

International Goat Association News

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IGA News

Website under construction

We have been working to improve the IGA website. If you haven't visited our website recently check in soon and see the improvements. If you have questions, comments, updates, or pictures that you would like to share, please let us know.

[To visit IGA's website, click here.](#)

Share your opinion

March 2007

Greetings! Welcome to the IGA Newsletter. We are proud to provide you our readers with the latest goat related news, updates, special IGA offers and information.

International Goat Cheese Award, Italy

Many of you will be attending the upcoming International Symposium in Bella (Potenza), Italy, but you are also invited to participate in the FROMAGORA, International Goat Cheese Award.



Simultaneously to the Symposium in the historical city of famous cheese *affineurs*, Moliterno, an International Goat Cheese Award, will take place on May 26-27, 2007. It is an event completely devoted to artisan cheesemaking, supported by Regione Basilicata.

Animal products are the major source of income for breeders. This income depends on the characteristics of the product and its final price. So, it is important to catch the product's specificities in order to sell it at the fairest price, especially for goat cheeses, which are mostly made in small quantities directly on the farm.

Organized in collaboration with international experts, [Anfosc](#) (Associazione Nazionale Formaggi sotto il cielo) and [Onaf](#) (Organizzazione Nazionale Assaggiatori di Formaggi) there will be two technical days, with roundtable, and the International Goat Cheese Award, as well as an open market with public and private stands of sheep and goat cheeses from about 20 countries around the world.

The topic for discussion during the technical workshop will be, "Tools and models to promote the product."

[To visit the website for this satellite program, click here.](#)

Special thanks to Roberto Rubino and the Symposium staff for these reminders.

From the President

Dear Friends of the IGA,

International Symposium and IGA Board Meeting
2007 marks the 25th Anniversary of the International Goat Association and one of the ways that we are



In the January 2007 IGA Newsletter we asked you to share your opinion on an interesting article concerning Chinese Angora goat production and how it is affecting the environment on a global scale. ([Your cheap sweater's real cost](#))

We are always interested in your thoughts concerning articles in our newsletter. You can post comments on the IGA blog or send us an e-mail (goats@heifer.org) and we will include your comments in the next newsletter.

Please Send Country Reports/Updates

It is really important that IGA Country Representatives send occasional country reports. These report/updates help all members to better understand the global goat situation and connect with other members. Many IGA CRs have responded to our request for reports on goat production in the countries that they represent. If you haven't had a chance to send us your update, we hope you will send it soon.

9th ICG Website

Organizers of the 9th International Conference on Goats (Queretaro, Mexico 2008) have unveiled the conference's website. Much of the website is still under construction but we

celebrating is by organizing an International Symposium in Bella (Potenza), Italy along with CRA - Istituto Sperimentale per la Zootecnia - Potenza. The Symposium will take place from May 24-26.

We encourage all of you who have not registered for the conference to register soon! We understand that our members have many obligations, but we hope that you will make time to attend this important conference. If you are planning to come to attend please make sure that you have registered.

The next IGA Board Meeting will take place during the Symposium. Our meeting schedule is: Board Meeting #1: May 23 - 16:00 to 18:00; Board Meeting #2: May 24 - 17:30 to 19:00

We are in the process of putting the agenda together for our upcoming meeting in Bella, Italy. If members have an item that they would like to add to the Board Meeting agenda for discussion, please contact Christian DeVries: goats@heifer.org, no later than June 1, 2007.

For more conference information visit: <http://www.caseus.info/iga-symposium/>

IGA Website

If you have visited the IGA website recently you may have noticed some dramatic changes. We are redesigning the look and feel of IGA's online home.

We apologize in advance if you have any problems with the website. Any trouble you experience or any suggestions for improvement should be reported to Christian DeVries: goats@heifer.org.

Please bear with us as we work to upgrade this important service.

[To visit the IGA website, click here.](#)

Sincerely,
Christopher D. Lu
IGA President 2005-2008

Response to "Cheap Sweaters"

In the January 2007 IGA Newsletter we asked you to share your opinion on an interesting article concerning Chinese Angora goat production and how it is affecting the environment on a global scale.

([Your cheap sweater's real cost](#))

This article was part one of a three part article published by the Chicago Tribune dealing with China's growing appetite for natural resources



Cashmere goat in China (photo by Pete Souza)

recommend that you check it occasionally for updates.

[To visit the conference's website, click here.](#)

Portugal conference

Many of you were very interested to read about the October goat conference in Braganca, Portugal.

