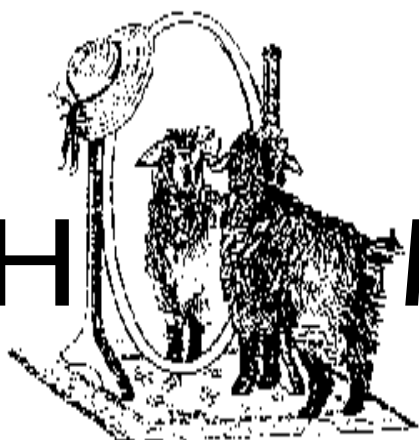


CASHMIRROR

February 2002

Volume 13, Issue 4



The monthly magazine devoted to cashmere goats and their fiber



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Boring (Yet Important) Technical Information

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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: GK B-40

Paul Johnson, Goat Knoll, Dallas, Oregon

"Bald is beautiful (and angry)."

Six Years of Cashmere Business Conferences!

A Comprehensive Reference for Cashmere Goats

PCMA Proceedings Books For Sale—While They Last

CashMirror has inherited the last of the PCMA Proceedings books. They are for sale. Profits from sale of these books will be used to sponsor *CashMirror* contests and promote other cashmere goat events as we see fit. These books will be available to surfers on the internet as well and we expect them to disappear quickly, so if you want one, you should order one soon.

These books contain the proceedings of six years' Professional Marketing Cashmere Association Business of Cashmere conferences held 1995 - 2000. The books contain all papers presented at these six conferences, neatly printed, organized into sections and bound in an attractive (large) 3-ring binder.

Fifty-one papers are included on subjects including cashmere goat management, fiber issues, using goats for weed control and farm financial planning and management (see index below). This book is a valuable reference tool for new or prospective cashmere producers as well as a good perspective for experienced cashmere producers on the business aspects of raising cashmere.

These books are only \$45 (plus \$5 for shipping costs if we mail them to you, extra charge for postage outside of U.S.). Order from *CashMirror* by check or credit card.

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Reflections

by Linda Fox

Living Within Your Eggs

We are down to one lonely chicken, compliments of Jill, our Border Collie. We had several chickens until I foolishly let them out of their pen to run free while I went down to the print shop. Jill, not being able to tolerate chickens running free, sprung the dog run gate latch and had a glorious afternoon of chicken carnage. It was a gruesome end, but one lone (wise) chicken sought refuge in the woods and came home the next day a little worse for the wear.

The good news was that it was almost winter anyway, so the egg laying had pretty much stopped. The bad news is that it is difficult to find a companion for a lone chicken to herd up with in the dead of winter, and I like eggs from my own chickens a lot better than I like eggs from the grocery store. So Survivor spent the winter alone with only an occasional human to cluck to. She did get the whole container of daily kitchen scraps for herself so being the sole chicken was not all bad.

Survivor has just started to lay eggs. When I first discovered that she had started to lay, there were nine big brown eggs in the nest in the hen house. The eggs multiplied before they were discovered because humans don't have to fill the chicken house food container very often for one lone chicken. Nine eggs were a real treat. We had been making do with pale, old store-bought eggs for several months. I admired those two fresh, dark yellow, perky eggs in the frying pan standing right up looking at me like...well, never mind. We had fried eggs and waffles for breakfast—five eggs down and cholesterol way up. Two more eggs were used to bake fresh cookies for company who arrived later in the day, and one more egg was used in the muffins for supper. Eight hours later, we were down to one egg. Where had all our eggs gone?

I could probably expect one more egg the next morning, but this would only give me two eggs to make it through the day. Once the chickens start laying, I like to plan around our supply, so we no longer have to use store eggs. With several chickens that means frequently giving away a dozen or two from time to time, but with just one chicken, I will need to plan ahead.

With two eggs to work with, scrambled eggs will be out—two eggs aren't enough to bother with for two people. If I make pancakes, we will be left with no eggs for the rest of the day and since the company ate all our cookies, we will be cookie-less for the evening. Paul wouldn't like that. He would probably revert to "town cookies" which is a poor substitute. We could have oatmeal for breakfast, reserving our egg quota for later in the day. Perhaps I could use one to make a small batch of cookies

and the other for a small batch of cornbread for tonight. We will learn to live within our eggs.

Budgeting for eggs is a challenge. You can save up eggs, by frugally eating breakfast cereal and lunch sandwiches. You have to save a long time for deviled eggs, especially if you are expecting guests. You need to spend a lot of eggs on a potato salad.

Sometimes I wonder if saving a bunch of eggs for some special dish costing a lot of eggs is really worth it. Souffles and omelets are wonderful, but when they're gone, what do you have to show for it? Also, do you save your eggs carefully for family and guest consumption—you may not want to admit to others that you're on a tight egg budget—or do you just use them until you're out, and when they're gone, they're gone and you don't especially care who knows it?

I suppose the ultimate question must be, am I truly happy with more eggs? I need a minimum amount of eggs to get by (I certainly can't be expected to live on town cookies forever!), but do I truly need more eggs beyond my basic needs?

I have it! I'll save my eggs, sell them and invest in another chicken (and a better latch for Jill's dog run). Another chicken might produce 200 or so eggs a year. That calculates to an annual return of 20,000% if my math is correct.

Or, better yet—I'll sell the dog (to someone without chickens) and buy a whole bunch of chickens and get a real return on my chickens!



Chicken house with a view. Chickens in the pen at Springtide Farm, Maine, enjoy a view of the ocean. Survivor's tribe, unfortunately, had a view of Jill's dog run.

When Readers Talk...



Dear Cashmirror Readers,

Over the last two years we have been researching getting set up in the fiber processing business. Last year we located an excellent dehairing machine made by Forte Cashmere, and excellent spinning machinery made by International Spinners. It appeared that we were well on our way to getting set up in a business that could offer both custom and bulk processing.

However, as the project has evolved, so has the price tag. We are now faced with either a large (up to \$350,000) debt, or finding some other ways to finance the startup costs for the business.

There has been a lot of interest expressed by growers around the country, and we really want to find a way to make this project work.

Several options come to mind, from setting up a cooperative or non-profit organization, to creating a producers' group with multiple ownership.

If you have ideas, would like to participate, or even take over the project yourself, please contact me by email, letter, or phone. Perhaps with a little long distance brainstorming we can get this processing business off the ground.

Hope to hear from you,

Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth
Springtide Farm
PO Box 203
Bremen, Maine 04551
telephone: 207-529-5747
email: wpieh@lincoln.midcoast.com

February 8, 2002



"More help than one needs!"
Walter Coombs with Fairlee in the feed bag



"Kimberly and family offering to help Walter."
Photographs by Myrna Coombs, Llone Pine Farm
Onoway, Alberta, Canada



Scrapie Information from Lincoln University
Goat Production Newsletter, 1/02

ERADICATE SCRAPIE!

Even though it is doubtful that any goat producer has ever seen an animal with Scrapie since there have been only 7 reported cases in the US in the last 11 years, there is a federal mandate to eradicate the disease in the US. We now have a mandatory National Scrapie program that needs your help and participation. If you have Internet capabilities, you can pull up information on www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie.

There are steps that need to be taken to participate in this program. As a goat producer, you are considered low risk if you do not have sheep on your farm. If you do have sheep, you are in the high risk area.

In the low risk commercial goat enterprise, you need no official ID of your goats. If you are registered and low risk, you need an official ID, which you probably have already in the tattoos in the ears or other means that you may use to ID your goats for registration.

In case of showing, especially across state lines, you will need a health certificate, registration papers and ID on your goats. If you are considered high risk, you need to call USDA APHIS and get a "premise number" and they will send you free ear tags or tell you how you can ID with ear tattoos or other means you may be using for ID in your herd.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact: Janeice Zahner, Po Box 104418, Jefferson City, MO. 65110 or e-mail: janeice.e.zahner@usdaaphis.usda.gov

Meat Goat Short Course—Missouri—3/29-30

Randy Saner, Regional Livestock Specialist and Helen Swartz, State Small Livestock Specialist at Lincoln University are co-sponsoring a two-day short course in West Plains, MO for meat goat producers, both beginners and intermediates on March 29-30, 2002. There will be lectures and hands-on sessions on various subjects. For information, contact Randy Saner, email: Sanerr@missouri.edu or by telephone at the University Outreach and Extension Office in West Plains, MO.

**What is the
National Institute for Animal Agriculture?**



The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) carries a strong legacy of providing the U.S. livestock industry with a forum to collectively address issues of common interest. The new organization, successor to the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI), is the result of a progressive process and vision that began in 1996 when the LCI Board of Directors commissioned a long range planning team to landscape an organization that would best serve animal agriculture in the 21st Century.

