



Greetings from AGF!

Spring is here! Many of you are still in kidding season while others are winding down or finished until fall. Show folks are gearing up for shows and many have already been in the show ring this year. AGF has been busy since our annual meeting in January and we have a lot to report, beginning with members who have joined since the 1st of the year. To see our list of current members visit the website: [AGF](#)

AGF is pleased to welcome new affiliate member, Jimmie Ruth Evans; and new individual members Dr. Steve Hart-Langston University, Heather Kimball-Little Things Farm, Dr. Lyle G. McNeil, Jimmy Pacheco-Murillo Cabra Farms, Dr. Patty Scharko-Clemson University, Laura Smith, and Niki Whitley-Ft. Valley State University, **Thanks to all of the above for joining AGF this year, and a special thanks to all of our organization and affiliate members who have renewed their memberships! All members who were due to renew for 2016 should have received their renewal packets by now.**

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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#### American Goat Federation visits Washington

Lary Duncan, Vice President of AGF, was part of the contingent from AGF and other associations attending the USDA Sheep and Goat Sector Meeting in Washington this March. Tom Boyer, Anita Dahnke, and Dr. Ken Andries attended the meeting via telephone.

Issues AGF asked USDA to support:

1. Adjust the new FDA requirements regarding feed through antibiotics so veterinarians can prescribe extra label use for small ruminants.
2. Maintain funding for Wildlife Services for livestock damage research and methods development.
3. Increase Scrapie program funding.
4. Urge APHIS/National



**The Producers Seminar that was held at the AGF Annual Meeting in January was well attended.**

#### Keynote Speaker was Dr. Glen Fisher

who spoke about the history of AGF and it's role in the future of the goat industry.

#### Dr. Kennedy, Pipestone Veterinary Services

gave a detailed presentation on the new Veterinary Feed Directive Regulations going into effect January 2017 and how the limitations on the use of feed-through antibiotics and other medications will affect the goat industry.

#### Dr. Diane Sutton, National Scrapie Program Coordinator

provided an update on the status of the Scrapie Eradication Program and reviewed the proposed revisions to the program.

#### Dr. Ken Andries, Kentucky State University

provided updated information on available EPD/EVD programs.

#### Dr. Frank Pinkerton

discussed marketing opportunities and roadblocks producers encounter in today's set up, and

Ctr for Veterinary Biologics to formally use foreign equivalency data and allow for routine importation of foreign-made/licensed vaccines.

5. Ask for implementation of a Q-Fever readiness plan that includes animal vaccinations.

6. Encourage APHIS and Wildlife Services to continue and expand research into lethal and non-lethal methods including coyote contraception to help mitigate coyote damage to livestock.

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AGF Awards Scrapie Eradication Program Education Sub-Grants to the Following Organizations

Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Assoc

Kentucky Sheep & Goat Development Office

American Boer Goat Assoc

Southeast Farmers Network-Florida

Southern Goat Producers Assoc-South Carolina

Tennessee State University/University of Tennessee

The High Desert Grange

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### Dr. Jack Shere Appointed as New Chief Veterinarian at USDA

Dr. Shere replaces Dr. John Clifford, who served as Deputy Administrator for 12 years, and is now the Chief Trade Advisor for VS' National Import Export Services.

Dr. Shere will lead the program's many employees in protecting and improving the health, quality and marketability of U.S. livestock, animal products and veterinary biologics. He will also oversee VS' national and international reference laboratory network.

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### APHIS Officially Names Bernadette Juarez as Animal Care Deputy

### Matthew Hayes of Superior Farms

provided information on their buying practices and the market for goats in California.

### Corlena Patterson, National Scrapie Coordinator at Scrapie Canada

gave a webinar about the new Canadian Scrapie regulations and how they will impact US producers who try to export breeding stock to Canada.

### Tom Boyer, Dr. Ken Andries and Anita Dahnke

presented a grant writing session and provided resources and information about what is needed to get grants looked at and approved.

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## AGF Establishes Advisory Council

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, AGF finalized the structure of the new Advisory Council and announced the individuals who have been selected to serve. This is not a complete list as others will be invited to join the council as the need arises.

### Dr. Frank Pinkerton

Dr. Pinkerton, known to most as the goat man, is one of America's best known writers and speakers on meat goat nutrition, marketing, and management. After a career as an animal science professor and researcher in the U.S. and Asia, he retired from academia in 1993. While his current focus is on meat goats, he has extensive experience with dairy and angora goats.

