



## IGA Newsletter December 2017



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## Report: 2017 National Symposium on Sheep and Goats in China

Written by Yoko Tsukahara

The 30 years memorial of the Sheep and Goat Branch of the Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine was celebrated at the 2017 National Symposium on Sheep and Goat. More than 600 experts and scientists from 29 provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions in China as well as Canada, Ecuador, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States attended the Symposium.

The joint meeting with the 7th Member Meeting of the Association was hosted by Hebei Agricultural University, Hebei Province Livestock Breeding Station, International Goat Association, National Sheep Meat and Wool Technology System, Hebei Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Association of Hebei Prov-



ince, Shijiazhuang Academy of Agriculture, and Forestry Science and Technology. The opening ceremony included a welcome speech by Professor Yingjie Zhang was followed by scientific programs. IGA Board members also made presentations; "Global Goat Production and Research Trends" by Dr. Beth Miller, President of IGA; "Molecular Improvement of SA Angora Goats" by Dr. Carina Visser, Vice President of IGA; "Comparison of Milk Fatty Acid Profile Obtained from Goats Fed with Different

Dry Forages" by Dr. Lucia Sepe, Vice President of IGA, and "Current Status of Production and Marketing of Goat Cheeses in the United States" by Dr. Steve Zeng.

### Site Visit in China

The IGA Board members had a chance to visit the famous Great Wall at Badling and the Summer Palace in Beijing thanks to Dr. Yingjie and Xuejiao who organized the excursion to introduce us all to the 4,000-year history of China.

Participants in the Symposium also visited the Xibaipo Memorial Museum in Shijiazhuang which was the site of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China during 1947-1949. The following day, the IGA Board members were invited to visit a large-scale sheep meat distributor, Hengshui Zhihao Animal Science and Technology Co., Ltd.

## Report: World Goat Day, 2017

Written by Dr. Sandra Solaiman

World Goat Day took place in Karaj, Iran on September 18-19, 2017. This was a memorable event as Iran is where domestication of goats started more than 8-10,000 years ago. More than 1,000 producers, villagers, goat keepers, members of tribal communities, agriculture-related industries, students, extension agents, scientists, researchers, national and international dignitaries, as well as governmental agencies including

the honorable Minister and 3 Vice Ministers of Agriculture (livestock affairs, planning and economics, research, education and extension) attended the event and participated to show their support.

The campus of Animal Science Research Institute of Iran, Karaj was decorated by colorful tents representing 7 tribal communities from different parts of Iran. Alborz Tribe, from North Central, Semnan Tribe, from North, South Khora-

san Tribe, from Northeast, Khuzestan Tribe, from Southwest, Kerman Tribe from South, Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari Tribe and Fars Tribe from south-central Iran were represented. These tribes were invited at their own expense and together made the event exciting and colorful, through their contribution of arts and crafts, food and beverage, and showing us the way of their lives. Their functionality, high spirit, hospitality, and kindness impressed me. Without

*Continued on Page 2*

## Report: World Goat Day, 2017 (Continued from Page 1)

their presence, this event would not have been the same.

Almost all the major indigenous goat breeds were represented, and they were housed separately for biosecurity purposes. Proud selected goat farmers and villagers brought their show goats and shared their beautiful goats with the participants. They were awarded for producing prize-winning goats, and I was honored to participate in the award ceremony.

Dignitaries from different countries including Armenia, Argentina, Australia, France, India, Kenya, Turkey and

the U.S. were present and shared their experiences with the audience. Numerous seminars and workshop topics dealing with Iranian indigenous goat breeds, breeding and selection, reproductive management, feeding management, sustainable agriculture, low input agriculture, etc. were conducted and well attended by producers, goat keepers, tribal and pastoral producers, as well as scientists and researchers, and most importantly outreach personnel and students.

This was an example of a job well done. I know many, many people made this happen, but above all Dr.



Farhad Mirzaei worked tirelessly and, with the great support of his team, made this event successful.

## Announcement: FEAGAS joins IGA

We would like to welcome one of our newest IGA institutional member, Federación Española de Asociaciones de Ganado Selecto (FEAGAS).

FEAGAS was founded in 1982 as a technical and representative national forum for member organizations. They are the largest umbrella organization focused on livestock breeds in Spain.