NIAA began operations in January 2000 and is collectively addressing issues of interest to the industry, providing vital industry information, continuing education and communication outlets for animal agriculture professionals. The mission of NIAA is to be the forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communication linkages to animal agriculture professionals.

NIAA's purpose is to provide a source for individuals, organizations, and the entire animal agriculture industry to get information, education and solutions for animal agriculture challenges. The new organization accomplishes this by coordinating and promoting industry programs and materials that assist animal agriculture professionals in addressing emerging and current issues. An important component of NIAA education and informational programs is the exchange of technical and other information.

The NIAA can be contacted at:

1910 Lyda Avenue
Bowling Green, KY 42104
Phone: (270) 782-9798
Fax: (270) 782-0188
Email: NIAA@animalagriculture.org
Internet: <http://www.animalagriculture.org>

SCRAPIE—Information from the National Institute for Animal Agriculture

November 2001

Details:

What You as a Producer Need to Know About the New Scrapie Eradication Program

The National Program to Eradicate Scrapie Needs Your Help and Participation

As a producer, you are the most important person in the effort to eradicate scrapie in our nation's sheep flocks and goat herds. You know your animals and you will be the first to see signs of the disease.

We understand that this is a difficult time for producers and we appreciate the fact that the eradication program will take scarce time, effort and resources from you, but we hope you will view the program as an investment in your future and the future of your industry.

So why do we ask you to make that investment, now?

- Scrapie is a nasty, difficult and dangerous disease because:
 - It is always fatal;
 - It can take up to six years or more to show clinical signs;
 - It is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), in the same category of diseases as the so-called "mad cow disease". Although there is no evidence that it can spread to humans either through consumption of meat or dairy products or through handling of animals, our industry

may be subject to the same negative public perceptions that afflict other species with TSEs.

- It is estimated that the annual cost of scrapie to producers is \$20-25 million, and that figure does **not** count losing export opportunities to two key competing countries, New Zealand and Australia, which are the only countries recognized as scrapie-free by the U.S.
- Currently scrapie does exist in the nation's sheep flocks and goat herds, but it is not rampant, so eradication efforts now are less costly than if the disease were to be left unchecked.
- A fair, workable indemnification program has been established to minimize producers' financial risks. The indemnification program is based on actual market prices, including a premium for registered animals.
- The existing, voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP), while small in scale, provides a source of scrapie-free replacement stock.

So please join in the fight to eradicate scrapie from the U.S.

General Information

The purpose of this information brochure is to provide you, as a sheep and/or goat producer with facts and details you'll need to help eradicate scrapie. Frankly, the goal of eradicating scrapie is a big one that will take a long time and the process is complicated.

Why is it complicated? There are several reasons. One is because the disease takes so long to manifest itself with clinical signs. Further, until recently there has been no live animal test for the disease, and the new test requires a lymphoid tissue biopsy of the third eyelid rather than a simple blood or urine test used to identify many other diseases.

And most importantly, the eradication process requires an identification system which allows diseased, exposed and high-risk individuals to be traced back to their flock/herd of origin so that the spread of scrapie within and from these flocks/herds can be prevented.

In setting up the eradication program, its planners considered several options for identification programs, including requiring individual identification of every sheep and goat in the U.S. In the end, they chose a more practical approach of eliminating the need for individual identification numbers and restrictive movements for non-breeding sheep (feeder/slaughter lambs) under 18 months of age and goats moving into slaughter channels. However, as exceptions were made, the rules and regulations of the program became somewhat complicated.

For that reason, to achieve the goal of telling you *what you need to know*, a fair amount of detail is needed. Toward that aim, we have arranged the compliance information in an **8 Step** system supported by charts and illustrations.

Continued on next page

Step #1: Determine if your sheep or goats need official ear tags or other official identification (ID) to move interstate.

The following groups need **no** ID and have **no** movement restrictions:

- All sheep under 18 months of age moving into slaughter channels
- All goats moving into slaughter channels
- Low-risk commercial goats which are defined as those:
 - raised for fiber and/or meat;
 - not registered or exhibited;
 - which have not been in contact with sheep;
 - not scrapie positive, high-risk or exposed animals;
 - not from an infected or source herd.
- Wethers for exhibition
- Animals moving for grazing, if no change in ownership occurs

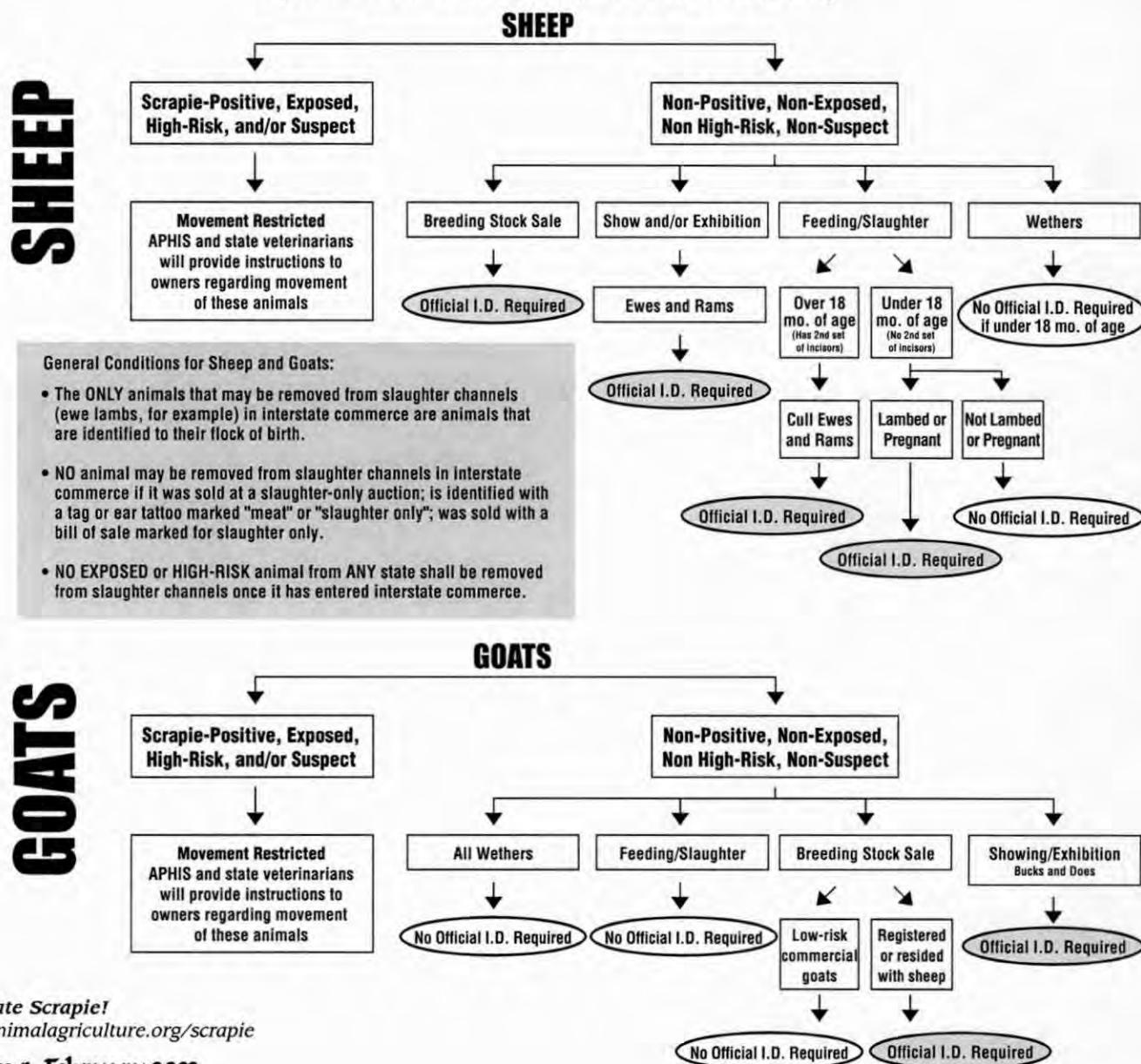
The following animals will need ID (ear tags or tattoos):

- All breeding sheep regardless of age.
- All sheep 18 months and older.
- All sheep and goats for exhibition other than castrated males.
- All scrapie-exposed, suspect, test-positive and high-risk animals.
- Breeding goats, except low-risk commercial goats.
- Sheep under 18 months in slaughter channels that are:
 - females which are pregnant or have aborted; or
 - sexually intact animals from a scrapie infected flock/herd.



