



American Goat Industry News



Greetings from AGF!

THANKS to all members who renewed their memberships in 2017. AGF is pleased to welcome new individual members Dr. Robert Gerlach, George Heineke, Jake Short, Bonnie Thatcher, Bobby Eaton, Karavir Ghuman, Walter Taylor, Michele Johnson, Kathy Daves Carr, Ronald Cox, Donna Burton, Stacey Roussel, Jill Coutts, Dr. Reid Redden, Homer Daniel, Christina Tuhy, Trina Voss, Robin Graham, Susan Young, Sara Routh, Corynn Lewis, Yvonne Taylor, and Diane Hubbard & Family!

If you would like to join the federation, you can contact the office or select: [JOIN AGF](#)

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2018 Producers Seminar Wednesday, January 31

Instead of a Producers Seminar for 2018, the federation has arranged for goat producers to join the ASI folks on a tour of the Hillingdon Ranch.

Located in the Texas Hill Country between Comfort and Fredricksburg, Hillingdon Ranch has been managed by the same family for 130 years. Registered Angus cattle, Fine Wool Sheep, Angora goats, and whitetail deer are tools of managing the native plants adapted to Hillingdon Ranch. Hillingdon Ranch was founded in 1887 by Alfred Giles & remains a working ranch today. It is operated by Robin Giles (grandson of Alfred Giles); his wife, Carol; their son, Grant; and

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## 2018 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

All members of organization members of AGF, and Family Members of Affiliate and Individual Members of AGF, are eligible to apply for a 2018 scholarship. The applicant must be a youth between the ages of 12 and 21 as of September 30, 2017.

These scholarships are being made possible through a grant with USDA/APHIS and several thousand dollars have been set aside for the program. [More information and an application:](#)

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NATIONAL GOAT CENTER

One of the 2018 goals of AGF is to begin work to establish a goat center.

As part of that effort, AGF asked members to send letters to the US House of Representatives and Senate outlining the need for such a center. If you did not send a letter to the SENATE and would like to, you can download the form letter that was distributed along with addresses of the agriculture committee members. Time is of the essence.

[Download form letter](#)

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## Scrapie Eradication Program Education and Q Fever Education

Grant's wife, Misty.

Cost of the tour is \$50 plus a one day conference registration fee of \$150. Spots are limited so if you are interested in attending sign up now. Go to: [the ASI Page](#)

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## 2018 Annual Meeting Tuesday, January 30 8am - 5pm Marriott San Antonio Rivercenter, San Antonio, Texas

**All interested people are invited to attend.**

### Tentative AGENDA

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES
    - a. Conference Call: 11-9-2017
  2. EXECUTIVE REPORT
  3. ADVISORY COUNCIL
  4. EMAIL LISTS AND HOW THEY WORK
  5. USAHA, IGA AND NIAA MEMBERSHIPS
  6. ASI
  7. WEBSITE
  8. GOAT CENTER
    - a. Letters to Congress
    - b. Rural Development Program Funding Info
  9. GOAT CHECKOFF
    - a. Updated Information
    - b. Discuss setting up committee
  10. SCRAPIE GRANT
  11. FFA
    - a. National Convention
    - b. FFA Scholarship Program Information
  12. PLANNING
    - a. Sheep & Goat Sector Meeting (March 2018)
    - b. Presence on the Cross Species FMD Team
    - c. Upcoming(NAHMS)Goat 2019 study of the goat industry: Dr. Katherine Marshall
    - d. National Goat Conference (Sept 2018)
  13. ELECT OFFICERS
  14. SPEAKERS: Diane Sutton, Katherine Marshall, ASI Representative, Others?
  15. ADJOURN
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## AGF Exhibits at 2017 National FFA Convention

## SUB-GRANT Program for 2018

Information about the grant program and application forms are available on the AGF website.

[Go to Subgrant Program Page](#)

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Genetic Testing for Scrapie Resistance in Goats is Now Available

The VGL Laboratory at UC Davis has added genetic testing for resistance to scrapie in Goats to their list of available services. This testing is similar what was developed for sheep and what those producers used to clear scrapie-prone sheep from their flocks. The current cost for this test is \$30.00 per goat. The American Dairy Goat Assoc. and American Boer Goat Assoc. will offer discounted prices for this test to their members.

[Read More](#)

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## November 2017 National Scrapie Eradication Program Monthly Report port

The last case of classical scrapie in goats was reported in February, 2015. Since 2002, the number of positive field cases in goats is only 41.

