Greetings from AGF!

AGF is honored to welcome the American Kiko Goat Association as our first Supporting Member Organization. As a supporting Member Organization, AKGA can give each of their members a free Individual Membership in AGF. Read about AKGA

AGF is also honored to welcome three new Organization Members:
the Cashmere Goat Association - Read about CGA
the Hawaii Sheep & Goat Association - Read about HSGA
the North American Pack Goat Association Read NAPGA
Members of Member Organizations can join AGF as Individual Members for only $20/year instead of the regular $30/year fee.

THANKS to all members who have renewed their memberships and a very special thanks those who renewed their Affiliate memberships!

AGF is pleased to welcome new Affiliate Members:
Shannel Delaloza, JDL Browsing --- Jim Perry --- Paulette Wohnoutka, Pedigree International

AGF is also pleased to welcome new Individual Members: Jordan Agulniga, Bobby Alsip, Mary Blume, Joetta Boyd, John Bukovatz, Jason Carlisle, Alesa Chaffee, Mandy Chesney, Leann Cline,

If you would like to join the Federation, and/or renew your membership contact the office or select: JOIN AGF  You can join or renew at any time on the website, 2019 AGF Memberships expire on February 28, 2020. Memberships for those who join as new members from October 31 through March 1 are good through the end of February, 2021.

AGF AWARDS 5 Scholarships for the 2019 Youth Scholarship Program

2019 Scholarship Recipients

Jonah Holland  Mississippi
Lauren Newman  Colorado
Vincent Sanders  Texas
Monica Reed  New York
Blake Ehler  Iowa

View Info & Projects

There were 22 applicants for the 2019 Youth Scholarship Program. Five scholarships were awarded, four to 17 to 21 age group for $1,000 each, and one to the 12 to 16 age group for $500.00. Click on the picture to learn about the applicants and view their projects. This program is funded in part by a grant from USDA/APHIS.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2020 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE ON THE AGF WEBSITE.  Get One Now

AGF is pleased to welcome Sustaining Industry Partner: Buchholz Cattle Company of ElDorado Texas.

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MEMBER Services

If you are an AGF Member and haven't checked out Member Services, you can do so at any time by visiting: Member Services

- **Marketing Goats and Goat Products**: Free Marketing Page on the AGF Website that will link to Goatzz.com, a global internet site.
- **Goat Production Recordkeeping and Performance Program**: Free excel-based program for recording information about members' goats.
- **Advanced Recordkeeping & Performance Program**: Discounted Upgrade to Go360 bioTrack Program.

Members can view AGF Meeting Minutes and other information on the Members Page. That page is password
Development Roundtable
RFID Scrapie Tag Trial
American Goat Initiative
Goat Industry Development

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9-10, 2019:
Small Ruminant Management & Fiber Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Learn More

January 4-11, 2020:
Pennsylvania Farm Show - AGF will have handouts and a display in the goat area

January 21, 2020 (8am to 12 noon): AGF Annual Meeting, Scottsdale, Arizona. AGF members are welcome to attend. Learn More

January 21, 2020 (1pm to 6pm): AGF & AGI Small Ruminant Vaccine Development Roundtable, Scottsdale, Arizona.

January 22-25, 2020:
American Sheep Industry Annual Convention, Scottsdale, Arizona. Learn More

February 20-23, 2020:
International Society of Infectious Diseases (ISID) 19th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID), Lumpur, Malaysia. Learn More

June 8-12, 2020:
American Boer Goat Assoc National Show, Grand Island, Nebraska.

June 14-16, 2020:
National Grazing Lands protected. If you don't remember it contact the office.

2020 AGF Annual Meeting

The 2020 American Goat Federation Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 21 from 8 am to Noon at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This meeting is held in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry Annual Convention. ALL AGF members are welcome to attend.

Beginning at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, AGF and AGI will host a Roundtable on Small Ruminant Vaccine Development. Stakeholders from several segments of the industry and departments of USDA will attend. The American Sheep Industry Association is already working toward vaccine development and AGF hopes that by joining forces with ASI and the Canadian Sheep and Goat Federations we can establish a program and funding to initiate development.

