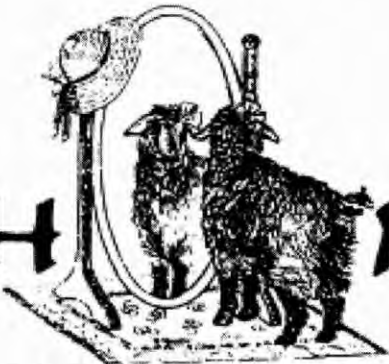




CASHMIROR

Volume 8, Issue 4

February 1997

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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Cover photo:
Linda Fox, Goat Knoll

"First Drink"

Reflections

by Linda Fox

I remember the birth of my first kids a long time ago. Togo was a 3/4 grade Nubian doe and this was her second set of kids. It was an exciting time as the birthing time grew near.

I'm not sure how I had reached almost 30 years old without ever having seen a birth. It's not that I shouldn't have witnessed a birth. I grew up in the country where we always had a milk cow or two, a few cages of rabbits and our fair share of dogs and prolific cats. All gave birth and raised young periodically. But, somehow I escaped being there when the big event occurred.

As Togo's due date grew closer, I read and re-read my numerous goat books and was, of course, prepared for and expecting the worst.

When she finally started labor, I lugged all my books, pans of hot water, towels, iodine and portable phone programmed with my vet's number, out to the barn. I don't remember much of the actual birth except that twins were born, both were male, both were black, and everything was perfectly normal for the entire birth.

I remember trying to figure out what kid body parts were in the first little black blob that appeared out of the mother. I knew it was probably (and should be) feet, but I couldn't figure out which way the toes were pointing. I do remember the feeling of wonder when this new, slimy, limp piece of life laying on the ground started breathing and struggling to stand. I was also astounded that something so new to the world could start breathing, learn to walk and find the food source in so short a time.

This happened to be the only birth I ever caught during my "Nubian years." There were many more births, but I always arrived after the fact. Either I came home from work to find a new mother with kids wobbling at her feet or I'd hear the cry of a new kid from the barn. I'd race out to find it standing up and searching for food.

Lambs last year were born without incident (and while we weren't there). This year two ewes gave birth. The first set of twins was born early January while I was home, but not in the barn. I heard what sounded like a young goat in trouble up at the barn. After racing up there, I found a new wobbly white lamb voicing her frustration at being neglected while her mother cleaned her new little black brother who was struggling to stand. Missed it again.

The second ewe was pawing at the ground "nest

building" one night a month ago when I went to the barn to feed the goats. Paul and I stayed up several hours to watch Brownie give birth. She had three. The first appeared normal, the second was born dead and the third was very small and weak. We buried the dead one and left the mother to care for the two while we slept. The next morning the weak one was still attempting to stand. We milked Brownie and took the weak lamb to the house to feed. It died the next day. The day after, the third lamb died as well. The books hadn't prepared us for this.

We will probably make some changes in our sheep management practices, but we may, in the end never know why we lost the three lambs. We can only hope that this gets our quota of life's "bad stuff" out of the way for a while.

We are excited about the start of the kidding season. Our first doe is due early next week. She seems healthy and normal. This is her third set of kids and we are expecting twins and no problems.

Of course, after doing the articles about kidding for this issue, we are again reminded of all the things that can (and sometimes do) go wrong. Things over which you have no control or things that you could have corrected, but by the time the problem is known, it is too late.

Things go wrong sometimes because you just didn't know. This is part of the learning process and it is bothersome that our learning can come at the price of an animal's life. There is, however, no way to avoid this. You can study and prepare all you can, but many of the lessons, unfortunately, are only learned "on the job."

Sometimes we think if we could anticipate everything that will go wrong, we would have never got beyond guppies (something you can flush with minimal guilt). However, the joy given us by our animals easily outweighs the bad stuff 1,000 to 1, making it all worthwhile.



A Contest! (It's Over)

Designed by Diana and Steve (goat-kisser) Hachenberger
Castle Crags Ranch, Montana



How much do they weigh?

What are the relative weights? Pictured above are a gob of goat guard hair, one ball of white cashmere yarn, two balls of light brown cashmere yarn, a knitted cashmere scarf and a pile of dehaired cashmere.

The Weights Are:

Item	Weight in Grams	Weight in Ounces
Gob of goat guard hair (on scale)	29.5	1.04
One ball two-ply white yarn	31	1.09
Two balls two-ply brown yarn (together)	69	2.43
Knitted lace scarf (on top of cashmere)	21	.74
Dehaired cashmere (under scarf)	176	6.2

And the Winners are:

Closest Guess For:	Winner	Prize
Goat guard hair	Judy Picken	One year extension to <i>CashMirror</i> subscription
One ball yarn	Douglas Maier	Genuine wood cashmere goat napkin holder donated by Blue Spruce Quilts and Gifts
Two balls yarn	Michelle Dobbins	Two 1997 <i>CashMirror</i> calendars
Lace scarf	Debbie Johnson	Cashmere socks donated by Montana Knits
Cashmere fleece	Michelle Dobbins	One ounce of dehaired cashmere donated by Diana and Steve Hachenberger, Castle Crags Ranch

Explanation of Results

By Steve Hachenberger

Item #1 - Goat Guard Hair

Goat guard hair is VERY Heavy. Imagine how many down fibers would fit into the diameter of a single guard hair. Then add the usual length and weight due to guard hair mass and density. As an example, a 500 pound lot of raw fiber to large processors at 25% yield (average) will be a result of approximately 125 pounds yield. THINK ABOUT IT! This means that 375 pounds was lost in the processing due to scouring, dehairing, fly-away, breakage, and short fibers.

The actual weight of an average fleece may yield on the high side 4 - 5 ounces of dehaired cashmere. If the fleece weighs one pound this would amount to a loss of 11 ounces of other material. So, for every pound of raw fleece dehaired almost two-thirds is other material or lost in processing.

The weight of the guard hair is 29.5 grams (a little over one ounce).

Item #2 - One Ball of White 2-ply Cashmere Yarn

Cashmere yarn is best spun in a two-ply for fine lace-weight garments. In the case of the balls of cashmere shown in the picture, all are hand-spun two ply. Weights vary depending on how much yarn was carried onto the ball-winder. Keep in mind the scarf pictured in the photo and the actual weights of the yarn. **The single ball of cashmere yarn weighs 31 grams (a little over one ounce).**

Item #3 - Two balls of brown 2-ply Cashmere Yarn. Their combined weight is 69 grams (almost 2 1/2 ounces).

Item #4 - One Hand Knitted Scarf

The hand knitted scarf was made from the same size balls of cashmere shown in the picture. As a gauge to show how far cashmere actually goes, we hand knitted a scarf that measured 10" wide by 32" long. This garment is beautiful. It was dyed a dark maroon and was knitted in lace fashion. Cashmere when hand knitted takes on a whole other drape and feel from machine knits. One feel and this type of knitting is worth the time spent. **The weight of the cashmere scarf is 21 grams (almost 3/4 ounce).**

Item #5 - Dehaired Cashmere

Pictured under the scarf is a pile of dehaired cashmere. The cashmere shown in the picture was dehaired on our patented DH-2 Dehairer. The rolls of cashmere are approximately 10" long and 5" in diameter. There are 14 rolls in the picture. Keep in mind that not only does cashmere extend itself a long way as a fiber...but it also is very warm and can be blended

with other fine fibers to further extend its uses.

Generally, it takes three "good" producing cashmere goats to have enough fiber to make an average sweater. For lace garments, it will go further. Machine knit garments will use much more fiber and the drape and handle will be different. The pictured fiber is what more or less came from two goats. **The weight of the dehaired cashmere is 176 grams (6.2 ounces).**

For the winner, I will send you one ounce of dehaired cashmere. If you spin, I would encourage you to make yourself something hand knit and enjoy this fiber we all are trying so hard to grow.