They represent 106 Spanish purebred livestock organizations, covering cattle, sheep, goats (14 goat breeders associations), pigs, horses, etc. Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Autonomous Communities has officially recognized them to manage and coordinate actions related to the herd books and the breeding of the livestock.

Main functions and responsibilities:

- Preservation, improvement and sustainable use of livestock breeds in Spain.
- To represent, manage and defend the interests of its Member Organizations, both in Spain and abroad.
- FEAGAS collaborates with public

bodies/institutions, universities, research centers, etc. for the conservation, breeding, management and sustainable use of Spanish livestock breeds.

- FEAGAS organizes the participation of the Spanish livestock breeds in the national and international purebred exhibitions, officially approved by MAGRAMA.
- Activities of FEAGAS:
- 1) Representation and defense of the purebred livestock sector.
    - a. Representation and Institutional defense
    - b. Training
    - c. Awareness raising and divulgation
    - d. Optimization of resources
  - 2) Conservation, breeding, development and sustainable use of the AnGR.
    - a. Development and management
    - b. Management of subsidies for the development of herd books and breeding programs
    - c. Organization of Livestock exhibitions



- 3) Research and innovation activities.
  - a. Collaboration with universities and research institutes
- 4) Activities of promotion of livestock breeds.
- 5) Capacity building
  - a. Technical Committees

To learn more, visit their website: [feagas.com](http://feagas.com)

### Want to become an IGA member?

You can pay your membership online through the [IGA Store](#)?  
All IGA memberships include online access to Small Ruminant Research!

**Pay Now**



## Announcement: SVA joins IGA

We are proud to welcome another new IGA institutional member, the National Veterinary Institute (Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt or SVA).

SVA is a Swedish governmental institution a national authority in veterinary medicine, providing expert advice and working for good animal and human health. Veterinarians and animal owners are key groups in detecting diseases and they work in close co-operation with both.

SVA works mainly with infectious diseases, both endemic and epizootic diseases and zoonosis. They are also

Sweden's largest laboratory services for animals. They communicate to animal owners, veterinarians, and the society, do research and provide advisory services, mainly for field veterinarians, but also for farmers.

SVA works to strengthen diagnostic activities and preparedness by developing diagnostic methods and laboratory products. Bacterial diagnostics, substrate products and cell culture media are mainly prepared for SVA's own diagnostics.



SVA is also involved in the surveillance of many infectious diseases: [http://www.sva.se/globalassets/redesign2011/pdf/om\\_sva/publikationer/surveillance-2016-w.pdf](http://www.sva.se/globalassets/redesign2011/pdf/om_sva/publikationer/surveillance-2016-w.pdf)

For more information, visit their website: <http://www.sva.se> or <http://www.sva.se/en>

Or contact them directly at: Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt Ulls väg 2B, 751 89 Uppsala, Sweden

## Infectious abortion in goats in North America

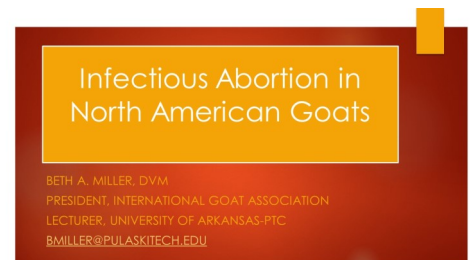
### IMPORTANT UPDATE

**We have added all the PowerPoint slides, along with the full paper.**

Abortion in goats causes major economic losses around the world. When goats are intensively managed, infectious agents are the most common cause, while extensively managed goats are more likely to abort due to limited feed, especially in dry areas.

In the USA and Canada, Chlamydia abortus is the most commonly diagnosed infectious agent, but Coxiella burnetii and Toxoplasma gondii are seen also. In Mexico, C. abortus is increasingly diagnosed, especially in dairy herds, but B. mellitensis is also endemic. They may present similarly so improved diagnostic capacity and surveillance is warranted, especially with the zoonotic potential

of both agents.



## Wolves on the Landscape A Hands-on Resource Guide to Reduce Depredation

A recurrent constraint to pasturing goats is predators, especially wolves. They are a threat in many parts of the world, and are increasing in number in the western part of the United States. As labor costs rise, it can be harder to hire good goat herders. Guard animals and portable electric fences will become more important in goat management.

