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, Larry Duncan, Kaycie R Gilbreath, David Martin, Brad Walling, Linda Triebs, Kelly Holder, raphael Holder, Jimmy & Sharon Holman, Keith & Anita Hudson, Sheri Lykken, Peggy Matf, 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.

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.

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

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

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 Selenohomoaianthionine (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

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 misuse at the feet of agriculture, it is important to remember that antibiotics are also used in food animal production to prevent disease and promote healthy growth. Farmers and ranchers must balance these needs with the need to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics in treating human diseases.

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
Farmers, Ranchers Work to Regulate Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture
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 time the conference will be held in the U.S.

**FOR MORE INFO**

**PLAN to ATTEND**

- 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

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**

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**Seasons Greetings**

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

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