I want to thank *CashMirror* for providing space for this contest. I want to also thank Montana Knits and Blue Spruce and my goats. The real winners are those that benefit from the results of this contest. We hope this will help you to better understand yield and the amount of fiber grown and processed into garments.

Goatherders' Summary

We learned a lot from this contest and can never resist breaking things down into really basic facts:

1. Guard hair is relatively heavy; cashmere is extremely light.
2. Per Steve, you'll get, at most, 4 to 5 ounces of cashmere from one good cashmere goat.
3. When you hear that 25% yield is average and you think that is a pretty small number, visualize 5 ounces of cashmere (a pile a little smaller than the pile in Steve's picture) beside 20 ounces of guard hair (a pile 20 times the size of the guard hair in Steve's picture)...never mind...that still sounds like small!
4. Cashmere goes a long way when spinning fine lace-weight yarn, which, per Steve, is the best way to spin cashmere.
5. I could make 6 3/4 lace cashmere scarves (like the one in the picture—which I assume that Diana knit, not Steve) from one good goat.
6. Or, let's go whole hog on the math thing here: From the pile of cashmere in the picture (which would be from one to two good cashmere goats, I could spin up 5 1/2 little balls of yarn (either brown or white) which would make 8-1/3 lace cashmere scarves! Not bad!

When Our Readers Talk...

Can anyone get more information
to these people?

Dear Linda Fox,

Thanks for accepting my subscription.

I don't have personally cashmere goats at the moment. But I am originally from Mongolia, the country with over 9 million goats most of which produce fine cashmere. And I know several people who either have cashmere goats or deal with cashmere fibers. Cashmere industry is something I would like to get into after I finish my MBA here in Hawaii.

I did a business plan for one of my courses on setting up and running a profitable cashmere ranch in Mongolia. I am sure your magazine will help me to further increase my knowledge about the business. I am also looking to establish links with American cashmere producers and others in the business who might be interested in cashmere production in Mongolia.

I hope your magazine will help me to meet potential investors. I am looking forward to receiving it in my mail.

With best wishes,

Byamba Ganzorig
Honolulu, Hawaii
February 7, 1997

Hi.

I am hoping you might help me locate a cashmere goat farm in Ohio.

The woman who runs it was interviewed on the radio a few years ago and she offered to assist other women in Ohio who want to start their own farm.

Any ideas?

Thanks.

Sharon
Cleveland, Ohio
Phone: 216-321-0359
email: marbling@apk.net
January 6, 1997

Hello Linda,

Most people or product catalog say that cashmere from Mongolia is the best. To what extent is this true and why is this so? How can I find out more?

Regards,
Kong Hwai Yan
January 29, 1997

Dear Hwai Yan,

Mongolia certainly produces the most cashmere and doing that they pretty much set the standards for cashmere. So, I suppose if you compare the small amount of cashmere produced in Australia, US and other places to the Mongolian cashmere, the Mongolian would certainly be the closer match to the standard.

Whether it is "better" I suppose would depend on your use and what you personally preferred. I attended a conference last summer in Wyoming (USA) and heard an Australian marketer claim that the Australian cashmere is superior to the Mongolian due to its greater strength and length. I have heard the same arguments from people in the US.

In my own personal (limited) experience, I have handspun cashmere from Mongolia and the US Co-op and some from my own goats and all are very nice and spin up well. I am certainly not an expert or looking at things from a commercial point of view.

Linda Fox
January 31, 1997

Hello Linda,

Thanks for the reply. I have previously heard of cashmere but do not really know much. I did not find out as we didn't need this in Singapore, where I came from.

Having now the need to travel to HK and China for work assignments, I would like to invest in some good warm clothing and I was told that cashmere is one of the best. It is incredible how the cashmere retailers market their products and I am really not sure if I am getting the best despite the steep prices. This actually got me interested to find out more about where I can find the best cashmere. Particularly I want to know what standards do people normally measure cashmere against?

On the net, I realize that many people in USA actually keep goats either as pets or for other reasons, not necessarily as a commercial concern. I may learn a thing or two from them. Thanks again.

Hwai Yan
Hong Kong
February 11, 1997
email: khyan@netvigator.com



Kim and William (an Angora rabbit)

Kim Washburn A Few Good Goats

Kim Washburn, age 12, lives with her parents Candy and Larry Washburn in Salem, Oregon. She raises cashmere goats as part of her 4-H projects with the Cashmere Kids 4-H group. Kim's mother, Candy, is the new leader for the group. The Cashmere Kids is a new 4-H group formed in February 1996. (See previous article about the club in the November 1996 *CashMirror*.)

Kim currently owns 4-1/2 cashmere goats. She has four does, one wether and is a joint owner of a buck. Two of her does were very pregnant when we visited, so by the time you read this, her herd may have doubled!

It All Started With One Goat

The cashmere goats were not Kim's first exposure to goats. Her family first acquired a pygmy goat. It died from bloat, a condition that Kim feels could have been prevented with a C&D vaccination. She advises newcomers to cashmere goats or any other animal to get knowledge about the animals you are considering acquiring before you get them. This includes information on vaccinations, care and feeding.

Kim heard of cashmere goats from a friend of her mother. Kim liked the personalities of the cashmere goats and wanted to learn how to spin. They visited with some goats and shortly thereafter in March 1996, brought home their first two—Heather and Cassie. Cassie was a young unbred doe. Heather was an older doe, ten years old, and is one of the original does imported from Australia by Cascade Cashmere.

Heather was extremely pregnant and gave birth to twins one week after they brought her home. Fortunately, Kim was able to attend the Northwest Dairy Goat Association Conference where she learned about kidding before the birth occurred. Heather had no difficulties in kidding. Kim bred Heather again last fall, but has not decided whether to breed her in 1997. She is worried some about Heather's age and is wondering at what age breeding should cease. Heather seems very healthy, has healthy kids and has no problems kidding so far. Kim said she would have to think about it for next year.

During the summer, Kim raised two pigs. She bought feeder pigs and raised them until they were 265 pounds. The family kept one to eat and Kim sold the other at the fair. This gave her the funds to purchase her second two goats in August 1996. Kim bought two more does—Angel, who is a year old and Tina, who will be a year old in March 1997.



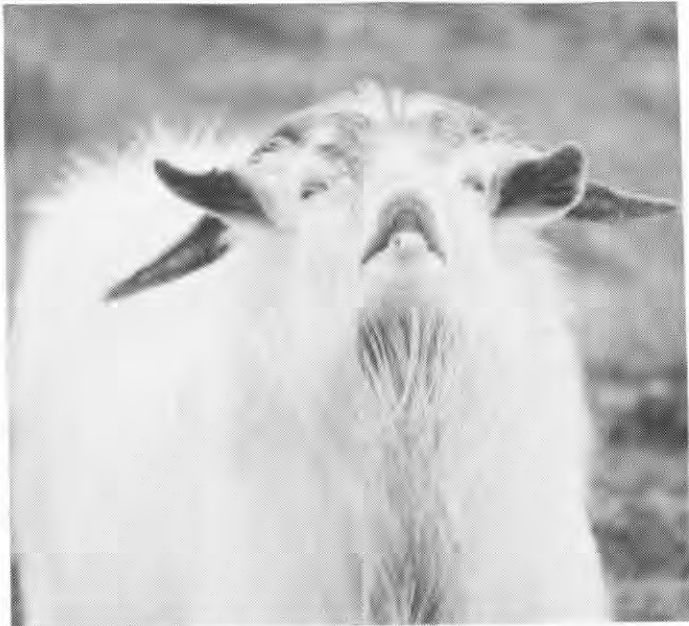
Heather - still going strong at ten years old. Heather is one of the original Australian imported cashmeres.

