

September 11, 2017

---

## **Board of Directors**

Dr Ken Andries (KY)  
President

Lary Duncan (TX)  
Vice President

Elizabeth Henning (AZ)  
Secretary

Matthew Hayes (CA)  
Treasurer

Sam Abney (AL)

Tom Boyer (UT)

Bob Buchholz (TX)

Linda Campbell (VA)

David Martin (GA)

Dr An Peischel (TN)

USDA-ARS Animal Disease Research  
3003 ADBF, WSU  
Pullman, WA 99164

Dear Dr. White:

AGF serves the goat industry by encouraging sound public policy, supporting production and marketing of goat products and promoting research and education related to goat management, health and production. We recognize that research is an important asset for the goat industry and encourage research to enhance responsible goat production systems, and goat products that increase profitability, environmental health, and basic understanding of important biological processes.

---

*"A unified voice for all elements of the goat industry in public policy, education, research, and marketing of goat products."*

---

## **Advisory Council**

Dr. Reid Redden (TX)

Dr Fred Homeyer (TX)

Dr Nada Nadarajah (AL)

Dr Fred Homeyer (TX)

Dr. Katherine Marshall (CO)

Dr Frank Pinkerton (TX)

Dr. Nar Gurung (AL)

Dr Stephen P Hart (OK)

Ms Susan Schoenlein (MD)

The Federation believes that the research project proposal entitled "Identification of Genetic Regions Associated with Shedding of *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever) in Goats as a Small Ruminant Model," will provide important information for all goat producers and AGF strongly supports this project. Q fever is an important problem for the goat and sheep industries, and it has been the topic of ongoing discussion and concern (for example, see <https://americangoatfederation.org/education-research/q-fever-the-hidden-menace/>).

In addition to ongoing abortion losses in the goat industry estimated in the millions of dollars annually, with Q Fever, there is potential for severe human medical cases like those experienced in the outbreak in the Netherlands. Tracebacks of the Netherlands outbreak led to a small ruminant district, and the perception of small ruminants as primary sources of human transmission presents a clear threat to our industry. There have also been historical outbreaks in the U.S., and Q Fever is one of the few infectious disease issues affecting the goat industry that has the potential for \$1 billion in damages from a single U.S. outbreak.

---

## **American Goat Federation**

PO Box 2436  
West Lafayette IN 47996  
765-430-2075

Email: [info@AmericanGoatFederation.org](mailto:info@AmericanGoatFederation.org)

**Executive Director**  
**Anita Teel Dahnke**

[AmericanGoatFederation.org](http://AmericanGoatFederation.org)

Since there is no licensed vaccine for *C. burnetii* in the U.S. and antibiotic treatment is both not completely effective and also undesirable, there is a great need for interventions that can mitigate *C. burnetii* transmission and disease. The genetic approach in this proposal has great promise to break the transmission cycle, and because the outcome of this study will include the first list of gene regions associated with *C. burnetii* shedding for any species, it will also have utility for developing breeding tools for sheep and other ruminants. AGF is excited that this goat research will also contribute to genetics of *C. burnetii* susceptibility in humans, since many of the mechanisms for controlling *C. burnetii* can benefit all mammal host species.

We believe that in addition to being a valuable contribution for the goat and small ruminant industries, this grant can be leveraged as seed money to help develop a federally funded research program. In spite of this being a critical area for research, to date there has been little federal funding for *C. burnetii* research to benefit small ruminant production in the U.S. AGF is hopeful that now will be the time to use this grant as seed money to generate a federally funded program that will benefit the goat industry and beyond for years to come.

AGF wishes you great success in this research endeavor.

Sincerely,



President