CASH MIRROR

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The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber

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Table of Contents

CASHMIRROR

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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: Steve Hachenberger
Castle Crags Ranch, Hamilton, Montana
Murphy, a Golden Retiever and The Whiting, an overweight wether.

Karakan Ned Kelly, 1985-1997
A well-known buck from Pioneer Mountain Farm, Dillon, Montana. What do you do with a great deceased buck? One idea—see page 30. Photo by Tom and Ann Dooling.

Another Goof Correction

Correction to August 1999 *CashMirror*, "Working on a Goat Ranch," page 14, first full sentence.

The sentence read: "Numerous bottle babies are a normal occurrence at Smoke Ridge." **Wrong!**

Sentence should have been: "Numerous bottle babies are **not** a normal occurrence at Smoke Ridge."

As stated in the sentence before the erroneous one (including a misspelling of "premature"), "The numerous bottle babies were the result of having brought heavily pregnant does to Montana in late February, some of which had premature or weak kids that needed a helping hand in the 20 degree weather."

Someone Needs to Look Closer Before Naming Plants!

Leafy Spurge

Infests 450,000 acres in Montana alone. Has a 30' taproot making it difficult to kill. Also has exploding seed pods which send seeds out 15' in all directions. Excretes a white, sticky sap which is toxic to cattle and horses. Cattle can develop gum sores from eating it. Sheep won't eat it. Goats love it. Photo above (by Dan Edens) is of goats grazing spurge along a creek. Is the spurge leafy? No.

Spotted Knapweed

Infests 6 million acres in Montana alone. It secretes pheromones from its roots which poison the soil and kill off surrounding plants. It is a member of the thistle family and is non-palatable to sheep and cows. This is Baracca eagerly munching on Knapweed. We saw fields of beautiful purple Knapweed near Hamilton choking out all other plants. Goats love it. Is it spotted? No.

Reflections

by Linda Fox

Fencing with Yellow Jackets

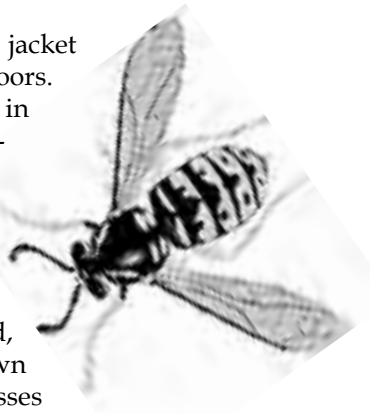
We finished the west perimeter fence! This may not sound like a big deal to you, but to us, finishing the 1,500 or so feet of the west boundary of our property has been a project which has consumed us for the past two summers. By the end of summer 1998, we had only found enough time to prepare the line for bringing in the new fence. Armed with gasoline-powered brush cutters, weed whackers, chain saw and various hand pruners, we attacked the far end of the brush-filled forest weekend after weekend. At last, we had a path in front of the old fence remnants, but were out of time for the year.

The old fence had been put up by previous property owners at least 30 years before. They had hurriedly tacked five strands of barbed wire to any available oak tree which was even remotely close to the property line, putting in an occasional T-post if necessary. They had only needed to confine a few sheep. After 30 years, the trees had grown considerably, creating a zigzag mess of rusty wire, usually grown into the middle of the tree, sometimes so tight you could play a tune on it and often broken or missing entirely. It wouldn't hold sheep anymore and it certainly wouldn't contain goats.

We had three goals for our fence. 1) To contain the goats—this new line would add 20 acres to their browsing range, 2) To straighten the fence line somewhat (quietly, clandestinely—so as not to waste our valuable fencing time debating an unknown property line with a string of unknown neighbors) and, 3) to free the trees from the wire.

We've spent a good deal of this summer working on that fence line. We had to first clear the new growth of blackberries, poison oak and wild roses which had taken over our last summer's new path. We then lugged up wooden posts, bundles of T-posts and rolls of woven fence wire. We released the trees and removed the barbed wire where necessary. In some places, in order to come close to a straight line, we had to remove trees. As we hit August, the doe herd had run out browse in their old pasture and we bought hay to keep them content while they gazed wistfully at our endeavors in the brush-filled west side of the property.

Our final weekends on the fence were slowed somewhat by a larger than usual crop of yellow jackets. We always have some this time of year and they grow increasingly cranky as winter nears. Local theory holds that they get unreasonable due to their feasts on rotting (and presumably alcoholic) fruit laying on the ground in the orchards. These nasty bees live in holes in the ground which are plentiful in our woods. Before late fall, they won't bother you much if you're just passing through, but if you do something especially annoying, like step in their home, they chase you down and sting you with a vengeance. Native Oregonians are careful to locate yellow jacket homes when working outdoors. If you see quite a few bees in one place, you carefully locate their hole so it can be avoided. If their home is in an inconvenient spot, like by your back door or near a downed tree you intend to cut up for firewood, you pour a little gasoline down the hole after dark which gasses the entire family of bees who have safely assembled in their home for the night. We don't usually bother killing bees who aren't in a bad spot as there's always several more nests just around the corner. If you become obsessed with eradicating bees (who will be toast with the first frost anyway) you could spend your whole summer consumed with bee murder and not accomplish much else. However, if you're careful, don't hang around outside holding food they might want and be especially careful in the late fall when they are truly unreasonable, you can arrive at winter with only a sting or two.



Paul apparently didn't know much about yellow jacket management. A new trail he had built through the forest to the middle of the west fence line travelled over two yellow jacket nests. One was near the edge of the trail, so it could be avoided by walking quickly past on the far side of the path. The second hole was in the middle of the path. After seeing how riled they became when we drove a tractor over their home, we constructed a bypass. We marked the two holes with pink plastic flags to remind us to avoid them. Paul discovered the third nest directly in the new fence line. He had noticed there were quite a few bees in the area, but having escaped unscathed dealing with the first two nests, he was feeling overconfident—he just ignored them and kept working. The T-post he attempted to pound in the ground must have been very close to their nest or else the vibration to the ground travels quite a distance because, when he had the post partly pounded in, the swarm attacked. He ran screaming down the trail away from me. Before he could lose or dispose of the bees, he had accumulated nine painful stings.

We decided to quit the project for the day and headed back to the house. There are several things you can put on a yellow jacket sting intended to ease the pain but, like the common cold, mostly it will just run its course. The sting starts outs hurting like crazy. Then it goes through a throbbing phase, then a swelling phase and finally itches for either a few hours or a few days. Length and severity of the symptoms depend on the sensitivity of the person stung and the location of the sting. Growing up, my mother used to give us jelly on soda crackers when we got stung. I remember one particularly painful afternoon after I had stepped into a bee hole and ended up with many stings. I

Continued on next page

Reflections
Continued from previous page

remember sitting in the swing eating jelly crackers waiting for the hurt to go away.

As Paul doused his wounds with Bactine, Calamine lotion, Neosporin and any other ointment he could find that he thought might help, I offered to make him a plate of jelly crackers. He declined my offer.

Later, when talking to my mother, reminiscing about the jelly crackers, she said, "You know what really helps is to put a little dab of moistened meat tenderizer on the bite. Draws the poison right out. If you don't have water handy, just use a little spit."

I think I'll stick with the jelly crackers.

When Readers Talk...

Dear Editor:

I wish to state that the primitive, childish artwork used to illustrate my article on veterinary issues in the July 1999 issue was not, I repeat, was not what I submitted to the Editor. I demand a retraction. Immediately.

Paul G. Johnson
Publisher, CashMirror Magazine
August 31, 1999

Dear Paul,

So?

Editor

Ask Mickey!

Dear Mickey—

This is a fan letter to YOU. It has absolutely nothing to do with goats, of any kind.

I have admired your picture for several months now and must say you are a handsome, correct example of your breed. It's obvious your pedigree must be a veritable who's who of Cornish Rex Grand Champions! Did I miss the issue in which you told us your Mom and Dad's registered names? I'd love to know who they are.

Sincere admiration from—
"Buttercup Holliday," D.S.H.
A proud graduate of the Pike's Peak Humane Society
Carole Holliday, Owner
Peyton Colorado
July 26, 1999

Dear Buttercup,

Thank you for your kind and accurate letter. I am extremely glad to see mail around here which has "nothing to do with goats of any kind." It's rare—and welcome.

As for which issue we got to to talk about me (which I certainly deserve): Zippo! It never made the press and as long as those *+<!~~?#**%!!## goats are in the picture, it's not likely to.

Even though my pedigree is not important (having been mercilessly neutered at a young age because, I must confess, I am merely pet quality), it is important to keep pedigree information for your goats. Even though cashmere goats are not generally considered a "registered" breed, pedigree imformation is extremely important. By keeping track of the ancestors of your goat, you can avoid inbreeding, more acurately predict what their offspring will be like and more efficiently choose which goats and which lines to bring traits which are important to you to your operation. You can keep pedigree information in any form you choose; you should be able to find blank forms to fill in—or you can create your own form. If you have a lot of goats, you will probably want to use a computer to help you keep your records.

When you sell a goat, you should give the new owner pedigrees on all goats purchased and when you buy a goat, you should get all the background information you can from the goat's previous owner.

And, as for me, I'll just have to be content to look at my pedigree hanging on the wall above my catfood dish—eight inches from the floor where, at least I can admire it.

Mick ey

Goats and Diarrhea

If you've had a goat for any length of time, you've no doubt seen a goat with diarrhea. A lot of things cause it and sometimes it disappears as quickly as it came. Diarrhea comes in infectious and noninfectious varieties. The infectious varieties are normally caused by bacteria or parasites. Infectious varieties caused by bacteria (Escherichia coli, Salmonella sp.) are more common in newborns through four weeks of age. Diarrhea caused by parasites (coccidia and intestinal parasites) are more common in goats 4 through 12 weeks of age. Noninfectious diarrheas, which are usually nutritionally related are more commonly found in goats over 12 weeks of age.

The bacteria, Escherichia coli has three forms—septicemia, endotoxic and enteric. Symptoms of the enteric form, which is the least severe, include feces of a pasty consistency, a profuse watery nature, or blood-tinged diarrhea. There is usually a loss of appetite and abdominal distension. Many kids with this will become ill and then recover rapidly, however if they become completely anorexic and dehydrated, they can become critically ill.