Continued on next page

Kim Washburn

Continued from previous page

Kim also owns the buck Krakatoa with another person. When we visited, he was enjoying the company of a visiting doe across the fence from Kim's girls.



Krakatoa impresses us with his teeth

Herd Management

Kim feeds her herd grass hay all year and feeds alfalfa to the pregnant does. She feeds grain to the does, as necessary and to the wether and buck for "bribery" only. They are able to buy their grass hay from the field behind their property and their alfalfa from a man down the road.

She also feeds minerals (with selenium) to all her goats free choice.

Kim vaccinates with CD&T and gives BOSE once a year. She vaccinates her pregnant does a few weeks before birth so she doesn't have to vaccinate the kids right away. She uses (actually her mother uses—Kim is in charge of holding the goat) size 20 needles. The kids will be vaccinated later.

Worming is done three times a year. They have fecal samples tested periodically. They don't have much problem with parasites as they don't have a lot of goats and their pastures are not heavily browsed. They worm with Ivomec drench if the doe is pregnant or Panacur if not.

Shelters are provided for the goats. One is a barn which was originally intended for sheep and later modified for horses. The second is a 16' X 24', three-sided metal building which Kim's Dad recently completed. If both of Kim's does each have triplets, they will still have extra barn room! The horse stalls make roomy goat stalls and the goats have no problems standing on their hind legs to reach the horse-height hay feeders.

Hooves are trimmed every two months except for during the breeding season when Kim said, "We let the bucks go then as long as they want!"

Kim uses a tool which looks like a small vacuum cleaner to blow off the goat (and the rabbit, William) before harvesting fleece. It is a Metro 4.0 Air Force Commander which they bought at a dog grooming store. They feel that the blower, which cost \$140, is a valuable aid in removing hay and other foreign material from the fleece. The blower is cool and she said the rabbit seems to enjoy it. They demonstrated its use on Angel and we could see that it was very effective indeed.

Products

Kim intends to shear Angel and enter her fleece in the 1997 fleece contest at the Black Sheep Gathering. She also plans to take Angel to the County Fair to enter her in a contest for conformation. She will comb the other four goats, hand dehauling the fleece



Kim and her mother demonstrate blowing hay and other foreign material from Angel's fleece.

Continued on next page

Kim Washburn

Continued from previous page

for her own spinning use. She says that there is not much guard hair in the combed fleece.

Kim will probably neuter any bucks born and intends to try to find "pet homes" for her wethers. She will keep new does born to enlarge her herd.

She offers buck service to her buck as well.

Goals

Kim's goals are to produce enough fiber to spin and to "drive her Dad crazy." Her father, Larry admitted that he liked the goats more than he thought he would.

Kim is learning to spin. The Cashmere Kids' club Columbine spinning wheel sat in the family's living room. Kim wants to try blending angora with cashmere to spin. In addition to the goats, she also has a cream-colored ball of fluff named William. She told us he was an Angora rabbit, but all we could see for sure was fuzz.

Breeding plans include trying to breed her does to produce kids with a better style and breed toward larger goats. She feels her goats' fiber now is plenty long for spinning. Even though her goats now are mostly white, she says that a white goat is not necessarily her goal, but it just seems to be how she started out.



The Washburn farm - barn space to spare.
A remodeled (for horses) sheep shed on the right,
a newly-built shelter on the left.

Kim would like to keep her operation small as they only have a few acres and also because she doesn't want to have more goats than she can look over every



Angel has no trouble reaching horse-height hay!

night. After she reaches her goal of around 20 goats (Dad, don't read this!), she will sell some or cull the lesser-producing goats.

Advice for Newcomers

In addition to learning all you can before you acquire your first goats, Kim thinks it would be better for a newcomer to buy kids instead of adult goats. That way, the goats have a chance to get used to you.

Continued on next page

Kim Washburn

Continued from previous page

She is looking forward to kidding this year. Last year, Heather gave birth only one week after Kim bought her and she felt she could not go into the pen during kidding as it made the mother nervous. This year, she feels her does are more at ease as they know her better.

News Flash!

Cassie and Heather each gave birth to twins on February 3, 1997. All four babies are white. Cassie gave birth earlier in the day when no one was home. Kim and her mother were with Heather when she gave birth later in the day. Mothers and babies are all doing well and Kim reports that the babies are already climbing up on bales of hay.

**Montana Knits
Announces '97 Fleece Prices**

Montana Knits, Dillon, Montana has announced that prices to be paid for the 1997 buying season will be \$37.50 per pound marketable yield for qualifying white cashmere fleeces and \$35.00 for gray and brown. This is a decrease over the 1996 season's prices. They note that the international prices for Chinese cashmere, which sets world pricing, have decreased substantially over the past year.

Montana Knits' price is based on Pound Marketable Yield which is the company's estimate of the amount of commercially recoverable cashmere contained in tendered fleeces.

The company encourages producers to individually bag fleeces with identifying numbers so that they can be classed on an animal by animal basis. The company will also accept accurately-classed bale lines if they are uniform and meet the Company's standards.

Fleeces submitted must be free of burrs, nits, manure, polypropylene baling twine and other contaminants. Contaminated fleeces and fleeces with second cuts will be rejected.

Cashgora will be purchased at \$7.50 per pound PMY. White cashgora should be separated from colored cashgora.

For further information, contact Ann or Tom Dooling at 406-683-5445 or 406-683-6761.

1997

CashMirror Calendars

11" X 17" WALL CALENDAR
(It's not full-color, but it's nice!)

Cute goats galore

Order yours now!
Don't be the last on your block
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to have one!

Contains 13 beautiful goat pictures and 365
little squares to write stuff on.

Price \$10@ (includes shipping).
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Dallas, OR 97338

**Cashmere America
Co-op News**

Prices to be paid by the Cashmere America Co-op for 1997 grower fleeces have not yet been set. They note that the international market prices have taken a significant drop. For the Co-op and any buyer of cashmere, supply is critical. They must receive an adequate amount of similar cashmere (in color and quality lines) in order to have enough fleece to process.

Cashmere America will be introducing its new 100% warm brown cashmere yarn at the March 20-23 "Stitches" event in San Francisco. They describe the yarn as sumptuous and elegant. The yarn is offered in 50-gram skeins of 437 yards. The yarn is considerably finer than the Co-op's blended yarns. The new yarn measures around 4,000 yards to the pound compared to 2,100 yards for the blended yarns.

For more information about submission of fleeces to the Co-op or other matters, contact the Cashmere America Co-op at: Sonora Office: 915-387-2642
West coast (Marti Wall): 360-424-7935
East coast (Wes Ackley): 207-336-2948

Kidding Around

Kidding Tips Presented by W.W. Hawkins, DVM
at the 1996 PCMA conference



Mother and newborn kid
Photo by Gerry and Pat Fuhr, Giant Stride Farm

Before the kids arrive

Get down on the floor in your birthing pens (jugs) and check for drafts.

Do not plan to have the kids on concrete floors.

Immunize the mother (C&D, etc.) two months prior to birthing.

Have extra colostrum on hand. While goat colostrum is best, you can use cow or sheep colostrum if you have to. If you freeze some, be sure not to use the microwave to thaw it as it will kill the bacteria that the kid needs.

When labor commences

Give the mother an hour of labor before assisting.

Get your supplies ready—clean, warm water, mild soap, lubricant.

When the kid arrives

Assist only as needed.

If necessary to cut the umbilical cord, do it at 2 or 3 inches. Tie it with string if it bleeds. Make sure kid(s) get colostrum. Do not feed anything else as it is **very** important the kid gets the proper nutrients, resistance, and special bacteria in the colostrum.

