CASHMIRROR

Volume 12, Issue 12 October 2001

The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber

Volume 12, Issue 12, October 2001

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CASHMIRROR

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Boring (Yet Important) Technical Information

This magazine is published each and every month by:

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Results published in the magazine are from information supplied by clubs and organizers and no responsibility for complete accuracy can be taken although we'll certainly try to get it right the first time.

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: Paul Johnson
RDT White Lightning, Goat Knoll
American cashmere buck

The Photo Contest Winners are...(drum roll, turkey gurgle)...

Grand Prize Winner

Yvonne Taylor, Washington, Maine, "Reflections"

Category: Smartest Goats

First Prize
Ian Balsillie/Karen Bean, Maple Falls, Washington, "Goat with DVCam"
Second Prize
Yvonne Taylor, "Kids Exploring Explorer"
Third Prize
Jodie Richards, Windham, Maine, "If I Had a Hammer"

Category: Cute Kids

First Prize
Bob Marshall, Wellington, Colorado, "Papa and Crystal"
Second Prize
Felicia Parsons, Prior Lake, Minnesota, "Mira and Boscow"
Third Prize
Pam Haendle, West Edmeston, New York, "Cute and Cuter"

Category: Other

First Prize
Yvonne Taylor, "Reflections"
Second Prize
Wendy Pieh, "Fat Doucette"
Third Prize
Wendy Pieh, "Puppies and Kids"

The promised prizes will be mailed shortly.

It was very hard to choose winners!

We received a stack of very impressive photographs and we had a tough time choosing winners. There were a bunch of great photos that didn't win. We appreciate the participation and the stack of photos that we now have available to use for illustration in *Cashmirror*. We'll have to do this again sometime when we are running low on photographs.

However, you don't need to wait for a contest. If you capture a good photograph, we'd love to borrow it. We can use any photograph—color, black and white, or digital sent email attachment. We can crop them, resize them and return them to you unharmed. Let others see what you have to share. We and other goat owners are real snoops when it comes to seeing other people's farms and livestock.

Will you get to see all the winners in this issue? Nope! We will dole them out to you over time. Some of the winners were marvelous photographs, but wouldn't look good translated to black and white, so we won't. You will just have to take our word for how great they were.

Below: Bob Marshall's winning Cute Kids entry, "Papa (the llama) and Crystal."

Reflections

by Linda Fox

Moving Day

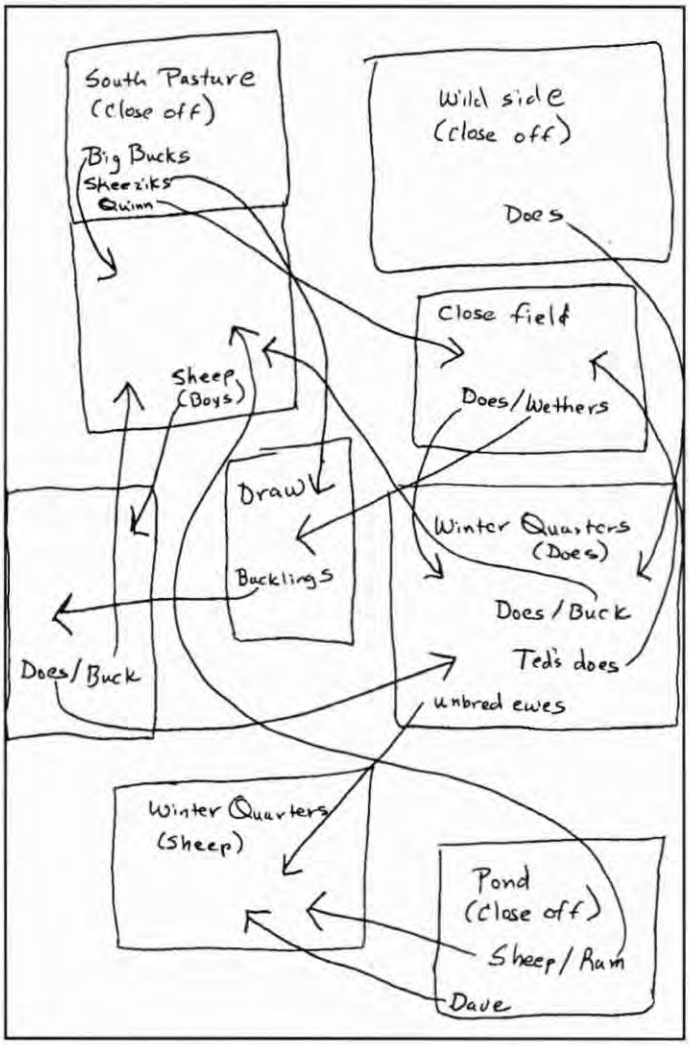
Some days are more complicated than others. Like a Saturday a couple of weeks ago. It was time to split up our three breeding groups (four counting the sheep) and marshal everyone to their winter quarters. Some of our animal pastures don't work for housing animals over the winter—some don't have buildings, some have young trees that can't survive goats over the winter, and some are just too darn far from the house to have to lug hay to on a daily basis. Our goal for the winter is to have as many animals as possible feedable from the main barn. We like to spend a minimal amount of our winter time sloshing around in the mud packing hay. Except for the bucks and the ram, all animals are housed for the winter so that we can feed them from the center aisle of the main barn.

The problem was to get them there. We had groups of goats and sheep spread all over the place for the summer and fall. When they're on free food, we move them around frequently to accommodate the food supply and available water, but for the winter, we house them to accommodate us, the feeding crew. The difficulty in the plan lay in the fact that we had to plan who to move when, so that everyone ended up in the proper place with a minimum amount of stress, fights and accidental breedings. We carefully designed our plan for the moves over breakfast. Our game plan reminded me of that children's number sorting toy—where you have a bunch of small square plastic numbers that move around in a larger square. There's only one empty hole and you have to move the number squares around until they are in order.

Some of the animals would follow a feed bucket, some would need to be chased and some, like the bucks who were being forcibly removed from their breeding groups, would probably need to be dragged out. And if all else failed, we could use Jill, our untrained Border Collie who we bring out for assistance after we've tried everything else and are at wits' end.

Moving day went well. By mid-afternoon, all were settled in their new digs. The sheep, as expected had been the most challenging. Paul had to lasso the ram, we had to resort to using Jill for the last two ewes and we had difficulty in reclaiming Jill before she was attacked by Dave (the sheep's llama guardian), but we did succeed. One adult buck who was destined for another pasture, ended up in the draw, but we decided to let him stay and catch him on another day when he was handy.

Best of all, there was still time left for us to run to town for our weekly McDonald's fix.



The Plan. Who goes where, for the winter.

And what do tired goat farmers do when their plan is accomplished? Sit on the tailgate admiring animals in their proper places with a Big Mac, of course.

Reflections II

Reflecting on the North American Cashmere Industry Today

by Paul Johnson

We have received a lot of email and calls regarding the state of our (North American) cashmere industry today. Many are fearful of its demise, as many "big names" are getting out of the business, or at least greatly reducing their herds.

First, I question if we have ever been big enough to be classed an "industry". We are certainly not in the league of Australia, New Zealand, or most anywhere else in the world. In the scheme of things, we are latecomers.

There are not many large herds left here outside of Texas, although, as Ann Dooling has said, the average goat herd size in China is less than 100 head. It fits with the current trend of more goat owners, not bigger herd sizes that we are seeing here today.

Dehairing individual farm's fleeces seems to be the goal of most local goat folk these days with an eye to the handspinner market, as well as finished product; yarn or garment.

We at Goat Knoll have experienced a steady demand for goats this last year. The buyers are looking for weed control plus fiber, as well as some meat demand. The trend we are seeing is still towards low numbers of animals on a few acres.

As the dehairing options continue to expand, interest in cashmere goats is again picking up. This trend should continue, as our marketing options expand.

Any industry or niche is bound to experience turnover of personalities. Personal circumstances constantly change and the reasons vary, but most are due to factors other than the goat/cashmere market.

Organizations change and evolve also, with new ones entering and old ones exiting, but such is life. Participation is the key—another of my keen insights into the obvious.

On our little farm, our goat numbers have varied from 85-200, depending on our personal circumstance at the time. That is the joy of our chosen "crop"; we can be as flexible as need (and time) dictates! We have experienced erratic feed prices and weather conditions, as has everyone, but adjust our plan accordingly.

Whither lies the future? No one knows, of course, but one thing is certain—there will be a demand for cashmere in this country and continent for well beyond our lifetimes.

Without the large number of growers that other countries have, with associate large number of goats, it seems to me we can not hope to compete in the "bulk" cashmere market where product is measured in tons, not ounces. We clearly are not ready for the international market, but perhaps we can survive on the local scene. This usually means you will need to have other sources of income, but so what is new? We haven't given up our day jobs yet.

Quite a few folks are optimistic, us included, and we plan on having many more kids (that's goat kids, Mother) next year. And remember, one of the best benefits of belonging to this "industry" is meeting other folks with the same interests! Communicate with each other! Get involved in your association(s), and spread the interest. We cashmere goat folk have been getting some good publicity lately, and this reinforces and revalidates our hopes and dreams.

It is obvious that we in the US are not good "joiners". Hence the demise of or limited membership in organizations. Or is it just cashmere people? It seems to me that all organizations have similar difficulties.

What do I base my optimism on? Funding for research! Each year, the amount of research on cashmere goats has been increasing. Not just here, but in other countries such as Germany, Turkey, Australia, Scotland, and South Africa, just to name a few. Funds for research are difficult to get, and usually the money goes where the numbers are, i.e. sheep and cattle in this country. We are seeing more research on goats, for meat as well as fiber. And fiber research is not just mohair, although the number of angora goats well outnumbers cashmere by several decimal points. Cashmere research is continuing in several areas, such as Dr. Chris Lupton's recent "Latitude Survey". To me, this is a healthy sign. The more research, the more knowledge we acquire, the more goats we will see in this country. It reinforces and legitimatizes cashmere as a true "industry".

In addition, the years and money spent on developing dehairing in North America is paying off, with our options increasing every year. The dehairing bottleneck is being cleared! If there is one thing us Yanks do have, it's the determination to find solutions.

With more options for dehairing, costs will be lowered, and your bottom line will reflect this. Right now, we figure a year in which we can pay for our hay with fiber, meat and breeding stock sales is a good year. Maybe, just maybe, ... dare I use the word...profit, could be a reality. Won't the IRS as well as our bankers be surprised!

We may be late to the game, but we will succeed, in our own fashion. Maybe not as world-class cashmere producers with tons of cashmere to sell, but successful farmers in our own right. What could be a better goal for us small-time goat farmers?

There is a place in the sun for each of us.

Tooey in Oregon. She thinks it might be good to get out of the state before the rain starts.

Tooey's Travels

Tooey took a trip from Oregon to Maryland recently. She travelled alone by air, from Portland, Oregon to Dulles Airport in Washington DC. She had a one-hour layover in Houston on her trip. This was our first experience shipping a goat alone and we were nervous. Probably not as nervous as Tooey, but we worried until we heard that she had arrived safely in the care of her new owner. Our previous flying goats have accompanied a passenger on the airline. The rate for shipping animals seems to be considerably less when they are travelling on the same flight as a passenger.