The current list of attendees is:

Bob Buchholz, President of AGF, and Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association representative

Tom Boyer, President of American Goat Initiative and AGF Director

Randy Dusek, Sec/Treasurer AGF, and American Boer Goat Association representative on AGF Board

Jan Carlson, AGF Director and American Dairy Goat Association representative on AGF Board

Anita Dahnke, Executive Director AGF

Dr. Reid Redden, AGF Advisory Council; Texas A&M Agri Life Extension Svc

Peter Orwick, Executive Director American Sheep Industry Association

Dr. Randall Berrier, Sr. Vice President - Scientific Affairs at Colorado Serum

Dr. Paul Plummer, Iowa State University Associate Professor. Vet Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine

Dr. Roselle Busch, UC Davis (assistant specialist-cooperative extension sheep & health herd production), who helped establish the antimicrobial use and stewardship program in California

Representative from United States Animal Health Association

Dr. Jim Miller - Louisiana retired -

Dr. Stephen White, USDA/ARS

Dr. Diane Sutton, USDA/APHIS

Dr. Natalie Urie, USDA/NAHMS

Corlena Patterson, Executive Director, Canadian Sheep Federation

Allan Ribbink, Chairman - Canadian Sheep Federation

Morgan Moore, Vice-Chair - Canadian Sheep Federation

Attending if Available:

Dr. Gary Newton, AGF Director and head of International Goat Center, Prairie View (may be able to attend)

Benny Cox, President of ASI is in another meeting, but will attend if available

RFID SCRAPIE TAG RETENTION TRIAL TO BEGIN IN 2020
Coalition first ever Summer Bus Tour. 
June 20-22, 2020: 
American Dairy Goat Assoc National Show, 
Grand Island, Nebraska. 
Learn More

September 18-19, 2020: 
Pedigree International Seminar and 1st South African Savanna Goat Auction held in the USA, (seminar on the 18th, live broadcast auction on the 19th), Springfield, Missouri. AGF will exhibit and attend. More Later

October 5-12, 2020: 
American Dairy Goat Assoc Annual Convention, Syracuse, New York.

October 28-31, 2020: 
National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Goat producers with a minimum of 10 goats that are expected to remain on their property for the 3 year time period will be given an opportunity to apply to participate in the trials. AGF will select participants based on parameters required by the study.

AGF will provide instructions with the tags and applicators to the evaluators. In most cases evaluators will be producers. The retention evaluation trial will require recordkeeping by participating producers and evaluators. RFID readers will be provided by AGF.

Each RFID tag will be evaluated in at least one large commercial goat dairy and one large commercial meat goat herd. In addition, devices will be assessed in settings with 4" woven wire fence, regular use of feed bunks or hay bunks for at least 3 months of the year, and moderate to high levels of brush a minimum of 50 goats in each of these environments, same animal may be exposed to more than one of these conditions. Further, devices will be tested in cold and hot environments as described in the ADT standards. It is planned to have three or four types of RFID ear tags included in the evaluation.

This is an opportunity for goat producers to provide input on the type of tags that end up being used to satisfy the mandatory ID requirements of the National Scrapie Eradication Program. Sign Up Now

AGF Fall Meeting

AGF held a face-to-face Board meeting on Saturday, October 19 at the ADGA Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho. The morning was dedicated to AGF business and planning.

- A timeline for the RFID Scrapie Tag Field Trial activities was developed. Manufacturers Allflex and Premier1 will each submit a tag for trial. Shearwell already has an RFID Scrapie tag approved for sheep and will submit that tag for trial in goats. AGF announced the trial in Goat Rancher Magazine and United Caprine News and will begin recruiting producers in January.

- The potential for AGF and the American Goat initiative (AGI) to develop a humane handling system to make it

NEWS OF NOTE

USMAC (new North American Trade Deal) Clears House by a vote of 385 to 41.

U.S. Senate approves FY2020 Appropriations Bill, following the House of Representatives vote on Tuesday. The bill includes funding for Wildlife Services damage management, funding for the Scrapie Eradication Program through USDA/APHIS, funding the US Sheep Experiment Station, and providing a delay on Electronic Logging

Eat Healthy Visit the Meat & Dairy Goat Products Page
Devices for livestock haulers through 9/30/20.

**Korean group of meat buyers will visit US goat and sheep farms this year.** AGF member ranches will be included in the visit.

**International Team of Scientists** say they identified the origin of mad cow disease (BSE), which belongs to a group of rare neuro-degenerative diseases such as Scrapie that are caused by infectious pathogens that affect humans and animals.

The team of scientists injected a particular variant of scrapie disease into mice which have been genetically modified with bovine DNA. The researchers say that, unexpectedly, the injection of the scrapie strain resulted in the propagation of classical mad cow disease prions. These prions are present in natural form in the scrapie variant. [Learn More](#)

**The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** announced Nov. 15 an open period for grant applications to support development and approval or conditional approval of new animal drugs intended to treat uncommon diseases (minor uses) in major species - horses, dogs, cats, cattle, pigs, turkeys and chickens - or to make it easier to install scrapie tags on goats will be put on the planning agenda for both.