In the event of a dry, dead fetus, use lubricants. Dr. Hawkins suggested J-Lube or KY Jelly. He mentioned that J-lube is so slick you could put a railroad tie up an ant's rectum. You will need to remove it from your hands using table salt.

If it's twins, remove the stronger one for a while after it feeds, to allow the other to suckle.

If artificial respiration is needed, grab the hind legs in one hand and the front legs in the other and tip the kid upside down and back (butt up, then down). Also rub its nose or tickle it with a piece of straw to make it sneeze.

After the event

Take pictures! Not just because they are cute, but because they are useful for future reference and for others.

Two to three days after kidding, install ear tags—put alcohol on them before installation.

Do not give C&D shot to the kid for at least a week or so as colostrum and C&D conflict in the newborn's intestines.

Ed note: All of the above assumes that you are home and awake during the blessed event. We witnessed only 7 out of 24 births in 1996 and assisted with only 1.

**Birth of Rosie
(One of Two)**

**Mother: Samantha
(first kidding)**

**Midwife in attendance
(attending, but not
needed): Linda**

March 21, 1996

**At right: Samantha cleans newly
born kid—photo taken shortly after
birth.**



At left:

**Rosie, trying to stand. She's pretty
slimy. An overly-helpful human put
down a towel to help with traction
and to keep straw from sticking to
the "goop" on the kid.**

**Attentive human also helped clean
nose and eyes and helped the twins
find food source, but this was not
necessary.**

**However, if the doe doesn't mind, it
is fun to be involved. We've also
found that kids whose birth we
attended seem to be friendlier.**

At right:

**Rosie gets enough traction to stand
although with Mother's aggressive
licking, she is pushed back over
several times. Shortly after stand-
ing, the food search begins. New-
born kids have a very strong urge
to suck, but just not sure on what!**

**This one did not get time to "con-
nect" before her sister Annie
arrived.**



Normal Birth

Instructions for Midwife Paul

(Based on kidding by our doe Samantha March 21, 1996)

Last spring was Paul's first kidding season. As he appeared to be more nervous than the goats, I wrote up the following account of a normal kidding which I happened to observe. I marked this page in our data notebook for his reference.

In case I was not there when a doe gave birth, he would have a reference for normalcy. It's extremely easy to become paranoid about all the kidding problems possible when using only reference books as source of information on kidding.

6:30am

Mother acts normally.

7:00am

Saw long clear thin mucus hanging from rear end of mother (1'+ length). Lured mother into a kidding pen with a little grain.

7:15am

Called in at work to tell them I had emergencies at home to take care of. (Non-goat people will probably believe you.)

8:00am

After short labor (one minute?), first kid born normally—front feet and head first. It immediately started coughing and sneezing and mother started licking her, even before back legs not yet all the way out of the mother.

Kid attempts (and succeeds) standing as soon as it's dry enough to get traction. It doesn't hurt to help clean up kid's head right away—eyes and nose—so kid can breathe and see easier.

The kid may not get time to nurse before the second kid is born—but it might. **Make sure that doe's teats are unclogged.**

8:15am

Second kid born, normally you assume, while you go in the house to get more towels. The second labor must have been equally short. The mother cleans the second kid and also works more on the first one. **Indine kids' navels.**

8:30am

First kid is nursing, second one is sucking on its sister.

9:00am

Afterbirth is expelled and mother eats a lot of it. There may be a bag of fluid hanging out after each kid also, but the afterbirth is the red and white slimy stuff that comes later.

10:00am

Second kid finally figures out nursing procedure, cleans out both sides of mother and is looking for more. I spent some time trying to help her find the right spot to suck on, but most of the problem was getting her to suck on the right animal. I got out of the pen for a while so I was not one of the choices. About 10:00, I was worried as she still hadn't connected with the milk supply and was flattening her sister by butting her and trying to suck off her waddles, so I assisted her again by pointing her in the right direction and she finally found the teat.

10:10am

Give mother a bucket of warm water with molasses mixed in. (Not all mothers will be interested in this.)

Later

Clean up pen area. Put down fresh straw and take away any uneaten afterbirth. Make sure all are warm, dry and undisturbed.

Within 12 hours

Give 1cc Bo-Se (Selenium and Vitamin D) to each kid—under the skin.

Note: These are the procedures that work well for us. They are not necessarily right for everyone or for every area.

You will want to check with your veterinarian or other goat owners in your area to confirm what your procedures should be.

PJ's First Goat Midwifery

Upon returning home one night last spring, I heard a goat crying. I found her in the barn on her side yelling her head off. She was due to kid any day and I spied a water bag, but no sign of a kid as yet. I picked her up gently and moved her to a birthing stall so she could give birth undisturbed. I gently massaged her side from front to back and talked to her softly. She finally calmed down and stopped yelling.

Then the nose and eyes of the kid appeared, stopping its forward progress with the ears almost out. No legs! Where were the legs?

I called Linda who was still at work. She is usually a wealth of information even when she doesn't know much. She said, "How should I know? You've read the same books I have. Either call the vet or go in there and figure it out!"

Buoyed by the confidence instilled by this phone call, I hung up, cast a quick glance at the starry heavens above me, took a deep breath, and went to work.

After scrubbing up and applying a lubricant (K-Y Jelly), I gently pushed the kid's head part way back in, but kept the nose out. I then inserted a hand into the doe to find out what the problem was.

I felt the little rubbery legs wrapped around the neck in opposite directions. After figuring out which leg went in which direction, I was able to pull them out under the nose. The correction made, the rest of the birth proceeded normally without assistance.

The whole process took only a few minutes. After birth, the kid and mother were healthy and normal, although the doe was exhausted and I spent the next hour on the phone trying to explain my experience to everyone I knew—Whose responses ranged from surprise, disgust and apathy.

This was an experience that is impossible to describe and one that I will never forget.

Knitting in America

A Book Report

by Linda Fox

Knitting in America is a new book by Melanie D. Falick with photographs by Chris Hartlove. This book, published in 1996, is a big "pretty" book full of beautiful, glossy pictures, but it is also a fascinating collection of profiles of American knitters and knit designers.

The book also contains thirty knitting patterns for children and adult-sized garments which were newly designed for this book. Although the creations are beautiful and the patterns well-written, I wouldn't recommend these patterns for beginning knitters. Many of the patterns would be suitable for cashmere.

The author and photographer traveled the country visiting with the featured women in their homes and shops. The book features the designers and their friends and family modeling their creations in the setting of their own countryside.

I had been looking for this book for some time without success in local bookstores. I finally found a copy with my name on it at the Pygora Fiber Frenzy. The vendor had one copy left and I quickly bought it before Paul could change my mind.

I found familiar names in the book. In the West section of the book, on page 108 - 110, Diana and Steve Hachenberger are featured along with other Big Sky fiber folk. A beautiful photograph on page 109 features yarn created by Montana Colors on a rocky wall at the Castle Crag Ranch with a handsome white cashmere buck in the background. Their story discusses their cashmere dehairing machine and their herd of sheep and cashmere goats.

On page 83, a knit designer from Cedaredge, Colorado has designed a combination hat and shawl, which she calls a Colorado cashmere wimple. The designer, Priscilla

Gibson-Roberts handspun cashmere for the wimples displayed in the book, but the pattern in the book calls for the use of 5 ounces of cashmere lace weight yarn which, they note, is available from Cashmere America.

The book explains that Priscilla saw her first wimples in 1950. They were plain and called French hoods or smoke rings. Years later, she decided to elaborate on this basic design. The book contains patterns for two wimples—one that fits snug around the head and one that is looser and more shawl-like around the shoulders.

Both Castle Crag Ranch and Cashmere America are listed in the back of the book as sources for yarn.

I recommend this book for a fascinating look at the lives and art of knitting gurus across the country as well as a beautiful ornament for your coffee table.