[Read More](#)

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AGF Gave Members
Opportunity to
Participate in the
NAHMS Survey for the
Goat 2019 Needs
Assessment

The USDA National



Posters, handouts and flash drives with goat information were handed out to FFA Advisors and Teachers. The AGF booth was open in the Exhibitor Area of the Convention and many of the FFA Kids took pictures of their groups in front of our posters.

National Livestock Haulers Get 90 Day Waiver from Hours of Service Rules

Truckers hauling livestock have received a 90-day waiver from the US Department of Transportation from the ELD mandate that became effective on December 18. While the delay is good till mid-March, the industry is hoping for a longer-term solution.

The new regulations require certain drivers to install ELDs on their trucks. Also included are hours of service restrictions on truckers, limiting them to 11 hours of driving daily, after 10 hours off duty. Plus, the ELD rules restrict truckers on-duty time to 14 consecutive hours, which includes nondriving time.

FMCSA Publishes Proposed Rule in the Federal register to exempt members of the Ag Retailers Assoc from the new ELD requirements (Hours of Service Rules).

On December 28, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published a proposed rule in the Federal Register to exempt members of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) from the ELD requirement that went into effect December 18, 2017.

The public comment period is open now and expires January 29, 2018. [For More Information](#)

National Institute for Animal Agriculture [NIAA] NEWS

NIAA Livestock Traceability: Opportunities for Animal Agriculture will take place April 10-11, 2018 in Denver Colorado.

Traceability: the Real World interactive workshop will be offered on April 12, at the same location.

Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) survey was designed to help NAHMS craft the most informative study possible and obtain data that will be most beneficial to producers and others in the goat industry. The survey seeks information about what goat producers and others consider to be the most important health issues facing the U.S. goat industry. It also asks for producer help in identifying the information that is needed regarding health-management practices used in the U.S. goat industry sectors. The goat study will initiate data collection in 2019,

[Read More](#)

Videos of Seminar Presentations and Recordings of the Webinar Presentations that were given this fall can be viewed on the website.

Additional videos and recordings are being added as they get processed.

[Go to Education Page](#)

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NIAA carries a strong legacy of providing the U.S. livestock industry with a forum to collectively address issues of common interest. Successor to the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI), NIAA began operations in January 2000 and addresses issues of interest to the industry, providing vital industry information, continuing education and communication outlets for animal agriculture professionals. NIAA is dedicated to programs to: Work towards the eradication of diseases that pose a risk to the health of animals, wildlife and humans, promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad, and promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being. [For More Information](#)

The American Goat Federation is a member of NIAA.

International Goat Association [IGA] NEWS

Third Annual Dairy Sheep & Goat Conference will be held February 19-20, 2018 in Bristol, SW England.
Asian Regional Conference on Goats will be held October 22-26, 2018 in Jaipur, India.

The mission of the International Goat Association is to promote goat research and development for the benefit of humankind, to alleviate poverty, to promote property and to improve the quality of life. IGA advocates socially just, environmentally sound and economically viable goat production. [For More Information](#)

The American Goat Federation is a member of IGA.

United States Animal Health Association [USAHA] NEWS

USAHA / AAVLD Annual Meeting will be held October 18-24, 2018.

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.

[For More Information](#)

The American Goat Federation is a member of USAHA.

Other News

Shoshone forest strikes balance with pack goat rules

The Shoshone National Forest has adopted a plan that

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

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

appeases both the goat packing community and biologists trying to protect bighorn sheep from deadly diseases. *Jackson Hole News and Guide*: 1/8/18. [Read More](#)

## Happenings

- **January 30-31, 2018:** American Goat Federation Annual Meeting and Producers Seminar will be held in San Antonio, Texas
- **April 9-12, 2018:** National Institute of Animal Agriculture Annual Conference will be held in Denver, Colorado.
- **June 10-15, 2018:** American Boer Goat Association National Show will be held at Grand Island, Nebraska.
- **June 23-30, 2018:** American Dairy Goat Association National Show will be held in Columbus, Ohio.
- **July 19-21, 2018:** Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers 103rd Annual Convention will be held at the Y.O. Hotel.
- **August 17-18, 2018:** Texas Sheep & Goat Expo will be held at the San Angelo Fairgrounds, Texas.
- **September 16-18, 2018:** National Goat Conference will be held at Tuskegee University in Alabama.
- **October 16-21, 2018:** American Dairy Goat Association Annual Meeting will be held in Bloomington Minneapolis South, Minnesota.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

published by aTd Stuff for

### the American Goat Federation

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While AGF strives for accuracy in the information shared in this newsletter, it should be treated as a snapshot of information being reported regarding animal production and related subjects.

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