The other two forms of bacterial diarrhea are more serious. Goats with the septicemic and endotoxic forms may develop clinical symptoms and die within a matter of hours. Diarrhea is not generally present, but the animals may become depressed, weak and show signs of bloat. Kids with the septicemic form are usually those which have not received adequate colostrum after birth. The most important factor for kid survival is adequate colostrum with its antibody protection.

Noninfectious causes of diarrhea are food related. These include overfeeding of kids, acute grain overload, copper deficiency and ingestion of toxin (poisons). Toxins are contained in numerous plants species.

Nutritionally caused diarrhea in young kids is normally associated with poor feeding practices, such as overfeeding of milk, use of poor quality milk replacer, incorrect mixing and dispensing of milk replacer and sudden changes in food.

Other causes of diarrhea include high energy grain rations, lush pasture and grain overload.

Regardless of the cause of the diarrhea, the animal is losing water from its body quickly and it is essential that the animal remain well hydrated. Water supplementation can be accomplished by using oral fluids, electrolytes or in severe cases, intravenously-administered fluids.

Symptoms of nutritionally related diarrhea vary as does time of onset of the symptoms. Usual symptoms for grain overload include loss of appetite, depression and weakness. Body temperature may remain normal or be slightly elevated. Heart and respiratory rates are also often elevated. Later, mucoid diarrhea and signs of colic begin. The rumen may become hard and bloat may develop. The rumen becomes fluid filled as rumen contents act to pull water from the body. Signs of dehydration include sunken eyes and increased skin tenting. The animal may act blind and uncoordinated. A normal rumen pH level for a goat is 5 - 7, but the rumen of a goat with grain overload may fall below 5. If you look at rumen fluid under a microscope, you would notice a lack of living protozoa.

Grain overload is teated with oral antacids, oral antibiotics (tetracyline) and thiamine (Vitamin B1). In severe cases, rumen contents obtained from a healthy goat is placed into the rumen of the affected goat. (They call it transfaunation.) Brewer's yeast is sometimes used as an alternative. Sometimes calcium and antihistamines are also used.

An Embarrassing Case of Fermentation

One of our goats had a recurring case of mild diarrhea a couple of years ago. It wasn't bad and she wasn't acting unusual in any other way. We had run our course of treatments including worming her, giving her another CD&T shot and a shot of antibiotics. The diarrhea would stop and then it would return in a few days. A friend suggested giving her a little apple cider vinegar in her water. I was skeptical but figured it wouldn't hurt her, so I added a cup of cider vinegar to a gallon of water and put it in her pen. She wouldn't have anything to do with it and I forgot about it. A few days later the weather turned extremely hot. The goat apparently ran out of untreated water and, in desperation, drank her vinegar-treated pan dry.

When we fed her that night, she was laying on her side pawing in the air. We frantically called our veterinarian who suggested we try a little peppermint tea to settle her stomach. We gave her a couple of cups (she didn't drink it willingly) and she was soon fine.

Pashmina Passion

Reprinted from the New Agriculturist, Issue 99/4
On-line at http://www.new-agri.co/uk/

The world's finest fibres, prized above all others, are those that are soft, supple and sensuous and are produced from animals living at high altitudes. The thin mountain air, sparse vegetation and frigid temperatures at heights over 5,000 m produce the thin under coat of hair that, for centuries, has been so highly sought after from Himalayan goats, the endangered species of Chiru antelope of Tibet and the Vicuña camelid of the Andes.

Cashmere

Over the last century the main producers of cashmere have been China (90%), Mongolia, Iran, Turkey and India. Total world production is now over 5,000 tonnes each year. But demand for cashmere continues to increase and cashmere goats can now be from the hot plains of Texas to the cold heights of the Himalayas. But the thicker atmosphere and richer vegetation at lower altitudes produce much thicker, coarser hair; it is far softer than any sheep wool but not as fine or as valuable as hair harvested from the Himalayan goats and woven by Kashmir weavers for Pashmina shawls.

Any goat fibre less than 19 microns can be classified as cashmere but Pashmina is 10-14 microns and, ounce for ounce, is the warmest insulation in the world. Twice a year the goats of Ladakh are combed as they shed their light downy underhair and this fleece is sold in the markets of Leh, which lies on the silk road to China. As less than 80 gm of hair is harvested from each goat, it takes the yield of three goats to make one small scarf and over thirty to make a small blanket. Total production from Ladakh is a tiny fraction of that from China and Mongolia but a Pashmina shawl is so light it is said to float on the shoulders and yet be as warm as a coat. Now favoured in high fashion circles, Pashminas are simply known to be made from the best cashmere in the world.

Shahtoosh—King of Fibres

Pashmina wool may be fine but it is not the finest; the most precious natural fibre in the world comes from a small Tibetan antelope known as the Chiru. Half as thin as Pashmina cashmere, the hair is woven to produce Shahtoosh—meaning the king of wools. Shahtoosh shawls were regarded as family heirlooms in the royal and wealthy families of India. Today a pure shahtoosh shawl can cost up to 20,000 dollars on the international market. But the lure of huge profits, has made shahtoosh a favoured bartering item for Tibetan smugglers who trade the wool for tiger parts, bear gall bladder and musk used in Chinese medicine. Despite a global CITES trade ban in shahtoosh and shahtoosh products, shawls are exported and marketed illegally throughout the world. With the availability of high-powered rifles and all terrain jeeps, whole herds have been wiped out and less than 3,000 animals remain on the trans-Himalayan plains. Far fewer would exist without the sustained efforts of several wildlife organisations, including the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI). Feasibility studies for the domestication of the Chiru are currently being conducted to try and ensure that this endangered species has a future.

Camelid Wool

At the time of the Spanish conquistadors, 1.5 million vicuna, (*Vicugna vicugna*) the smallest camelid species, ranged on the high altitude grassland plateaux of the Andes from Ecuador to Argentina. But, until 1825 when a law protecting the species was passed, more than 8000 a year were killed for their soft wool and meat. Despite protection, demand for skins from Europe and the USA continued and, with the spread of domesticated livestock, the numbers were reduced to 6000 by 1965. Today, through conservation efforts, their numbers are rising and, in some areas, the vicuna is once more being rounded up, shorn and re-released. In other parts of its range, a few are even having to be culled to protect the grassland habitat. Numbers of vicuna are now around 125,000 but the species is still classified as endangered. Protection continues to be provided by Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina and export of Vicuna products is still banned. In contrast, Alpaca, a relation of the vicuna, has been domesticated for over 2000 years and continues to be farmed for its wool. Once thought to have been bred from the wild guanaco, the alpaca is now thought to have been derived from a cross between the domesticated llama and the vicuna. Domesticated by the Incas around 500 BC, the alpaca (*Lama pacos*) has been an important livestock animal for its wool,

Continued on next page

Pashmina Pashion
Continued from previous page

meat, skin and milk, as well as for its dung, which is dried for fuel. It is still a vital subsistence animal to the native Andean Indians of Peru, Chile and Argentina. But, with the growing demand for alpaca wool, large herds are now being built up throughout South America and the United States. Peru produces almost all of the world's alpaca fibre, exporting 90% of its output with the remainder used for weaving native ponchos, blankets and rope. Alpacas are very efficient at utilizing fodder. The natural vegetation of the Andean plains is tussock grass but some farmers have begun to improve the pasture with rye grass, alfalfa and white clover to raise productivity. In winter, some additional fodder, such as grass or alfalfa hay may be provided. Today alpacas are raised worldwide and they have proven exceptionally healthy and disease resistant in a range of climates. Scarcity of alpacas and demand for their luxury fibre has kept alpaca breeding and sales strong around the world. This interest makes these easily managed animals a great prospect, even on small acreages, and it is claimed that few animals are more suited to run alongside existing cattle or dairy farms than the alpaca.

Tons vs Tonnes

The British, Canadians, Australians and others have a funny way of spelling. They have a habit of adding extra letters to words—especially extra vowels. They seem particularly fond of the letter "U," as in "favoured" and they insist on rearranging our "E's" such as with "fibre." Even though this is often annoying, we suppose since some of them had the English language first, we ought to use a spot of tolerance. Especially since they mispell things in such a charming accent.

They use "tonnes," we say "tons." Is this the same measurement, merely spelled differently? Or, since they are also hung up on the metric thing, is their tonne actually different from our 3-lettered 2,000 pounds? Most of you probably already know this, but humor us here as we had to look it up.

A visit to the dictionary defined a "short ton" as 2,000 pounds and a "long ton" as 2,240 pounds. And, to keep things complicated, a metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds or 1000 kilograms. Per our dictionary, 2,000 pounds is what we mean when we say "ton" in the United States and Canada and 2,240 pounds is what we mean when we say "tonne" in Great Britain.

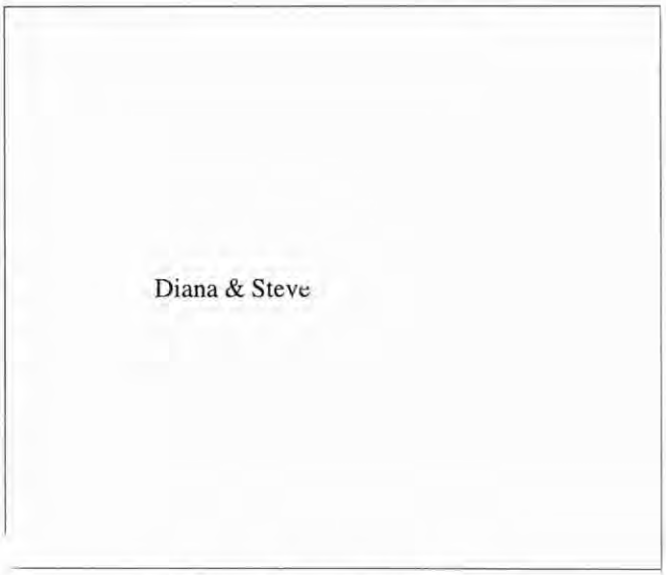
We propose a compromise. How about if we all use "meto" (meaning metric ton) and mean 2,204.6 pounds? That way, it would be difficult for everyone!

Castle Crags Ranch

A Farm Feature

By Linda Fox

Diana's college major was Animal Behavior and she has a minor in Genetics. Steve is an electrical contractor and an inventor. This diverse mix of skills has brought to Castle Crags Ranch a carefully designed and implemented cashmere breeding program as well as cashmere goats which light up at Christmas.



