

THE VOICE OF AGS

Editor: Danielle Westvang



Volume 48. issue no. 2 Summer 2007

SUPPORT AGS * SUPPORT THE DAIRY GOAT INDUSTRY * BE ACTIVE

Summer is here!

I hope that everyone has had a successful kidding season. It has been a doe year at my farm so far, with 2 more does left to go! After a heavy, late frost, the foliage is bouncing back much to the goats delight!

Keep your comments and suggestions coming. I love to hear from you.

If you have anything to include in the next issue, feel free to email me. The deadlines for publication are posted below for your convenience.

Danielle Westvang,
Editor

If you have cute goat kid photos, tips for goat husbandry, or a goat milk recipe that you'd like to see included in an issue of The Voice, send it along to me.

OzarkaPride@aol.com or
DanielleWestvang@centurytel.net

Or you are welcome to send it to the office at AGSoffice@earthlink.net



AGS Membership Dues

AGS Membership Dues run from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Early renewals (Oct 1-Dec 31).

Individual-----	\$20 (\$15)
Junior-----	\$10 (\$5)
Senior-----	\$15 (\$10)
Family-----	\$30 (\$25)
Life-----	\$200

2007 AGS National Show and Convention

Come join us at the 2007 AGS National Show and Convention to be held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Events are scheduled from June 18-24, 2007. There will be a judges training held in conjunction with this years Nationals. Other planned activities include seminars on famacha, showmanship & DHI; national youth show, youth team fitting, Nigerian specialty show, one day milk test, and more. The directors meeting will start on Tuesday, June 19th, members are welcome to sit in on the proceedings. The general membership meeting and banquet will be held on Friday, June 22nd. Please visit the official website of the AGS Nationals at:

www.agsnationals.com

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Special points of interest:

- **Voice Deadlines:**
Spring—January 31 Summer— April 30
Fall— July 31 Winter— October 31

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Director's Message from Janet Shlanta

Dear Members of AGS,

I would like to introduce myself as a new Director of District II. I was asked by the Board of Directors to fill a recent unexpected vacancy for the remainder of the term ending in 2008. I'm very excited about having the opportunity to serve AGS and represent the members of District II.

For those of you who don't know me, I live in Fauquier County, Virginia with my husband, Robert and our herd of approximately forty goats. We operate under the herd name of Springs Run. We raise primarily Nigerian Dwarf Goats, but also have a few Nubians and Mini Nubians as well as some cute long haired Mini Silky Fainting Goats. For those of you who do know me, you also know that goats are my passion!

I've been a member of AGS since 1998 and am currently enjoying participating as a volunteer on the AGS National Show Committee as well as the Show Rules Committee. My hopes are that AGS will continue to grow, supporting the purebred dairy goat industry and responding to the member community. I think we can make great strides as an organization with open communication and team work and welcome any comments, questions or suggestions you might have.

Sincerely,

Janet Shlanta

AGS Officers/Directors 2006-2007

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

2007 (Vice President) Dr. Joanne Karohl, 48 Madigan Ln Harvard, MA 01451 (978) 456-9357 Email: jmk@rwdean.com

2008 (Treasurer) Sunni Milligan, 580 Parker St. Azle, TX 76020 (817) 270-4883 Email: texasflatrock@earthlink.net

2009 Gayle C. Nelson, 1327 E. Lawson Rd., Little Rock, AR 72210 (501) 821-2688 Email: anarky@worldnet.att.net

DISTRICT 1

2007 (Secretary) Bonnie Chandler, 183 Prospect Hill Rd., Harvard, MA 01451 (978) 456-3169 Email: jbchandler@verizon.net

2008 Joseph Wilds, 177 Hwy 31, Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 782-4090 Email: jpwsr11@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 2

2007 Lora Mae Fugate, P.O. Box 3771 Springfield, MO 65808 (417) 887-9139

2008 Janet Shlanta, 10178 Wesley Chapel Rd, Marshall, VA 20115 (540) 347-4935 Email: rshlanta@infionline.net

DISTRICT 3

2007 Gary Whitehead, 3902 S. FM 200, Nemo, TX 76070 (254) 897-4005 Email: sgwhitehead@digitex.net

2008 (President) William Kowalik, 737 Oakridge Ln, Pipe Creek, TX 78063 (830) 535-4742 Email: hcndgoats@earthlink.net