### Acknowledgements

Authors: Nathan Lance, Steve Primm, Kristine Inman  
Contributors: Brainerd Foundation, People and Carnivores, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks wolf specialists,

Wildlife Conservation Society  
Graphic artist: Luke Duran.  
Illustration by Jason Smith

Running livestock in wolf range is challenging. Cost-effective risk management can increase profitability. While there is no silver bullet, there are some proven techniques for reducing risk of wolf-livestock conflict.

The goal of this brochure is to outline different tools that may suit your operation. Your local wildlife agency or other organizations can offer addi-



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tional help in evaluating and identifying options and may offer cost sharing, materials, or labor to assist your efforts.

[READ MORE...](#)



## Report: IGA Board meeting in China

Board members of the International Goat Association (IGA) attended the 2017 National Symposium on Sheep and Goat and the 7th Member Meeting of Sheep and Goat Branch of the Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine from August 18 to 21, 2017 at Shijiazhuang, China. A total of 14 Board members, the Executive Director, and members of the advisory board from different areas of the world met together to discuss further development of the Association. Great appreciation was expressed to Dr. Yingjie Zhang, Professor of the Agricultural University of Hebei, President of the Sheep and Goat Branch of the Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, and his student Ms. Xuejiao Yin for their dedication to organizing the trip.

### IGA Board Agenda

Further progress of the IGA

The first board meeting was held on the afternoon of August 19th. Many topics were discussed including, the progress and updated information for the International Conference on Goats in 2020, the financial report for 2017,

statistics for Small Ruminant Research, committee reports, future projects, and the possibility for a Lifetime membership tier.

### Learning from the history

The second meeting was in the morning on August 20th. In addition to the agenda from the first meeting, Mr. Erol Arik, Manager for Agriculture and Livestock at the Department of Rural Affairs and Geothermal Resources, made a presentation to introduce the 2nd Rural Development Meeting in Ankara-Turkey, June 2018.

Next, the Board participated in an exercise to learn the 35-year history of the IGA. This was facilitated by Dr. Christopher Lu, Active Advisory Board, and Christian De Vries, Executive Director of the IGA. Pieces of paper with keywords were distributed to each Board member to be sorted in chronological order. It was a fun and educational exercise that allowed us to visualize the progress of IGA from establishment to its most recent activities. The main history is available on the IGA website at [https://](https://www.iga-goatworld.com/blog/iga-history-20th-anniversary-keynote-address)

[www.iga-goatworld.com/blog/iga-history-20th-anniversary-keynote-address](https://www.iga-goatworld.com/blog/iga-history-20th-anniversary-keynote-address).

Later, the Board began discussion for a new Strategic Plan. The mission, vision, and strength and challenges of the IGA were confirmed. The previous Strategic Plan (2005 to 2010) was reviewed. Many of action plans of the 2005-2010 term were achieved while some of them are still challenges. Each committee member was assigned further progress for IGA activities. A good example of activities from the past includes "Atlas of Goat Products," edited by Drs. Pierre Morand-Fehr and Lucia Sepe in 2004, that provides products information of goats in different regions and countries in the world. There were also many new ideas to improve our activities in the 2016-2020 term to contribute especially benefit to the IGA members, and a Strategic Planning Committee.

While these meetings and our schedule were intense and busy, there is no doubt that all of the IGA Board members had a great time in China.



## Announcement: New IGA Regional Director

We are proud to announce that Dr. Irma del Rosario Celi Mariátegui is our new Regional Director for South America.

Irma has served as our Country Representative in Peru for several years. She has demonstrated consistent commitment to IGA and the goat sector. We are excited that she will now bring her energy and enthusiasm to the entire region.

You can see the full list of all our Regional Directors on our website: <http://www.iga-goatworld.com/inside-iga.html>



## Renew your IGA membership

Pay your membership online through the [IGA Store](#)  
Now is a great time to renew!

**Pay Now**



## Interesting PowerPoint Presentations by IGA Board and Advisory Board members

### Global Goat Production and Research Trends



*Presented by Dr. Beth Miller, President of IGA, during the 2017 National Symposium on Sheep and Goat, August 18 to 21, 2017, Shijiazhuang, China.*

[View this PowerPoint](#)

### Molecular improvement of SA Angora goats



*Presented by Dr. Carina Visser, Vice-President of IGA, during the 2017 National Symposium on Sheep and Goat, August 18 to 21, 2017, Shijiazhuang, China.*

[View this PowerPoint](#)

### Comparison of milk fatty acid profile obtained from goats fed with different dry forage species

*Lucia Sepe, Maria Antonietta Di Napoli, Salvatore Claps, Adriana Di Trana*

Fat in milk and dairy products gives an important contribution to consumption of essential fatty acids and vitamins in the human diet, and play a critical role in the sensory attributes of these foods [Dewhurst et al., 2006]

Milk fat contains a number of FA shown to exert anti-carcinogenic, hypocholesterolaemic and anti-inflammatory properties, including butyric acid (C4:0), oleic acid (cis-9 18:1), conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), linoleic acid (LA, 18:2 n-6) and α-Linoleic acid (ALA, 18:3 n-3) [Williams, 2000].