Tooey travelled in a cargo plane, rather than a passenger plane. We delivered her an hour before her scheduled departure time. In Portland, the air cargo terminal is near the main airport, but separate. Fortunately, you do not have to deal with the regular airport parking system or the security details. The airline weighed Tooey in her carrier, calculated her shipping fee, and made sure that transport restrictions were met. The kennel we had purchased was smaller than it should have been for comfort, but they decided it would do. One of the attendants said that he thought that goats weren't supposed to be able to move around much like cats or dogs. I'm not sure where he got this information. Maybe he thought she might try to butt her way out of the kennel if she could get a run at it. You know how obnoxious those goats can be.

Tooey's new owner reports that she seemed stressed after her 8 hour ordeal, but was settling in nicely. From the photographs at right, I'd say she's settling in very nicely!

Tooey in Maryland. "What are these big hard lumps on the ground? Chunks of mud?"

Tooey's new east coast friends will share their food—unlike some goats she could name on the west coast. Above two photographs by Annie Sharman, Cashmere Hill, Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Recombinant Antigens Useful for the Serodiagnosis of Neosporosis

The invention involves the diagnosis of Neospora parasite infection. This infection results in neosporosis, a disease causing paralysis and death in dogs and abortion, morbidity and mortality in cattle, sheep, goats and horses. The antibody test results in increased sensitivity and specificity and fewer false positives in diagnosis of the disease.

Inventors: Nicola C. Lally & Jitender P. Dubey USDA, ARS, BA, Beltsville, MD 20705, http://ott.ars.usda.gov/patents/patents.htm?serialnum=08624677

I have no idea what this means, I just liked the title—PJ. ***Note:*** *However, he will look it up and explain it to you in the next issue.—Ed.*

Anthrax Revisited

From the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
October 2001

Anthrax, a disease of mammals and humans, is caused by a spore-forming bacterium called Bacillus anthracis. Anthrax has an almost worldwide distribution and is a zoonotic disease, meaning it may spread from animals to humans. All mammals appear to be susceptible to anthrax to some degree, but ruminants such as cattle, sheep, and goats are the most susceptible and commonly affected, followed by horses, and then swine.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's main diagnostics laboratory in Ames, Iowa, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, maintains small quantities of anthrax to use as reference material in making confirmatory anthrax diagnoses in animals. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service maintains that laboratory as part of fulfilling its mission to protect American agriculture.

Disease Epidemiology
Anthrax is endemic to the United States, occurring sporadically throughout the country as environmental conditions allow. The Del Rio, Texas, region has reported ongoing outbreaks of anthrax in deer and livestock this summer. The most recent outbreak there occurred on September 21, 2001. Other recent outbreaks include an outbreak in cattle and horses in Minnesota in June-July 2000; in cattle, horses, and bison in North Dakota in August 2000; and in cattle in Nebraska in January 2001.

During their vegetative stage, cells of the anthrax agent multiply in the lymph nodes of susceptible animals, including humans. When cells of B. anthracis escape from the animal's body and are exposed to oxygen, they form spores. These spores are highly resistant to heat, cold, chemical disinfectants, and long dry periods. B. anthracis spores are reported to survive for years in the environment. Environmental persistence may be related to a number of factors, including high levels of soil nitrogen and organic content, alkaline soil (a pH level higher than 6.0), and ambient temperatures higher than 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

The anthrax organism may be spread within an area by streams, insects, wild animals and birds, and contamination from wastes of infected animals. Anthrax may be perpetuated in nature by hosts such as a wildlife reservoir, which in turn spills over into the livestock population. Animals are usually infected by ingesting soilborne spores, such as in contaminated food or water.
Spores can be picked up directly from the soil through grazing or from feed grown on infected soil. When periods of drought cause livestock to forage much closer to the ground, animals may ingest spores in soil they accidentally eat along with forage. After flooding, the concentration of spores caught in standing water increases when preexisting or transitory ponds begin to evaporate. Spores may also be present in bonemeal, protein concentrates, excreta, and tissue and body fluids of infected carcasses.

Although rare, it is possible for animals to inhale dust harboring anthrax spores. Bites from flies and other insects that may harbor vegetative anthrax have also been reported to be vehicles for mechanical transmission.

Clinical Signs
Disease occurs when spores enter the body, germinate, multiply, and release toxins. The incubation period of natural infection in animals is typically 3 to 7 days with a range of 1 to 14 days, or more.

In cattle and sheep, the course of illness may last about 1 to 2 hours. Clinical signs, such as fever up to 107 degrees Fahrenheit, muscle tremors, respiratory distress, and convulsions, often go unnoticed. After death, there may be bloody discharges from the natural openings of the body, rapid bloating, a lack of rigor mortis, and the presence of unclotted blood. This failure of blood to clot is due to a toxin released by B. anthracis.

Anthrax in horses and related animals is acute and can last up to 96 hours. Clinical manifestations depend upon how the infection occurred. If due to ingestion of spores, as in cattle, septicemia, fever, colic, and enteritis are prominent. Anthrax due to insect bite introduction (mechanical transmission) is characterized by localized hot, painful, edematous, and subcutaneous swellings at the bite location that spread to the throat, lower neck, floor of the thorax, abdomen, prepuce, and mammary glands. These horses may have a high fever and dyspnea due to swelling of the throat or colic due to intestinal involvement.

Swine, dogs, and cats usually show a characteristic swelling of the neck secondary to regional lymph node involvement, which causes dysphagia and dyspnea following ingestion of the bacteria. An intestinal form of anthrax with severe enteritis sometimes occurs in these species. Many carnivores apparently have a natural resistance, and recovery is not uncommon.

Ranchers & Veterinarians: Watch for, report, signs of livestock disease

From the Texas Animal Health Commission

News Release, October 12, 2001. It's 8 p.m. Do you know where—or how—your cattle (or sheep, goats, horses or other livestock) are? In this era of heightened awareness about unusual activities, livestock health officials are asking ranchers to check their livestock regularly and immediately report signs of disease. Also, animal owners are asked to report suspicious activities, intruders or circumstances to local police or sheriff's department. License plate numbers and descriptions of trespassers, should be recorded.

"We're urging producers to keep a closer watch on their animals, in light of recent events in our country," commented Dr. Linda Logan, Texas' state veterinarian and head of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency. "As always, individual livestock producers and private veterinary practitioners are our first line of defense if—or when—a livestock disease is accidentally or intentionally introduced into the state. The immediate reporting of suspicious or unusual conditions can make all the difference in our ability to swiftly diagnose, control and eradicate a disease."

She said ranchers should watch for and report any of these signs:

1. Sudden, unexplained death loss in the herd or flock.
2. Severe illness affecting a high percentage of animals.
3. Blistering around an animal's mouth, nose, teats or hooves.
4. Unusual ticks or maggots.
5. Central nervous system disorders that cause an animal to stagger or fall.

"Through teamwork, the TAHC and Texas' USDA staff for months has maintained a 24-hour hot line for disease reporting," said Dr. John Lomme, assistant area veterinarian in charge of Texas for the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS). "We take reports and dispatch a trained foreign animal disease diagnostician to collect samples, evaluate the situation and take appropriate measures to protect livestock health. There is no charge for the service."

"To report suspicious signs, call 1-800-550-8242. After work hours, follow the recorded instructions to page a veterinarian," commented Dr. Logan. "Be prepared to provide a description of the potential disease signs and information regarding the location, species and number of animals involved. "

Dr. Logan pointed out that a joint TAHC and USDA-APHIS-VS "first-strike" force has been preparing to fight a foreign animal disease outbreak or natural disaster affecting livestock. Known as the Texas Emergency Response Team, or TERT, this group can be mobilized quickly to address a disease situation.

"The TAHC also is a full-fledged member of the state's Emergency Management Council, giving us the ability to call on the resources of more than 31 major state agencies," said Dr. Logan. "In late June, representatives from more than 22 of the participating agencies gathered in College Station for a tabletop exercise involving a make-believe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), a highly contagious foreign animal virus that, most recently, has greatly damaged the livestock industry in the Great Britain."

"In a livestock emergency, we could tap the manpower of state troopers to provide roadblocks to stop livestock movement, the National Guard to provide depopulation assistance and equipment, and the support services of the Red Cross to feed teams," explained Dr. Logan. She also pointed out that the TAHC and USDA-APHIS-VS have expanded the network of contacts with local emergency management coordinators, private veterinary practitioners and industry liaisons.

"While preparing to fight disease, we can never forget that our most valuable and cost-effective tool is livestock disease prevention and surveillance," commented Dr. Lomme. He listed several things livestock producers can do to help ensure the health of their herd or flock:

* If you travel internationally, don't bring restricted products into the U.S., such as sausages, hams or other dangerous products that could spread disease. NEVER allow visitors or family members to bring these items on your property.

* Launder or dry clean clothing and coats before you return to the US. Shower, wash your hair and put on clean clothes before heading to your flight home. Viruses or bacteria can be carried in your hair or on your skin, so it's important to bathe before traveling. Provide arriving international travelers with a clean set of clothing that can be worn after they shower.

* Remove mud and manure from your shoes before journeying back to the U.S! Ask the Customs agent or USDA official to disinfect your shoes and other potentially contaminated items if you've been to a farm, zoo or other site where livestock or wildlife have been commingled. Provide shoes for visitors, or insist they wear only shoes that have not been worn on a ranch in another country

* For at least five days before you return to the U.S., don't go around farms, sale barns, zoos, fairs or other sites where livestock are kept. You could carry bacteria or viruses in your lungs, throat or nasal passages, and although you don't become ill, you could spread a livestock disease. Likewise, don't allow international travelers to have access to your livestock until

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Watch for Disease Signs

Continued from previous page

they've been in the U.S. for at least five days.

* Report suspicious activities, intruders or circumstances to the local police or sheriff's department. If possible, record license plate numbers and descriptions of trespassers.

Texas Animal Health Commission Box I2966, Austin, Texas 78711, (800) 550-8242, FAX (512) 719-0719 Linda Logan, DVM, PhD, Executive Director.

For info, contact Carla Everett, information officer, at 1-800-550-8242, ext. 710, or ceverett@tahc.state.tx.us

—30—

Watching knitted shawls grow is a favored spectator sport for cats—at least when the shawl gets large enough to leave space for turning the work between rows without disturbing the sleeping feline. It makes a nice warm place to sleep, if you can put up with an occasional poke from a knitting needle.

Anthrax - General Information

From the US Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/anthrax_g.htm

What is anthrax?
Anthrax is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium Bacillus anthracis. Anthrax most commonly occurs in wild and domestic lower vertebrates (cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelopes, and other herbivores), but it can also occur in humans when they are exposed to infected animals or tissue from infected animals.

Why has anthrax become a current issue?
Because anthrax is considered to be a potential agent for use in biological warfare, the Department of Defense (DoD) has begun mandatory vaccination of all active duty military personnel who might be involved in conflict.

How common is anthrax and who can get it?
Anthrax is most common in agricultural regions where it occurs in animals. These include South and Central America, Southern and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. When anthrax affects humans, it is usually due to an occupational exposure to infected animals or their products. Workers who are exposed to dead animals and animal products from other countries where anthrax is more common may become infected with B. anthracis (industrial anthrax). Anthrax in wild livestock has occurred in the United States.

How is anthrax transmitted?
Anthrax infection can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), inhalation, and gastrointestinal. B. anthracis spores can live in the soil for many years, and humans can become infected with anthrax by handling products from infected animals or by inhaling anthrax spores from contaminated animal products. Anthrax can also be spread by eating undercooked meat from infected animals. It is rare to find infected animals in the United States.

What are the symptoms of anthrax?
Symptoms of disease vary depending on how the disease was contracted, but symptoms usually occur within 7 days.