DISTRICT 4

2007 Tim Flickinger, 208A S. Spring St, Wakarusa, IN 46573 (574) 862-4378 Email: sablegoats@aol.com

2008 Jeanette Walker, 5201 W 201 Terr, Stilwell, KS 66085, (913) 681-1927 Email: dwalker14@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 5

2007 Cheryl K. Smith, 22705 Hwy 36, Cheshire OR, 97419 (541) 998-6081 Email: cksmith@teleport.com

2008 Sarah Hawkins, 7547 English Hills Rd, Vacaville, CA 95688 (925) 984-4548 Email: castlerocknigerians@yahoo.com

AGS 2006-2007 Committees/Chairs

Awards: Makes recommendations to BOD concerning Lincoln Doe awards & rules. They also make recommendations for individual awards of merit (i.e. director emeritus, life membership award, outstanding service etc) Gayle Nelson, Jean New, Gail Patcher

AI/Embryo Transfer: Keeps abreast of issues relating to AI/embryo transfer, requirements & procedures as it relates to registration with AGS & makes recommendations to the BOD concerning such. Sarah Hawkins – chair, Danielle Westvang, Tim Flickinger,

Board Handbook: Charged with developing a board book for incoming board members. It would contain contact info for all board members, articles of incorporation, code of ethics, job description. Committee membership comprised of current and former board members. Cheryl K Smith, Gayle Nelson

Breeds & Registration Committee: Propose registration rules & standards that help maintain the integrity of pedigrees & herd books. Serve as the coordinating & screening committee for any suggested changes or additions to the breed standards as requested by the breed clubs before they are presented to the Board. All breeds' issues should be worked on through this committee in conjunction with individual breed clubs as they pertain to AGS purebred dairy breeds. Tim Flickinger-chair, Gary Whitehead, Audrey Kowalik

Budget: develops budget recommendations for the BOD for the coming year. This includes recommendations for necessary fee increases & rate changes based on current costs & past Membership/Registrations/Transfers of the society. Jeannette Walker – chair, Cheryl K Smith, Janet Estep, Sunni Florence-Milligan (AGS Treasurer), Bonnie Chandler (AGS Secretary)

Classification: Makes recommendations to the BOD on issues relating to classification and training of classifiers as well as complaints filed against classifiers. Membership comprised of 2/3 classifiers and 1/3 members who are not classifiers. Keith Harrell – chair, Alice Hall, Ann Weikel, Tim Flickinger

Complaint/Arbitration: Handles official complaints filed by members in good standing & makes recommendations to the BOD (due to the nature of the committee it is limited to BOD members only) Joanne Karohl – chair, Sarah Hawkins, Cheryl K Smith

Bylaws: Reviews current AGS Bylaws and makes recommendations to the BOD for changes. Cheryl K Smith

DHI: Handles current issues for DHIR & top ten recognition as well as clarifying wording of AGS milking requirements & forms.

Gail Patcher - Chair, Terri Brown; Suzanne Nevada; Cheryl Sugar; Barbara Halligan; Gayle Nelson; Kathryn Lewis; Sharon Warren, Jim McGonagle

Election/Nomination: Made up of the 3 directors with the most Board tenure. Puts together a slate of qualified candidates for the general election to the board, based on

nominations & input from the members.

