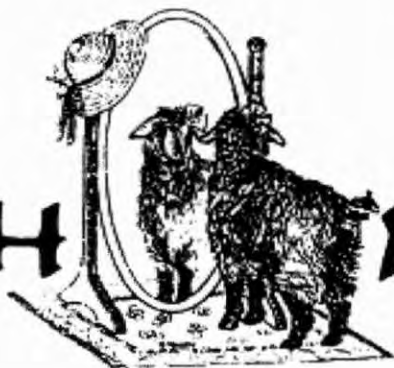


CASH MIRROR



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The monthly magazine devoted to
cashmere goats and their fiber



Happy Holidays!

Table of Contents

Fuzzy Goats & Calendars	3
Reflections—Weather Pig	4
\$5,000 Cashmere Sweater	5
Thugs with Cashmere	6
Winter Feeding	7
From Shovel to Shawl	11
John Harris Obituary	12
Mild Goat Men Meet	12
Fair, Fiber & Fun	13
BOCC III	15
EFFN New Funding	17
Dog with Bad Hair	18
Weed Control Strategies	18
How to Hotwire a Goat	19
Songs for Wethers	22
Association Contacts/ Calendar of Events	23
BREEDERS DIRECTORY	24
Classified Advertising	26
Terry Sim's Coming to NW	26
Excuses for Late Magazine	26
Subscription Info/ Ad Rates/Deadlines	27



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Cover photo by Marilyn Ackley

Thin Bessey Place doe tries to get sympathy from her owners by eating old protein-deficient sticks in a clever attempt to acquire more food.

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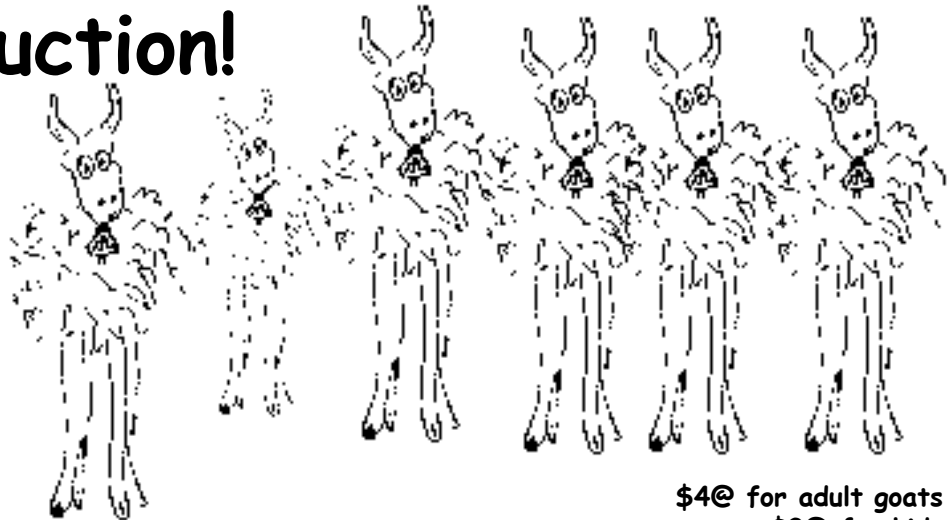
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Reflections

by Linda Fox

It's going to be a hard winter. I haven't concluded this due to scrutiny of caterpillar stripes or an examination of the squirrels' nut stores or even because of the television weathermen's opinions. I know its going to be an awful winter by observing our pig, Mittens.

Mittens is one of those potbellied pigs who were popular pets for a time. Some people purchased them to live in their home. Miss Piggy or little Swineheart would nestle up on the couch with their owners to watch television and charm visitors with the novelty of an indoor pig. Later, of course, as they grew, they became not-so-cute one hundred pound swine. As small hogs, they were too large to qualify as cute and too small for decent pork chops. So, they became a glut on the market. You now frequently find them at animal shelters or as give-aways.

Pigs are quite intelligent—I've seen the movie Babe. Well, maybe not that intelligent, but they certainly beat out our sheep and goats in every test of intelligence we've devised. Also—our pig, Mittens, can predict the weather.

On a nice day with no rain in sight, she lays in the middle of lawn in the sun and grunts a little when we pass to make sure we don't step on her. I know—that's an easy one. Probably even a sheep could do that.

However, if a storm is coming, Mittens will be found scratching additional straw into her wooden house by our back door. Mittens wants to make sure that she has plenty of warm dry bedding to burrow under when the rain hits. If she doesn't have enough straw available outside her pen, she will bring in pieces of bark, weeds, rags, sweatshirts or whatever else is handy.

The first time we found Mittens moving in straw we decided she might be getting a little strange in her declining years. Perhaps, she just wanted to snuggle down in her home and watch the world go by in front of her house like a giant television screen. In her youth, she liked to go for "walk-about" around the property for a week at a time, but in the last few months she has settled into mid-piglife quite gracefully and never leaves the yard for long even when the gates are left open.

After a few occurrences of Mittens' odd nesting behavior, we noticed that a storm soon followed Mittens' battenning down of her hatches. When Mittens begins



her nesting activity, the barometer in the house will be declining. We then realized that Mittens was predicting the weather for us. Like the human species, perhaps she felt that she needed a change of focus in her later years. Instead of searching for excitement on the ground, she has shifted her gaze to the sky.

Now, if we hear scratching on the cement outside the house, we don't bother checking the barometer or the weatherman's predictions; we quickly check to see what quantity of things Mittens has assembled so that we can make our own storm preparations. Will it be a small rain and we should just move the lawn furniture under the eaves, or will it be a real thriller requiring covering the wood pile with a tarp and making sure all the windows are closed?

I'm not sure if all mini-pigs have Mittens' ability to predict the weather or if she would need to train other pigs in her skill. Whatever, this could certainly provide a solution to the market excess of previously-cute potbellies turning into unwanted and unloved adult pigs. Adult pot-bellies could be acquired for their "cute factor" when they are young and then kept on as the family barometer.

If Mittens could develop a slightly less grumpy personality, perhaps she could even do television weather reporting.

Yesterday, I heard the familiar rusting around Mittens' house and went outside to check the severity of the incoming storm. She had assembled the usual pile of straw, but the straw had been layered with chunks of fresh lawn grass. She had also pulled in two pieces of baling twine, an apple branch and the tarp from the woodpile. It looks like she's stocking up for a real doozy!

I'd like to tell you more about our pig, but I need to go outside and clean the gutters and make sure the ditches are running free.

The \$5,000 Cashmere Sweater

By William Loughborough
Loveland, Goldendale, Washington

When I was about 12 years old my mother bought me a cashmere sweater and though I grew out of it, I never got over it. In addition to being very warm, although much lighter than any of my wool sweaters, it **felt good**. I never tired of feeling the strange effect of draping it over my hand and noting that although I could barely sense its weight I could easily feel my palm warming!

Many years later I checked dozens of yarn shops all over the country in an effort to find cashmere so that my world-class-knitter-in-residence could recreate my vivid childhood encounter with a magical sweater. Alas, many of the folks in the shops hadn't even heard of cashmere and none had seen any pure cashmere yarn.

Once I found a blend with 10% cashmere but it really didn't qualify. After a lot of research, I found a place that sold cashmere yarn by the gram as if it were cocaine or gold.

I discovered that there was a budding effort to produce American Cashmere because it turns out that the entire world production of the fiber (mostly in China) was gobbled up by cloth and knitwear manufacturers within months of its harvest, and it could be a viable commodity if it could be produced in this country.

Most of the flocks in the U.S. are based on goats imported from Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania where earlier efforts at establishing a cashmere industry are ongoing. The fiber from domestic animals is thought to be as soft and warm as Oriental cashmere but somewhat more "lustrous," which was considered a downside by the Chinese market.

I found that several women in the Pacific Northwest had gone into goat raising for essentially the same reasons as I was considering it. I bought two pregnant does and, with their offspring and the purchase of a buck from another herd, I now have eight goats.

Out of pocket purchase of stock and breeding fees to date: \$625—current flock is 8 animals, 4 does, 3 wethers (castrated males), and one buck; vets' fees and shots (they are very hardy and need little medical intervention) \$75; housing/fencing \$400; feed \$2,500. So in three years I have spent about \$3,600 on the goats.

Of course, if you want a sweater, you could buy

raw fleece and avoid that part of the expense, but you'd miss out on the daily feeding, hoof clipping, and combing out the fiber each Spring—as well as the miracle of kidbirth.

The raw fleece, which is about half cashmere and half guard hairs and vegetable matter can be purchased from a grower for whatever she would have gotten for it from the co-op. This is probably the most

economical (in terms of cash output) place to start and the most practical if you don't have space (or the inclination) to raise livestock.

To dehair the raw fleece is quite a time-consuming undertaking, but if you substitute it for reading trashy books, or do it while "watching" tele-

To dehair the raw fleece is quite a time-consuming undertaking, but if you substitute it for reading trashy books, or do it while "watching" television it is not an unpleasant task

vision it is not an unpleasant task. I spend a lot of time at the computer and even with a fast system there are times (particularly on the internet) when downloading, etc. leaves lots of time to do a little dehairing. The result of this is a fluffy cloud of lighter-than-feathers "stuff" which can then be prepared for spinning.

The dehaired cashmere is fairly easy to prepare for spinning and if you don't want to get a wheel, learn to spin, and experience the remarkable pacification engendered by practicing this craft, you might find a local spinners' group who would spin it for a fee or for some of your cashmere.

If you have a wheel and have spun cotton or silk, you probably can already spin cashmere. It requires a high speed flyer because you spin it almost gossamer and ply it into a quite fine sport weight yarn. Another alternative is to buy yarn which has become widely available since the Co-op now markets it. It costs about ten to twenty times as much as wool by weight, but it goes about twice as far in making a garment.

If you don't want to (or can't) keep goats, hate the idea of dehairing raw fleece, despair of spinning your own yarn—you can knit from the purchased yarn. If you don't want to (or can't) knit, you can buy a very nice cashmere sweater for under \$200. The fanciest ones at the "best" stores can be up to \$600.

