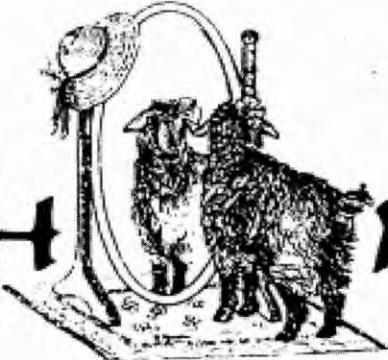




CASH MIRROR

Volume 9, Issue 4

February 1998

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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CASHMIRROR

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Legal Drivel

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

No responsibility will be taken for material while in transit or in this office, although we will certainly be real careful.

Cover photo by

Yvonne Zweede-Tucker

Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, Montana

"Brutus, the Maremma, leads the 200-doe charge for breakfast."



Little Baxter makes up for short stature with a little basic goat ingenuity. It's amazing what you can reach if you stand up on the tippy-toes of your neatly-trimmed feet. Photo by Marilyn Ackley, Bessey Place Cashmere, Buckfield, Maine.



Four months is too late!

This kid was born in the worst part of Montana winter. His mother was bred by her horny little son at 3-1/2 months of age. You need to remove buck kids from their mothers by three months. Photo and error in judgement by Yvonne Zweede-Tucker, Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, Montana.

(FREE) CASHMERE SPINNING CLINIC

WITH BILL BENHAM

Saturday, March 21, 1998

Hosted by Goat Knoll

Dallas, Oregon



You need to know how to spin, but you don't need to be an experienced spinner. The Clinic will be casual and hands on. There is **no charge** (however Bill said if you wanted to give him a small amount of dehaired cashmere, he certainly wouldn't complain), but **advance reservations are necessary**.

SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED AT THE WORKSHOP:

- Basic spinning
- How spinning cashmere differs from spinning wool and how to deal with those differences
- Differences between commercially prepared and hand-dehaired cashmere
- Preparation of cashmere for spinning--carding, combing
- Plying, uses for cashmere yarn, spinning for knitting, weaving and crochet
- Any other questions from the class will be addressed

BRING TO THE CLINIC:

- Spinning wheel
- Cotton cards if you have them
- Dehaired cashmere
- Spindle if you want to spin on one
- Finished items made of cashmere--good and bad
- Lunch (microwave and refrigerator space available)
- Good jokes

Call Linda or Paul at 503-623-5194 to reserve your spot and get directions to the farm. Class size is limited.

Reflections

by **Linda Fox**

As we get ready to shear our small flock of sheep this year, I remember our first sheep shearing experience several years ago.

We had one lone lamb born in December who, by mid-July, was looking hot and in need of a haircut. We had never sheared a sheep before, but we were in good company as Brownie had never been sheared. She was young and innocent and, if we didn't quite meet the standards of the professional shearers, she'd never know, right?

We spent weeks hunting for just the right shearing equipment. The electric shears we wanted were \$80—too high to justify for a \$20 lamb. The man at the feed store promised that Brownie and I would be content with the traditional hand shears—the low cost ones. He also stocked a fancy model of hand shears; they were encased in plastic coverings, made in a foreign country, for twice the cost, but the man said the sheep wouldn't know the difference. He also sold me blood stopper, which looked like spray-out graphite. I assured him we wouldn't need it as we intended to be very careful. I was going to take extra time to make sure my little Brownie was not nicked. I'd seen movies where New Zealand folks shear a sheep every three minutes. The sheep ends up with permanent psychological damage and unsightly bloody spots. We intended on taking a little more time with the job and making sure that Brownie wasn't unduly traumatized.

I'd read a book about shearing. In six pages, it instructed the novice how to shear a sheep, including two pages of pictures. There are seven positions to hold the sheep in the recommended "tally-hi" method of shearing. The pictures illustrated all positions, complete with arrows and numbers drawn on the sheep to indicate the order and direction of the fleece cuts.

The book warned that one couldn't learn to shear a sheep by looking at a book; proficiency could only be attained after hours of practice. That was OK—we were willing to learn. Since the book showed how one person alone could do the shearing, we figured with two of us, it would be a piece of cake.

We arrived at the barn, equipment in hand. We decided that first we would confine our (one) goat and Brownie in the same pen and trim the goat's hooves. Brownie would see that people messing around with them is no big deal, and she would be more receptive to our advances later on. (You can't neglect the potential emotional trauma to animals

of the basic grooming procedures.)

We trimmed the goat's hooves with no more problems than usual. Having only one goat at the time, our feet trimming techniques were less efficient then. We trimmed using what we call the squisher/trimmer team technique. This method involves one person serving as the squisher and one person as the trimmer. The squisher shoves the goat into a corner while the trimmer trims a squirming foot. When the trimmer gets tired of getting kicked, he changes places with the squisher.

Brownie patiently waited while we trimmed the goat's hooves. We were ready to shear! The goal in shearing sheep is to get the fleece off in one piece without cutting the skin of the sheep (straight from the book). We attempted the first position—the sheep sits up on her rump with her body between your knees and the right foreleg across the left side to tighten the skin, and then you make three artful slices from her neck to her belly—sure you do. It became immediately clear that Brownie didn't like the first position. She wasn't too keen on the second position either.

We decided to dump the seven positions and use a modified squisher/trimmer technique. We tried to hold the sheep still (in any position she wanted), while we took turns trying to figure out how to work the shears. We finally gave up on the shears and used the kitchen scissors. The process was incredibly slow. I gave up on the goal of one piece fleece and no cuts. The new goal became: Get the stuff off and don't kill the sheep. I decided I could live without a beautiful one piece fleece.

After two hours, we were about half done (only three little nicks) and all three of us were getting tired, sweaty and cranky. The book advised to take a break for a cup of coffee if the lamb got restless or if the shearer gets miffed. We decided we were a little more than miffed and needed a little more than coffee. We gave Brownie a pan of water and headed to the refrigerator for wine coolers. After our break, we were able to finish the job in less than an hour with only one more nick.

Brownie wasn't as smoothly shorn as we would have liked and the fleece we removed was only fit for pillow stuffing, but she did look cooler.'

In the years since then, we've invested in real shearing equipment and more blood stopper and learned that it's better to shear your sheep before mid-July.

We also don't worry much about psychological damage to the sheep.

Also, compared to sheep, goats are incredibly easy to shear. The job is quicker, the goats are more cooperative and they're a heck of a lot cleaner.



When Readers Talk...

Linda and Paul:

Hi. You have done it again. Overdone it. What a wonderful story you have written. Thank you for such an accurate rendition of my classing techniques, thoughts, and logic. The story is so well written given the current state of affairs within the entire "industry". You both are the penultimate pair in your business.

There is so much exciting happening with cashmere right now that I can hardly contain myself. We are getting closer to putting together a major deal and will let you know all about it when the time comes.

The latitude study plans are coming along well. Looks like our northern partner will be in Alaska rather than the Yukon. This study has such international significance that it is going to be read all over the cashmere world as definitive. I am so excited to be part of this study, especially having our goats included in the mix.

Anyway, thanks for the wonderful story. I had no idea that you were going to do this.

Ann Dooling
Montana Knits, Inc.
Dillon, Montana
February 12, 1998

Hi Linda & Paul!

As always, we enjoyed the variety of articles (*January 1998*) and topics covered in your issue. We'll be trying our hand at the cheese very soon!

We are in the middle of combing our goats, so we enjoyed Pat's article covering that topic. It's always interesting to see how other people approach their combing. Our goats actually lined up to be combed this year! Not what you'd expect from a bunch of goats ready to have their fiber removed. I would add that instead of grabbing the close foot when on that "evil side" one can actually use a tail hold to immobilize the critter. We usually use a halter snubbed to a post or fence and rotate sides. Of course, for those really fuzzy goats, we prefer to sit on a bucket with a lid. This puts us more on the level we need to be for combing without straining our backs and legs. We combed nearly 200 head last year that way and are finding that now that the goats know what to expect, they are fairly cooperative. Even the kids getting combed for the first time have no problem with it.

Also, as I helped shear a friend's goats recently, even though I'd never seen these goats before, I had a fairly accurate take on the animals' fleece, i.e. kind of quality fleece and yield. I was fooled by a few, but most of them I'd seen similar types of fleeces in my herd, so it wasn't a big secret what it should turn out to class as. I attribute this to my up-close and personal combing of these past years. I suppose that folks that are around the goats in large numbers and over longer periods of time can determine a lot just by looking at the fleece on the goat.

