



Greetings from AGF!

Greetings from the folks at AGF. Many of you kid this time of year and many are coping with what the media calls 'extreme' weather. We hope everyone manages to survive this winter season and the New Year is a good year for all. We have a lot of news to share with you and will begin with thanking our new and renewing members.

AGF is pleased to welcome the North American Savannah Assoc. as a new organization member; and Catherine Jenkins, Kenny & Cheryle Michalec, Kellyl Schlenker, Lori Watkins, Debbie Webster, Jerry Balch, Lee & Darlette Bloodworth, Diana Condra, Benny Cox, Bill & Fran Dendy, Cam & Erika Campbell, Larry Finklea, Tammy Fisher, Lorelei Hankins, Tommy Head, Elizabeth Henning, Lary Duncan, Kaycie R Gilbreath, David Martin, Brad Walling, Linda Triebs, Kelly Holder, raphael Holder, Jimmy & Sharon Holman, Keith & Anita Hudson, Sheri Lykken, Peggy Matti, Ginger & Paul Perner III, Laurice, Russell & Wayne Rogers, Joe David Ross, Nicky WhitleyTerry & Elizabeth Schenkel, Charles & Brenda Siedensticker, Kay & Eddie Stewart, Vicki Stich, Anthony Trimboli, Tom & Brenda Valliant, Loyd Whitehead, WL & Tommy Whitehead, and Sue Houck Whitworth as new Individual Members.

Thanks to all of the above for joining AGF this year, and a special thanks to all of our members who have renewed their memberships!

If you are not a member and would like to join, you can contact the office or follow this link:

[JOIN AGF](#)

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ATTACKS ON ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

In August, C-SPAN's Washington Journal featured Jeff Kerr, general counsel for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Foundation. During the interview, he stated, "There are many things human beings used to do for thousands of years that we've evolved beyond, and our interaction with animals is the next version of the civil rights movement in this country."

Despite statements such as Mr. Kerr's, the true evolution over thousands of years has been the improvements made to animal care and food safety. *By Rep. Adrian Smith, Beatrice Daily Sun, 10/31/15.*

[READ MORE](#)



AGF is seeking Sponsors for the 2016 Producers Seminar being held this January. This is a free seminar for producers. If you are willing to help support this educational effort, please contact the office. Sponsors will be recognised at the Seminar, in this newsletter, and on the AGF website.

AGF Directors for 2016

Elizabeth Henning from Arizona

Betty is a life member of ADGA, has been a licensed ADGA judge since 1991 and a linear appraiser since 1993. She has judged and/or appraised thousands of goats in every state but Hawaii. She has also been an active member of many ADGA committees over the past 30+ years and currently chairs the Genetic Advancement and History committees. She also serves as President of

CONGRATULATIONS
to Linda Campbell
AGF Director
for receiving the Helen
Hunt Distinguished
Service Award from the
American Dairy Goat
Assoc. for outstanding
service to ADGA over a
period of years.

SCRAPIE ERADICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

AGF has received a grant
from USDA-Aphis for 2016
to provide more scrapie
education services as well
as information about Q-
Fever to goat producers.

Any organization interested
in receiving a grant from
AGF to provide education
in their region is invited to
email or call the office for
an application.

[READ MORE](#)

CONGRATULATIONS
to Jan Carlson,
AGF Director
for receiving the Mary L.
Farley Award from the
American Dairy Goat
Assoc. for outstanding
work on behalf of the
dairy goat industry.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ANNOUNCES PLANS TO SEEK APPROVAL TO OPEN A SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

If successful, the new
school would be the
state's second, but they
will need approval from the
Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board and
funding from the Legislature
to move ahead. *Matthew
Watkins, Texas Tribune,
12/4/15*

[READ MORE](#)

PURDUE BREAKS GROUND FOR ANIMAL SCIENCES IMPROVEMENTS

Purdue University broke
ground for two Animal
Sciences buildings that will
offer faculty, staff and
students the latest
technology. *Andy Eubank,
Hoosier Ag Today,
11/09/15*

[READ MORE](#)

the Southern Arizona Dairy Goat Assoc. and was the local
chair of the 2010 ADGA Convention in Tucson. She is
serving her 6th year as a Director from ADGA's District
VI, and was re-elected in October 2015 to ADGA's
Executive Committee. She also has been a member of
and judge for USBGA and raised percentage Boers.

Matt Hayes from California

Matt is the livestock buyer-specialty products for Superior
Farms. He has been buying goats and lambs for 4 years
with a focus on sales into ethnic markets. In addition, he
and his wife operate M&E Livestock. They run a small
herd of Boer goats as well as a small flock of registered
Southdown ewes and produce wether type show kids and
lambs for 4-H and FFA projects. He is a member of the
American Boer Goat Assoc., American Southdown Assoc.,
National Lamb Feeders Assoc., American Sheep Industry
and California Wool Growers Assoc.

Lary Duncan from Texas

Lary was appointed to complete the term for Vicki Stich
representing the American Boer Goat Assoc. Lary is CEO
of ABGA and on the Board of the Boer Goat Youth
Foundation of America, and is a licensed judge for ABGA.
He has been a part of Able Acres Boer Goats for the past
15 years.