I arrived at my \$5,000 price by factoring in the hours of dehairing, spinning, and knitting which, even

Continued on next page

at the minimum wage, adds up fast.

So far I have harvested about five pounds of raw fleece which could produce two sweaters! Of course now that I am combing eight goats, the yield will rise and I may get as much next Spring as I've harvested to date.

I haven't mentioned dyeing since that doesn't interest me, but it might affect your choice of fleece color. The goats come in white but mine are grey to brown and I like the random natural blend so far.

I should dwell at more length on the idea that all of this, particularly the dehairing, is some kind of onerous task which could better be avoided—if only we could build a machine that plucked those guard hairs from that lovely fleece! Well, there are such machines and there are also machines to spin the dehaired fleece into yarn and machines to make the yarn into the same sorts of things we can do by hand.

There are also machines to build new, rather than restore, old automobiles but somehow one's own restored 1957 Chevrolet has its own reward; the pleasure is in the doing much more than in the owning of the result. Those of us who can our own tomato juice (whether we grew the fruit or harvested it from a u-pick place) or even make biscuits from scratch understand this very well without ever having spoken the word "Zen" or participated in "new age" activities.

Each person has to choose their own place to "draw the line," whether to spin yarn at all and if so whether to use a spindle or just twist the fibers in your fingers; or perhaps use a wheel with a quill spindle—or do you make the next step up mechanically and use one with a flyer; do you power it with foot pedals, a hand crank, or God-given power from the electric power grid?; if you dye it do you grow your own colored vegetables or ask help from I. G. Farben?

Each of us whiles away the fleeting hours till the grim reaper performs the final grisly task of separating body from soul and I have found there is more solace, comfort, and downright pleasure in choosing so my sweater will have "cost" \$5,000 but will be without price. I will be warmer in it than in the product of goats I never fed, fleece I never plucked, or yarn I didn't spin.

All that said, if you want to participate at any level I can sell you a wether or two and perhaps might even be convinced to part with some fleece—but when I get that sweater finished, it is mine to die in!

*Reprinted with permission from Bill's web page at:
<http://w3.gorge.net/love26>*

Note: "w3" in Bill's URL does NOT mean "www"

Thugs With Cashmere

Cashmere as a status symbol is not a new thing. Even the "bad boys" of forty years ago appreciated quality clothing.

A New Jersey newspaper reported this November on an event which happened 40 years ago—on November 14, 1957. The New York State Police, led by Sergeant Edgar D. Croswell crashed a private party at a remote estate in upstate New York to break up a meeting of the secret criminal society known as La Cosa Nostra.

Many of the nation's most notorious crime lords came to the remote hilltop home of soft-drink executive Joseph Barbara Sr. They had come not only to party, but to discuss the future of the American Mafia. Party attendees included Vito Genovese, "king of the rackets," Garardo "Jerry" Catena, Santo Trafficante Jr, who controlled organized crime in Miami and Cuba, Joseph Profaci, Colombo crime family boss, Carmine Galante, self-proclaimed "Boss of Bosses, and Joe Bonanno, the Bonanno family czar.

Per the New Jersey newspaper, "Croswell's visit routed the meeting, forcing aging and overweight mob bosses to flee into the woods, their expensive cashmere coats, hand-tailored suits and imported shoes no match for fallen pine needles and leaves that had them slipping into the mud as they were rounded up."

Most mob characters were questioned and later released as the New York police had to admit that having a picnic was certainly no crime.

However, the meeting spurred more than a dozen later investigations and at least 20 of the guests were later convicted of crimes. The resulting publicity of the meeting brought more public awareness and government attention to the activities of organized crime. The publicity from the raid ruined the host, Joe Barbara whose business license was revoked.

One mobster was quoted as saying, "The first thing I did when I got out of that burg was to buy myself a new suit. That \$300 job I had was a wreck."

There was no report about the men having to replace their expensive cashmere coats, so we must assume that the excellent weaving properties of our goat fuzz withstood the ordeal of mud and pine needles.

Supplemental Winter Feeding of Goats

By
Frank Pinkerton, Ph.D.
The Goat Works
Grapeland, TX
409-687-2338
 and
Bruce Pinkerton, Ph.D.
Clemson University, SC



Little Bustin searches for protein in winter forage (in vain)
 Photo by Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cashmere, Maine

When deciding what to feed and how much to offer your goats this winter, it would be useful to remember that goats evolved over time and place as forage-consuming animals. For centuries they maintained and reproduced themselves on browse, forbs, "weeds", and pasturage without added grain, protein, or minerals. Doubtless mortality was high and productivity low but...they did survive.

In recent times, as goat prices have improved, goats are being selected and managed for increased productivity (kidding at younger age, more twinning, larger birth weights, greater milk production and heavier weaning weights per day of age). Gains in productivity are made only through better genetics and/or superior nutrition. Theoretically superior nutrition throughout the entire year can be achieved in the South via year round grazing or by a combination of grazing and preserved forage (hay, silage, or stock-piled grasses). In the real world, however, most goat owners find they must provide, in addition to forages, some supplemental dietary protein and/or energy and/or minerals during the winter period of 90 to 120 days.

Accordingly, owners must be knowledgeable enough to provide the required supplements in the most economical ways. Overfeeding, underfeeding, improper ration composition, and overpriced feeds all increase feed cost per head, thereby decreasing net profit per enterprise. Inherited wealth or a well-employed and understanding spouse are required to sustain cash flow deficits. If you have neither, either heed this information or consider selling out in the interest of domestic tranquillity.

Nutrient Requirements of Goats

All breeds (and crosses), sexes, and ages of goats require the same basic nutrients: protein, energy, minerals, vitamins, and water. The daily diet must contain adequate protein because no other nutrient can substitute for it. On the other hand, energy needs may be met with dietary carbohydrates (starches and/

or fiber) or fats or even from excess protein. Nutrients are required by the goat for maintenance, growth, pregnancy, milk production and fattening.

Maintenance requirements are used for basal metabolism (maintain body temperature and support vital functions) and for physical activity. The daily maintenance requirements may range from 50 to 100% of total daily nutrient requirements, depending on whether the animal is also growing, lactating, gestating, or fattening. Maintenance requires much more energy than protein; contrarily, growth and pregnancy (particularly the last 6-8 wks) require more protein than energy. Lactation requires large quantities of both protein and energy, while fattening requires much energy but little protein. Purposefully fattening a goat is uneconomical in two ways: first, it takes 2.25 times as much feed to put on a pound of body fat as it does to put on a pound of muscle (protein and water) and, secondly, the current market discriminates heavily against overly fat goats. Muscular, well-conditioned goats are desirable; excessive external and internal fat is a no-no.

The daily needs of protein and energy for goats may be expressed in actual quantities of crude protein (pounds C.P.) and energy (pounds of total digestible nutrients— or TDN) by adding up the amounts needed for maintenance, milk production, etc. Alternatively, daily protein and energy needs may be expressed as percentages of the daily feed intake (on a dry matter basis). To illustrate: a two year old, growing, milking doe weighing 90 lb would require about .55 lb of protein and about 3.2 lb of TDN per day. Assuming a

Continued on next page

Winter Feeding

Continued from previous page

typical dry matter intake per day of 4.5 lb, her ration would need to be about 12% protein ($.55 \div 4.5 \times 100$) and about 71% TDN ($3.2 \div 4.5 \times 100$), dry matter basis.

Using research results and long-term producer experiences, including my own, I have calculated the requirements shown below (Table 1). Readers should understand that these figures are approximate. Anyone telling you he possesses precise, accurate figures for goat nutritional requirements or for infallible feeding recommendations bears close watching—he has already lied to you once. With this warning in mind, I now illustrate representative age/sex requirements.

As is evident, the size of animal, its rate of growth

and whether it is pregnant or milking, singly and collectively influence the nutritional needs of the goat. Goats tend to "eat to appetite", taking a wide array of feedstuffs of varying dry matter, protein, energy, and mineral contents. Total intake of feed dry matter/hd/day ranges from 3.5 to 5.5% of body weight with 4.5% being typical. Total dry matter intake/hd/day is influenced by the nutritional needs of the goat and by the qualities (digestibility) of the feeds eaten. Moreover, higher quality feeds are generally more palatable, thus promoting even higher intake. Conversely, goats may try to eat larger quantities of lower quality feeds in order to obtain sufficient nutrient intake. There is a limit to this compensatory action, however, and poor performance will surely result from sustained poor feed quality. Wise owners recognize that,

Continued on next page

Table 1. Dietary Protein, Energy, and Mineral Requirements of Goats¹

Class of goat	Ave. feed intake/day, lb ¹	% Crude Protein	% TDN	% Ca
Growing doeling, 45 lb ^a	2.4	8.8	56	.38
Growing male kid, 66 lb ^b	2.9	9.0	57	.33
Yearling doe, 90 lb ^c	4.6	10.0	56	.33
3 yr old doe, 110 lb ^d	5.0	11.7	69	.48
Mature buck, 220 lb ^e	5.3	9.0	55	.29
Dairy doe, 150 lb ^f	7.5	11.6	71	.48

¹Calculated on basis of the dry matter in the feeds eaten.

^aGrowing at the rate of .25 lb/day

^bGrowing at the rate of .33 lb/day

^cYearling female, last trimester of pregnancy and growing

^dMilking 2 qt/day-enough for twins

^eNot gaining wt, moderate activity

^fNubian, milking/gallon/day of 4.0% bf

Winter Feeding

Continued from previous page

contrary to popular belief, goats cannot create meat and/or milk out of po-ass feeds. The merely ignorant can, with diligence, expect to triumph over this lack of information; for those more mentally challenged, a quick exit from goat ownership is quite likely.

But, I digress...I have found it practical to lump certain animals into broad categories in order to simplify nutritional decision-making and reduce numbers of feed mixtures; see Table 2.

The differences in protein and energy between these categories may seem rather small to you, but they can have measurable adverse consequences on your goat's performance. The uninformed may blame such sub-par performances on poor genetics or poor health for what is, in point of fact, poor feeding practices by the owner.