Diana and Steve Hachenberger

Diana and Steve Hachenberger are cared for by their two teenagers, Trevor, age 15, and Emily, age 13. The four of them live on 12 acres near Hamilton Montana at the foot of the spectacular Bitterroot Mountains. Their ranch, Castle Crags, took its name from the imposing mountain peaks which you can enjoy while lounging on their deck discussing goats. In addition to an impressive herd of cashmere goats, they also maintain an amusing assortment of pets including the famous fat cashgora wether, The Whiting, Baracca, a gray wether who prefers to live in the back yard, The Fruit Bat, a black wily doe who I easily taught to drink water from a garden hose, Havoc, a rock-wrestling Jack Russell Terrier and Murphy, the Golden Retriever who will play mother to any young animal if tolerated by its real mother. The pastures of cashmere goats share the land with a few horses, a few llamas and a small herd of Merino/Romney and CVM sheep.

If I had to sum up the Hachenbergers in brief, it would be "A curious blend of business-like seriousness and a rollicking good time." I doubt that the Hachenberger family is ever bored.

History of the Ranch

Steve and Diana celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this year and seem to be surviving Emily and Trevor's teenage years without too much stress. They previously lived in Thousand Oaks (near Beverly Hills) California. Ten years ago, they decided to get out of the city and away from Steve's daily 2-3 hour commute to work. Steve was working 60 hours per week and never saw the kids. Taxes and insurance were high and they were poor. They decided as long as they were going to be poor, they might as well go for a better life-style and be poor in an area they liked. They packed up their kids, then age three and five, and one horse, and moved to Hamilton, Montana.

They wanted to raise something on their newly-acquired land so they began searching for an animal that Diana could handle and also something to help provide additional income for the family. They love horses and would have liked to raise them. If they had thought they could make money raising horses, this would have been their first choice. They first looked at Angora goats and later decided their animal of choice would be cashmere goats. They began searching for their foundation stock in the summer of 1990. After much research, they purchased Australian cashmere stock from Tom and Ann Dooling—one buck (Copper King), eleven does and one pregnant sheep in March of 1991. The goats included seven different family lines. Per Diana, they bought the pregnant sheep as she decided she certainly wasn't going to make a cashmere sweater for a six year old boy. Hachenbergers later purchased one additional Tasmanian cashmere buck, Rocky Road. Their herd currently numbers around 200 goats (75 does, 30 bucks and 90 kids). Diana says that they need to get rid of 20 does.

Diana learned to spin right after they decided to buy cashmere goats. She knew that in order to talk to handspinners about how to spin cashmere, she would need to know how to do it herself. Diana also weaves and does crewel and counted cross stitch.

Sales/Markets

For the first three years, sales were minor. They didn't advertise and all fleeces and animals were sold by word of mouth. During the third year, Diana and Joan Contraman, another local animal and fiber enthusiast combined forces and began going to fiber shows together. Diana's fiber business is called Three Bags Full and Joan's is Crosspatch Creations. If you have

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Cashmere stash at Castle Crags waiting for people with time to dehair. And you thought you had a big fleece stash! Photo by Steve Hachenberger.

A corner of Diana's Three Bags Full store in their home. For sale here are a variety of spinnable fibers and blends in natural shades and colors as well as yarn and spinning equipment and supplies. The plaque on the wall is their award for being named the 1977 Montana Family Business of the Year.

Castle Crags Ranch

Continued from previous page

attended any major fiber event recently, you have no doubt run across their well-stocked booth. Now, together they do eight or nine shows per year at which they sell fiber, yarn and spinning equipment and supplies. Each of them also maintains a small in-house fiber store for customers. They also sell products mail order and via their internet site (at http://www.bitterroot.net/fiber/fiber.html). They wash and dye their own fiber and send wool out for roving preparation. They process the cashmere themselves, dehairing it on Steve's machines, and then washing and carding in preparation for spinning. Diana says she sells all the cashmere she has time to process. They have a large stash of cashmere in their garage waiting to be processed.

Diana and Steve are lucky that they have been able to process most of their own cashmere in-house. This has enabled them to be able to retail their own processed fiber to spinners.

Diana tells a story about a time that she and Joan were dehairing cashmere in the garage. Steve, with reservation, had taught them how to use the machine. He had cautioned them about safety matters. They accidentally ran a broom through the machine. The machine seemed no worse for the wear, so Diana decided not to mention the incident to Steve. The next time that Steve used the dehairer, he came running into the house with a few stiff, bristle-like objects in his hand. He had found them in his machine and was afraid that his expensive carding cloth had started to break down. Diana had to confess about the well-dehaired broom.

Diana and Joan buy silk, flax and other fibers for resale which they do not raise. Diana said that if she didn't have animals, she would probably raise silk worms or plants, but goats are certainly more enjoyable.

Diana makes three or four trips per year to Fort Collins, Colorado, to the auction to sell culls and excess goats which are not sold for breeding stock.

Breeding Goals

Hachenbergers' breeding goals place cashmere production of the animal as the first culling criteria. Their goal is to breed animals which produce dense, long, real cashmere with as high a yield as possible. They would like to produce a herd of goats which are as

Continued on next page

Castle Crags Ranch
Continued from previous page

high yielding as some of the high-yielding cashgora types. They want to see this cashmere growing on a healthy goat which has enough size that the culls will sell well on the meat market. Fleece production is their first goal; size comes second. Diana noted that if the current market changes, they might change their focus for culling.

Their goal for cashmere is to produce the longest fiber possible while maintaining style, fineness and fiber consistency (a low CV). Since cashmere production comes first at Castle Crags, Diana is tough about selection for fiber-production qualities of the bucks. They keep less than 10% of the boys by the time they are three years old. At the first fleece, they cull them if their fleece is not fine. They do this on a visual basis. They don't worry about cashmere length on the first fleece. From the second fleece on, every buck on the place is tested at Yocom-McColl Labs. Any fleece testing at a diameter greater than 18µ or who has a Coefficient of Variation (CV) greater than 20µ is generally culled. These parameters are applied no matter what age the buck. They send out a mid-sized sample on each buck to be tested, per the instruction of Yocom-McColl Labs. On either side of the testing sample, they take another sample to store in small zip-lock bags for their own records. This collection of fleece samples for each goat is threaded onto a string for easy retrieval. This year, they had 38 samples tested by the Lab and the test result sheet had been marked for keepers and culls.

By the second fleece, they also expect the potential breeding buck's cashmere to have some length. If a second fleece doesn't have at least 1-1/2" length, they want to see something very spectacular on his other fleece qualities in order for him to stay. By the third fleece and thereafter, they like to see at least 2" length on the cashmere. By the time a buck is three years old, the only intact bucks on the place are those that they would use themselves. They wether their bucks later so that they can make decisions based on fleece.

Records

Diana keeps good records. Her goal for recordkeeping is to keep the records as simple as possible and still have the information needed to make good decisions. Her quest for simplicity once led her to dispose of records that would have been handy to keep. Several years ago, she decided that she didn't need to keep information on goats which had been disposed of.

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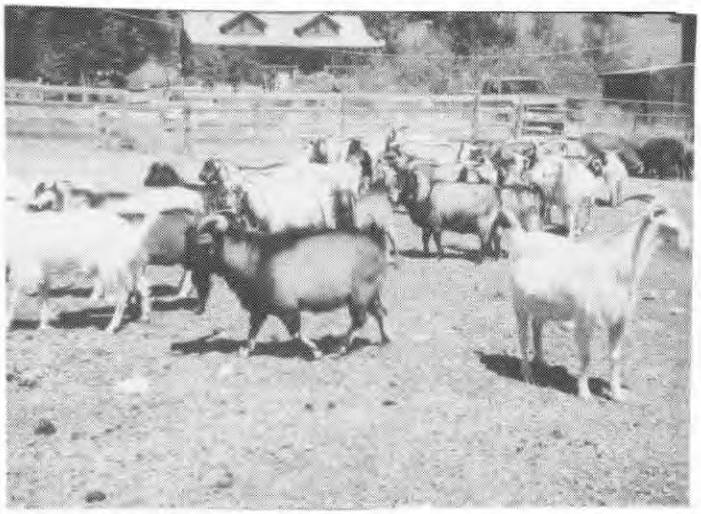
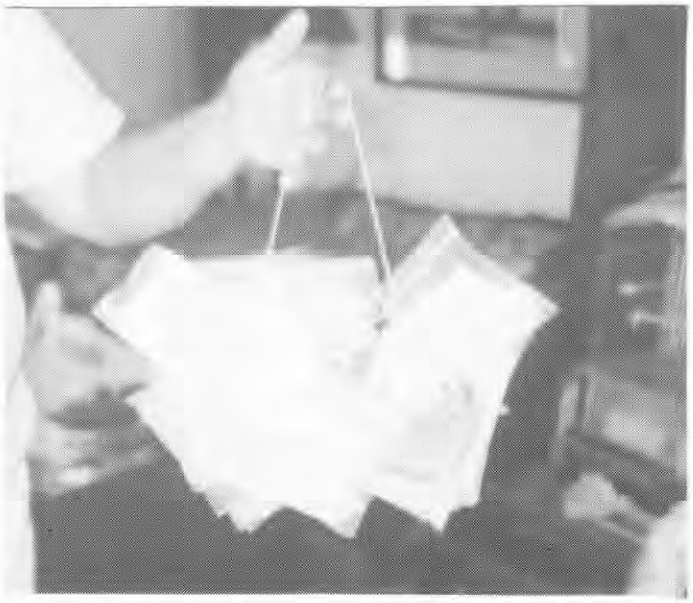


Accomplishing planned breedings is facilitated by keeping the bucks and rams on another ranch until the breeding season.



Fleece samples for all goats are maintained by stringing each year's samples on a string. Samples are contained in small zip lock bags.

A clever gate latch—a horseshoe welded to a hinge, fastened to a gate. Works well one-handed.

Castle Crags Ranch

Continued from previous page

Later, she found that she needed this information. Now, she keeps the cards on goats who are gone, but places them in a different section of the file.

A 3" X 5" card is kept for each goat. On the front of the card is written the goat's identification number, color, sire, dam and progeny. On the back is recorded each year's fleece information. A color bar in the corner of the card indicates the animal's year of birth.