However, I also noticed that if the goat wasn't shedding its fleece yet, as was the case in some of the younger kids, it was better to evaluate the fleece after it was shorn from the animal. Not all of the fiber would come out when a person took a sample by hand. A goat that seemed too coarse when sampled by pulling fiber from its side, could be an exceptional individual once the entire fleece was removed and evaluated!

Just thought you'd enjoy hearing how yet another combing enthusiast approaches the task.

Julie Becker, Hi-Plains Cashmere

National Western Stock Show

Cashmere Goat Awards

Denver, Colorado, January 15, 1998

In the list below, the first name is the name of the goat, the second is the name of the goat's owner and the third name, if listed, indicates a different exhibitor other the owner. The location of the owner or exhibitor is listed only on their first winning entry. If you're wondering where a particular winner is located, look further up the list. Only the first three places are shown, although the official list contains placings for ten goats, in those categories where 10 are entered.

Class 001 Milk Tooth Kids (7 shown)

1. SMR Midnight Magic, Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, MT
2. Capcas #P8506, Kris McGuire, Laramie, WY
3. Cashco Kendall, Bronwyn Schuetze, Longmont, CO

Class 002 Two Tooth Bucks (10 shown)

1. SMR the Kapok Kid, Smoke Ridge Cashmere
2. Capas #P7007, Bronwyn Schuetze
3. Cashco Jordan, Bronwyn Schuetze

Class 003 Fourth Tooth Bucks (3 shown)

1. Cashco Black Runner, Bronwyn Schuetze
2. Cashco Johnny, Bronwyn Schuetze
3. Cashco Silver, Bronwyn Schuetze

Class 004 Six Tooth Bucks (3 shown)

1. Tuesday, Heather Marshall, Wellington, CO
2. Capas #P6170, Kris McGuire
3. Damien, Dakota Land & Cattle, Littleton, CO, Ryan Bush, Littleton, CO

Class 005 Eight Tooth Bucks (5 shown)

1. Willy, Dakota Land & Cattle, Robynn Guerri, Littleton, CO
2. Midnight, Bil Nagel, Harwood, TX
3. Savant, Kris McGuire

Class 006 Milk Tooth Kids (16 shown)

1. Tuesday, Heather Marshall
2. SMR Brio, Smoke Ridge Cashmere
3. Capcas #P8550, Kris McGuire

Class 007 Two Tooth Does (9 shown)

1. Capcas #7144, Kris McGuire
2. Capcas #7220, Kris McGuire
3. Cashco Wanda, Bronwyn Schuetze

Class 008 Four Tooth Does (8 shown)

1. Capcas P6188, Kris McGuire

2. Cashco White Lil, Bronwyn Schuetze
3. Coni, Bill Nagel

Class 009 Six Tooth Does (9 shown)

1. Capcas P5276, Kris McGuire
2. Cashco Snip, Bronwyn Schuetze
3. Chinook, Smoke Ridge Cashmere

Class 10 Eight Tooth Does (8 shown)

1. Cashco Biancha, Bronwyn Schuetze
2. SMR Ashley Creek, Smoke Ridge Cashmere
3. P5150 Capcas, Kris McGuire

Grand Champion Buck

SMR the Kay Pok Kid, Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, MT

Reserve Grand Champion Buck

Cashco Black Runner, Bronwyn Schuetze, Longmont, CO

Grand Champion Doe

Cashco Silver Slate, Bronwyn Schuetze, Longmont, CO

Reserve Grand Champion Doe

Capcas P6188, Kris McGuire, Laramie, WY

Class 015 Get-of-Sire (5 shown)

1. Kris McGuire
2. Bronwyn Schuetze
3. Smoke Ridge Cashmere

Class 016 Wether (2 shown)

1. ?, Kris McGuire
2. Dusty, Jeanine E. Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

Class 017 Showmanship (no entries)

Premier Exhibitor

Kris McGuire

Best of Show

Cashco Silver Slate, Bronwyn Schuetze, Longmont, CO

The 1998 National Western Stock Show - Cashmere Goat Show

Photographs by Karen Crouse, SandHills Cashmere, Bingham, Nebraska



SMR The Kopok Kid, Grand Champion Buck with owner/exhibitor Yvonne-Zweede-Tucker, right. Julie Becker, Mitchell, Nebraska, is holding the goat on the left.



Bronwyn Schuetze, Longmont, Colorado and her Grand Champion Doe, Cashco Silver Slate. This doe also won Best of Show.



The Chorus Line



Bob Buchholz, Judge, checks out the goats



Kris McGuire, Laramie Wyoming She walked away with the Premier Exhibitor award and won the Goat Shearing Contest.



Ryan Bush, Dakota Land & Cattle, Littleton, Colorado. Ryan and Damien took third place in the 6-tooth buck class.

Why the National Western?

By Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, Montana



Yvonne and her prize-winning buck, The Kapok Kid

Why would anybody in their right mind drive 2,000 miles round trip in the deepest part of the winter, on bad roads, to "show" a dozen goats that never quite got taught to lead?

Well, the ribbons were an unexpected but *very* welcome bonus to a wonderfully full day and two blissful evenings of uninterrupted goat-time with some of the best breeders in the US today.

Getting to go to Denver's National Western Stock Show in mid-January is an expensive, very demanding treat that I have been able to give myself three times in the last five years, and I don't regret any of the trips.

I go to Denver to see how our animals stack up against those from other cashmere operations, and to get ideas on how to proceed with breeding plans and objectives. Yes, the judge's opinion is only one person's point of view on a given day, but seeing the animals in rank-order and hearing the judge's commentary on *why*—that's worth every slippery mile!

I want to keep learning and progressing, and that's hard sometimes when you're as far away from everybody as we are. The National Western Stock Show gives me a big dose of information, whether it's a "reality check" or a pat on the head. Both are extremely valuable. And next year, the goats *will* know how to lead!!

The deadline for the annual mid-January show has henceforth been moved to December 15th of the prior year. For information about future shows (premium books can be requested in advance of the show for detailed information), contact: The National Western Stock Show, Attn: Livestock Office, 4655 Humboldt Street, Denver, CO 80216-2818, Phone: 303-297-1166

National Western Stock Show Junior Cashmere Goat Awards January 15, 1998

Class 001 Milk Tooth Buck Kids (2 shown)

1. Thunder, Holly Nicely, Colorado Springs, CO
2. ?, Dakota Land & Cattle, Littleton, CO, Keenan Johansen, Denver, CO

Class 002 Milk Tooth Doe Kids (4 shown)

1. Tuesday, Heather Marshal
2. Comet, Erinn Kromer, Calhan, CO
3. Fudge, Cheryl Kromer, Calhan, CO

Grand Champion Buck Kid

Thunder, Holly Nicely, Colorado Springs, CO

Class 005 Wether up to Two Tooth (3 shown)

1. Capcas P8528, Kris McGuire, Kelly McGuire, Laramie, WY
2. Cinnamon, Caitlin Kirkpatrick, Colorado Springs, CO
3. Dusty, Chloe Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

Best of Show

Capcas P8528, Kris McGuire, Laramie, WY, Kelly McGuire, Laramie, WY

Showmanship (9 shown)

1. Heather Marshall, Wellington, CO
2. Erinn Kromer, Calhan, CO
3. Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

Photographs on this page courtesy of Karen Crouse, SandHills Cashmere, Bingham, Nebraska



The Junior contestants line up their goats for inspection

THE HEIFER PROJECT (HPI)

by Paul G. Johnson

Many of you may have heard of HPI. It has been active since 1944 in helping people all over the world. The value of its service has been recognized by several US Presidents and high officials from other countries.

HPI, through its unique gifts of livestock and associated training has helped over one million impoverished families located in 110 countries, including the US (in 35 states). Training includes animal husbandry, sustainable farming, and community development. Environmental concerns are also part of the training. The need to protect the environment and fragile ecosystems through such techniques as zero-grazing and erosion control are stressed with its programs.