Note: Animals currently participating in Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) will not need additional identification.

Identification requirements for sheep and goats in the scrapie eradication program
(Further details listed in Tables 1-4 on reverse side)



Step #4: Set up a system to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied.



If you apply tags to animals that were born in your flock or were used for breeding purposes in your flock, your records must contain the following information:

- Premises ID number or serial numbers applied;
- Date applied;
- Number of animals identified;
- For animals not born in your flock that are not

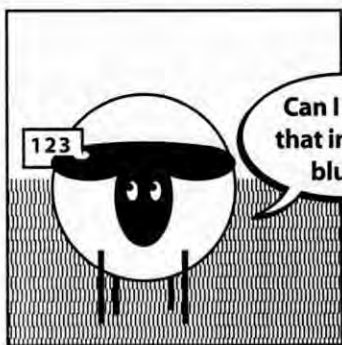
already identified to their flock of origin, you must record the individual number applied and their flock of origin.

While there is no official form for this information at this time, on the reverse side are sample formats you may wish to use.

If you are a dealer as well as a producer and apply tags to animals that are not part of your flock, your records must contain the following information:

- The date tagged and address where the official identification was applied;
- The person from whom the animals were received: name, address, and telephone number;
- The flock of origin: owner's name, address, and telephone number if different;
- Official individual ID numbers applied, and any other identification already in the sheep/goat.

Step #5: Apply official ID before sheep/goats leave your premises.



For most producers, the most practical time for applying ID is shortly before shipment. Of course, some prefer to do it at birth or shortly thereafter. You may also make arrangements to have the ID applied when your animals are first off-loaded when leaving your premises. You may do whatever is

practical so long as it complies with movement regulations.

Note:

1. SFCP identification is official identification for interstate movement.
2. Premises only identification is allowed for limited uses such as grazing and low-risk commercial flocks that use registered brands.
3. Individual registry tattoos issued by breed associations may be used as official identification. Holders of registry

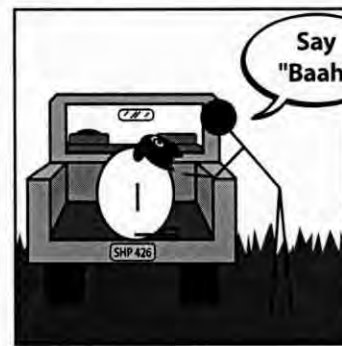
assigned tattoo prefixes should have these linked to their premises in the Scrapie National Database through their local APHIS, Veterinary Services Area Office.

4. If a sheep or goat loses an official ear tag, the person in possession of that animal should re-tag it and record all possible flocks/herds of origin.

Tag pliers

Producers that request USDA provided tags during FY 2001 and 2002 will receive one pair of tag pliers with their first order from USDA. Additional pliers may be requested at the producer's expense. Markets and producers that tag more than 500 sheep per year will be provided with a reasonable number of pliers for the number of animals tagged.

Step #6: Get a health certificate.



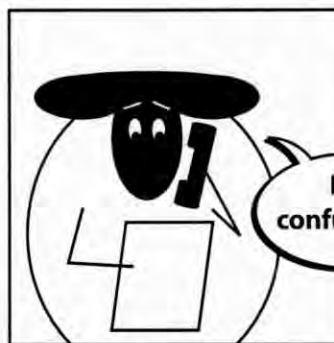
All breeding and sexually intact exhibition animals must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) issued no more than 30 days before shipment. These certificates must be issued by an accredited veterinarian.

Step #7: Retain ID records for 5 years.



You are required to keep all ID and health certificate records for five years even if the individuals have been slaughtered or have died from other causes.

Step #8: Call for help if needed.



APHIS-Veterinary Services, as well as state officials are **at your service**. They will do anything they can to answer your questions and to help you comply with this important program.

Feel free to call toll-free 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) or refer to the Internet at

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.htm. Phone numbers can be found in the government section of your phone book or at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm.

Step #2: Request a Premises (Flock) ID Number.

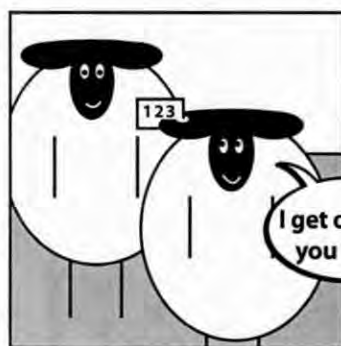


- To obtain a premises ID number, call your local APHIS, Veterinary Services office (or your state veterinarian's office if you live in Texas or Minnesota). The premises ID number for a farm/ranch will most likely be a state postal abbreviation followed by a two to five-digit number.

- Note: ID requirements will be in effect as of November

19, 2001 for most sheep and goats; February 19, 2002 for commercial whiteface breeding sheep under 18 months of age. For additional information, call toll free 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824).

Step #3: Determine which of the approved ear tags or other approved ID systems work best for you.



After receiving a premises ID number, producers will have four options for official ear tags. The tags described in the first three options will be provided free from USDA-APHIS to producers for the first two years of the program. (Note: Some states have decided to use only one type of USDA-provided tag. Please check

with the administering office in your state to confirm the type(s) of USDA-provided tags that will be available in the state.) Tattooing is also permitted as are paint brands and ear notching under certain limited conditions.

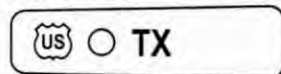
If you are using ear tags, you have the following options:

- Option #1** is a sequentially numbered alphanumeric (a combination of letters and numbers) white metal clip-style or white plastic rotary-type tag. These will be sent directly from the administering office or tag company to producers, veterinarians and markets.

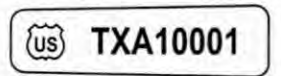
Tags with Unique Serial Numbers

Plastic Rotary Tags

Female Part

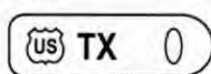


Male Part

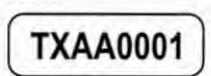


Metal Tags

Back



Front

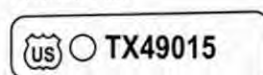


- Option #2*** is a white metal clip-style or white plastic rotary-type tag with a premises ID number and a serial number. These tags will be provided free, but only in quantities of 100 or more. They will have to be specially ordered by the administering office due to inclusion of the premises ID number.

Premises Tags with Unique Serial Numbers

Plastic Rotary Tags

Female Part



Male Part

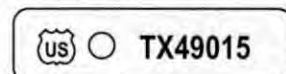


- Option #3** is a white metal clip-style or white plastic rotary-type tag with the premises ID number and an individual animal identification number that producers can select the sequence. This tag will be provided free but only in quantities of 100 or more. They will have to be specially ordered by the administering office due to inclusion of the premises ID number.

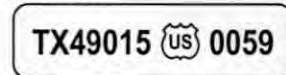
Premises Tags with Individual Animal Identification Numbers

Plastic Rotary Tags

Female Part

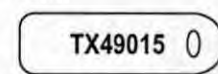


Male Part

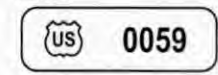


Metal Tags

Back



Front



- Option #4** is a custom order tag. These tags will be ordered and paid for by producers from approved tag manufacturers. A list of approved tag companies is being maintained on the APHIS scrapie web page, www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie. In addition to the premises ID number, these tags can have flock name, producer-selected animal identification numbers, and selected colors (except red and yellow metal tags, which are reserved for official state and federal use).

What do the different Official Tag colors represent?

- Yellow metal** tags are for use by State and Federal personnel to identify scrapie-exposed animals.
- Red metal** tags are for use by State and Federal personnel to identify scrapie-positive animals.

If you are using tattoos, you have the following options:

- Option #1:** Legible registration tattoos may be used to identify animals in interstate commerce when the animal is accompanied by their registration certificate or a health certificate listing the tattoo number.
- Option #2:** Request a premises ID number by calling your local area Veterinary Services Office (866-USDA-TAG). If you have a tattoo prefix assigned by a registry, such as "CBA", you will be assigned the state postal abbreviation followed by your existing prefix when possible. So if you live in Arkansas, for example, your number would be "ARCBA". If you tattoo your animal with this number and an individual number in the other ear, the animal, (i.e. a culled sheep or goat) does not need a certificate to move interstate.

Ears should be used for tattooing when possible. If there is no space in the ear, the entire premises ID number can be tattooed on the flank or tail fold.

Paint brands may be used for animals from low-risk commercial sheep moving directly to slaughter and for grazing if your state registers brands. Registered ear notches can be used for low-risk commercial flocks.

