, feathers and small bones, along with berries and other food remains not normally found in dog "sign".

Cougars and bears are obviously threats, and in most areas are becoming overpopulated, due to hunting restrictions. We have been alerted to the sighting of a cougar within a mile of our place. Cougars typically have a range of fifty miles or more.

We are both blessed and cursed to have many predatory birds around our place. These include: eagles (one is doing a fly-by of the weaning pasture as I write!), large hawks, vultures and great-horned owls. Our dog is constantly running under the birds warning them out of his airspace (no fly zone?).

With all this said about goat-eating wildlife, we now come to my biggest fear for the livestock: DOGS! While growing up in Nebraska, I witnessed a pack of dogs bring down and kill a full-grown

cow. Three years ago, we lost a ewe and several geese and chickens to two wolf-hybrid dogs.

Recently the local newspaper ran a story and an editorial about these wolf-hybrids. As more and more people are raising these dogs, they are escaping and causing havoc to pets and livestock.

In this case, Marion County, Oregon, the County and State officials say they can't do anything about the hybrids as the dogs are classified as wolves, and are protected! The President of a wolf-hybrid group told me that owners of such dogs must have at least a ten foot fence to keep them in and if one is in heat, this might not be enough.

However, it does not matter what breed a dog is, once it goes feral, it will kill to eat, and just for the sport. I have even spotted a large poodle in one pack!

There are two-legged varmints, of course, but I won't go into this here.

The best deterrents for predators we have found are: good guard dogs and a good fence. Our perimeter fence consists of (or will, when it's done) forty-seven-inch high stock fence, backed with two

Continued on next page



DOGS - Also Man's Worst Friend

Predators

Continued from previous page

strands of electric on the inside.

The bottom electric wire is about eight inches off the ground and extends out six inches. The other wire is six inches above that. Opinions on the ideal height for the electric wire is controversial, but this works well for us in our wet, lush-greenery climate.

Several people have recommended llamas and mules as guard animals. We have a "watch" llama but the verdict is still out for us about his usefulness. He does seem to stick with the weaned kids, who like to nap at his side.

We have talked to people who swear by llamas as guardian animals. We have also been told they are just a bigger snack for the predators, especially since they run toward the danger.

Help with animal control is usually available through your County government. Practice with that old rifle is also important.

Several readers have experienced unique problems with varmints. Please drop us a line about your problems and solutions.

Statistics from the US Department of Agriculture show the following losses of goats due to predators for 1994:

Predator Type	Number of Goats Killed
Coyote	41,000
Dog	15,000
Lion	5,000
Fox (not Linda)	7,000
Eagle	25,000
Bobcat	21,000
Other*	25,000

*Other includes wolves, pigs (?), ravens, crows, etc.

Total number of GOATS killed in 1994: 140,000

Estimated losses \$5,481,000.00



Smoke Ridge Cashmere

- 'Bucks, does, wethers
- 'White, fawn, red, silver, black
- Size, confirmation, production
- Pedigrees and fiber history
- 'Excellent maternal attributes
- Nine sire blood lines including 1995 Australian import "Austco Hello"
- Delivery and Canadian export available

Yvonne Zweede-Tucker and Craig Tucker
2651 Twelfth Lane NW, Bynum, MT 59419
(406) 469-2238, fax (406) 469-2257

Whatever Happened to Whatawhata

The state of fiber-testing is changing, as everything does. Whatawhata is now AgResearch, and has relocated to the South Island of New Zealand.

Whatawhata Fibre Testing Centre was set up in 1991, based at Whatawhata Research Station, just outside of Hamilton in New Zealand's North Island. From his laboratory, John Fitzgerald serviced the fiber testing needs of AgResearch's scientists and other clients the world over.

In 1995, the Centre set up its Optical Fibre Distribution Analyzer (OFDA). Per Mr. Turner, this put them "technologically at the leading edge in fiber diameter analysis and allowed increased flexibility and precision compared to the older fiber diameter measurement methods."

Due to stiff competition and the emergence of a large potential local market in the south of New Zealand's South Island, the fiber testing laboratory was relocated to AgResearch's Invermay Agricultural Centre at Mosgiel, in Otago.

Paul Turner has a background in the New Zealand wool industry and over six years of fiber testing experience with AgResearch.

Since setting up the laboratory in late June, Mr. Turner has automated some previously manual tests, utilized more efficient test equipment, negotiated flexible working hours with his staff to cope with varying demand, and streamlined the operation which will result in a "very competitive service with reduced sample turn around times."

New Zealand Pastoral Agriculture Research Institute Limited, better known as AgResearch, or AFM, is in the business of research, technology development and transfer in the food, fiber, biotechnology and other industries based on pastoral agriculture. AFM employs 700 research and development em-

ployees, as well as over 340 farm and support staff.

Per Mr. Turner, in the short term, he wants to consolidate and fine tune the operation and will offer the same services as John did at Whatawhata.

He apologizes to existing clients who may have been inconvenienced by the change but said that the tight time frame for the relocation did not allow him to contact everyone to keep them up to date.

He promises that within the next month, he will be contacting existing clients to give them AFM's contact details and prices.

AFM Address/Telephone:

AgResearch Fibre Measurement
Paul Turner
AgResearch Invermay Agriculture
Centre
Puddle Alley Private bag 50034
Mosgiel, New Zealand
Telephone 011-64-3-489-3809
Fax 011-64-3-489-3739
E-Mail:
turnerp@agresearch.cri.nz

We have asked Mr. Turner to furnish us with the new import form required to accompany fleece samples when shipped to New Zealand for testing. The previous form which was published in the February 1996 *CashMirror* expired June 28, 1996. We will make the new form available as soon as we receive it.

Other Testing Options

In the USofA, fiber-testing is being done at Yocom-McColl in Denver, Colorado and at Texas Tech's International Textile Center, Lubbock, Texas.

We will list details about these testing options in the September issue.

The Fleece Checks are Here!

The Fleece Checks are Here!

By now, most of us have our fleece checks, and are faced with the tough decision on how to best use all that money. A wild and crazy night at McDonald's? Or maybe one or two sacks of feed? What to do, oh what to do with it all.

Yes, it wasn't what we expected, but this industry has a ways to go. Hang in there. We at *CashMirror* are convinced this **will** be a profitable business, or Paul would have just spent his money on the sportscar of his dreams, instead of this magazine. We just have a hurdle or two to overcome.