The Wall Street Journal recently mentioned HPI in an article, including the fact actress Mary Steenbergen "gave" (donated in her name) First Lady Hillary Clinton a goat for Christmas. Rather than keep the goat in the White House, the First Lady has stipulated that the goat will go to a family in need, with some of its offspring to be given to another needy family. Each family will keep for consumption or sale the milk, meat, and fiber from the animals they retain. This passing on of the offspring and training is what distinguishes HPI, as it results in the gift of one animal to one family impacting many families as the first recipient passes on offspring and training to others.

HPI utilizes over 20 species of livestock in its programs, including cattle, chickens, llamas, sheep, and goats. Incidentally, HPI and its staff are an integral part of the International Goat Association.

It has been said that "Goat milk is the only milk known to half the world's people." Accordingly, it's no surprise goat does (nannies) have been called "Foster Mothers of the Human race".

We all know how hardy and adaptable our goats are, making them the ideal livestock for anywhere in the world. Just in North America goats can be found from the freezing arctic tundra to deserts, from sea level to Rocky Mountain high.

Besides the obvious products from goats, fiber (cashmere and mohair), milk, milk and leather, the manure is valued in many places for use as fertilizer and/or cooking fuel.

The Heifer project recognized early the fact that in many developing countries, women produce most of the food, even though they have less access to training and resources than do men. So the program "Women in Livestock Development", a.k.a. WiLD, was created.

WiLD empowers the women in these developing areas through access to livestock and training in basic animal husbandry. Besides improving the family's health through better nutrition, the animals, through sale of by-products give income to pay

for clothing, health care, housing and schooling. This in turn leads to increased self-reliance and improved self-esteem which comes from allowing women to make decisions about their own lives in ways that may have been denied them in the past.

WiLD also serves as a network of women livestock professionals who share strategies, publish resources and advocate for women's participation in all levels of development. It also educates the public in the vital role women play in the production and processing of food world-wide.

Two examples of WiLD goat projects currently under way are:

Santa Maria Integrated Agricultural Systems Goat Project - Guatemala

45 women in a mountainous area where children often suffer malnutrition formed a group project to improve family diet and income. HPI, through WiLD, provided each family with a cross-bred dairy goat. The products provided by their goats improved family nutrition levels significantly and increased family incomes by 40%. Even manure was utilized, as fertilizer, in raising vegetables for family use and to sell.

Dairy Cattle and Goat Project - India

50 women were trained in dairy management and given one cow each. 15 other women were given 5 goats each. They were also provided with the training necessary to care for their animals. Ten of the families were also helped to construct biogas plants.

HPI and WiLD have made a difference. HPI quotes one Honduran farmer who received one of the "pass-on" goats: "Because you have come, my daughter will not die. I have made arrangements to send the goat's kid to another family so their child will not die".

Currently, there are almost 300 on-going Heifer Project programs in 33 countries, including the US.

HPI is located at:

Heifer Project International
PO Box 808
Little Rock, AR 72203
1-800-422-0474

Montana Knits Announces 1998 Prices

Montana Knits will buy all qualifying cashmere fleeces delivered to the ranch at the following prices:

White cashmere	\$35.00/lb. marketable yield
All colored cashmere	\$32.50/lb. marketable yield
All cashgora	\$7.50/lb. marketable yield

Fleeces should be bagged separately with an identifying tag or enclosed slip so they can report assessment results back to you. If animals show cashgora on the neck, bag the neck fleece separately. Avoid including fleeces with nits, burrs, polypropylene baling twine, dandruff and second cuts; fleeces may be downgraded or rejected if contaminated. Mail or ship fleeces to:

Montana Knits
3299 Anderson Lane
Dillon, MT 59725
Telephone 406-683-6761
Fax: 506-683-5567
Email: ann@MontanaKnits.com

Storm Damage!

Below: The goats of Black Fen Farm assist the clean up crew. "Don't worry guys! You've got goat help!" Photo by Virginia Hinchman, Hackettstown, New Jersey.

At right: The recent winter storm at Bessey Place Cashmere in Buckfield, Maine. Per photographer, Marilyn Ackley, "If you think the trees look bad, you should see the fences!"

**Cashmere America Cooperative Announces Prices**

Cashmere America's prices paid for cashmere and cashgora fleeces remain unchanged from 1997. Their prices per pound of cashmere (based on estimated yield of fleeces) are as follows:

	<u><16.5μ</u>	<u>16.5-18μ</u>
Super white and white	\$37.00	\$35.00
Grey	\$35.00	\$33.00
Brown	\$33.00	\$31.00

Commercial cashmere - poor style, all colors, 17.6-19μ - \$25.00

Cashgora - Poor style, all colors, over 19μ - \$12.00

Short low yield cashmere, all colors, under 19μ - \$3.00

(Short low yield is any cashmere less than 1-1/4 length or with a yield of less than 15%.)

Per the Co-op, as fleeces are received this year, the first checks will be issued sooner based on a visual appraisal of estimated yield and diameter. However, shipments over 4 kilos will be paid based on yield and diameter after objective testing. The deadline for fleeces to be included in this year's batch is May 25th. Fleeces should be shipped to:

Cashmere America Cooperative, Inc.
210 South West College Street
Sonora, Texas 76950
Telephone: 915-387-6052
Email: goat@sonora.digicom.net



National Western Stock Show Sunbeam-Oster American Cashmere Goat Shearing Championships

Competition Rules

Introduction

These conditions are guidelines for judges and contestants at Cashmere Goat Shearing Contest. They aim to provide mutual understanding among all concerned and ensure all contests are fair. They promote the humane handling of animals, and shearers' demonstration of their fiber harvesting skills relevant to the economic factors affecting cashmere preparation and marketing.

Scoring Factors and Points

The following factors will be evaluated in the Cashmere Goat Shearing Championships. They are explained in detail below:

Time	10 points
Absence of second cuts	20 points
Fleece condition	15 points
Body position and goat handling	20 points
Absence of cuts on goat	20 points
Appearance of shorn goat	<u>15 points</u>
Total	100 points

Absence of Second Cuts and Fleece Condition

It is extremely important to avoid second cuts of fleece to maximize the fiber length and preserve the condition of a cashmere fleece during shearing. Second cuts from the act of shearing a portion of fleece create short fibers which decrease fleece value and increase processing costs. Shearers, at the owner's instruction, should be prepared to not shear portions of the fleece in which the down is below commercial length, i.e. 1.25 inches, or not growing, e.g. the belly or neck. However, during the championships, contestants must shear all parts of the goat growing cashmere, cleanly and completely.

Cashmere fleeces often do not hold together well, but the shearer should avoid undue scrambling of the fleece. This assists later grading. Long, smooth, clean, shearing strokes help reduce second cuts and keep the fleece together. Sharp, well maintained, and tuned shearing equipment helps remove the fleece in good condition. Scores for this section will reflect the overall ability of the shearer to remove the fleece in a manner which will maximize its value and assist efficient grading and removal of off-type fiber. A perfect

Guidelines for Shearing Contests For the Rest of Us

by Linda Fox

In case you have read the Official Rules for shearing a cashmere goat in competition (starting in column at left) and are feeling a tad intimidated after you took two entire weekends to shear your own measly flock, left a good deal of fleece on the goats and are still wondering which cashmere class to put the stuff in that you were able to remove, but are, however, feeling extremely lucky that none of your goats were critically injured and that you were able to do it all by yourself without calling in the Big Guns (AKA Terry Sim, James Barton, etc.), never fear. Here are some rules for the rest of us, for those of us who don't regularly shear 300 goats every other weekend and are still a little shaky on which little shiny piece on the shears is the comb and which is the cutter.

Introduction

These rules are guidelines only, written down so everybody understand what the deal is. They can, however, be changed at the whim of the judges or whatever group of hardy individuals who throw the judges out because they become extremely picky or are yawning when the contestants' times exceed 15 minutes per goat. Basically, the deal is, you can't hurt the goats, should not totally massacre the fiber and it would be best if you survive the event without permanent spine damage.

Scoring Factors and Points

The following factors will be used to evaluate the contestants:

Scoring Factor	Points
Time	10 points
Absence of second cuts	20 points
Fleece condition	15 points
Body position and goat handling	20 points
Absence of cuts on goat	20 points
Appearance of shorn goat	<u>15 points</u>
Total	100 Points

A score of 70 or above constitutes an "A", between 50 and 60 points is a "B", 20 - 50 is a "C", 10 - 20 is a "D" (needs improvement!), and under 10 points is an "F" (better hang up your shears and try something else).

