

CASH MIRROR

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March 1999

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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Cover photo:

Don Moore

"Bjorn and buddies at Black Locust Farm"
Washington, Maine

Beautiful, Unique 3-D
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scene

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Melanie Schatz



Goat Knoll Farm Field Day
Designed Mostly for Beginners

Where? 2280 S. Church Rd., Dallas, Oregon
When? Saturday, March 20, 1999, 10:00am - 6:00pm or so—whenever you get tired of goating. Bring a lunch or there's close fast food.
How? Contact Linda or Paul to reserve your spot and get directions: 503-623-5194
Why? For knowledge, for fun
Cost? Nothing

The Schedule:

10 am-11 - Conformation and condition scoring (by Cashmere Kids 4-H Group)
11 - 1 pm Goat care-hooves, shots, worming, handling, kidding, etc. (Paul and Linda)
1-2 Lunch break (on your own, use of kitchen here available)
2-3 Fencing/Records - 2 simultaneous sessions (Paul - fencing, Linda - records)
3-4 Fiber—preparation, spinning, identification (Cynthia Heeren, Hokulani Farms)
4-5 Fiber harvesting - shearing, combing (Paul and Linda)
5-6 Internet research/More records including keeping them on computer - 2 simultaneous sessions (Paul - internet, Linda - more records)

A full day is planned. There will be new kids everywhere, possibly some even born the day of the event. If kids are being born, we'll stop and watch. First kids were born February 22nd; many more are due the week of the event.

Although the sessions are designed for beginners, seasoned goat people are also welcome. You can come to help, advise, debate important issues or just hang around and bond.

If you have ideas or want to help out, call us.

So far, response has been great. It looks like we'll have a good mix of beginners and experienced folk for the event.

Bring your questions. This will be a good place to find a person with an answer! Or bring answers; this will be a good place to find people with questions!

Reflections

by Linda Fox

Waiting for the Kids to Arrive

The first kidding around our farm is always a big event. Often it is the result of an individual breeding so we know when they will arrive and often it is planned earlier than the other kids are due. Our first doe was due to kid last week. Saturday, the 20th was her 145th day after breeding. I start looking for kids on the 145th day, but do not really expect to see anything until the 147th or 148th day. Sometimes, they keep me waiting as far out as the 152nd day.

On Tuesday, the 148th day, Paul checked the barn at 6:45 am before leaving for work. He said that the doe had a string of mucus showing (what we non-technically call a "slime trail") and she was wandering around; he thought that kidding looked imminent. Pearly Sue is an experienced mother. This will be her fourth kidding. Her first two kiddings produced single does and last year's twins were one of each sex. The kids have always been white, no matter who we breed her to.

Paul went on to work as I gathered my kidding supplies—coffee mug, toast, paperback novel, clipboard and cellular phone—and headed to the barn. I thought this would be a good opportunity to catch all those little details to pass on to first time kidders. I would record the blow by blow event for newbies to use. I pulled down a bale of straw on which to park me and my supplies, on the opposite side of the gate from the doe, and prepared to observe and record:

7:00am Arrived at barn. This year we are prepared, new bottle of Bo-Se and iodine in the kidding kit—not like last year when we went running around on Easter Sunday hunting for supplies, finding our Bo-Se was out of date and the iodine bottle was empty, after the first kids had arrived!

Doe is laying down in center area of barn. I had separated her from the herd the day before. I had cleaned and stocked one kidding stall and left the door open for her convenience, but didn't put her in it. She's laying down and I can't see her rear. Worst problem so far is keeping the barn cats off the clipboard so I can write.

7:04 Doe gets up. I don't see a slime trail. She does have straw sticking to her rear. Maybe Paul

saw the straw and mistook it for the slime trail. He's not very alert early mornings. Try to call him on the cell phone to confirm what he saw, but phone doesn't work. Debate on when to call the friend who wants to see a kidding. Do I call her when the doe starts acting a little funny, when it could be hours (or days) yet, or do I call her when labor starts in earnest when there may only be five minutes until the deed is done? I decide to wait a bit longer.

7:12 Doe gets up, pees just a little.

7:14 Doe poops.

7:24 Doe nibbles some hay, looks at me, looks at open kidding stall, stops at door.

7:27 Doe changes her stance—is there a major contraction coming? She burps up a piece of cud and starts chewing. It's going to be a long morning.

7:31 Poops again.

7:37 Pees again. I've read that goats, on average, urinate 8.3 times per day and defecate 11.2 times per day. It seems that, at this rate, Pearly Sue will be way above average in another hour. Does this mean something? Or is this just another example of older women have to "go" more often?

7:40 She's still standing and she's stopped chewing her cud. She is the only goat in the barn standing up; all the others are laying down. Does this mean something?

7:52 There is some activity in the left top of the doe's side. Is this the unruly kids fighting to see who gets to come out first?

7:58 Pees, just a little.

7:59 Lays down.

8:21 She's still laying in the same spot.

8:40 She's breathing a little faster than the other goats and stretching her neck.

9:02 Stands up.

9:14 Goes in kidding stall. Is she after privacy or just looking for tasty morsels in the fresh straw? Eats hay from the feeder in the kidding stall.

9:37 Leaves kidding stall and digs a small hole with her front hooves, lays down in a different spot than where she dug the hole. Chews cud.

10:30 She's still laying there, chewing cud. I'm freezing, my coffee is long gone and I have to go to the bathroom. Also forgot the camera. Head back to the house to warm up. Maybe today's not the day.

11:58am Came back to barn with new cup of coffee and camera. Doe has a long (1') mucous string. This is it!

Continued on page 22



When Readers Talk...

Hello there,

This may very well be old news, but in the off chance you have not been notified, I talked with Marilyn Ackley, and she mentioned that the ECA show will again be held the last week of September 1999 and that Bob Buchholz will be the judge this year.

Guy Triplett, President
Northwest Cashmere Association
February 17, 1999

NWCA fleece contest will be held in conjunction with Crook County Fair in Prineville, Oregon (July 13 - 18, 1999). This year, competitors will not have to choose between the two competitions with their entries—they will be able to enter their best fleeces and goats in both competitions—Ed.

To the Editor,

Thank you so much for the award in the Cashmere Guardhair Contest. I want to express how much it means to me to be a winner in the event. I have just finished a shower with "Rut for Men". Now that I feel better I have thrown a couple of "Logs-O-Hair" on the fire. I have my "Head-O-Hair" on and am ready to reply to CashMirror.

As I gaze into the fire I have noted that I cannot be awarded the prize of "Photos". It would seem that a winner should not get the same prize he or she has donated.

Therefore, I REFUSE to accept the award. Please find somebody else to black-mail. Where did you get such a photo? I guess it does not matter....I have better

photos than just me with a goat in bed. Perhaps Paul could find a better use of the photo.

...O-Look...I have a photo on my desk of Paul. What's up with this! How much is this photo worth to you?...or should I sell it?

Rutfully Yours,

Goat Kisser, aka Steve Hachenberger
Castle Crags Ranch, Hamilton, Montana
February, 1999

Since fiber enthusiasts and cashmere goat folks share this strange passion it might be fitting to try to find a fit for our fleece, wheels, and needles to our mutual benefits.

I'm sure many who raise cashmere-producing goats collect lots of raw sheared/combed fleece and even have it de-haired either by the laborious way or sending off to a commercial place, at any rate end up with bags of luxurious de-haired fleece. Spinners would like to get their fingers on this stuff as it is a delight to spin and the end product is quite different from their usual woolen yarn.

Knitters, crocheters, and weavers would delight in converting said yarn into useful products so I would like us to explore the terms of a *SCARFATHON* designed to produce some number of scarves for each participant. The fleece producer has cash invested both in goats, feed, shearing, de-hairing, etc. The spinner and knitter/crocheter/weaver has "sweat equity" invested so we might consider negotiating how to distribute the eight two-ounce scarves that might result from a cooperative undertaking that starts with a pound of my dehaired fleece (I forgot to mention dyers!)

Any ideas????

Love,
William Loughborough
Goldendale, Washington, phone 509-773-5958
email: love26@gorge.net
February 16, 1999

Continued on next page

Readers Talking Back
Continued from previous page

Dear Linda,

I am writing to ask your help in a project I'm undertaking. I need to get a small blurb out to your readers. I'm looking for people who have started goat businesses of all types. Would it be possible for you to put in a short request for anyone who has a goat-related business (either now or in the past) to contact me?

The easiest thing is for them to e-mail me at: joanyjim1@aol.com, or they can write to me at Caprine Supply, P.O. Box Y, DeSoto, KS 66018. I will get back to everyone who contacts me with a short questionnaire. I am interested in all kinds of business ventures that have any relationship to goats, and I'm also interested in businesses that didn't succeed for whatever reason.

Hope you can do this. I don't know a better way to reach goat people than through the media. Thanks for whatever help you can give.

Best regards,
Joan Vandergriff
Caprine Supply (913-585-1191)
email: joanyjim1@aol.com
February 15, 1999

Linda,

Loved your story about the socks. I used to turn the heels and really didn't have too much trouble with them, but I found a much better way to do the heels. Thought you might find this interesting.