From the nutritional point of view, the Health Promoting Index (HPI)



[Chen et al., 2004] was proposed as an indicator of health of the milk and dairy products, therefore, the milk with high HPI have a potential health value.

Little information is available about the effect of the nature of dry forage on milk fat composition. Generally, the modulation of milk fat composition is generally achieved by lipid supplements, and not by the choice of the forage [Chilliard et al., 2001].

[View this PowerPoint](#)

### La ganadería caprina frente a los cambios globales en el mundo

*Un agradecimiento especial a Jean-Paul Dubeuf, INRA-LRDE y ex presidente de IGA.*

[View this PowerPoint](#)





## In memoriam of Prof. Nissim Silanikove, 1950-2017

*Written by Yan Landau on behalf of the entire IGA Board.*

Prof. Nissim Silanikove passed away on 13 August 2017, after combatting cancer for many years. Nissim was an Associate Editor of Small Ruminant Research over a 14-year period for papers addressing milk products and lactation.

Nissim was born in Rehovot (Israel) in 1950 to a family of Bulgarian Jews. He was interested in agriculture from a very young age and studied at the Youth Agricultural Village of Kfar Silver from 1964 to 1968. After three years of duty in the Israel Defence Forces, Nissim joined the Faculty of Agriculture at Rehovot (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), where he earned B.Sc. (1974) and M.Sc. (1976) degrees in Animal Science. His thesis, with Prof. H. Tagari, was on the availability for sheep of phosphorus contained in poultry litter.

His Ph.D. program was at the Tel Aviv University with Prof. Shkolnik as a part of a team working on the adaptation of Bedouin desert goats to harsh conditions and to water and food scarcity. This was his first exposure to goats, which he loved all his life. Nissim showed the ability of Bedouin goats to recycle considerably more nitrogen than Saanen goats and to produce milk when given only straw, as an adaptation to an environment poor in nitrogen. Nissim used milk from the goats, and his future wife Dana, who was a temporary guide in the Abu-Kabir gardens where the goats were kept, knew how to make Labaneh from the milk. This complementarity of interests was the basis of their union, which eventually yielded 7 children.

After a short period spent at Migal (the scientific R&D program of Upper

Galilee), in 1986 Nissim joined the Institute of Animal Science of the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO, The Volcani Center) in Bet Dagan, close to Tel Aviv, where he was employed until his last days.

His Ph. D. studies had fuelled a passion for livestock thriving in harsh environmental conditions (Livestock Production Science 67 (1), 1-18, 2000; 672 citations), dairy cows under heat stress (Livestock Production Science 77 (1), 59-91, 2002; 747 citations), and goats in hot and arid environments (Small Ruminant Research



35 (3), 181-193, 2000; 414 citations) and with cycles of water scarcity and abundance (Experimental Physiology, 79(3), 281-300, 1994; 115 citations). His interest in nitrogen metabolism led him to investigate the nutritional limitations of tannin-rich browse and the use of dietary polyethylene glycol to alleviate the deleterious effects of tannins in sheep (Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry 42 (12), 2844-2847, 1994; 209 citations) and goats (Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry 44 (1), 199-205, 1996; 203 citations), for which tannins are not toxic (Small Ruminant Research 21 (3), 195-201, 1996; 167 citations) but can impair intake and digestive processes (Animal Science 64 (3), 479-483, 1997; 99 citations).

Later in his career, Nissim developed a keen interest in the physiology of lactation, including goat milk quality (Small Ruminant Research 89 (2), 110-124, 2010; 263 citations) and the impact of mastitis (Journal of Dairy Science 87 (6), 1719-1726, 2004; 176 citations) on it, with emphasis on somatic cell count (Small Ruminant Research 74 (1), 221-225, 2008; 102 citations). He discovered a method to dry-off cattle with Casein hydrolyzate intramammary treatment (Livestock Science 110 (3) 292-297, 2007), which was patented ("Pharmaceutical compositions comprising casein derived peptides and methods of use thereof." U.S. Patent 8,338,363, issued December 25, 2012).