Absence of Second Cuts and Fleece Condition

Of course, second cuts (no one will believe those little short pieces actually *grew* that way on the goat, especially when shearing with an audience) are a no-no. If your clipper gets away from the goat's skin,

Continued on next page - Column 1

Continued on next page - Column 2

Offical Shearing Contest Rules

Continued from previous page - Column 1

score is twenty (20) points for absence of second cuts and fifteen (15) points for fleece condition.

Time

A perfect time for shearing a cashmere goat in this championship will be 2 minutes. A score of ten (10) points will be awarded to shearers with times of 2 minutes or less per goat. A deduction of 1/10 of a point for each 3 seconds over 2 minutes will be made from the perfect score of ten (10). A score of nine (9) points will be given for shearing a cashmere goat in 2:10 minutes and a score of eight (8) points will be given for shearing a goat in 2:20 minutes. Shearers will be required to shear three (3) goats per heat in a maximum of 11 minutes to score points. Time scores are given according to a time/points schedule. The time of each shearer will be checked with two (2) stop watches by two (2) timers. The timers will start their watches when the handpiece starts the first stroke, and will stop their watches when the handpiece comes off the goat from the last stroke. Both timers will read their watches before recording the time. The head timer will verify the times and record the average on a scoring summary sheet before the watches are reset. The head timer's decision on timing discrepancies is final. The watches will run continually until each goat is shorn and will not stop if a goat escapes from a headstall. Timing will only stop if there is a malfunction in equipment provided, not under the control of the shearer. Each shearer will have a handler standing by to pickup and bag each fleece and assist in handling any escaping/escaped goats only. Shearers may use more than one handpiece. All goats will be shorn standing up in headstalls provided, or in a shearer's own headstall which meets organizers' requirements. Goats cannot be shorn by the conventional sheep shearing method.

Manner of Goat Handling

Scores for this division will reflect a shearer's ability to maintain a proper shearing position, and handle the goat in a careful and gentle manner, while maintaining control at all times. Shearers scoring high in this category will make shearing appear simple because of their body control and skill in handling the goat humanely. Scoring should reflect the judge's evaluation of the shearer's ability to maintain technique and style with minimal effort throughout the contest, as during a normal working day. Shearing should be continuous, with the shearer using both legs and hands to maintain a comfortable position

Shearing for the Rest of Us

Continued from previous page - Column 2

don't try to clean it up and add it to the stack of good fleece when no one is looking. Leave those little short pieces hanging on the goat. You won't get points off here for leaving them and the goat will thank you for the little bit of insulation you've seen fit to leave it. If you're shearing for money, however, your customer may not be too thrilled about how tacky their goat looks as well as leaving half their profits on the goat, but this is just a contest so don't worry about it here. If you don't take off any second cuts, you will receive the full 20 points. If you make any, you will receive a deduction of one point per (average-sized) fistfull of second cut fleece.

Cashmere fleeces don't hang together like sheep fleeces, so try to keep the fleece kind of organized. However, if it falls off in hunks, or you have to grab off a chunk that's obscuring your vision of where the clipper with a life of its own is going to travel next, don't worry about it. Just pick it off the goat and throw it towards the fleece pile. If you get too wild, it's alright for your helper/s (see below) to retrieve the gobs and place them in the pile for you. If all the fleece ends of in one pile at the completion of your job, via whatever method, you get the full 15 points for fleece condition. If, by some odd chance, the whole fleece does hang together, you get 5 bonus points for this section.

Good quality, sharp shears will help in dealing with these categories, but they alone won't accomplish the job. Unfortunately, it's a practice deal. Do the best you can. Heh! These sections together are only worth 35 points; you can miss them all and still receive an "A".

Time

If you can shear your goat perfectly in two minutes, that's great. However, for this contest, anything shorn in less than 15 minutes is a perfect score. For each 10 minutes exceeding 15 minutes, deduct a point. If you finish after the contest facility closes, deduct 10 points.

Manner of Goat Handling

Scores for this division will reflect a shearer's ability to maintain a proper shearing position, and handle the goat in a careful and gentle manner, while maintaining control at all times and yet exhibiting a certain grace and style. Yea, right! This category is only worth 20 points. You get an automatic 15 points if

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Official Shearing Contest Rules

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and remove the fleece without discomfort or injury to the goat. Shearers will be penalized for getting out of their shearing area or interfering with other shearers. The judge's score should not reflect any opinion of a particular style variation. However, styles used which show a potential for, or cause, fiber damage, goat or shearer injury, will be marked accordingly. Shearers who manhandle goats unnecessarily will be disqualified. A score of twenty (20) points is perfect for this section.

Absence of Cuts on the Goat

Shearing should be completed without cutting or harming the goat with the handpiece, combs or cutters. Cuts on the goat (skin nicks) may not affect a goat's health, but can cause pain and be a processing problem in fiber. For each skin nick less than one inch long, or neck wattle cut, one (1) point will be deducted. Cuts of greater length, and/or cuts in more critical areas that could affect a goat's health, reproductive ability, or become a permanent injury, will incur a minimum three (3) point deduction per infringement. When shearing females, five (5) full points will be deducted if blood is brought on the teat, and three (3) full points will be deducted if blood is brought on the vulva. When shearing males, two (2) full points will be deducted for cutting or bringing blood on the sheath or scrotum. A score of twenty (20) points will be awarded for not cutting or nicking a goat. Shearers must use only combs recommended for shearing goats, and approved by the organizers, to minimize cuts on goats. Handpieces, combs and cutters will be inspected prior to the start of each heat. The judge can disqualify any contestant who has unduly cut any goat during the competition.

Appearance of the Shorn Goat

A perfect score for this section will be fifteen (15) points. A cleanly shorn goat is important for owner satisfaction, later external parasite control and fleece quality. Although shorn fiber length is more important than "polishing" a goat and risking second cuts. A thorough shearing job is essential, with complete removal of cashmere of commercial length, from all parts of the goat's body. Commercial length cashmere left on the goat in full or half cuts staples will detract from the goat's appearance for sale and decrease fiber returns. However, half cut fiber must not be shorn again, creating a second cut. A goat does not have to be shorn slick to receive a perfect score, but needs to be shorn carefully and completely. Correct comb and cutter selection and sharpening is vital for maximum

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Shearing for the Rest of Us

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the goat doesn't get completely away from you and you don't harm the goat. You can swear at the goat one time with no loss of points, but each unkind word after the first will cause you to lose one point. If you turn totally red or throw anything (at other contestants, at any audience member who might be laughing or at a yawning judge) you lose 10 points. If you hit any of the aforementioned people with something thrown, you lose 15 points.

The audience will appreciate it if you exhibit a certain style and make the job look effortless, but for contest purposes, just concentrate on using one hand to control the goat, one hand to control the shears and the third hand to keep the electrical cord out from under the shears. The traditional method of shearing suggests that, just as you were getting the hang of things controlling the goat with your left hand and shearing with your right, you then change hands mid-goat. If you can master this, it will impress the heck out of the audience who, for the most part, couldn't control the animal alone with both hands and both feet. So, play to the audience if you wish, but remember, the judge will give you a perfect score here for hanging onto the goat, managing the shears and talking nice.

Absence of Cuts on the Goat

Don't cut the goat. It's not healthy for the goat, the audience is grossed out and blood stains a white fleece takes it firmly out of the white-white class into the light pink class, which is, of course, worth less on the commercial market

It is observed, in other contests, that a cut on the teat of a female goat will lose you 5 points and a cut on the vulva will lose you 3 points. However, a cut on the scrotum or sheath of a male goat will only cost you 2 points. A wattle you've inadvertently removed or a skin nick less than one inch long will lose you only 1 point. In this contest, we choose not to discriminate by sex or placement of cut. You will lose one point for any nick that does not bleed. If the cut bleeds slightly, not necessitating the use of blood stopper, you give up 2 points. If blood stopper is required, you lose 5 points. If you go through more than one bottle of blood stopper per animal, you lose 10 points. If a veterinarian has to be called, you forfeit 15 points. If the animal dies, you lose all points in this category and your shears are to be taken away.