This is, I believe, the Turkish way to do heels and it makes a great deal of sense to me. When you get to where you want the heel to be, just knit those stitches (usually half your number) with waste yarn (just one row) and continue the sock and close the toe as usual. Then pick up those stitches on waste, upper and lower ones, adjust onto three needles, and finish the heel as you would a toe. Sometimes I will purl the first row around to delineate the heel.

When you do a heel like this, when it wears out, as it usually does first, you can just remove the heel (starting at the toe-like end) and knit another.

Cool, don't you think!

Ann Dooling
Montana Knits
Dillon, Montana
January 29, 1999

Hi Paul,

This issue is one of your best. In your article about Breezy Meadow you mentioned that if we wanted a copy of the plans for Doug's feeder, send him a SASE. There was no address given. Please let us know how to contact him.

It sure would have made life a lot easier if I had read Linda's article on Livestock Handling back in 1996 when we first started dealing with cashmere goats. Now that we have added Shetland sheep to the farm, it really gets interesting around procedure time. Your article explains a lot. Keep up the great work.

Sincerely,
Donna & Jerry Griffin
Windy Holow Farm
Fries, Virginia
February 13, 1999

In case anyone else is frantically trying to find Doug, look on page 27 in the Breeders' Directory. We also have a set of plans here so you can get them from us as well—Ed.

.....
More Bad "Press" for Goats!

The good news is:

Beanie Babies now has a "GOATEE"—which is the silliest looking thing (per Cynthia Heeren).

The bad news is:

The ear tag reads:

"Goatee, Born November 14, 1998
Though she's hungry, she's in a good mood
Searching through garbage, tin cans for food
For Goatee the goat, it's not a big deal
Anything at all makes a fine meal!"

CashMirror Advice:

Buy one for your new kids to eat.
.....

Farm Feature—Black Locust Farm, Washington, Maine

Yvonne and Lance Taylor

By Linda Cortright (Photographs by Don Moore)

How did Yvonne Taylor get from studying to be a doctor in Sweden to raising cashmere goats in Maine is very simple—she fell in love. In fact, whether her husband Lance wishes to admit it or not, Yvonne's love of cashmere was a direct result of his teaching.

Yvonne was not raised on a farm, in fact she was raised in the city of Malmo which is on the southern tip of Sweden across from Copenhagen. As a child she spent her summers with various relatives on their farms and it is there where her love for animals began.

At the time, she had passing thoughts of becoming a farmer but saw that being a successful farmer meant being a talented mechanic as well and that was not an avenue she wanted to venture down. For awhile, she even thought of becoming a veterinarian but was told by an "older and wiser man" that she was far more feminine than the other female vets of that time were and that was not a career for her.

And so Yvonne enrolled in the university to study human medicine and met Lance Taylor, an American student there on a Fulbright scholarship in Mathematics. They married and moved to the United States.

After spending two years living in Chile and working in a hospital ward for malnourished children, Yvonne changed fields and became a child psychiatrist. She proceeded to maintain a private practice and run several clinics in Boston until a fateful trip changed her mind. Lance received a four month teaching assignment in Delhi, India and that's where it all started.

How did you become interested in raising cashmere goats? I first saw them actually in the mountains of Kashmir and the beauty of their fiber and the heartiness of the animal took me. I thought they would make an ideal animal to raise in Maine but the man I spoke to said they would never survive. Queen Victoria had tried importing them and they had all died. If it hadn't worked for her then obviously it couldn't be done.

What changed your mind? I saw an ad for a conference in Colorado back in 1988 that Bronwyn Schuetze was giving and I thought Ah-ha! Someone else is trying to raise these beautiful animals. Lance was out of the country on business and the conference was that weekend. So I left him a note on the kitchen table and told him I'd gone to Colorado to get some cashmere goats. I got two goats as a result of that trip—Lady, who I still have, who was imported from Australia and another doe who was a Spanish meat goat.



Yvonne Taylor

Do you still have your original goats? Lady is still here. Unlike a lot the of the goats that first came from Australia, she had very fine fiber and has produced many fine kids over the years. Her fiber was just classed as a style 3—and she's twelve years old. But their fiber actually does tend to get a little finer if they live to such an old age.

Do you have any hard and fast rules about breeding? Not particularly. Sometimes I make decisions based strictly on color and one of my best bucks ever resulted from that arrangement. I do quite a bit of line breeding because most of my herd has come from Lady but I'm not as scientific as some about breeding.

Why do you prefer combing to shearing? It has to do with the well being of the animal more than anything else. I really get concerned when pregnant does are shorn in the colder months. I think it puts a very high demand on their body. I also prefer combing for purely aesthetic reasons. It's nicer to see a goat with the guard hair still intact. Shearing leaves them looking so snaggy.

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Black Locust Farm

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(I interrupted Yvonne and asked just what "snaggad" meant assuming that this was some goat term that I had heretofore not been privy to. She said it was a Swedish word that meant a close haircut that doesn't look quite even. Come to think of it I may have looked a little snaggad myself when I grabbed the kitchen scissors to trim my own as an eight-year-old.)

Combing is certainly more economical than shearing when it comes time to ship the fleeces and you also lose 1/4 inch of fiber when you shear. And of course there is just the pure pleasure of being able to comb this beautiful fiber off the animals. They really seem to enjoy it. It is time consuming and I do have people who help me comb the herd but if you can catch them at just the right time, it takes about an hour for each goat.

What do you think is the most important thing a person should consider before buying a cashmere goat? Do they have good fences? And does the herd they are buying from have any history of CAE?

Speaking of fences didn't your animals used to roam without fencing? They did until they kept getting into the neighbor's apple trees and I had to keep replacing them. Now I have 2"x4" horse fencing in the open pasture area and the same gauge in lawn fencing back in the woods. I have about sixty or seventy acres fenced in all together. During the summertime I like to take the does across the road and let them forage through the woods but it's not fenced in over there and so I carry a cell phone. As soon as I see them start heading for the neighbors, I call up the barn and someone comes over and helps herd them back on to my land. *(Can it be the cell phone has replaced the shepherd's crook?)*

Is it difficult to train pack goats? No, not at all. I try to use wethers who seem sturdy and confident to begin with. I first get them used to being on a leash so they'll respect it. You begin by tying them up for just a brief amount of time and then once they're used to that you introduce them to the saddle. Most of the goats don't mind the saddle at all. You can put anything on them. We use them up in the woods when we're taking out trees we've cut up. Goats are really amazing. If you want to take a truck or horse some place, you have to clear a path first. But a goat will just go wherever you lead it. And they never get stuck!

In addition to her M.D., Yvonne also has a Ph.D. in nutrition and so the goats' diet is something she takes quite seriously.



A serene scene at Black Locust Farm, Washington, Maine.

How often do you grain? I grain year round. Several years ago I had the herd tested and they all tested low in magnesium and zinc. At the time their main source of minerals came from a mineral block. Now I supplement that with loose minerals and occasionally add zinc sulfate. Each goat gets about 2 or 3 ounces a day except when they're lactating when they get about a pound.

What vaccinations do you give? Only CDT. I have only vaccinated for rabies if it's required by a show I'm taking them to.

What about worming? I try to worm every 2-3 months with Ivomec and twice a year with a Panacur to give them a full spectrum of protection.

What's your criteria for culling? I really base it on fiber more than anything else. I have never culled because of a personality problem although I did have one rather nasty doe once but she had bad fiber anyway. I cull about 80% of the bucks and 20% of the does. I used to have the slaughtering done right here on the farm behind the barn. But after a while I realized that the goats began to understand what was going on. They knew that when the truck pulled into the drive, goats were going to disappear. One afternoon, someone drove a similar truck up to the barn and the goats took off and hid in the woods the rest of the afternoon. After that I decided that any culling would be done off the property.

Several years ago Yvonne went to try a slaughterhouse in New Hampshire that was run by Muslims where the animals were killed according to the hallal method which involves rapidly stringing the animal upside down by its feet and then slitting its throat. Although this is certainly stressful to the goat, Yvonne had something of an altercation with the proprietor because this religious ritual was performed right in front

Continued on next page

Black Locust Farm

Continued from previous page

of the other little goats who were about to meet a similar fate. Yvonne refused to have these animals mentally tortured in their final moments and asked for her money back and left. Since then she uses a few local places where she loads usually three goats in the back of her Ford Explorer and takes them in one at a time to ensure their comfort to the last minute.

How many goats do you have? Oh dear—that's a good question. I'm not sure I want to know the answer. (After a brief session with pencil and paper) I have 13 wethers, 47 does and 19 bucks but that does include some bucklings.

Have you ever tried an experiment with the goats that didn't work? Well, actually yes—my 5 strands of electric fencing never did really work.

Yvonne spends about four hours a day with the goats but readily admits that if she didn't have help it would take her the entire day to care and clean for the animals. In addition to the goats she has a twenty year old Arabian gelding, two Norwegian Fjord Horses, two American Guinea Hogs, a Great Pyrenees named Bjorn, the usual sampling of barn cats and chickens and a flock of geese who of course make more noise than all the other animals combined.

Have you ever had any problems introducing the different animals to each other? No, not really. When I first got the pigs the goats were really freaked out by them. And there is nothing more obnoxious than a pig in heat! But gradually they got used to each other and the horses are really quite careful about stepping around the kids in the barn.