Diana keeps a kidding bucket for the kidding season. The bucket contains all the necessary kidding supplies and a spiral notebook containing the breeding plans. As kids are born, she records the date of birth, the mother and basic information such as "big kid" or "small kid." At the end of the season, she puts all the kidding information on two pages so she can see the whole picture at once for final assessment of results of the breeding plan.

Management

However, breeding plans do not always go according to The Plan. Hachenberger's bred does produced 90 kids this year and 47 of these were from unplanned breedings. Diana and Joan had gone to an out-of-town fiber show and left husbands and (human) kids in charge. When Diana returned, she found that Steve and the kids hadn't noticed that two bucks had found their way into the doe herd for a few days. Perhaps Steve was just getting even for the broom. Diana said that it was amazing how many does a couple of bucks could breed in just a few days. Fortunately, their regular breeding season was later so that they could easily determine which kids belonged to the "bad boys" and which were the result of planned parenthood.

They now keep their bucks on another local ranch for most of the year. They have an excellent arrangement with the rancher—their bucks get free food for most of the year and the rancher gets her weeds consumed. The rancher has a few cashmere goats of her own and likes to have the benefit of more goats in her pastures. The bucks are brought home for breeding and for the subsequent winter months when they need to be supplementally fed. Per Diana, this should reduce the number of accidental breedings considerably.

Hachenbergers irrigate their pastures from an irrigation ditch and rotate their animals through several pastures. However, even making good use of available resources, with only 12 acres, they have to feed hay to the animals all year. They had a heavy Knapweed infestation on their property when they purchased it, but it has long since been consumed by the goats. Clover has replaced it, which is unfortunate per Diana, as the goats much prefer the Knapweed.

They buy all their hay from the same place and have an arrangement with the rancher to store their stash until they need it. They pick it up and pay for it as they use it. This allows them to use their limited space for other than hay storage and also helps the budget considerably. They go through a ton of hay every week or two. They plan to eventually move further out in the country to a place with more acreage. The area

Continued on next page

How do you teach a teenager to drive? Put his car in the goat pasture.

Diana and Emily feed the doe herd hay from the back of the 4-wheeler. Sheep, goats and horses eat together—mostly peaceably. That's Havoc, the Jack Russell Terrier on the left. His specialty is wrestling rocks.

they live in now has grown up considerably around them since they bought it and having more land for pasture would reduce their feed bill considerably.

In addition to hay, the goats are supplemented with a mineral mix. They buy the mix from Julie Becker at Hi-Plains Cashmere in Nebraska when they can pick it up. They believe this mix works especially well for them and have noted that older goats seem to perk up considerably when they are on it. If shipping weren't so costly and the minerals so heavy, they would feed it all the time.

I noticed that all animals are run together in one herd, unless temporarily separated for some reason—such as the separate area provided for a llama and her newborn baby when we were there. I asked Diana how the different animals—horses, sheep, goats, dogs—got along together. She said that getting along is also a culling criteria. Any animal who doesn't get along with the group goes. As I watched Diana and Emily spread out hay in the field for the herd, I noticed that they seemed to be one big happy family, with a minimum of nasty knocks.

Hachenbergers' goal is to try and trim goat feet three times per year, but admitted they normally only get to it twice a year. An annual vaccination of CD&T is administered at shearing time. Shearing time is a big event—they shear their own goats and, at the same time, worm them, vaccinate them and trim feet. We called them one weekend at shearing time very proud that we had sheared 30 goats that day and were very tired. They told us that they had sheared, vaccinated, wormed and trimmed feet on 60 goats and didn't have much sympathy for how tired we were. Kids are vaccinated at about 5-7 weeks of age and are boostered 21 days later.

Goats are wormed every four months. They alternate between Valbazen and Ivomec, being careful not to give Valbazen to newly pregnant females.

About The Whiting

I was wondering about The Whiting before we visited with the Hachenbergers. I wondered why anyone would keep a fat wether around who eats everything in sight. While there, I saw him sneak through their kitchen door and steal a banana off the kitchen counter. He has coarse fiber—he admits to 24μ—and he still gets randy during the breeding season. They have to put him with the bucks during the fall because he gets smelly and gross—apparently he doesn't know that he's a wether. When he's not smelly, he lives in the back yard, begs for slices of bread on the porch and drools when you scratch his feet between his toes. He likes to lay close to the house in the shade where it's cool with his huge (57" the last time he was measured) stomach artfully spread over the cool ground. With all his faults and all the other beautiful cashmere goats to choose from at Castle Crags, guess who Steve chose for the star of his new cartoons? You guessed it!

Now that I've seen The Whiting in person, do I understand why they keep him? Yes, I do. He has a certain air about him, a certain presence. I can't explain it, but I can understand it.

The Whiting steals a quick snack from the back of Diana's trailer while she loads up for the nightly goat feed.

Steve scratches between The Whiting's toes. He likes it so much, he drools. The Whiting, that is. Not sure if Steve was drooling or not.

Processing Cashmere—Small Scale

By Linda Fox

Dehairing

While visiting with Steve and Diana Hachenberger in late July, we processed a cashmere fleece—from a combed fleece to a sample of finished yarn. This exercise was undertaken as part of Paul's training on Steve's small dehairing machine prototype and also because Diana thought, after reading my brief article about washing cashmere in the July 1999 *CashMirror*, that I might need help in simplifying my technique for washing cashmere. We brought to Montana a fleece from Annie, one of our young does. This was her third fleece, harvested by combing in the spring of this year. Annie's cashmere is dark brown and her guard hair is black and mostly shorter than her cashmere. Paul dehaired the unwashed fleece, with help from Steve. For processing on Steve's dehairing machines, the fleece is more easily dehaired before it is washed. Dirt helps to control the static generated in the dehairing process. When finished, the proud dehairing team turned over the resulting two ounces of down to Diana and I for the next part of the process.

Washing (scouring)

Diana and Steve have washed a lot of cashmere. Besides their own cashmere, they used to dehair and scour cashmere for other producers. Diana recommends placing the dehaired cashmere in a nylon mesh bag for washing. You can use a bag designed for washing lingerie or you can make your own bag using purchased mesh fabric. Diana used a bag she had constructed. The bag was closed with a piece of yarn threaded through the top of the bag. Diana recommends washing two ounces or less in a bag at one time.

She then filled the bathtub with hand-hot water and put in a few squirts of Dawn dishwashing soap. She gently pushed the bag of cashmere down under the water and put a few more squirts of dishwashing soap on the top of the bag after it was submerged.

After a few minutes, she rinsed the cashmere. If the cashmere is particularly soiled, she will use two washes. For buck fleeces, she will let the fleece soak in the wash longer and she uses hotter water. Annie's fleece wasn't especially dirty so one wash did the job. The fleece was rinsed until the water came off clean.

Drying

We dried the cashmere in a hinged drying screen on the Hachenberger's deck. We spread the cashmere thinly across the screen. This drying screen is made up of two wood-framed screens which are hinged on one side and have a small hook for closure on the

Continued on next page

Steve & Paul dehairing

Steve Hachenberger (left) and Paul Johnson dehairing Annie's fleece on Steve's new smaller prototype dehairing machine in Steve's garage. Paul is becoming familiar with processing terms such as overprocessing, noils, "flat tires" and static. They are wearing masks because it's a fuzzy affair.

Diana Hachenberger bags the dehaired cashmere fleece (about 2 ounces) in a nylon mesh bag to contain it for washing. She threads a piece of yarn through the top of the bag for closure.

Processing Cashmere

Continued from previous page

opposite side. Diana said that this drying screen is standard fleece-drying equipment, but you could make your own quite easily. You can dry your fleece in the sun if it is only for a short period of time. If the weather is not conducive to outside drying, Diana dries her fleece in the house by placing it over a heating vent. It took Annie's cashmere only 20 minutes to dry in the hot Montana sun that afternoon.

Annie's cashmere dried on the deck in about 20 minutes—held in a thin layer between two screens.

Carding/ Spinning/Knitting

The next step of the process was carding the cashmere. Diana had come home from the Black Sheep Gathering with a new electric carding machine—one with fine carding teeth designed for delicate fibers such as cashmere. She quickly carded Annie's fleece while I (more slowly) spun yarn from it on one of her spinning wheels.

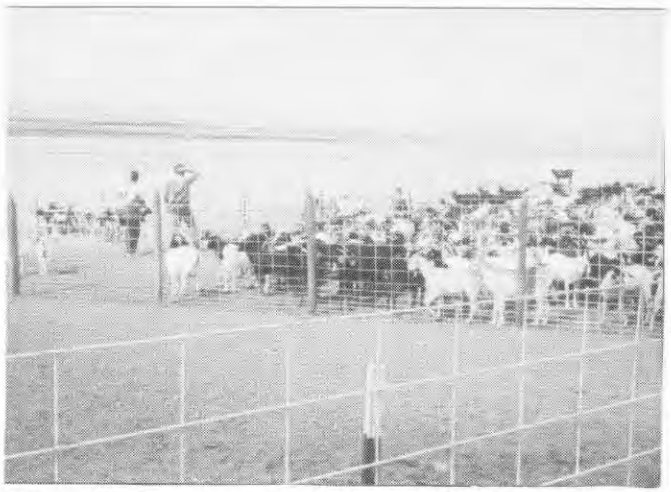
As we passed the nicely-spun yarn back to Paul and Steve for them to knit a small, lacy scarf and complete the project, we received nothing but blank stares. This was probably just the result of one too many beers while waiting for our part of the processing to be completed.

Above: Diana cards. Below: Linda spins.

Steve and Paul feeding The Whiting and Baracca on the front porch, through the kitchen door—waiting for their turn to knit the newly-spun cashmere.

Shipping Goats—

The photos on these two pages were taken at Smoke Ridge Cashmere, Choteau, Montana, on July 25, 1999. Approximately 500 does were loaded into a semi-truck to leave for their 1,300 mile journey to Savannah, Missouri. These are the photographs we ran out of room for last issue.



Before shipping goats, especially over State lines, you must have a Veterinarian check your herd to standards set by the States through which you will be passing. The ranch veterinarian looks them over the day before and fills out the necessary paperwork.

The semi-truck arrives at 7 AM. It's a huge truck containing ten compartments on three levels. John, the driver planned on how many "big goats" (adult does) or "little goats" (doelings) were to be loaded in each compartment.