During the warm season grazing period, goats will very likely meet all their nutritional requirements from whatever combination of forages is available; only a trace mineralized salt and possibly some phosphorus would be needed in addition. However, during late fall and through the winter, forages decline precipitously in quality and quantity. Thus, supplemental protein and energy will very likely be necessary to maintain satisfactory performance. (This is not true, of course, if you provide a few hours of grazing daily on ryegrass or small grain pastures.)

In practical terms, successful goat owners have found that adequate winter rations may consist of dry grasses, hay and a commercial protein source. In my own operation, I find that offering Bahiagrass and/or

Coastal Bermudagrass hay ad lib plus 1 lb of 20% protein pellets daily will be adequate for pregnant and early lactation goats, Dec/Jan/Feb. My grass hays are usually low (6-8%) in protein; if they were in the 10-11% range, I would either change to a 16% protein pellet or perhaps cut the 20% pellet amount down to 3/4 lb/day. Overfeeding protein is economically unsound. It is also physiologically impossible because the goat's liver will turn all excess protein into energy and urine ammonia—ergo, the phrase, pissing away your money, is particularly appropriate here.

Ad lib feeding hays with protein levels in the 12-13% range would furnish adequate protein, but lactating does would probably respond favorably—and economically so—to some additional energy, say, 1/2 to 1 lb of corn/hd/day, while pregnant does could likely do well on 1/4 to 1/2 lb/hd/day.

Feeding hays (ad lib) with protein levels of 15-18% such as alfalfa or peanut or grass/legume mixtures is unnecessary. It will not hurt the goat, particularly if she has an adequate, relatively high phosphorus mineral mix available; however, it is usually cost prohibitive. I have successfully fed peanut hay (14-15% CP) and grass hay on alternate days plus a 1/2 lb of corn for pregnant does and 1 lb for lactating does. Do not feed these hays simultaneously because erratic protein intake will result.

For kids 3-6 months of age, I use a lb or so of 16% protein feed plus grass hay; for older kids, including those in early pregnancy, I prefer a lb or so of 14% protein feed. I admit to probably overfeeding doe kids, but I get them bred to kid (without problems) at 12-14 months, and I seem to regularly get +50% twins.

Continued on next page

Table 2. Practical Dietary Recommendations for Feeding Goats

	% Protein	% TDN
Growing kids, dry does and bucks	9-10	54-58
Pregnant goats	10-11	56-60
Lactating goats	12-13	62-68

Winter Feeding

Continued from previous page

so...it works for me.

It is easy enough to talk about optimum feeding of goats, but the reality of finding the needed supplements in the proper form in your area maybe something else again. For kids, I prefer a small pellet (3/16 inch) or coarse ground mixes; for older goats, a 3/8 inch pellet is about right. The 5/8 or 3/4 inch cattle pellet is too difficult for goats. If you need a commercial 20% protein feed but can get only a 15 or 16% feed, you can either feed a fourth more feed (in order to get adequate protein intake) or top dress the 16% feed with 1/4 lb or so of CSM (41% protein). Or, you could possibly find a feed miller willing to make a custom 20% protein feed, most probably in an unpelleted form (perhaps at higher cost due to small batch size).

To summarize, let us assume you have segregated your herd into practical groups according to their nutritional needs; further assume you have the correct protein supplements (content and form). The remaining difficulty then is: how do you manage the groups to "insure" that each individual gets its fair share? It is not easy.

Putting out hay daily in racks or bunks (or, less satisfactorily, on more or less clean ground) is readily done, though sometimes sinfully wasteful, depending on physical design of the feeders. I have found one linear foot/goat to be sufficient space (if feeding hay ad lib). Having two or more separate racks is helpful—makes it more difficult for the boss goats to boss.

Feeding restricted amounts of protein/energy supplements is not easily done even when adequate total trough space (12 linear inches/hd) is available. Gracious, equitable sharing is simply not a caprine characteristic; greed, aggression, and sheer size conspire to "cheat" the more civil and/or smaller goats. What to do? You cannot build enough troughs or scatter them far enough—forget that.

Pouring pellets or corn on the ground at a high lope offers some hope but encourages parasitism and waste and occasionally endangers the pourer. I have put pellets in (hanging) vee troughs with goats locked out. I open the gate, avoid the rush, and then wait until the timid ones congregate near or outside the gate. Then I offer them pellets in other nearby vee troughs on the ground. A few still will simply not get their share, but if they survive and do reasonably well, I brag on them as easy-keepers as I look for buyers.

I have also tried a self-fed supplement, e.g., 80-85% CSM, 5% calcium carbonate and salt—use 10% salt initially and later up it to 15% to limit their intake to an average of 3/4 lb/hd/day. This amount will supply about 1/2 lb of protein which is close to half of the daily protein need (the other half comes from hay and/or standing forage). This works fairly well and may be economical unless CSM is unusually expensive.

Of course, self-fed, "complete" feeds solve the problem of equitable intake. One can offer ad lib a blend of hay or hulls, corn, CSM, and minerals (and possibly molasses for palatability and dust control). Your goats will do wonderfully well while your spouse will find it ever so convenient to feed. It will be less easy to pay for.



How much protein in a recycled Christmas tree? And do they care?

CASHMERE: FROM THE SHOVEL TO THE SHAWL

(An overview class for novice goatherds, fiber artists and wannabes)

By Heidi Smith

Heidi's Farm, Park City, Utah

I was asked to teach a class on cashmere goats at the third annual Snake River Fiber Fantasy in Idaho Falls this May. The invitation was both flattering and intimidating. I had never taught a class on cashmere goats and two hours seemed like a lot of time to fill up on a topic for which I'm not exactly comfortable proclaiming myself an expert. However, I have been raising cashmere goats for the last six years, using the fiber for the last four years and marketing fiber and hand made items for the last three years. From that perspective maybe I am an expert, sort of. I agreed to teach the class with mixed feelings of hope and fear that no one would be interested or willing to pay for it.

The course content was left entirely to me and I decided that a broad overview would be more useful and appealing to a larger group of people than a highly specific single topic. I chose to present barnyard basics as well as demonstrate appropriate fiber uses. Once that was decided the title arrived on a bolt of cosmic inspiration: Cashmere: From the Shovel to the Shawl. Then I had to remember back to the beginning of my goatherding career and try and present material that I wish someone had just told me instead of having to learn it the hard way.

My course began with the basics of cashmere goat history and then moved into how to purchase and care for goats. We finished with processing, classification and uses of cashmere fiber. The four goals for the class were that participants would leave with:

- (1) enough information to be able to make an informed decision about buying and raising cashmere goats,
- (2) knowledge about what the options are currently for fiber sale and/or dehairing and ultimate end-uses for the fiber,
- (3) an understanding of the differences between grades of cashmere and cashgora and the criteria used in fleece evaluation, and
- (4) where to get more information about cashmere goats and fiber, breeders, suppliers, etc.

Although familiar with my topics I wanted to be as accurate, comprehensive and prepared for questions as possible. Unfortunately, there is not exactly a plethora of information available on cashmere goats. Ultimately, my best resource was *Cashmirror* and since



Heidi Smith (and Jacquee Gillespie, right)
Spinning at the Utah State Fair

I have subscribed and saved them all since Volume I. I had the advantage of researching my own stacks.

"From the Shovel..." addressed criteria to consider when buying the first goat(s), appropriate fencing, shelter, health prevention, breeding, fiber evaluation and management on the hoof, combing vs. shearing, and the business side to livestock management.

"...To the Shawl" focused on cashmere fiber uses, examples and techniques I have learned for dyeing, blending, spinning, knitting, weaving, and felting.

There is nothing like great visual aids to drive home a point—so each participant received five 10 gram baggies containing raw sheared fiber, raw combed fiber, dehaired cashgora, dehaired commercial grade cashmere and premium grade cashmere upon entering the class. Participants were instructed to begin manually dehairing the combed cashmere sample. By the time we got to the course section on "the dehairing dilemma" there was a thorough understanding and appreciation for the problem. The fiber samples were paid for by the participants and left with them as a reference and reminder of the different grades of cashmere. In addition, I also provided yarn sample cards of machine and handspun cashmere, different blends, and dye samples which they got to keep for a reference. For examples, I provided

Continued on next page

From Shovel to Shawl

Continued from previous page

articles which I had spun, knit, or woven from cashmere to be passed around the class and examined including a hand spun, hand knit Orenburg Russian cashmere wedding ring shawl.

In spite of my initial hopes and fears, 12 enthusiastic people enrolled in the class who were very willing to participate, ask questions and share some of their own experiences. By the time we were through, the two hours I was afraid I couldn't fill with material turned out to be not nearly enough time for all of the discussion and questions that came up.

Next time I would also come prepared with slides to better show barnyard scenes of shelter, fencing, rotten hooves, before and after shearing looks, etc.

The participants' reasons for taking the class varied from those who intended to buy some goats for multiple purposes to those who simply love the fiber and wanted to learn more about it. My attempt to provide something for everyone was apparently successful.

In addition to encouraging them to call me at home if they had any more questions, I provided them with as large a bibliography and list of suppliers/breeders that I could put together including internet resources.

I am grateful to the organizers of the Snake River Fiber Festival for asking me to teach this class and encouraged by the participants response. I believe it is indicative of an unmet need which needs to be filled. I also feel much more confident about my own expertise on this subject now and would love to teach this course again sometime.

John Harris Dies

John Harris, Mitchell, Nebraska, owner of Nebraska Western Cashmere, died recently. Per John's son, Troy Harris, John has raised cashmere goats for the past six years. Troy is in the process of liquidating John's herd of approximately 65 cashmere goats.

John was the President of the Western Prairie Cashmere Association. He was also well-known for his video "Raising Cashmere Goats for Fun and Profit."

We met John on a trip to Nebraska early in our "cashmere goat days" and featured his farm in the September 1996 CashMirror issue.



Mild Goat Men come out of the closet (more or less) at their first official meeting October 24, 1997.