How did you train Bjorn? I didn't really. We purchased two dairy goats before our cashmere goats arrived and so we got him used to being around them. They couldn't really hurt him because they didn't have any horns but when our first two cashmeres arrived, they really pounded him around. He was just trying to be friendly with them and so we would have to put him back with the dairy goats to recover for awhile. Eventually he learned and we've never had a problem with predation even though there are lots of coyotes in the area.

Why did you choose to get pigs? I thought they would be great for turning over the compost pile. I liked the idea of getting an endangered species but now I can't find a boar to breed to. I could easily be a farmer without pigs.

If a dog's disposition reflects its owner, do you think there's a goat that's similar to your's? (Clearly this question required a thoughtful response.) Well, a



BLF Gwydion, a wether. Gwydion walked off with the blue ribbon for best goat in his class (does and wethers) at the 1997 ECA Goat Show.



Nice horns!

Black Locust Farm

Continued from previous page

while back one of my weekend helpers was out in the field and I overheard him talking to Nancy my herd queen and he muttered something about how she had the same personality as his first wife. And she's a tough old goat! I don't really think I'm similar to the goats. They're much more lively than I am. I'd have to say I'm more like the Norwegian Fjord horses, a lot slower to react. In fact, now that I think about it I should probably own sheep. Perhaps there is something about the goats adventuresome nature that I understand.

Do you think there are any who are similar to Lance? Oh yes, there are a few who are cranky.

What is the most difficult part of raising goats? Slaughtering and selling, I have a real separation problem. I probably sell between 5 and 10 goats a year and even that is difficult for me.

What is Dancing Goat? It's a business venture I formed with Lis Whitney to market our fiber and handspun fiber from the Co-op. We sent over 15 pounds of combed fleece to be processed at California Cashmere last year and received some beautiful batt in return.

What is the most enjoyable part of raising goats? Watching the kids play. I have two barn doors and they will chase each other around and around or just watching them play underneath the trees in the fields. Having kids is definitely one of the best parts.

Do you think you will always have goats? Oh I hope so. I'd like to have a retirement home for old bucks some day. *(I wonder if she was referring to Lance?)*

What makes Black Locust Farm special is Yvonne's relationship with her animals. If you think that goats don't know their name, visit Yvonne. She can grain 40 does at once and they stand patiently outside the barn door and waiting to be called by name. I kid you not! Several of the older wethers get tied during grain-ing and they dutifully stand on the other side of a chain while the grain is distributed into each feeder. Imagine standing in front of a herd of animals and calling one out by name and the darn goat emerges from the line just like the crowning of Miss America.

When Yvonne grains her bucks they are again separated by size and the little ones quickly scoot in place while the others wait patiently on the other side of the gate. I've never seen a goat wait patiently for anything, and most assuredly not for grain.

Yvonne has raised many champion fleeces and captured the blue ribbon in the fleece competition at this year's Virginia State Fair. She has been taking the goats to the Common Ground Fair, Maine's only organic fair for years and it is certainly where many

people in the state have learned more about cash-meres.

Just recently she hosted a workshop conducted by Kris McGuire so more people could learn about goats and classing fiber as well. Yvonne has given a tremendous amount of her time educating people about the animal and she has saved no expense when it comes to their medical problems.

I think if more people had goats like Yvonne's, perhaps Yvonne would have fewer patients.



That's Laverne. Maybe Shirley (the other pig) is out turning over the compost pile.



Yvonne and Dagmar. True love.

1999 Domestic Cashmere Prices

For 1999, we know of three markets who are currently buying raw US cashmere. We have contacted these three markets for their current prices and submission policies. Before submitting fleeces, especially if you have not sold to this market previously, it would be a good idea to first contact the buyer for information. Information, as submitted to us, and contact information is listed below:

Cashmere America Cooperative

Sonora, Texas

Cashmere America has just announced the 1999 purchase prices. Cashmere is at a world low with the increased importation of Chinese fiber, but the Cashmere America prices continue to be strong in order to assist the American cashmere grower. Based upon the graded merits of your fiber and the expected yield (when dehaired), the 1999 prices are:

#1 - <16.5 microns, good style - \$33.00/lb.

#2 - 16.5 - 18 microns, good style - \$31.00/lb.

Commercial - 18 - 19 microns - \$25.00/lb.

Cashgora - >19 microns - \$7.50/lb.

Short Low Yield - \$3.00/lb.

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

For 1999, all cashmere colors will be paid at the same prices.

If you wish to sell your cashmere to the Co-op, you MUST have a consignment form enclosed with your fiber shipment. Consignment forms will be sent to all Co-op members. You do NOT have to be a member of the Co-op to sell your fiber to the Co-op, although all are welcome to become a members. To get a consignment form or more information about Cashmere America, contact one of the following:

Cashmere America, PO Box 1126, Sonora, TX 76950

phone 915-387-6052

Marti Wall, 16663 Beaver Marsh Road, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273,

phone 360-424-7935

Marilyn Ackley, 319 Brock School Road, Buckfield, ME 04220,

phone 207-336-2948

Montana Knits

Dillon, Montana

For 1999, Montana Knits will buy all qualifying cashmere fleeces delivered to the ranch at the following prices:

White cashmere \$32.50/lb.

All colored cashmere \$30.00/lb.

All cashgora \$7.50/lb.

which is the company's estimate of the amount of commercially recoverable cashmere contained in tendered fleeces.

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

Phone: 406-683-6761, Fax: 406-683-5567

Email: ann@MontanKnits.com

California Cashmere

San Andreas, California

California Cashmere Company is bullish on Cashmere in the Americas; offering premium prices for premium unclean/raw cashmere. Domestic and international cashmere pricing are driven by supply and demand. Based on cashmere dehairing demand, Talibah reports domestic consumption of U.S. Cashmere continues to climb. This is just the opposite in many foreign markets. International prices for unclean cashmere dropped 33% from the previous year. This can be attributed to a downward trend in these markets.

Buying prices for 1999 of raw/unclean cashmere;

White	net/lb.	\$35.00
Colors	net/lb.	\$33.00

Cashmere must be "qualifying cashmere" and be virtually free of contaminants and impurities. Insurance and shipping are the seller's responsibility. Payment is based on estimated net pound yield.

California Cashmere Company

P.O. Box 1030, San Andreas, CA 95249

Phone 209-754-5751

Fax: 209-754-1044

Email: tajamu@aol.com

All prices are based on estimated PMY (Pound Marketable Yield),

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, Colorado, January 9 - 24, 1999

Results of Cashmere Events



Bob Bucholtz judges youth showmanship.

Cashmere Goat Show Results

January 14, 1999

Note: First place only is listed.

JUNIOR SHOW

MILK TOOTH BUCK KIDS

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

MILK TOOTH DOE KIDS

Patrick Marshall, Wellington, CO

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK KID

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

RESERVE CHAMPION BUCK KID

Erinn Kromer, Calhan, CO

GRAND CHAMPION DOE KID

Patrick Marshall, Wellington, CO

RESERVE CHAMPION DOE KID

Cheryl Kromer, Calhan, CO

WETHER CLASS UP TO TWO TOOTH

Patrick Marshall, Wellington, CO

JUNIOR BEST OF SHOW

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP

Patrick Marshall, Wellington, CO

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

All NWSS photographs by Cynthia Heeren, Hokulani Farms, Bend, OR

Cashmere Goat Show Results

January 10, 1999

Note: First place only is listed.

OPEN SHOW

MILK TOOTH BUCKS

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

TWO TOOTH BUCKS

Tyler Nicely, Colorado Springs, CO

FOUR TOOTH BUCKS

Beatrice Bartle-Duncan, Bartle's Columbine Ranch, Jefferson, CO

SIX TOOTH BUCKS AND OLDER

Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

GRAND CHAMPION BUCK

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

RESERVE CHAMPION BUCK

Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

MILK TOOTH BUCKS

Patrick Marshall, Wellington, CO

TWO TOOTH DOES

Heather Marshall, Wellington, CO

FOUR TOOTH DOES

Beatrice Bartle-Duncan, Bartle's Columbine Ranch, Jefferson, CO

SIX TOOTH AND OLDER DOES

Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

GRAND CHAMPION DOE

Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION DOE

Corinne Gluklick, Colorado Springs, CO

WETHER CLASS

Patrick Marshall, Wellington, CO

GET - OF - SIRE

Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

BEST OF SHOW

Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

PREMIER EXHIBITOR

Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

Cashmere Goat Shearing Contest

January 13, 1999

CASHMERE GOAT SHEARING

1st - Tom Barr, Sanford, CO

2nd - Gary Reinhart, Fargo, ND

3rd - Kristine McGuire, Capricorn Cashmere, Laramie, WY

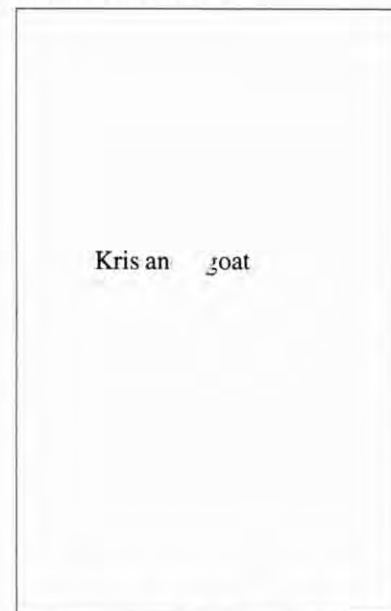
4th - Thomas Hawk, River Falls, WI

5th - Bill Nagel, 4B Ranch, Harwood, TX

6th - Jack Kromer, Calhan, CO

CLEANEST SHEARER GOAT

Tom Barr, Sanford, CO



Kris McGuire (in a beautiful lavender cashmere sweater) gets her goat in the proper shearing position.