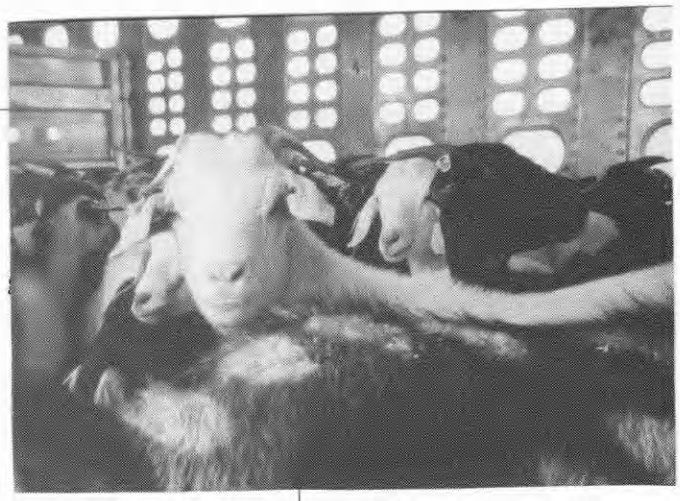
To load goats, you herd them from the handling facility, through a chute and up a ramp which has been connected to the back door of the truck. The first ones aren't too eager to go in, but once there are goats inside, the rest of the herd follows easily—mostly. John and Craig herded the goats through the truck to the correct compartment.

Above and

Craig Tucker inside one of the empty truck compartments—he and John spread shavings on the floor before goats were loaded. Compartment sides and top ramps move so that more distant compartments can be loaded through rear of truck.

Two guardian dogs were also loaded on the truck. They rode in compartments with the goats. They weren't too eager to go, but once with the goats, settled in fine.

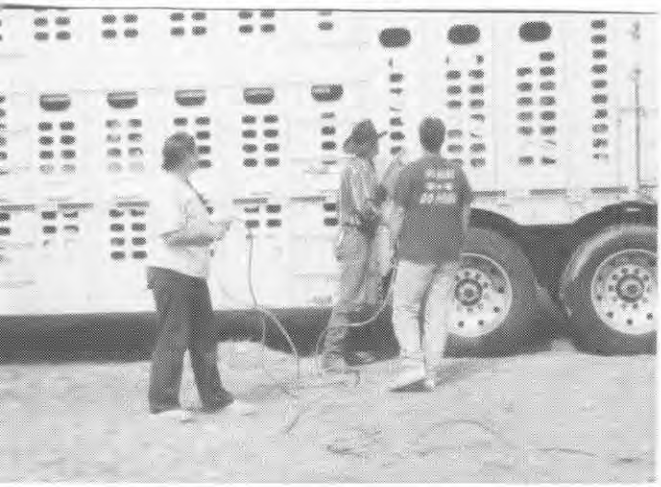
—A Story in Pictures

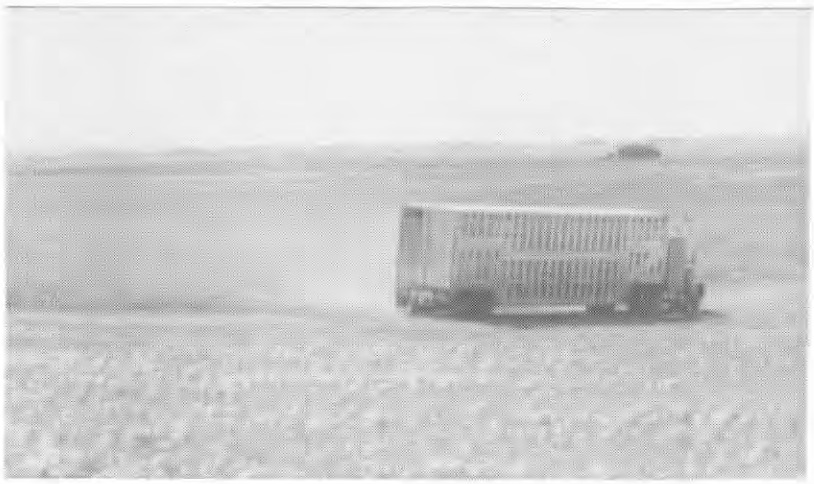


John decided he wanted to take a couple of bottle babies home with him—one of each (sex). He thought it was cute how they sucked on his finger until one of them bit him.

below: The goats are all in!

At right: Yvonne Zweede-Tucker checking the final numbers before the goats leave. Harry and Elsie Agee, retired farmers and neighbors who had come to help, wait on Yvonne's 4-wheeler. Harry had a wrench handy when John needed to fix a latch on a truck compartment door. Elsie had a bandaid in her purse for John to patch up his finger after the bottle baby bite.





ose, water buckets were filled for the goats in each com-
John stopped twice on the trip to refill the buckets.

Truck leaves. Goats say goodbye.
Ranch hands want lunch!

Ergot Poisoning

By Paul G. Johnson

On July 9, 1999, the government of New South Wales, Australia issued a warning to ranches of possible ergot contamination of animal feed (barley, rye). This warning was necessitated by widespread field infection with fungal ergot caused by the wet winter-spring of 1998. Per Dr. Dick Jane, New South Wales Chief Veterinary Officer, "Livestock fed grain that has even very low levels of ergot contamination are at a significant risk of being poisoned." Some livestock sickness and deaths in a feedlot have already been suspected of being caused by ergot poisoning.

Problems can occur when livestock, including goats, are fed a steady supply of moldy hay or grain. In some winters, in certain parts of the country, this can be a real problem.

Ergotism is a worldwide disease affecting mostly cattle. Ergotism is a toxicity caused by alkaloids produced by the parasitic fungus, *Claviceps purpurea*. Per Goat Medicine, there has been only one reported case of lameness and gangrenous necrosis in goat kids who had been grazing on fescue parasitized by the fungus.

The fungus occurs when hay or grain becomes wet and the fungus or mold develops. Continuous feeding of ergot fungus causes vasoconstriction (constriction of the veins) which, with repeated dosages injures muscles through restricted blood flow. The resulting injured tissue or limb atrophies. Ergot poisoning is most common in late summer when seed heads are full.

Fescue poisoning is another condition with symptoms resembling ergot poisoning. It is caused by a toxic substance in tall fescue. Three fungi who may live in toxic pastures are thought to cause fescue poisoning although they have do not know for sure what is the cause. Fescue poisoning is most common in late fall and winter. Merck talks about fescue poisoning in cattle and sheep, but no mention is made of risk to goats.

The cashmere goat in the photograph and her sister were born normally. Their mother showed no symptoms of ergot or fescue poisoning although she had been eating moldy hay. Three days after birth, the kid's hind leg became puffy. She was treated for navel ill with antibiotics and by soaking the leg. The leg stayed puffy and became cold and hard, looking like a piece of wood. The ranchers examined the kid's twin sister and found that she had identical symptoms in the opposite hind leg.

This goat and her twin sister both lost one of their hind legs and tips of their ears shortly after birth. The culprit suspected is ergot or fescue poisoning. They (and their kids) are doing fine.

The rancher took both kids to the vet who said that they had developed gangrene in the legs and tips of their ears. The vet said the symptoms sure looked like fescue or ergot poisoning, but that those ailments only affected cattle. Since the family had, by then, become very attached to the twins, they decided to have the diseased legs amputated. The goats are now three years old and are getting around well, although they require some special care to make sure they compete effectively for food. Both have produced healthy, normal kids.

To prevent ergot or fescue poisoning, avoid feeding moldy food to animals, especially on an extended basis. Especially do not feed suspect grain or hay to pregnant does.

Symptoms to watch for include loss of sensation in extremities and lameness, usually in the back legs, along with swelling of joints, an indented line between healthy tissue and affected tissue and dry gangrene. Exposed skin can appear pale (teats, udder) and the mouth can become ulcerated. Convulsions may also occur. Advanced cases involve loss of limbs, tips of tail and/or ears. The first signs appear after one or two weeks of the first exposure. When ergot is suspected, immediately contact your veterinarian and switch feed.

References

Goat Medicine, p. 36.
NSW Agriculture Media Release 7-9-99.
Merck Veterinary Manual, 7th Edition, pps. 497, 1680, 1684.
Goat Husbandry, David MacKenzie, 5th Ed., p. 211.

Tips from Black Sheep Gathering Fiber Animal Veterinary Clinic—Part II

By Paul G. Johnson

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend two animal health clinics at the annual Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene, Oregon. Both sessions, "Health Care Topics Concerning Fiber Animals" and "The Appropriate Uses of Animal Pharmaceuticals" were presented by Dr. John Snyder, DVM, from the Myrtle Point Veterinary Clinics in Myrtle Point and Coquille, Oregon. Dr. Snyder also raises sheep. Part I of this summary was printed in the July 1999 *CashMirror*. This is Part II.

Pharmaceuticals for Fiber Animals

The following represents my interpretation of the presentation with a little help from a few other references. Please, check with your veterinarian regarding any use of pharmaceuticals on your animals.

First and foremost, the use of pharmaceuticals is heavily regulated by a host of Federal and State agencies including the USDA and FDA. It is illegal to use a drug for purposes other than as stated on the label. The use of medication designed for one species is not to be used "off label" or "extra label" on other species without both a diagnosis and a prescription from a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. The FDA has become more rigorous on enforcing penalties. With that said, you will find it difficult to find "goat" on many labels.

Let's look at some common terms and what they mean. **Bacteria** are unicellular, prokaryotic microorganisms. Most bacteria are decomposers, but some are parasites and some are autotrophs (self-nourishing). While there are many good, beneficial bacteria, there are villains in the group such as the Clostridia, which can cause, among other things, enterotoxemia, tetanus and botulism. Bacteria cells are living organisms which breathe, eat and excrete waste. They have a simple metabolism and are self-contained. Antibiotics are used to kill bacteria without harming the host. The bacteria we are concerned with belong to the lactic acid family.

Antibiotics are specific drugs which kill or slow the growth of disease-causing bacteria. Drugs such as penicillin and sulfides cause bacteria to try to make para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) out of the drugs. **Penicillin** weakens the bacteria cell walls until critical mass is reached and the cell collapses. **Sulfides** work by preventing bacteria from multiplying. Antibiotics work on bacteria, but not on viruses.