### Dr. Fred Homeyer

Dr. Homeyer, is a retired college professor of Computer Science having taught at the University of Texas-Austin, and Angelo State University-San Angelo for a total of 38 years. He has been raising South African Boer goats and Dorper sheep for over 20 years. He is an international Boer goat judge and consultant.

### Dr. Reid Redden

Dr. Redden is currently Sheep and Goat Specialist and Assistant Professor at Texas A&M Agrilife Extension. Before that he was Sheep Specialist at North Dakota State University and he also served as Chairman of the National Sheep Improvement Program.

### Susan Schoenlein

Ms Schoenlein is coordinator of the extension educational programs for sheep and goat producers at the University of Maryland. She has been with the university extension since 1988, and is a member of the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control, American Sheep Industry Association's Production, Education, and Research Council, Productivity Improvement Team of the Lamb Industry Roadmap project, NSIP Relaunch committee, and two multi-state research committees that focus on small ruminant production.

### Dr. Nar Gurung

Dr. Gurung is associate professor and Director of the Small Ruminant Education and Research Unit at Tuskegee University. Major areas of research include utilization of locally available crop and industry by-products for use as feed, agroforestry/silvopasture, year-round grazing, etc. He is also collaborating with other researchers in the development of sustainable means of controlling internal parasites especially round worms for small ruminants.

### Dr. Steve Hart

Dr. Hart is Goat Extension Specialist at Langston University. After receiving his doctorate, Dr. Hart worked for the USDA Agricultural Research Service at El Reno, Oklahoma. While at USDA, he collaborated with Langston on some goats studies, and in 1991, Dr. Hart moved to Langston. His current research is investigating goat nutrition and various pastures for dairy and Angora goats. He is also involved in extension goat demonstrations in Oklahoma and Kansas demonstrating the ability of goats to

### Administrator.

Bernadette replaces Dr. Charles Gipson, who retired January 1. She will lead the program's many employees in protecting and ensuring the welfare of millions of animals nationwide that are covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA).



### AGF Provided a Letter of Support for the following Research Project:

To determine the copper, zinc and selenium requirements for growing goats and identify suitable biomarkers.

AGF signed a letter sent in February to members of the US Congress and House of Representatives - in support of sufficient funding for two line items for the Wildlife Services program (WS Damage Mgmt and WS Methods Development) and in opposition to any effort to restrict or eliminate funding. [Read Letters](#)



### U.S. AG Schools Rank High on the Annual OS World University International Rankings for agriculture and forestry.

University of California, Davis, was number 2. Wageningen University in the Netherlands was number 1. Other US universities on the list were Cornell at number 3, University of California, Berkley at number 4, University of Wisconsin at number 5, Michigan State University at number 8, Purdue University number 9, and Iowa State University at number 10. *John Maday, Drovers CattleNetwork, 03/23/16.*



### Tuskegee University ANNUAL GOAT DAY was held on April 16.

The main topic was

clear brush and weeds, measuring weight gains and the management of goats on these pastures.

### Dr. Nada Nadarajah

Dr. Nadarajah is Senior Research Fellow in Breeding and Genetics at Auburn University Department of Animal Sciences. As part of his activities, he gives seminars and professional advice to Meat Goat producers in Alabama and adjoining states as an invited speaker at field day meetings / seminars / workshop programs. He also participates in Meat Goat & Sheep development programs organized by the ALFA and Alabama Cooperative Extension at AU.

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### National Scrapie Eradication Program March 2016 Monthly Report

Twelve positive Scrapie cases have been reported in FY 2016. Eight were from a source flock that was designated in October because of an RSSS positive animal reported in September 2015. The 2 positive goat cases found in FY 2015 increased the number of confirmed cases in goats since FY 2002 to 41. No goats have tested positive in Fy 2016. [View Complete Report](#)

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### National Institute for Animal Agriculture [NIAA] NEWS

**The FDA has issued its final rule on annual reporting requirements for drug sponsors of all antimicrobials sold or distributed for use in food-producing animals.**

The program will obtain estimates of antimicrobial sales classified by intended use in major food-producing species including cattle, swine, chickens and turkeys. According to the FDA, species-based data will help further target efforts to ensure judicious use of medically important antimicrobials.

### **Four important awards were presented at the NIAA Conference in Kansas City in April.**

The 2016 NIAA Meritorious Service Award was presented to Dr. John Clifford, Chief Trade Advisor to APHIS' National Import Export Service. The Meritorious Service Award honors an individual who has made extensive contributions and/or has given exemplary service to the animal agriculture industry and to NIAA. Clifford was the Chief Veterinary Officer of the United States from 2004 to 2016.