Official Report of First MGM Meeting

Submitted by Head Herder Johnson

It was a dark and stormy night in October (the 24th, to be exact). The first, maybe annual, maybe not, meeting of the Mild Goat Men was held at Santa Fe Red's Emporium (bar), in Bozeman, Montana from 9:00 PM (or was it 10:00 PM?) to 1:00 AM or so.

The minutes, well more like seconds, of that meeting are more or less as follows:

The meeting was called to order by the Head Herder, and orders were taken. The first item of business was whether or not to have minutes. As no one wanted to be Secretary-for-Life, it was decided to forgo official minutes.

There was no Treasurer's report as there was (and is) no Treasurer, nor treasury for that matter.

The next item was a suggestion from Brother Jim (by e-mail) to change the name of our organization to Mighty Goat Men. There was no motion, nor second, and it died a quiet death.

The Vice President-for-Life suggested the MGB should be the official car. No action was taken.

Brother Dan was appointed Vice President-for-Life and Official Varmintier, or maybe he volunteered, who knows?

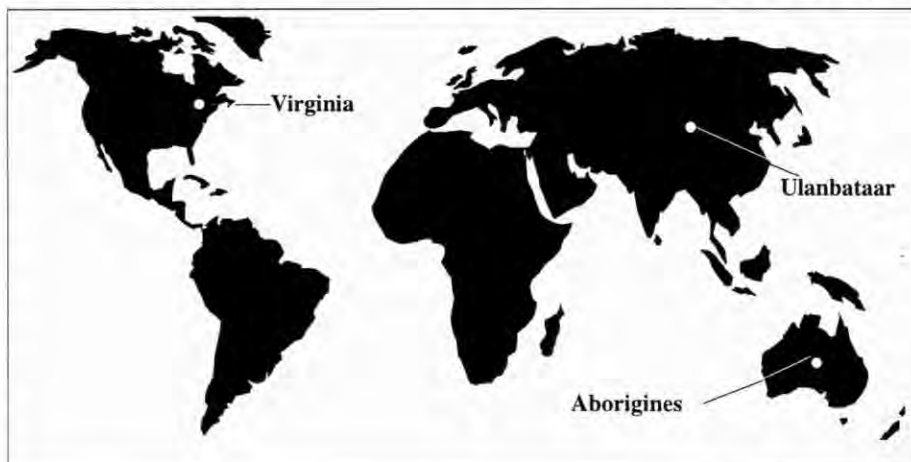
Discussion was then held on what the official drink of the group should be. After two and one-half hours of discussion, the meeting was adjourned (I think).

P.S. there are now **22** members in MGM!

Fair, Fiber and Fun

By Linda Cortright
Union, Maine

I decided that I wanted to spend my annual vacation doing something really exciting. Perhaps a hiking trip through Ulanbataar, or learning how to drum with the Aborigines. Something that would guarantee to make me the envy of all my friends. And thus the decision was quickly made to attend the Virginia State Fair so I could witness first hand the *intense* competition of cashmere goats here in the East.



Cortright's dilemma—Where to go on her vacation?

Well, not only are my friends still abuzz with post-fair excitement but I have already made my reservations for next year. And, if I really get to feeling adventure-some, I might even bring a goat.

The trip from Maine to Richmond, Virginia is a two day drive under the best of conditions, and an even longer drive when you factor a trailer/backseat full of goats. (I have no idea how long the trip would actually take for anyone daring to travel with kids.) My hats off to those dedicated souls who made the trek from parts both far and wide. Without a collective participation there would be no cashmere class.

Since I am still quite new at this cashmere thing, I found it fascinating to see some distant relations/out-of-state goats. Well, yes, they certainly bore some resemblance to my "perfect" herd but I was amazed to see just how different all these boys and girls can look. I'll bet if some researcher was willing to put forth the time it would soon be discovered that the shape and size of the nose is somehow directly related to cashmere style. Any takers?

James Barton had been selected as the judge and the Fair officials were kind enough to fly and not trailer him in from Texas. In a single day, he had the daunting task of judging more than 130 fleeces and some 65 goats.

Exhibitors were kindly instructed the night before not to expect their animals to parade around the ring like trained circus Poodles. In fact, just getting your goat into the correct ring within the allotted time and keeping him there was pretty much the extent of reasonable expectation. (It was at this moment that I knew I had made the proper decision in leaving my unruly, marauding beasts at home!)

James started judging the fleeces at 7:00 am and carefully went through every one, hair by hair. I know this to be true since my assignment was to sit next to him and document every precious bit of critique. There was some mighty fine cashmere spread over those tables and the only real hindrance to the process was the occasional sticky little hand that would come creeping over the rail to assault the fiber before either one of us could scream, "Don't touch!"

I suppose the one recurring lesson I gleaned from that experience was, "If it ain't crimpy, it ain't cashmere!" I'm not sure this is necessarily a definition used on the international market but it works for me.

The doe classes proceeded in order of age and really went off without any outward mishaps until it was determined, that not once, but twice, the first place doe was in fact a wether. I found this something of an anomaly since my previous show ring experience had always been with dogs where gender is a big issue. However, not to fear, I was later assured that

Continued on next page

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CASHMIRROR

Fair, Fiber and Fun

Continued from previous page

wethers are not usually thrown in with the does. Of course, don't tell the wethers that since theirs is a confusing life at best anyway.

From the indoor doe ring we moved on to the outdoor buck ring. At the FAR end of the fairgrounds. There was no gender confusion in these classes. When I saw twenty some adult bucks gathered outside the entrance to the ring, stamping and snorting and waving tongues and "whatnot" at each other, I was really glad I hadn't wasted my money on that silly trip to Ulanbataar. What a display! These were the mighty men of the East and I'm quite sure some of their aroma made it to the West.

So, the question that was burning on everyone's mind after a long day of total cashmere fun, education and some chaos wasn't, "Who really had the finest goat," or, "Gee, what a shame that poor Annabelle kept snowplowing her way through the show ring"; no, the real question was, "Which neon lit vendor had the best barbecued ribs and beer to finish off a great goat day in Virginia."

All photographs on this page courtesy of Linda Cortright



Wes Ackley preparing to "defume" Dakota, the Grand Champion Buck winner of the 1997 ECA Goat Show.

Page 14, December 1997



Wes and Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cashmere, Maine Keeping a tight rein on their big boys, Emmet and Dakota.



Christy Proost's doe Annabelle shows the other contestants in the show ring how to do the "southern snowplow" (much to her owners' chagrin!)



James Barton, Judge, doing a little fiber inspection: "If it ain't crimp, it ain't cashmere!"

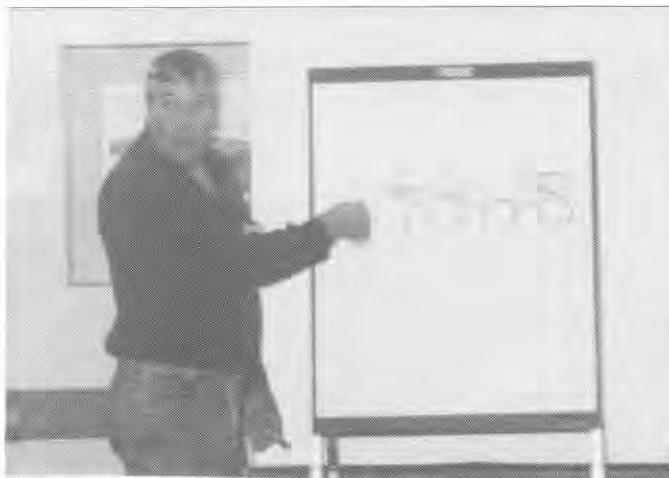
Business of Cashmere Conference III – An Overview

By Paul G. Johnson

The third annual Business of Cashmere Conference was held in Bozeman, Montana, October 24th through October 26th. The conference was sponsored by the Professional Cashmere Marketers' Association (PCMA), Pioneer Mountain Farm, Inc., Montana Knits, Inc. and Castle Crag Ranch. For the third year, the educational sessions were excellent and numerous, covering a wide variety of subjects of interest to cashmere producers.

Topics included fiber identification, fiber measurement, business planning, dehairing and genetics. Between sessions, participants and speakers mingled to share their stories and personal experiences. Vendor booths from California Cashmere Company and Montana Knits offered additional information about cashmere products and processing.

Of special interest was the fiber measurement session with numerous slides, by Dr. Christopher Lupton from Texas A & M Agricultural Research Laboratory, San Angelo, Texas. Dr. Lupton guided participants through a fascinating history of cashmere and fiber measurement beginning with the discovery of cashmere in this country when Drs. Shelton and Basset of Texas A & M first found cashmere on Texas spanish goats. His history lesson continued through the technological innovations and advances that have brought us to the present day procedures for objective measurement of fibers. **Of particular note were Dr. Lupton's remarks that eventually the OFDA coupled with new discov-**



Steve Hachenberger draws a diagram to illustrate how his dehairing machine works—the cashmere collects on the two upper rollers and the guard hair falls down below.

eries on fiber curvature will make possible objective measurement of style.

Perhaps the biggest surprises of the conference came from Steve Hachenberger of Castle Crag Ranch, Hamilton, Montana. In his dehairing session, Steve offered the first video presentation of a dehairing machine in action. Not only did Steve show his machinery dehairing cashmere, but he detailed the process for conference participants.

The next surprise was his announcement that he was working on a prototype of a small dehairing machine, which, following off-site independent testing next spring, could be available for sale, possibly as soon as late 1998. The new machine will be designed to be a size and price that medium-sized producers (or several smaller ones working together) should find a viable alternative to commercial dehairing. He also announced that Paul Johnson would provide independent testing

of the prototype at his farm in Oregon when the prototype is completed.

Ajamu Al-Rafiq, representing California Cashmere Company, San Andreas, California, also presented a conference session on dehairing cashmere, from the perspective of a grower, buyer and processor. He covered the characteristics of cashmere and preparation for dehairing. He explained that dehairing is just one step in a chain of many processing steps which include skirting, scouring,

opening and dehairing. These progressive steps are all important in removing undesirables from the cashmere fleece.