Dehairing continues to be a big bottleneck. We believe that home dehairers will be available before long. Just a few bugs, a few technical wrinkles to go. Ingenuity, especially USA style, will prevail. US and Canadian firms, along with individuals are experimenting with commercial machines able to do dehair small amounts of fleece.

One of the hang-ups is having the ability to dehair fiber with differing lengths of guard hair. But this will be worked out as well.

We will be doing an article on dehairing options soon. So, if you, or someone you know, has information on dehairers, please drop us a line or give us a call.

Just as the fiber-testing industry is growing, with at least two options here in the States, it shows that if there is a demand, a solution will be found.

We are seeing more and more people getting cashmere-producing goats to run with their cattle or sheep, or just to keep pastures cleaned up from weeds, and getting a "crop" as a bonus.

We cannot even begin to supply the demand for cashmere from local spinners, let alone large companies. As the industry in North America sorts itself out, some breeders leaving the market, and a growing number entering, we believe that in following years we will see reward for the efforts of raising these exciting critters.

Let's all help those folks who are new to this industry, and those working to help us overcome the bottlenecks by giving them encouragement.

The Domino Theory

(Oh, Puleease! Not Another Planning Article!)

I just read a book by Bill Stockton entitled "Today I Baled Some Hay to Feed the Sheep the Coyotes Eat." I had been eyeing it for some time. It was a rather graphic book mostly about the joys of lambing and its divergence's, full of beautiful drawings of sheep by the author.

What caught me about the book was the title. It's how one thing is linked to another and another—a progression of events each caused or encouraged by happenings preceding it. If Mr. Stockton hadn't put up hay, his sheep might have died and the coyotes might have moved over to his neighbor's ranch (or ate his cats). Like a row of dominoes, the preceding events effect the end result.

You create your own linking events. "Today I Weaned the Kid to Milk the Goat to Feed the Fawn the Dog Caught." My husband's preferred version of this progression would have been "Today I Weaned the Kid to Milk the Goat to Make the Custard my Husband Ate", but you can't keep them happy all of the time.

Like the great philosopher Joe Diffie said:

"Cause and effect, chain of events;
All of the chaos makes perfect sense,
When you're spinning 'round,
things coming down.
Welcome to earth, third rock from
the sun."

I'll bet you didn't realize he was talking about goats! For raising goats, this means what you do **now** sets the stage for your end results.

The process reminds me of the long, winding line of dominoes set up in my grandparents' living room. You set up the first dominoes in the line with a purpose so that they will fall at the end where you want them to—or at least have a better

chance of falling close to where you want them to.

You make your own linking events. "Today I Gave Goats Shots to Prevent Diseases" or "Today I Fixed the Fence to Prevent Breeding Accidents" or "Today I Catch up My Goat Records to Make a Better Breeding Plan to Produce Better Kids."

I've always been a firm believer in base building for any endeavor. A solid base makes all that comes after easier. The first dominoes in the line are your bases. If you build a good firm base, the desired end results will follow—or at least you'll be better prepared to handle the unexpected events.

The first dominoes (bases) in goat management would be deciding on your goals. You need to decide whether you are going to breed for the best bucks in the world (or maybe just North America) or you want to selectively breed for longer (or finer) cashmere or cashmere with a better "style". It is difficult to do everything at once, so homing in on a goal is important.

Another important base is selection of good stock for your herd. You need to buy the best stock you can afford. Starter flock should be healthy and as close to your ideal goal as possible. You need to purchase strong, healthy goats. Even if you are purchasing a few goats primarily as pets and maybe for a little cashmere to spin, health is very important. Your book could become "Today I Bought the Goats That Got Sick and Supported my Vets Children Through College" or "Today I Had to Explain to Timmy Why We Had to Get Rid of Little Fluffy."

A purchased goat should have good conformation, good cashmere and have proved (or have the potential) to pass these desirable traits to offspring. You would obviously pay more for a goat with a

track record that one with only potential.

Another early link in your chain is how you manage your herd. Are you building good bases with timely vaccinations, parasite control and hoof care? Do you spend a little early-domino time observing your healthy goats for the beginning of health issues or do you spend more time and money later treating critical health problems.

I try to spend a little time each day for a quick look at each goat individually. I don't mean catching each one for a thorough medical exam—just a brief observance. I might stand at the gate and watch as they file through. Is anyone limping? Are there any lumps? Any runny eyes or one just not acting as they ordinarily do? One goat acting aggressive may be normal for that goat, but for a different goat, this may be the first sign of a problem.

At these early stages, you would not necessarily address a divergence. You might merely make a mental note (or paper, depending on the advancement of your progressive CRS*—I make notes) of the difference to check again later. I usually do a foot check on anyone with more than a slight limp. Usually I diagnose it as merely a muscle pull, but I often find a set of hooves missed at the last trimming or a stone caught between hoof and pad. I once found a fence clip hooked into a foot pad!

Food management is another early part of your domino line. Depending on the condition of your pastures, stocking rate and availability of forage, supplemental feeding may be an issue during part or all of the year. Feeding should be planned and monitored. Too much food/protein can be as much of a problem as too little. Studies indicate that cashmere diameter is

Continued on next page

Dominoes

Continued from previous page

increased by overfeeding.

Another important base is shelter for the goats. Depending on climate and natural shelter available, barns are an issue. In our area, if the goats are left to rely on natural shelter, we would be dealing with hoof rot up to their knees. There are major differences in shelter requirements depending on your climate.

Last year, after attending a goat conference in Montana, we used a plan obtained at the seminar to build a buck shelter in our upper pasture. The three-sided, slanted-roof shelter was designed to be built entirely of plywood. It was cleverly designed to require only the use of six sheets of 4' X 8' plywood. We carefully laid out the dimensions making sure that the open side of the building would face away from the prevailing wind. We dug holes for the four corners and supporting poles and nailed plywood pieces on the sides of the building.

As we were preparing to fasten the two remaining sheets of plywood on the top for the roof, we considered our weather. We have slightly more rain in Oregon than they do in Montana. We weren't sure that plywood would provide suitable roofing here. We substituted corrugated roofing for the plywood. (Actually, the plywood was too small anyway as our measurements were inaccurate, but that's another issue...)