**A Colorado cashmere wimple
Looks warm, doesn't it?**

Kidding Difficulties

Normal Kidding

Normal kidding occurs approximately 5 months, or 150 days after impregnation. A normal range is considered to be 143 to 157 days. Last year, our earliest kids came on the 147th day and the latest one arrived on the 152nd day. The most common day was the 147th. Research shows that there is a tendency for does giving birth to multiples kid slightly earlier than does with single kids. One study shows that doe kids tend to be carried one day longer than male kids.

In later term pregnancy, the moving kid can be felt and seen to move in a bulge on the right side of the doe. As long as this is the case, the doe will not kid for at least 12 hours. Another sign of imminent kidding is the widening of the space between the pin-bones with a resulting appearance of deep hollows on either side of the tail.

Some does will act differently a day or a few hours before kidding; the first sign of kidding for some will be the appearance of the water bag or if you are not really watching, a kid bleating. Some does will paw at the ground or lose interest in food. Some will lie down and get up repeatedly as if having difficulty finding a comfortable position. Some does will even act as if they are looking for a kid who is not yet arrived, calling and separating from the herd. Most does will separate themselves from the herd to kid, although this separation may just mean a corner of the barn.

You would think you could tell when kidding was imminent by the condition of the milk bag, but time of "bagging up" seems to vary considerably. Some does will bag up several weeks before kidding; some will have little bag until right be-

fore (or even after) kidding.

Birthing consists of three stages. First stage labor, where uterine contractions force placenta, fetus and fluids against the cervix to dilate it, lasts up to 12 hours. Second stage labor is accompanied by straining, normally lasts less than two hours and ends with expulsion of the last kid. The third stage is the expulsion of the placenta (afterbirth). There will continue to be a small discharge for as long as three weeks. This discharge is called lochia and should not have a foul smell.

Normal position of the kid for birth, is the front feet of the kid (you can be sure it's the front feet because the toes will be pointed downward) with the nose and head following shortly after. The kid appears to be resting its head on its front knees. A normal labor is 15 to 45 minutes and if all appears well, you should just leave her alone as "too much help" can upset her. The doe may either stand or lie down for the actual birth. Some goats are extremely vocal during birth and some are not.

Immediately after the kid is born, it needs to breathe. Usually, the birth will tear the placental membranes from the head. If not, movements of the kid or licking by the mother helps. The mother will lick the kid to remove the fluid from the nostrils and mouth. The kid's coughing and sneezing also aids in the process.

Abnormal Birth Positions

A common abnormal presentation (considered a normal position for goats in some references) is posterior presentation (breach). Rear feet appear first, after the water bag, and the toes will be pointed up with

no head in sight. The only problem with the posterior presentation can be getting the head out so the kid can breathe soon enough after the umbilical cord breaks. If the cord breaks while the kid's head is still in the birth canal, the kid can suffocate or inhale fluids. I get nervous when I see a breach is coming and get ready to help if required, but I believe that there are actually quite a number of breach births with goats that are handled quite well all by themselves. If you need to help with a breach, after the kid's shoulders are out of the mother, apply a firm downward pressure to the kid as the mother pushes. Don't yank! Make sure the kid is breathing.

Other abnormal birthing positions include front presentation with head or one or both feet back, breech presentation with both legs back or tangled twins. You will need to scrub up, apply lubricant and go in to straighten things out to a normal position. When you do this make sure that limbs straightened out belong to the same kid. You could very well be dealing with two or three babies, and two kids cannot be born at the same time.

I will not go into the details of how to straighten things out as there are numerous books with good instructions. You should read several if possible and have a reference handy for the event. Most abnormal kidding positions can be adjusted by the owner without the aid of a veterinarian. However, if you are unsure or cannot quickly figure out the problem and resolve it, call a more experienced goat owner or your veterinarian.

Any doe that is in hard labor for over 45 minutes without producing a kid should be examined.

Continued on next page

Kidding Problems

Continued from previous page

Breathing Problems

Usually the kid will breathe on its own. Licking by the mother stimulates the activity of the kid. Its need for air after the umbilical cord is severed causes it to breathe. If the kid doesn't breathe immediately, you should be sure that placental membranes are removed from the head and clean the nose and mouth. Inverting the kid or gently swinging it (see Hawkins article on page 10.) or rubbing the kid with a towel can help. Artificial respiration of 20 times per minute is recommended. Direct mouth to kid respiration should be avoided as the kid could be carrying a zoonotic pathogen as a result of an in utero infection. There are resuscitation devices designed for lambs which could be used for artificial respiration if needed.

Large Kids

Occasionally a kid may be too large to pass through the birth canal and a cesarean will be required to save the mother and kid. From what we have experienced and information acquired from other breeders, this is not common in cashmere goats.

Dead Fetus

Another problem is a dead fetus. A kid who dies before birth may become large due to absorption of fluids. Veterinarian assistance may be required for removal of the fetus.

Twisted Uterus (Uterine Torsion)

In older does and those carrying heavy twins or triplets, torsion of the uterus may occur. Delivery of kids is impossible until the twisted uterus is straightened. It can be difficult determining in which direction the uterus is twisted and straightening may be further complicated if any part of the kid has entered the birth canal after the uterus is twisted.

Eversion of the Uterus (Prolapsed Uterus)

Sometimes the doe will continue straining after the kids are born causing the uterus to be expelled. The uterus is a muscled fleshy pouch in which the kids are contained before birth. If it is expelled, it basically is turned inside out. This is considered a heritable trait. Does who suffer from this ailment are more likely to have the same problem in a subsequent year and to pass the trait to their offspring.

If eversion occurs, it is an emergency and your veterinarian should be called immediately as the doe can die 10 to 15 minutes after the uterus is fully out. The sooner it is put back, the better chance the doe will have for survival. The uterus looks like a big lumpy pouch with veins and is the size of a grocery bag when fully out.

You can also see the caruncles, which are cup-shaped spongy-textured base-ball (or smaller) sized "buttons" to which the placenta attaches. Elevate the doe's rear and keep her quiet. Keep a warm, moist towel on the uterus until your veterinarian arrives.

Retained Placenta

Kidding does usually expel the af-

terbirth (placenta) with the kid or shortly afterward. A retained placenta can mean that the placenta is partly out but still hanging out of the vulva or it can mean that it didn't come out at all and there is no sign of it. If it is partly out, the hanging placenta will keep the cervix open to pass drainage and pieces of afterbirth. The hidden ones are the dangerous ones as, if you weren't present at the birth, you may not even be aware that it was not passed.

The placenta should be expelled within 12 hours of kidding. You should call a veterinarian immediately if this does not occur. Don't pull on a hanging placenta as you may rip the caruncles and cause damage or hemorrhaging.

Retained placenta problems within a herd have been associated with selenium deficiency by veterinarians.

Sources of information:

A Veterinarian Guide for Animal Owners, by C. E. Spaulding, DVM, 1976

Goat Medicine, Mary C. Smith DVM and David M. Sherman DVM, MS, 1994

Goat Husbandry, David Mackenzie (Revised and Edited by Ruth Goodwin), 1993

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Why Do We Trim Hooves?

"If I had to trim their hooves, I wouldn't have goats!"...James Barton, 1996

"Those damn goats have hoof rot, again!"...on a Christmas card from Chuck and Sarah L., 1996

Some goat folks are fortunate because they live where the soil is dry and rocky. In areas where the soil is not rocky enough to keep the hooves worn down naturally, you must provide assistance to nature to insure that the herd has healthy hooves. Without healthy hooves, you cannot have a healthy goat.