National Western Stock Show 1999

January 13 & 14, 1999

Denver Colorado

By Cynthia Heeren

I attended the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) for the first time this year. It was a fun, exciting and educational time for all of us there...not to mention, busy! When we walked into the quite empty, and very quiet barns on Wednesday morning, we knew this would not last. Soon, the exhibitors were showing up and we were all helping to unload goats and assisting them in setting up. In a few hours, the pens were full of cashmere goats: goats to be shown by the youngsters in showmanship, goats to be shown in open class and goats to be used for our conformation class and the shearing competition. A very busy, full and fun two days were about to begin!

The CaPrA judging class was held in the afternoon. Joe David Ross and Bob Bucholtz took the class (Marti Wall, Eileen Cornwell, Ron and Jan Gerrity, Guy and Karen Triplett, Bea Bartels-Duncan and Cynthia Heeren) into a pen of about 40 goats and walked us through the conformation of the cashmere goat. We were taught what to look for—good and bad. Catching some of the wild does (much to their dismay), we felt the loin, checked the udders, and checked the teeth. We learned why conformation faults are something to worry about, as each fault can relate to issues of survival or kidding capabilities. We were also taught some helpful hints on working with the contestants in the show ring. Since a goat is judged 50%



Checking the loin.

Left to right: Guy Triplett, Joe David Ross, Bob Bucholtz.



Joe David Ross teaching the CaPrA conformation class for judging certification. JDR (in hat), clockwise from JDR: Ron Gerrity, Eileen Cornwell, Cynthia Heeren, Guy Triplett, Karen Triplett, Bea Bartels-Duncan (standing), Marti Wall, Jan Gerrity.

on the body conformation and 50% on fiber, this is a very important element of the judging certification.

When we were talking about the general appearance of the goat, Bob Bucholtz said, "Most 'proud' goats have something to be proud of." It was an excellent class, and we all learned a great deal from two excellent teachers.

Cashmere America held its annual members meeting that afternoon. We had the opportunity to visit with Joe David Ross on the state of the Cooperative and American cashmere. Joe David had brought some of the new socks along, and everyone had an opportunity to see and handle them—many went away with cashmere socks on their feet!! Kris McGuire informed us that she has set up an order form on her web page (www.capcas.com) for those interested in ordering socks or yarn.

That evening we attended the Oster Cashmere Goat Shearing Competition, an annual event at the NWSS. There were six brave souls who went up to compete. The competition is judged on several factors: time, quality of fleece (second cuts), appearance

Continued on next page

of goat, to name a few. Two heats were run and the top three came back for the finals.

The contestants have to catch the goat, secure the goat in the stanchion, shear the goat, and release the goat down the chute, with three goats. It was very exciting.

While they were tallying the scores, Marti Wall was asked to give a talk to the crowd about the goats and the fiber.

The winners were: 1st - Tom Barr, 2nd - Gary Reinhardt and 3rd - Kris McGuire. Although, Kris won, hands down, on appropriate uniform, as she was wearing a lovely lavender cashmere sweater!!!

The next day was the Cashmere Goat Show, judged by Bob Bucholtz. First to show were the youngsters, showing in the showmanship class. It was great to see their enthusiasm and hard work. Then came the Open Class. We all sat by ringside, attempting to use what we had learned in class the day before, trying to outguess the results!!! (Kris, again, won most appropriate clothes, as she was wearing a beautiful brown cashmere sweater!— she won a great deal more than that as well!!!!)

We all learned a lot about the goats and about conformation and fiber, but the best part, for me, was putting names to faces—getting to meet so many people whose names I've known for some time. We had a great time talking goats and talking fiber. One of the most enjoyable aspects was that many of us brought things we have made from cashmere and had a great time showing one another what we have done with cashmere. We also had an opportunity to educate the public about the goats and the fiber.

If you are ever able to take the opportunity to attend the NWSS, do!!!



While the judges were tallying their scores for the shearing contest, Marti Wall talked to the crowd about cashmere.



Kris McGuire (in a beautiful brown cashmere sweater) with Judge Bob Bucholtz presenting the award for Best Herd.



Oster Shearing Competition. The shearers were hot—the goats were not!

Coming Attractions—Next issue (April 1999)

Photographs of cashmere goats in Mongolia

**Book Review - Gossamer Webs
(including tips for creating your own
Orenburg lace shawls)**

Coverage of Farm Field Day at Goat Knoll, Oregon

Fiber Classing...and More with Kris McGuire

Story and photographs by Linda Cortright

There are two things you can learn from a groundhog: the arrival of spring time and the arrival of the goat shearer. The two events never coincide. In fact, they are diametric opposites. And so it came as no surprise that when Kris McGuire arrived in Maine last week with shears in hand, as the fleeces began to fall to the ground so did the mercury.

But Kris arrived with more than just her Osters. She came equipped with more than sixty fleeces to conduct the most comprehensive cashmere workshop I have ever attended. Although the event was initially advertised as a classing clinic, the participants were treated to an informative history of the cashmere industry as well as the trying task of counting microns.

The workshop was held at Yvonne Taylor's Black Locust Farm. About fifteen people attended, some of whom were so new to cashmere goats they'd never had their first hoof trimming experience. Seated in Yvonne's living room with the woodstove popping, the herbal tea flowing, and the goats kicking up their heels on the hillside behind, it was a marvelous way to spend a Sunday.

Everyone received a packet of goat information that Kris had undoubtedly gone to great effort to organize. Included was a six page history on the American cashmere goat industry as well as valuable information on goat conformation, complete with anatomically correct drawings. Thank goodness I will now be saved the embarrassment of looking at the wrong end of the goat the next time someone refers to its thurl. (Which begs the question: Whath a thurl?)

During her morning presentation I learned that the cashmere-bearing goats identified in Australia back in the 1970's were strikingly similar to the Spanish meat goats raised in Texas. I had no idea the link was that strong and having learned that we have this thread of commonality with the Aussies I secretly wondered if maybe there weren't a few misguided koala bears tucked away in the steel crannies of those oil derricks down in Texas as well.

Kris was careful to point out the different philosophies between raising meat goats as livestock versus cashmere goats as a strictly fiber enterprise. She quoted figures ranging between \$5 - \$60 per head to raise a goat for an entire year out west depending

upon climate and feed schedule. I know people who can blow the entire year's budget on just one trip to the vet. But then again, no one said we were all practicing hardball economics.

One point of particular interest was learning about AUM— animal unit month. When Kris mentioned this term my eyes weren't the only ones that glazed over in confusion. Based on the statistic that a cow eats 26 pounds of dry forage per day, or approximately 3% of its body weight, it takes 35 acres to feed a cow depending upon where you live in the west.

If it looks white—call it gray. If it looks gray, call it white with color. If it's brown, it's probably just contaminated white and...

But since we're raising goats and not cows, who cares? Well, I care because now I'm convinced that I will never raise an animal that's ingesting 26 pounds of dry anything per day and more importantly I learned that a goats eats about 5% of its body weight per day. (Do you have the feeling that perhaps a few may be getting more than their daily allotment?)

Speaking of food it was time for a typical cashmere potluck lunch. Yvonne's husband, Lance, who could write his own caprine cookbook if he wasn't writing about global economics, had plenty of stew for everyone. And for those who prefer to enjoy the meat on the goat, there was plenty of freshly-baked bread, hummus, couscous and chocolate for everyone.

The afternoon began with a lesson in color identification. After the first ten minutes I learned the following: If it looks white— call it gray. If it looks gray, call

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Kris teaches classing. From left to right: Kris McGuire, Hatie Clingerman and Shannon Atkinson. (Kris McGuire is also the current President of CaPrA.)

Fiber Classing Workshop
Continued from previous page

it white with color. If it's brown, it's probably just contaminated white and if you have something black and silky, it probably came from the dog. Color classing is not my strong suit. Kris had eight different fleeces arranged on a table and she carefully described how the Co-op classes the different colors. After listening to her descriptions my admiration for James Barton grew exponentially.

Not to be discouraged by the color lesson, we were each given a grading sheet and sent into the next room to color class ten fleeces according to hair and fiber. Was it a black fleece with gray fiber or a dirty brown fleece with dark brown fiber? I wasn't sure so



An attentive audience. Are they too wondering about the thurl?



While the humans seem to be more interested in Kris and the goats, Dagmar seems more interested in the people.

I went down to the other end of the table where the white fleeces were laid out and figured I would be safer there.