Later in the winter, we had to cover half of the front opening as our winds here don't always prevail from the same direction. We also dug ditches across the front to carry away water runoff coming down the hill. If we were to use the plan again, we would also increase the building height. Any straw build up on the floor (straw required by our weather to soak up the water) makes the back of the building suitable only for very short

bucks. Although the bucks have discovered the back of the building makes a good place to store their poker table when not in use.

I hate to bring up this recordkeeping thing, but good records are a big part of your early chain of events. You need to know the history of your animals. When purchasing an animal, get as much history from the owner as possible. A pedigree is a must. Your own records must be kept up to date and information accessible for making important decisions.

I think I've pretty well beat this thing to death...so may all your dominoes fall at the feet of beautiful, healthy goats who produce excellent offspring and have gobs and gobs of fine, long, style 6 cashmere which brings you a ton of money! (We can dream, right?)

*CRS=Can't Remember Anything

House Goat

A client brought a friend to my office last spring with tax difficulties. She was assisting him as he was a recent immigrant from Mexico. His command of the English language was good, but he was having problems dealing with our tax laws.

After our business conference was finished, we talked "goats" for a while. I told him about my cashmere goats and he told me of a goat owned by his sister. He was amazed that his sister's goat was often found sitting on the couch in their living room watching television!

Little things like this bring home basic cultural differences. I was surprised that the goat was in the house and he was surprised that the goat was watching television.



Fawn Checks Out Husker

Our maremma guardian dog brings things up to the gate. This has included a pocket knife lost several months earlier while building fence, deer antlers and bones (all old ones), bottles, cans and other assorted trash. Last weekend, he outdid himself.

I was outside working on fence, as usual, and heard an animal screaming. I rushed down field and found the dog trying to carry a fawn.

It appeared to be injured as it didn't move and wouldn't stand. But, it was breathing and we couldn't see blood or feel broken bones. In hopes that it was just scared, we called over Husker, our two-month old bottle kid. Husker nosed the fawn and it stood up to investigate. It then seemed no longer afraid and we could see that it was unhurt.

We examined the little critter and judged it to be between one and two weeks old, based on comparison of state of the umbilical cord with our kids (goats).

After insuring she was not hurt, we took her back up field and released her to await the return of her mother.

Castrating Buck Kids

Buck kids that will not be used for breeding should be castrated. Castrated kids will not pass a "goaty" flavor to the meat and will not breed does accidentally. Kids should be castrated at less than fourteen days of age as castration becomes more traumatic with age. Two very efficient, and low-cost methods are elastration and the knife.

ELASTRATION

Elastration involves the use of a special instrument called the elastrator, and a special rubber band sometimes referred to as a "donut". In elastration, the "donut" is placed over the prongs of the elastrator. When the handles of the elastrator are squeezed together, the "donut" is expanded.

The testicles of the kid are then placed through the expanded hole of the "donut". (Care must be taken to ensure that **both** testicles are through the donut's hole.) When both testicles are through the hole, the elastrators can be released, and the donut slipped off the prongs. The "donut" will return to its original shape cutting off the blood flow to the testicles.

This will cause the testicles to dry up and fall off in one to two weeks. Check daily to be sure that the "donut" is still around the neck of the scrotum, (testicle sack), and for any signs of infection. This method causes some stress to the animal due to the pain and discomfort experienced by the constricting band on the scrotum.

KNIFE

Use of the knife to castrate buck kids is often referred to as "cutting". To cut a buck kid you will need a sharp knife, or a one-sided razor blade, a bucket of warm water with 10% disinfectant added, and (in warm weather) a fly control spray

that is designed to be sprayed on open wounds. The kid should be held in an upright position in the lap of one person while another person does the cutting. Wash the scrotum thoroughly with water and disinfecting solution, and disinfect your hands. Push both testicles up into the belly cavity, and cut the lower 1/3 of the scrotum off. Manipulate each testes separately to the open end of the scrotum. It may be necessary to push on the abdomen if a testicle has been pulled into the abdomen. With the knife, **scrape**, not cut the spermatic cord until it is severed from the body of the kid. This causes a ragged cut that will stop bleeding faster than a clean cut. Repeat the above procedure for the other testicle.

Some people prefer to slit the white membrane that covers the testicle. Then the testicle can be popped free from the membrane. This allows them to see the artery to be severed.

When using this method the artery should be scraped **not cleanly cut**. Spray the wound with the fly control spray, (in warm weather). Do not pack the wound because proper drainage will help prevent infection. Inject the kid with tetanus antitoxin to provide short term protection.

If long term immunity against tetanus is desired, tetanus toxoid injection should be given at this time in addition to the tetanus antitoxin injection (always read the label and follow directions).

Place the kid in a clean draft-free pen. Check for excessive bleeding during the next 24 hours. Check daily for the next week for signs of infection or swelling. The wound should heal in one or two weeks.

Above information complements of Oklahoma State University via internet at www.ans.okstate.edu/library/goats.html

Local Advice FoxMoor Farms

We talked with Carrie Spencer, at FoxMoor Farm for her advice on elastration. She agreed that elastration should be done as soon as possible, well within the first few weeks after birth. Some people use elastration up to one year of age. Per Carrie, they did an elastration at eight weeks, but would not do so again.

At FoxMoor Farms, within the first week of birth, the Spencers wether any bucklings that shows poor conformation and/or a pattern of different colors (badger-faced, for example). They give a CD&T shot at the time of elastration.

Serving northern
California, Idaho,
Nevada, Oregon,
Washington and
western Canada

Membership includes:
NWCA Quarterly
Conferences and
optional CaPra
membership

Annual Dues: NWCA only \$25 or \$37 to include
NWCA membership and CaPra (Cashmere Producers of America)
Participating Membership and Concerning Cashmere
Gara Wegrich, Treasurer, 5700 Demaray Dr. Grants Pass, OR 97527

CashMirror Has a Home Page!

You're probably as sick and tired as we are of hearing the word "internet", and I'm sorry to bring up the word again, **but** *CashMirror* has taken the plunge into cyberspace.

Our internet "pages" went on-line in June 1996. The pages contain summary information about the magazine, an index of the current issue, subscription information, including a subscription form which may be printed and used, and a selection of "cute goat pictures."

Also featured are sample articles from past *CashMirror* issues. At present, only one article (instructions for shearing your own goats) is listed, but more will be added as the editor's time and space with our internet server allow.

Articles will be reprinted from old (probably fairly old) *CashMirror* issues. They will be primarily "basic goat" stuff, nontechnical information, references that new cashmere goat owners can use. They can be printed out by anyone accessing the site.