Returning AGF Directors:

Sam Abney from Alabama, Dr. Kenneth Andries from
Kentucky, Tom Boyer from Utah, David Martin from
Georgia, Dr. An Peischel from Tennessee, Becky Sauder
from Texas, Bob Buchholz from Texas - representing the
Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Assoc., and Linda
Campbell from Virginia, representing the American Dairy
Goat Association.

**AGF is establishing an Advisory Council to
serve as consultants to the Board. More
information will be available at the Annual
Meeting in January.**

National Institute for Animal Agriculture NEWS

Selenium Biochemistry and Bioavailability: Implications for Animal Agriculture

Selenium (Se) is an essential trace mineral required for
growth, development, immune function, and metabolism.
Selenium exerts its biological effects as an integral
component of selenoproteins (SePs). Deficiency or low Se
status leads to marked changes in many biochemical
pathways and a range of pathologies and disorders which
are associated with SeP function.

Yeast enriched with Selenohomocystine (SeHLan) has
recently become commercially available, and initial
research suggests that it may be an efficacious source for
the production of Se enriched animal products. *MDPI
Agriculture, 12/14/15* [READ MORE](#)

Farmers, Ranchers Work to Regulate Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture

The commentary "Saving antibiotics requires decisive
action" (Dec. 3) raises many questions while making a
one-sided case on an issue I care deeply about: the
responsible use of antibiotics on America's farms and
ranches. Many farmers share my concerns, and we are
actively assessing how antibiotic usage on farms and
ranches may impact human health.

While it may be convenient to lay the blame of antibiotic

**WORLDWIDE
AGRICULTURE
CONFERENCE
COMING TO NORTH
DAKOTA**

The 20th annual Agricultural Bioscience International Conference will be held September 18-21 in Fargo, North Dakota.

About 500 scientists, technologists and industry leaders from more than 65 countries are expected to attend the event. This is the first the the conference will be held in the U.S.

[FOR MORE INFO](#)

**PLAN to ATTEND
the Annual Meeting
and Seminar**

Business Meeting: 1/26
Producer Seminar: 1/27
in Scottsdale, Arizona

Seminar Topics

Scrapie Program Update
Marketing Opportunities
Grant Opportunities
How to Write a
Successful Grant
Hands On Practice
Grant Application Writing

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The Annual Meeting is held at the beginning of the American Sheep Industry Association Annual Meetings.

[Meet our Directors](#)

[Learn about our Members](#)

[Visit our Activities Page](#)

**Seasons Greetings**



**&  
Best Wishes for a  
Happy & Prosperous  
New Year**

The American Goat Federation is a 501(c)(5) nonprofit organization.

resistance on animal agriculture, there are major authoritative studies that show human misuse contributes to the problem. The Mayo Clinic says "the overuse and misuse of [human] antibiotics are key factors contributing to antibiotic resistance." And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also states that "up to 50 percent of all the antibiotics prescribed to humans are not needed, or not optimally prescribed." *Thomas Titus, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 12/13/15* [READ MORE](#)

**USDA Report Warns Climate Change Likely to Impede Progress on Global Food Security**

Climate change is likely to impede progress on reducing undernourishment around the world in the decades ahead, according to a major scientific assessment released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on global food security and its implications for the United States. The report, entitled Climate Change, Global Food Security and the U.S. Food System, identifies the risks that climate change poses to global food security and the challenges facing farmers and consumers in adapting to changing climate conditions. Secretary Vilsack released the report during the COP-21 Paris Climate Conference.

*USDA News Release, 12/02/15* [READ MORE](#)

**USDA Loan Repayment Awards \$4.5 Million to Ensure Access to Veterinary Services in Rural Communities**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded more than \$4.5 million to 49 American veterinarians to help repay a portion of their veterinary school loans in return for serving in areas lacking sufficient veterinary resources. The awards, made through the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will help fill shortages in 26 states. "Rural America is challenged with recruiting veterinarians" said Dr. John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer for the USDA. *USDA News Release, via Bovine Veterinarian, 11/06/15.* [READ MORE](#)

**United States Animal Health Association  
NEWS**

**Infectious Disease Spread is Fueled by International Trade**

Tempe, Ariz - International trade and travel has literally opened up new vistas for humans, ranging from travel to exotic places to enjoying the products and services of those distant lands. But along with international trade and travel comes the risk of spreading infectious diseases, a growing problem in today's global economy, says an Arizona State University researcher.

An example of the impact of an infectious disease came in 2001 in the UK when an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease cost some \$10 billion and more than 2 million sheep and cattle had to be destroyed, Perrings said. More recently, African swine fever--a much more serious disease of pigs--has been spread in the Caucasus region through trade in pork, pork product or through waste in trade vehicles. *Arizona State University, EurekAlert December 22, 2015* [READ MORE](#)

**Livestock Shipping Guidance Available**

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture and the United States Animal Health Assoc. are providing information on state livestock importation requirements and restrictions, which can be determined by inputting details about the animal species to be moved and their source and destination. Goat information will be added at a later date.

[USE THE PROGRAM](#)

**The Southern Goat Producers Association (SGPA)** will hold their 6th Annual Southeastern Goat and Sheep Symposium (SEGSS) on March 12, 2016 in Greenville, South Carolina. Details and classes will be on the website: [www.southerngoatproducers.org](http://www.southerngoatproducers.org)

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

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