EAR TAGS APPLIED

[illegible]

***NOTE:** While this format may be used for animals not born in the flock that have official flock of origin/birth identification on them from another flock, it is advisable to list them on a separate sheet marked to show that they were not born in the flock or list them separately using the "Record of Tags Applied by Owner To Animals Not Born in the Flock" form (below) in case the flock of origin ID gets lost.

Record of Tags Applied by Owner to Animals Not Born in the Flock* (Optional Format)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
NO.	DATE TAGGED	ID NUMBER APPLIED	FLOCK OF ORIGIN ID NO. OR NAME & ADDRESS	FLOCK OF BIRTH ID NO. OR NAME & ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM FLOCK OF ORIGIN
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

***NOTE:** Columns (d) and (e) are not required for animals that have official flock of origin/birth identification on them; however, completing all columns is recommended in case the original ID is lost (see Step 4). Column (e) is not required for animals born before January 1, 2002.

Attached Tables

For your convenience, we have attached the following tables which summarize in one place shipment and identification requirements by type of animal. Again, please call (866-USDA-TAG) if you have any questions or need help.

Note: You may hear or read about "Consistent" and "Inconsistent" States regarding the movement of sheep and goats between states. Please note that all 50 states are currently "Consistent", so there are **no** current restrictions on movement of animals based on states classified as "Inconsistent."

Table 1. Sale or movement of breeding, show and/or exhibition animals

Animal Type	Required Identification
Sexually intact sheep/goats (except these specifically listed below in this table)	Official individual animal and premises identification and a health certificate. For any animal born after 1-1-2002, the health certificate must include the flock of birth AND the flock of origin, if different.
Low-risk commercial goats (of any sex) & castrated animals	None, except scrapie-exposed animals.
Low-risk commercial sheep is defined as • an animal from a low-risk flock that is a commercial whiteface, whiteface cross or a commercial hair sheep with no known risk factors for scrapie including any exposure to female blackface sheep • identified with a legible, registered permanent brand or ear notch pattern (includes states that recognize brands placed on ear tags as official brands) • not scrapie-positive, suspect, high-risk, exposed animal, and • not from an infected, source or exposed flock • existing in a state where scrapie has not been diagnosed in the previous 10 years in commercial whiteface, whiteface cross or a commercial hair sheep that were not commingled with female blackface sheep.	Official premises identification that is a permanent brand or ear notch pattern registered with an official brand registry; A brand inspection certificate; Owner statement dated within 30 days of movement stating that the animals were born in the flock and that the flock does not contain any animal exhibiting signs of scrapie, that to the best of his/her knowledge the flock has no risk factors for or exposure to scrapie and has never contained: - any animal diagnosed as having scrapie; - any female blackfaced sheep; or - any female blackfaced cross sheep that were not born in the flock. An accredited veterinarian's statement issued within 12 months of the date of movement indicating that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the flock has no known risk factors for or exposure to scrapie, and that he/she has inspected flock and it does not contain: - any animal exhibiting signs of scrapie; - any female blackfaced sheep; or - any female blackfaced cross sheep that were not born in the flock. These statements must include the owner's name, address, and the premises identification number and a drawing of the owner's registered brand or ear notch pattern.
Scrapie-exposed, sexually-intact animals and animals from an infected or source flock that are not scrapie-positive, suspect, or high-risk animals	Movement restricted: The APHIS/State veterinarian will provide instructions to owners of these animals.
High-risk, scrapie-positive, or suspect animals, or animals from noncompliant flock	Movement prohibited. These animals are eligible for indemnity.

Table 2. Slaughter animals that are under 18 months of age¹

Animal Type	Required Identification
Sexually intact sheep or goats that are not scrapie-positive, suspect, high-risk, or exposed animals and are not from an infected source flock	None
Castrated animals that are not scrapie-positive or suspect animals	None
Scrapie-exposed and high risk animals or animals from an infected or source flocks that are sexually intact animals and that are not scrapie-positive or suspect	Movement restricted: The APHIS/State veterinarian will provide instructions to owners of these animals.
Scrapie-positive or suspect animals	Prohibited. These animals are eligible for indemnity.

¹ Age determined by a lack of eruption of the second incisor. These animals are **not pregnant** and have **not lambed** and are being sold directly to slaughter, through slaughter channels to slaughter, or to feedlots for later movement to slaughter.

Table 3. Slaughter animals that are over 18 months of age²

Animal Type	Required Identification
Sheep over 18 months of age except these specifically listed below in this table.	Official individual animal and premises identification (Exception: no requirement for official individual animal ID or official premises ID for these slaughter animals if the animals are kept as a group on the same premises on which they were born or used for breeding purposes and are not commingled with animals from another premises at any time, including throughout the feeding, marketing, and slaughter process.)
Low-risk commercial sheep (as defined in Table 1)	Official premises identification that is a permanent legible brand or ear notch pattern registered with an official brand registry or for animals moving directly to slaughter may be a legible paint brand registered with an official brand registry; A brand inspection certificate; An owner's statement dated within 30 days of the movement stating that the flock does not contain any animal exhibiting signs of scrapie, and to the best of his/her knowledge the flock has no risk factors for or exposure to scrapie and has never contained: - any animal diagnosed as having scrapie; - any female blackfaced sheep; or - any female blackfaced cross sheep that were not born in the flock. An accredited veterinarian's statement issued within 12 months of the date of movement indicating that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the flock has no known risk factors for or exposure to scrapie, and that he/she has inspected the flock and it does not contain: - any animal exhibiting signs of scrapie; - any female blackfaced sheep; or - any female blackfaced cross sheep that were not born in the flock. These statements must include the owner's name, address, and the premises identification number and a drawing of the owner's registered brand or ear notch pattern.
Normal goats over 18 months of age with no history of scrapie	None
Scrapie-exposed and high risk animals or animals from an infected or source flock that are sexually intact animals and that are not scrapie-positive or suspect animals	Movement restricted: The APHIS/State veterinarian will provide instructions to owners of these animals.
Scrapie-positive or suspect animals	Movement prohibited. These animals are eligible for indemnity.

² Age determined by eruption of the second incisor. These animals are either pregnant or have lambled and are for sale or other movement direct to slaughter, through slaughter channels to slaughter, or to feedlots for later movement to slaughter.

Table 4. Movement of animals for grazing or other similar management purposes without change of ownership

Animal Type	Required Identification
Sexually intact sheep or goats* that are not scrapie-positive, suspect, high-risk, or exposed animals and are not animals from an infected or source flock	None *The goats are exempt from ID if they have not commingled with sheep.
Castrated animals that are not scrapie-positive or suspect animals and are not an animal from an infected or source flock	None
Scrapie-exposed and non-high-risk animals from an infected or source flock that are sexually intact animals that are not scrapie-positive, suspect or high-risk animals	Movement restricted: The APHIS/State veterinarian will provide instructions to owners of these animals.
Scrapie-positive, suspect, or sexually intact high-risk animals	Movement prohibited. These animals are eligible for indemnity.

**Summary: Scrapie Eradication Program
Identification Requirements**

Step #1:

Determine if your sheep or goats need official ear tags or other official identification (ID) to move interstate.

Step #2:

Request a Premises (Flock) ID Number.

Step #3:

Determine which of the approved ear tags or other approved ID systems work best for you.

Step #4:

Set up a system to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied.

Step #5:

Apply official ID before sheep/goats leave your premises (or arrange for application elsewhere).

Step #6:

Get a health certificate.

Step #7:

Retain ID records for 5 years.

Step #8:

Call toll-free for help if needed.

866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824)

Clinical Signs of Scrapie

- Weight loss despite retention of appetite
- Behavioral changes
- Itching and rubbing
- Wool pulling
- Biting at legs or side
- Lip smacking
- Loss of coordination
- Increased sensitivity to noise and movement
- High-stepping gait of forelimbs
- Bunny-hop movement of rear
- Swaying of back end
- Tremor
- Down, unable to stand
- Death

You may view a video of clinical signs at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.

More information about the new scrapie eradication program, including a section of Questions and Answers (Q & A), is available on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie.



How to Sell Bald Goats

By Linda Fox

The time when more buyers are looking for goats seems to be in the early spring, when nice weather looks promising and the weeds are starting to take over. Unfortunately, this is not when our goats look their most saleable. Have you ever had problems trying to convince a potential customer how great your goats will look after they grow all their cashmere—while observing them in a semi-bald state? In late winter/early spring when your newly-shorn herd is quite naked and possibly sporting tufts of hair here and there, remnants from a less-than-perfect shearing job, is not the best time to convince a potential buyer that this is the goat they must have. The time when your goats look the best is when they have a good coat of cashmere and guard hair, when the weather is gloomy and they are often too pregnant for safe transport even if you did want to sell them pregnant and fleeced.