Nissim was not a man of compromise. He could ask questions in a very rough, some would say, non-polite manner at the end of presentations. He did not like bureaucracy and some bureaucrats may have felt the same. He did not appreciate writing reports to funding agencies. His office was an indescribable mess. However, he was certainly one in his generation, as numbers speak for themselves. He was cited 7314 times, which places him at the top of his field. Why were his reviews cited so extensively? It seems that he combined an exquisite knowledge of biochemistry and enzyme technology with a wide understanding of the whole animal, resulting in a thorough characterization of processes from cell to animal.

One cannot speak of Nissim without mentioning his relationship with the International Goat Association (IGA) and Small Ruminant Research. From the early nineties, Nissim never missed an International Goat Conference. He attended the 16th conference at Antalya, against the recommendation of ARO Security Officers,

*Continued on Page 7*

## In memoriam of Prof. Nissim Silanikove, 1950-2017 (Continued from Page 6)

and delivered a presentation, even though he was already combating his disease. We had the pleasure to see him singing and dancing to Turkish rhythms, with his wide smile spread on his face and friends from the US, Spain, Italy, China, and Turkey queuing to hug him.

Finally, as noted above, Nissim was Associate Editor for Milk and Lactation for 14 years. He recruited me as a reviewer, and then I was appointed

Associate Editor for Nutrition and finally Editor-in-Chief in 2016. In the last year, I noted that manuscripts were delayed because treating his illness was so time-consuming and proposed to un-assign him from some of the papers. He did not accept, as reading these papers were a source of joy and comfort, he said.

Many friends propose to dedicate a conference to Nissim's memory. We will do our best to fulfill their wish.



## China Field Report, October 2017

*Written by Juan Capote, IGA past president*

In 2016, Beth Miller as IGA president and I were invited by Prof. Binyun Cao from Northwest A&F University to participate the following year in a conference concerning the dairy goat industry. Beth Miller could not attend due to scheduling conflicts, so I went as IGA representative and also as Honorary President of the conference Organizing Committee. The conference, titled "The International Conference of Dairy Goat Industry Development & International Symposium on Dairy Goat Industry Technology" took place on October 10 to 12, 2017 in Quianxian, Shaanxi province. During this trip, I visited three large factories: one just completed, another one in construction and another one in the planning stages. It was my 6th visit to China as an IGA officer. In addition, I had been the guide of a Chinese delegation who visited Spain in 2015.

Personally, I consider that in China there is a dramatic change in the dairy goat industry. Goat milk is processed, mainly as powder milk, by the large dairy industry with high investment and profitability. It is a singular case and, as a consequence, dairy goat systems are changing fast. Moreover, China is the most important country as far as total goat numbers, and probably also about the number

of dairy goats.

On October 9th, I participated in a ceremony at the location where the biggest goat dairy factory is going to be built, digging a hole with a shovel together with Chinese authorities. The factory is scheduled to be completed in five months. The next day I participated, together with Javier Fernandez, an IGA member from Spain, in a training session on production performance evaluation (linear traits) of dairy goats. On October 11th, I was part of a group of people who participated in the opening ceremony of the conference and the opening ceremony of the new Baiyue Youlishi Dairy Co. Ltd. factory. In this ceremony, the Organizing Committee gave me an award for my contributions and previous support. In the afternoon, I gave my presentation in the conference meeting room and attended the presentations given by other speakers. On October 12th, I attended several short presentations by local researchers. On October 13th and 14th, together with other foreign speakers, I visited two farms and the factory in construction. An important issue was to be informed of the feeding cost per animal and the price of the milk. From my point of view, it means that, with 500 liters of

annual milk production per goat (approximately half of a dairy American goat), a suitable farm profitability is obtained. On the night of October 14th, I flew back to Spain.

The activity of the dairy goat industry in China is increasing rapidly. Within six years, they project to produce one hundred billion liters of goat milk per year. I asked several times about this amazing quantity and the information was always confirmed.

Another issue that shows the importance of the China dairy goat industry is the coverage from the media, including the central Chinese TV. Furthermore, an important project has been approved for industry development. Honestly, I think that it is very important that a global organization such as IGA continues to be linked to this remarkable activity.