Appearance of the Shorn Goat

If you finish shearing and the goat looks kind of "rag-

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CASHMIRROR

Offical Shearing Contest Rules

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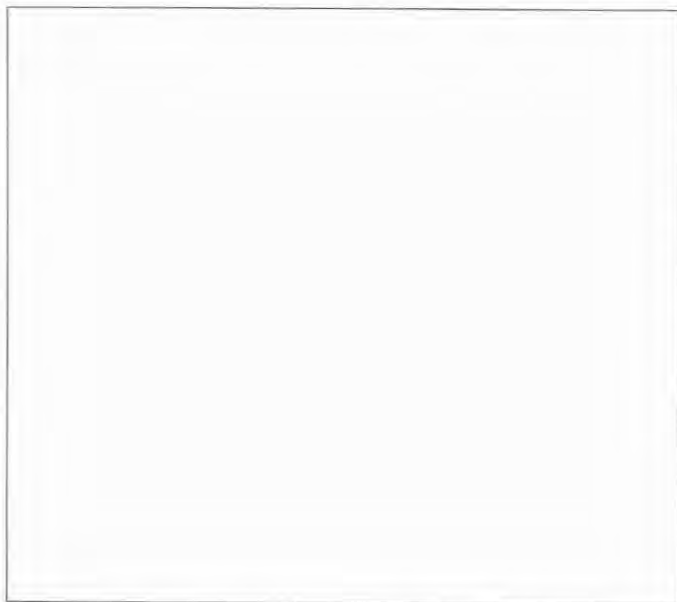
points in this section. The comb should be kept in the fleece on the skin as much as possible to insure a clean clipping and cool handpiece. Cutter tension should be sufficient for a clean cut without overheating the handpiece or potentially burning the goat.

Judging

A group of judges selected by Cashmere America and National Western will evaluate and score each section on the score sheet independently. The individual score will then be combined on a summary sheet. The judges have complete control of the scoring and their individual or combined decision shall be final. One of the judges may be appointed "Chief Judge" or at the discretion of the organizers a "Referee Judge" may be appointed prior to the contest to oversee all scoring. Adjustments will be made for equipment failures, and the judges have the authority to allow shearers to start over on a new goat(s) if a problem develops. Shearers will draw for shearing location and a pen of goats. For the finals the shearers will evenly divide and pen the goats, agreeing that all pens are equal before they draw for a position of a pen of goats. Final placings will be selected on points from the preliminary heat winners.

Equipment

Shearers must provide their own portable electric shearing drops or handpieces, combs and cutters. Headstalls will be provided by Cashmere America. Oster professional products will provide stop watches for contestants and T-Shirts for all contestants.



An exhausted shearer heads home for the day

Shearing for the Rest of Us

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gedy" due to a proliferation of second cuts and little thin stripes of horizontal (or vertical) unsheared fleece and maybe you forgot to shear up a leg or two, don't worry about it. Salvage the good stuff and then, as long as your time is still under 30 minutes, it is OK to bag all the good fleece from this goat and then clean up the goat. It is acceptable to surreptitiously chuck the junky cleaned up fleece in the nearest trash (or throw it out the door for yuppy birds to build nests) without loss of points. If the owner of the goat is present, it would be helpful to send the owner to a vendor booth for a soda while you finish up so they will think their perfect-looking goat was achieved on the first pass.

If you end up with a decent-looking goat and have more fleece weight in your good pile than in your trashed pile, you will achieve a perfect score here. The test for a decent-looking goat is to put the shorn goat back in the pen with the other goats. If the other goats do not snicker or shun their newly-shorn herdmate, the goat will be considered "decently-shorn".

Judging

Anyone who is brave and/or foolish enough to be a judge for this is more than welcome. If the contestants or audience do not like the judge's decisions, they can elect (by simple majority vote) to select an alternate judge from among the people (including contestants) in attendance.

Equipment

The contestants can use any equipment they want including portable shears, scissors, chainsaws, headstalls, fingernail nippers, leashes, collars, tranquilizers or other people to hang onto the goat while the shearer shears. It is OK to have the helpers feed the goat to draw it's attention away from the decloaking event as long as the grain is kept out of the shorn fleece (or at least most of it). No T-shirts will be provided; you must bring your own.

CRR Cashmere Goats & Alpacas

Goats, Alpacas and Fleece for Sale



Tia and Peter Rosengarten
Box 37, Weston, VT 05161

Tel. (802) 824-8190

Fax (802) 824-4072

Shearing 101

We sheared our own flock this year. Fairly successfully I might add. Unlike last year, when we pretty much trashed all fleeces that we didn't comb off. The secrets to success are the proper equipment, properly sharpened and a lot of persistence. You will not necessarily be a shearing expert on the first goat, or even the third, but you will get there.

Expect to spend some money on a good pair of shears. A variety of types will probably work, as we've heard different opinions from the experts on exactly which equipment works best. Except for the shears, all other equipment is optional. We have a nice headstall, but find we do not use it. Our goats do not like it and the larger bucks have a tendency to turn it into a pretzel. Although, if we used it on a regular basis for all goat maintenance chores, I suspect they would get used to it.

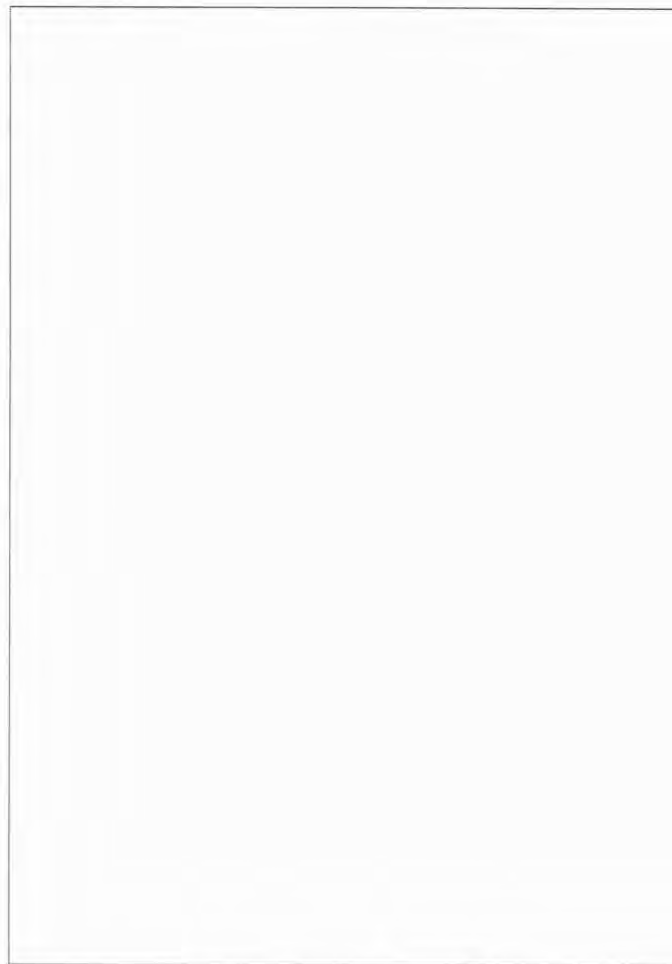
If you are able to shear your own goats, you can shear when your goats need it, rather than working around the schedules of others. You can also save a few bucks (\$).



A portable headstall--works well even for large bucks. Hold on tight! If they feel any slack, they take their best shot to get away.



This little one could use some clean up!



**Paul admires his work.
A pretty good shearing job for a novice!**

The Show-Mobile

By Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, Montana

Please don't misunderstand me—I love our 20-foot gooseneck double-decked stock trailer. When moving large numbers of goats, you can't beat it. But facing a wintry 2,000 mile trip to Denver's National Western Stock Show in January with only 11 animals, the trailer's weight and wind resistance (alas, windy Wyoming is between here and there) were looking like a liability.

Our truck topper can accommodate only 5-6 mature animals, and not very comfortably. I started day-dreaming of finding a slide-in stock rack, covering it, and putting in an upper deck, when I noticed a forlorn old slide-in camper in a back lot. Before long, we were \$150 poorer but had a nifty camper, from which the previous owners had obligingly removed everything (stove/sink/table/fridge/closet).

The camper, dubbed the Show-Mobile, made the round trip to Denver with only one mishap (yep, a buck did it!). We now need a plastic window in the front where you can look into the truck cab. Before its next outing, we need some stall mats to give better traction under the bedding, at least a partial upper deck for kids, and probably some removable internal divisions. Wasn't I smart to marry a man who loves to build things?