Ajamu said that he had made two trips to China to pursue his purchase of a dehairing machine and to attend training classes for the equipment and on fleece identification.

W. Hawkins, DVM, gave an excellent talk on the general health Management of goats, interacting with the audience to share experiences and herd health tips. A sample of his sage advice includes:

1. Have a health management program with scheduled parasite control procedures.
2. Do fecal exams a month before breeding to check for parasite load.
3. A CD&T vaccination for the doe a month before kidding can protect kids for 6 weeks to 2 months after birth.
4. Assist with kidding only if you must. In an assisted birth with

Continued on next page

BOCC III

Continued from previous page



W. W. Hawkins, DVM (left) and Tom Dooling, Pioneer Mountain Farm
Dr. Hawkins gives sage advice to participants about health management of goats.

front legs and head coming out first, pull out and down; if back legs come first, pull straight back and up. Beware of fluid in the kids' lungs.

5. Shear does 6 weeks to 2 months before kidding and raise their nutrition level a week before shearing. After shearing they are very susceptible to cold weather and may take a month to recover.

Yvonne Zweede-Tucker, Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, Montana, gave a very informative and entertaining talk on "How to Hot Wire a Goat." Her suggestions on electric fencing techniques gave participants several low-cost alternatives for goat containment. (See Yvonne's article in this issue on page 19.)

Fiber identification by Ann Dooling, Pioneer Mountain Farms and Montana Knits, Dillon Montana, was well-attended, with around 40 fleeces available for everyone to inspect. Ann had priced each fleece, with values running from \$0 at the right end of the table to around \$20

at the left end of the table. The fleeces were on display throughout the conference lending a certain "aura" to the room. All participants had ample opportunity to examine the fleeces, compare them with their own fleeces back home and

share their grading opinions with others.

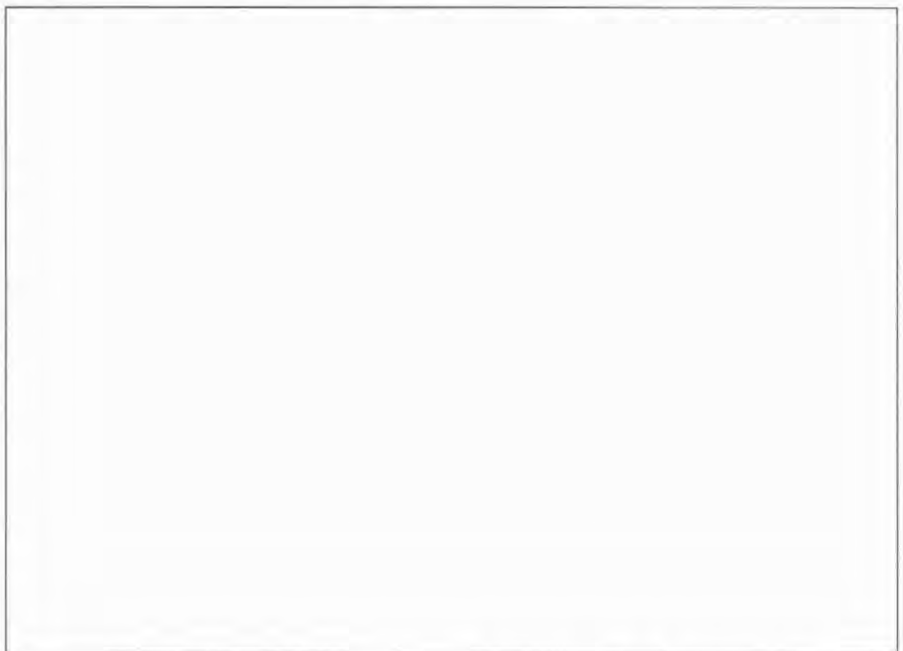
Ann also talked on general goat management and "Turning Your Weeds into Cashmere."

Genetics sessions were another conference high point for many participants. Tom Dooling gave two talks, one on beginning genetics and one on more advanced topics.

As weed control continues to be one of the major selling points for goats, workshops and round table discussions were given by Dan Edens, Helena, Montana, (see Dan's article on page 18, this issue) and by Brett Olson, Department of Animal and Range Service, Montana State University.

Business topics offered were numerous including sessions on farm insurance, new product development and marketing, business planning and farm financing.

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Montana Knits display at the conference showing their beautiful new line of cashmere duds for babies—lucky babies get to drool on these!

BOCC III

Continued from previous page

The featured speaker at the banquet on Saturday night was Jim Peterson of the Montana Stockgrowers' Association. At the banquet, Karen Vinton, Montana State University, presented Steve and Diana Hachenberger with the 1997 Montana Family Business of the Year award. The Hachenbergers won the award for the most outstanding Montana business in the new business category.

As a result of discussions preceding the conference and between sessions, **a research project is taking form which will compare the effects of latitude (climate) on cashmere growth.** It is planned that three separate herds from three different latitudes will be compared in a "Latitude effects study on fiber." The three herds would be located (tentatively) in south Texas, Montana and Yukon Territory. The three test herds will each consist of 60 goats—20 cashmere-producing goats, 20 angora goats and 20 brush goats. Fiber from the three herds would be measured at intervals and results published. Dr. Lupton and Tom Dooling are conspiring to acquire funding and set up procedures for the project.

The conference concluded Sunday afternoon with a tour of Doolings' Pioneer Mountain Farm where participants could shear a goat and view a large cashmere goat operation first hand.



Steve and Diana Hachenberger receive 1997 Montana Business of the Year award from Karen Vinton (left). Their business Castle Crags Ranch (Three Bags Full) won in the new business category.

European Fine Fibre Network Receives New Funding

By Claire Souchet, Project Administrator

The European Fine Fibre Network has received new funding from the European Commission (FAIR3 CT96 1597). The new project is a Thematic network entitled "Increased competitiveness of high quality European animal textile fibres by improving fibre quality" and will be in existence until January 2000.

At the last meeting of the previous EC Concerted Action, a need was identified to establish a European network of researchers, producers' organisations and textile manufacturers engaged in research and development on the production and processing of high quality animal textile fibres of European origin, to improve the measurement of fibre traits in genetic improvement programmes and in the marketing of these fibres. This present network, which concerns cashmere, mohair, angora and fine wool fibres, will specifically:

1. Establish common methodology for the measurement of quality fibres traits, using OFDA fibre measurement technology and encourage comparability between fibre analysis in different countries,
2. Increase European collaboration in fibre quality improvement through the establishment of common protocols for measuring fibre traits in breeding programmes for different fibre types, and
3. Improve the competitiveness of European producers of speciality animal fibres by establishing clearly defined market-led quality objectives, grading and presentation standards and the creation of new information channels between producers, industry and research.

A key feature of the network will be the holding of four workshops which will allow all those involved in research and development of animal fibres production and processing to discuss, agree upon and implement common measurement methodologies to encourage the competitiveness of Europe in the specialised fibres. A Round Trial of fibre quality measurements, using OFDA methodology, will be undertaken this winter for cashmere and mohair fibres to assist in demonstrating the value of the methodology.

There are also funds available for training courses and technical exchange visits to other laboratories, to increase the use of OFDA technology.

This first newsletter, one of two to be published this

Continued on next page

year, describes the network and the current stage of research on fibre measurements. The next newsletter will focus more on research on each fibre and the outcomes of the first workshop will be described. We would be also pleased to receive members' own ideas for the newsletter and the further development of the network.

Those who have not been yet contacted and who would wish to participate to this network should contact the network administrator, Miss Claire Souchet (c.souchet@mluri.sari.ac.uk)

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"Just because you're having a bad hair day doesn't mean you don't have to guard!"

Weed Control Strategies Using Cashmere Goats

by Dan Edens
Helena, Montana

Dan presented this paper at the Business of Cashmere Conference in September 1997.

State of the art weed control today mainly consists of timely application of herbicides to control undesirable plants. Without these powerful chemicals agriculture and society would have a bleak outlook. However not all plants respect the advances of modern technology. A notable exception is Leafy Spurge. Bio-control measures have recently made news as a very cost effective means to control leafy spurge. Again these advances are not a panacea when dealing with leafy spurge.

The third common method used to combat leafy spurge is co-grazing. When other measures fail or are inappropriate for some reasons co-grazing makes a good argument for its use.

After two seasons of grazing Cashmere Goats on Leafy Spurge I offer some insights on how it has worked to date.

As a personal testimonial I can honestly say our goats will selectively eat Leafy Spurge before anything else growing in their pasture. We sponsored a demonstration project this past year to formally investigate what amounts of grass and spurge would be consumed by cashmere goats in a riparian zone. We also compared two popular methods of pasture management, rest-rotation and continuous grazing.

In the final evaluation we found that goats will consume approximately two tons of leafy spurge per acre. Grass population increased while providing between 320 and 1,350 pounds of feed.

Our observations indicate the best long term control might be achieved via continuous grazing. Rapid regrowth occurred from the spurge stem tips if the stems were left intact. When allowed to graze the spurge stems to half length, regrowth came from new stems. This method allows the grass to compete better as the overhead canopy has been removed.

Another observation we made was that cattle were able to graze longer on units that have been co-grazed. I believe this is because the grass has been made available with the spurge removed and also has a chance to grow unimpeded.

Next year's plans will be to kid later so the does will be grazing when spurge is most vulnerable and nutritious. The added boost of feed value will hopefully yield larger kids with denser follicle development.

The two main concerns in using goats as weed control agents are fencing and predator control. Our solution is to use electric fencing; this so far has proved to keep our goats in and dogs, our main predator, out. Capital outlay for materials is low cost with a minor operational expense. We have made good use of temporary electric ribbon to graze areas that are not fenced with a permanent fence.

In summation, leafy spurge control using goats is very simple and easy. The decision to use goats requires a long-term outlook on weed management. I view it as turning a liability into an asset—then managing the goats for greatest returns.