After the color exercise we returned to the other room with the original ten fleeces and began learning about yield. Yield can not be accurately determined based on a combed fleece because it is calculated according to the total weight of the fleece. If the percentage of cashmere is 30% or more than the total fleece weight, it is considered a high yield (rating 3). If the cashmere is between 20%-30% of total weight the yield is average (rating 2), 10%-20% is considered low (rating 1). Anything less than 10% is considered NCV—no commercial value—and will probably appear on your most adorable doe.

One of the helpful hints Kris suggested in evaluating yield was simply grabbing a hold of the fleece to see if it felt coarse and hairy, or soft and downy. By simply munching your fingers through a fleece like you're kneading dough, it's easy to get a tactile sense of downy or dumpy. (Dumpy - adj. a word used by Terry Sim several years back referring to the relative spring in a fleece, e.g. This one feels dumpy.) Once again, we marched back to the tables where ten new fleeces had been arranged to be graded now on both color and yield

The next area was micron evaluation. Now the first time Wes Ackley plucked a wad of cashmere off his goat and proudly held it up to the light for me to examine I was lost. I remember he explained with great enthusiasm that this was about a 14.8 micron goat with style 3 and high yield. At that particular time I'm quite sure I was still at the stage of wondering why the girl goats had horns so any talk of microns seemed better suited for a class in physics. I couldn't see anything but a few little twisted wisps dangling from his fingertips and I didn't know a crimp from a wave. If this is was what raising cashmeres was all about then perhaps I needed to reevaluate my priorities. And furthermore, how dare he pull a wad of hair out of that poor unsuspecting goat's midside. I had a lot to learn.

Let's face it, a big part of raising cashmere goats means understanding microns. Afterall, it's frequently what separates the keepers from the knackers and everyone should know how to evaluate it with a reasonable accuracy. And the only way to learn is practice, practice, practice.

Continued on next page

Fiber Classing Workshop

Continued from previous page

In addition to Kris' great wealth of knowledge and experience in the cashmere industry, she is refreshingly honest about the things she can not do and evaluating fiber to the exact micron diameter is one of them. Although she gladly admits that there are people in the business who can count microns with frightening accuracy she is not one of them. Kris grades microns a scale of 1 - 3. Anything that gets classed as a 1 is considered to be 18 microns or more. A grade 2 is anything that is greater than 16 but less than 18 microns and a 3 is for 16 microns or less.

There is built-in comfort level with this system for me because I am much more confident determining the difference between 15 microns versus 16.5, but I can't tell the difference with any reliability between 17 versus 17.3 microns. With this system I don't have to worry about it. It really is as easy as 1-2-3.

Kris included two tips in micron evaluation that I also found quite helpful. First, beware of white fiber. White fiber reflects light and can look deceptively larger than it is. Someone pointed out that this is why fat women should avoid white knit dresses. Secondly, gently wave the fiber back and forth to see how it moves. The coarser the fiber, the more resistance it will show when being waved. I strongly recommend trying this the next time you pluck a wad off your goat and watch the difference between microns.

After the micron session it was back to the tables where ten new fleeces had been set out and now we were classing for color, yield and style. Everyone was enjoying the challenge of putting their skills to the test. By now it was midafternoon and the light had changed so people were taking little handfuls and running over to the window to examine it more closely. Peter Goth, who is the proud owner of some very fine animals according to Kris's recent evaluations, came equipped with special magnifying goggles that he uses to sew up patients in the emergency room. Who says this goat stuff isn't serious business?

The last item on the list was style. Again Kris uses a 1-3 scale with 3 being above average and 1 below average. When we returned to the tables for the final round of evaluation, there were ten new fleeces. Kris divided people into teams and we actually judged fleeces on why we thought one was better than the other.

We do not run herds by the hundreds here in the east. In fact, most people have 30 goats or less. But

we enjoy getting together on a frequent basis and are committed to understanding as much as possible about our animals. Workshops help promote everyone's level of understanding and for those who have been attending them for years. There's always something new to learn—the thurl is between the thigh and the rump. Tho there!



Peter Goth takes his work seriously! For checking microns, he uses special magnifying goggles. He also uses them to sew up patients in the emergency room.

Summary of Cashmere Fleece Characteristics From Kris McGuire's Workshop

Hair Color W (white), GY (grey), BR (brown), BL (black)

Fiber Color W (White), WC (white w/color), GY (grey), BRS (soft brown), BRD (dark brown)

Yield (proportion of cashmere relative to guard hair in the entire fleece of the goat)

> 30%	High yield	3
20-30%	Average yield	2
10-20%	Low yield	1
<10%	NCV	

Diameter (in microns)

<16	3
16-18	2
>18	1

Style

Above average	3
Average	2
Below average	1

Book Reports (2)



Buster, the Cashmere Goat by Paul Johnson

Reviewed by: Callie Liner

I like the book because Buster and Worf always get into trouble. The book is so good that I could barely put it down. Some parts are scary and some are sad.

Buster is lucky to have a guard dog named Billy. Billy and Buster became

good friends. One day Buster fell asleep in the berry bushes. He woke up and saw some coyotes and started baaing. Billy came to the rescue and saved Buster from the coyotes.

Buster became friends with another baby goat named Worf. They always get in trouble. When Buster and Worf grew older they grew big horns and were best friends forever.

The owners have guard dogs named Jill and Spotless. They also have a llama named Dave who would never let anything in the pasture like coyotes.

Callie Liner is 8 years old. She is a third grader at Perrydale School in Amity, Oregon. Callie and her family raise Pygora goats, llamas and sheep.

(Buster is available from CashMirror Publications for \$7.50, ppd.)

Goatkeeping 101 By Caprine Supply

Reviewed by: Linda Fox

Goatkeeping 101 is a new book written by the goatkeeping experts at Caprine Supply. As the title indicates, it is meant to be a primer for new goatkeepers. It covers the basics—breeds, general management, hoof trimming, milking, raising kids, health, showing, training pack goats and recipes for goat products.

Information is provided for many breeds including the milking breeds, Pygmy, Pygora, Boer, Kikos and Cashmere. Actually, we weren't too surprised to see "our goats" covered as we had given them a brief piece about cashmere goats to include in their new book. This book would be a good starting point for a prospective goat owner who wants to compare breeds or find out what standards are important for the breed.

The book is full of suggestions and gadgets (to build and to buy) that will make your life and your goats' lives easier. There's a lot of milking and dairy and hornless-goat-related stuff in the book, but this should not deter fiber goat enthusiasts as, when it comes to the majority of goat information, a goat is a goat.

I recommend this book highly for goatherder wannabees, beginning goat caretakers and the more wiser experienced goat owners, who know that even they can always pick up new and valuable information from most resources.

This book can be obtained from Caprine Supply, in Kansas, by calling 1-800-646-7736. The book's price is \$14.70, plus shipping. For orders of six or more, the price is \$11.05, plus shipping.

Breeding Calendar for Goats

The average gestation period for dairy goats is 150 days or about five months. Use the calendar below to help you determine when your does will kid. (Obviously, you'll need to have kept good records of your breeding dates to use this calendar successfully.)

To calculate the kidding date, write in the breeding date and subtract the number indicated under the appropriate kidding day.

If a Doe Is Bred on (fill in date)		She Should Kid On	
Month	Day	Month	Day
July	_____	December	_____-3
August	_____	January	_____-3
September	_____	February	_____-3
October	_____	March	_____-1
November	_____	April	_____-1
December	_____	May	_____-1
January	_____	June	_____-1
February	_____	July	_____0
March	_____	August	_____-3
April	_____	September	_____-3
May	_____	October	_____-3
June	_____	November	_____-3

Example: If a doe is bred on October 12th, the breeding calendar indicates that she should kid on March 11th.

This table is reprinted (with permission) from Caprine Supply's new book, Goatkeeping 101, page 75.

Objective Measurement and Prediction of Cashmere Style

by C. J. Lupton, F. A. Pfeiffer & A. R. Dooling

Edited by T. A. Dooling

Please Note: This article is an edited version. The full, un-edited version will be appearing in the Sheep and Goat Research Journal in the near future.

INTRODUCTION

Cashmere "style" is an ill-defined but important characteristic of cashmere as a commercial product. It is both difficult to define and to measure, and has been a source of considerable objection and controversy within the cashmere industry. A definition of "good style" that has received some degree of acceptance, at least within the U.S., is as follows.

Cashmere of good style has irregular crimp of relatively small magnitude and high frequency that does not lie in two dimensions but rather changes directions at irregular intervals along the length of individual fibers. (Lupton, 1991) Straight fibers or those containing bold (mohair-like) or two-dimensional (fine wool-like) crimps are considered to have poor style.

Style is considered important by buyers and processors for several reasons. First, it distinguishes cashmere from other fine fibers such as fine wool, qiviut, camel and vicuna. Second, style affects the efficiency of dehairing and other mechanical processes including spinning. Third, style directly affects the "hand" or feel of finished cashmere fabric. Since indigenous cashmere was first introduced to the U.S. in 1989, assessment of style has also been influenced, in varying degrees, by luster, color, yield, fiber diameter, and length of both down and guard hair.