The Show-Mobile paid for itself in saved gasoline on its maiden voyage! It might not look as classy as some of the rigs on the road, but we have a livestock operations, not a tax shelter. Some soap and a painted logo will go a long way. And when there's black ice around the next curve of the highway, it's nice not to have six thousand pounds of metal breathing down your neck!



The Show-Mobile
A perfect solution for traveling with a few goats



The old camper--Before renovations for goats



Just Kidding Around

Our Experience with False Pregnancy

By Phil and Cathy Judson

Wintercreek Farm, Salem, Oregon

Just like all of you, last fall we decided who we wanted bred for the spring. We have a small herd, ten in all, five does and five wethers. One of the does, Taz, delivered twin girls last spring and had a hard time recovering. She looked tired so we decided to give her a season off. Her girls were too young to breed this year. The other two does, who were pygmy/cashmere mix, we decided to breed. We don't have a buck, so we decided to take them to a breeder.

We left the does, Daphne and Phoebe, at the breeder's farm in mid-summer and got them back mid-August. The breeder wasn't sure when or if the actual breeding took place (she didn't want to peek or kiss and tell). None the less, after retrieving the girls, we watched them and waited for the tell tale signs. Daphne never showed any signs, so it was assumed that she had remained a "lady". Phoebe, on the other hand, started to take on a maternal look.

During all this, we had become interested in Romney sheep. Cathy had acquired a bummer lamb, Dandy, from a friend and she had raised it. We decided to leave him a ram and try raising sheep. Dandy was raised with the goats after he got big enough to take care of himself. Unknown to us, he considered himself a goat. Soon we found him chasing after the girls and had to put him in his own pasture. We purchased two Romney ewes and found that Dandy was afraid of the ewes. He didn't know what another sheep looked like. But, we knew that his hormones would take over eventually. As of this writing, Dandy is finally starting to figure it out.

Meanwhile, Phoebe was gaining weight and looking like a beach ball. We put her in a pen two weeks before the estimated January 15th due date, because the due date may have been off a few weeks and we had been having some trouble with coyotes on our farm. We waited and waited and waited...January 15th came and went. Phoebe looked very pregnant, so we decided to give it one more week.

We called the breeder to double check the date and she confirmed it. She was as bewildered as we were. The breeder had been the one to give us our wethers and she mentioned that maybe she had missed a "family jewel" while castrating. Perhaps one of the testicles had not descended and had been missed. Had one of the boys been acting "bucky"? In



"Hello world!"

A new milk-mouth checks out the world from behind the security of its mother. Unfortunately, this kid does not belong to Phoebe. Photo by Michael Keller, Kellers Kritters, Arlington, Washington.

truth, one of them had, curling his lip and showing off his manliness and trying to jump on the girls. So, there was that possibility.

We then started to worry that Dandy (the ram) had bred Phoebe. Now we had to worry about a later due date and a "geep" (cross between a goat and a sheep). We left her in the stall and watched her. Every four hours we checked on her and she was always the same—a happy, well-fed, spoiled, little beach ball of a goat. She rather enjoyed all the attention and Phil is her very best friend.

Finally, on February 8th, I was again checking her and she had bloody show on her tail and haunches. Her cervix was larger and rosy pink. Finally! We had something happening!!! We all went to the barn to wait and watch. She acted like she was in labor with labored breathing, straining, uncomfortable positions and contractions every 5 to 6 minutes. This went on for about four hours and then, everything stopped!

Then we really got worried! We kept checking her every few hours that evening and she acted like nothing had been going on. The next morning, nothing.

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False Pregnancy

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That afternoon, nothing. We made phone calls to everyone we knew. Did they have any ideas or suggestions on what was going on?

Monday, February 9th, we called our veterinarian and told him our strange story. He had the usual questions—Was she eating? Drinking? Moving around? Was her temperature normal? How was she acting? Did she have a full udder? It was yes to all questions, but we were not sure about the udder; she was so swollen and she carries her udder high, so it was hard to tell. We did determine that there was a little milk. The vet wondered if it was a possible “false pregnancy”. He said it was rare in goats and he had not run across it. He had seen it in cows and horses, even dogs and cats, but not in goats.

Phoebe had started to lose some of the swollen look since the labor incident. She acted normal and was not in distress at all. The vet had us check her vaginally for little hooves, a nose or an ear, anything out of the usual and recheck her temperature. We did this that afternoon. When we got down to the barn, she was thinner than the following day. She looked like a normal goat. (Is there such a thing as a “normal” goat?) Her sides were down to her regular size. It was surprising to us how fast she had gone down in size. We checked her temperature, 102.3, pretty normal. We did an exam of the cervix and uterus, nothing unusual, normal color and size.

This was not the kind of attention she liked. She wanted us to let her go. When we did, we were forgiven for messing around back there and “Where is my treat?” We had a little talk with her, telling her, “It’s not nice to fool mother nature!” We let her out of the stall and she ran skipping off up to the meadow. Yipppeee!!!

So, where does this leave us? We didn’t think to take pictures of her when she as big as a house. So, there is only our word that she was BIG. Later, she went from big as a house to slim as a rail in two days. We had a rare case of “false pregnancy”, we think. We haven’t been able to find anything in any of our goat books relating to this situation.

If anyone out there has had a similar experience, we would love to hear from you. E-mail us at: CNJPGL@aol.com. (Or write us at: 3770 Brush College Rd. NW, Salem, OR 97304.) We weren’t sure if this would be of much interest to anyone, but we were encouraged by everyone to write an article about it. If anything else, it will give you something read and giggle over, while waiting for your new arrival of kids.

Kids Feeding Kids

(These don't belong to Phoebe either)



Roberta Maier uses child labor for feeding the kids. Photo by Doug and Roberta Maier, Breezy Meadow Cashmere Farm, Bellinham, WA



"You just put it in your mouth and suck on it."

From left to right: Brianna Angel, Kidder (the goat) Liz Weber and Rin (Border Collie). Photo by Virginia Hinchman, Black Fen Farm, Hackettstown, NJ

New Regulations Considered For Scrapie Control

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

APHIS is the government agency charged with "protecting American agriculture". Their mission is to boldly go where no other agency has gone before, seeking out strange, new pestilence and pests. Or, in their own words, "providing leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, improving agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributing to the national economy and public health".

They do this through inspections, monitoring agricultural diseases and pests and utilizing biological controls to help fight insects and plant diseases. While they have a wide range of responsibilities, such as assuring the safety of genetically engineered plants, monitoring known diseases and guarding our borders against foreign pests and diseases, we are concerned here with two areas of specific concern to goat folk.

These concerns are the monitoring of goat-related diseases and inspections.

The first order in combating diseases and pests is the gathering of intelligence, i.e., where and how many. This is the function of the National Animal Health Monitoring system, which is conducted by the Veterinary Services arm of APHIS. Studies are set up utilizing new or existing data bases. From the information gathered, predictions of trends are forecast and more specific studies and data gathering is performed. Examples of studies include Salmonella in beef production, Johne's Disease in various species and Scrapie in sheep and goats. These in turn can lead to regulations for the control and movement of animals between states and/or other countries.

To this end, in the case of Scrapie, the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program was established on October 1, 1992. The voluntary program is a cooperative effort among producers, allied industry representatives, accredited veterinarians, State animal health officials and APHIS. The program monitors flocks using four levels of standards over a five year period (or longer) and identifies flocks that are free of Scrapie. The program provides participating producers with the opportunity not only to protect their flock from Scrapie but also to enhance the marketability of their animals. Flock owners may enroll in the program by sending an application to their State's Scrapie Certification Board.

What does all this mean for you? Well, many states require a veterinarian's certification that any goats coming into the state have "no known exposure" to Scrapie. This means that should you buy goats from out of state, you must check with the appropriate state agency and/or a local veterinarian. If in doubt what procedures are required in your location, call your local APHIS office. Check under the "blue" government pages of your local phone book, under "United States Government". They can and will help you.

APHIS is currently taking public comments on potential regula-

tion changes to limit the spread of Scrapie. This would include restricting interstate movement of animals, including goats, from states that do not quarantine herds/flocks. Also, there is concern for intrastate transport from infected herds within the state so this issue may be addressed as well.

Could this lead to inspections for transporting your goats anywhere within your own state?