Cutaneous: Most (about 95%) anthrax infections occur when the bacterium enters a cut or abrasion on the skin, such as when handling contaminated wool, hides, leather or hair products (especially goat hair) of infected animals. Skin infection begins as a raised itchy bump that resembles an insect bite but within 1-2 days develops into a vesicle and then a painless ulcer, usually 1-3 cm in diameter, with a characteristic black necrotic (dying) area in the center. Lymph glands in the adjacent area may swell. About 20% of untreated cases of cutaneous anthrax will result in death. Deaths are rare with appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

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Anthrax

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Inhalation: Initial symptoms may resemble a common cold. After several days, the symptoms may progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Inhalation anthrax is usually fatal.

Intestinal: The intestinal disease form of anthrax may follow the consumption of contaminated meat and is characterized by an acute inflammation of the intestinal tract. Initial signs of nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, fever are followed by abdominal pain, vomiting of blood, and severe diarrhea. Intestinal anthrax results in death in 25% to 60% of cases.

Where is anthrax usually found?
Anthrax can be found globally. It is more common in developing countries or countries without veterinary public health programs. Certain regions of the world (South and Central America, Southern and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East) report more anthrax in animals than others.

Can anthrax be spread from person-to-person?
Direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely to occur. Communicability is not a concern in managing or visiting with patients with inhalational anthrax.

Is there a way to prevent infection?
In countries where anthrax is common and vaccination levels of animal herds are low, humans should avoid contact with livestock and animal products and avoid eating meat that has not been properly slaughtered and cooked. Also, an anthrax vaccine has been licensed for use in humans. The vaccine is reported to be 93% effective in protecting against anthrax.

What is the anthrax vaccine?
The anthrax vaccine is manufactured and distributed by BioPort, Corporation, Lansing, Michigan. The vaccine is a cell-free filtrate vaccine, which means it contains no dead or live bacteria in the preparation. The final product contains no more than 2.4 mg of aluminum hydroxide as adjuvant. Anthrax vaccines intended for animals should not be used in humans.

Who should get vaccinated against anthrax?
The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommend anthrax vaccination for the following groups:

Persons who work directly with the organism in the laboratory.

Persons who work with imported animal hides or furs in areas where standards are insufficient to prevent exposure to anthrax spores.

Persons who handle potentially infected animal products in high-incidence areas. (Incidence is low in the United States, but veterinarians who travel to work in other countries where incidence is higher should consider being vaccinated.)

Military personnel deployed to areas with high risk for exposure to the organism (as when it is used as a biological warfare weapon).

The anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program in the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office can be reached at:
1-877-GETVACC (1-877-438-8222)
http://www.anthrax.osd.mil

Pregnant women should be vaccinated only if absolutely necessary.

What is the protocol for anthrax vaccination?
The immunization consists of three subcutaneous injections given 2 weeks apart followed by three additional subcutaneous injections given at 6, 12, and 18 months. Annual booster injections of the vaccine are recommended thereafter.

Are there adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine?
Mild local reactions occur in 30% of recipients and consist of slight tenderness and redness at the injection site. Severe local reactions are infrequent and consist of extensive swelling of the forearm in addition to the local reaction. Systemic reactions occur in fewer than 0.2% of recipients.

How is anthrax diagnosed?
Anthrax is diagnosed by isolating B. anthracis from the blood, skin lesions, or respiratory secretions or by measuring specific antibodies in the blood of persons with suspected cases.

Is there a treatment for anthrax?
Doctors can prescribe effective antibiotics. To be effective, treatment should be initiated early. If left untreated, the disease can be fatal.

Where can I get more information about the recent Department of Defense decision to require men and women in the Armed Services to be vaccinated against anthrax?
The Department of Defense recommends that servicemen and women contact their chain of command on questions about the vaccine and its distribution. The anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program in the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office can be reached at the contact information listed five questions above.

This information was last reviewed October 18, 2001 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Infectious Diseases Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases.

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Anthrax
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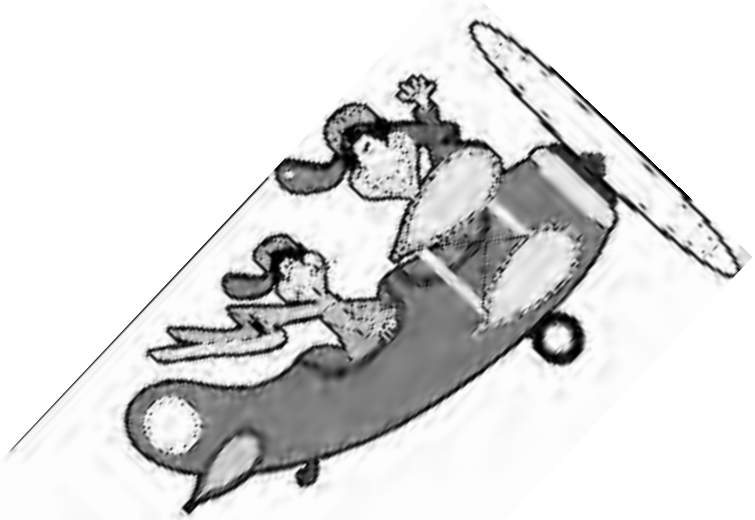

Traveling By Air With Your Pet

Dogs, cats, and most other warmblooded animals transported by air are protected by the Animal Welfare Act. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) enforces this law. APHIS' shipping regulations help assure that animals are treated humanely by airlines as well as animal dealers, exhibitors, and research laboratories. Pet exhibitors, owners, and other shippers also are affected by regulations established to protect the well-being and safety of animals in transit.

Airline Procedures

Airlines transport animals in the cargo compartment of the plane, but some airlines allow passengers to transport small animals in the cabin as carryon luggage. The pet must be placed in a kennel that is comfortable yet small enough to fit under the passenger's seat. Carryon pets are not protected by the Animal Welfare Act. For specific airline requirements, contact the airline.

APHIS Requirements

Age. Dogs and cats must be at least 8 weeks old and must have been weaned before traveling with the airlines. Kennels must meet minimum standards for size, strength, sanitation, and ventilation. Kennels must be enclosed and allow room for the animal to stand, sit, breathe, and rest comfortably. They must be easy to open, strong enough to withstand the stress of shipping, and free of objects that could injure the animal. Kennels must have a solid, leak-proof floor that is covered with litter or absorbent lining. Wire or other ventilated subfloors are generally allowed; pegboard flooring is prohibited. This provides the maximum cleanliness for the animal in travel. Kennels must be well ventilated with openings that make up at least 14 percent of the total wall space. At least one-third of the openings must be located in the top half of the kennel. Kennels also must have rims to prevent ventilation openings from being blocked by other shipments. These rims, usually placed on the sides of the kennel, must provide at least three-quarters of an inch

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The shawl, blocked and drying—Mickey does not approve.

Blocking a Shawl—It's Easy

By Linda Fox

If you've every knitted a lacy design, you will have noticed that the piece usually looks pretty unimpressive while you are knitting it. It generally looks uneven and not very open. I often wonder before I finish if I have used large enough knitting needles or fine enough yarn. The shawl pictured here (and with a warm cat on page 9) was no exception. The yarn was fine—a two-ply yarn composed of finely-spun cashmere and purchased fine silk thread. It was made in the same design as the small sample piece on page 10 in the last magazine issue, knitted on size 5 needles, but was larger, measuring about 3' X 5' after blocking.

To block the piece, I washed and rinsed it by hand, and removed all the water I could. I then stretched it tightly on this cardboard cutting board, using straight pins to pin the points. I used the inch square markers on the board, to make sure I stretch evenly in all directions. I started at the top and moved down both sides evenly. Several times I found I could stretch a bit more, so moved pins and repositioned. The shawl took less than 24 hours to dry in the house.

Traveling with Fluffy

Continued from previous page

clearance.

Kennels must have grips or handles for lifting to prevent cargo workers form being bitten. Kennels also must be labeled "live animals" or "wild animals" on the top and one side with directional arrows indicating position of the kennel. Lettering must be at least 1 inch high.

Animals Per Kennel. Each species must have its own kennel with the exception of compatible personal pets of similar size. Maximum numbers include 2 puppies or kittens less than 6 months old and 20 pounds each, 15 guinea pigs or rabbits, and 50 hamsters.

Feeding and Watering. Instructions for feeding, watering, and administering medication to the animal over a 24-hour period must be attached to the kennel. The 24-hour schedule will assist the airline in providing care for animals that are diverted from their scheduled destination. The shipper is required to document that the animal was given food and water within 4 hours of transport, and the certification must include the time and date of feeding. Food and water dishes must be securely attached and be accessible without opening the kennel. Food and water must be provided to puppies and kittens every 12 hours if they are less than 16 weeks old. Mature animals must be fed every 24 hours and given water every 12 hours.

Health Certification
Airlines and State health officials generally require health certificates for all animals transported by air. Health certificates must be issued by a licensed veterinarian who examined the animal within 10 days of transport. Dealers, exhibitors, and others regulated under the Animal Welfare Act must provide a health certificate for each dog, cat, or nonhuman primate shipped.

Trips Outside the Continental United States
Foreign countries and Hawaii have quarantine or health requirements for arriving pets. For information about Hawaii's requirements, write to: Division of Animal Industry Animal Quarantine Branch 99-951 Halawa Valley Street Aiea, HI 96701-3294 (808) 483-7151 or (808) 483-7100.

For information about international requirements, contact the appropriate embassy or consulate at least 4 weeks before the trip. Airlines or a full-service travel agency can provide additional information about animal care requirements for international flights.

For more information about the Animal Welfare Act, write to: Animal Care APHIS, USDA 4700 River Road, Unit 84 Riverdale, MD 20737 Telephone: (301) 734-7833 E-mail: ace@usda.gov Web page: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac

The Microbial Sequencing Project

The Microbial Genome Sequencing Project is a collaborative effort between the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Microorganisms dominate the planet in terms of total mass, species diversity, and metabolic range. They include pathogens, microbes that are beneficial to higher organisms, and microorganisms that will fill key gaps in our knowledge of microbial diversity. Many are of enormous present and future economic value. Although genomic information in itself is only a sequence of bases, it provides a framework for understanding how the organism functions and lives. This in turn can be used to understand why an organism may be pathogenic or beneficial to a plant or animal, or how it functions in certain environments.

The purpose of this interagency program is to support high through-put sequencing of genomes of microbes that are of fundamental biological interest, as well as those that are important to the productivity and sustainability of agriculture and forestry, and to the safety of the nations' food supply. Funding available through the USDA/NSF Microbial Genome Project is approximately $9 million ($5 million from USDA and $4 million from NSF.)

Microbe: Any organism too small to be seen readily without the aid of a microscope; microorganism. Includes anthrax spores, yeast, bacteria and a bunch of other tiny things that cause good things and bad.

How can the study of a little thing cost so much?

ANIMAL MANURE — MANAGING SHEEP AND GOAT MANURE

Prepared by Robert E. Graves, Extension Agricultural Engineer
Pennsylvania State University

The following information is based on the MANAGING SHEEP AND GOAT MANURE section of the HORSE, SHEEP, GOAT, AND SMALL ANIMAL MANURE MANAGEMENT supplement to MANURE MANAGEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, a publication of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Sheep and goat enterprises in Pennsylvania include large commercial farms and small part-time flocks. Some people raise sheep and goats for specialty products or as a hobby. In all cases it is important to consider manure management and the potential for fly, odor, and water-pollution problems. Sometimes a few animals cause more difficulties than a large commercial flock or herd, especially when animals are confined in buildings or small lots in suburban areas. If there is an insufficient area on which to spread the manure, overapplication and stockpiling of manure may result. This can increase fly, odor, and rodent problems as well as the likelihood of water pollution from runoff and excessive soil nutrients.