Buyers of cashmere have, up until now, had to rely on subjective assessment of cashmere style to determine quality. At least one major buyer (A. R. Dooling) has devised a numerical scoring system, "CSS" rating cashmere from 1 (excellent) to 5 (poor). In any event, consistent and accurate subjective assessment of cashmere style requires intensive training and experience, as well as regular practice using fleeces of established style scores, in order to retain these skills. The

absence of a large number of trained and skilled classers has resulted in either high cost of classing and sorting fleeces or inaccurate classing resulting in lower processor prices. Obviously, the industry has needed a fast, relatively inexpensive, reliable and objective method of measuring cashmere style.

Recently, the manufacturer of the Optical Fiber Diameter Analyzer, or OFDA (Baxter, et al., 1992,) which is already used throughout the industry for objective assessment of mean fiber diameter (MFD) has developed and introduced a program which measures the degree of curvature in short segments of fiber. This measurement, in degrees of curvature per millimeter of fiber, uses the same short "snippets" of fiber as are used in measuring MFD. The program has been shown to be highly correlated with crimp in wool (Edmunds and Sumner, 1996,) one of the principal commercial fibers routinely tested by objective measuring techniques.

THE STUDY

The study summarized in this report was conducted by C. J. Lupton and F. A. Pfeiffer at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, in San Angelo, Texas, with the cooperation and assistance of A. R. Dooling of Pioneer Mountain Farm, Inc., in Dillon, Montana. The purpose of the study was to determine whether the objectively measurable degree of curvature of cashmere snippets was reliably correlated with cashmere style scores by an experienced classer.

Dooling initially subjectively scored 25 fleeces, five from each score range, where a style score of "1" was excellent and "5," poor. Lupton and Pfeiffer prepared snippets from the same samples and determined the average degree of curvature (AFC) of each. A mathematical equation was then established between CSS and AFC. Subsequently, Lupton and Pfeiffer objectively tested curvature from another 25 blind samples which were then given a style score or CSS by Dooling. Lupton and

Pfeiffer also measured down yield (DY), average fiber diameter (AFD), guard hair and down staple lengths (GHSL and DSL) on all samples. When AFC, objectively measured fiber curvature, was used to predict CSS, accuracy was within ± 1 unit. Also, cashmere style scores (CSS) were shown to be significantly correlated with DSL, GHSL, AFD and AFC (in increasing order), but not down yield.

The data from which Lupton and Pfeiffer conducted their statistical analysis are set forth in Tables 1 (where subjective classing scores were mathematically related to curvature), and 2 (where curvature was used to mathematically predict classing score). The correlation coefficients (where 1 is highly correlated, -1 is strongly negatively correlated) between CSS and other variables based on the first data set are in Table 3. Tables 4 and 5 summarize, respectively, classification style scores using calibration data and test data.

IMPLICATIONS

If the significant relationship between cashmere style scores and fiber curvature developed by this study holds true for other cashmere classers, then the industry will have a simple, objective, potentially inexpensive, and likely a more consistent way to estimate cashmere style scores and thus the commercial value of cashmere tested. The AFC method should be inexpensive because it can be obtained concurrently with down AFD or MFD, using the OFDA while incurring no extra cost. Since many cashmere breeders already use OFDA testing at least for selected breeding animals, AFC scores at no additional cost will provide them with a significantly more comprehensive objective view of fleece value than MFD histograms alone. This measurement will also prove useful to the many cashmere breeders who have either not undergone the intensive training required to become a skilled cashmere classer or, having undergone the training, have had insufficient ongoing classing experience

Continued on next page

Objective Style Measurement

Continued from previous page

needed to maintain the necessary skill levels.

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Table 1. Simple statistics for variables estimated, measured, and derived on the first set of raw cashmere samples.

Variable	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Cashmere style score, 1-5	3.0	1.4	1.0	5.0
Down staple length, in	2.9	0.8	1.6	4.8
SD of down staple length, in	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.8
Guard hair staple length, in	3.1	1.3	1.7	5.9
SD of guard hair staple length, in	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.8
Down average fiber diameter, μm	18.2	2.5	14.7	24.5
SD of down fiber diameter, μm	4.1	0.8	2.9	6.5
Avg fiber curvature, degrees/mm	59.4	11.3	35.6	80.2
SD of fiber curvature, degrees/mm	51.7	6.9	35.0	67.0
Down yield, %	54.5	18.5	18.8	91.5

Table 2. Simple statistics for variables estimated, measured, and derived on the second set of raw cashmere samples.

Variable	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum
Cashmere style score, 1-5	3.1	1.4	1.0	5.0
Down staple length, in	3.1	0.8	1.8	4.9
SD of down staple length, in	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.2
Guard hair staple length, in	3.1	1.2	1.4	5.7
SD of guard hair staple length, in	0.7	.5	0.1	1.8
Down average fiber diameter, μm	17.0	1.7	14.7	20.6
SD of down fiber diameter, μm	3.7	0.6	2.9	5.1
Average fiber curvature, degrees/mm	57.9	11.7	34.5	78.4
SD of fiber curvature, degrees/mm	52.6	6.7	39.0	68.0
Down yield, %	52.6	13.8	36.3	90.9

Table 3. Correlation coefficients and probability values for the linear relationships between cashmere style score $\sim$ (CSS) and the listed variables (first data set).

Variable	Correlation coefficient, r	Probability
Down staple length	.42	.04
SD of down staple length	-.04	.85
Guard hair staple length	-.42	.04
SD of guard hair staple length	-.03	.87
Down average fiber diameter	.53	.006
SD of down average fiber diameter	.60	.002
Average fiber curvature	-.74	.0001
SD of fiber curvature	-.42	.04
Down yield	.23	.27

Continued on next page

Objective Style Measurement Continued from previous page

Table 4. Classification summary for cashmere style score using the calibration data.

Actual Classification	Total Observations	Number of derived cashmere style scores				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	5	4	0	1	0	0
2	5	1	3	0	1	0
3	5	0	1	1	3	0
4	5	0	1	2	2	0
5	5	0	0	0	0	5

Table 5. Classification summary for cashmere style score using the test data.

Actual Classification	Total Observations	Number of derived cashmere style scores				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	4	4	0	0	0	0
2	5	3	2	0	0	0
3	5	0	0	3	2	0
4	7	0	0	1	3	3
5	4	0	0	1	0	3

Goat Herders' Summary (by Linda Fox) Objective Measurement and Prediction of Cashmere Style

In this study, the researchers have tested the reliability of a new machine test for cashmere style. Cashmere style is the crimpiness of the cashmere—how many crimps and how the crimps are arranged. Style is important in cashmere because it affects the efficiency of dehairing and spinning as well as the feel of the finished cashmere fabric.

So far, the assessment of cashmere style has been measured only subjectively—by a person. And people, being what they are, are influenced by other cashmere factors, such as luster, color, yield, fiber diameter and length of both the cashmere and guard hair. Also, opinions of style are likely to differ between classers.

A reliable objective measurement (machine measurement) of style is desirable for the industry, to standardize style measurement and to provide an option for measurement for those producers who are not adequately trained themselves to make this assessment. The industry needs a fast, reliable, inexpensive, objective cashmere style test.

The objective test is conducted by using the same "snippet" of cashmere fiber that is used for objective measurement of fiber diameter. To measure style, the curvature of the "snippet" is measured by the machine.

In the first set of tests, Ann Dooling, of Pioneer Mountain, Inc., in Dillon Montana, a noted cashmere classer, subjectively graded 25 cashmere fleeces. In this group there were 5 fleeces in each style grade. She classed their style using a method of grading from 1 - 5, with 1 being an excellent style and 5 being a poor style. These 25 fleeces were then measured by researchers Lupton and Pfeiffer, using a machine.

For the second set of tests, the researchers used the machine to style score 25 different fleeces. As well as testing for curvature, the researchers also measured fiber length, guard hair length and diameter of cashmere fiber. These fleeces were then sent to Ann Dooling for subjective classing.

From these tests, it was found that the objective test came up with the same style score as Ann's subjective test within one style score. It was also found that the style of the cashmere is related to with fiber length, guard hair length and fiber diameter. The style score was not related to yield.

The researchers felt that if this correlation between objective and subjective measurement holds true for other cashmere classers, this new objective style measurement could potentially become a more consistent way to estimate cashmere style scores.

Reflections

Continued from page 4

11:59 Two small black toes, hooves pointed downward and a nose appear. Doe is standing, straining.

12 noon First baby totally out, coughing and sneezing. Mother begins to clean it in between further straining. It's white.

12:01 I can see the pinkish bubble around the next kid protruding. Mother strains between licks. First kid is vocal already.

12:04 Second kid is born in one big plop, front feet and head first, like the first. Second baby is a little smaller and thinner than the first. It's white, too. Both are good-sized and appear healthy and typical.

12:10 Mother alternates between cleaning two kids. Both kids still laying down, but are alert with heads up and very vocal. Long red string hanging from mother's rear.

12:15 First kid trying to stand and drink. Has difficulty because it's still pretty slimy.

12:17 Second kid stands briefly

12:19 Both kids up, shakily hunting for the food source. Mother lifts a back leg when they get close and nuzzles them backward when they are too far forward.