For those who have owned cashmere goats a while, we find much to admire in bald goats. Paul and I admired B-40, at right, for quite a while after shearing, before we released her from the restraint. She had a very nice, well-formed body hidden under her mountain of fuzz. We liked her so much, in fact, that we're thinking we really should give her a name.

So, even though we producers admire the bald goats with good bodies and appreciate the baldness even on the less perfect goats—for a chance to see unobstructed just what lies underneath—new goat owners or those prospective goat owners will no doubt prefer goats with longer hair. I know this is yet another case for combing, as opposed to shearing, but stay with me a while on this...

This year, before shearing, with the aid of our new digital camera, we are trying to solve this problem of untimely nakedness. After placing the goat in the stand and brushing off any loose hay, dirt, or other undesirables, we snapped a photograph. Since the photograph was taken with a digital camera we could quickly review the photo to make sure it was suitable for our needs. If it was not, we immediately erased it and took another.

Our digital camera assigns each photograph a cryptic file name and saves it on the camera's removable memory card. We tracked the order of the photographs on our barn worksheet to assist us in identifying the photographs later on. When we were done, we transferred the camera's files to our computer, and renamed them using the goat's name or number for easier identification of the picture files. Even though I had anticipated needing to use the barn worksheet to identify the pictures, it was easy to tell who most of them were without this aid. When I wasn't sure which goat was pictured, I found I could usually enlarge the photo enough to read the ear tag.

Continued on next page



This is B-40, fully-fleeced on January 26th, 10:00 AM. It's snowing outside and she's wondering why her people picked this particular day to steal her coat!



B-40, January 26th, 10:05 AM. She was a bit miffed here, but developed a better attitude after being given extra grain and hay for several days to help her keep warm.

Bald Goats

Continued from previous page

These photographs are now safely stored in a file folder on my computer, easily available for printing if the need arises. They are also handy for email attachments if someone wants to see a photograph of a particular goat.

Another use of the photographs could be a link up with a computer data base record for your goats. The photograph could remain in the separate file, handy for other uses, but be linked to a particular goat's record in the data base file. When you access a goat's record, either on the screen or in print, along with the record of ancestors, progeny and fleece information, you could also have included a recent (fully-fuzzed) photograph of the animal.

You may be thinking I'm a genius coming up with this grand idea, however, I actually stole it from a fellow at work who had developed a data base tracking system for the employees in their department. He was showing me their new system to see if we gnomes in accounting had any suggestions for improvements. As he scanned through the staffing records, along with other statistics for each employee, was a smiling photograph which they had captured with their digital camera. When I saw this, I immediately thought of how great that would be for our goat records. (What I said was "Great idea, Jeff.")

If the photographs are kept in a separate file, rather than as a part of the database, they could be replaced with a more recent photograph each year and would automatically still be linked to their original spot in the data base.

Even without a digital camera, you could still make use of these ideas. You could take an annual photograph with a traditional camera, label it and keep it with your goats' records. If you have a scanner, you could scan the photographs for inclusion with your computer records. Also, many film developers these days give you the option of returning your photographs digitally, as well as the printed copies. These digital files can be manipulated and stored for other uses.

We took our photographs after only a brief spiff-up of the goat with a brush. After the photograph, we trimmed feet and then sheared and gave them their CD&T vaccination. Next year, we will trim feet before taking the photograph. I notice on some of our photos, the feet would look better and perhaps the goat would stand a bit straighter after a trim. Next year also, I will place a solid surface (like a piece of plywood) in back of the goat for better contrast, especially on the dark colored goats, like B-40 and Annie. This year, when photographing, we didn't pay attention to what was behind them and often buckets, equipment, other goats and people are included with the goat. Even though these distractions can be removed with photo manipulation programs, they could easily be removed up front with a little attention by the photographer. I think that next year,



Annie before shearing—looks pretty impressive.



Annie after shearing—she doesn't look nearly as pettable.

we might also take two photographs of each goat, so that we have a choice. A couple of photographs were out of focus, even though we thought we had carefully previewed them.

Scrapie Information—August 2001

USDA, AHIS Veterinary Services

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/fsscrapie.html>

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is among a number of diseases classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Infected flocks that contain a high percentage of susceptible animals can experience significant production losses. Over a period of several years the number of infected animals increases, and the age at onset of clinical signs decreases making these flocks economically unviable.

Animals sold from infected flocks spread scrapie to other flocks. The presence of scrapie in the United States also prevents the export of breeding stock, semen, and embryos to many other countries. TSEs are the subject of increased attention and concern because of the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, the link between BSE and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in people, and feline spongiform encephalopathy (FSE) in cats in Europe.

This increased concern has led to the following: Packers and producers have had difficulty finding options for disposal of sheep offal and dead sheep causing packers and producers to incur significant increases in disposal costs. Other countries have expressed concerns and have indicated that they may prohibit or restrict certain ruminant products because the United States has scrapie, and domestic and international markets for U.S. sheep-derived meat and bone meal have been adversely affected. The combination of all of these factors has led to the decision to develop a strong scrapie eradication program in the United States.

Epidemiology and Transmission

The agent responsible for scrapie and other TSEs is smaller than the smallest known virus and has not been completely characterized. There are three main theories on the nature of the scrapie agent:

- (1) the agent is a virus with unusual characteristics,
- (2) the agent is a prion, which is a malformed protein in the brain, and
- (3) the agent is a virino, a very small piece of DNA that acts like a virus.

The scrapie agent is extremely resistant to heat and to normal sterilization processes. It does not evoke any detectable immune response or inflammatory reaction in host animals.

The scrapie agent is thought to be spread most commonly from the ewe to her offspring and to other lambs through contact with the placenta and placental fluids. Signs or effects of the disease usually appear 2 to 5 years after the animal is infected but may not appear until much later.

Continued on next page

Ear Tags for Scrapie Identification From USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services

To receive official sheep and goat ear tags for interstate movement: Contact your local Veterinary Services Area Office and request that a premises identification number be assigned to your flock.

If you want to use USDA ear tags that are provided free to producers, request the number of tags that you will need for the next two to three years at that time. Or, if you would prefer to purchase a different kind of ear tag, contact one of the approved tag companies listed below to purchase the ear tags. Approved ear tag companies offer a wider range of colors and styles.

Hasco Tag Company
POB 74130, Dayton, KY 41074-0130
Phone: (859) 261-6000
Fax: (859) 261-6002
E-mail: hasco_tags@fuse.net
Contact: Sallie Schmidt

Premier Sheep Supplies, Ltd.
2031 300th Street, Washington, IA 52353
Phone: (800) 282-6631
Fax: (800) 346-7992
E-mail: ssexton@premierlsupplies.com
Contact: Ms. Stephanie Sexton

National Band and Tag Company
721 York Street, POB 72430, Newport, KY 41072-0430
Phone: (859) 261-2035
Fax: (800) 261-8247
E-mail: tags@nationalband.com
<http://www.nationalband.com/>
Contact: Mr. Kevin Haas

All three are officially approved tag companies. The tags are available in metal from Hasco and NBT; and in plastic from Premier and NBT in various colors. Producers are required to pay for these tags. These ear tags are approved for the official identification of sheep and goats in interstate commerce. They are not approved for use in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program.

Last updated: 10/23/2001

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie/approved-tag-co.html>

Scrapie

Continued from previous page

Sheep may live 1 to 6 months or longer after the onset of clinical signs, but death is inevitable. The genetics of the sheep affects their susceptibility to scrapie. In the laboratory, the scrapie agent has been transmitted to hamsters, mice, rats, voles, gerbils, mink, cattle, and some species of monkeys by inoculation. There is no scientific evidence to indicate that scrapie poses a risk to human health. There is no epidemiologic evidence that scrapie of sheep and goats is transmitted to humans, such as through contact on the farm, at slaughter plants, or butcher shops.

Clinical Signs

Signs of scrapie vary widely among individual animals and develop very slowly. Due to damage to nerve cells, affected animals usually show behavioral changes, tremor (especially of head and neck), pruritus, and locomotor incoordination that progresses to recumbency and death. Early signs include subtle changes in behavior or temperament. These changes may be followed by scratching and rubbing against fixed objects, apparently to relieve itching. Other signs are loss of coordination, weight loss despite retention of appetite, biting of feet and limbs, lip smacking, and gait abnormalities, including high-stepping of the forelegs, hopping like a rabbit, and swaying of the back end. An infected animal may appear normal if left undisturbed at rest. However, when stimulated by a sudden noise, excessive movement, or the stress of handling, the animal may tremble or fall down in a convulsive-like state.