Sheep or goats may be kept on pasture with minimal shelter, housed in sheds or barns with large exercise areas or pastures, or kept inside confinement barns with small or no outside yards. Barns may contain bedded pens or packs, stalls, or slotted floors. Regardless of housing type, sheep and goat manure is normally handled as a solid because it usually does not liquefy well and is unsuitable for traditional liquid manure-handling systems.

Suburban sheep and goat owners should plan housing and manure management carefully to avoid problems with neighbors and health officials. Flies and odors are the most common complaints. Anyone considering keeping goats or sheep in a suburban area should review local zoning and health regulations. Regular cleanout and removal of manure and wet or soiled bedding to a fly-tight container, storage facility, or field for spreading are a requirement for any successful suburban manure management plan. If only a few animals are kept, a covered box, covered garbage cans, a fly-tight concrete or pressure-treated post and plank shed, or a pile covered with black plastic may be adequate for manure storage.

Large quantities of manure require a storage that allows cleanout with power equipment, that is, a storage with a wide door and a high roof. Regular cleanup will reduce the opportunity for insect breeding and odor production. Storages should be designed and managed to exclude rodents and to keep rain and surface water away from the manure.

A complete manure management system involves collection, storage (temporary or long-term) and ultimate disposal or utilization. Manure should be collected from stalls and exercise yards regularly, with a shovel, fork, or power equipment, depending on the number of animals. Bedded pens and packs do not require daily handling because much of the manure and bedding is contained in them. However, mixtures of manure and bedding can provide just the right environment for fly reproduction. A regular supply of bedding is required to maintain the bedded pack adequately. Pack life can be extended by daily removal of the fresh manure deposited on the pack. Also, placing feed and water adjacent to the bedded pack on a hard surface that can be scraped daily reduces manure deposits on the bedding and eliminates the need to raise the feed and water as the bedded pack gets deeper.

Manure production varies with breed, species, and feeding levels. The amount of bedding to be handled with the manure depends on the housing system selected. About 0.65 cubic foot per day of storage is needed for each 1,000 pounds of live sheep, or about 40 pounds of manure per day. Goat manure produced daily equals about 5 percent of body weight and contains 60 to 70 percent moisture. About 0.8 cubic foot per day of storage is needed for each 1,000 pounds of live goats or for about 50 pounds of manure per day.

Animals on pasture distribute their manure during the grazing process. Problems result from stocking too many animals on too small an area. Animals may congregate along streams or watering areas, around feed bunks or hay racks, and in shady spots. If there are more animals than the vegetation in such areas can maintain, soil erosion and excess manure deposition are likely. Reducing stocking density, moving feeding areas, and paving areas around waterers can reduce these problems. If there is a stream in the pasture, it may be necessary to develop other watering locations or fence the animals out of stream-bank areas. Springs can be developed to provide watering facilities that cause fewer environmental problems and provide fresher water for the animals.

Animal shelters may be simple open-front, three-sided sheds or barns with interior pens or packs. For convenience of cleanout and bedding maintenance, shelters should be high enough and have large enough doors to permit access by tractor-loaders. If a concrete feeding or watering area is included in the housing plan, it will require regular (1 to 3-day) scraping to keep animals clean. The bottom sides of buildings must be constructed of reinforced concrete or pressure preservative-treated poles and planks to resist damage from the manure and unloading machinery.

The manure removed from this area should be spread if con-

Continued on next page

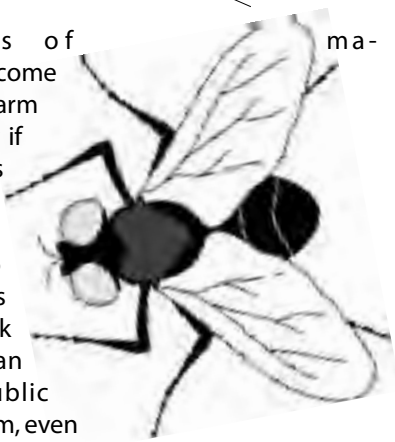
Manure Management
Continued from previous page

ditions permit or should be placed in a suitable storage area. Outside yards should be graded to provide good drainage and to keep clean outside water from washing manure away. Drainage from the lot should not run into a stream. In suburban locations the runoff from both lots and manure storages should not go onto neighboring properties. Manure piles and storages should be shielded from view and appropriate fly, rodent, and odor-control measures taken. One or two low buck walls can aid in load-out of the manure and can help shield the storage. Storages should be located where runoff water cannot enter or leave the pile and where there is room for easy load-out.

Confinement barns with or without small outside paved yards may be used to house large flocks. Groups of animals are kept inside in large pens. The barns may have slotted floors or combinations of bedded and tractor-scraped concrete areas to allow the manure to fall through, away from the animals. Owners with limited land and small numbers of animals may also keep their animals in the barn most of the time. All feed must be brought to the animals and all manure removed and spread on cropland or disposed of. Up to six months storage may be needed to coordinate land-spreading with field and crop conditions.

MANURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO CONTROL FLIES

Prepared by Clarence H. Colli, Extension Entomologist
The Pennsylvania State University



Numerous species of manure-breeding flies can become a serious problem on the farm and within the community if manure-handling systems are not managed properly. With the movement of people and housing into prime agricultural areas, flies dispersing from livestock and poultry operations can become a significant public nuisance and health problem, even leading to poor community relations and threats of litigation.

Fly Development
Flies have four stages of development: egg, larva (maggot), pupa, and adult. The rate of development, which varies with species and environmental conditions, is affected by temperature and moisture levels within the breeding area. Moist manure attracts adult flies and provides ideal breeding conditions.

Fly Species
Species most prevalent around livestock housing are the house fly (Musca domestica), stable fly (Stomoxys calcitrans), little house fly (Fannia canicularis), black garbage fly (Ophyra aenescens), and bee fly (Eristalis tenax).

House flies usually are the predominant species present in livestock and poultry operations. House flies are nonbiting flies that breed in fresh manure, decaying silage, spilled feeds, bedding, and other decaying organic matter. Adults feed on manure and animal secretions with their sponging mouthparts. Under ideal conditions, they can complete their life cycle in as little as 7 days. On the farm, most generations of flies require about 2 weeks to develop in summer. Each female can produce 120 to 150 eggs, which are laid in at least six batches at 3- to 4-day intervals. Eggs hatch in 8 to 24 hours and maggots feed for 4 to 7 days. Mature maggots usually crawl away from their breeding site, seeking a drier environment for pupation. Adult flies emerge in 3 to 4 days and typically live about 3 to 4 weeks.

Moisture levels of 75 to 80 percent are optimal for house fly oviposition (egg laying), larval development, growth, longevity, and survival. Fresh cattle manure is approximately 83 percent moisture and fresh poultry manure is 75 percent moisture. Lar-

Continued on next page

Fly Strategies

Continued from previous page

vae developing in organic substrates with less than 60 percent moisture usually fail to pupate. Optimal moisture levels for pupation range from 40 to 60 percent.

House fly populations in Pennsylvania increase rapidly in June, peak in September, and decline with cold weather in early October. From seven to nine generations occur during the fly season. Within environmentally controlled livestock housing (i.e., high-rise or deep-pit poultry houses), suitable breeding conditions may be present year round. Broken eggs, failure to control leaky waterers, and an occasional dead bird in the manure storage add to the problem.

High-rise houses normally are cleaned only once or twice a year. House flies often disperse in large numbers as far as 3.7 miles from their breeding site; and distances of 10 to 20 miles have been reported. While house flies are only a minor direct annoyance to livestock, their potential for transmission of diseases and causing a public nuisance are of major concern.

Stable flies are vicious biters commonly associated with dairy and equine operations. Male and female stable flies feed several times each day, ingesting one or two drops of blood at each meal. When not feeding, adult flies rest in the shade on posts, trees, and buildings. Breeding takes place in wet straw, spilled feeds, silage, and decaying vegetation. The stable fly's life cycle is longer than that of the house fly, requiring about 3 weeks to complete under optimal conditions. Eggs hatch in 1 to 3 days, and the maggots feed for 11 to 30 days before reaching maturity, depending on the weather. When fully grown, they pupate and within 6 to 20 days, emerge as adults which live for 20 to 30 days. Each female lays 200 to 400 eggs during her lifetime. Stable flies have two primary generations per season, peaking in early July and again in early September. They overwinter as larvae or pupae. Stable flies can travel many miles from the breeding site.

Little house flies usually are most abundant in early spring and late fall, when fly control practices normally are considered unnecessary. Eggs are deposited chiefly on decaying vegetable matter and chicken, hog, horse, and cattle manure. Life cycles may vary from 3 weeks to 2 months, depending on environmental conditions. The larvae are flattened, about 6 mm long when fully grown, and conspicuously fringed with spinelike projections. The pupae resemble the larvae in appearance. Adult flies prefer a sheltered habitat, inside or on the shaded sides of buildings.

Black garbage flies often are found in large numbers in poultry houses. Their life cycle is 14 to 17 days. The larvae develop readily in poultry manure and may prey on house fly maggots. The larvae are not considered to be practical biological control agents, however, since the adults are pests.

Bee or flower flies (rat-tailed maggots) are common inhabiters of liquid manure tanks, storage basins, and anaerobic treatment basins. Where livestock are housed on slatted floors over liquid manure tanks, rat-tailed maggots may be found breeding in large numbers during the summer. There are usually several broods a year. The maggots are an inch long and have a long tail. When fully developed, they move from liquid waste to drier areas to pupate and change into adult flies. During this period, the maggots become nuisance pests, crawling by the thousands onto walkways, feed bunks, and elsewhere. Piles of sawdust, sand, and other dry material near the manure pits provide a pupation site and reduce the number of crawling maggots within the barn and milkhouse. Other than being a nuisance, this insect causes no harm.

Control Strategies

Sanitation, moisture control, and manure management are critical to a successful fly-control program, which must break the fly reproduction cycle. The number of suitable fly breeding sites must be kept to a minimum and conditions favorable to the development of natural fly predator populations must be maintained. Appropriate insecticides may be used when necessary, but chemical control works best in conjunction with good sanitation practices. It is easier and less expensive to prevent a heavy fly buildup than to control large fly populations after buildup has occurred. If pesticides are applied directly to manure or fed through animals for fly control, label restrictions must be followed.

Fly control requires more than just manure removal because hauling of animal manures and organic debris controls only the immature insects. Spreading the manure thinly in the fields kills eggs and larvae through drying. Failure to spread the manure evenly leaves large clumps where adult flies can develop and even produce a second field generation in wet weather. Incorporation of manure into the soil soon after it is spread is the best way to break the fly development cycle.

While manure and organic debris removal controls maggots and pupae, adult fly populations within the barns and poultry houses must also be killed. This can be accomplished through the use of residual insecticide sprays, space sprays, and baiting. Failure to control adult flies prior to manure removal may release many flies into the community.