Dr. Michael Coe was recognized for his dedication and devotion to the advancement of animal agriculture with the 2016 NIAA Chairman's Award. Coe is Vice President Animal Profiling International and leads its sales team. He serves the NIAA as a member-at-large on the 2015 Executive Committee.

The 2016 NIAA President's Award goes annually to an NIAA committee or council chair or co-chair for exemplary leadership and dedication to the organization. This year, Dr. Eric Moore, co-chair of the NIAA Special Issues Committee on Antibiotics was recognized with this important award. Moore is Director of Technical Services - North America for Norbrook Laboratories, Ltd. out of Topeka, Kansas. Dr. Moore was recently selected to the 2016 NIAA Board of Directors.

Individuals who effectively build bridges with consumers by delivering strong, positive messages about animal agriculture are honored with the NIAA Advocate Award. The 2016 NIAA Advocate Award was presented posthumously to Dr. Mark Engle, Merck Animal Health. Engle was also served on USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack's Committee on

Nutrition of Meat Goats. Featured speakers were Dr. An Peischel from Tennessee State Univ and Dr. Niki Whitely from Fort Valley State Univ. Dr. Nar Gurung, of Tuskegee Univ discussed practical guidelines of feeding minerals to meat goats.

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The Corn Country Commercial Goat Conference will be held Sept 30 - Oct 1

at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in Corydon, Indiana.

[FOR MORE INFO](#)

The 20th Annual Worldwide Agriculture Conference coming to Fargo, North Dakota Sept 18-21, 2016.

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](#)

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[Meet our Directors](#)

[AGF Members](#)

[Visit our Activities Page](#)

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

Animal Health.

Shortage of Large Animal Veterinarians Threatens Health of Arizona Livestock Industry

Traditional veterinary medicine for large food animals in rural Arizona has all but vanished, leaving the state's livestock industry increasingly vulnerable to disease and even death.

According to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture Census, more than 1 million food animals are raised within the state's borders. But there are only 30 USDA-accredited predominantly food animal veterinary practitioners to care for them, 21 of whom reside in a single county. Another nine work across six different counties, leaving eight counties with none.

"It means we are much, much more exposed to a number of exotic pathogens, foot-and-mouth disease for one, which wouldn't just shut down our animal economy, it would shut down all of our [agricultural] production, but it would also shut down all of our tourism," said Dr. Shane Burgess, dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Arizona.

By Amanda Ames, Cronkite News, 03/07/16

A cloud of misinformation continues to fog public perceptions of the role of livestock in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,

but University of California, Davis, professor and air-quality specialist Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., is working to clarify the issue. He recently published a white paper titled "Livestock's Contributions to Climate Change: Facts and Fiction," that shows food animals are minor contributors to U.S. and global GHG emissions.

Bovine Veterinarian 4/28/16

AGF is a member of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.

United States Animal Health Association [USAHA] NEWS

Senate Committee on Appropriations approved a \$147.7 billion bill to support federal agriculture and nutrition programs in fiscal year 2017.

On May 19, the FY2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was favorably reported out of committee and is now available for consideration before the full Senate.

AGF is a member of the United States Animal Health Association.



[Visit Website](#)

The American Boer Goat Association National Show will be held June 6 thru June 10, 2016 in Grand Island Nebraska. More info at: [ABGA Website](#)

The American Angora Goat Breeders Association Annual Meeting will be held July 16, 2016 in Kerrville Texas: [AAGBA Website](#)

The 101st Annual Convention of the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Assoc will be held July 21-23, 2016 at the Y O Ranch Hotel in Kerrville, Texas. More info at: [TSGRA Website](#)

The 6th Tennessee Dairy Goat Conference will be held September 22-24, 2016 at the Lane Agri-Park Facility, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It is sponsored and hosted by the Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program.

The American Dairy Goat Association Annual Convention will be held October 14 thru 18, 2016 in Boise Idaho. More info at: [ADGA Website](#)

AGF Affiliate member Sims Brothers releases information on AU Grazer Sericea Lespedeza as a Forage Crop. Sericea lespedeza has long been a staple in erosion control, but the release of AU Grazer® by Auburn University has made it a popular forage crop. Its finer stemmed plants are palatable to cattle, horses, goats, and sheep. The fact that it thrives on highly acidic, low fertility soils, tolerates drought well, and produces its own nitrogen makes AU Grazer a cost-effective alternative for many producers. University research has shown that AU Grazer® also reduces and controls gastrointestinal parasites (*Haemonchus contortus*) and coccidia in goats and sheep. To learn more: [Sims Brothers Website](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

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