



## American Goat Industry News



PROMOTING THE GOAT with assistance from the Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Wolf. - Picture from the January Pennsylvania Farm Show where the Pennsylvania folks displayed and handed out information about goats and AGF.

### Greetings from AGF,

Several months have passed since our last newsletter. We've witnessed a historic shut-down, and even though we may not have contracted the COVID virus ourselves, we have all endured the consequences. As things continue to return to some semblance of normal, we hope each of you who haven't become ill, will stay healthy enough to fight it off.

AGF has been able to continue some programs and made our visit to Washington, DC this Spring, and we'll share that information here. People have also continued to join the federation and we appreciate every new member.

#### **AGF is pleased to welcome new Affiliate Members:**

Marla Gill, Great Day Goat Farm; Allysse Sorensen, the Munch Bunch, Ilc.; Donna Askew, Spanish Goat Association & Conservation Society.

#### **AGF is also pleased to welcome new Individual Members:**

Rishikesh Aripineni, Nancy Barlas, John Barnhart, George Blevens, Kelly Boney, Jeremy Brack, Stacy & Millie Brashaw, April Bridget, Sarah Bullock, Dr. Roselle Buch, Sara Carrasco, Amanda Condra, Ron Crayton, Renee Fanklin, Mrs. Robyn Gamble, Robert Hamilton, Jordan Harris, Janine Hill, Raymond Jones, Tina Knisley, Mark Lee, Michelle Liga, Ashley Longhorn, Angela Love, Brett Lundstrom, Brad Pingel, Diana Presnell, Louisa

Putnam, Rixie Rose, Justin Rosewell, Margaret Ruebush, Kent Savage, Samuel Scott, Allysse Sorenson, Carlon A Stapper, Wayne Stapper, Perry Troutman, Brian Tyron, Dr. Natalie Urie, and Leslie Warner, Lisa Weeams, .

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. If you are already a member of AGF, the *2019 AGF Memberships expired on February 28, 2020.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

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## USDA SURVEY to MEASURE AREAS for IMPROVEMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners. The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

[Take the Survey](#)

## AGF BOARD of DIRECTORS SEARCH

AGF works to serve all segments of the goat industry across the nation. There are regions in the US where we do not have a director. If you have time to volunteer and can actively take part in 6 to 9 conference call meetings a year and up to 2 in-person meetings, please consider volunteering to serve on the AGF Board.

## 2020 AGF Visit to the "Hill"

In March this year, just as Covid began to break out in America, Randy Dusek, American Goat Federation (AGF) President and Tammy Fisher, AGF Legislative and Public Policy Chair went to Washington, DC as part of the American Sheep Industry fly in. They met with a contingent of Scientists and Government officials with Agriculture Research Service (ARS) in Beltsville, Maryland.

There was a useful exchange of ideas from a producer point of view to the scientific point of view. ARS discussed their research on stomach worms and shared information about future alternatives to dewormers that could end resistance and dependence on limited varieties of expensive dewormers. Randy and Tammy asked for assistance with Q-Fever and Anthrax research for sheep, goats and wildlife, and also learned of ever-increasing budgetary constraints and lack of scientists in the field of small ruminants in the government sector. All-in-all, the entire department of sheep and goat specialists at ARS were inviting, welcoming and AGF is continuing the dialogue with these supporters of American agriculture.

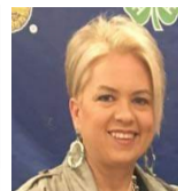
[READ MORE](#)

## 2020 AGF Annual Meeting

On Tuesday morning, January 21 American Goat Federation directors, advisors, members and others gathered at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort for the 2020 Annual Meeting. After taking care of general Federation business two new directors were appointed to the Board. Tammy Fisher is an attorney with her own small town law practice. She is a fifth-generation sheep, goat and cattle rancher in Sutton County, Texas. Dr. Alison Crane is the Kansas State University Sheep and Meat Goat Specialist. She received her Ph.D. in animal science from North Dakota State University.



Dr. Alison Crane



Tammy Fisher

Directors terms are 3 years.



## AGF EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Two new members have joined the AGF Education Committee. Katherine Klug with Shepherd Creek Ranch in Texas where she raises Boer goats and cattle; and Lou Maring who raises foundation Syfan goats, Katadin sheep and commercial cattle in Missouri. Readers have these two folks to thank for the links to articles in this newsletter.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 18-19, 2020:** Savanna Goat Spectacular 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 Speak. [Learn More](#)

**September 24-25, 2020:** Spanish Goat Gathering, American Spanish Goat Assoc. & Spanish Goat Conservation Society. [Learn More](#)

**October 5-12, 2020:** American Dairy Goat Assoc Annual Convention is cancelled for 2020. There will be a virtual board meeting instead.

**October 28-31, 2020:** National FFA

Three new Advisors were added to the AGF Advisory Council. Dr. Stephen White from USDA Animal Research Services, Dr. Rosie Busch from UC-Davis, and Dr. Natalie Urie from USDA NAHMS who replaces Dr. Katherine Marshall on the Council. Background information on all AGF Directors and Advisors can be found on the AGF website.