In dairy cattle operations, two potential fly breeding spots are calf pens or hutches and boxstalls used for freshening and for sick animals. Pens should be cleaned as frequently as possible and outdoor calf hutches moved regularly. Wet hay or straw, other organic matter, and silage seepage should be removed. Barnyards should have proper drainage, with gravel and other fill used to eliminate low spots. Wet barnyards can also be drained by proper tiling. Alteration of breeding sites to moisture levels below 60 percent should significantly reduce

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Photography

Grand Prize Winner: Yvonne Taylor, Washington, Maine, “Reflections”

Contest Winners

Cute Kids, Second Prize:
Felicia Parsons
Prior Lake, Minnesota
"Mira and Boscow"

Other Category, Second Prize: Wendy Pieh, Bremen, Maine, "Fat Douchette"

Fly Strategies
Continued from page 15

fly populations. Since both stable and houseflies breed in wet grain, silage, haylage, and fermenting green-chopped materials, areas around and under feed bunks can also be fly breeding sites when water drains from the bunks and mixes with manure and spilled feed.

Manure storage systems that are not completely liquid can also be a major source of flies, especially during dry weather. As maggots leave the manure to pupate, they seek dry areas. Liquid material completely surrounding solid or semisolid material prevents successful pupation. During dry weather, water may need to be added to a liquid tank or basin to maintain the solid-liquid interface along the storage edges. Also, manure containing large amounts of straw, hay, and sawdust may furnish adequate pupation sites. Seepage from the manure storage areas can also furnish suitable fly breeding sites outside of the storage area. If moisture levels remain above 85 percent, liquid manure systems will not be a breeding site for flies other than rat-tailed maggots.

Within shallow or deep-pit poultry houses, moisture levels are affected by several different factors. Leaks in the poultry watering system are the major source of excess moisture in the manure. Producers should check for leaks on a regular basis. Some manure pits also remain wet due to seepage from the exterior, which can be avoided by proper site selection, grading, and drainage. Houses equipped with scrapper boards usually have lower moisture levels since the scrapper boards aid in manure drying. A few poultry producers use a series of fans or mechanical rakes to dry the manure further. Keeping the pit dry, so that the manure cones up under the cages, reduces the amount of manure suitable for fly breeding and enhances populations of naturally occurring predators and parasites.

Predators and Parasites

Accumulations of manure which have the proper moisture and physical conditions often contain large numbers of mites, parasitic wasps, and beetles, which prey on fly eggs or larvae. In an attempt to enhance natural predator/prey populations, stored semisolid or stacked manure should be maintained in as dry a condition as possible. This provides a desirable habitat for the predator and parasite reproduction and reduces the suitability of the manure for fly oviposition and larval development.

Populations of predators and parasites are affected by the manure removal schedule. In livestock housing designed for manure removal every few days, there is no buildup of the beneficial agents. In situations where manure is stored over long periods of time and natural predators and parasite populations have built up, only part of the manure should be removed at a time. A thick base of old manure should be left to perpetuate the beneficial insects as well as to assist in absorbing excess moisture as new manure is added.

Sheep Cashmere Sweaters?

At last, it appears you can get cashmere sweaters from the common sheep, at least in China.

A new Chinese website proclaims that...

"... Hebei Shengda Down Products Co., Ltd., established in 1993, in the southeast of Hebei Province stands Qinghe County Youfang development area, which is so well known all the world over as the largest collecting and distributing center of cashmere in China. The company is a comprehensive production enterprise to produce no wool goat cashmere products and various down products (goat cashmere sweaters, sheep cashmere sweaters, yak down sweaters, camel down sweaters) and high grade surface materials with annual production of no-wool cashmere of 120 tons, 50 metric tons of cashmere yarn, 100,000 pieces of cashmere sweaters, is among the leading ones in this annually. It is in possession of a total asset of CNY 60,000,000,00 and a 260 staff, on which are a team of professional and skillful personnel..."

...who could use a little help with their translation skills.—Ed.

http://en.globaltexnet.com/complist/company.

New Goat Meat Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications

There's a new government guide in town. It's called the Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications for Fresh Goat, Series 11 (Interim). Before you get totally turned off by the Gov-speak title, be aware, it's a good thing. All the other real meat animals already have them and we just got ours. Not being an institutional meat buyer or seller, I'm not sure what effect this new document will have on the producer, but I assume it will enable goat meat marketing.

This document joins the previously-issued Institutional Meat Purchase Specification (IMPS) Guides:

Fresh Beef	Series 100
Fresh Lamb and Mutton	Series 200
Fresh Veal and Calf	Series 300
Fresh Pork	Series 400
Cured, Smoked, & Cooked Pork Products	Series 500
Cured, Dried, and Smoked Beef Products	Series 600
Variety Meats and Edible By-Products	Series 700
Sausage Products	Series 800
Fresh Goat	Series 11

I'm not sure if we should be complemented that we got a lower Series number for our guide or be insulted that we only got two digits rather than three, but I'm sure the government has a logical reason for the numbering system.

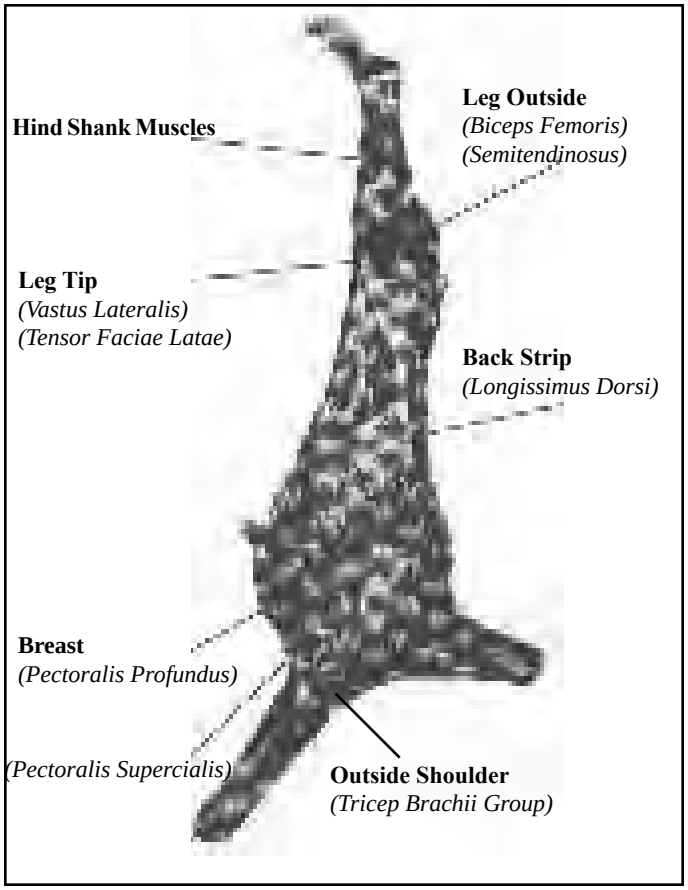
The Guide is effective October 2001 and is labelled "interim" which leads me to believe they are already working on a revised one. The introduction to the Guide notes that the specifications are recommended for use by any meat product procuring activity and that only meat graded by the Agricultural Marketing Service's Meat Grading and Certification Branch (MGCB) may contain the label "IMPS" on the product label.

This new guide is the result of a study conducted by the LSU Agricultural Center and other agencies by researchers Frank Pinkerton and Ken McMillin. The purpose of the study was to develop sorting and classification systems for goat meat marketing. The study included research on 276 goats, primarily wethers, of four breed types of various ages—Angora, Spanish, dairy and Boer-Spanish crosses.

All information for the institutional purchaser is contained in a simple 24-digit code. This code contains not only the goat species and breed type, but also includes goat size, refrigeration state, packaging options, what the goat was eating and any ingredients added to the meat.

The 24-digit code is separated into four "rows" of digits. An example of the entire code is on the next page.

Row One Digits



Appendix E, from the new Federal guide, showng the goat muscle system.

If you want to order a whole goat, the Row one digits will be 11-0-00; if you want ground goat, the code is 11-0-90; goat kabobs are 11-0-93. The "11" specifies that the meat is goat, the third digit is a style code and the last two digits are a meat cut identification. The style code has nothing to do with cashmere; it indicates a cutting style including Platter (1), Roasting (2), Barbecue (3), Food Service (4), Hotel (5) or Any Combination (0). The cutting style is determined primarily by the size of the goat. Details about these different styles are included on page 21.

Row Two Digits

Per the specifications, added ingredients may include only water, lemon juice and sodium phosphate. These ingredients may be added by immersion or injection. The percentage (7-15%) is indicated by one of the codes in Row 2. Other criteria included in the four digits of Row 2 include bone requirements (in or out), split requirement and purchaser specified options (PSO).

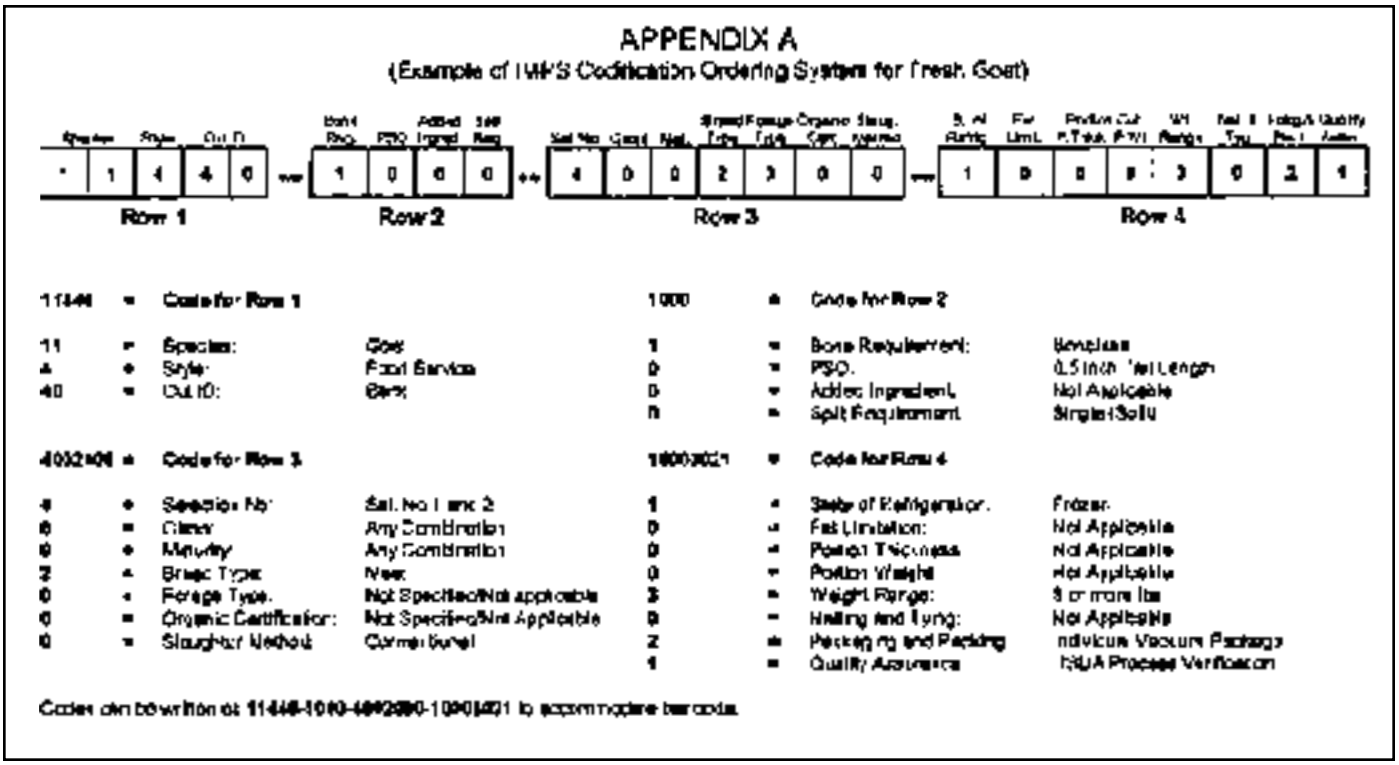
Row Three Digits

The 7 Row three digits contain a Selection Criteria, class, matu-

Continued on next page

New Goat Meat Standards

Continued from previous page



Appendix A of the new Guide—Example of IMPS Codification ordering system for fresh goat. The above order will get you a back of fresh goat, food service style. It will be boneless with a 0.5 inch tail length (?), no added ingredients and the piece will be a single (split). The class (breed type) and age of the goat, as well as forage type and organic options are not specified. Slaughter was done conventionally, the meat piece is frozen, has no netting, weighs 8 or more lbs and is individually vacuum packed. Hope this is what you wanted. A transposition could mean the difference between stew meat and a steak.

rity (age), breed type, forage type, organic status and slaughtering method. Selection criteria, numbered from 1 to 3, appears to be graded much like goat live condition scoring. A selection 1 is a superior meat type conformation, while a selection 3 is a poorer meat type. Fat cover is not taken into account for these scores. A selection number 4 indicates that either a selection 1 or a 2 is OK with the purchaser.