Your comments, in the format of one original and three copies, should be sent on or before March 27, 1998, to: Docket 97-093-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Suite 3C03, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, Md. 20737-1338.

The internet address for obtaining a list of infected herds and enrolled/source herds is:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie/status.html>

The internet address for checking on State regulations for traveling across state lines with your goats is:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/or.html>

What is Scrapie?

Scrapie is a degenerative and eventually fatal disease affecting the central nervous systems of sheep and goats. Its control is complicated because the disease often has an extremely long incubation period without clinical signs of disease, and because there is no validated live-animal test for the disease. Scrapie is the prototype of the group of diseases known as the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's). These diseases are caused by a transmissible agent which is yet to be fully characterized. TSE's share the following common characteristics:

- A prolonged incubation period of months or years;

- A progressive debilitating neurological illness that is always fatal;

- When examined by electron microscopy, detergent-treated extracts of brain tissue from animals or humans affected by these diseases reveal the presence of scrapie associated fibrils;

- Pathological changes are confined to the central nervous system and include vacuolation, astrocytosis, and glyosis. Amyloid plaques may be seen, especially in mice and hamsters; and

- The transmissible agent elicits no detectable specific immune response in the host.

While recent advances may come to significantly affect the control of scrapie, current control programs rely largely on postmortem diagnosis of scrapie, traceback of animal movements, and certification of flocks' scrapie status based on monitoring the flock for scrapie over a period of years.

Classing Cashmere with Terry Sim

By Linda Fox

During Terry Sim's recent visit to the United States, he held two classing clinics in the Pacific Northwest. The first, held February 14th, at Northwest Cashmere in Newberg, Oregon, was attended by eight people. The group spent most of the day mostly looking at fleeces brought by participants, but they watched Terry shear a few goats and class fleece on the goats before shearing. Participants brought a wide range of questions with them.

The second clinic, held one week later at Glacier Valley Cashmere in Eatonville, Washington, was attended by 10 participants. The group looked at numerous fleeces and also at a few goats.

This article is based on what I learned at Terry's clinic on February 14th and also at a fiber classing clinic taught by Terry on March 2, 1996. At the first clinic, participants were provided with a booklet entitled "Cashmere America Fiber Classing and Clip Preparation Notes". This material was used as a guide for study at the first clinic. Per Terry, his current classing methods have not changed substantially and should be the same as those currently used by the Cashmere America Cooperative classers, both of which are based on the Australian cashmere classing system, which is still used in Australia today.

Classing of cashmere lines is different than classing individual animals and classing bulk lines of cashmere is different yet. The clinics focused on classing individual animals, as a grower would be likely to do for making breeding and culling decisions.

For classing, proper light is important. If improper light is used, ginger fibers may be seen as white and

white can appear grey. In too bright of light, fibers can appear shinier and coarser. Fleeces are more reliably graded under good lighting rather than in a dark barn or bright sunlight. Fluorescent lights (preferably with daylight or full-spectrum bulbs) are best.

Color

Color choices for cashmere fleeces are:

WW	White white
WC	White with color
GY	Grey
BR	Brown

Sometimes, the grey is further divided into soft brown and grey, depending on the cashmere lines of the processor.

Color of the cashmere is easiest determined by removing the guard hair from a small sample and twisting the cashmere fibers across your fingernail. You can also look at the tips of the cashmere fiber if they extend beyond the guard hair.

A WC fleece appears white, but upon closer examination, you will find color. For determining whether a fleece is WW or WC, the best test is to put your fleece sample on a white piece of paper. No colored hair should show. A white cashmere fleece with any colored guard hair is not considered WW. Shorn fiber that should have been white, but has not been properly separated and is contaminated with colored fibers would go in the white with color (WC) category.

The question was asked by a participant, "How many colored hairs do you need to find before your WW fleece moves to the WC category. Terry's answer was, "One." He said that if he finds one, he figures there are many more he didn't see. There used to be a premium paid for WW fiber, but cashmere buyers are not now currently separating between the two. This makes sense as in theory, if the cashmere fiber is white and dehairing is effective in removing all guard hairs, the end

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Terry Sim and a Classing Clinic participant examine a Russian cashmere lace shawl. Cashmere contained in it did not class very high.

Classing With Terry

Continued from previous page

result should be the same. We still need to separate our fleeces into WW and WC for sending to bulk buyers.

If you have trouble distinguishing dirt from fleece color, wash a sample. See if dirt comes out and/or re-examine the washed sample for correct color.

The brown (BR) color is a darker brown. A lighter brown cashmere will go either into the grey (GY) line or a soft brown line if available. From Terry's earlier clinic and the Cooperative booklet, I find no mention of the soft brown differentiation, so I assume this must be a recent line. From the first clinic, I remember determining if a fleece sample was brown or if it was white; if it was neither, it was, by default, grey as all other colors would blend to grey.

If you were classing fleeces for your own farm lines, you would make a choice on your own colors. If you wanted to keep your brown dark, you would not include the lighter brown fleece in your dark brown line. If you wanted the maximum amount of brown fleece and were not concerned about the darkness of the shade, you would include in your brown, the soft browns as well. Or, let's get real simple here. If you have only five goats and want enough cashmere for one sweater (who cares what color), you would blend all your cashmere colors together (assuming the lengths and style were similar) and end up with one (probably grey) color line. You don't like grey? Dye it green.

For color grading for bulk purchasers, if you combine your fleeces, you will need to accommodate their needs. If you submit your fleeces individually to a bulk purchaser, they will separate the colors for



Terry and the class examined many fleeces during the day.
Terry's the one in the disguise.

their purposes anyway.

Style

The original purpose of the "style" classification for cashmere, per Terry, was the Australians' system for eliminating the straight cashmere fibers caused by the Angora goat influence in their earlier cashmere which the buyers did not want. He thought that perhaps, growers have become a little paranoid about style. When the Cooperative separates their lines between their Premium line and their Commercial line, the defining factor is cashmere diameter, not style. Of course, a minimum style quality must be met. Relatively straight fibers of 15 micron diameter would still not be classed as cashmere.

Terry's style classification runs on a scale of 1 to 4, with one being a poor, cashgora type style and 4 being an excellent, ideal cashmere style. The more

crimps in the fiber, the higher the style rating. To determine style, hold your small fiber sample at the base (the end that grew out of the goat last) and pull out a few fibers by the tip. Kids with straighter fibers have a tendency to develop even more straighter fibers throughout the fleece as they age. Therefore, you need to be really hard on the grading when selecting young bucks to keep for breeding.

A style 1 (poor style) has a "cooler" handle. The pile of fiber actually feels a little cool to the touch. The fiber on the neck and front of the

Continued on next page

Classing With Terry

Continued from previous page

goat habitually has less style than other sections of the goat.

Diameter

Estimated diameter of the fiber is determined by holding the small fiber sample at the base and pulling it apart to look at individual fibers. Fiber diameter is graded as Fine (under 16.5 microns), Medium (16.5 - 18.5 microns) or Coarse (18.5 - 20 microns). A pile of very fine-fibered fleece has a "dumpy" look to it.

Per Terry, diameter of fiber and style are related. A finer fiber usually has a better style. It is, however, easy to be confused with very young and older goats. A younger goat may have fine fiber, but it may be straight. An older goat's fiber may have style, but be coarse.

Yield

Cashmere yield is the percentage of cashmere, by weight, that will be obtained from the fleece after dehairing. The fleece is classified as Low yield, if the percentage of cashmere is estimated to be under 20%. An Average yield fleece will contain 20-35% cashmere. A High yielding fleece will contain over 35% cashmere. Per Terry, there are not many goats who have a greater than 40% yield on a shorn fleece.

Length

The length of the cashmere fiber is determined by examining several fiber samples and averaging your length results. The length of fiber is the best guide to production. In other words, if you had to choose one fiber trait to estimate which goats produce the most cashmere, you would use length. The minimum commercial length for cashmere is 1-1/2 inches on the goat and 1-1/4 inches shorn length. If fleece has a dubious value on the goat (due to insufficient length or inadequate style), leave this portion

out of your harvest (either leave it on the goat or put it in a separate bag).

Coverage

Coverage is a cashmere classing appraisal that can only be effectively determined on the goat. Coverage is rated on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being minimal coverage and 4 being excellent coverage. A goat with a coverage rating of 4 would have cashmere pretty much all over including down the legs, up the neck and possibly even on the belly.