Antibiotic Guide Lines

1. Less than enough is useless.
2. More than enough does no good.
3. Maintains levels in the blood.
4. Antibiotics do not give a "boost" effect nor do they make goats "feel good." They kill or inhibit bacteria only.
5. Consider the withdrawal time before initiating treatment, i.e. for meat animals.
6. Carefully handle and store properly. Most must be refrigerated. Be sure of your supplier.

Antibiotics have a 1/2 life. After two hours, 1/2 is still in the kidneys. Two hours later, 1/2 of that is left, etc. It can take a long time to get to a zero level of antibiotics in the animal. Testing for drug residue in milk and meat has improved considerably. Residue can now be detected down to trillionths—i.e. 3 parts per trillion. It has become so that one molecule found in the blood will render meat or milk non-saleable. For example, Ivermectin can last weeks, even months in udder tissue.

Antibiotics can be divided into two groups: **Bactericidal** which attacks bacterial cell walls—such as Penicillin, naxcel, exenel, amoxicillin and others, and **Bacteriostatic,** which stops cell growth—such as

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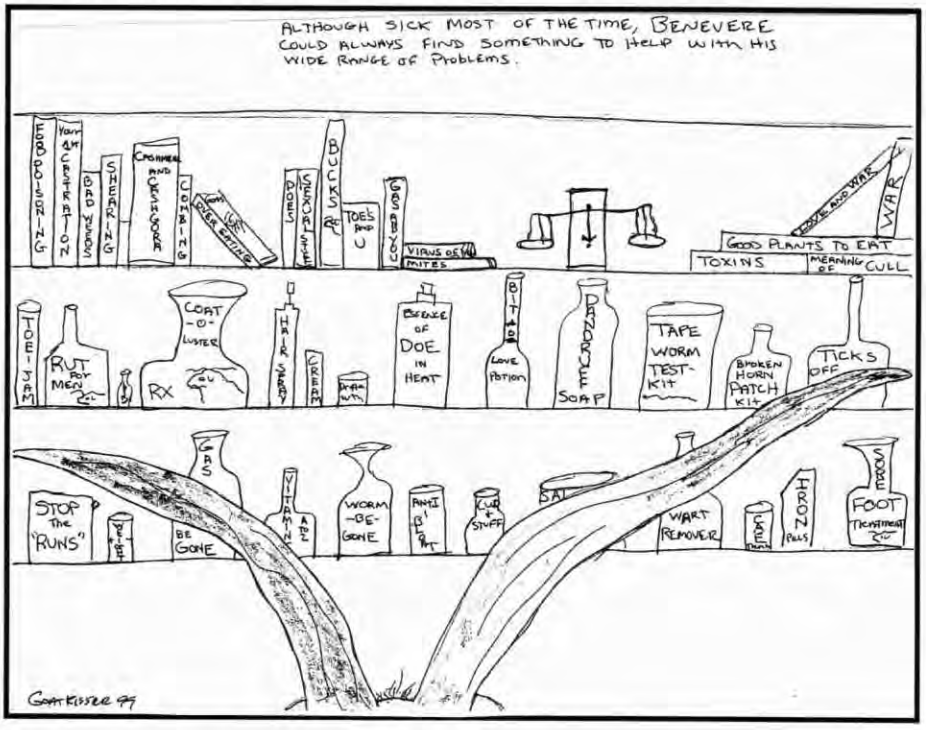

Animal Pharmaceuticals

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Tetracycline, sulfa, macrolide and others.

A **virus** is a tiny pathogen (smaller than bacteria) composed of a core of nucleic acid usually encased in protein and capable of infesting living cells. A virus is characterized by total dependence upon a living host. It is a piece of DNA (or RNA) enclosed in a shell of protein that does not breathe, excrete or reproduce. Example are the poxviruses—small pox, cow pox, herpesvirus (chicken pox, cold sores, etc.) and others including those that cause warts, colds, fever, mumps and AIDS. Some viruses are benign, others are major trouble.

Viruses attach to cells and inject their DNA into the cells, where it goes to the nucleus and splices to the host cell's RNA and tells it to replicate the virus until it kills the cell, releasing more viruses. White blood cells manufacture antibodies which resemble mirror images of the virus. These attach to the virus, one or two at a time, until it keeps the virus from entering a cell. Antibodies are killer "T" cells which destroy only cells with the virus in it, before the virus can reproduce. Unfortunately, "T" cells in the bloodstream can't be measured and at times, vaccines are needed to supplement natural defenses.

A **vaccine** in a commercially produced substance which causes the body to supplement its immune system in defense of a particular disease. You can vaccinate for both viral and bacterial diseases. There are two types of vaccines. The first is a **dead virus vaccine**. It is developed by first growing the virus. Then it is killed and injected into the animal. This causes the animal's own immune system to respond, therefore readying its defense system for when or if a live virus comes along.

The second type of vaccine, the **modified live virus vaccine**, is thought to work the best. It utilizes a modified live virus, which has been made benign. It replicates and enters body cells, effectively immunizing those cells from a real virus attack. An example of a modified live virus is the soremouth vaccine.

Modified life virus vaccines normally take one dose to work; dead virus vaccines normally take two doses. The vaccine for C&D is a dead virus. It will kill the virus, but requires a booster shot. Follow the label. C&D vaccines are less effective on goats than on other ruminants, however enterotoxemia is usually more of a problem in the dairy and meat goats breeds where they are heavily fed each day.

Boehringer makes a C&D vaccine which does list "goats" on the label. It is called Biosudic if purchased from your veterinarian or Anchor if purchased at a feed store (both are the same). It lists usage for goats on the label.

Most vaccines have antibiotics in them, so read the labels.

Proper storage and handling of biologicals (vaccines) is very important and can't be stressed enough. Most are temperature sensitive, so keep them cool. Also, most are suspensions, so shake the bottle often and well when using. Observe withdrawal times and product expiration dates. Out of date, improperly handled or stored vaccine, especially antibiotics, are useless and ineffective. Don't mix vaccines unless your vet says it's OK.

Parasites and Dewormers

Another scourge of goats besides the various harmful viruses and bacteria are parasites, often referred to as "worms." Parasites begin in the pasture as eggs on a plant. From the foliage, they are ingested by the animal. In the animal, the nasty little eggs hatch and the parasite grows fueling itself with food stolen from your goat's digestive tract and causing other damage to it. The best parasite program is a prevention program, with strategic deworming of the animals a second choice. Treat your place for parasites first. Parasite control means pasture control using pasture rotation and avoidance of overgrazing. In addition to decreasing parasites in your pasture, pasture rotation will allow your land to produce 20% to 30% more "free food" for your animals.

Strategic worming means timing your treatment with anthelmintics (wormers) to do the most good. It is best to treat for parasites after a fecal analysis from your herd. This analysis will generally tell you the level of parasite load and which parasites are present. You can then plan your attack using a specific anthelmintic aimed at the parasites present rather than using a shotgun approach or worming animals who do not need it.

Fecal analyses can be performed by your veterinarian, usually at a very reasonable cost. Some experienced producers also perform their own fecals, but the money spent with a professional is often worth a more experienced view. It is good to do a series of fecal samples over a year to get an indication of what the parasite cycle is in your herd.

Once parasites are brought under control, and it is warm and dry weather, your animals' parasites should be controlled until the rain starts again. It is advisable to worm in the spring before kidding and just before winter begins.

If you are rotating wormers in an attempt to avoid developing drug-resistant parasites in your herd, it

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Animal Pharmaceuticals
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will do you little good to switch to different brands within the same family of wormers. You must switch to a different drug entirely. In other words, switching from Ivermectin pour on to Ivermectin injectable is not a rotation of wormers. If you do wish to rotate products, use one product for a full year, two years or when the product stops working before you move on to another. More frequent switches from one product to another seems to also cause parasite resistance.

Specific Wormer Tips

Valbazen wormer is effective for liver flukes, but should never be used during early pregnancy as it may cause abortions.

Panacur (Safeguard) cannot be overdosed. Ivomec is also difficult to overdose. When worming, use the full dose recommended and dose for the largest animal in your herd. Dr. Snyder prefers drenching wormers to injectables. There is evidence that Ivermectin pour on is not as effective on sheep—the product may have difficulty getting past all that wool. There is no research on how well pour on Ivomec is on internal parasites except for cattle. Ivomec kills parasites for days or weeks. Pancur kills all the parasites on the day administered.

Feeding diatomaceous earth does not kill parasites. It is like feeding ground glass to your animals.

Summary

If you have a chance to get to a class or workshop presented by a local veterinarian, go if you can. A local, informed source of veterinary advice can provide you with a good deal of information specific to your area of the country and your specific conditions. Dr. Snyder's classes were excellent, giving needed advice from a practical point of view.

Cashmere 2000 Field Day

Helena, Montana
By Dan Edens

A Field Day held in August near Helena Montana showcased one of the Cashmere 2000 cashmere goat herds on duty. The Field day was scheduled by Dr. Rodney Kott, Extension Sheep Specialist, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, Montana State University. Attending also were Dr. Jeff Mosley, Extension Range Management Specialist and Dr. Peter Kolb, Extension Forestry Specialist. Joe Dooling led the group around the historic Sieben Ranch where the goats have been grazed over several sections. He stopped to point out examples of where goat grazing was having a noticeable impact. At each stop a short discussion ensued regarding the various merits of each practice and possible variation of different management techniques and their effects.

All participants were favorably impressed with the degree of knapweed control realized in one short grazing pass. Equally impressive was the amount of knapweed that was in need of grazing. Logging equipment brought in had spread the weed throughout the area some twenty years ago. It now infests many sites too rugged and uneconomical to spray. However, the goats appear to relish seeking out and destroying these patches. Nothing new to a goat farmer, but some ranchers in attendance seemed somewhat amazed.

Of foremost interest to many was the effect goat grazing was having on the pine and fir trees. The fir trees showed the greatest impact with most completely defoliated as far as the goats could reach. The pine, having a natural defense mechanism of heavy sap production, will best be effected when the root is frozen later in the year.

After a hearty lunch featuring roast cabrito, Tom and Ann Dooling presented to the attendees the basics of cashmere production and what the future holds for this herd.

It was a superb chance to meet and talk shop with some of the more renowned experts in range management area along with other ranchers.

One of the C2K cashmere goat herds on a Field Day at the Sieben Ranch near Helena, Montana. Photograph by Dan Edens.

