



### Greetings from AGF!

The American Goat Federation is growing. We're pleased to welcome the American Angora Goat Breeders Assoc. and Vermont Sheep & Goat Assoc. as new organization members; and Pipestone Veterinary Services, Gotcha Goat, and Tannery Farm Cashmeres as new affiliate members.

**To our members who renewed their memberships, and to all our new individual members: *Thank You!***

#### In This Issue

[NIAA News](#)

[Scrapie Eradication Program](#)

[AGF Members' News](#)

[Meet our Directors](#)

[Learn about our Members](#)

[Visit our Activities Page](#)

#### **MAKE PLANS to ATTEND the AGF Annual Meeting and Seminar**

**January 26-27, 2016  
Scottsdale, Arizona**

Business Meeting: 1/26

Producer Seminar: 1/27

#### Seminar Topics

- > Scrapie Program Update
- > Marketing Opportunities
- > Grant Opportunities
- > How to be Successful when Applying for a Grant
- > Hands On Practice Writing a Grant Application

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The Annual Meeting is held at the beginning of the American Sheep Industry Association Annual Meetings. AGF members are welcome to sign up to attend ASI seminars and activities which extend through the rest of the week.

#### **NOTICE**

**AGF is accepting nominations for**



Providing a unified voice for all elements of the goat industry

The goat meat market is strong in the United States. Over half of the goat meat eaten here is imported because producers cannot keep up with demand. The dairy products market has been expanding along with cottage industries such as the goat milk soap and related products being sold directly to consumers.

Unfortunately, high production costs can deter producers from getting into commercial meat goat production, and the dairy goat milk industry is facing regulatory restrictions that affect the ability to market milk. The show goat industry is stable, but many of the breeding and show stock goats being sold are in essence merely changing hands from one U.S producer to another because producers are constrained when it comes to international markets. AGF is working to address these issues for American producers.

#### **National Institute for Animal Agriculture NEWS**

##### **FDA Seeks Comments on Combination Drugs**

The FDA is considering changing the approval process for drugs used in combination in medicated feeds. Currently, the use of combined drugs in a medicated feed requires an approved new animal drug application (NADA) for each drug individually, and a separate NADA for the combination. The FDA says it is exploring changes to allow combination drug medicated feeds available in an efficient manner while protecting public health. *By John Maday, Drovers CattleNetwork, 08/24/15*

##### **California Sinking Faster than Thought**

California is sinking even faster than scientists had

**Directors to serve on the Board. If you are interested, contact the office or any of the current directors. Nominations must be in the AGF office by September 30, 2015.**

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South Dakota State University's new Precision Agriculture Major will expose future farmers to several different fields of study to become prepared for a career in agribusiness or production farming. This is the first degree of its kind to be offered by a school of higher education.

According to Barry Dunn, who was quoted in the Brownfield Ag News article, the major will depend on strong collaboration among the departments of agriculture and biosystems engineering, plant science, mathematics, statistics, electrical engineering and computer science. [excerpts from Brownfield Ag News Article by Tom Steever, 8/25/15]

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

thought, new NASA satellite imagery shows. Some areas of the Golden State are sinking more than 2 inches per month, the imagery reveals. Though the sinking, called subsidence, has long been a problem in California, the rate is accelerating because the state's extreme drought is fueling voracious groundwater pumping.

What's more, this furious groundwater pumping could have long-term consequences. If the land shrinks too much, and for too long, it can permanently lose its ability to store groundwater, the researchers said. The state's sinking isn't new: California has long suffered from subsidence, and some parts are now a few dozen feet lower than they were in 1925, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. But the state's worst drought on record - 97 percent of the state is facing moderate to exceptional drought - has only accelerated the trend. *By Tia Ghose, Fox News, 08/24/15*

#### **What You Should Know About the EPA WOTUS Rule**

If you think that because you are small this rule doesn't affect you, don't be so sure. Fines can be \$37,000 per incident, per day, per violation!

Right now this regulation applies if you have an unauthorized discharge of "pollutants" from your farmland that requires a Clean Water Act (CWA) permit. It's all part of the new rule recently issued by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers defining waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). It expands the federal CWA jurisdiction over many landscape features found on farm, ranch and forest lands across the nation.

To learn how this might affect you:

[Read More at the Texas Agriculture Talks Website](#)

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### **Scrapie Eradication Program**

AGF received a grant from USDA in 2014 to provide education to goat producers about the Scrapie Eradication Program and Q-Fever. AGF used this grant to fund 9 regional and national organizations so they could provide seminars for producers in 2015 about the negative impact Scrapie has had on their markets.

[Read More About this Program](#)

## **AGF Member Organizations' News**

**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 to be announced on the website:

[www.southerngoatproducers.org](http://www.southerngoatproducers.org)

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### **ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND COUNTING.....**

This past July the **Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association** celebrated 100 years of service to the sheep and goat industry. Not too many organizations have that distinction. The American Sheep Industry Association celebrated its 150th last spring, and the federal predator program celebrated its 100th this summer. Both of those organizations have made it possible for TSGRA to survive and thrive. To make it through 100 years requires the strength to make it through a lot of hard times. One of our past presidents, T. A. Kincaid, Sr., served 11 years during the Depression and literally carried the Association financially. Making it through the hard times also often means that you have to make deep cuts in the organization to survive, and that's how we got down to one employee, Executive Secretary Sandy Whittle, who celebrated her 50th year as the Association celebrated its 100th.

And celebrate we did! The first night we had a party at Billy and Betty Roeder's ranch in Sandy's honor with nearly 500 members from all over the state. The next day was given over to business with luncheon and dinner dedicated to looking back over 100 years for the Association and its Woman's Auxiliary. There were 27 of the 36 living TSGRA past

presidents and nine of the living Auxiliary past presidents on hand. New officers were elected, and they are: Lane Porter of Ft. Stockton, president, Loyd Whitehead of San Angelo, first vice president, and Jimmie Ruth Evans of San Antonio, second vice president and our first woman officer. Jimmie Ruth is the daughter of past president James Wittenburg of Rocksprings, and it is going to be a pleasure to work with her.

Saturday was all for fun with the first annual Horseless Goat Roping taking up the morning. It was a ton of fun, and one of my favorite memories will always be that of our immediate past president Bob Buchholz's huge grin as he floated his loop over the head of a goat while his partner prepared to catch the heels! No more trying to fit Association business into an already busy ranch operation. Just pure fun among friends! Many enjoyed the wine tour in the afternoon or family swim time, and the evening closed with a big dance with at least half the crowd two-stepping to the end! It was so much fun that we are going to do it all again next year!

[Submitted by Lane Porter] Visit Website: [TSGRA](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS

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### the American Goat Federation

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