Overgrown hooves causes lameness and inward compression of the digits, which in turn leads to an irritation of the skin, and if not taken care of early, creates an opening for bacteria to enter. Severe lameness can also cause high body temperature which can lead to lessening or even cessation of lactation. This is why a program of regular hoof trimming is important—as a prevention to assist in early detection of problems and as a treatment for problems after they occur.

"Regular" usually means hoof treatment and inspection every three months, but geographic and climatic variations must be considered for each herd. Genetics can also play a big part. Different goats' hooves grow differently.

Foot Rot

The #1 enemy is foot rot. This is particularly noteworthy given the plentiful rainfalls in many of North America in the last 12 - 14 months (The Pacific northwest experienced over five feet of rain in 1996!) Foot rot is an infection by two bacteria. *Fusobacterium necrophorum* is usually found in the environment. It is the presence of the second bac-

teria, *Bacteroides nodosus* along with the first one that causes the problem. *B. nodosus* can live only a few days in the soil, but can remain dormant in hooves for long periods of time, and become active when moist conditions combine with irritated or punctured places on a hoof.

Signs of foot rot include lameness, starting as slight and increasing with time. This can occur in one or more hooves. Another symptom is unusually soft pads on the hoof, and once experienced, never to be forgotten, a horrible smelling matter oozing from between the outer horn and the inner soft pad or toe. Swelling and/or the hoof feeling warmer than normal are more subtle signs.

Foot rot is usually associated with wet, muddy conditions where the hooves do not dry for long periods of time. Small, muddy pens are problems waiting to happen, especially if there is over-crowding.

Foot rot is very contagious and if not detected early, can rapidly spread throughout the whole herd.

Treatment should be for the whole herd even if only one case is apparent at the time. Treatment should start with immediate hoof trimming, followed by a foot bath of disinfectants. Foot baths can be an experience for the novice as goats do not willingly wade through the bath. Accordingly, care must be taken to insure that all four hooves on all goats are treated. This can be as simple as a narrow, long trough between two pens, with food on the other side.

Treatment solutions used must be non-irritating and non-staining (blue cashmere may be hard to sell), although with care, copper

sulfate (10%) can be used. If you use a staining disinfectant in the bath, you will need something to decrease the chance of splashing, such as wood chips floating on the top of the solution (Would ping pong balls work?).

Formalin (5%) can be an effective disinfectant, but it can sting the goats, thereby making the chore of getting them to go into the bath more difficult yet. Other possibilities include zinc sulfate (10%) and formaldehyde (5%). Check with your veterinarian, Ag school or extension office for their suggestions.

There have been reports from other countries on the uses of oral treatments of Vitamin A in massive doses along with zinc sulfate. Also some success has been achieved using laser therapy. Vaccines may be available, however this is a recent development. Some growers have destroyed whole herds that became infected with hoof rot. Again, check with your local veterinarian if hoof rot is a serious problem on your farm.

Benign Foot Rot

Sometimes, symptoms may indicate hoof rot, but you may be experiencing a milder form of foot rot called benign foot rot. Benign foot rot is less severe than foot rot and is usually confined to the skin between the hoof and pad with little or no "under running" of the horny part. Both of the two bacteria found in hoof rot are present, but the *B. nodosus* is present in a weaker, more benign form.

Foot baths are required, but on a more limited basis. Dryness is extremely important as an aid to treatment.

Foot Scald

Foot scald, a source of lameness and skin irritation, is similar to foot rot except that *B. nodosus* is not

Continued on next page

Hooves

Continued from previous page

present and therefore, you do not have the characteristic odor of foot rot. However, you do have another bacterium present besides the ever-present *F. necrophorum*. This second bacterium is *corynebacterium pyogenes*. Entry into the foot for the bacteria is often caused by injury from hardened clay between the digits (toes) or imbedded rocks or other objects in the foot. This happens more frequently in cold, damp weather and wet pastures or pens. Dead skin around the hoof is another sign of foot scald.

A dry pen or pasture along with foot baths of zinc sulfate (10%) or formaldehyde (5%) should take care of the problem.

This condition can be limited to one animal.

Foot Abscess

Foot abscesses are an infection, normally limited to one foot. Usually it develops as a result of foot scald, although it can result from a cut or other wound. The infection can go into joints of the foot and can result in long-term or permanent deformity.

Again, wet conditions are a culprit. Treatment, depending on how early the problem is detected, include antibiotics or sulfonamides, and draining of the abscess.

Toe Abscess

Another infection caused by these same two industrious bacteria is toe abscess. Although it is a less severe form, it can involve streptococci or other organisms. Toe abscess, as the name implies, is an infection (bacterial) between the toe pad and horny part of the hoof. Overgrown hooves are a common cause, along with wall separation due to a build up of mud or other substances between the toe and

hoof. Usually this condition clears up once the hoof is trimmed. Interestingly, the front feet are usually the ones affected.

All of the above ailments can be prevented or at least greatly minimized and contained by the following ten tips:

1. Regular hoof trimming, including inspection and cleaning of the hooves. It is helpful to start trimming at an early age so the goats become used to it.
2. Provide a dry place for at least part of every day.
3. Watch for tell-tale signs of lameness when ever you see your goats.
4. Cull for poor hoof conformation or problems.
5. If your place is free of foot rot or foot scald, be sure to quarantine new stock for two weeks, then inspect again before putting them in with your other animals.
6. "Play areas" of rock piles helps maintain healthy hooves.
7. Occasional foot baths of zinc sulfate is an excellent precaution.
8. When suspicious, keep the goats hooves dry.
- 8½. When you do need to treat any animal, keep its hooves dry for at least two weeks.
9. Beware of overcrowding especially in muddy pens.
10. Continually wet hooves soften and are easily scratched or cut, leaving an opening for Mr. Bacterium. So, drain and/or fill muddy areas.

Foot Bath Disinfectants

Foot bath disinfectants that have been utilized include zinc sulfate, copper sulfate, copper naphthenate (Koppertox), tetracycline, chloramphenicol, penicillin and even kerosene.

Other possibilities are hot Epsom salts and a paste made from vitamin E and goldenseal.

Hoof trimmers

Depending on size and condition of hooves, hoof trimming devices can include kitchen shears, linoleum knife, tin snips, wire cutters, pocket knife, box trimmer, razor blade (be careful) and even hoof trimmers.

This article is meant only as a summary of our research and experiences. Contact your veterinarian for specific problems and solutions.

Reference Sources

The Merck Veterinary Manual, Seventh Edition, 1991.
Goat Medicine, Mary C. Smith DVM and David M. Sherman DVM, MS, 1994.
Goat Husbandry, David MacKenzie (Revised and Edited by Ruth Goodwin), 1993.

Definitions

For the Unscientific Crowd

Bacteria - A large, widely distributed group of typically one-celled microorganisms chiefly parasitic or saprophytic. They exhibit three chief typical shapes: spherical (*coccus*), rod-shaped (*bacillus*) and spiral and threadlike (*spirillum*). Many bacteria are disease-producing. Bacteria is plural. One bacteria is a **bacterium**.

Parasite - A plant or animal living in, on, or with some other **living** organism (its host) at whose expense it obtains food shelter, etc.

Saprophyte - Any organism living on **dead** or decaying organic matter.

Bacteriodes - An organism which resembles bacteria.

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY GOAT RESEARCH

Information from
Langston University's web page at
<http://www.luresext.edu/gigr.html>

Goat research is conducted by the E (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research at Langston University (Oklahoma) under the Agricultural Research and Extension Program.

The primary research thrust is dairy goat nutrition. The scope of the research includes Angora, meat and cashmere goats. Nutrition studies are primarily oriented toward determining the nutrient requirements of goats with a special emphasis on the high-producing dairy goat. Basic scientific studies are being conducted on the amino-acid requirements of Angora goats for fiber production. Animal selection studies for cashmere production have been completed. Methods to manipulate cashmere production have also been investigated. Pasture research investigating the use of cool-season perennial grasses and low-input forage systems for goats is underway.

