



American Goat Industry News



Greetings from AGF!

THANKS to all members who have renewed their 2018 memberships so far. Renewal email reminders are going out the end of this month for those who have not yet renewed. AGF is pleased to welcome new individual members: Diane Hubbard, Jill Johnson, Karen Knight Price, Ronald Sampson, Malissa Shepard, John Walker, Charles Hickerson, Stephen Kyle and Eileen Combs.

REMINDER: Discounted Individual Membership new and renewal program expires June 30, 2018. If you would like to join the federation, and/or renew your membership and take advantage of the discounts you can contact the office or select: [JOIN AGF](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

[Eat Healthy](#)

[Youth Scholarship Program](#)

[National Goat Center](#)

[Scrapie/QFever Subgrant Program](#)

[Genetic Testing for Scrapie](#)

[VFD Surveyt](#)

[Annual Meeting Report](#)

[Happenings](#)

TAKE the VFD SURVEY

A group of Extension Educators from different land-grant universities across the country have put together a survey to see how the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) has affected livestock producers. To do this they are asking that all livestock producers respond to a nationwide survey to help determine if and how VFD rules have impacted animal health and use of antibiotics in animal feed, or had an economic impact on farms. Farmers, of any size, that raise food production animals are being asked to respond to this nationwide online survey. The information will be used by Extension to direct programming.

The online survey is completely anonymous and can be accessed through the following link:

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey (it should only take between 10 and 15 minutes).

Report of the 2018 AGF Annual Meeting

2018 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Applications for the 2018 Youth Scholarship Program are due in the office July 20, 2018. Completed projects must be submitted to the office by August 20, 2018. Applicants must be between the ages of 12 and 21 as of September 30, 2017.

AGF has a minimum of \$4,000.00 to award to participants.

These scholarships may be used for any educational opportunity, including 4-H and FFA events and are being made possible through a grant with USDA/APHIS.

[More information and an application:](#)

NATIONAL GOAT CENTER

AGF continues to work towards obtaining funding and support to establish a National Goat Center.

In addition, AGF has spoken to several members of the congressional ag committees about getting goats returned to the National Sheep and Goat Center name. It was removed last year at the last minute. A letter has

The 2018 Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 30, in San Antonio Texas where AGF welcomed new director, Kathy Daves Carr from Summerton, South Carolina to the board. Kathy is the representative of the American Boer Goat Association. All AGF directors serve 3 year terms.

Officer elections were held and the results are:

President: Bob Buchholz from Eldorado, TX
representing the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers

Vice President: Matthew Hayes from Winters, CA
with Superior Farms

Sec/Treasurer: Elizabeth Henning from Willcox, AZ
Officers each serve a 1 year term.

Other directors are:

Sam Abney from Prattville, Alabama

Tom Boyer from Coalville, Utah

Linda Campbell from Luray, VA - representing
the American Dairy Goat Association

Dr. An Peischel from Chapmansboro, TN

Anita Dahnke, Executive Director announced that Dr. Frank Pinkerton has resigned from the Advisory Council due to health issues. Dr. Pinkerton has been a staunch supporter of the American Goat Federation for years and we will miss the expertise that he has so generously shared with us. New to the Advisory Council is Dr. Ken Andries who has stepped down from the Board on which he has served for several years, including as President last year.

The AGF board is working with the American Boer Goat Association to review and verify ABGA educational materials and make them available on the AGF website. Anita reported that we are waiting for working documents from ABGA and that work will continue through first quarter 2018.

The board voted to continue membership in the following organizations:

the United States Animal Health Association (HSAHA)

the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIIA)

the International Goat Association (IGA).

The board discussed results of attendance and the exhibit at the National FFA Convention last October and investigating a joint exhibition with the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) in 2018. Participation in the FFA Scholarship Program was also discussed with an

just sent to the Honorable Pat Roberts, Chair of the Senate Committee in hopes of getting that done.

[Read the letter](#)

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### Scrapie Eradication Program Education & Q Fever Education Program Activities

FY-18 Sub-grants were awarded to the following groups:

Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Assoc.

Southwest Ohio Dairy Goat Assoc for the ADGA National Show.

ROUTE 66 Mytonics Show and Seminar.

