



Greetings from AGF!

THANKS to everyone who joined AGF during 2016, and to all members who renewed their Memberships. AGF is pleased to welcome new individual members Margaret Highland, Kathleen Erwin, Brian Holck, Donnie Larimer, Katie Gilmore, Stephen White, James Glenn, Lacey Enger, Tom Freeman, Keelie Gasset and Charles Reneau.

If you would like to join the federation, you can contact the office or follow this link:

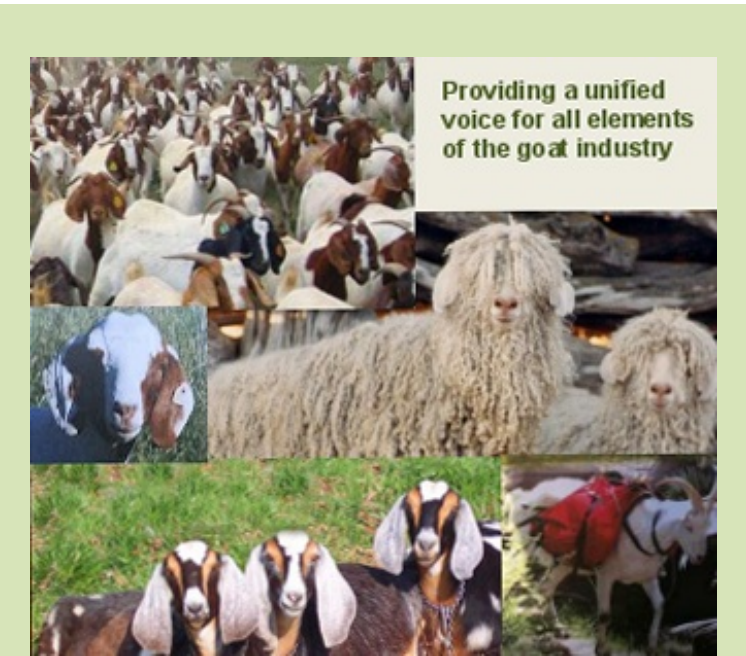
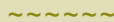
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 - Producers Seminar Review
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Senate Committee OK's Perdue for USDA Secretary

On March 30, U.S. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, announced the committee voted to favorably report nominee Sonny Perdue to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Perdue may now be considered by the full U.S. Senate for confirmation.



Providing a unified voice for all elements of the goat industry

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Renewal Reminder Emails will go out beginning March 31. You can renew using the prefilled form attached to the email, or you can renew online at: [Renew Your Membership](#)

AGF is Awarding Scrapie Eradication Program Education and Q Fever Education subgrants for 2017.

If your organization would like to apply for a grant,

AGF Representatives shared goat industry needs and concerns at the USDA Sheep & Goat Sector meetings in Washington DC on March 30.

Tom Boyer and Bob Buchholz attended in person, and Dr. Ken Andries, Lary Duncan and Anita Dahnke attended via phone.

APHIS Administrator Kevin Shea gave an overview of program initiatives, and progress on items from previous sector meetings. Jack Shear, Veterinary Services Deputy Administrator and Bill Clay, Wildlife Services Deputy Administrator also provided information to attendees. In addition, the sector meeting provides the opportunity for attendees to give input to Administrator Kevin Shea about industry needs and priorities.

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Bob Buchholz, AGF Director, ASI Director and AGF representative on the Executive Board of the American Sheep Industry Association participated in the first of the House Agriculture Livestock Subcommittee's farm bill hearings for ASI on March 21.

While he presented sheep industry priorities for the farm bill, the presentation also hit on priorities for the goat industry, including risk management tools, and funding for a foot and mouth disease vaccine bank,

you can download the application form from the AGF website. Deadline for receipt of applications in the office is April 9.

## [Get Application Form](#)

### **American Goat Federation 2017 Annual Producers Seminar**

#### **Topics covered during the Seminar included:**

**Sore Mouth in Goats:** Dr. John Walker, professor and research director at Texas A&M Agricultural Research and Extension Center shared information about the different strains of this problem that can affect all small ruminants.

**Update on Scrapie Eradication Program:** Dr. Diane Sutton, National Scrapie Program Coordinator provided information about the current state of the Scrapie Program in the US and the progress that has been made in identifying the actual presence of Scrapie in sheep and goats.

**Genetics of Scrapie in Goats:** Dr. Stephen White, Research Geneticist at USDA-ARS Animal Disease Research in Pullman, Washington provided information about the 10 year study they've conducted on Scrapie in goats and identification of genetic markers that show resistance to the disease.

**American Dairy Association Genetics Performance Programs:** Elizabeth Henning, AGF Director, and member and past chair of the ADGA Genetic Advancement Committee, provided information about the ADGA program and how it has helped improve the quality of dairy goats and milk production.

**Health Concerns in Goats:** Dr. Joan Bowen, practicing veterinarian in Colorado and past president of the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners provided information on common problems in goats and proper management practices for preventing disease and other issues.

**Genetics, Genomics and the Future of Goat Production:** Dr. Noelle Cockett, President of Utah State University and former research geneticist at the ARS Research Center in Nebraska shared basic information about how genetics work and what is being done with genetics to benefit the goat industry.

**Q Fever, Challenges and Opportunities:** Dr. Stephen White with genetics to benefit the goat industry gave an overview of Q Fever and the research that has been done to date to identify ways to control this disease that can

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USDA Makes it Easier to Transfer Land to the Next Generation of Farmers and Ranchers

Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary Lanon Baccam announced in December that beginning January 9, 2017 the USDA would begin offering early termination opportunity for certain CRP contracts, making it easier to transfer property to the next generation of farmers and ranchers, including family members. Eligible land for the early termination is among the least environmentally sensitive land enrolled in CRP.