Facilities at the Institute include an 150-goat dairy, a creamery, lab/office buildings and a field demonstration building where the Oklahoma Angora Buck evaluation is conducted each year. In addition to general laboratory facilities, there are special laboratories for milk analysis, fiber analysis and stable isotope analysis. The milk analysis laboratory also provides analysis for the goat Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) program. Our laboratory is the only DHI laboratory that calibrates instruments with goat milk standards. Our DHI program services goat milk producers throughout the United States.

Research from the Institute is incorporated into fact sheets which are distributed by our goat extension program. Data are often summarized in articles in the quarterly newsletter. In addition, research results are published in appropriate journals for goat research, including The Journal of Animal Science, Small Ruminant Research, Journal of Dairy Science, Canadian Journal of Animal Science, Sheep and Goat Research Journal and Animal Feed Science and Technology.

Future issues will summarize Langston's current and recent research projects relating to cashmere goats.

TRIMMING THE HOOVES OF GOATS

By TIM MCKINNEY
4-H Extension Specialist
Langston University, Oklahoma

Goats need to have strong feet and legs to survive. Overgrown hooves can cause goats pain and suffering. Goats with overgrown hooves may not be able to move to where the feed may be located. Wild goats keep their hooves in good shape by wearing the hooves off on the rough rocks. A goat must rely on his owner to keep its hooves in good condition. A domesticated goat will need its hooves trimmed every 3 - 4 months.

When kids are born they have perfect feet. The line of the hoof is parallel to the hair line of the foot. When trimming the hooves of goats, try to keep this parallel line between hoof and hairline. The hoof should also be trimmed so that it is flat and level on the bottom.

To trim a goat's hooves, one of the following tools is needed: a hoof nipper, a pocket knife, or a pair of pruning shears. (Use extreme caution when working with sharp tools.) A rasp will also be required to make a smooth finish on the hooves.

Restrain the goat, and lift the first hoof to be trimmed. Always fold the leg with the natural movement of the joints of the leg. Using the tool of your choice slowly remove pieces of the overgrown hoof. When you see pink, (on the hoof), STOP. If you cut any farther the animal will bleed. Cut off all of the hoof that has grown down from the sides, and folded over. If a good job has been done, the hoof will be flat and level. Use a hoof rasp to make a smooth finish on the hooves. If the animal should bleed, you will need to wash the hoof off, and soak the hoof in hydrogen peroxide, or any other disinfecting solution.



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97016

Cashmere Goats
Maremma Guardian Dogs
Home of
Genghis Khan

Third Annual Pygora Fiber Frenzy (It's Over...It Was Great!)



**David Gilbertson and his wether Don Juan D'Bubba
(Hawks Mountain Ranch Douglas Fir—born 7/96)**

The third annual Pygora Goat & Fiber Frenzy was held January 18th at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro, Oregon. The event was declared a success by promoters and attendees. The event included vendor booths, pygora shows and many pens full of exquisite pygora goats (in their full-fleeced fuzzies) on display.

The show included buck classes as well as classes for does and wethers.

Millers Farm Eyecore owned by Hawks Mountain Farm (pictured in last month's CashMirror) won the Grand Champion Buck award for the third straight year and also won this year's Golden Fleece Award for the best "All Around Pygora."

Over 500 people and 63 pygora goats attended the event.

Pygora goats can have three types of fleece. Type A fleece is mohair, and is harvested by shearing once or twice a year. Type C pygoras produce a cashmere-type fleece containing cashmere and guard hair. The fleece is either shorn or "plucked," depending on how much guard hair is desired. Type B fleece is a combination of the A and B fleeces.

Peanut Butter (pictured below) is 1-1/2 years old and Sally McCarrick expects to harvest over a pound of fleece from her this year—she got 3/4 pound last year from Peanut Butter's first fleece.

Sally and other pygora breeders use a method they call "fulling" to remove the guard hair from the cashmere fleeces. This process involves spinning yarn from a plucked cashmere fleece. Plucking, like combing, removes some guard hair as well. The guard hair is later removed from the yarn or the finished product. At the show there were many end products made from pygora cashmere as well as from "type B" pygora fleeces which were wonderful!



**Sally McCarrick and her doe, Peanut Butter
(Yama Farms Dawnies Gold)
Grand Champion Doe, 1997 Pygora Fiber Frenzy**

Goat People

Michelle Dobbins—It's All In a Name

Michell Dobbins, extra-intelligent (or just a lucky guesser) Goat Person lives with her husband in Tucson Arizona. She is the winner of two prizes in the WhatsItWeigh Contest (see page 3). She purchased her first goats three years ago, two does, a mother and daughter. Mother was pregnant. Michelle says she really "bought the cart before the horse," but in her case, she bought the goats before the fence.

Michelle spent a lot of time with them (probably making sure they stayed home) and they became very loving and freindly. Unfortunately, she couldn't think of any names for them so she finally named them Mama and Baby.

Mama had two doe kids which were named Annabella and Anastatia. Michelle obviously had more time to come up with names for the kids or perhaps she felt the need to make up for her less-than-inspired names for her first two.

Last year, Michelle purchased a "large smelly lonely male." Feeling, again, less than inspired, she called him Boy. And Boy was obviously a busy boy as...

Baby had a baby named Lillyput on December 28, 1996 and Mama had Lollipop on December 29, 1996. Confused yet? If not...Annabella just had her first baby as well...a boy, no name yet. Anastatia is next. And what does Boy think of all this?



**Above: Baby and Lillyput
Photo by Michelle Dobbins**

Marilyn Ackley—The New CaP

Marilyn Ackley, new CaPrA President, lives with her faithful dog Bill. She, her husband, and numerous goats live in Buckfast, Bessey Place Cashmere.

She instructs us not to dwell on why she is sitting on a pile of frozen hay surrounded by goat berries...so we'll try not to...



Photo at right: Marilyn and Bill

Photo from Marilyn Ackley

We have no idea who took it. Wes maybe?

Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

Scotland, UK

What is the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute?

The purpose of the Macaulay Institute is to find ways of using and managing land and other natural resources to create wealth by increasing efficiency and minimizing the use of non-renewable resources, and without compromising environmental quality and the quality of human life.

Origins

MLURI was founded in April 1987. It was established as a consequence of the Scottish Office of the UK government determining that the basis of research supporting the agricultural industry and the relevant Department in the Scottish Office would need, in the future, to take account of interactions with other land users and in the context of developing UK and EC environmental objectives.

Today, approaching its 10th anniversary, the Institute has more than fulfilled that original mission set by the Scottish Office, and the quality and relevance of its research have established the Institute as a leading center for land use research in Europe.

Within the EU there are surpluses of many agricultural commodities, particularly some traditional livestock products which form the basis of output from many hill and upland areas of the UK and the rest of Europe. There is also concern about the impact of agricultural management practices on the environment and on animal welfare. In general, current EU and UK Government policies encourage the extensification of production systems and diversification of the rural economy.

Our aim is to:

IDENTIFY OPTIONS FOR LAND USE BY RUMINANTS AND TO INVESTIGATE THE BIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND WELFARE

Within this context we are concentrating on developing principles concerning the utilization of semi-natural vegetation and permanent pasture resources by populations of traditional and alternative ruminant

species. The research focuses on grazing systems, animal fibre production and the welfare of novel and extensively managed animals.

Cashmere Growth and Moulting

Research is being carried out that will support the developing European cashmere production industry. This covers genetic and environmental influences on fibre growth and quality. We have shown that secondary follicles which produce cashmere are not mature enough to respond to photoperiodic cues until the goats are 3 to 4 months old, while the primary follicles which produce the outer guard hair are mature at birth and can respond to photoperiodic cues from that stage.