How to Hotwire a Goat

(How to Fence Your Goat)

By Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
Smoke Ridge Cashmere
Choteau, Montana



Yvonne Zweede-Tucker—she has hot wire, rebar and an overhead projector. She's ready to fence!

This anecdotal article will focus on a relatively new and as-yet not very common form of electric fencing, namely low-tensile aluminum wire fences. In our operation, having used and installed both high-tensile steel wire and the low-tensile aluminum wire, we prefer aluminum for ease of installation and maintenance, and effectiveness in holding our goats in.

Just as there is no one perfect type of goat for all operations, because each person's situation, financial realities and therefore breeding objectives vary, there is no one perfect fence that everyone could or would like to use for their herd(s). We regretfully loaded a big, beautiful, black, fine-fibered buck with excellent confirmation onto the meat truck when it became obvious that his lovely hindquarters easily propelled him cleanly over 52" rigid panel fences from a walk.

One doe selected herself out of the breeding herd when her fetish for the guardian dog's kibbles led her into the wrong pasture time and again...with both her lovely twin daughters hard on her heels! Without Mom to lead them astray, the twins stayed with the other



200-plus goats who *believe* that the two-wire electric fence is the edge of the universe, and that nothing worth having in life exists beyond it.

Electric fence is a mental barrier, not a physical one. Although not recommended with the highly-intelligent caprine, having the fences off occasionally does not immediately lead to jail breaks...provided that the fence *normally* works well, with 4,000 - 5,000 volts available on all wires. A very hungry goat, a goat in love, or a terrified animal will find its way through chain link fencing given enough time and inclination. Goats that are kept in decent body condition, rotated to fresh pastures when needed, given wide enough alleys and moved calmly through them, will respect electric fences and abide by the perimeters of the pastures as so defined.

Just as I like to visit other peoples' operations to see what nifty tricks, tools, or procedures they use, in order to possibly adapt some to work for us, let me share with you what we have found to be fastest, easiest, and most effective in electric fencing. Maybe it will save you some time or aggravation, or just give you new sources or alternative applications for fencing supplies.

My first goat property had a professionally installed, "Gallagher" eight steel wire high-tensile fence. The tension on the wires did in fact hold up a tree that fell on the fence in a windstorm, but also popped pin-lock insulators, pulled out or pulled off-center 5" wood posts, and didn't keep the bucks away from the does. (We've now progressed to half a mile separation, and are still not entirely at ease!)

The next farm had a combination of barbed wire and "field fence", or woven wire. We enhanced the established fencing with electric as needed to keep goats and guardian dogs from going through or getting stuck in the fences. Enhancing a barbed wire fence was done by adding a hotwire below the bottom barb, and also one between the bottom two barbed wires. As goats will attempt to push under a fence first, one good jolt in the nose tends to discourage them quite effectively.

Continued on next page

Hot Goats**Continued from previous page**

Therefore, an electric fence with a weak charge is a very bad way to introduce goats to a new area or new fence. If they learn that it tingles but that's all, you may as well not have strung the hotwire. An "offset" approximately 8-10" up from the ground and 6-8" in from the fenceline has been very effective for us in keeping goats both from going through the barbed-wire fence beyond it as well as from sticking their heads through woven wire fencing and getting stuck.

Our current (and hopefully final!) property was a blank slate. A perimeter fence of four-strand barbed wire existed, but no internal fences. A patchwork of different fields made up the rectangular property, and a number of those fields were and are still in a Crop Reserve Program (CRP), which means that domestic grazing animals are strictly forbidden to go into them. The prohibited fields have curving boundaries, there is an undulating irrigation ditch crossing the property, and a new driveway and house which the goats only got to visit one time (not planned!).

Budget considerations did not allow for woven wire fencing to be installed over the miles of fence that we needed to erect. Having brought all the "Combo" panels (1/4" rod panels 52" tall and 16' long) and steel posts from the last place, we re-established the "night pen" and sheds, water troughs and salt/mineral blocks in a centralized, easy to check on location. Then, one pasture at a time, we began to enclose areas that the goats were allowed to graze, with 16' alleys where needed.

Fences between allowed and prohibited areas are three strands, aluminum 14 gauge, all hot, with wires at approximately 10", 20", and 34". Divisions inside pastures are two wire, approximately 12" and 22". Posts are approximately 45' apart (15 long paces), with one steel t-post followed by one to four 4' rebars, and then another steel t-post, depending on how straight a line the fence is following (sharp curves need more steel posts, straight lines and gentle curves can use more rebar posts). Lean the posts out slightly against the curve - tightening the wire will bring them back in, and put the wire on the outside of the post going around a curve.

Gates are 8' to 16' wide, and currently predominately handles and wires between steel posts. We do want to have a few wooden posts pounded for both sides of high-traffic gates for solidity.

Our night pen is made of "combo" panels, 384' long by 64' wide, with 8 evenly-spaced sheds of 16' wide

by 8' deep by +/- 4' tall (plywood sides, tin roofs). Rubbermaid 50-gallon low-wall water troughs are portable and easy to clean, and by cutting small sections of the bottom of the panels out, the trough can service two pens at once. We can divide the 200 goats into 8 different breeding groups of 25, or more realistically, 3 groups of 50 with two buffer groups of 25 doelings (no buck) between each. Bucks in love, sharing fencelines, have proven detrimental to the lifespan of panel fences. During summer, when the herd nearly triples, there is adequate shed space for all to take cover from hail or windstorms.

Our objective is to continue to subdivide the pastures until we have between 28 and 30 paddocks between which we can rotate the goats. This summer the goats mined the property for thistles, brush, and wild roses, prompting some astonished local ranchers to ask us exactly what we had sprayed with...

These are all fences that have worked for us, based on what was in place already, using all-aluminum 14 gauge wire, t-posts and rebars, and flat-back plastic "tunnel" insulators (stapled onto wood posts, wired onto steel posts and rebars).

The following list of fencing supplies, prices and vendors is not meant to be exhaustive, cumulative, guaranteed, or an endorsement. It simply tells you where we bought our goods, and gives you an idea of relative prices.

Wire: Pure aluminum, 14 gauge, \$114 per mile, 12.5 gauge, \$165 per mile, from Twin Mountain Supply (800-527-0990) or in Belgrade Montana, Gallatin Farmers (406) 388-4808.

Insulators: "Flat-back", \$0.0375 each (that's less than 4 cents each), "Double-U" insulators serve as anchors, 60 cents each, both from Kencove (800) KEN-COVE (800-536-2683).

Handles: variety available, from \$1.19 to \$5.00 each (ours \$1.85 each)

Steel t-posts: Pacific, \$2.05 for 6' posts

Rebars: Pacific, approximately 50 cents for 4' lengths, 28 cents for 2'

Charger: Talk to Kencove, or any other reputable supplier that is familiar with aluminum wire, to determine the size and power of the charger that your op-

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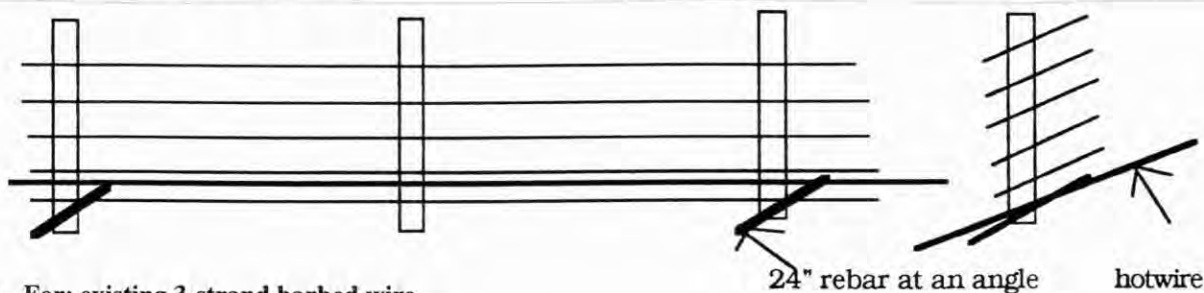
Hot Goats

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eration will need (how many miles of wire, how much impedance, how much pain-potential do the animals need for respect).

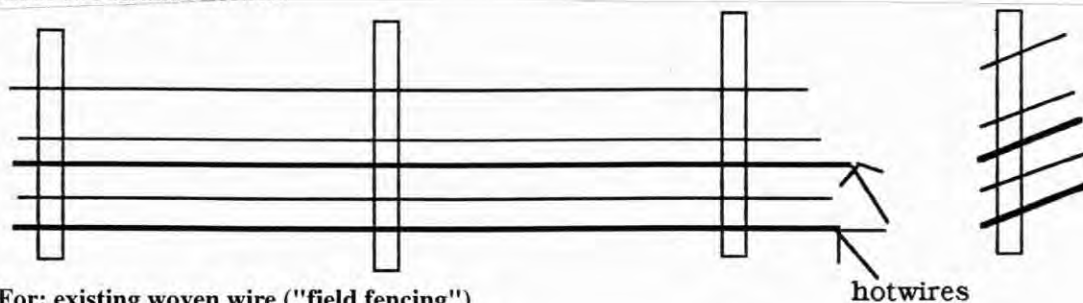
- 1) For: existing 4 or 5-strand barbed wire