Several other problems can cause clinical signs similar to scrapie in sheep, including the diseases ovine progressive pneumonia, listeriosis, and rabies; the presence of external parasites (lice and mites); pregnancy toxemia; and toxins.

On the farm, veterinarians diagnose scrapie based on the appearance of its signs combined with knowledge of the animal's history. There is a test currently undergoing evaluation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for scrapie detection in live animals. Scrapie can currently only be confirmed by microscopic examinations of brain tissue at necropsy or by procedures that detect the presence of the abnormal prion protein.

Research

Scrapie research efforts are currently focused on developing a practical live-animal test to diagnose infected sheep before they show signs, investigating transmissibility of the agent, identifying the scrapie agent and its different strains, identifying genes that influence scrapie infection and evaluating genetic selection as a tool for scrapie control, and examining the role of artificial insemination and embryo transfer in the transmissibility of the scrapie agent. Research studies using experimentally infected sheep suggest that embryos may play a role in the spread of scrapie.

Related Diseases

The TSE family of diseases includes BSE: transmissible mink encephalopathy; FSE; chronic wasting disease of deer and elk; kuru; both classical and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker syndrome; and fatal familial insomnia. TSEs have also been reported in Europe in captive wild ruminants in the bovid family, cats, and monkeys. The occurrence of TSEs in captive wild animals is believed to have resulted from BSE-contaminated feed.

Control Program

USDA has initiated an accelerated scrapie eradication program. The program is based on the following key concepts: Identification of preclinical infected sheep through live animal testing and active slaughter surveillance, effective tracing of infected animals to their flock/herd of origin made possible as a result of the new identification requirements, and providing effective cleanup strategies that will allow producers to stay in business, preserve breeding stock, and remain economically viable.

APHIS will do this by providing the following to exposed and infected flocks/herds that participate in cleanup plans: Indemnity for high-risk, suspect, and scrapie positive sheep and goats,

Continued on next page



I only "goat" eyes for you, valentine...

Scrapie

Continued from previous page

which owners agree to destroy, scrapie live-animal testing, genetic testing, and testing of exposed animals that have been sold out of infected and source flocks/herds. Operating an effective program to deal with this insidious disease requires cooperation among producer organizations, allied industries, and governmental agencies.

History

First recognized as a disease of sheep in Great Britain and other countries of Western Europe more than 250 years ago, scrapie has been reported throughout the world. Only two countries are recognized by the United States as being free of scrapie: Australia and New Zealand.

The first case of scrapie in the United States was diagnosed in 1947 in a Michigan flock. The flock owner had imported sheep of British origin through Canada for several years. From this first case through July 2001, scrapie has been diagnosed in more than 1,000 flocks in this country.

In the United States, scrapie has primarily been reported in the Suffolk breed. It also has been diagnosed in a Border Leicester, Cheviots, Corriedales, a Cotswold, Dorsets, Finn sheep, Hampshires, Merinos, Montadales, Rambouillets, Shropshires, Southdowns, and a number of crossbreeds. Through August 2001, approximately 1,600 cases in sheep and 7 cases in goats have been reported.

Additional Information

For more information about scrapie, contact your local APHIS, Veterinary Services, Area Office or contact: USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Animal Health Programs, 4700 River Road, Unit 43, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, Telephone (301) 734-6954, Fax (301) 734-7964

Current information on animal diseases and suspected outbreaks is also available on the Internet. Point your Web browser to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> to reach the APHIS home page.



Fiona (left) meets Rose. Photograph by Wendy Pieh, Springtide Farm, Bremen, Maine.



Goat Ranching— Not So Bad!

By Steve Hachenberger, Castle Crags Ranch, Hamilton, MT

There comes a time in every goat farmer's mind when you wonder if this thing you do is really worth the effort. The news across the United States rarely is about the success of farmers of any kind, rather which type of financial problems have beset them.

It is important to remember some very important aspects that all of us who read the Cashmirror have in common. First and foremost is that all of us are farmers. We all have a direct interest in life and the promotion of the same. We also have a common goal to attend to the needs of an ever-growing food supply problem that plagues most of the world today.

Today our "breed"—the people that feed the world and provide all the textiles and fiber—represent only a fraction of the number of producers of only one generation ago. Most of us can remember going to the grandparents' farms for the summer. Most people of the newer generations only see this on the television. Most people are so disconnected from nature that they have no clue just where their food comes from...let alone just what type of animal it came from or what it may look like!

This brings me to the point of just who we are...us goat farmers. Well, we are not just the joke at the local bar or store, or people to be poked fun of at dinner parties. We are something many people have forgotten. We are farmers and ranchers. It really does not matter what kind of crop we raise. There is a definite need for the products we raise and the improvement we make to the land and the people. Of all the things I am glad I have done in my life, one of the most important is my connection to farming and those people in the industry.

There can be no comparison to any other field so directly connected to our survival on this planet. I am proud to be a goat farmer and to be given a chance to do something most people can only dream about.

I personally grew up in Los Angeles. I had little or no idea about farm life. Now, I sit on my bed not watching the morning news for the headlines...but rather in anticipation of the weather report. There are no lines of cars on freeways or the haze of smog outside, just the sound of goats calling to be fed and rain on the roof. I never thought I would be doing this and I would not trade this experience for anything.

As you read this magazine ask yourself if the business you are in has any real benefit to it. If it's money that comes into your mind, then ask yourself, "At what cost would you sell your ex-

perience for?"

You will find that the answer lies in all of us as a basic need to be connected with the land and it's the animals and our food supply. Once we have harvested our crop or raised our animals we gain perspective into just how important we really are.

The ever-changing climate of farming will change with the economy and the cost to farm. One thing that will never change is a farmer's desire and love for growing his/her crop.

So, the next time somebody asks you why you raise sheep for mohair, you can reply, "It's goats, you idiot! And the sweater you have on is cashmere! And it comes from a cashmere goat...and NO! We don't milk them! Any by the way...MOST of the world eats goats and sheep!"

Never, never put a price tag on your happiness. You will look back some day and be proud that you are a part of this thing we call farming and ranching!





International

Men with a Purpose
Men with a Vision
Men with Goats

Join them today!

NWCA Meets ECA

Story and photographs by Diana Mullins
Still Waters Cashmere, Twisp, Washington

Almost 40 years ago I lived in New York City and like most New Yorkers, ventured up to Maine in the summer. I had not been back for a visit since that time but my memories of New England's beauty have never faded. My husband, Moon, and I finally decided to fly back to the East Coast for a short visit in September.

We flew into Hartford, Connecticut, rented a car and within 3½ hours found ourselves crossing the border into Maine. Although I really wanted my husband to see New England, I had ulterior motives—what else?—To meet cashmere goat breeders. Prior to our leaving home, I had contacted Marilyn Ackley and Wendy Pieh to find out if we might visit their farms. They both graciously extended invitations, so with no set plan except to visit a few farms, and Mini Mills on Prince Edwards Island, we were free to enjoy all the gorgeous countryside and wonderful fall weather in between.

Our first stop was a visit with Wendy Pieh and Peter Goth, whose home is right on the coast outside of Bremen. They offered to let us stay in their boat house. It was right on the harbor with an awe inspiring view—lobster boats et al. Wendy and Peter gave us a tour of their farm with two barns to die for. True to my memories of Maine, their farm had the rock fences, treed hills and rocky ground. What more could a cashmere goat want? You can tell from the picture (next page) that Wendy loves her animals. I must admit, though, that I was most impressed by the way Wendy grained her goats. She calls them into the barn where they each go to their individual dish. She collars them and puts grain in their dish.

After they have all been fed, she unties them and out they go to the field. As I watched this unbelievable performance, I flashed on being nearly trampled to death by my herd of goats as they race for their grain. Besides working on their barn, goats, horses, Peter is the emergency room doctor for the local hospital. They have been trying very hard on the possibility of a dehairing business and as of the last conversation, are still working on a feasible plan. One last note on our stay. We got to eat fresh lobster and Wendy showed me how to eat it the way the locals do. Fresh lobster for me is the greatest of feasts!!

Wendy took us over to Lance and Yvonne Taylor's farm the next day. Yvonne was unable to be there but Lance showed us all around their beautiful farm. Lance and Wendy are standing in front of the Taylor's lovely home. Again the wonderful rock fences and hills. We saw their goats with the very long guard hair and as we walked over the hill, the goats seemed very friendly. I understand Yvonne takes her herd for walks down the road in the evenings. Again I reflect on my management skills. I obviously have a lot of work ahead.

Their lovely home was set to take in the full view of their pastures and a very serene atmosphere.