12:20 I check the mother's bag, stripping the teats a little, to make sure there is milk there and she is unplugged. Perhaps the smell of milk on the teats will help the babies home in on the food a little sooner.

12:21 First kid lays down, resting. Second still searching for food. Is the food source on the mother's neck? On her side? On the back of her bag? "Where is the danged thing?" I notice that the first born is bigger and has a wider muzzle. The second is shorter in stature and has a smaller muzzle and a dished shaped nose like the mother. The second is curlier looking than the first. In our herd, that means the curlier one will have longer guard hair. I'm guessing that the first is a buck and the second, a doe. It seems that often, the first born is the larger of the two (They win the fight for who gets to go first?) and in mixed-sex births, the first born is often the male. Oh well, one out of two isn't bad.

Later in the season, I will check sex more quickly, but for now, I am just thrilled there are kids! I'll find out the sex when I break out the iodine.

12:30 Iodine navels. Both are does! So much for my wide muzzle theory. I keep a few ounces of

iodine in a small hotel shampoo bottle. It's easier to use than the economy size bottle. I remove the lid, place the bottle securely around the navel and dump over the kid with bottle still held secure.

12:32 They are now both steadier on their feet, both sucking on the mother's bag, but not connecting with the teats.

12:40 The first kid is walking pretty well.

12:47 Kid #2 has connected with the food! Shortly after, Kid #1 found the source as well.

1:15 Gave 1 cc of Bo-Se injection to each kid, injected under the skin. It's often difficult to find loose skin on a new kid. I found some on the rear upper legs of these.

1:20 Gave mother fresh bucket of water and some fresh hay. She sniffs at water and looks at me expectantly. She was obviously expecting the warm molasses water which we normally provide to new mothers after birth. (Not all like it, but most do.) I ran to the house to get her molasses water and call the friend to tell her it was too late to catch the kidding, but come on over if she wanted to see new kids.

1:25 Mother downs most of the gallon of warm molasses water.

1:30 Mother is eating hay, babies are exploring. I left the barn.

3:30 Came back to barn. Afterbirth laying in a puddle. Cleaned it up for disposal. Babies are standing by their mother.

Note: The above list contains our routine for kidding. You will want to check with your veterinarian for the proper procedures in your area. The iodine will always be a good idea, but the Bo-Se (a selenium and Vitamin D supplement) is necessary here due to deficiencies in our area and may not necessarily be advisable where you live.



12:21 pm "Where is the danged thing?"
New kids search for food.

NUTRITIONAL CAUSES OF REPRODUCTIVE LOSSES

By H. H. Van Horn, U. of Florida, Gainesville and
G. F. W. Haenlein, U. of Delaware, Newark
From the Extension Service Goat Handbook

It is important to realize from the beginning that there are no nutrients specifically required for reproduction which would not be needed for other physiological functions. Reproduction requires most of the same nutrients that are essential for maintenance, growth and milk secretion.

Nutritional factors that cause reproductive failures or reduced efficiency will also have detrimental effects on other physiological functions, especially when deficiencies become more pronounced. There are few specific nutrients that will in themselves correct reproductive problems if goat rations are balanced to meet general nutritive needs as far as is known today.

The most important nutritional factors influencing reproduction are:

Energy
Protein
Phosphorus and vitamin D
Vitamin A
Selenium and vitamin E
Salt and trace elements

Energy
Many reports indicate that fertility is impaired in drought seasons, by poor pastures, change to lower quality feed-stuffs, conditions which produce lower feed intake, high production (triplets, milk records) which easily exceeds energy supplies, and just plain "hollow belly disease."

An increase in energy supply is often followed by improved rates of ovulation and conception. This phenomenon of "flushing" has long been utilized by sheep breeders to increase lamb crop and is equally successful in goats.

A lack of energy, i.e. supply below the required level of maintenance plus pregnancy, affects kid survival, the level of milk production and lactation length.

Energy supplies have a marked effect on age of puberty and thus on age of first kidding. Early breeding for better economics of raising replacements require sufficient size of doelings at first estrus cycles, which means a moderately high level of energy in the doeling rations. Insufficient size at breeding of doelings may be followed by kidding problems five months later.

Excess energy is just as wrong physiologically since it fattens doelings unnecessarily and reduces conception rates besides being uneconomical. This may happen to doelings on the show circuit where they tend to receive an excess of attention that is followed by the feed scoop too generously. Actually, many goat exhibitors realize too late that judges do and should discriminate against over-conditioning of doelings.

Pregnant doelings need extra energy not only for their pregnancy but also to continue their growth rate sufficiently. Shortages of energy, especially under range conditions, are known to cause not only stunted growth but also abortion in goats. This may occur mostly between 90 and 110 days of gestation when undernutrition is especially critical to normal fetal development. So called stress abortion is triggered by low maternal blood glucose levels which initiates hyperactivity of the fetal adrenal gland resulting in elevated abortifacient estrogen level and the premature expulsion of a live or fresh fetus. After 110 days of gestation the fetal adrenal is slower acting. However, maternal hyper-adrenalism can also stem from undernutrition and low blood glucose resulting in dead or autolyzed fetuses. Thus, abortion can be prevented by proper sufficient nutrition because most fertility problems can be considered to a large degree a temporary reaction to a negative energy balance.

Protein

The relationship of protein to reproduction is similar to that of energy and the two nutrients interact to a large extent. Even when energy supplies are adequate, a shortage of protein will impair fertility, cause delayed onset of puberty, lengthen anestrus of goats and result in weak expression of estrus if it occurs. Additional requirements for protein for late stages of pregnancies of goats have been recommended by the National Research Council at levels equal to the nutritional needs of producing 2.5 lb of goat milk per day.

Phosphorus and Vitamin D

A phosphorus deficiency is more likely than a calcium deficiency in grazing goats because of phosphorus deficient forages. Adequate phosphorus supplementation for high producing dairy goats is more critical. A level of 0.4P in the total ration is recommended. The ratio of calcium-to-phosphorus should not be much different from 1.2 : 1.0. Excess of phosphorus has been associated with the occurrence of urinary calculi, particularly in confined bucks; in which case a Ca:P ratio of 1.5 : 1.0 or greater is recommended.

Poor reproduction performance has been related to wide Ca:P ratios and to phosphorus deficiencies; such as low first service conception rates and silent heats. Vitamin D has also been implicated through its effect on phosphorus utilization. Vitamin D supplementation is advised for young, poorly growing kids and goats in confinement and exposed to little sunlight.

Vitamin A

Deficiencies of vitamin A, its carotene precursors or interference in their conversion all are implicated in reproductive problems in goats, although more studies exist on cattle and sheep, and species differences have been noted. Vitamin A is essential for normal spermatogenesis in quantity and quality. It is also essential in combatting various respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases, and parasitism, and is needed for normal visual functions

Continued on next page

Nutritional and Reproduction

Continued from previous page

and healthy skin and mucal membranes. Protein deficiency in the feed ration, high energy rations, heat stress, phosphorus deficiency and presence of nitrates or nitrites in feed interfere with proper vitamin A levels or inhibit conversion of carotenes to vitamin A in goats. As a result, dead or weak kids may be born; even abortions or retained placenta may occur. Newborn kids may have low vitamin A liver reserves and suffer high mortality.

Eye abnormalities are signs of more serious vitamin A deficiencies. This can occur more during or after a dry summer, while green forages have abundant carotene supplies. Commercial supplementation of vitamin A is relatively inexpensive, as is that of vitamin D or E. All three are usually provided in commercial feeds in proper ratios, e.g. 5:1 : 0.01.

Selenium and Vitamin E

Retained placenta can be a selenium and vitamin E responsive disease when not caused by mechanical or pathogenic factors. That incidence can be markedly reduced with selenium—vitamin E treatment or supplementation, especially in those areas of the US where the soils are selenium deficient such as the East Coast, the Great Lakes region, New England, Florida, and the Northwest region. Selenium can be supplemented by feeding or injections. Deficiencies in growing kids and lambs can lead to white muscle disease. Vitamin E levels in goat milk are important as an antioxidant to extend shelf life and milk qualities in storage. Specific vitamin E roles in improving goat reproductive efficiency have been alleged for some time but reliable evidence is difficult to obtain.

Salt and Trace Elements

Lack of salt will reduce voluntary feed intake and develop various deficiency symptoms besides emaciation, urge to lick and chew dirt, shaggy dull haircoat, poor growth and wobbly gait. Normally, goats need between 5 and 18 lb salt per year, depending on size and production level. Salt is a convenient carrier also for the trace elements needed by goats for

normal reproduction such as zinc, manganese, iodine, cobalt, iron, copper and sulfur. Zinc and manganese in particular, affect spermatogenesis, libido and oogenesis when deficient.

Goats appear to be different in the metabolism of many trace elements from cattle and sheep, e.g. iodine, iron, copper, molybdenum, but few studies exist involving goats.

Young kids appear to be born with very low iron stores and are in early need of supplementation which can not come from goat milk. Multiple feed supplies and liberal browsing and grazing should produce few trace-element deficiencies except under high production conditions.

More URL's

<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/celtic/gds/gds.htm>

Goats Don't Shave—A musical group “...deliver what has to be one of the finest and exciting sounds in Celtic Rock.” Judge for yourself. I just like the group's name.