[To read a report on this conference, click here.](#)

[To visit IGA's website, click here.](#)

Goats in the News

[Goat industry, Swaziland](#)

[Goat camp highlights attributes of one very versatile animal, USA](#)

[Raising goats makes sense, Nigeria](#)

[Study reveals goat meatworks feasible, Australia](#)

[Goat raisers share production tips, USA](#)

[Pharm animals crank out drugs, USA](#)

[Fear grips town as Rift Valley Fever spreads, Tanzania](#)

[Goats can grow economy, Mongolia](#)

[Inmates raising goats, USA](#)

and how it is reshaping the world. The second and third articles cover timber and oil respectively.

We solicited your comments and this was the response that we received.

Dear Readers,

This is a rollback on the eternal story about the evil goat. The story of their destructive feeding behaviour and their "stiletto heels" has long been rebutted. Keeping excessive numbers of goats will lead to overgrazing and in an arid environment will enhance desertification. The destructive animal is man not goat.

The story does not tell how China developed Cashmere production by improving marketing and processing; how they managed to change from exporting raw fibre to home processing thereby dramatically increasing the value added at home; how the price slump in the early 90's affected the industry and that reducing herd numbers was one reaction on these changes. Certainly, in the wake of the "liberalisation" introduced by Deng Xiaoping in 1979 something went wrong and the rural poor rather than benefiting the soaring economy oftentimes are worse off than under the strict socialist system.

But what is the use of making US (and European) consumers feel bad about buying cashmere sweaters? Rather they should be informed that for a country like Mongolia (and Inner Mongolia) keeping goats and producing cashmere is an excellent option, provided it is done right and with a view on sustainability. This is not different from other export commodities that *Third World* countries can produce, say cotton, tea, or coffee. Helping achieve this goal by supporting such efforts as "Fair Trade" would be better than sitting in the scorner's seat and blaming poor countries for unreasonable behaviour.

Kindest regards

Dr. Christian Gall, IGA Advisory Board
Professor emeritus, Hohenheim University

Regulations for FROMAGORA

Regulations for the International Goat Cheese Award are as follows:

Article 1

- Candidates must send a written application to: see Annex 1
- Applications must be written clearly and must indicate NAME, COMPANY TITLE and FULL ADDRESS, which will be written in the list of prize-winners and certificates.
- Participants will indicate the category where the cheeses entered will compete.
- EACH PRODUCER CAN ENTER FOUR CATEGORIES AT MOST.

Article 2

- The cheeses entered must be made with goat milk only and must comply with the laws on goat cheese that in force in their countries.

[Phuket Livestock Office to open a goat farming training centre, Thailand](#)

[More Phuket goat farming training centre, Thailand](#)

[Farmers can augment their income, Philippines](#)

[Protecting black Bengal goat, Bangladesh](#)

[Goat project launch, Swaziland](#)

Upcoming Events

[International Nutrition Conference, February 23-24, 2007, Lahore, Pakistan](#)

[International Symposium, 24-26 May 2007, Bella \(Potenza\), Italy](#)

[9th International Conference on Goats, Queretaro, Mexico](#)

Top 5 Links from January 2007 Newsletter

[Your Cheap Sweater's Real Cost](#)

[Goat Milk Baby Formula, Korea](#)

[No Kidding - Goat Meat is the New Healthy Fad, United Kingdom](#)

[Goat Returns on a Par with Dairy Cow, New Zealand](#)

- Craft producers, associations producing handmade cheese and seasoners are accepted to participate in the International Goat Cheese Award only if they specify the farmer's name.
- Competitors will fill in the application envisaged by Article 1 of the present regulations. If a competitor cannot deliver his/her products to the Contest, he/she will notice the secretariat ten days before the date expected for the receipt.
- Deadline for entries: April 16, 2007

Article 3

- Competitors are responsible for their own statements. The competitor who gives a false statement in order to make his/her products accepted will be excluded from the contest.

Article 4

The enforcement of the present regulations is entrusted to a committee, composed as follows:

- Chairman of the Contest,
- General Commissioner of the Contest,
- One Chairman for each sampling table, involved in case of controversies.

Article 5

- Prizes will be awarded further to the decision of the juries; such juries will be made up of minimum three members per category.
- The office of jury member is unpaid.
- Each jury, at the beginning of the operations, will appoint a chairman for its table.
- In case some members of the jury are not present, the commissioner will have the possibility to replace them with substitutes appointed by him/her.
- The members of the jury will note down cheeses on individual assessment forms. The average values of their notes will be reported on a synthesis form and will determine the competitors' list, based on the majority of votes.
- The note form of each jury's operations will be signed by all the members convened at the end of their assessment.
- The composition of each table will involve people reliable for their competence in goat cheese; in particular, we will try to have at least one expert in catering, one in distribution and/or a dairy technician at each table.
- Their destination at the jury tables will be decided by lot for each category. The members of the jury cannot change the table they are assigned to without the general Commissioner's permission.