Sunni Florence-Milligan, Gayle Nelson, William Kowalik

Historian: Gathers together all forms of data that make up the history of AGS, categorizing specific items so things can be looked up, Example: all known issues of the Voice, BoD minutes & decisions by year, policy changes/dates, photos & publications etc. Putting all of this together then transcribing/scanning into a format that can be saved to disk. This would be an ongoing project Gayle Nelson - Chair

Judges: Makes recommendations to the BOD on issues relating to judges training as well as complaints filed against judges or shows. (2/3 judges 1/3 other members) Keith Harrell – chair, Sharon Warren, Valerie Ciesynski, Tim Flickinger

Show Rules: Clarifies & writes recommendations to BOD concerning show rules for AGS shows. Also reviews any proposed changes to show forms etc. Reviews disputed show results & works with Office to resolve. Sunni Florence-Milligan – chair, Gary Whitehead, Audrey Kowalik, Valerie Ciesynski, Dawn Hurd, Janet Shlanta

National Show/Convention: works on guidelines & recommendations for BOD & solicits future sites for convention and/or national shows. Joanne Karohl – chair, David Aguirre, Jim McGonagle, Gregory Anderson, Sarah Hawkins, Kay Holloway, Janet Shlanta, Sally Hurst, Marie Harrell, Keith Harrell, Gloria Winters, and Norma Sides.

Public Relations/Products: develops advertising & promotional materials benefiting AGS. Audrey Kowalik - chair, Sunni Florence-Milligan, Joanne Karohl, Bonnie Chandler, Amy Kowalik

Publications: Oversees & manages all member publications such as the Voice & Member Handbook. William Kowalik, Gayle Nelson, Danielle Westvang

Scholarship: Reviews scholarship applications submitted & makes recommendations to the BOD if all qualifications are met. Sean Milligan-chair, Gayle Nelson, John Howland, Diane Davis-George, Jean New

Youth Committee: Develops & recommends programs & activities designed to promote youth participation & awareness in the dairy goat industry. Janet Estep, Cheryl Sugar, Roxanne Hanna, Joe Wilds

Data Management: charged with maintaining the website and any other pertinent data management issues deemed necessary by the board. Joanne Karohl, Gregory Anderson, Jim McGonagle, Michael Casdorff

Special - Show Win Form: Joanne Karohl, Kellye Bussey, David Funk

Special - NAIS Liaison: Bonnie Chandler

THE VOICE OF AGS

Message From the President

Dear AGS Members,

It is hard to believe another year has passed as I complete my third term as AGS President. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve the members of this society once again. As many know I am a very hands on person and spend countless hours each day working for the members of AGS. Quite honestly there are now times when it is almost too much and I find myself asking why I continue to put so much into AGS. The answer comes from new members that say how much they appreciate all the help in getting started or long time members who say they are pleased with the positive changes that have been made within the society. I am also well aware that there is always room for improvement and that we should never be complacent. AGS continues to grow rapidly. At times it worries me that with all the growth it is becoming more difficult to maintain the level of service our members have come to expect. With the growth of AGS the workload for me and for the office staff has grown tremendously. In the first four months of this year AGS has seen unprecedented growth in membership. We have just surpassed the 1200 member mark compared to roughly 750 members at this time last year. We ended the year of 2006 with just over 1500 members and if this growth trend continues, we may very well be pushing 2000 members by years end. I am so pleased that so many people have put their trust in AGS. I want to personally thank all those loyal members who have stuck with AGS instead of bolting for another registry and welcome the ever growing list of new members. We need your help to keep this society moving forward. I want to personally thank the members of the board. Each of your representatives is sacrificing a tremendous amount of their personal time and energy on your behalf. Thank you also to all our committee volunteers. A special thank you to Gail Patcher for her continued work in the DHI program; Secretary Bonnie Chandler for the board updates and NAIS updates that so many members have found helpful; Treasurer Sunni Florence for her just do it, can do attitude; and to Vice President Joanne Karohl for just being there to listen to me vent when I am convinced the world is falling apart and then assuring me that we will get through any issue we face. She has been an invaluable asset to this society. Most of all I want to thank the members as there wouldn't be an AGS without you!

William Kowalik

President, American Goat Society, Inc.

Office Manager's Report

Hello everyone we hope everyone's spring show season is off to a great start. We are busy in the spring registration rush and are trying hard to keep the turn around time to a minimum. We are also busy preparing for convention and are excited about attending and getting to meet many AGS members. We have included a few notes on things as office closure dates and such so please make sure to mark your calendars.