<http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/agba/index.html>

Alberta Goat Breeders Association
All types of goats, including cashmere!

<http://www.lpsi.barc.usda.gov/bn-pcu/parasrch.htm>

National Parasite Collection Search
What could be more exciting on a cold, rainy/snowy day, then to search for your favorite parasite!

<http://www.heritage-cashmere.co.uk/trade/heritage/history.htm>

Heritage Cashmere Limited, being a wholly owned subsidiary of William Root Limited, is part of a textile history that dates back to the 1890's. “...Known as the ‘Fibre of Kings,’ it was the Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon the Third who brought prominence to the fibre in Europe and a popularity that has been strong ever since.”
Interesting site from Heritage Cashmere Ltd., UK

<http://www.icontech.com/~bev/Kungfuwarez>

A hacker download site from my son. Enter at your own risk.

http://www.indulgence-fashion.com/cashmere_e.html

Hangzhou Wanfeng Garments Co., LTD. Interesting site from China.

<http://www.nandia.com>

Nandia Cashmere
An interesting site with all sorts of cashmere products for sale—yarn, fiber, sweaters and more.

Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

March 20, 1999

Farm Field Day, Goat Knoll, Dallas, Oregon
10:00 am - 6 pm or so. Hands-on lessons on goat care, goat conformation, fiber preparation, fiber classing, spinning, etc. More information on page 3.

March 28, 1999

Pacific Northwest Fiber Arts Festival 4, Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave. South, Tukwila, WA 98168. 10 AM - 4 PM, \$3 admission. For info: Pat Fly 360-264-4727, email: AngoraValley@thurston.com

May 14-15, 1999

Rare Breed Livestock, Miniature & Small Pet Expo, (6th Annual), Fairgrounds, Knoxville, Tennessee
Sponsored by Heartsong Triple D Farm. Entertainment, educational seminars and vendors booths. For more information, contact Heartsong Triple D Farm, 1292 Lakemoore Drive, Jefferson City, TN 37760, phone 423-475-3777, email: ddtarr@usit.net

May 14 - 16, 1999

Maine Fabric & Fiber Arts, Festival, conference with seminars, vendors. For brochure send address and 55 cents postage to Christine Macchi, The Fiber Loft, 76 Maine Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.

May 22, 1999

Northwest FiberFest, Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe, Washington

May 29, 1999

Back of the Wasatch Fiber Festival, Summit County Fairgrounds, Coalville, Utah, Featuring llamas, alpacas, sheep, stockdogs and everybody's favorite: goats! More info: Heide Smith 435-649-3856 (evenings).

May 29 - 30, 1999

Sheep and Woolcraft Fair, Cummington Fairgrounds, Cummington, MA. Contact: Scott Poitras, 128 Washington Road, Brinfield, MA 01010.

June 5-6, 1999

Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival (10th annual), Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Hamilton, Montana, 1999 theme is "Life's Threads into Art", featured breed for 1999 is goats! Numerous workshops with well-known instructors, commercial booths, animal shows. For information contact Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild, PO Box 74, Hamilton, MT 59840.

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)

Kris McGuire, President, 970-493-6015
email: krisvadale@aol.com

Membership info: Marilyn Burbank, PO Box 2067, Rogue River, OR 97537, email: burbank@cdsnet.net

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)

Guy Triplett, President, 541-388-1988
harvest@empnet.com

Professional Cashmere Marketers' Association

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406-683-5445
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Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)

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email: dchambers@proaxis.com

Texas Cashmere Association (TCA)

Dee Broyles, President
806-489-7645 office, 806-489-7959 home

Wild Goat Women

Debbie Walstead, Chairperson, 719-495-2962

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8435 CR 600
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MORE WASHINGTON

Continued on next page

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Becki and Jim Belcher
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509-698-3468

Internet listing of these breeders at:
<http://www.teleport.com/~goatknol/breeders.htm>

Goat and Sheep Meat Definitions and Information

Are you among the ranks of the confused producer/consumer? Does your term for kid goat on your farm mean the same thing as "kid goat" on the meat market? What exactly is "Halal slaughter" and how does that differ from "Kosher?" And how does live weight relate to carcass weight and to actual meat contained in the packages in the freezer?

Here are a few terms (as related to the meat market) to clear the fog. We've included a few lamb/sheep terms as well:

Kid Goat: Young goats (under 12 months) weighing 20 to 35 pounds live. In some parts of the country, a kid goat can weight up to 80 pounds live.

Yearling Goat: Animals who are approximately 12-24 months with permanent incisor teeth.

Adult Goat: Animals who over 24 months of age with 4 or more permanent incisor teeth.

Hot House Lamb: Young lamb weighing from 25 to 50 pounds live.

Feeder Lamb: Lambs weighing from 60 to 90 pounds that go on feed to be finished for market.

Market Lamb: Finished lamb weighing from 90 to 150 pounds live.

Sheep: Cull ewes and rams that are no longer useful for production.

Halal Slaughter: A Muslim slaughter, where lambs, sheep and goats must be slaughtered under certified Muslim inspection. With the increasing number of Muslims in the United States (estimated at 14 million), this is becoming a very important market for goats and sheep. For goats, they prefer animals with a live weight of 50 to 70 pounds. They must have their baby teeth and be lean to obtain top dollar.

Kosher Slaughter: Named for Jewish "Kashruth," which are the dietary laws of the Jewish faith as set forth in the Old Testament and other Rabbinical rulings. Kosher meat may come only from cloven-hoofed (split-hoofed) animals such as cows, sheep and goats that graze and chew their cud. The size is not important, only the animal's health. For an animal to pass as Kosher, it must be healthy, which is determined by a rabbi during slaughter. Usually the front or forequarter only is sold as Kosher.

Live Weight vs. Carcass Weight vs. Meat-on-the-Table Weight: You can expect that 50% of the goat's liveweight will be the carcass weight (we're talking butchered with non-meat parts removed) and that 34% of the liveweight will end up as retail boneless chevon meat. So, for you math lightweights, if you butcher a 60 pound goat, carcass weight will be only 30 pounds and if you have all the bones taken out of your processed meat, you will end up with 17 pounds of goat meat in your (or your customer's) freezer. This, of course, does not count the weight of the paper packaging and the tape.

Goof of the Season

By Pam Haendle

Reprinted with permission from the Winter 1999 ECA Hoofprints

Many months ago, I briefly considered describing in Hoofprints the wooden pen I had constructed for the back of my pickup truck. I was proud of its functional design—a makeshift “cap” that was assembled from 5 pieces, all light enough for me to manipulate alone. I liked the open-air design, especially in hot weather, but also was reassured by the layers of water seal I had slathered on the roof pieces and the late addition of a piece of plastic to cover the joints in the roof. When goats were not along for the ride, I could store it all away easily or put just the side panels in place to haul a full load to the dump. Most of all I was proud of the fact that I, a hopelessly incompetent carpenter, had made it myself. Perhaps, I thought, there might be other goatherds who would like an expensive and easy-to-handle alternative to a truck cap.

The wooden pen traveled to Maine, to Vermont, to New Jersey, and Virginia. Refinements were made, tie-up hooks added. But nothing prepared the pen or me for the mountains of West Virginia. I had chosen the scenic route home from the Virginia State Fair with my yearling doe and my little black wether, Bartholomew. It was indeed scenic. It was also windy. As we swayed through the hills, I worried a bit about the hay blowing around and wished the doe would lie down out of the wind. But there was no warning whatsoever before the wrenching sound of tearing wood caused me to look back and see pieces of plywood and pine flying off of the truck. A single gust of wind had reduced my pen to splintered pine posts sticking out of the truck wells. I jerked the truck to a stop and saw, to my horror, a black blob among the wreckage at the roadside. Bartholomew. I dashed out of the cab, sick with fear, but found both goats huddled in the hay in the truck bed, too confused and frightened to move. A quick run down the road showed the black lump to be the nylon hay bag, and the “pen” to be far beyond repair.

Ah, what does one do on the side of a busy, windy highway, alone with two goats and a compact pickup truck? First one counsels the goats repeatedly to sit still while one figures it out. Then one throws everything out of the cab, and is grateful that there are no other people present who might expect to ride in the cab. Because, of course, that’s where the goats have to go!



Bartholomew, I’m happy to report, settled down on the seat as if he’d always known that to be his rightful place, and he’s been one of the most affectionate goats on my place ever since. Carrie, my yearling, need a good bit more convincing, which is understandable given that she had to stand in front of the seat with a gear shift between her ribs. She acquiesced eventually, however, and amused herself in the remaining 7 hours of the trip by periodically turning off the ignition, popping the stick shift into neutral, and poking the buttons on the tape player with her horns. It’s hard to recommend the total experience, but we did bond.

And the new truck cap wasn’t all that expensive, really.

Pam Haendle (and her goats) live in West Edmeston, New York. She is the Editor of the excellent ECA Hoofprints newsletter.



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"Most 'proud' goats have something to be proud of."

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...Virginia Woolf, 1882-1941

"The perfect goat would have the butt of a Boer and the brains of a Cashmere."

...Wanda Wanitall

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