Dr. Stephen White



Dr. Natalie Urie



Dr. Roselle Busch

## [READ MORE](#)

## 2020 American Goat Initiative (AGI)

On Tuesday afternoon AGI hosted the Small Ruminant Vaccine Development Roundtable organized by AGI with the assistance of AGF in late 2019. In addition to AGI President, Tom Boyer and trustee Randy Dusek, participants from AGF, the American Sheep Industry Association, the Canadian Sheep Federation, USDA, university goat specialists, the US Animal Health Association, and Colorado Serum Company explored research and development of vaccines for small ruminants, and goats in particular. The two vaccines that topped the list of desired vaccines submitted by AGF member organizations were for the barber pole worm and Coxiellosis (Q Fever).

## [READ MORE](#)

## August is National Goat Cheese Month

The American Cheese Society launched National Goat Cheese Month in 1998 "to promote the benefits of cooking with goat cheese."

August can be a seasonal highlight for flavorful goat cheeses. The summer diets of goats, including dairy goats can include wild berries and fresh herbs. The abundance of food choices this time of year can enhance the flavor of the milk, making for excellent goat milk cheeses.

## [READ MORE](#)



## National Goat Consortium Membership Drive

The newly organized National Goat Consortium (NGC) is conducting their inaugural membership drive from now until October 31, 2020. People who join before October 31 will be Founding Members of NGC. NGC is an 1890's land-grant initiative

Convention, has been changed to a virtual event.

**January 26, 2020:**

American Goat Federation Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado. [More info](#)  
[Later](#)

[Eat Healthy Visit the Meat & Dairy Goat Products Page](#)

### NEWS OF NOTE

Goatober is an international food festival that takes place every October. Goatober originated in New York in 2011 and the focus is to put more goat meat on the menu and put all male goats born into the dairy system in the food system.

[Visit their Website](#)

[Read about a Dairy Goat Operation in Oregon that started as a 4-H Project](#)

Direct Act Reduces Red Tape for Smaller Meat Processors. [Read Article in Feedstuffs](#)

[Goats in the News](#)

[Handling Heat Stress in Livestock](#)

After 150 years of Milking Cows, Northern Vermont Farm Awaits 1,500 Goats. [Read Article](#)

[Small Ruminants: Grass to Cash with Goats](#)

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[Board of Directors](#)

consisting of 1890 administrators, faculty and staff, community-based organizations, farmers, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. NGC hosts the National Goat Conference every 2 to 3 years providing a forum for those involved in the goat industry to participate in innovative and informative experiences revolving around this field. The American Goat Federation and other members of NGC also host numerous events to promote the goat industry. The next National Goat Conference is scheduled for September 19-20, 2021 at Prairie View in Texas.

### 1890 Land Grant Institutions

Alabama A&M University - Alcorn State University - Central State University - Delaware State University - Florida A&M University - Fort Valley State University - Kentucky State University - Langston University - Lincoln University - North Carolina A&T State University - Prairie View A&M University - South Carolina State University - Southern University System - Tennessee State University - Tuskegee University - University of Arkansas Pine Bluff - University of Maryland Eastern Shore - Virginia State University - West Virginia State University

[Find out more about NGC](#)

## RFID SCRAPIE TAG RETENTION TRIAL BEGAN EARLIER THIS YEAR

AGF entered into a cooperative agreement with USDA/APHIS/VS last Fall to conduct a field trial on the use of RFID ear tags. We had over 200 producers sign up to participate. The COVID19 panic delayed the trial and participating producers didn't begin receiving the free tags and wand readers until late Spring this year.

This trial gives the goat industry a say in the kind of tags and readers that will be adopted for use for official identification. It appears that sooner or later all livestock will be required to be identified with EID tags. It also provides a chance for producers to see what using EID can do to make their operations more efficient.

Data on tag retention, readability (both visual and when using the wand reader), infection rates will be collected every 6 months in order to provide the information necessary to make a good choice.



## Goat Vaccinology

Dr. Randall Berrier, Vice President of Technical Services at Colorado Serum Company (one of the



### 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.



AGF Industry Partners) has written an information sheet for AGF to share with goat producers on use of vaccines.

[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

### **National Sheep & Goat Defect Registry**

In the Fall of 2018, Professor Jolena Waddell, Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Tarleton State University in Texas established the National Sheep and Goat Defect Registry. Since that time, her students, along with registry partners, Dr. Tasia Taxis at Michigan State University and Dr. Darren Hagen at Oklahoma State University have been working to create an organized system for producers to submit samples, descriptions, and photos, at no cost, to use for recording and and organized genetic research related to recurring genetic defects in sheep and goats across the US.

[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

### **MEMBER Services**

- **Marketing Goats and Goat Products:** Free Marketing Page on the AGF Website that links 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 protected. *If you don't remember the password, contact the office.*

[\*\*\*Find out More About Member Services\*\*\*](#)

**This Newsletter is funded in part by membership fees and the generosity of our Industry Partners.**



### **INDUSTRY NEWS**

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