Chemical Shearing for Sheep How About Goats?

Are your shears dull? Is your back sore? Are you just out of energy to shear those stupid sheep? Never fear, Bioclip is here. At least it's here for selected sheep in Australia.

Bioclip is an amazing new wool harvesting method that removes wool quickly and chemically. The sheep is first cleared of all undesirable wool, sort of a skirting job on the sheep. Removed are dags (those lumpy poop-filled hairballs around the tail area) and other undesirables. The sheep is fitted with an attractive retaining net, a process called "donning," and then given a shot of a "naturally occurring de-fleecing protein." The increased level of protein in the sheep's bloodstream causes a simultaneous break in all wool fibers. The protein level in the sheep's blood returns to normal within 24-hours and wool begins to grow again after the break. Within a week, you have a loose fleece secured by the net and ready for quick and easy removal. The nets are removed in a process called "doffing," using a portable, specially constructed machine.

Benefits to the new process are expected to be increased profitability for the grower, improved processing efficiency, improved product quality, and enhanced flock healthy and wellbeing. Wool removed by this method should be able to be shifted to higher value lines and be guaranteed free to skin pieces, locks and lower quality wool from the bellies and shanks.

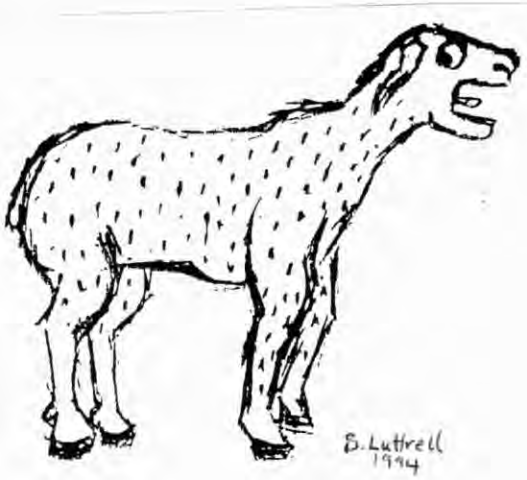
Imagine, no second cuts, fleece trimmed neatly right next to the skin, no cuts and no throwing the sheep about just for fun.

Bioclip is a process developed by CSIRO Animal Production, in collaboration with The Woolmark Company. Twenty years of research, testing and developments have gone into the product and it has now been approved and licensed for commercial use in Australia.

The cost of Bioclipping a sheep is expected to be similar to the cost of full contract shearing. So far, there is strict criteria for correct use and the new method is not popular.

The Woolmark Company is helping Bioclip link with commercial companies to ensure that early stage processing specifications are met.

And what is to become of all those sheep shearers if this catches on? One article suggested the shearers might be retrained as "pluckers." There will also still be a demand for trained folks for the preliminary wigging, crutching and pizzle-ringing.



"I want my shearer baaaaack!"

What about goats? Would this new method work for goats? Does the increased protein cause a shed of all fibers, or just fiber growing from primary follicles, those that grow the guard hair? If a chemical method could be developed for simultaneous release of all goat fiber, both primary and secondary follicles, this would certainly be an advantage. We could retrieve our fleeces from nets as well.

Let's wish big—we want a chemical which releases all down (only) fiber simultaneously and makes all guard hair hang on tight. Released down would comb out in one easy coming, in five minutes (tops) with no guard hair at all. I don't think most goat shearers would be whining about someone taking away all their work!

Goat People

Kimberly Rorstrom-Wittig
Prince George, British Columbia, Canada

Kimberly Rorstrom-Wittig and her family live in Prince George, British Columbia. They raise cashmere goats and honey on their farm, appropriately named Bleat and Buzz Farms. Their treasured buck, Curly, is seven or eight years old. They acquired him last Fall from a retiring cashmere goat farmer. So far, he's sired healthy twins and triplets with beautiful cashmere coats.

He welcomes conjugal visits from visiting cashmere does. He promises them a private pasture in addition to a "good time." Photograph by Kimberly Rorstrom-Wittig.

Curly and his Prince George family, July 1999

Nora Kravis, Italy, and a cashmere kid.

Ann Dooling and part of Nora's cashmere herd in Italy.

Ann Dooling
Dillon, Montana

Ann Dooling has been travelling a bit the last couple of years. She made a trip to Italy in 1998 where she visited with Nora Kravis who has had cashmere goats for about 3 years. She has about 20 goats and had 7 kids this spring—unfortunately 5 of them male. Nora is a veterinarian and has lived in Italy (Tuscany, Chianti) for 20 years.

Early this year, Ann and Tom returned to Italy where they visited with an Italian clothing designer and also visited with Max and Elizabeth Moser, who raise a few cashmere goats in Austria (outside Graz Honigthd). Mosers have only a few cashmere goats with their other animals. They had one cashmere kid this spring. Photographs by Tom and Ann Dooling.

Ann Dooling and Elizabeth Moser talking goats in Austria.

The (Little) Goat Roundup

By Paul Johnson

The story begins with 7 wethers being loaned out for weed control to an older lady who lives 20 miles away from us. For the last year, all has gone well. She has enjoyed the goats. She previously kept sheep, but maintaining them over the past few years had become increasingly difficult for her. Combining this with trouble in finding a shearer, no market for the wool and losses during the last lambing season, she had decided to get rid of the sheep. She didn't like the way her fence rows were becoming engulfed in blackberries and she missed seeing animals in her fields. So, we took her a few goats to try. We maintained the goats—gave them annual vaccinations, trimmed their feet, wormed them periodically and checked up on them every few months. We sheared them last March and replaced a couple of culls with a couple wethers with better fiber. They were thriving in the pastures with a few cows and eating the blackberries along the fence rows as intended. She fed them hay during the winter months and gave them a little grain from time to time, more often than they needed it.

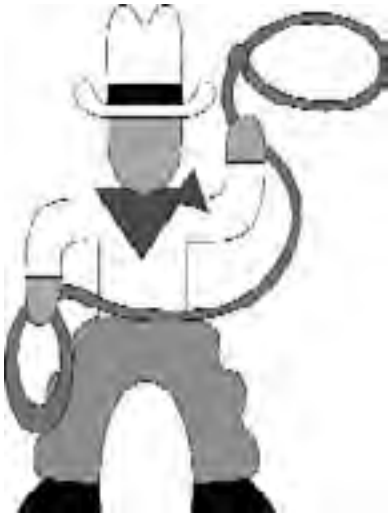
A few days ago, we received a frantic phone call. The goats were missing! The lady and many of her neighbors had searched all day, but found only one lonely goat who had elected to stay in the pasture. They had seen a coyote late the previous day, near the 5-acre pasture. Also, a cougar had been spotted a few miles away during the last month.

That evening, we went over to look for clues. We found no obvious holes in the fence and no sign of the 6 missing wethers. Suspecting the worst (varmint death or theft), we retrieved the lonely wether until the mystery could be solved. It was too late in the day to search further and we decided we weren't likely to find anything in an hour that the whole neighborhood had been looking for all day. The lady had called the Sheriff's' office to report the missing goats.

The next day, the lady called to report that a local farmer had discovered the goats walking down a paved road 3 miles away and had herded them into a pen with his livestock (goats, cattle and geese) to keep them safe. That evening, we went over to bring home the goats.

The trouble began when we discovered how large the "pen" was—at least an acre. The goats, normally easily manipulated with a tub of grain were scared. The man who had found the goats was an elderly Hispanic gentleman who spoke very little English. I speak a little Spanish and he understood quite a bit of English so we got by.

For the next two hours, Linda, Jesus and I tried to separate out our animals from his, and herd them into a small pen in his barn. Any attempt at luring them in with grain seemed to encourage his Nubian goats to climb up our chest, and his geese to hiss at our feet, and his very large cows to generally intimidate us with their sheer size, but did nothing to persuade 6 cautious wethers to head for the pen.



Finally, we were able to get them all trapped in the barn except one, but while Linda was trying to figure out how to latch the gate behind them, they rushed past and escaped. Now they knew where they definitely did not want to go. Jesus showed Linda how to operate the latch on the door.

As the sun started to go down, desperate measures were called for. In addition to us getting tired, the chase was getting embarrassing. I retrieved my shepherd's crook and lariat from the truck. Jesus also brought a rope. I caught the friendliest one with the crook and we drug him to the truck.

We discovered that Jesus had been a vaquero and, while my lariat consistently missed its mark (like usual), Jesus deftly roped two more of the wethers. This was in spite of a steel pin in his back and an absence of 20 years since he had roped livestock.

At last, we managed to corner the remaining three tired, hot wethers in the corral (after letting out a rather large bull to add to the confusion) and, from there, herded them into the pen in the barn and drug them individually to the truck. All are now safely back at Goat Knoll.

Jesus was quite impressed with our cashmere goats. We told him we would bring him a young one the next day to thank him for taking care of our stock. We didn't see any young goats on his place and thought he might like one to eat. He told us he wanted a young billy rather than a nanny, as he liked the looks of our goats and thought he might want to breed a cashmere buck to his Nubians. We brought him a five month old white buckling the next night. It will be interesting to see what he does with it.

Calendar of Events

September 18 - 19, 1999
Finger Lakes Fiber Arts & Crafts Festival, Hemlock, Yew York. Sheep, llamas, Angora and cashmere goats, Angora rabbits, fiber and craft vendors, competitions, workshops, demonstrations. Information: Sandy Caton, 3 Valley Brook Dr., Fairport, NY 14450, phone 716-223-4363, email: sandyc1545@aol.com

September 20 - 26, 1999
Coupeville Arts Center Fiber Forum
Fiber workshops. Contact for catalog: Coupeville Arts Center, Box 171B, Coupeville, WA 98239. 360-678-3396.

September 25 - 26, 1999
Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival
Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, Oregon. Livestock shows and sales, fiber division competition and sales, demonstrations, fashion show, vendor booths. Festival info: Brandy Chastain: 503-628-1205, Fiber Div. info: Janet Hanus 503-838-4113.

September 28, 1999
ECA Cashmere Fleece Competition, Virginia State Fair, Richmond, VA. Competition submission deadline September 15, 1999. Judging at 10 AM.

September 29, 1999
ECA Cashmere Goat Show
Virginia State Fair, Richmond, VA. Doe and wether show—11 AM, buck show immediately following.