Goat Grazing

If goats are to be incorporated into farming systems we need to know how to integrate them into grazing systems with other livestock species. Our work has shown that goats could be used as a management strategy to enhance clover growth.

Welfare of Goats During Transport and Lairage

There is little information available on which to base guidelines and codes of practice for the transport and pre-slaughter handling of red deer to ensure high standards of animal welfare. One of our major research projects aims to provide such information.

The above is general information about the Institute. Future CashMirror issues will provide details of specific research projects of interest to cashmere growers. The above information was provided via their Internet page at <http://www.mluri.sari.ac.uk/mluri.htm>



Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

February 15, 1997

Eastern Washington Cashmere Field Day
Naches, Washington, Cliff & Mickey Nielsen
509-658-2502

March 22, 1997

FoxMoor Farm's Field Day
Silverton, Oregon, Carol Spencer 503-873-5474
Combing demonstration and questions answered

May 17, 1997

Fiber Fest
Skagit Valley Fair Grounds, Mount Vernon, Wash-
ington, 360-724-5371

June 20-21, 1997

Black Sheep Gathering
Eugene, Oregon, 503-621-3063

September 19-21, 1997

PCMA Business of Cashmere Conference III
Bozeman, Montana, Holiday Inn Convention Center
For information, contact PCMA at 406-683-5445,
fax 406-683-5567

September 27-28, 1997

Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival
Angora, cashmere, pygora—livestock and fiber shows
and sales, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby,
Oregon. For information contact Brandy Chastain,
Whistlestop Farm, 503-628-1205



American Meat Goat Association

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(We won't tell!)**

p i c

Key holder (top)	\$ 6.95
Key chain	1.25
Napkin holder (right)	6.95
Tie rack (not pictured)	8.50
Book ends (pair)	7.95
Little wood goats (each)	1.00

Add \$3.00 for shipping/handling per order

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Dorothy and Leonard Luttrell
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Redmond, Oregon 97756
541-923-1840
email: dspruce@aol.com

Goats on the Web

First, an error in last issue on page 14. Site should have been listed as <http://www.ics.uci.edu/~pazzani/4H/InfoDirtRoat.html> We missed the capital "D" in "dirtroad"—darned picky computers!

Mongolian home page at <http://www.bluemarble.net/~mitch/mongolia.html>
Site contains beautiful graphics including photographs of camels and yaks. (Where's the cashmeres?) Check out the stunning photo of the camels at sunset.

Farm Net—in case you thought one site couldn't cover it all. Check out <http://www.farm.net/> Site by Robin Garner and Mark Mason contains information on "appropriate technology, organic agriculture, livestock (no cashmere!) alternative dwellings and offbeat motor-cycles.

Quality Llama Products and Alternate Livestock Supply is www.llamaproducts/~qlp If you can't find it here, it may still be at old site www.teleport.com/~matrxd/qlp/

Classified Advertising**ANONYMOUS AD RECEIVED FROM MISSOULA, MT:****FOR SALE OR TRADE?**

Goat. Perhaps female. Forced to sell after attacking salesman (possible fear-biter). Missing one leg and most of both ears. (Don't know why—just were missing one day). Produces very fine short Cashgora. Has rare stubby coarse guard hair with intermediate fiber. Needs worming and rabies vacc. Enjoys dog bones. Actually, now that I think about it...perhaps I won't sell..

WANTED: Seller seeks mate for above. Must be able to defend itself and enjoy chasing other livestock and/or people. Prefers three legs. Ears "ok" (they don't last long). PS: I saw that picture in the last issue page 8. Looks like a match to me.

CASHMIRROR BACK ISSUES FOR SALE

Prior issues of CashMirror for sale \$3 each or a whole dozen for \$20. We pay postage just to get them out of our attic. Good reference source. Index available for 1989-April 1996 issues. We recommend all issues containing a Mirriam Jeswine article: 11/89 - 6/90, 8/90, 1/91, 4/91, 6/91, 9/91, 10/91, 11/91, 1/92, 4/92 - 10/92, 12/92 - 6/93, 9/93, 10/93, 4/94, 9/95 and 10/95.

**For the Beginner
In Brief**

We have a blackboard prominently displayed in our kitchen. During kidding season, we write on it the expected kidding dates of the does and in large block letters, the following reminders:

1cc Bo-Se within 12 hours
Iodine navel ASAP
Unclog doe
Make sure kid is drinking
Hot molasses water for mother

These reminders come in handy, late at night or early in the morning when we are less than alert.

Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

Scotland, UK

What is the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute?

The purpose of the Macaulay Institute is to find ways of using and managing land and other natural resources to create wealth by increasing efficiency and minimizing the use of non-renewable resources, and without compromising environmental quality and the quality of human life.

Origins

MLURI was founded in April 1987. It was established as a consequence of the Scottish Office of the UK government determining that the basis of research supporting the agricultural industry and the relevant Department in the Scottish Office would need, in the future, to take account of interactions with other land users and in the context of developing UK and EC environmental objectives.

Today, approaching its 10th anniversary, the Institute has more than fulfilled that original mission set by the Scottish Office, and the quality and relevance of its research have established the Institute as a leading center for land use research in Europe.

Within the EU there are surpluses of many agricultural commodities, particularly some traditional livestock products which form the basis of output from many hill and upland areas of the UK and the rest of Europe. There is also concern about the impact of agricultural management practices on the environment and on animal welfare. In general, current EU and UK Government policies encourage the extensification of production systems and diversification of the rural economy.

Our aim is to:

IDENTIFY OPTIONS FOR LAND USE BY RUMINANTS AND TO INVESTIGATE THE BIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND WELFARE

Within this context we are concentrating on developing principles concerning the utilization of semi-natural vegetation and permanent pasture resources by populations of traditional and alternative ruminant

species. The research focuses on grazing systems, animal fibre production and the welfare of novel and extensively managed animals.

Cashmere Growth and Moulting

Research is being carried out that will support the developing European cashmere production industry. This covers genetic and environmental influences on fibre growth and quality. We have shown that secondary follicles which produce cashmere are not mature enough to respond to photoperiodic cues until the goats are 3 to 4 months old, while the primary follicles which produce the outer guard hair are mature at birth and can respond to photoperiodic cues from that stage.

Goat Grazing

If goats are to be incorporated into farming systems we need to know how to integrate them into grazing systems with other livestock species. Our work has shown that goats could be used as a management strategy to enhance clover growth.

Welfare of Goats During Transport and Lairage

There is little information available on which to base guidelines and codes of practice for the transport and pre-slaughter handling of red deer to ensure high standards of animal welfare. One of our major research projects aims to provide such information.

The above is general information about the Institute. Future CashMirror issues will provide details of specific research projects of interest to cashmere growers. The above information was provided via their Internet page at <http://www.mluri.sari.ac.uk/mluri.htm>



Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

February 15, 1997

Eastern Washington Cashmere Field Day
Naches, Washington, Cliff & Mickey Nielsen
509-658-2502

March 22, 1997

FoxMoor Farm's Field Day
Silverton, Oregon, Carol Spencer 503-873-5474
Combing demonstration and questions answered

May 17, 1997

Fiber Fest
Skagit Valley Fair Grounds, Mount Vernon, Washington, 360-724-5371

June 20-21, 1997

Black Sheep Gathering
Eugene, Oregon, 503-621-3063

September 19-21, 1997

PCMA Business of Cashmere Conference III
Bozeman, Montana, Holiday Inn Convention Center
For information, contact PCMA at 406-683-5445,
fax 406-683-5567

September 27-28, 1997

Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival
Angora, cashmere, pygora—livestock and fiber shows
and sales, Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby,
Oregon. For information contact Brandy Chastain,
Whistlestop Farm, 503-628-1205



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