If you have access to the internet, check it out at <http://www.teleport.com/~goatknol>.

We intend to update our pages at least monthly and add additional features as we think of them. Speaking of features we're thinking of adding:

Do You Want us to Put the Breeders' Directory on the Internet? At No Extra Charge?

We are contemplating creating a "page" for the Breeders' Directory which would be linked to *CashMirror's* other information on the internet. There would be no extra charge for a listing beyond the \$30 current charge for the annual listing in the magazine. The listing would contain names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses as well as a few lines of information. This would be free to all current Breeders' Directory participants.

We think this might be a good idea because we are currently acting as a link between internet contacts and our Breeders' Directory participants and advertisers. Because of our "presence" on the internet, we are receiving numerous e-mail inquiries from people all over the world requesting information and contact data for other cashmere people (those are the fuzzy ones) in their corner of the world.

We relay names from our Breeders' Directory and direct people to other references they might need. However, if your contact information was on our web site, interested parties could contact you direct—by telephone, mail or e-mail.

As an example, last month we received an e-mail message from a man with a glove factory in Budapest. He was searching for a source of cashmere yarn to line gloves. We gave him names from our Breeders' Listing and advertisers. He also subscribed to the magazine.

Via the internet, we are exchanging information with a man from California who is working with the people of Tibet in their cashmere-raising goat venture. These people are also producing an end-product for export to

other areas including Kashmir! (We're pursuing a story on this one!)

Yesterday, a man from Austria contacted us in search of a source for cashmere goats in Europe. He wanted to bring in goats rather than deal with embryo transplants. We gave him names of other European individuals who might be able to provide him with goats or a link to others.

Anyway, let us know what you think of the idea. If we get a positive response or at least no violent negatives, we will get the internet listing up and running in September.

Computer Nerds Meet in the Strangest Places

While out for a Sunday drive, we stopped at a small store in a town of less than 100 people. As we were perusing the aisles of dusty, overpriced merchandise, we were thinking that this must be as close to the end of the world as you could get.

While we took our purchases to the counter, we heard the grandmotherly-looking cashier mentioning something about e-mail to her customer. We thought, "How nice, they even have computers way out here, probably just 286's, but that's a start."

As we were purchasing our maple bars, we asked her about her e-mail service and she asked us about our internet browser. We told her that we used Mosaic. She laughed and condescendingly told us that we really ought to look into Netscape :)

More Good Goat Links.

As a follow-up to last month's article about goat information on the internet, the following are additional cyberspace addresses:

Fibers on the Internet

<http://www.dabbler.com/ndlwrk/fiber.html>

Beijing Snow Lotus Cashmere Co. Ltd.

http://www.acix.com/showcase/e_snow.html

Forte' Cashmere Co.

<http://www.cashmere.com/index.html>

Yocum-McColl Testing Laboratories, Inc.

<http://www.ymccoll.com>

Fiberlink (knitting)

<http://www.magicnet.net/benefits/knit>

National Space Society (just seeing if you're paying attention)

<http://www.nss.org/>

Convergence '96

For \$6 Per Day, I can Only Look at the Commercial Booths?

I had never been to a Convergence before. Heard about them. I had to go this year--it was close and I needed to cover it for *CashMirror*.

I arrived the first day, bought my ticket at the outside door, went inside and tried to register. I had intended on taking advantage of some of the workshops I assumed they offered.

They looked at me like I was crazy. Hadn't I pre-registered? Was I a member of a Guild? Well, no. Did I have to be? And, they informed me, registration costs (even if they would let me register, which they wouldn't no matter which big, important magazine I represented) was \$315. Ouch! I quit trying to register and gratefully accepted the issue of *Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot* they offered me.

I decided my trip probably wouldn't be worth the \$6 fee and the \$5 parking, but I was already here and had already paid, so I would make the best of it.

After spending three hours wandering around the commercial booths and public exhibits, I was forced to leave as they were closing for the day.

I came back two more days and cheerfully paid another \$6 per day for admittance. **This is a great thing.** Everything you would ever want or need for fiber-related activities is here and not just in one place. There are choices everywhere!

Continued on page 25



Eileen Cornwell and Marti Wall pausing at one of their few free moments when the booth wasn't filled with visitors.

Cashmere America Co-op and CaPra Sponsor Booth

Dedicated volunteers Eileen Cornwell and Marti Wall manned the jointly-sponsored Co-op/CaPra commercial/educational booth July 17th-21st.

They indicated they considered the booth a success. Their goal had been to contact as many retailers as possible and they felt this had been accomplished.

There was good participant interest in the booth, both from potential cashmere producers as well as fiber enthusiasts.

For sale in the booth was Co-op fleece ready for spinning as well as the Co-op's cashmere/merino and cashmere/silk blended yarns. Also for sale were craft kits containing the Co-op's blended yarns and instructions for knitting scarves. Knitting designs for the kits were designed by Marilyn Merbach.



Hunt Valley Cashmere booth

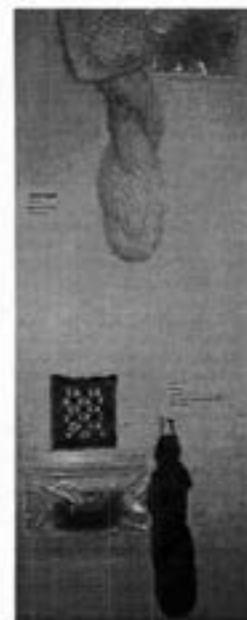
Maryland Cashmere Booth Draws a Crowd

Lynn Beattie, owner of Hunt Valley Cashmere in Baltimore, Maryland brought a commercial booth to Convergence. She and her mother waited on a crowd of customers during the show days.

Lynn raises a small herd of cashmere goats, but her fiber for sale comes from Mongolia.

Hunt Valley Cashmere offers a selection of pure cashmere fleece and yarns in various sizes as well as kits for knitting and ready-make garments. Co-op yarn was also available for sale in her booth.

Lynn said that her booth had done well at Convergence.



At left are two diverse fiber samples on display in the public area

The bottom hair sample, yarn and crocheted piece is "commercially combed" Persian cashmere.

The top hair sample, yarn and knitted piece is made from Samoyed dog hair.

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep!