Other snippets of information I retrieved from the second clinic, which I found of interest:

Lice on your goat can cause early shedding of cashmere.

It may be helpful to handle bucks by grabbing them by the beard; this often upsets them less than if handled by the horns.

In most cases, a goat's cashmere does not improve with age; the first fleece will be as good as it gets, except perhaps for volume.

Wethers' fleeces stay finer longer.

Long guard hair is a recessive trait. It is not a problem as long as the cashmere yield is high enough that it can be cost-effectively dehaired. It can, however, confound the yield on bag core testing as the test may run into a gob of long guard hair and cost you a lesser yield number on your whole bag.

UV damage to cashmere which extends beyond the guard hair will cause 1-2% more cashmere loss in dehairing.

Major cashmere producers, in order of production volume: China, Inner Mongolia, Iran, Afghanistan, New Zealand, Australia, United States.

Australian and United States cashmere is about the same. New Zealand cashmere possibly has more cashgora in it.

Summary of Classing Options

Cashmere Color

WW	White/white
WC	White/color
GY	Grey
BR	Brown
SBR	Soft brown/grey

Yield

Low	Less than 20%
Average	20 - 35%
High	Over 35%

Fiber Style

1	Poor, cashgora
2	Some straight fibers
3	Good, typical
4	Excellent, ideal

Down Length

Based on average of neck, midside and rump measurements

Down Cover

1	Minimal
2	Coverage on midside & backlegs, no or short neck fiber
3	Midside, back legs & side of neck
4	Midside, back legs, side and front of neck, possibly belly

Diameter (MFD)

Fine	Under 16.5 μ
Medium	16.5 - 18.5 μ
Coarse	18.5 - 20 μ



Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

March 20-22, 1998

Stitches West
Oakland Convention Center, Tenth & Broadway,
Oakland, California
150 vendor booths for knitting, yarn and needlework

May 1-3, 1998

Fiber in the Forest VI
Roseburg, Oregon. Workshops 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

May 16-17, 1998

Northwest Fiber Fest
Skagit County Fairgrounds, Mt. Vernon, WA
Demonstrations, vendors, livestock. fleece show
& sale, May 15th is long wool and cashmere judg-
ing from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, For information, contact
NWFF, 143 Barrel Springs, Bellingham, WA 98226

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 6-7, 1998

Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival
Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Hamilton, Montana,
Animals shows, demonstrations, workshops, vendor
booths, For information contact Diana Hachenberg-
er, 406-961-3058.

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

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

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

Sunrise Cashmeres

Melody and Jeremy Driscoll
PO Box 245
Blocksburg, CA 95514
707-926-5430

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

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CANAAN LAND FARM

Theo S. Bee
700 Canaan Land Rd.
Harrodsburg, KY 40330
606-734-3984
1-888-734-3984 (toll free)
<http://www.bbonline.com/ky/canaan/>

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

MONTANA

CASTLE CRAGS RANCH

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

PMF CASHMERE COMPANY

Tom and Ann Dooling
3299 Anderson Lane
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-5445
Fax: 406-683-5567, email:
ann@MontanaKnits.com

SMOKE RIDGE CASHMERE

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

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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

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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

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DOUBLE EYE FARM, INC.

Sanford Bottino
PO Box 218
Ojo Caliente, NM 87549
505-583-2203

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12000 Old Osborne Road
PO Box 567
South Vienna, OH 45369-0567
937-568-4994
email: annwood@erinet.com

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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

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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

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16925 S. Beckman Rd.
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503-631-7806
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503-538-9791

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

GOAT KNOLL

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

HARVEST MOON FARM

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

HAWKS MOUNTAIN PYGORA'S

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

HOKULANI FARMS

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

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11440 Kings Valley Hwy.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-4113
email: janhanus@open.org

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Lisa and Jerry Zietz
46080 NW Levi White Rd.
Banks, OR 97106
Voice & fax: 503-324-0910
email: moon@hevanet.com

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

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

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Deb Miller

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

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Sweet Home, OR 97386
503-367-6698
email: cashmere@proaxis.com

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Central Point, OR 97502
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email: brimble@cdsnet.net

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Ashland, OR 97520
541-890-1998

PENNSYLVANIA PHEASANT HILL FARM

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5935 Pidcock Rd.
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915-387-5284

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801-649-3856
email: heidi.smith@genetics.utah.edu

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Star Tannery, VA 22654
Phone/fax: 540-436-3546
email: cashmere@shentel.net

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

BROOKFIELD FARM

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Maple Falls, WA 98266
360-599-1469

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1667 Beaver Marsh Road
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email: cashmere@sos.net

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202 Clemans View Rd.
Selah, WA 98942
509-698-3468

Continued on next page

CANADA

GIANT STRIDE FARM

Breeders Directory
Continued from previous page

CANADA

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

TRAILTREE FARM

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Woodville, Ontario KOM 2TO
1-705-374-5527

MEXICO

EL MORO

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

The minister announced on Sunday that the church Board had decided the church needed painting, so he was looking for someone to hire for the project. Following the service, a young man approached him, and offered to paint. "I'm trying to get started in raising cashmere-producing goats, so that I can make my fortune," he told the minister. "Let me paint the church."

"Fine," said the minister. "You can start as soon as you wish."

The young man went to the paint store, and while collecting supplies, had a thought. "If I use more thinner and less paint, I can make more money and buy more goats." And so he did.

He began painting the next day. When he was about half done, a sudden rain shower came through. He ran into the church and waited for it to pass. When the sun came back out, he and the minister, went outside and found, to the young man's horror, that the overly-thinned paint had run and streaked all over the place.

"What happened?" questioned the minister.

Grief-stricken, the young man confessed what he had done and asked the minister for forgiveness.

"It's not my house you messed up," said the minister. "It's the Lord's. You must ask Him for forgiveness, not me."

So the young man went into the church and humbly prayed, asking for forgiveness for what he had done.

He had just finished explaining to the Lord that he had used too much thinner so he could buy more goats, when a great voice echoed through the sanctuary. And the voice from above said, "Repaint! And thin no more!"

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1998

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

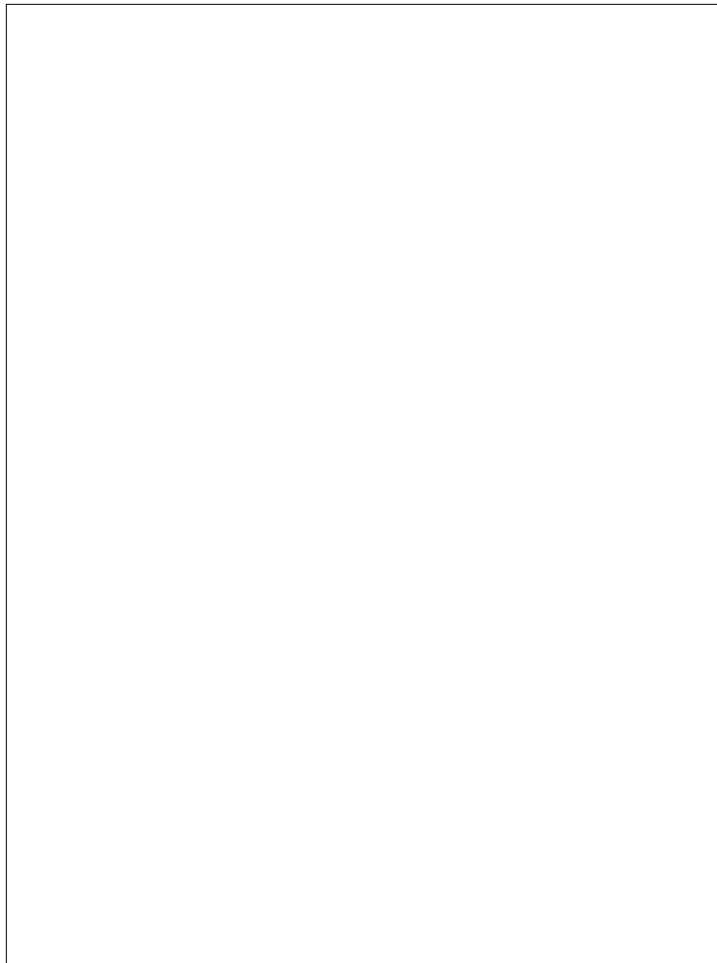
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