The class number indicates the goat's sex—buck (1), doe (2), wether (3), either a doe or a wether (4), or sex doesn't matter (0). Goat maturity includes kid goat (14 months or less), yearling goat (14 - 24 months), goat (more than 24 months) and kid or yearling (24 months or less). Breed type includes dairy (1), meat (2), breed specified by purchaser (3) or any combination (0). The forage type coding may be specified by the purchaser or unspecified. A digit for organic certification indicates that the goat is either organic or not specified. Slaughter method includes Halal (1), Kosher (2), other (3), or conventional (0).

Row Four Digits—there's 8 of them
The first digit specifies whether the meat is chilled, frozen, purchaser specified or unspecified. The next four digits indicate fat limitations, thickness of slices, portion weights and weight range for portions. The next two digits relate to packaging—a netting or tying indicator and an indication of wrapping vs. vacuum packaged. The very last digit tells the purchaser if the product is derived from a production facility that has an IMPS certified process. For a facility to have this credential, they must submit for approval a quality control plan addressing IMPS criteria and have satisfactorily undergone a program audit conducted in accordance with policies and procedures of USDA MGCB Quality Systems Operations.

In addition to the Guide's extensive definitions of the numbering system, it also contains detailed quality and material requirements for all products, detailed cutting instructions, descriptions of all goat meat cuts and a goat skeletal and muscle system chart.

Goat Styles (That would be digit 3 in our handy code)
Goat Style is an indication of what meat cuts will generally be desirable. It is set primarily by the size of the goat, but is also affected by age and sex. The 19th digit, later in the code, specifies the carcass weight and other digits specify the sex and age

Continued on next page

New Goat Meat Standards

Continued from previous page

of the goat. The style code options are:

Style	Code
Goat Carcass	0
Platter	1
Roasting	2
Barbeque	3
Food Service	4
Hotel	5

Goat Carcass

A goat carcass has a style 0. (We knew that!) A goat carcass is a no-frills piece of meat. It consists of the entire unsplit carcass, with bloody tissue, frayed ends and most of the kidney, pelvic and heart fat removed.

Platter Style

A Platter style goat was developed to provide an outlet for small goats, such as the pygmy, per the Guide. Smaller carcasses may not be suitable for fabrication (fabrication=cut up into smaller pieces). This style provides for stuffing and display as a center of the table item. A carcass weight of 20 lbs or less is recommended for this style. After removal of the hind trotter, the hind legs will be pulled so that the hind shank bones are inserted into the thoracic cavity and the fore legs are pulled so that the fore trotters are inserted between the hind legs toward the pelvic cavity.

Roasting Style

This is generally a larger goat. It is intended for small to medium-sized goats with sufficient weight for use in the traditional cabrito market. Size recommendation is for 15 - 30 lbs. It provides more usable meat than the platter style. This carcass is divided into 5 different meat pieces (per the chart on the next page) which are all packaged into the same container. These cuts are the foreshank, neck, foresaddle, double loin (rump on), and leg (shank off).

Barbeque Style

The barbeque style is intended for fabrication of medium-sized goats. As referred to in the name, this style is ideal for making the barbeque cuts found during the peak goat eating seasons. The recommended carcass size is 20 - 40 lbs. It is easily fabricated into cuts for placing on the barbeque pit. You get 6 cuts of meat—neck, outside shoulder, ribs (full set), breast, loin, and legs—all packaged into the same handy container.

Food Service Style

The food service style was intended for medium to large-sized goats to prepare for retail cuts that may be attractive to the food service industry. Recommended size is 30 - 40 lbs. The back strap cut is a key component of this style. You get 9 cuts of meat here—hindshank, neck, outside shoulder, inside shoulder (squared), breast, ribs (breast on, full style), back, sirloin, legs (shank off, sirloin on, partially boneless)—all still to be packaged in the same container. Beginning to sound a bit like a package of chicken.

Hotel Style

The hotel style was intended for large-sized goats, recommended for a carcass 40 or more lbs. in weight. They are ideal for producing cuts similar to the current hotel/retail cuts of lamb. You still get 9 cuts and they are still to be packaged in the same container. The cuts are, however, different than the 9 cuts in the Food Service style. They are foreshank, hindshank, neck, shoulder (square cut), shoulder (square cut), rack, ribs (breast bone off), breast, loin and legs.

Continued on page 23

What's a Trotter?

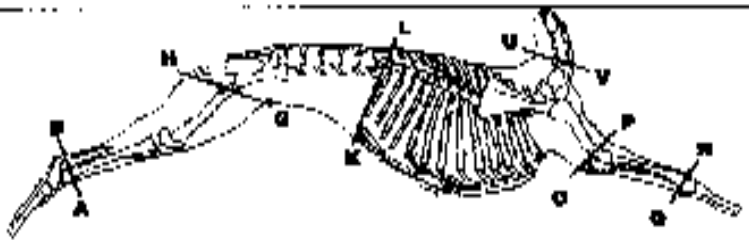
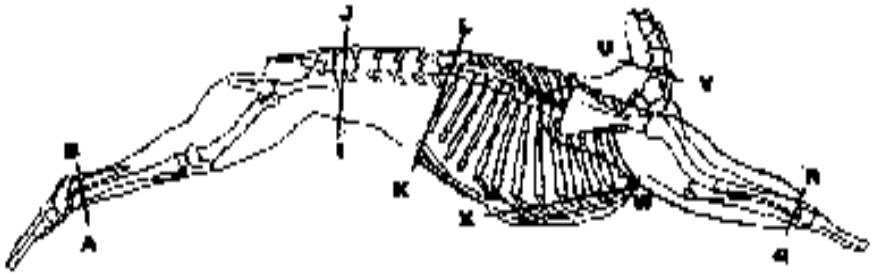
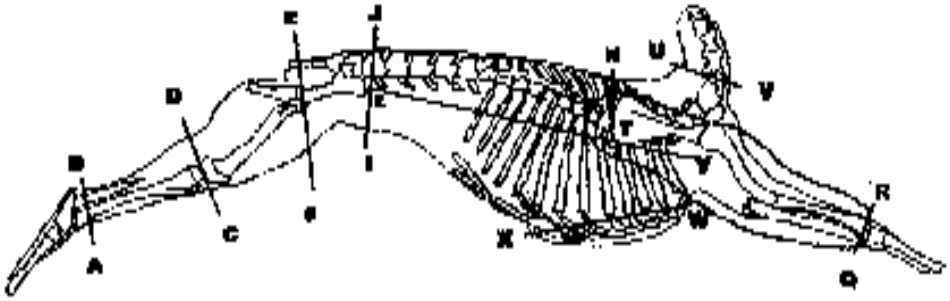
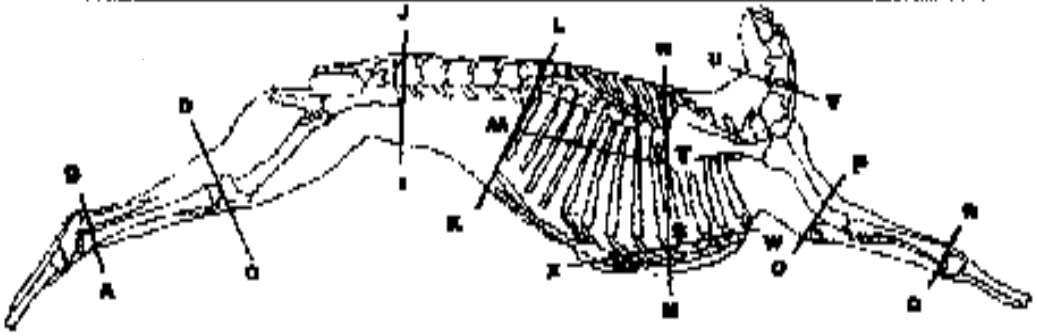
Last February, when we published a short article about the research behind this new IMPS, we referred to the platter style of goat being a small goat with only the "trotters" removed. We didn't have a clue what the trotters were. From further research (like a short trip to the dictionary) we find that the trotters are the feet—the dictionary refers to them as the edible feet of a calf, sheep or pig.

11099-1900-1323000-03071011
(IMPS Code for a "Goat-sicle")

This code indicates we are ordering a small goat, PSO cut, no bones, PSO presentation (that would cover the stick), no added ingredients, a prime meat goat, platter style; under 24 months of age; we don't care what it ate or whether it is organic; conventional slaughter method; it's chilled, not frozen; it's virtually fat free; no specifications for portion weight or thickness as we are using the whole goat; no netting or tying required; we want it individually wrapped and insist on USDA certification that all our requirements are properly met. All that in merely 24 digits.

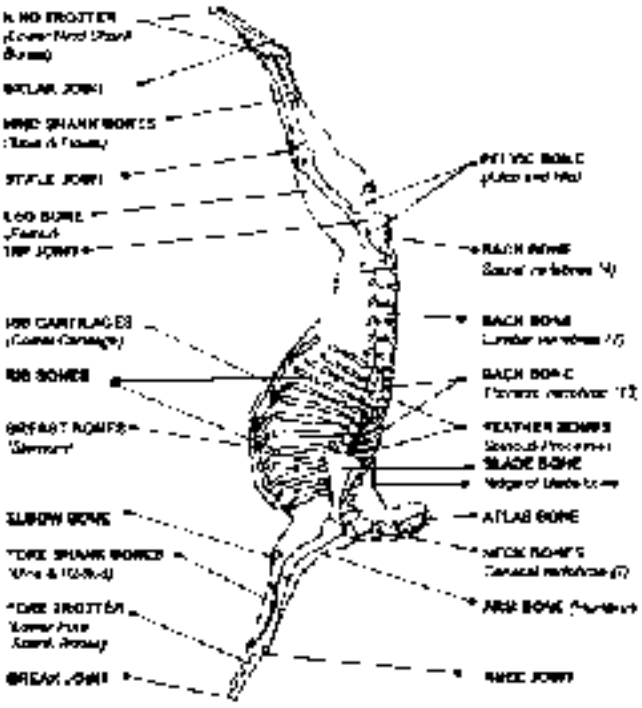
New Goat Meat Standards
Continued from previous page

APPENDIX C
(Cutting Locations / Descriptions)

Recommended Wt. Range for Each Style	Recommended According to Goat Size
Platter Style – 1 Wt. Range 20 pounds or less	
Roasting Style – 2 Wt Range 15 – 30 pounds	
Barbeque Style – 3 Wt. Range 20 – 40 pounds	
Food Service Style – 4 Wt. Range 30 pounds and up	
Hotel Style – 5 Wt. Range 40 pounds and up	

The chart from the new IMPS guide illustrating goat "style" (that would be digit number 3 of the 24-digit specification code) and key to detailed meat cutting specifications contained in the guide. Weight ranges listed are the carcass weight, not the live goat weight. The live goat weight will usually be at least double the carcass weight.