**Flock of 15 sheep
Registered flock
3 unrelated rams
5 ewes of breeding age
4 ewe lambs
3 ram lambs**

**CAE and CLA negative
RARE Breed
First imported to US 1972
Only 363 of these sheep
in US by 1990
Small, wool breed with
good meat**

Small Flock for Sale

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep were prized in the Middle Ages for their mutton and beautiful coal black wool. The meat was in demand for its flavor and texture - a close-grained meat with a light bone. Their black wool (called Cochddu) was in heavy demand by merchants.

A century ago, in Wales, flockmasters bred, from select black lambs, a separate and pure strain of Black Welsh Mountain Sheep. The breed has had its own flock book since 1922 and the breed is widely distributed through Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, France, USA and Canada. Even though widely distributed, numbers are still small in the United States.

The breed is well known for its hardiness, self-reliance and intelligence. They survive well on natural hill vegetation and also thrive under better lowland management where they grow heavier fleeces.

Males sport magnificent curled horns and the sheep have a blue skin.

The wool is prized by spinners. They have a short, thick wool, firm to the hand. Tips weather to a rich, dark brown. Average fleece weight is four pounds with length of 2-4", graded 48's to 54's with a demi-luster. The locks have a lively crimp. The wool is used pure or in combination with quality white wool resulting in interesting patterns and checks characteristic of the Welsh woolen industry.

Beautiful, Healthy, Quality animals for sale by

Ray and Diane Thompson, PO Box 790, Redmond, OR 97756

Phone 541-923-5337, Fax 541-923-1961

Ideal "starter flock" for someone interested in a new adventure!

Contact the Thompsons for further information

Can You Milk Them?

A man telephoned us last week. He wanted to know if you could milk a cashmere goat. As a matter of fact, you can. Even if we hadn't been currently milking one of our does, we would have told him that you could certainly milk a cashmere goat. You can milk anything. You could milk a mouse if you had the patience (and small hands).

We decided to start milking one of our does this year after we weaned her kids. We had one bottle baby on goat milk replacer and were getting tired of paying for the milk replacer powder, as well as thinking we'd just as soon have the baby on the "real stuff." We hadn't originally obtained milk from one of the other goats as we felt they didn't have any to spare after feeding their own babies. When Flour's twins were weaned, we introduced her to milking.

She quickly adjusted to the system and I was surprised to get over a quart from each milking. If three months after freshening, she was still giving a half gallon a day, no wonder her twins had grown large and fast.

Two years ago, we built a wooden milking stand based on a picture in Jerry Belanger's book "Raising Milk Goats the Modern Way." We had intended using it as a restraint for combing/shearing, hoof trimming and shots. However, we quickly discovered the rails on the one side make it difficult to access half of the goat and the 2' X 4's positioned to hold the head in place do not allow for cashmere doe horns (let alone bucks!). After making the "head hole" big enough to allow the cashmere doe's horns to go through, the head comes back out just as quickly. We eventually used the



Paul "Headstall" Johnson
and Flour

stand only as a platform and a second person was required to hold the horns to restrain the goat.

For dealing with milking, as well as any other regular procedures with your goats, remember that goats are very much creatures of habit. They quickly become adjusted to a system and you will make your job easier if you choose a system and don't vary it.

Milk them at the same time of day (close to twelve hours apart is best) in the same spot. Milk from the same side of the goat each time.

Use a milking stand (one designed better than ours) or a headstall to restrain the goat. Food helps keep them busy. The goat will kick a lot at first and step in or knock over your container, so you will probably lose your first few buckets of milk.

The secrets to great-tasting goat milk are good goat health, cleanliness and quick cooling of the milk. Also, the diet of the goat can effect the milk taste. I have never had milk taste bad as a result of a goat eating a diet of browse, but I suppose the eating of some plants could flavor the taste of the milk.

An unhealthy goat, especially a wormy goat can produce off-fla-

Yes!

vor milk. Make sure your goat's parasites are under control.

Cleanliness is very important, to milk taste as well as health. I am not an expert on the debate regarding the health benefits or health hazards of raw milk. I am not in the dairy business, but after several years of drinking goat milk, I have not turned into Wonder Woman nor become sick, so I suspect reality is somewhere in the middle of the debate.

Before milking, you should wash the goat's bag and teats. This removes loose dirt and hair which may fall into your milk pail. I use a little bag balm on the teats before milking. It seems to make milking easier as well as cushioning any scratches the goat may have picked up from snacking in the blackberry patch. The bag balm also makes it easier to milk when the goat has small teats and must be "stripped" with a few fingers when you are not able to get a full hand-hold to milk. Most of my cashmere goats have very small, short teats. I don't know if this is a cashmere trait or just a trait for my goats.

The first few squirts of milk should go someplace other than in your pail. They are laden with bacteria and dirt or so I have read. Squirting a little bit of milk into a small dish lets you check the milk for blood or anything else unusual-looking. If you milk much, you should obtain a strip cup—a small stainless steel cup with a removable screen on the top.

You should use a stainless steel or glass milking bucket or container. They are easier to clean

Continued on next page

Milk

Continued from previous page

and don't retain an odor like plastic containers. The "official" goat milking pail (a la Caprine Supply) is stainless steel and can be ordered with a lid.

If you are milking a goat which hasn't been milked before, she may not let their milk down for you at first. If this happens, bump her udder with your hand—like you've seen the kids do. This usually encourages them to let down their milk. After a few milkings, you will not have a problem with this.

After finishing milking, your goal is to get the milk cooled as quickly as possible. Don't worry about the goat until after you've taken care of your milk.

Strain the milk—a stainless steel strainer with throw-away filters is best. Never cool the milk in any container larger than a quart and never add your warm milk to a partially-filled container of cold milk.

Now that I've told you the ideal milking method, I'll tell you how we milk Flour—although, I assume you've cheated and looked at the photograph already.

We don't bother using our ineffective milking stand or our headstall (which would probably work great). In less than a week, Flour has learned our primitive system. She comes to the gate at her regular milking time. We let her in and she walks up the stairs to a spot on the deck where a dish of food awaits. She eats, Paul straddles her and I milk.

I squirt the first bit of milk on the deck, carefully cleaning this up after I've finished milking. I clean her udder, apply bag balm and milk into a glass bowl or casserole dish. I strain the milk through a piece of cloth into a quart canning jar which I immediately place in the refrigerator.

The half gallon produced per day is enough for the baby as well as for our household use. The milk tastes excellent and makes great custard.