Industrial Farm and Company Director

## Blue goats' cheese wins category at International Cheese Awards

*Written by Heather Briggs, IGA Country Representative, United Kingdom*

The sweet, salty and nutty flavor of the blue goats' cheese presented by the Cornish Cheese Company resulted in it winning the category '100 per cent Goat Milk Cheese open to UK Producers' at the 2017 International Cheese Awards held at Nantwich, the United Kingdom on July 25.

Kay Barlow, Category Technical Manager for Core Chilled at British supermarket chain ASDA, judged the class alongside Heather Briggs, who is also the International Goat Association's UK country representative. Both had no hesitation in declaring their winner.

Barlow said: "It was head and shoulders above the other cheeses and was like a party in the mouth."

"It had good balance, and although you could tell it was from goats' milk, the taste was not overpowering. I was intrigued to see something different and the cheese felt innovative."

Briggs added, "The cheese was well presented, the paste had a creamy feel to it, and we both agreed that it had a lovely salty, nutty taste, with no bitter aftertaste."

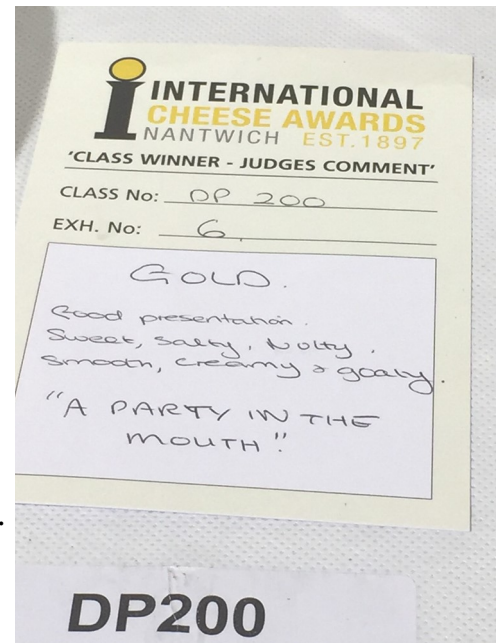
It also stood out as it was the only blue cheese presented in the class.

Briggs and Barlow also enjoyed cheese company Bradbury's entry, giving it the silver award.

"It was nicely ripened, soft with a fresh 'goaty' smell with good savory flavors coming through," said Briggs.

Third place was awarded to Dale Farm, which entered a cheese with a creamy, salty flavor. "What we particularly liked were the lemon notes which came through," observed Barlow.

On the day, more than 300 cheese experts judged a record 5,685 cheese and dairy entries, all within 5 hours. Head judge Dai Williams said the standard was exceptionally high and



was a very close-run competition for the top awards.

The 2017 ICA Supreme Champion and the proud new holder of The National Westminster Cup was claimed by a sheep milk blue cheese, Bradbury's Cheese for their Roquefort Papillon.

## National Goat Conference 2018, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, USA September 16-18, 2018

### Message from the Chair

On behalf of the National Goat Consortium planning committee, it is a pleasure to announce the third National Goat Conference. This conference will be held at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama on September 16th -18th, 2018. The conference was first held at Florida A&M University in 2010 and North Carolina A&T University in 2013. Both events had attendance well over 400 participants. Building on previous successes of the National Goat Conference we will continue to provide the following:

- Create a forum to share research-based educational information on goat production, management, herd health and marketing to pro-

ducers, agricultural professionals, and students.

- Provide governmental agencies an opportunity to tell you what role they can play to support the U.S. goat industry (i.e., regulatory and marketing issues).
- Encourage conference attendees to share with one another what they have learned from their experiences with other producers, agricultural professionals and educators from various communities throughout the United States and the world.
- Improve the linkages between private entities, community-based organizations, land grant institutions and state and federal agen-

cies to enhance the viability and sustainability of the goat industry in the U.S.

### Who Should Attend this Conference?

Producers (beginners and advanced), students, agricultural professionals, supportive organizations and other interested parties.

### Conference Topics:

Herd health management, nutrition and pasture management, reproduction, biotechnology & marketing and processing and genetics and breeding.

Dr. Ralph Noble  
Chair of the National Goat Consortium  
North Carolina A&T University



## The 19th Japan National Goat Summit in Gifu



The 19th Japan National Goat Summit was held in Minokamo City, Gifu on November 3 - 4, 2017. The theme of the Summit was "Feel, Learn, Work, Connect, and Create through Goats."