Add: an offset, 10" up, 8" out



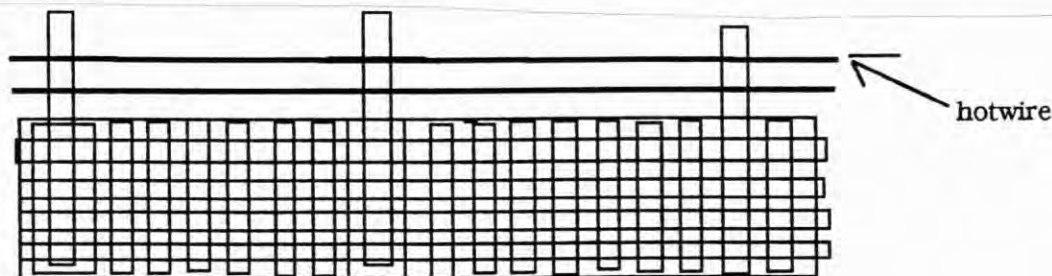
- 2) For: existing 3-strand barbed wire

Add: two strands hotwire



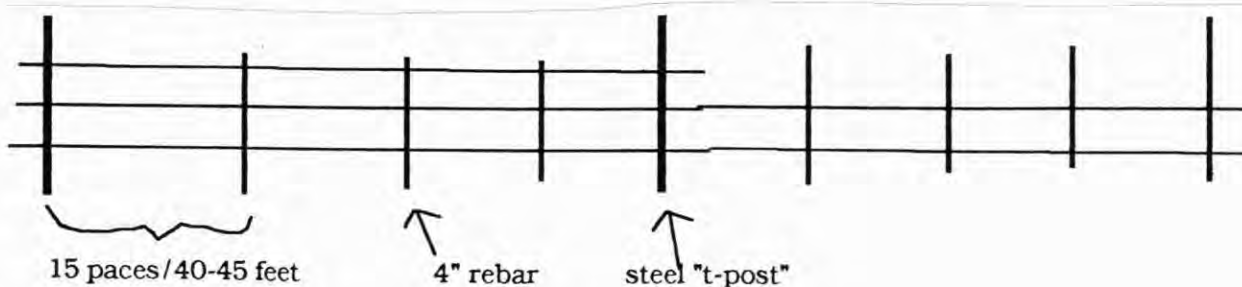
- 3) For: existing woven wire ("field fencing")

Add: 1 or 2 hotwires



- 4) For: no current fencing on perimeter
Add: hotwires at 10", 20", 34" height

For: no current fencing on internal divisions
Add: hotwires at 12" & 22"



This fence works very well with aluminum low-tensile wire, but probably wouldn't with high-tensile, unless it was in a very straight line!

Wethers Get No Respect

If we didn't raise goats, we'd most likely still keep a few wethers. I'm not sure why we keep a few now; it certainly doesn't make economic sense, but we have a few we are attached to. So, in honor of the wethers who never get their fair share of attention, we offer the following songs. Go sing them to your wethers; they might nibble on your ear.

Lyrics by Linda Fox and Paul Johnson.
Music by composers whose copyrights have (hopefully) long since expired.

Ode to Worf

(Sing to the tune of "You are my Sunshine")

You are my wether, my stormy wether.
You make me happy with fuzz of gray.
You'll never know, doe, how much I love you,
But, don't keep my wether away!

Husker's Lament

(Sing to the tune of
"Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie")

Oh wether me not on the lone prairie,
Where the coyotes howl and the bucks run free.
Where the does hang out 'till quarter past three.
I wanna be a buck on the lone prairie.

A Piece for the Goat Formerly Known as "Prince"

(Make up a tune for this one as you go along)

I see a fence, it has electric—Purple Rain.
Don't play with matches, it causes fires—
Purple Rain.
I'd wish I had my own jet airplane.
I no longer have a name—Purple Rain.



Worf at the Benton County Fair trying to get Paul to share his Elephant Ear pastry with him. He succeeded.



Paul tells young Husker the facts of life (more or less).



Prince delights fairgoers at the Polk County Fair. That's the much-aligned Stardust behind him.

Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

January 10, 1998

Oregon 4th Annual Pygora Goat and Fiber Frenzy
Washington County Fair Complex Armory Building,
Hillsboro, OR, 10 am - 5 pm, free admission.
Vendors, demos, goat show, food, fun! For more in-
formation, contact Lisa Roskopf, 51920 SW Dundee
Rd, Gaston, OR, phone 503-985-3331

January 10-25, 1998

National Western Stock Show
Including cashmere goat show January 15th
PO Box 16181, Denver, CO 80216-0181

January 23 - February 8, 1998

Fort Worth Stock Show, Will Rogers Center,
Fort worth, Texas, 817-877-2400 www.fwstock-showrodeo.com

February 20 - March 8, 1998

Houston Livestock Show
713-791-9000, www.hlsr.com

May 1-3, 1998

Fiber in the Forest VI, Roseburg, Oregon. Work-
shops in spinning, hand weaving, basketry, felting
For information contact Marlena Nielsen
2841 Nelqua Rd, Roseburg, OR 97470

May 2-3, 1998

25th Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship,
Maryland. For information contact PO Box 99,
Glenwood, MD, 21738, phone 410-531-3647

June 4-7, 1998

Estes Park Wool Market & Fiber Animal Show
Estes Park Fairgrounds, Colorado. For information
contact Estes Park Wool Market, Fairgrounds, PO
Box 1967, Estes Park, CO 80157
Phone 970-586-6104

June 19-21, 1998

Black Sheep Gathering, Lane Country Fairgrounds,
Eugene, OR

American Meat Goat Association

W. E. Banker, President, 512-384-2829

Cashmere America Co-operative

Joe David Ross, Manager, 915-387-6052
fax 915-387-2642
Wes Ackley (Maine) 207-336-2948
Marti Wall (Washington) 360-424-7935

Cashmere Producers of America (CaPrA)

Marilyn Ackley, President
Phone/fax 207-336-2948
ackley@megalink.net
CaPrA office: 512-452-5205, fax 512-452-5521

Colorado Cashmere and Angora Goat Association (CCAGA)

Carol Kromer, Club Contact, 719-347-2329

Eastern Cashmere Association (ECA)

Ray Repaske, President, 540-436-3546
cashmere@shentel.net

North West Cashmere Association (NWCA)

Pat Almond, President, 503-632-3615
razberi@teleport.com

Professional Cashmere Marketers' Association (PCMA), Tom and Ann Dooling

406-683-5445
knits-pioneer@worldnet.att.net

Texas Cashmere Association

Ruben Ortegon, President
915-646-1055

Western Prairie Cashmere Association

New contact not yet known

Wild Goat Women

Debbie Walstead, Chairperson
719-495-2962

ARIZONA

CAPRON COUNTRY CASHMERE

Gabriele M. Drewry
35039 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85027-7481
602-780-9704
Fax: 602-780-9715
email: GDrewry@aol.com

RANCHO VERDE

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

CALIFORNIA

Sherry McVickar
1662 Dwight Way
Berkeley CA 94703-1804

COLORADO

BV CASHMERE GOATS
Bert Appell
29165 Oak Leaf Way
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
970-879-2160
Fax: 970-879-8701
email: bert@cmn.net

PEACHDÄTTER FARM

C.J. Prince
23676 County Road 73
Calhan, CO 80808
719-347-2510
Fax: 719-347-2696
email: cjprince@bewell.net

ROLIG GOAT RANCH

Cashmere Producing Goats
Steven or Ellen Rolig
8435 CR 600
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-731-9083, email:
roliggoatranch@pagosasprings.net

INDIANA

AI-SHAKKAR FARM

Mary Hotko
12388 Long Branch Road
Moore's Hill, IN 47032
812-744-4411

KENTUCKY

CANAAN LAND FARM

Theo S. Bee
700 Canaan Land Rd.
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
606-734-3984

MAINE

BESSEY PLACE CASHMERE

Wes and Marilyn Ackley
RFD #1 Box 2610
Buckfield, ME 04220
207-336-2948
email: ackley@megalink.net

BLACK LOCUST FARM

Yvonne Taylor
PO Box 378
Washington, ME 04574
207-845-2722
email: Lance@airs.com

HARDSCRABBLE FARM

Hattie Clinger
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

PMF CASHMERE COMPANY

Tom and Ann Dooling
3299 Anderson Lane
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-5445
Fax: 406-683-5567, email:
knits-pioneer@worldnet.att.net

SMOKE RIDGE CASHMERE

Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
2870 Eighth Lane NW
Choteau, MT 59422
406-466-5952
Fax: 406-466-5951

NEBRASKA

AIRY KNOLL FARMS, INC.

Richard & Harriet Jensen
76460 Road 424
Cozad, NE 69310
308-784-3312

HI-PLAINS CASHMERE

Julie and Alex Becker
160482 County Road C
Mitchell, NE 69357
308-623-2627
email: ajbecker@PrairieWeb.COM

NEVADA

ROYAL CASHMERE

Eileen Cornwell
419 Centerville Ln
Gardnerville, NV 89410
702-265-3766
Fax: 702-265-1814
email: cashmere@sierra.net

NEW JERSEY

BLACK FEN FARM

Virginia Hinchman/Kevin Weber
117 RD 2, Rt. 46
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-852-7493

BREEDERS

NEW MEXICO

DOUBLE EYE FARM, INC.
Sanford Bottino
PO Box 218
Ojo Caliente, NM 87549
505-583-2203

NEW YORK

Tomio Taki
Tetragon Consulting Corp.
11 West 42nd Street - 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10036
212-626-6300
Fax: 212-626-6487

OKLAHOMA

TEXOMA KIDS & CASHMERE

J. D. and Karen Chandler
Rt 1, Box 37
Mannsville, OK 73447
580-371-3167
fax: 580-371-9589
email: jkc@flash.net

OHIO

TAMARACK RANCH

Bob and Ann Wood
12000 Old Osborne Road
PO Box 567
South Vienna, OR 45369-0567
937-568-4994
email: annwood@erinet.com

OREGON

ABORIGINAL FIBRE

razberi kyan (Pat Almond)
PO Box 899
Mulino, OR 97042-0899
503-632-3615
email: razberi@teleport.com

THE BARKING GOAT FARM

Dewey and Eric Skemp
199 Ankeny Hill Rd.
Jefferson, OR 97352
503-373-9724
Fax: 503-362-8323
email: eric@hifly.com

BLAUW DAK RANCH

Bill DeJager
10640 Freeman Rd.
Birkenfeld, OR 97016-7226
Voice & fax: 503-755-2005
pager: 503-229-2776
email: blauwdak@3dwave.com

CASHMERE GROVES

Pat Groves
16925 S. Beckman Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-631-7806
email: pgroves@europa.com