New Goat Meat Standards
Continued from page 21



Appendix D—Goat Skeletal Chart

Australia Goat Meat Export Market Remains Strong

Australia is currently the largest exporter of goat meat in the world, with 11,000 tons of meat exported annually, or 57% of the global trade. Australia's exported goat meat comes mostly from "harvested" feral goats, which are considered a healthy, chemical-free source of meat. 68% of the meat is exported as frozen carcases and 31% as bone-in cuts. The largest importers are Taiwan - 41%, North America - 42% and the Caribbean - 6%. In the past six months, the United States' imports of goat meat from Australia has increased 52%.

However, the domestic market for goat meat in Australia is small. There is some trade in the restaurant industry, but little trade in food service or supermarket industries. Australian livestock farmers and entrepreneurs see development of the domestic meat goat market as an opportunity to increase profitability. They believe that merely increasing the amount of goat meat produced is not the answer. They believe that the solution for increasing the domestic market will involve establishing product distribution channels and a consumer marketing and promotional campaign.

Any domestic industry will have to compete for product with the strong export market, especially for capretto and young goat.

What the Goat Meat Customers Want

Goat meat customers prefer a goat that is not too fat, but yields a good percentage of meat per body weight.

A Texas meat goat buyer is quoted as saying that his customers prefer a Boer-Spanish cross goat with at least 1/4, but no more than 3/4 of the genetics being Boer. This supposedly give a good yield, without the excess fat of a 100% Boer goat. Straight Spanish goats yield only about 43%.

Danny Howard, Greenville County, S.C., Clemson Extension Agent, performed his own test. He barbecued two goats. The Boer-type goat weighed 71 lbs. live, had a 36 lb. carcass and resulted in 12.5 lb of chopped cooked meat (17.6%). The Spanish-type goat weighed 89 lb, carcass weight of 37 lb and yielded 12 lb of chopped cooked meat (13.5%).

Mr. Howard observed that goat meat shrinks a lot during cooking as, unlike other meats, it does not have the skin and fat to retain moisture during cooking. He advises using a moist heat cooking—where the meat is wrapped in foil—to help prevent this.

Technology Strikes Again

A New On-Line Newsletter
From Washington State University
Cooperative Extension

If you have on-line computer access, be sure to check out the new on-line newsletter, The Kidding Pen. It is available in English and Spanish and can be accessed at the Mid-Columbia Small Farm and Acreage website:

http://extension.orst.edu/wasco/smallfarms/articles-resources.html#resource_newsletters

It is a publication of the Washington State University Goat Production Education Team and is full of good information. The current issue is #3 and dated October 2001. This issue is 5 pages long and contains a variety of good goat subjects including upcoming Field Days in the northwest, meat goat information, a recipe for grilled goat chops and information on poisonous plants. It even contains a kidding tip for helping newborn kids with hypoglycemia.

Paul's Hot Links

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/p/nm/20011026/wl/imdf26102001072532a.html
Photo of Afghan goatherd moving a herd through a refugee camp.

http://www.cheatgoat.com/
A site with ways to cheat on computer game codes.

http://www.abc.net.au/ra/hear/hear_us_internet.htm
Radio Australia. Listen on your computer, live.

http://www.odci.gov/cia/ciakids/
CIA homepage for kids.

http://www.flingthecow.com/
The all new, much improved, cow tossing game homepage! From Norway, no less.

http://www.ars.usda.gov/plum/news.htm
Plum Island Research Lab's important bulletin page. Last updated, September, 2000. Makes you feel secure, doen't it?

The Goats of Afghanistan

Afghanistan is an extremely poor, landlocked country, highly dependent on farming and raising livestock, primarily sheep and goats.[1]

Afghanistan has (had) approximately five million goats[2]. Most are for cashmere production, as well as milk and food. The goats are of the Central Asian cashmere type, Vatani, Asmari, and Rahnama. In addition, Northeast Afghanistan is home of the feral Markhor goat.

The Vatani is a long-haired cashmere producer, also known as Afghan Native Black, Kabuli, Tajiki, or Kandahari. The Vatani makes up about 80% of the goat population of the country. Its fleece is grey, white, brown or more usually black. (Hence the name Afghan Native Black?) The Vatani's cashmere averages 16.6 microns, and 6.9 cm in length. It has long guard hair and long ears.

The Asmari is white, pied or colored with white face and body and dark (black, usually) neck and shoulders. The Asmari is taller than the Vatani. The Rahnama is much like the Asmari except that it is even taller.

The Markhor (capra falconeri Wagner)[2] is heavy bodied, bearded, with dramatic vertical twisted horns; some Markhor's horns are erect corkscrews. Progeny of domestic goats crossed with the Markhor are highly valued. (Markhor is Persian for "snake-eater".) The markhor have a long mane covering the neck and chest, a coat of reddish-brown in the summer and grayish-brown in the winter. The legs and underside are creamy white, and there is a dark stripe along the back and on the lower part of the front legs.[3]

[1]CIA World Factbook,
[2]United Nations FAO website http://www.fao.org/
[3]Goats of the World, Valerie Porter

Calendar of Events

January 12, 2002
Oregon 8th annual Pygora Goat Show and Fiber Frenzy, Washington County Fair Complex, Main Exhibit Hall, South Hillsboro, Oregon, 10 am - 4 PM. Come see goats in full fleece! Vendor booths, demonstrations, goat show. Contact: Lisa Roskopf - phone: 503-985-3331, email: lisa@hmrpygoras.com website: www.hmrpygoras.com/fiberfrenzy.html

June 13 - 16, 2002
Estes Park Wool Market events and workshops, Estes Park, Colorado. Workshops, livestock exhibits, vendors, cashmere goat show (June 15th), other animal shows, handspun skeing competition. For a detailed schedule, see their website: http://www.estesnet.com/

June 21 - 23, 2002
Black Sheep Gathering, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, Oregon.

September 2004
8th International Conference on Goats, Pretoria, South Africa. For information, contact Dr. Norman Casey, University of Pretoria, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Pretoria 0002, Republic of South Africa, fax: 27-12-420-3290 email: nhcasey@postino.up.ac.za

Association Contacts

Cashmere America Co-operative
Joe David Ross, Manager, 915-387-6052
fax: 915-387-2642, Email: goat@sonoratx.net
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)
Ann Wood, President
937-568-4994, tamarack@voyager.net

North West Cashmere Association (NWCA)
Website: http://www.nwcacashmere.org, Paul Johnson, President, 503-623-5194, paul@cashmirror.com
Diana Mullins, Membership Coordinator,
509-997-2204, dmullins@methow.com

Pygora Breeders Association (PBA)
Inga Gonzales, Secretary, PO Box 565, Knightsen, CA 94548, 925-625-7869
email: lgonozo@goldstate.net

Texas Cashmere Association (TCA)
William (Bill) Nagel, President, 4625 Sandy Fork Rd., Harwood, TX 78632
830-540-4707, email: bnagel@bvtc.com

Quinn and friend—a brief conjugal visit for a young buck.

Breeders

CALIFORNIA

CAPRETTE CASHMERE
Barbara Fiorica
13059 Cherry Rd.
Wilton, CA 95693
916-687-6406
rfiorica@juno.com

HENRY LOWMAN
PO Box 2556
El Granada, CA 94018
650-225-1171
email: hlowman@
compuserve.com

COLORADO

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Loveland, CO 80537
970-667-2999

MARSHALL'S ORGANIC ACRES
9217 N. County Rd. 7
Wellington, CO 80549-1521
970-568-7941
Borganic2@aol.com

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

CONNECTICUTT

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Coleen Nihill
165 Boston Post Road
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-873-3403

MAINE

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ackley@megalink.net

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Lance@airs.com

GRUMBLE GOAT FARM
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574 Davis Rd.
Union, ME 04862
207-785-3350
fax: 207-785-5633
grumble@midcoast.com

SPRINGTIDE FARM
Peter Goth & Wendy Pieh
PO Box 203
Bremen, ME 04551
207-529-5747
fax: 207-529-5739
wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com

MARYLAND

MIDDLETOWN FARM
George and Barbara Little
8123 Old Hagerstown Rd.
Middletown, MD 21769
phone & fax: 301-371-8743
glittle640@aol.com

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406-683-5445
ann@montanaknits.com

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894 Pheasant Run
Hamilton, MT 59840
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406-961-3058
cashmere@bitterroot.net

DOUBLE OUGHT RANCH
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Brusett, MT 59318
phone & fax: 406-557-2291
message: 406-447-6210
dblought@midrivers.com

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Kathy Sumter-Haman
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fax: 406-633-9157
JKCashmere@yahoo.com

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Yvonne Zweede-Tucker
2870 Eighth Lane NW
Choteau, MT 59422
406-466-5952
fax: 406-466-5951
smokeridge@marsweb.com

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DOUBLE BAR J CASHMERE
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goatsnsoap@idsely.com

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Byron Higgins
5455 Reno Highway
Fallon, NV 89406
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cashmere@phonewave.net

SMITH VALLEY CASHMERE
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254 Lower Colony Rd.
Wellington, NV 89444
775-465-2893

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Virginia Hinchman
Kevin Weber
117 RD 2, Rt. 46
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-852-7493
fax:908-852-1336 (call first)
blackfen@juno.com

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Swedesboro, NJ 08085
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Fax: 856-241-1896
GAPPLEGATE@Snip.net

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Elizabeth Dane, OMD, PhD
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fax: 212-866-2340

HERMIT POND FARM
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315-899-7792
hermit@borg.com

MOO'S MEADOW FARM
Judith E. Paul
10630 Springville-Boston Rd.
Springville, NY 14141-9011
716-941-5826
goats7228@cs.com

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12000 Old Osborne Road
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tamarack@voyager.net

OKLAHOMA

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Rt 1, Box 37
Mannsville, OK 73447
580-371-3167
fax: 580-371-9589
jkc@flash.net

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ABORIGINAL FIBRE
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503-632-3615
razberi@teleport.com

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19655 NE Calkins Lane
Newberg, OR 97132
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Linda_Lowell@beavton.k12.or.us

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541-354-6186
FMAZZARA@gorge.net

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Silverton, OR 97381
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Message: 503-873-5430
foxmoorfarm@goldcom.com

GOAT KNOLL
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goatknol@teleport.com

HARVEST MOON FARM
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Bend, OR 97701
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harvest@empnet.com

HAWKS MOUNTAIN PYGORA'S
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Fax: 503-985-3321
lisa@hmrpygoras.com

HIDDEN MEADOW FARM PYGORAS
Susan J. Prechtl
23471 Cedar Grove Rd.
Clatskanie, OR 97016
503-728-4157
pygora@clatskanie.com

MCTIMMONDS VALLEY FARM
Janet and Joe Hanus
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Monmouth, OR 97361
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janhanus@open.org

ROARING CREEK FARMS
Arlen and Cathy Emmert
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503-367-6698
cashmere@proaxis.com

T & T CASHMERE
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TryciaSmith@msn.com

WILD FLOWER FARM
Michele and Perry Lowe
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Continued on next page

Breeders Directory
Continued

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

CANADA

GIANT STRIDE FARM
Pat Fuhr
RR #3
Onoway, Alberta, Canada,
TOE IVO
403-967-4843
giantstride@compuserve.com

Internet listing of these breeders and a link to their email addresses and homepages, if they have one, can be found on the net at: http://www.cashmirror.com/breeders.htm

Excerpts from the Inter-Dwarf Memo (E-mail) Service

Inter-Dwarf Memo
To: Fellow Dwarves
From: Doc
Re: S. White

If that witch cleans one more thermometer with Ajax, I'm gonna kill her. I'll give her apples, nice big apples. With surprises inside. Yeah, surprises.