More than 280 goat lovers, including producers, consumers, educators, and scientists from all over Japan got together to share the information of goat utilization, enterprises, products, and management practices. Following the opening remark by Dr. Yayota, Chair of the Summit and welcome addresses by Mr. Imai, President of the Japan Goat Network (JPN) and Mr. Fujii, Mayor of Minokamo City, two keynote speeches were given on "Minokamo Goat Mowing Group Connecting together on the Goat Track" by Mr. Watanabe, Representative of the FRUSIC, and "Goats Came to the Hachiya Elementary School" by Ms. Ido, Former Principal of the Hachiya Elementary School. These speeches confirmed that goat utilization for weed control and educational values of goat for school programs are getting increasing attentions in Japan.

The Minokamo Goat Mowing Group project has been developed by FRUSIC, an agricultural production company. In the past 5 years the project has built a strong regional network, involving the Minokamo City, elementary, junior-high, and high schools, and local Universities, that successfully hosted the Summit.

Mr. Shoji Watanabe, the representative of the FRUSIC, said "we would like to use some of the profit of the project for the students who want to

cooperate with us and continue their research." It was felt that the project would grow more and more in the future.

After the luncheon of the general assembly of the JGN, 15 presentations were given on the various topics; the Agricultural Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Livestock Breeding Center introduced the recent target of genetic improvement on Japanese Saanen goats, representatives of Kamonourin (Agricultural) High School students reported their trial of doughnut product development using sweet potatoes grown using goat fertilizers, Dr. Yamazaki, DVM., reported 2nd generation of male goats that "produce milk," Mr. Matsuda, representative of the Japan Water Agency, reported the case of utilizing goats for maintaining a dam site in Gifu Prefecture, Dr. Tsukahara, board member of the International Goat Association, introduced the history and activities of the IGA, etc. Every presentation was well prepared and implied further potentials of goats in Japan.

During the reception in the evening, attendance enjoyed the local cuisine and conversation with "goat friends" just like friends from way back.

At the second day, technical

sessions were held at the Nihon Showa-mura Park. The participants were able to closely learn 1) feeding and management from Mr. Imai, Past President of the JGN who is a very experienced goat producer, 2) hoof trimming, 3) dehorning, 4) simple artificial insemination using fresh semen by goat professionals from the Nagano Station, the National Livestock Breeding Center, 5) electric fencing from the Surge-Miyawaki Corporation, and 6) hygiene control from the Prefectural Livestock Hygiene Service Center. Goat milk candy making by Dr. Hayashi, Professor of Meijo University, was also a popular activity which attracted many participants.

It was fully-packed 2 days of learning and feeling about goats. Many of the participants seemed to be very satisfied with what they learned about goats. The 20th National Goat Summit will be held in the Ibaragi prefecture in fall 2018. The detail will be available at <http://japangoat.web.fc2.com/>.

### December 2017 IGA Japan Newsletter is available!

Yoko Tsukahara has done it again, another wonderful Newsletter. [Download your copy now of the December 2017 IGA Japan Newsletter now.](#)

Special Points of Interest:

- The 19th Japan National Goat Summit in Gifu
- The IGA Board Meeting in China

IGA Japan

**The 19th Japan National Goat Summit in Gifu**

The 19th Japan National Goat Summit was held in Minokamo City, Gifu on November 3 - 4, 2017. The theme of the Summit was "Feel, Learn, Work, Connect, and Create through Goats."

More than 280 goat lovers, including producers, consumers, educators, and scientists from all over Japan got together to share the information of goat utilization, enterprises, products, and management practices. Following the opening remark by Dr. Yayota, Chair of the Summit and welcome addresses by Mr. Imai, President of the Japan Goat Network (JGN) and Mr. Fujii, Mayor of Minokamo City, two keynote speeches were given on "Minokamo Goat Mowing Group Connecting together on the Goat Track" by Mr. Watanabe, Representative of the FRUSIC, and "Goats Came to the Hachiya Elementary School" by Ms. Ido, Former Principal of the Hachiya Elementary School. These speeches confirmed that goat utilization for weed control and educational values of goat for school programs are getting increasing attentions in Japan.

The Minokamo Goat Mowing Group project has been developed by FRUSIC, an agricultural production company. In the past 5 years the project has built a strong regional network, involving the Minokamo City, elementary, junior-high, and high schools, and local Universities, that successfully hosted the Summit.