We left Wendy and Peter the next morning and decided to try to find Linda Cortright's farm. We had been unable to



Springtide Farm, Bremen, Maine. Wendy Pieh and (well-trained) friends.



Black Locust Farm, Washington, Maine: Lance Taylor and visitor Wendy Pieh.

reach her by phone so just wandered around until we found her. We barged right in surprising Linda and her guest in the buck pen where Linda was showing her goats. Although Linda's herd is smaller than some, she obviously still gives them lots of love and care. Her home is a "work in progress" (like most of us country folk) but it is very attractive and again has a great view of the surrounding fields. We had a great visit and look forward to getting to hear more about her fiber business on our next visit East.

With 3 farms behind us, we headed for Prince Edward Island and Mini Mills. The trip across New Brunswick was so peaceful as it is mainly farming country—still untouched by the housing development frenzy. One small thrill was crossing the 9 mile bridge to PEI in a wind and rain storm. It is a fantastic bridge but best seen in good weather. PEI is a patchwork of small farms,

Continued on next page

NWCA Meets ECA

Continued from previous page

few fences and neat as a pin. We stayed at a bed and breakfast called the Fiddle Farm where the owner was a violin maker and the wife a gourmet cook. Can't do any better. The next day we spent at Mini Mills seeing their entire operation. Moon went immediately to the area where Doug manufactures the equipment. I headed for the fiber area where Linda and Hazel do the processing. We were pleased with what we saw and were very impressed with the care each person's fiber received. They are dedicated to doing the very best possible job.

Our return to the United States took us back to Maine and a stop at Marilyn and Wes Ackley's farm. It was a beautiful day and we sat under an apple tree on the hill overlooking their herd and surrounding countryside. Their farm was so neat and common to most of us, also had a house that was "work in progress". We had some delicious apple cake and spent our time sharing about goats—of course. Marilyn and Wes are standing in front of their home and giving us instructions on how to head for our next destination.

As we drove away from their home and our last planned cashmere goat farm visit, I felt so good to have been able to "connect" with the cashmere breeders I had read about for so long. Even though our topography is different and each person's management skills are determined by personalities, needs and time, we all seem to share the same commitment to taking good care of our animals and keeping our industry moving forward. Some breeders are focusing on fiber products, some on furthering dehairing in the U.S., some help keep the co-op functioning, some pushing for weed control and some the sale of cashmere for meat. Regardless of where our special interests fall, it was obvious that none of us on either coast wants to quit. There really is a place of us in the scheme of things here in American and each year our circumstances improve.

All the way home I kept thinking about all the neat people that we met. Due to our flight being cancelled on September 11th, we went to the Garden State Cashmere show and met even more cashmere owners. I also can't help but wonder how

many goat owners are out there between the east and west coasts. There must be many of you and if you want to feel "connected" to other breeders, just get in touch with either the ECA or the NWCA and tell us all about your farm.

Finally I want to thank all of the thoughtful people we met on our trip who took the time to show us around and share their animals with us. Hopefully, some of you will be able to come West and we can return your hospitality.

Moon and Diana Mullins
Still Waters Cashmere



Grumble Goat Farm, Union, Maine: The beautiful woodsy view from Linda Cortright's back yard.



Bessey Place Cashmere, Buckfield, Maine: Marilyn and Wes Ackley in front of their farm home.

Is it a Disease? Or is it a Parasite?

What do you mean, you don't care? A question has been plaguing me for some time—at least since last month when I ran across it in my old college biology textbook when looking for meningeal worm information—When is a health problem considered an infectious disease and when is it considered merely a parasite problem? It seems that parasites (such as meningeal worms) are spread from host to host as are infectious diseases (such as tetanus). Each is caused by a “bug” of some sort and each makes us or our animals sick. How oh how will we ever be able to refer to specific ailments by the proper biological category over cocktail conversation at our next formal dinner party? Life is about the little things.

One distinction used is length of time of the ailment. Parasitism is generally considered a long-term or permanent relationship between the host and the parasite, while disease is generally caught and (hopefully) cured. Actually, it is always cured one way or the other—a dead animal is certainly no longer sick. You can think of the disease as the ultimate battle between good and evil. Either the good guy (your livestock) or the bad guys (the disease) will win. It's a shootout at the OK Corral with one party laying in the dirt at the end of the day and the other blowing the smoke off the end of the pistol (a very small pistol if the bug wins).

Another distinction, per the old book, is the size of the offending “bug”. A sickness is a disease if it is caused by a virus or bacterium, relative small fry in the causative agent lineup. It is considered a parasitic problem if caused by a larger agent, such as house-sized fleas. However this “get over it or die” distinction can conflict with the “size of the bug” distinction. The ringworm fungus, which we consider a parasite, can be cured. However, Herpes simplex, which we consider a disease, is caused by a virus and is a permanent ailment.

Ecologically and economically, there are no important differences between disease and parasitism. They are both serious problems for livestock producers, as well as human beings in general.

Disease and parasitism are influenced heavily by density of the population. The closer individuals (or goats) live together, the more likely they are to pass diseases and parasites between them. Also, more individuals give the disease microorganisms plentiful reservoirs in which to develop mutant virulent strains of the disease.

Reference

1981, Wallace, King & Sanders, Biology of Life

Small “Bugs”

Virus: A small (very small, as in submicroscopic) noncellular organism transmitted as DNA or RNA enclosed in a membrane or protein coat, often together with one or a few enzymes, replicating only within a host cell, utilizing host ribosomes and enzymes of synthesis. Viruses are smaller than bacteria. Viruses can infect bacteria.

Bacterium (plural = bacteria): A large, widely distributed group of typically one-celled microorganisms, chiefly parasitic (live on live hosts) or saprophytic (live on dead hosts). They exhibit three chief typical shapes: spherical, rod-shaped, and spiral or threadlike. Many bacteria are disease-producing and many are active in processes such as fermentation, the conversion of dead organic matter into soluble food for plants, and the fixing of atmospheric nitrogen. They're not all evil.

Large “Bugs”



Tick



Flea



Lice

Kid Shots!

Compliments of Diana Mullins, Still Waters Cashmere, Twisp, Washington



Another way to feed a kid.



Kids in a box.



Six is a crowd!

Calendar of Events

Association Contacts

March 22 - 24, 2002

Fibers Through Time 2002, Central Arizona College, Coolidge, Arizona. A conference sponsored by the Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds. Contact: Patricia Springer, 21609 N. 145th Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-546-1691, rjsaz@worldnet.att.net

April 27-28, 2002

Multibreed Fiber Animal Show, Gunnison, Colorado, sponsored by Get Your Goat 4-H Club. 4-H and open divisions for goats, alpacas, llamas, rabbits, sheep. Cashmere Goat Show (April 28th), bronwyn Schuetze, Judge. Showmanship clinic, vendors, spinning competitions. For more info: Gunnison County Extension, 970-641-1260.

May 4 - 5, 2002

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, Baltimore, Maryland. For information: PO Box 99, Glenwood, MD 21738, 410-531-3647, email: info@sheepand-wool.org

May 4 - 5, 2002

Tennessee Animal/Pet Exp & Sale, Nashville, Tennessee. Horses, miniature horses, miniature donkeys, miniature cattle, zebras, camels, llamas, goats, sheep, rabbits birds, poultry, reptiles, puppies, kittens, pocket pets, and exotics. Info: Doris or Ron Williams 615-449-6827, <http://www.lucky11farm.com>

June 1 - 2, 2002

Southwest Montana Flock and Fiber Festival, Dillon Montana. Farm management and fiber arts workshops, wool and commercial sheep show, mohair and cashmere goat show, fleece show and sale, vendor booths, demonstrations, children's events, farm photo contest. For more information: www.gjfarm.com/Festival.html or contact: Drin Becker, phone: 406-834-3444.

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 17 - 20, 2001

Third National Small Farm Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Training for specialists, technicians, farm advocates/entities. For info: Denis Ebodaghe, USDA, email debodaghe@reeusda.gov, phone: 202-401-4385.

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,

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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,

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DOUBLE OUGHT RANCH

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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>

Do Chickens Have Skins?

You've heard of kid gloves and ostrich boots? Well make way for chicken leather! RIRDC, an Australian government research and information organization, recently announced the results of their study of chicken skins.

Their idea was that if you could add value to a laying hen at the end of her life cycle, you'd be able to add about \$1 per hen to a carcass currently worth only about 70 cents at the slaughter facility. An old hen sports about one square foot of skin which they figure they could make into leather pieces to cover four key ring tags, if they were careful.