We assume that milking Flour in the cashmere growing season is curtailing her cashmere production, but a little less-than-advanced math told us that we are ahead financially, at today's fleece prices, to save money on the milk replacer and grocery store milk and trash the fleece.

When comparing Flour's cashmere production to others in our herd, we will certainly take this into account. We plan to milk her for at least another month. It will be interesting to compare her 1997 fleece with her 1996 fleece.

5 Minute Custard

(Great made with goat's milk!)

6 eggs & 1/2 tsp salt - beat slightly
4 cups milk - place in saucepan on stove - can use high heat
2/3 cup sugar - pour in, don't stir
When mixture is just below boiling, stir a little into the egg mixture. Then add all of egg mixture into milk.
2 tsp vanilla - add

Heat metal pan with 1" water on stove burner until water boils. Place custard in small dishes (custard cups are perfect) inside pan of water.
Sprinkle nutmeg on top.

Bake 475-500, 5-7 minutes.

Test for doneness with knife toward edge of dish - done if knife comes out clean. Center will finish cooking after removal from oven.

Did You Know?

The goat, along with sheep, were among the earliest domesticated animals. Goat remains have been found at archaeological sites in western Asia, such as Jericho, Choga, Mami, Djeitun and Cayonu, which allows domestication of the goats to be dated at between 6000 and 7000 B.C.

However, unlike sheep, their ancestry is fairly clear. The major contributor of modern goats is the Bezoar goat which is distributed from the mountains of Asia Minor across the Middle East to Sind.

Unlike sheep, goats easily revert to feral or wild condition given a chance. In fact, the only domestic species which will return to a wild state as rapidly as a goat is the domestic cat.

Above information complements of Oklahoma State University via internet at www.ansi.okstate.edu/library/goats.html.



So many fruit trees, so little time

NWCA FLEECE COMPETITION RESULTS

At Black Sheep
Gathering - 1996
Eugene, Oregon

First Place Awards:

YEAR
BORN GOAT NAME / FARM

SHORN BUCKS

1995 Issac #314, Liberty Farm
1994 Duke #20, Harvest Moon Farm
1993 no first place awarded
1992 King Tut HO.203, Cashmere Capers
1992 Gwilliam #10, Liberty Farm

SHORN DOES

1995 no first place awarded
1994 K.D. #51, Harvest Moon
1993 Sadie R30, Hokulani Farms
1992 no first place awarded
1991 LPC 118 #Y118, L&P Sheep & Goat

COMBED BUCKS

1995 Silver Cloud #F-51, Foxmoor Farm
1994 #28, Carriage House Cashmere
1993 Chris, Diamond Peak
1992 Tital #0215, Royal Cashmere

COMBED DOES

1995 Nutmeg #A56, Foxmoor Farm
1994 Karma #SR FCF3, Snowy River Farm
1993 Pepper, Sunny Hill Cashmere
1992 Ebony, Diamond Peak
1991 Linda, Sunny Brook Farm

HAND SPINNERS' DELIGHT

Magdalein, Talent Down

GRAND CHAMPIONS

Grand Champion

LPC 118 #Y118, L&P Sheep&Goat

Reserve Grand Champion

Ebony, Diamond Peak

Senior Champion Buck

Gwilliam #10, Liberty Farm

Junior Champion Buck

Duke #20, Harvest Moon Farm

Senior Champion Doe

LPC 118 #Y118, L&P Sheep&Goat

Junior Champion Doe

Patsy #52, Harvest Moon



Cashmere fleeces on display after judging

Fleece Contest Judges / Procedure

65 entries were received in 20 classes, as well as eleven 4-H entries.

Judges were Linda Pardon, Susan Stutz and Lisa Zietz. Each judge independently graded every fleece on the basis of fiber diameter, style, length of fiber and yield. They recorded these results on a form. The three scores were then averaged by a third person and results awarded on this average score.

If the judges felt that there was not an entry of sufficient quality to receive first award, they did not award it, but gave lesser awards instead.

In addition to the usual fleece categories, this year a special category was included--Hand Spinner's Delight. This category was designed to include cashmere fleeces of a "lesser" quality which would be delightful for use by a hand spinner.

Fleeces in the new category were judged on the basis of their "spinability". NWCA intended that this class demonstrate the value and use of that "less than perfect" fleece that we work so hard to get.

Jodie Green brought four fleeces to enter in the fleece contest and had intended on placing all four fleeces in the Hand Spinner's Delight class. She was persuaded to enter three of her four fleeces in the regular categories. Two of the three won first place awards and one of them (Ebony) won Reserve Grand Champion!



BLACK SHEEP GATHERING!

(They Came, They Met, They Bought)

Who let in those white sheep!

NWCA Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting of the North West Cashmere Association, held in Eugene at the Black Sheep Gathering, new officers were elected. They are:

President: Cliff Nielsen
Vice-president: Mickey Nielsen
Secretary: Julie Brimbal
Gara Wegrich continues as Treasurer for the Association.



Lisa Zietz tends the store at the cashmere commercial booth which displayed many beautiful products for sale.



Chris Sawyer,
Happy winner of
a cashmere fleece.
(She'll spin it up tonight!)



Paul Johnson, Mickey Nielsen, Cliff Nielsen
CashMirror publisher visits with NWCA dignitaries.
(The Niensens are the new President and Vice-president of NWCA.)

Foxmoor Farms Donates Cashmere Fleece

Carol and Carrie Spencer of Foxmoor Farms donated a dehaired 100% cashmere fleece which was raffled off by the North West Cashmere Association at their booth. The fleece was three ounces of pure first-year cashmere. It was donated, per Carol, to defray costs of the Association's informational booth at the Black Sheep Gathering.

Chances on the fleece were sold at the Black Sheep Gathering. Proceeds from the raffle were \$100 which was exactly the cost of the booth.

The fleece was gleefully won by Chris Sawyer, a spinner. Chris is the owner of Creative Country Yarns, a yarn shop in Coos Bay, Oregon. She sells fleeces, yarns, custom-made sweaters as well as offering scouring, picking, carding, dyeing and felting services.



Roberta and Douglas Maier answer visitors' questions while manning the CaPra/NWCA educational booth at the Gathering.

BLACK SHEEP GATHERING!

The fourth annual Black Sheep Gathering was held in Eugene, Oregon at the Lane County Fairgrounds on June 20th - 23rd. The schedule included an exciting schedule of workshops, educational and commercial displays and contests for fiber enthusiasts.