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[Visit our Activities Page](#)

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Kansas State Animal Science Dept Launches Antibiotics Website

KSUantibiotics.org was created as a launching point for finding information about antibiotics. the website includes information about antibiotic resistance, links to sites that provide an overview of antibiotic resistance, mechanisms, the USDA and FDA action plans concerning resistance and news feeds with the latest information on the topics. [Visit the site](#)

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## Sheep and Goats Meat Market Research Report, 2015-2022, Available at Research Corridor

The report studies current as well as future aspects of the sheep and goats

affect humans.

Videos of the above presentations will be available on the AGF website beginning in April, 2017.

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## National Institute for Animal Agriculture [NIAA] NEWS

**NIAA Annual Conference will take place April 3-6 in Columbus, Ohio.**

The focus of the conference is on the challenges of the globalization of food production "*US Animal Agriculture's Future Role in World Production; Obstacles & Opportunities*," encompasses more than import and export, trade negotiations and political concerns.

[For More Info](#)

**NIAA Animal Care Standards Workshop will take place April 6 in Columbus, Ohio following the Conference.**

The workshop explores the current state of farm animal legislation, and legal perceptions. Animal welfare standards from the viewpoint of processors and retailers, the public, and lawmakers will be discussed.

[For More Info](#)

**The American Goat Federation is a member of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture.**

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## United States Animal Health Association [USAHA] NEWS

**121st USAHA / AAVLD Annual Meeting will be held October 12-18 in San Diego, California.**

**USAHA's Purpose:**The United States Animal Health Association is a forum for communication and coordination among State and Federal governments, universities, industry, and other concerned groups for consideration of issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health. It is a clearinghouse for new information and methods, which may be incorporated into laws, regulations, policy, and programs. It develops solutions of animal health-related issues based on science, new information and methods, public policy, risk/benefit analysis and the ability to develop a consensus for changing laws, regulations, policies, and programs.

[For More Information](#)

**The American Goat Federation is a member of the United States Animal Health Association.**

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meat market based on factors such as market dynamics, key trends and segmentation analysis. It provides a 360-degree view of the industry with geographic segmentation, statistical forecast and the competitive landscape. [Read More](#)

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[New Research Shows How to Prevent Prions from Growing into Deadly Diseases](#)

Prion diseases, such as Mad Cow Disease and Scrapie are scary, incurable and fatal. Research led by Michigan State University offers hope in preventing prions from aggregating or growing into deadly diseases. [Read More](#)

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### [February 2017 National Scrapie Eradication Program Monthly Report](#)

The last case of classical scrapie was reported in April 2016. This is the longest time since the beginning of the National Scrapie Eradication Program without a positive case. [Read More](#)

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

## Other News

### [Livestock Grazing Can Benefit Struggling Bird](#)

#### [Species:](#)

Researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado State and Utah State universities said recent research shows that some grazing, particularly later in the growing season, could actually benefit the chicken-sized greater sage grouse. by *Matthew Brown, Billings Gazette, Montana, 03/26/17* [For more Information](#)

### [The Quirks of Working with Goats and Sheep](#)

Dr. Duemler of Brodhead Veterinary Clinic in Wisconsin is one of many veterinarians across the country who spend time working with small ruminants, particularly goats and sheep. Goats live on about 128,000 farms in the U.S. according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture with a population of about 2.6 million. Sheep are on fewer farms, 88,000, but are more numerous with a population of about 5.4 million. Veterinarians who work with small ruminants say the animal types and health problems vary regionally. by *Katie Burns, JAVMA News, 03/15/17.*

[Read More](#)

### [Farm to Trough: How House Flies Could Reduce Waste and Feed Livestock](#)

A new study from researchers at Cornell University points to the house fly (*Musca domestica*) as a viable source of a protein-rich food -- not for humans, but for livestock. The process would involve raising the house fly on cow manure and then extracting to create a larva-meal ingredient for feeding livestock or farmed fish, thus playing a dual role in both biodegrading the manure and supplementing livestock food sources. *Entomology Today, 02/09/07.*

### [Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Estimates Livestock Losses from Wildfires](#)

Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Reese, estimated that 3,000 head of cattle and 6,500 hogs have died during the March wildfires in his state. by *Shiela Stogsdill, the Oklahoman, 03/23/17.* [Read More](#)

## Sponsors



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## Happenings

**National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA) Annual Conference:** April 3-6 in Columbus, Ohio. [Read More](#)

**National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA) Animal Care Standards Workshop:** April 6 in Columbus, Ohio. [Read More](#)

**2017 Small Ruminant Conference:** May 18-20 at the University of Tennessee Ag Campus in Knoxville, Tennessee. [Read More](#)

**American Boer Goat Assoc (ABGA) National Show:** June 10-17 in Grand Island, Nebraska.

**American Dairy Goat Assoc (ADGA) 2017 National Show:** July 8-15 at the Alliant Energy Ctr in Madison, Wisconsin.

**United States Animal Health Assoc (USAHA)/AAVLD 121st Annual Meeting:** October 12-18 in San Diego, California.

**American Dairy Goat Assoc (ADGA) 2017 National Convention:** October 23-29 in Atlanta, Georgia.

**2018 American Goat Federation (AGF) Annual Meeting and Producers Seminar:** January 30-31 in San Antonio, Texas.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

published by aTd Stuff for

### the American Goat Federation

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