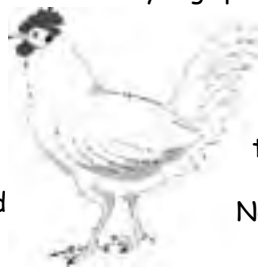
There are about 10 million laying hens that complete their productive life cycle each year. The \$1 return from the leather of each chicken is attainable with current technology. However, if a processing problem could be solved, there would be even more profit from chicken leather.

It seems that in the standard brineing, fleshing, liming, pickling and tanning procedure, half of the resulting chicken leather suffered from delamination. The surface grain leather of the skin wanted to separate from the lower skin layers, and chicken leather without that fashionable grain layer is just not the same.

The RIRDC recommended further development work be conducted to try and solve the delamination problem.

I assume that the RIRDC has also assured themselves that there will be a market for 40 million chicken skin key tags each year (10 million chicken carcasses times 4 key tags per chicken). There are about 6.2 billion people on this planet at present. Will one in every 155 people purchase a new chicken keychain each year? They might have to consider giving them out with MacDonald's Happy Meals to make their quota.

Now, how about a product for those lips!?



You've heard of creep feeding? It's a system where you allow young stock access to feed, while restricting the access of the adult herd. The center aisle of this barn allows access through the lower bars of gates for young stock. Not only is it a giant creep feeder, it's a place for lambs and kids to play and get used to frequent human companions. Billy, the Maremma is the playground monitor at night.

The Ligament Test

How Can I Tell When My Doe Will Kid?

From AgDomain

Your doe is now bred. You have waited five months for the big day. Now, when do you get the iodine, towels, and other things ready for the blessed event?

There are several ways of knowing when your doe is ready to have her kids. One is—if you know when your doe was bred and have figured that she should kid in about 150 days from that date.

She starts to fill her udder with milk. Some does that have kidded before won't do this until just a few hours before kidding.

Her kids will "drop". Usually she will become hollow looking just below her hips.

She wants to be by herself. She will go off away from other does. Or sometimes the other does will leave the barn so she can be by herself.

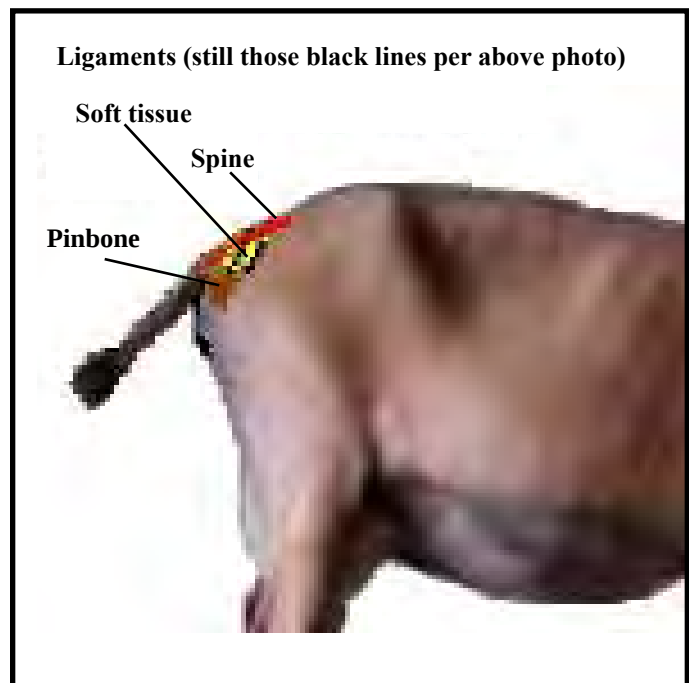
She starts to pace or paw the ground. She wants to build a nest for her babies. She starts talking baby talk. She will also want to lick whatever she is near.

Another way of telling of approaching birth is the "Ligament Test". The ligaments that run between the spine and the pinbones will soften to allow the bones to spread allowing the kids to pass through. Old time cow herdsman might say the the tail is up. Meaning that the flesh below the spine has softened so that the spine just before going into the tail looks like it has raised.

There are a couple ligaments on either side of the tail that will be easily felt when birth is coming close. By putting your thumb on one side of the rump and your fingers on the other side, pinch just below the spine. You should feel the two hard lines of ligament. On a doe that is not going to kid, you can not pinch in. But as the tissue softens, you will be able to find the ligaments.

As the birth comes closer, the ligaments will soften until you won't be able to feel them. It feels rather like there is nothing holding the tail onto the body except the skin. The softer the ligaments are, the closer the birth. Your fingers should be placed approximately where the light area is on the figure at right. Practice feeling the ligaments until you can identify them. Once they start to soften you will know that birth is close. They will "disappear" about 24 hours before birth. Okay, your doe has gone 150 days and she looks like the babies have dropped. She is pacing and pawing the ground off in the corner of the barn. Her ligaments are gone. So hurry and get the iodine, you're about to have babies!!!

Have a happy and trouble free kidding season!



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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, 4th grade readers, or for

brightening lives of bored adults. Happy endings only. \$7.50. Order from CashMirror Publications. <http://buster.cashmeregoat.net>

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

Shearing Stands for Cashmere Goats. 360-733-6742.

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Yocom-McColl Testing Laboratories, Inc. for individual animal and core testing. Ph: (303) 294-0582, Fax (303) 295-6944, Email: ymcoll@ix.netcom.com Website: <http://www.ymcoll.com>

NIAA—Scrapie Eradication News Release

February 8, 2002

San Antonio, TX — A number of changes to streamline and simplify some of the regulations governing certain aspects of the scrapie eradication program that went into effect last year are being "considered", according to officials of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Service (APHIS-VS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA.)

Meeting with industry leaders and producers at the American Sheep Industry Association annual convention here, Dr. Michael Gilsdorf, Chief, National Animal Health Program Staff, APHIS, unveiled nearly 20 possible changes to the regulation. Further, Dr. Gilsdorf and Dr. Diane Sutton, National Scrapie Eradication Program Coordinator, encouraged the industry to suggest other changes to improve the program.

Most of the proposed changes are aimed at streamlining the record keeping from farm to market. Other changes have to do with various definitions, including commingling.

Dr. Sutton said that while the various proposed changes are under consideration, APHIS-VS may suspend enforcement of very specific aspects of the rule during the comment period and until final decisions are made. She said that APHIS also intends to propose for comment other amendments to the rule. "We will take input on these possible changes and suggestions on other areas of concern until the suspensions and proposal are published for comment in the Federal Register. After that happens, only official comments will be considered. Publication may take several months," according to Dr. Sutton.

The basic rules for individual identification and transporting sheep and goats across state lines remain unchanged. Therefore, producers must continue to identify their animals as prescribed. As of late January, about 11 percent of the industry had obtained official premises ID numbers.

"During the next several months, the first time a producer is found to not be in compliance with the rule, he/she will be told by APHIS officials about the new regulations and advised on how to comply. Once the producer has been given an adequate opportunity to acquire official identification, if another shipment of animals comes in 'not in compliance,' stronger measures will be taken," Dr. Sutton said.

Information on the accelerated scrapie eradication program can be found on the Internet at www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie or www.aphis.usda.gov/scrapie.htm

For information, contact: Gale Johnson 270-782-9798; Ext. 112; or gjohnson@animalagriculture.org

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Notable Quotes

"...some of the weightiest issues in agriculture today (include): Can the World Trade Organization...be a champion of poor farmers in developing countries whose livelihoods remain undermined by the subsidies that the richer nations use to protect their own?"

...New Agriculturist on line 01/4

"In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger do not answer anyone's letter."

...Chinese Proverb

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

...Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

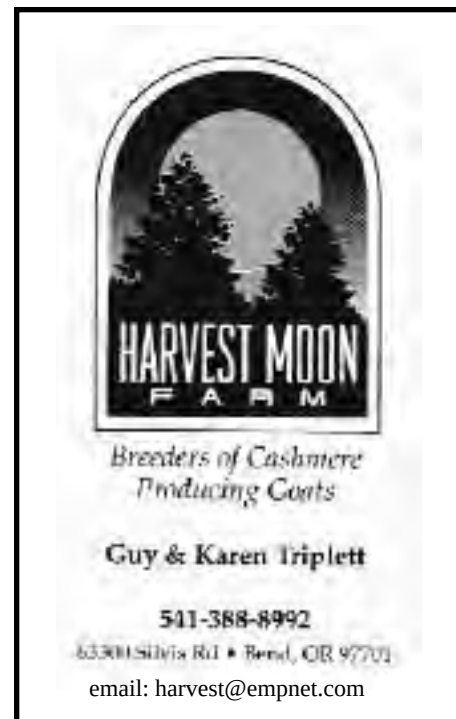
"A witty saying proves nothing."

...Voltaire (1694-1778)

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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