On June 20th, fleeces and fiber arts entries were received. On Friday, the trade show opened.

Throughout the three days, workshops offered included spinning, weaving and felting. There were also sheep and angora goat shows and herding dog demonstrations.

Being the first Black Sheep Gathering we had attended, we were amazed at the incredible amount of fiber "stuff" brought together in one place! However, after attending Convergence '96 (coverage on page 15), I can see that this was just a "warm up."

For the cashmere folk, there was an educational and commercial booth as well as the fleece contest.

Cashmere goats were displayed by Carol and Carrie Spencer of Foxmoor Farms.

Right photo:

Carrie Spencer explains the joys of cashmere goats to an interested audience. Spencers displayed three cashmere wethers.

Photo below:

Marilyn Burbank (right, kneeling) tries out a new pair of hoof nippers on Carol Spencer's (left) goat as a curious crowd watches the action.



Alan Harlan, Oak Run, California, gets to know one of Foxmoor Farms' cashmere goats while he waits for his turn to show his angora goat.



Aliens visit the Gathering

(Actually they're Jacob sheep owned by the Renfroe Family of the Colton House Farm, Colton, Oregon)



Left to right:

Chris Malmanger
spinning
merino/
rayon for
socks

Eileen Hordyk
spinning
Lincoln
wool

Lin Schwider
spinning
Romney
(from her
own sheep)

It's a fiber party!

Three spinners take advantage of a spare moment to spin and chat in front of the sheep and goat pens. This is the end result. This is what's it's all about.

Calendar of Events

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.



This is Gracie...as you have probably guessed, you got Gracie because we didn't have enough events to fill this column. As we mentioned last issue, we don't have events, you get (cute) pictures of our kids. Only one problem (well, two actually) with Gracie. We just found out she is a boy. Either we didn't sex very carefully at birth or something strange has happened...

Page 22, August 1996

Association Contacts

American Meat Goat Association

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Cashmere Producers of America (CaPrA)

Joachim Grevel, President, 512-452-5205
73532.1742@compuserve.com

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 (ECA)

Ray Repaske, President, 540-436-3546

North West Cashmere Association (NWCA)

Marilyn Burbank, President, 541-582-4593
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Pacific Northwest Boer Goat Association

Harriett Morley, Coordinator, 360-748-0157

Professional Cashmere Marketers' Association (PCMA)

Tom and Ann Dooling, 406-683-5445
tom@bigsky.dillon.mt.us

Texas Cashmere Association

Dr. Don Huss, President,
915-396-2920 or 915-396-2195

Western Prairie Cashmere Association

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

Wild Goat Women

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

Mild Goat Men

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

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

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Christine Acridge
15419 E Rio Verde Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
602-471-3802

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Melody and Jeremy Driscoll
PO Box 245
Blocksburg, CA 95414
707-926-5430

COLORADO

PEACHDATTER FARM
C.J. Prince
PO Box 355
Kiowa, CO 80117
719-347-2510
Fax: 719-347-2696

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Oglethorpe, GA 31068
912-472-8762

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Mary Hotko
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Moore's Hill, IN 47032
812-744-4411

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Laura and Steve Luchsinger
RR #2 Box 370
Augusta, KY 41002
606-756-2059

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207-336-2948

BLACK LOCUST FARM
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Washington, ME 04574
207-845-2722

HARDSCRABBLE FARM
Hattie Clingerman
PO Box 682
Winterport, ME 04496
207-223-4211

MONTANA

CASTLE CRAGS RANCH
Diana Hachenberger
894 Pheasant Run
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-961-3058
Fax: 406-961-4770

SMOKE RIDGE CASHMERE
Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
2651 Twelfth Ln NW
Bynum, MT 59419
406-469-2238
Fax: 406-469-2257

NEBRASKA

HI-PLAINS CASHMERE
Julie and Alex Becker
160482 County Road
Mitchell, NE 69357
308-623-2627

NEBRASKA WESTERN
CASHMERE
John Harris
Rt 1 Box 193
Mitchell, NE 69357
308-635-1579
JHarris@Hannibal.WNCC.CC.NE.US

NEVADA

ROYAL CASHMERE
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419 Centerville Ln
Gardnerville, NV 89410
702-265-3766
Fax: 702-265-1814

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Sanford Botrino
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Ojo Caliente, NM 87549
505-583-2203

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Katonah, NY 10536
914-232-9593

OKLAHOMA

JUST KIDDING CASHMERE
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405-889-5531

OREGON

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Mulino, OR 97042
503-632-3615
palmond@delphi.com

THE BARKING GOAT FARM
Dewey and Eric Skemp
199 Ankeny Hill Rd.
Jefferson, OR 97352
503-373-9724
Fax: 503-362-8323
email: eskemp@wvi.com

Continued on next page

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

OREGON

Continued from previous page

CASHMERE GROVES

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16925 S. Beckman Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-631-7806

CHEHALEM CASHMERE

Heidi and Paul Sullivan
21605 McCormick Hill Rd.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
503-538-9791

FOXMOOR FARM

Carol J. Spencer
1178 N.E. Victor Point Road
Silverton, OR 97381
Phone: 503-873-5474
Message: 503-873-5430

GOAT KNOLL

Paul Johnson/Linda Fox
2280 S. Church Rd.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-5194
Fax: 503-624-1704
email: goatknol@teleport.com

MOUNTAIN LAKE FARM

Susan and Robert Stutz
1657 SW Tanner Creek Road
Gaston, OR 97119
503-359-3580
Fax: 503-359-9717

NORTHWEST CASHMERES

Carole Laughlin
19025 SW Hillsboro Hwy.
Newberg, OR 97132
503-628-0256

ROARING CREEK FARMS

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27652 Fern Ridge Road
Sweet Home, OR 97386
503-367-6698

TEXAS

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Sonora, TX 76950
915-387-5284

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801-649-3856

VERMONT

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Weston, VT 05161
802-824-8190

ELM VALLEY FARM

Cashmere goats/ Shetland
Sheep
RR 1, Box 200
Cavendish, VT 05142
802-226-7324
Fax: 802-226-7750