October 29 - 31, 1999
PCMA Business of Cashmere Conference, Ruby's Inn and Convention Center, 4825 N Reserve Street, Missoula, MT 59808. Full schedule of classes and demonstrations. Info: Steve & Diana Hachenberger, 894 Pheasant Run, Hamilton, MT 59840, 406-961-3058, email: cashmere@bitterroot.net

October 30, 1999
Third maybe-annual-maybe-not meeting of Mild Goat Men. Missoula Montana in a den of iniquity yet to be chosen. Main agenda topic: Alleged overthrow of Head Herder Johnson at last annual meeting.

November 5 - 7, 1999
4th Annual Goat Gala, Farmfair International, Northlands AgriCom & Sportex, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Cashmere goat show November 6th, Cash-

Association Contacts

American Meat Goat Association
W. E. Banker, President, 512-384-2829

Cashmere America Co-operative
Joe David Ross, Manager, 915-387-6052
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Wild Goat Women
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Richard & Harriet Jensen
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Continued from previous page

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360-715-1604

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email: Cnielnlf@aol.com

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email: Rainflower@compuserve.com

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email: dmullins@methow.com

WALLFLOWER FARM
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Fax: 360-428-4946
email: cashmere@sos.net

WINDRIDGE FARM
Becki and Jim Belcher
11810 272nd St. E.
Graham, WA 98338
360-893-7893

Internet listing of these breeders can be found on the net at: http://www.teleport.com/~goatknol/breeders.htm

Jokes for Economists

Q: How many Chicago School economists does it take to change a light bulb?
A: None. If the light bulb needed changing, the market would have already done it.

Three economists went out hunting and came across a large deer. The first economist fired, but missed, by a meter to the left. The second economist fired, but also missed, by a meter to the right. The third economist didn't fire, but shouted in triumph, "We got it! We got it!"

Q: How Many B-school economics doctoral students does it take to change a light bulb?
A: I'm writing my dissertation on that topic; I should have an answer for you in about 5 years.

Q: Why did God create economists?
A: To make weather forecasters look good.

The First Law of Economists: For every economist, there exists an equal and opposite economist.

The Second Law of Economists: They're both wrong.

"Cry 'Havoc' and let loose the dogs of rocks."
Vicious (little) dog at Castle Crags Ranch.

Laminitis in Goats

Laminitis, also called founder, is an inflammation of the sensitive laminae of an animal's hooves. The laminae are the outer and inner layers of the hoof. It is also an ailment of horses, cattle and sheep. It can be acutely painful or chronic with resulting permanent damage to the shape of the foot and hoof. In severe cases, the bone can actually rotate and protrude through the bottom of the sole of the foot.

Laminitis is not caused by an injury, decay or disease-causing organisms, like hoof rot or other foot ailments. The causes and development of the disease is not completely understood, but it appears to be associated with circulation problems in the foot. The blood vessels in the sensitive laminae become swollen and pain results. If this inflammation is chronic, the connective tissue between the foot and the hoof may break down allowing the third phalanx (the final bone in the foot) to rotate. When the third phalanx is out of place, the hoof wall around it will grow in an unusual shape to accommodate it. The animals is forced to walk more on the heels of its foot to avoid the painful phalanx which causes less wear on the front of the hoof. The hoof wall becomes thickened and there will be a loss of distinction between the hoof and the sole of the foot. Toes grow fast and long and take on a characteristic "slipper foot" or "sled runner" shape turning upward at the tip.

Laminitis is more often chronic in goats than acute. Laminitis occurs more commonly in intensive management situations than extensive ones. It may occur after sudden feed changes, excessive grain feeding and sometimes after kidding and in association with retained placenta, metritis, pneumonia, mastitis and enterotoxemia.

Since laminitis usually first occurs in conjunction with other health problems, it is easy to overlook. A goat may be running a fever or showing other symptoms, but these may be caused by the underlying problem. Symptoms of laminitis include a goat that may appear anxious or uncomfortable and grinding their teeth from pain. They may limp or refuse to walk or stand. Their foot may be warm to the touch, especially close to the coronary band—the line at the top of the hoof, where it meets the leg. The front limbs are usually the ones affected, rather than the rear ones.

It is difficult to diagnose laminitis other than by eliminating other possible causes of feet problems and suspecting its presence because of a pre-disposing disease. Other causes of hoof problems—such as hoof rot and puncture wounds must be ruled out. Arthritis also must be ruled out. If a goat is walking on its knees, it may be due to arthritis rather than hoof problems. Simple neglect of routine foot trimming can also cause laminitis-like symptoms.

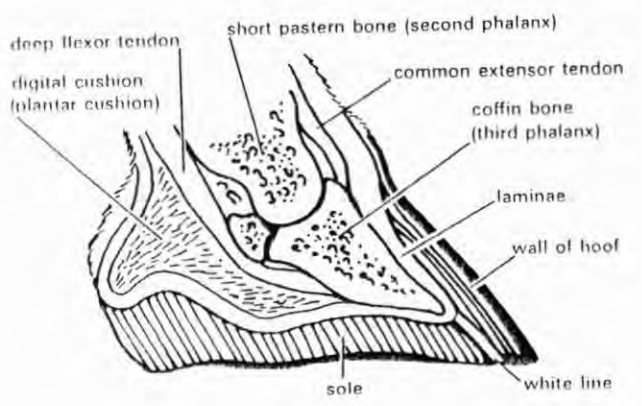
If laminitis has been identified, you must first treat any underlying disease. Treatments for laminitis involve use of analgesics to reduce pain in the feet and efforts to keep the animal mobile. Cautious and limited exercise may stimulate circulation and help reduce inflammation. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can be useful.

Affected goats should be fed only grass hay while they recover and brought back to richer feeds cautiously.

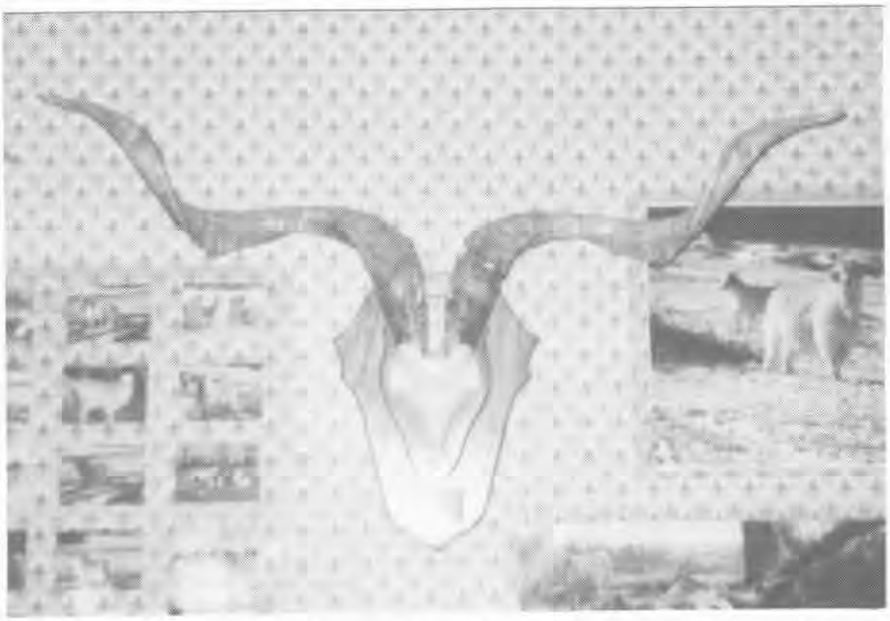
Management of chronic laminitis involves reduction of grain in the ration, avoidance of sudden ration changes and frequent corrective foot trimming. Correct hoof trimming will help to reduce the height of the heel and minimize downward pressure on the third phalanx.

Avoidance of founder in goats is aided by proper management. Don't change feeds abruptly and keep grain feedings to a minimum and complete regular hoof care.

Reference:
Goat Medicine, Mary C. Smith and David M. Sherman. 1994.



Ned's Dead



What do you do with a great deceased buck? Here's one idea. Karakan Ned Kelly was one of Tom and Ann Dooling's original imported bucks from Australia. His horns reside on the wall in the Dooling dining room wall right next to the horns of another great, and also deceased, buck, PMF Magnate.

Henry

The rogue buck—Castle Crags' Henry
Is he part pig perhaps?

Promote your Ranch at the
Rogues' Gallery

A new feature
at the BOCC conference
October 29 - 31, 1999
Missoula, Montana

For information contact
Diana & Steve Hachenberger
894 Pheasant Run, Hamilton, MT
59840, phone 406-961-3058
Email cashmere@bitterroot.net

Send or bring your favorite impressive/original/humorous/astounding/beautiful/entertaining/etc. photos of your cashmere goats. These will be displayed prominently during the conference with your farm/ranch business card. Maximum of 2 photos per entrant. Maximum size of photos is 8" X 10". Photos can be framed or mounted or not. You do not need to attend to particpate.

Put your favorite goats on the wall for conference particpants to see.

Classified Advertising

3 wethers, 3 does, 5-7 years old, with black, brown, or white hair. Looking for good home, low price. 530-795-2322 (N. Calif.)

Buster, the Cashmere Goat. Children's book by Paul G. Johnson, CM Ace Reporter. 66 pages, includes photographs. Suitable for read-aloud for young children, 3rd to 4th grade reading level, or for brightening the lives of bored adults. Guaranteed only happy endings. To order, send $7.50 (includes shipping) to CashMirror Publications.

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CashMirror back issues 7/96 - 7/99 $3 each or a whole dozen for $30. Back issues 10/89-6/96 $2 each or $15 for a dozen. We'll pay the shipping. About 2/3 of old issues still available. Good reference source about cashmere goats and history of industry. Indexes available.

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

Yocom-McColl Testing Laboratories, Inc. for individual animal and core testing. Ph: (303) 294-0582
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Notable Quotes

"For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe."

...Larry Eisenberg

"You shouldn't spend all your time on a few goats. Some people place too much emphasis on being a nurse instead of preventing the disease and avoiding the problem in your herd."

...Joe David Ross (7/14/99)

Regarding genetics: "The more you learn, the more you realize how unpredictable it is."

...Diana Hachenberger

The Deadlines:

Articles, photographs, advertising and other information submitted must be received by the 25th of the month prior to magazine issue date.

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

Goat mag ad

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