OFFICE CLOSURE -The office will be closing on June 13th so that we may prepare for convention and board meetings make sure that if you have registrations that you need processed they are sent in well before this date. The office will be reopening on June 27th.

FAX FEES & PAYMENT-When sending in faxed registrations and such please remember the following conditions:

A) A cover letter to explain what services you are requesting must be included, please make sure to include the name of and contact information for who is sending in the work.

Continued on next page

B) Payment must accompany the order either in form of a credit card number or Paypal receipt, please do not forget the \$2 per order, plus \$.50 per page fax fee charge.

C) Transfers may not be faxed in as we need the original registration certificate.

D) If service memos are required they must be faxed in as well.

E) A faxed in work request will be placed in line with other mail received that day, it does not automatically result in RUSH handling unless this service is requested and paid for at the time the fax is received.

RUSH ORDERS- Although we try to process each RUSH order the day it arrives please note that the office procedure manual allows up to 5 days for the processing of such requests. This is 5 days from the time that the RUSH order arrives in the office not 5 days from the time it is postmarked. The words RUSH must be plainly marked on the OUTSIDE of the envelope where it is easily visible by office staff. Please note that orders that are sent overnight or priority mailed to the office do not automatically become RUSH orders unless this service is requested. Rush orders are double all fees, and priority or overnight postage must be included with payment. NOTE: The new fee for priority mail is \$4.60 and overnight \$16.50.

Hopefully, we can work together to make your registry the best it can be. Thank you for your continued support, and as always if you have questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me anytime. Thanks

Amy Kowalik
AGS Office Manager

Director Elections

Newly Elected Directors

Anna Reynolds, District 3

Outgoing Directors

Gary Whitehead

District 1

Bonnie Chandler 43

Gail Putter 1 (write in)

Cheryle Moore-Smith 1 (write in)

Teri Stanton 1 (write in)

District 2

Lora Mae Fugate 46

Donna Boatright 1 (write in)

District 3

Anna Reynolds 20

Kathy Staten 10

Sandra Whitehead 1 (write in)

Valerie Ciesynski 1 (write in)

District 4

Tim Flickinger 30

District 5

Cheryl Smith 34

Director at Large

Joanne Karohl 174

Laura Whitlock, David Funk, Donna Boatright, Barb Halligan, Gail Putter, Jeff Klein, Audrey Kowalik, Delinda Volskay 1 vote each (write in)

Number of ballots received - 195 out of 648 eligible to vote. That is better than 30% return. Thank you for participating in your society.



Event Schedule:

Monday, June 18:

12:00 p.m. Earliest goats may arrive.

Tuesday, June 19:

9:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 20:

8:00 a.m. Judges Training Seminar (Keith Harrell)

9:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

1:00 p.m. Famacha clinic (registration required)

4:00 p.m. Showmanship Clinic (adults are welcome to attend)

6:00 p.m. First milk-out for One Day Milk Test

7:30 p.m. Youth Team Fitting Competition

Thursday, June 21:

6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Milk-out for One Day Milk Test

8:00 a.m. Judges Training Seminar (Keith Harrell)

9:00 a.m. National Youth Show to include: Showmanship, Senior does, then Junior does - Judge: Ed Kinser

7:00 p.m. Youth Party

Friday, June 22:

8:00 a.m. Nigerian Dwarf Specialty Show - Judge: Aaron Carter

4:00 p.m. DHI Seminar (Gail Pletcher - registration required)

7:30 p.m. Banquet and AGS Member Meeting; Awards and Youth Benefit Raffle

Saturday, June 23:

9:00 a.m. National All-Breed Junior Doe Show - Judge: Ann Weikel

2:00 p.m. Mandatory milk-out for the National Senior Doe Show

5:00 p.m. (approx.) National All-Breed Buck Show - Judge: Ann Weikel

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For more information and entry forms, please visit www.agsnationals.com If you need hard copy entry forms, please contact the show secretary, Marie Harrell at (252) 522-1762 or email: gkh123@earthlink.net or you may contact the show chairperson, David Aguirre at (757) 432-0403 or email: kidnacres@msn.com

The 2007 AGS National Show Needs Your Support!