VIRGINIA

EC FARM

Carroll and Liz Hill
Rt. 2, Box 680
Galax, VA 24333
703-238-1332

WASHINGTON

HILLCREST FARM

Pepper and Terry Fewel
3271 Roza
Zillah, WA 98844
509-829-3500
Fax: 509-829-5867

LIBERTY FARM

Cliff and Mickey Nielsen
1505 Nile Road
Naches, WA 98937
509-658-2502

SUNNYHILL CASHMERE

Coleen McCrory
4080 Sunny Hill Lane
Lummi Island, WA 98262
360-758-2927
Fax: 360-758-7101

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Dan and Marti Wall
1667 Beaver Marsh Road
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
360-424-7935
Fax: 360-679-2511

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West Salem, WI 54669
608-786-1209

WYOMING

KLARA NICHOLSON

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Thermopolis, WY 82443
307-864-5312

CANADA

GIANT STRIDE FARM

Pat Fuhr
RR #3
Onoway, Alberta TOE IVO
403-967-4843

CONVERGENCE '96

Continued from Page 15

The only item I found scarce was cashmere. I could find cashmere in only three booths: The Cashmere America Co-op booth, the Hunt Valley Cashmere Booth and the Lambspun of Colorado Booth.

I asked other vendors who carried fine yarns or fleece pieces (I'm too new a spinner to know the proper words for spinnable pieces of fleece.) of cashmere when I didn't see it in their booths. I was told either that there was no demand for it or that it was too expensive.

The two booths who sold Mongolian cashmere (Hunt Valley Cashmere and Lambspun of Colorado) indicated that American-grown cashmere could not compete effectively now with Chinese cashmere due to its higher price.

I bought cashmere fleece "pieces" and pure cashmere yarns and blended cashmere yarns at all three cashmere booths and intend to do a "taste test" of my own. If I think it will be interesting to others, I will offer my opinion in a future magazine issue.

I also bought a bunch of other really great fiber stuff, but I can't list it here as Paul would find out.

Convergence '98 will be in Atlanta, Georgia. I'm going to attend the entire time including the non-public events. In the meantime, I will be sure to join a Guild and pre-register, no matter what it costs.

Paul spotted an ad in our local farm paper for spinning goats at \$150 each. He said that was cheap. He would pay double just to watch one spin.



Wall to wall spinning wheels... Looms as far as the eye could see...



...And sheep in a bucket.

Sheep in a what?

Willie's...By Mail, from Albuquerque, New Mexico. The woman in the booth said her husband had come up with the idea right before they left home. The wool inside was a mix of who-knows-what. There were ten pounds of wool in a bucket for \$36. They said they sold out. A good marketing scheme as well as a use for old plastic buckets. They said customers appreciated a container easy to pack.

Snippets of Conversation Overheard While Wandering Around at Convergence '96

Following two ladies coming in the door:
"I told him I had a couple hundred in my
account and I was sorry about it, but I was
going..."

A clerk at the Ashford spinning wheel booth making out my change after a purchase (in a very charming accent):

"12.95 out of \$13. I owe you five....could you show me which one is a five?"

At a booth selling musk ox dehaired fleece: "It's musk ox. It's softer and warmer than cashmere."

While taking pictures of fiber samples on display, I listened to a woman spend five minutes trying to explain to her male partner how you make the little holes in the knitted work.

At several varn booths:

"No, we don't carry cashmere. It's too expensive and there's no demand for it."

Talking to one of the Convergence workshop instructors over coffee while my feet rested: "I think they're wrong. I agree cashmere is expensive, but there is definitely a demand for it."

By my husband, when I got home and showed him my "catch":

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"



Convergence banner in front of Convention Center.

Classified Advertising

CASHMERE DOES for sale-all ages and colors. For more information call Mickey 509-658-2502.

CASHGORA WANTED. Are you looking for a market for your goat fiber that doesn't qualify as cashmere? Will purchase **COMBED** only cashmere and "cashgora". Must be 2-1/2" length and 17-35 microns diameter. Contact Lynn at Ten Tine Ranch 406-892-1626.

CASHMIRROR back issues for sale (10/89 - current) \$3 each or 12 issues for \$20. A good reference source! Check May 1996 issue for index to articles. Address for CashMirror on inside covers.

HEALTHY YOUNG DOES AND BUCKS. All fiber tested. White, fawn, red, black. New import bloodline. Please call evenings 406-469-2238. Yvonne, SmokeRidge Cashmere, MT.

SUNNYHILL CASHMERE SPECIAL SALE -
Quality does and kids at **greatly discounted** prices when you purchase three or more. Beautiful colors, excellent health and fiber tests. Also white 3-year **buck** (Austran Captain sire) \$300. Tests fine. Call for details: 360-758-2927.

AD RETRACTION. I wish to retract the ad last month concerning a certain cat, and hereby state that I will never refer to said cat's mental capacity (or lack thereof) again. Paul (who hasn't eaten a hot meal since last magazine publication)

MAREMMA SHEPDOG CLUB OF AMERICA Maremma Livestock Guarding dogs, PO Box 546, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, 616-374-7209. **Free** information and Breeder Directory.

Display Advertising Rates:

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
Full Page	\$125/Issue
Half Page	75/Issue
Business Card	25/Issue (\$150/year)

Special advertising rate for Breeders' Showcase issue only \$90 for a page (partial page pro-rated)

Other display ads are \$15 per column inch. Extensive layout or photo screening is extra. Discount given for multiple issue placement. Payment must accompany ads.

Your Magazine Label OR More Computer Stuff You'd Just as Soon Not Know About

Your mailing label on your magazine is a veritable wealth of information. Please read it (at least this once) and let us know if there's anything on it that needs fixing. This will avoid us sending you a nasty bill when you don't have one coming.

The top line are date and subscriber-type codes. The date (in the format "year-month") indicates the last month you will receive a magazine under your current subscription. If the date code was 9703, this means that your subscription is paid through March of 1997.

The subscriber-type code can be P, B or C.
P means you have a regular paid subscription.
B means you also have a listing in the Breeders Directory.
PB, of course, means that you have a subscription and a listing in the Breeder's Directory.
C means you are lucky, and your magazine is a complementary copy.

The rest of the label is the usual name and address stuff. If any of that is wrong, we want to know this too.

Let us know if you think we have you in our system incorrectly. Thank you for reading all this boring bookkeeping stuff. You did read it didn't you? There may be a test later.



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The Deadlines:

Articles, photographs, advertising and other information submitted must be received by the 15th of the month prior to magazine issue date.

If you need assistance designing or laying out a display ad, or fine-tuning an article, earlier is appreciated.



**Breeders' Showcase
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