## Co-Grazing Meat Goats and Beef Cattle Has Many Advantages

Why graze meat goats with beef cattle?

### 1) To clean up pastures of unwanted vegetation.

a. Goats are natural browsers  
b. Given the opportunity, goats will select over 60% of their daily ration from brush (multiflora rose, saplings, young leafy trees, black locust, briars, brambles, sumac, honeysuckle, privet, Virginia trumpet creeper, etc.) and broadleaf weeds (pigweed, dock, horseweed, wild lettuce, lambsquarters, poison ivy, etc.) over herbaceous species such as fescue, bluegrass, clover, orchardgrass or crabgrass pastures

c. In that respect, goats do not compete much with beef cattle

### 2) To increase productivity per acre of land grazed by beef cattle

a. Recommendation: adding 1 to 2 does per head of beef cattle, depending on the amount of unwanted vegetation, will not decrease beef cattle

production

b. Study conducted at the Mountain Research Station over 4 grazing seasons:

--Stocking rate: 1.7 steers per acre + 3.4 goats per acre versus 1.7 steers alone per acre

--Paddocks where goats and beef grazed/browsed together were clean of brambles, sumac, poison ivy, honeysuckle, pigweed and black locust. In those paddocks, multiflora roses bushes only averaged 2 feet in height.

--Paddocks grazed only by steers had significant number of multiflora rose bushes with an average height of 6 feet, producing seeds and getting bigger.

### 3) To decrease gastrointestinal parasite worm load

a. Gastrointestinal parasites from goats will not survive in the stomach of cattle, and gastrointestinal parasites from cattle will not survive in the stomach of goats.

b. Many broadleaf weeds and

browse contains tannins, a compound that has been shown to have a detrimental effect on some gastrointestinal parasites.

### 4) Other considerations

a. Upgrading perimeter fences is a necessity as goats can escape easily.  
b. Predator control against roaming dogs, coyotes, other carnivorous wildlife  
c. If pasture is in short supply, goats will be at a disadvantage. In that case, goats should be moved to another pasture or into a woodlot.

*Special thanks to Jean-Marie Luginbuhl, Professor Emeritus, Meat Goats & Forage Systems, North Carolina State University*

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## Coenurus cerebralis in Tanzania and Kenya

*Written by Dr. Beppe Di Giulio*

I, a veterinarian based in Arusha, Tanzania, would like to report a high morbidity/mortality in sheep and goats in the Southern part of Kenya and Northern part of Tanzania, possibly caused by *Coenurus cerebralis*. The term "possibly" is applied since the diagnosis is based only upon the finding of cysts localized outside the animal's brains.

The Maasai call the disease "Ormilo" (head disease). They started complaining about it some 10 years ago; during the past 3 years, the reported morbidity-mortality has reached around 20 percent. Today, Ormilo is the main Maasai's concern among the small ruminant diseases/parasitoses. Ormilo is reported to affect both goats and sheep at any time of the year. It is reported to be more prevalent in 1 to

3-year-old animals.

In the past 3 years, I carried out 103 post mortem examinations; the reported age is also confirmed by my findings, mainly on the Tanzanian side. They were applied in slaughtered animals or in animals bought for examination. The market price of diseased animals is usually half that of unaffected animals.

During the most recent investigation (Longido, Tanzania), we randomly bought 5 out of the 23 small ruminants [sheep, goats] having nervous signs. Therefore, it should be considered a biased sample. The total number of animals on sale was 143. All [of the examined] animals had cerebral cysts. No other causes for nervous signs were found.

Looking at the number of postmortems carried out, the livestock own-

ers are able to identify 100 percent of the diseased animals. It is interesting to note that the Maasai shepherds, knowledgeable about animal diseases and their epidemiology, are not aware of the role of dogs as sources of *coenurus* infection in their sheep and goats.

As far as I know, few people are aware of the phenomenon and nothing has been done to tackle this major problem. Hopefully, this posting will raise awareness among the concerned institutions/organizations and lead to the dissemination of the required information.

Dr. Beppe Di Giulio  
Managing Director, Veterinary Services and Consultancies (VSC)  
Kiltex Rd. 6, PO Box 13188  
Arusha, Tanzania  
[Bdigiulio@habari.co.tz](mailto:Bdigiulio@habari.co.tz)