- Future enhancements to the free **Recordkeeping Program** developed by Dr. Ken Andries will be added. The Board voted to charge university farms and large corporate farms a nominal fee of $100/year to use the program. Free Training in the use of shortcuts and linking of worksheets to make use easier is available.
- The Board decided to have a panel for discussion of **vaccine development** in conjunction with AGI at the Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, January 21.
- AGF will begin working on development of a **Secure Goat Supply Program** in the event of the outbreak of a serious disease in order to protect producers and prevent shutdown of the entire supply.
- Dr. Katherine Marshall discussed **QFever and DNA sequencing** for pathogens. AGF decided to pursue attendance at the USMARC meetings to insure that goat-related research on QFever gets done.

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### American Goat Initiative (AGI) Foundation First Face to Face Meeting

The American Goat Initiative (AGI) met Tuesday afternoon. Tom Boyer, AGI President, accepted Randy Dusek as one of the trustees for the foundation. In addition, Anita Dahnke will serve as Executive Secretary. Anita will seek a financial person to serve as a volunteer Trustee and Randy will search for another Trustee.

- AGI added the humane handling system for applying Scrapie Tags to the list of future projects.
- AGI will join AGF in hosting a Small Ruminant Vaccine Development Roundtable at the AGF and AGI Annual Meeting on January 21.
- AGI is seeking a person with financial experience to serve as a volunteer Trustee as well as someone with legal experience to volunteer to be a Trustee. If you have experience or know someone who would actively serve the American Goat Initiative, please let the office know.
- AGI and AGF will work closely together to find, support and if appropriate, conduct research beneficial to the goat industry.

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### American Dairy Goat Association Annual Convention
treat minor species (MUMS). FDA said the individual award amount has been increased to a single funding level up to $250,000.

Reps Smucker and Craig introduced Bipartisan Bill providing regulatory relief to Livestock Haulers. AGF wrote letter of support outlining goat industry needs for this bill.

Goats and grazing cattle on different lands is paying off for producers in Iowa. Learn More

FDA Releases Annual Report on Antibiotic Sales for Animals in 2018 Learn More

Meat is Crucial for Feeding the Planet and Going Vegan is Not More Green, Say Scientists at Edinburgh University. "Often the argument is made that going vegan would minimize land use, and the modelling studies that have been done demonstrate that this is not the case." Professor Wilson said more research is needed.

Kansas State University is offering a Graduate Certificate Program in Animal Health Regulatory Affairs. The program provides 15 credit hours that combine knowledge of animal science and veterinary medicine with

Anita Dahnke, Executive Director attended the American Dairy Goat Association and exhibited for AGF and AGI. ADGA showcased producers products from their contest at the awards banquet, which offered local wines to go along with the edible products. Award winners were auctioned off at the banquet

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners held continuing education sessions on the last two days of the convention. ADGA is a member organization of AGF. Learn More

Hawaii Sheep & Goat Association
skills needed to navigate government processes and regulations.

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**Board of Directors**

**Advisory Council**

**AGF Members**

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.

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Hawaii Sheep & Goat Association board members displayed AGF information and handed out flyers at the 2019 Hawaii Ag Conference, Honolulu, Oahu. Left to right: Sandra Tran, Amy Decker, Daphne McKeenan & Julie LaTendresse. HSGA is a Member Organization of AGF. [Learn More]

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**2019 National FFA Convention**

Anita Dahnke manned the AGF booth at the FFA Convention the last week of October and talked to over 400 youth and adults about goats and the goat industry. [Learn More about AGF and Member Organization activities on behalf of the Goat Industry]

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**Goat Industry Development**

AGF is forming a Committee which will focus on Goat Industry Development with particular attention to market infrastructure development and increased goat production. Dr. Frank Pinkerton has agreed to assist with establishment of the committee and plans are to begin seeking funding for a multi-purpose, multi-year project focusing on by mid 2020 for:

- Increasing goat production and marketing sites/facilities nationwide.
- Providing education and tools to reduce input costs.
- Increasing number of goat-harvesting facilities closer to regional areas of goat production (as well as increasing numbers of existing slaughter plants to add goat processing).
- Educating prospective producers in rural areas about how to make small scale goat meat, dairy products, and fiber production profitable.
- Sharing needs of specific wholesalers wanting domestic goat meat from slaughter facilities.
- Assessment of ethnic consumer and mainstream consumer acceptance of boxed retail cuts of goat meat.

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This Newsletter is funded in part by the generosity of our Industry Partners.
INDUSTRY NEWS
published by aTl Stuff for
the American Goat Federation
PO Box 2436, West Lafayette IN 47996 [765-430-2075]
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