Inter-Dwarf Memo
To: Fellow Dwarves
From: Happy
Re: S. White

Let it be noted that if she whistles that darn song one more time I'm gonna rip her little lips off. Have a nice day.

Inter-Dwarf Memo
To: Fellow Dwarves
From: Sneezy
Re: S. White

She's driving me nuts boys. Every three second it's "Bless you!" in that darn sing-songy voice of hers. I can't take it any more! I'm not a well dwarf you know.

Inter-Dwarf Memo
To: Fellow Dwarves
From: Bashful
Re: S. White

I really don't mean to start anything, but since she enrolled me in that assertiveness training seminar, the only thing that I can think of giving me pleasure is throwing her out of a twenty story building. I hope you didn't mind receiving this memo.

Inter-Dwarf Memo
To: Fellow Dwarves
From: Dopey
Re: S. White

Inter-Dwarf Memo
To: Fellow Dwarves
From: Sleepy
Re: S. White

She keeps making my bed. She knows I'm going back to sleep in a minute, but noooo--she has to make the bed.

Inter-Dwarf Memo
to: Fellow Dwarves
From: Grumpy
Re: S. White

I really love what she's done with the place. Those throw pillows make a world of difference, And her hair! Oh, I just love it!

Source: Internet, with the note they had no clue

Goat Breeding in the Slovak Republic

By Gyarmathy, Egon and Dubravska, Jarmila
Slovak Agricultural University, Department of Animal Husbandry, Nitra, Slovak Republic

Goat breeding has a long tradition in the Slovak Republic but until 1990 goat breeding was without perspective. In well-developed countries the number of goats increased; on the contrary, in Slovakia the number decreased. At present, goat breeding has potential and the numbers of goats increase not only in small holdings but also on big farms.

In Slovakia 26,147 goats are bred from which 18,559 are goats older than six months (statistics from 1. January 1997). One reason for the goats' increase is the poor economic situation in many families. It is possible that the number of goats is higher. There is a lot of grazing of goats in the villages.

Unfortunately, the statistical information is not accurate as it is from seven years ago. It is a problem for the state-breeding organization because they cannot plan exactly the amount of bucks for breeding.

Every year in the end of August there is an evaluation of bucks in the three parts of the Slovak Republic west, middle and east. Only evaluated bucks can be used for breeding but there are small holders of goats in the villages who used unevaluated bucks for breeding.

There are two milk breeds of goats (white short-haired and brown short-haired) and two hair breeds (mohair goats and cashmere goats). As in the past, the goats can have horns. The white short-haired goat breed is descended from the Saanen goat.

Two new breeds were imported in 1991 from Denmark and New Zealand. They were mohair goats and cashmere goats. Our country had a five-year market contract with Denmark to purchase our hair production, because we were not able to make products from hair; we had no technology to separate cashmere. Unfortunately the contract was canceled and problems with breeding started.

The mohair production was used to produce mohair wool of high quality, but we had only 200 mohair goats (for a big factory it was not economical to produce only 1,000 kg of mohair). At this time we have only a small herd of mohair goats on one state farm and these animals are too old for production of high quality mohair.

The cashmere goats were bred also in the state farms but due to problems with cashmere production they were leased to private farmers who used them only for grazing.

We can say that these two breeds were bred for six years but it is possible that they will disappear from the Slovak Republic. During these six years, animals of these breeds were evaluated through their hair production (Slovak Agricultural University, Research station for breeding sheep and goats).

Milk and meat are the main products from goats in our country. Goat milk has high nutritional quality, the content of which depends on the breed (approximately 12.4 percent of dry matter which means 3.4 percent protein, 3.8 percent fat content, 4.3 percent lactose and 0.9 percent ash).

We have experience with nutritional quality of goat milk

under real-life conditions. Doctor Rosipal started utilization of goat milk for the nourishment of children. Performance testing is realized by a state breeding organization and a union of breeders. In milk control quantity and quality of milk is tested.

The production of meat has only a seasonal character, mainly for the period of Easter when there are mostly male goats for sale (approximately 8-12 weeks old and a live weight of 12 kilograms). In the future there is the possibility to produce goats of 25 - 30 kilograms live-weight from intensive fattening. There is a test station for fattening and carcass value, but only for testing rams. The consumption of goat meat has a short tradition in our country; that is why this kind of meat is mainly exported.

Very important products are goat skins. Yearly, Slovakia imports 2.2 million skins from abroad; it is a pity not to use its home production which has the same or even better quality.

With the increase of goats in Slovakia, more research is important. The quality and quantity of milk is one part of that research. The animals need good conditions for their production, and through studying the behaviour of goats it will be possible to find the best conditions for them.

We don't breed any special meat goat breed now, but we would also like to import meat breeds of goat.

There is great interest by breeders to breed goats but we have problems with milk in some parts of the country. Only six milking factories produce sheep and goat milk which is not enough. The government has an interest in goat breeding in our republic. The breeders receive money for goat breeding and for milk production, which is of great benefit to them.

From the FAO webiste at: http://www.fao.org/regional/europe/PUB/RTS50/008.htm#Muratovi

Classified Advertising

CashMirror Back issues, $3 each or a dozen for $30. 10/89 - 8/01. About half of old issues still available. Index available. Order specific issues or give us subjects you need and we'll peruse our computer-sortable index and select back issues for you. Great reference material. Order from CashMirror Publications. Price includes shipping.

Children's Book: Buster the Cashmere Goat, Children's book by Paul G. Johnson, CM Ace Reporter. 66 pages, includes photographs, good goat fun. Suitable for reading aloud for young children, 3rd to 4th grade reading level, or for brightening the lives of bored adults. Guaranteed only happy endings. $7.50. Order from CashMirror Publications. http://buster.cashmeregoat.net

Goat (Thief) Intelligence Report: It was reported by the US Navy director of sports information regarding the theft of some (goat) mascots from the Naval Academy by their Army rivals: "We knew Army cadets were involved because they cut through two fences to get to the goats, and 15 feet away there was an unlocked gate." Sounds like the most intelligent ones involved in this were the goats...

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

T-Shirts: CashMirror and Mild Goat Men, Heavy-duty cotton T's still available in Large and XLarge sizes only. All the Small and Medium people already have theirs. Suitable for "downtown" wear, yet sturdy enough for barn chores. CashMirror T's are natural-colored. MGM T's come in choice of burgundy or dark green. Great Christmas gifts! $17.50@. Prices include shipping. Order from CashMirror Publications.

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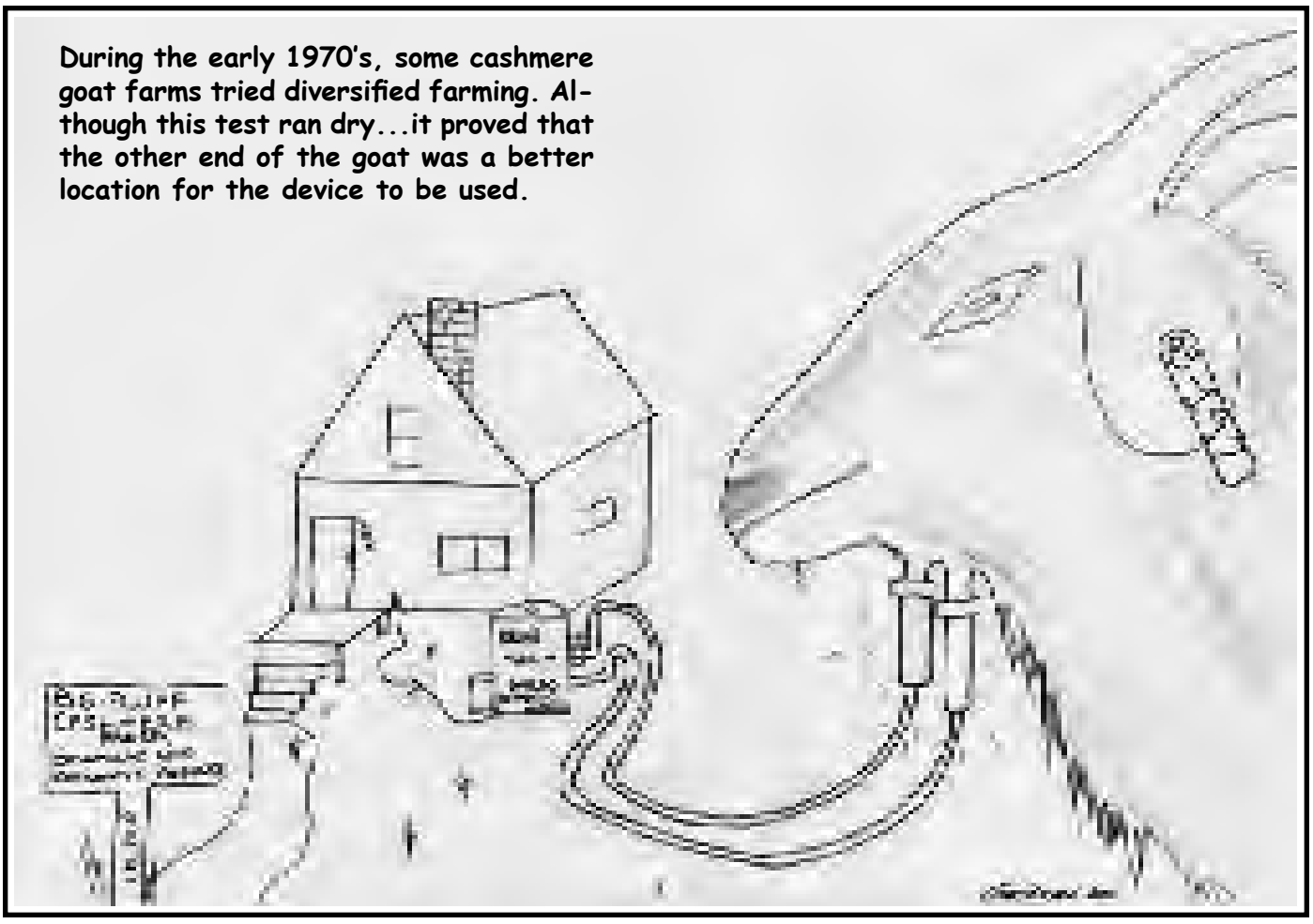

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Notable Quotes

"Become the change you want to see in others ."

... Mahatma Gandhi

"I truly believe that individuals can make a difference in society. Since periods of great change such as the present one come so rarely in human history, it is up to each of us to make the best use of our time to help create a happier world."

...The Fourteenth Dalai Lama, 1992

"I try to make most issues in life (and in goats) as easy as possible so that I can devote all that left over time to the really big issues that defy simplification."

...D. Phillip Sponenberg DVM, PhD, Professor Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

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.

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