For Information about Seminars and other Programs being offered through the Sub-Grants:

[Go to Subgrant Program Page](#)

In addition to several regional events, AGF will provide program information at the following venues:

- > Texas A&M Agri Life Extension Sheep & Goat Expo in Aug,
- > National Goat Conference in Sept,
- > American Dairy Goat Assoc Conv in Oct,
- > National FFA Conv in October.

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GENETIC TEST for SCRAPIE RESISTANCE IN GOATS

The VGL Laboratory at UC Davis has made genetic testing for resistance to scrapie in Goats available to goat producers. The

emphasis on possibly providing a chapter grant which would go the specific FFA Group for participating in an AGF project rather than just to an individual.

Anita reported on the status of the FY-16 Scrapie/Q Fever grant which terminated in September, 2017 and provided a report on scholarships, sub grants and other activities. The Scholarship Program required that each applicant do an educational project on Scrapie and/or Q Fever. Two scholarships were awarded:

- John Rumsey, age 18, of Francesville, Indiana received a \$750.00 scholarship which he will use at Purdue University where he is studying animal science.
- Mackenzie Taylor Plake, age 12, of Tipton, Indiana received a \$750.00 scholarship which she will use for 4-H and FFA educational opportunities.

Sub Grants were awarded to:

Kentucky Sheep & Goat Producers
Southeastern Small Farmers Network
Indiana Boer Goat Classic
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers
American Dairy Goat Association

For the FY-17 grant, which runs from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 AGF will be offering scholarships in addition to the educational sub grants that are available to organizations willing to participate in the sub grant program. Information on both is available on the AGF website: <https://AmericanGoatFederation.org>.

Dr. Diane Sutton, from USDA/APHIS and the National Scrapie Program Coordinator reported on the status of the Scrapie Eradication Program. The Goat Industry continues to make progress towards meeting the goals of the Eradication Program. That power point will be available on the AGF Website. The availability of genetic testing for scrapie resistance (alleles S146 and K122) was discussed. UC Davis is offering this testing currently and both ADGA and ABGA are offering discounted access to their members through their associations. While this testing has not been approved by USDA/APHIS as being formally accepted at this point, it appears to be a strong possibility that it will be in the near future.

Dr. Katherine Marshall shared the results of the preliminary survey that will be used in the upcoming NAHMS Goat 2019 study of the goat industry. She thanked AGF for helping get the word out to goat producers which resulted in the largest response they've ever had to surveys about goats. Information about the survey results and updates on the 2019 study will be available on the AGF website.

Dr. Gbenga Ojuma, assistant professor of economics and statistics from Prairie View A&M University

current cost for this test is \$30.00 per goat. The American Dairy Goat Assoc. and American Boer Goat Assoc. are offering discounted prices for this test to their members.

[Read More](#)

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[Board of Directors](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[AGF Members](#)  
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AGF is a member of the following associations:

- >National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA)
- >The United States Animal Health Assoc (USAHA)
- >The International Goat Association (IGA)

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

Prairie View A&M University presented information about their survey being done in conjunction with the National Science Foundation (NSF). This project involves research on goat management in an effort to try to solve some of the problems currently being experienced by goat herd owners across the country. They were seeking AGF's assistance in reaching out to goat producers.

The Sheep & Goat Sector Meeting normally held in March, will be held in September this year, and AGF will attend that meeting. The ASI visit to the hill is being held on March 5-7 and AGF will have representatives in attendance. Anita Dahnke is on the National Goat Conference Committee. The conference will be held September 16-18 at Tuskegee University. AGF is also looking into joining the Cross Species FMD Team.

The possible pursuit of a goat check-off was discussed as AGF had been approached early in 2017 by individuals interested in pursuing one. After discussion and sharing information about the effort and number of people and funding involved, it appears that there is not enough support or manpower to continue at this time. The possibility of a goat check-off will be held open as an agenda item should more support become available in the future.

The AGF Board voted to pursue planning and funding for a Goat Center to serve the goat industry in the same manner as the Sheep and Cattle Centers serves those industries.

The next Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 22 in New Orleans, Louisiana in conjunction with the ASI convention. There is also a possibility of an AGF meeting in October in conjunction with the ADGA convention.

Happenings

- **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.

- **January 23, 2019:** AGF Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana..

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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