Article 6

- At their delivery, the samples will report the following information: name, company title and address of the competitor, category for which the cheese is entered, together with the application to be handed in at the delivery or to be included in the parcel if cheese is sent by mail or courier.
- Fresh cheeses will be presented outside their packaging. Packaging, moulds and boxes will not be given back.

All samples sent by mail or courier must arrive before May 25, 2007 at:
Bibliomediateca Giacomo Racioppi, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele 6, 85047

[Healthy Option, United Kingdom](#)

IGA Information

[Visit IGA's website](#)

[Visit IGA's Blog](#)

[General IGA Membership Information](#)

[2007 membership application](#)

[Learn your country's UN-Human Development Index rating](#)

[IGA strategic plan: 2005 to 2010](#)

[Would you like to submit an article to Small Ruminant Research?](#)

Global Partners



[University of Hawaii](#)

[Central Institute for Research on Goats](#)

[Croatian Livestock Center](#)

Moliterno, (PZ), Italy, where they will be kept in a cooled cell.

The receipt of samples will be provided on: Thursday, May 24, 2007 from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.; or Friday, May 25, 2007 from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

For practical organizational needs, samples arriving after 12.00 on May 26, 2007 will not be accepted.

Article 7

- Samples will be divided by categories, as defined in article 12. For organizational reasons, categories will be confirmed if they involve at least three competitors; failing this number, samples will be classified in the most similar category. A category can be created if a sufficient lot of similar cheese is present.
- Samples must be sent in their original packaging, with a label reporting the name, company title and address of the competitor and the category in which it competes.
- If, by mistake, a sample is classified in the wrong category, the commissioner can accept it, and register it in the right category.

Article 8

The following cannot be members of the jury:

- Those who enter cheeses in the competition
- Partners, financiers, producers, owners, employees or related to one of the competitors, since he/she could happen to assess their cheeses.

Competitors can question any jurors who are in the positions described in the preceding paragraphs, no later than one hour prior to the jury's operation.

- The opposition must be written and sent to the general Commissioner; any notice sent in a different way will be considered null and non-submitted.
- The list of exhibitors and jurors can be looked at on the premises of the Secretariat of the contest.
- During the jury's operations, no unauthorized person can attend, apart from the authorized people in charge.
- Each table of jury cannot assess more than 15 lots of cheese.

Article 9

Awards will be diplomas, medals or cups.

The following prizes will be awarded:

- A diploma of participation in the contest for each competitor,
- According to the marks obtained for each category:
 - Gold medal: score higher than 16
 - Silver medal: score between 14 and 16
 - Bronze medal: score between 12 and 14

Acknowledgment as the best goat cheese in the international contest.

In order to identify the "Best Goat Cheese", the winners of each category will be reassessed by each juror, who will give new scores; the cheese that obtains the highest mark will be the winner.

Paste and appearance, Palatability, Cut - Visual appearance = 8 points
Taste, Odour - Flavour = 12 points

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Geitenhouderij
Nederland (VKGN)**

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In case of cheeses registered by seasoners, the addresses of the producers-owners must be followed by the words "seasoned by ____"

The memorandum of the acknowledgments obtained in the National Contest of Handmade Goat Cheeses in all the individual or collective advertisements will obligatorily involve the mention of the year when these acknowledgments were obtained.

Article 10

Any complaints concerning the grading or the prize awarding must be lodged in writing and addressed to the general Commissioner. The decision about it will be made by the Commissioner and by the Chairman of the contest in the shortest time possible.

Article 11

Requirements for presenting the number of pieces per sample:

- Cheeses weighing less than 80 grams: 4 whole cheeses
- Cheeses weighing between 80 and 150 grams: 3 whole cheeses
- Cheeses weighing between 150 and 500 grams: 2 whole cheeses
- Cheeses weighing between 500 grams and 2 kg: 1 whole cheese
- Cheeses weighing more than 2 kg: ½ whole cheese
- Fresh cheeses will be entered in 3 whole cheeses, apart from their weight.

Article 12

The categories will be the following:

1 - Lactic coagulation cheeses:

- 11th category: fresh cheese
- 12th category: seasoned cheese
- 13th category: aromatized cheese

2 - Rennet coagulation cheese

- 21st category: fresh cheese.
- 22nd category: seasoned cheese
- 23rd category: aromatized cheese

3 - Other and new cheeses

The categories will be set according to the number of each kind of cheese proposed for the contest.

Article 13

As a contribution to the contest organization expenses, a registration fee will be paid; it can be paid as follows:

- a registration fee of 30,00 euros
- or, 1 or 2 kg cheeses - cheeses registered excluded - that will be used for the tasting.

Regulations updated on 22nd February 2007.

For more information about the International Goat Association visit our website at: www.iga-goatworld.org

Or contact Christian DeVries, IGA Director of Operations

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