DIRECTORY

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

HARVEST MOON FARM

Guy and Karen Triplett
63300 Silvis Road
Bend, OR 97701
541-388-8992

HAWKS MOUNTAIN PYGORA'S

Lisa Roskopf & George DeGeer
51920 SW Dundee Rd.
Gaston, OR 97119
503-985-3331
Fax: 503-985-3321
email:hawksmtn@aol.com

HOKULANI FARMS

Cynthia and Karl Heeren
22260 East Highway 20
Bend, OR 97701
541-388-1988
email: hokulani@bendnet.com

NORTHWEST CASHMERES

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

OCTOBER FARM II

Dick and Dottie Gould
Rt 1, Box 63
Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-9859
Fax: 541-523-9436

OVER THE RAINBOW FARM

Deb Miller
95150 Turnbow Ln.
Junction City, OR 97448
541-998-3965
email: Llama@teleport.com

ROARING CREEK FARMS

Arlen and Cathy Emmert
27652 Fern Ridge Road
Sweet Home, OR 97386
503-367-6698
email:cashmere@proaxis.com

SOMERSET CASHMERE

Julie and Jim Brimble
12377 Blackwell Rd.
Central Point, OR 97502
541-855-7378
email: brimble@cdsnet.net

SUNSET VIEW FARM

Jean Ferguson/Carolyn Bowser
4890 Sunset View Ln. So.
Salem, OR 97302
503-581-9452

WILLOW-WITT RANCH

Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt
658 Shale City Rd.
Ashland, OR 97520
541-890-1998

TEXAS

BAR Y RANCH
James Barton
PO Box 915
Sonora, TX 76950
915-387-5284

UTAH

HEIDI'S FARM
Heidi J. Smith
7980 Long Rifle Road
Park City, UT 84060
801-649-3856
email: heidi.smith@genetics.utah.edu

VERMONT

CRR CASHMERE
Tia and Peter Rosengarten
PO Box 37
Weston, VT 05161
802-824-8190
Fax: 802-824-4072

ELM VALLEY FARM

CASHMERE GOATS/SHETLAND SHEEP
RR 1, Box 200
Cavendish, VT 05142
802-226-7324
Fax: 802-226-7750

VIRGINIA

STONEY CREST FARM
Anne and Roy Repaske
570 Paddy's Cove Lane
Star Tannery, VA 22654
Phone/fax: 540-436-3546
email:cashmere@shentel.net

WASHINGTON

BREEZY MEADOW CASHMERE FARM

Douglas and Roberta Maier
810 Van Wyck Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-733-6742

BROOKFIELD FARM

Ian Balsillie/Karen Bean
PO Box 443
Maple Falls, WA 98266
360-599-1469

GLACIER VALLEY CASHMERE

Jim and Josie Baine
9817 381st St. E.
Eatonville, WA 98328
360-832-4442

KELLERS KRITTERS

Kay Keller
11030 Grandview Rd.
Arlington, WA 98223
541-435-6123

LIBERTY FARM

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

STILL WATERS CASHMERE GOATS

Diana Mullins
PO Box 1265
Twisp, WA 98856
509-997-2204/509-421-3107
email: dmullins@methow.com

SUNNYHILL CASHMERE

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

WALLFLOWER FARM

Dan and Marti Wall
1667 Beaver Marsh Road
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
360-424-7935
Fax: 360-428-4946
email: cashmere@sos.net

CANADA

GIANT STRIDE FARM

Pat Fuhr
RR #3
Onoway, Alberta TOE IVO
403-967-4843
email:103600.1332@compuserve.com

Breeders Directory

Continued from previous page

Continued on next page

TRAILTREE FARM
R.R. #1
Woodville, Ontario KOM 2T0
1-705-374-5527

MEXICO
EL MORO
Fidel Florez B.
Tecnologico #58 - APDO. #31
Parral, Chih, Mexico 33800
Phone: 3-062

Note: Don't forget that all the breeders above are also listed on the internet at:
<http://www.teleport.com/~goatknol/breeders.htm>

From this internet site, you can link directly to the breeders' email, for those who have email. There is also a direct link to the home pages of any breeders above who have them.

Terry's Coming!

Terry Sim, Australian cashmere classer/shearer has announced that he will be coming to the Pacific Northwest during the month of February 1998.

He plans on offering a Clinic in the Portland/Salem, Oregon area on or about February 14th and another Clinic in central Washington area on or about February 21st.

He will available for on-farm shearing and classing during this period as well.

For more information and exact dates, see January issue of *CashMirror* (in two weeks).

Classified Advertising

Cashmere's 1st Place Winners Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, Sept. '97. Very nice fiber goats for sale. Bucks and does. Debbie 503-625-7836, Sherwood.

CashMirror back issues 7/96 - 11/97 \$3 each or a whole dozen for \$20. Back issues 10/89-6/96 \$2 each or \$15 for a dozen. We'll pay postage just to get them out of our attic. Most issues available. A good reference source about cashmere goats and history of the industry. Index for 11/89-4/96 in May 1996 issue, index for 7/96-6/97 in July 1997 issue. 7/97-11/97, you're on your own! (or ask us)

Herd dispersal. 3 buck and 3 does. Best of the herd. Good home very important. Contact Rancho Verde, Scottsdale, Arizona, 1-602-471-3802. Prices negotiable.

Maremma Sheepdog Club of America, Maremma Livestock Guarding dogs, PO Box 546, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, 616-374-7209. Free information and Breeder Directory.

One older buck and one younger buck who had found their way through the fence surveyed a group of does from their spot on top of the hill. The younger buck said, "Hey! Let's run down there and breed a doe!" The older buck replied, "Son, let's *walk* down there and breed them all!"

Excuses for why the December magazine is so late (pick one):

1. The Holidays!
2. Editor and Publisher are building a new house which is almost done and they had to spend a lot of time bugging the builder who really wishes that they'd just go away and play with their goats and leave him alone so he could get done faster.
3. The new puppy ate the master.
4. We were shopping for printing equipment because we wanted to print it ourselves this month.
5. Editor just sold her accounting practice and is spending a lot of time with new owner convincing her just how much fun she'll have preparing tax returns for a living.

The good news is that January issue will be out in only a couple of weeks.

Display Advertising Rates:

Ad Size	Price (Issue / 4 mos. / 1 yr.)
Business Card	\$25 / 100 / 150
1/8 page	\$35 / 130 / 320
1/4 page	\$45 / 165 / 410
1/3 page	\$65 / 240 / 600
Half Page	\$80 / 300 / 730
Full Page	\$150 / 550 / 1,370
Other sizes, options	Ask us

Extensive layout or photo screening may be extra.
Payment must accompany ad order.

Classified ads 50 cents/word.



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Dallas, OR 97338

Annual Subscription is only \$25 for 12
monthly issues! (\$35 Canada, \$50 outside
US other than Canada).

Breeders Directory listing for full year \$30.

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Handmade and painted
wooden cashmere goats

Go ahead—order them for yourself
(We won't tell!)

Key holder (top)	\$ 6 . 9 5
Key chain	1 . 2 5
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Tie rack (not pictured)	8 . 5 0
Book ends (pair)	7 . 9 5
Little wood goats (each)	2 . 0 0
Cashmere goat signs (not pictured)	4.00

Add \$3.00 for shipping/handling per order

Blue Spruce Quilts and Gifts
Dorothy and Leonard Luttrell
1011 SW 15th Street
Redmond, Oregon 97756
541-923-1840
email: dspruce@aol.com

The Deadlines:

Articles, photographs, advertising and other
information submitted must be received by
the 20th 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.

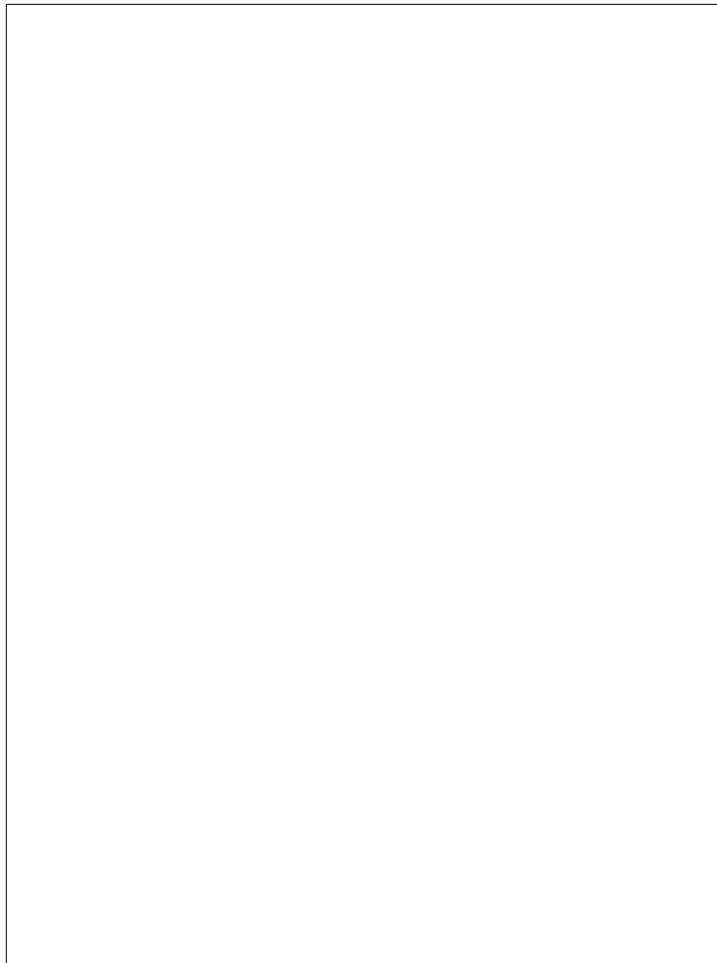
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Membership includes:
NWCA Quarterly
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membership



Northwest Cashmere Association

Annual Dues: NWCA only \$25 or \$37 to include
NWCA membership and CaPra (Cashmere Producers of America)
Participating Membership and Concerning Cashmere
Cynthia Heeren, Membership Coordinator, 22260 East Hwy 20, Bend, OR



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