It costs a lot of money and requires an enormous amount of volunteer effort to put on a show of this scale and member support is what makes it all possible. We are offering some wonderful opportunities for our members to support the show on various levels. Any amount large or small is greatly appreciated and whether it covers the cost of a youth activity or ribbons for a class, every donation means a lot.

Our highest level of member sponsorship is that of **AGS National Show Benefactor** and is **\$100**. This level includes recognition during the show, a business card link to your farm web site on the National Show web site and a full page ad in the show program.

The following levels include advertising in the show program for your farm or business:

\$45 – Full Page Ad

\$35 – Half Page Ad

\$25 – Quarter Page Ad

\$15 - Business Card Ad

We also have a special level of sponsorship for **Friends of the AGS National Show** that includes your name or farm name on a sponsor recognition page in the show program. This level of sponsorship is only **\$10**.

Please fill out the form below and send a check made payable to “**AGS**” to 735 Oakridge Lane, Pipe Creek, TX 78063 or you may use **PayPal** (indicating the level of sponsorship in the **Message to Recipients** area) using the following email address: payags@earthlink.net

If your donation includes an advertisement, please send or e-mail your ad layout to:

David Aguirre
432 John Etheridge Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23322
E-mail: kidnacres@msn.com

Continued on next page

AGS National Show Member Sponsorship Form

Please check level of sponsorship desired:

\$100 \$45 \$35 \$25 \$15 \$10

Name: _____

Farm/Herd Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

AGS

735 Oakridge Lane

Pipe Creek, TX 78063

Board Activity Update and Postal Ballots

MARCH, 2007

Complaints Policy: The final revision of the COMPLAINTS: MEMBER policy was as follows:

COMPLAINTS: OTHER

Complaints may be filed in writing to the chair of the Complaints and Arbitration Committee for unethical practices pertaining to AGS records including but not limited to: registrations, classification, DHIR testing or milk stars and awards in order to ensure the integrity of these records. The filing fee is twenty five dollars (\$25), which shall be refunded if the complaint is found to be valid upon investigation and determination by the committee. Upon receipt of a complaint, the committee chair shall inform the President of AGS in writing of the complaint.

The committee will be charged with investigating the complaint by phone, letters, email, and/or personal interview. The committee shall make a final recommendation in writing, along with a summary of their reasoning, to the Board of Directors no later than 90 days after the complaint is received. That recommendation will be mailed to the President for presentation to the Board. The Board of Directors will determine whether to accept or reject the recommendation no later than 30 days after the written recommendation is received by the President. A written copy of that decision will be sent by registered mail to the involved parties no later than 15 days after such decision is made. If the complainant disagrees with the decision, he or she may request an appeal to the Board of Directors. This request must be made in writing and received in the AGS office no later than 30 days after the receipt of the initial Board decision. The Board will make a final determination in writing and send it by registered mail to the involved parties no later than 60 days after receipt of the appeal. All decisions regarding appeals to a complaint shall be final.

Penalties: If a member is found guilty, penalties could include; temporary or permanent suspension of membership privileges which could include but not be limited to:

Registering of animals by AGS

Transferring of animals

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Milk testing

Classification

Voting privileges

Publication of said suspension in the AGS VOICE and website

The BOD will not hear complaints pertaining to sales disputes, health issues of animals, etc. This is why AGS strongly recommends written sales contracts. If you feel you have a strong case in this type of issue, AGS recommends that you take civil action to resolve it. AGS will not consider complaints by non-members or members not in good standing. (i.e., up-to-date memberships and no fees owing to AGS)

*Any committee member with a personal interest in the complaint will remove themselves from the committee and a substitute will be made by the Committee chair with the President's approval.

ARBITRATION

The chair of the Complaints and Arbitration Committee or any member of that committee is available to voluntarily arbitrate any given situation for a member. (Excluding complaints/arbitration concerning a judge)

Written contracts are HIGHLY recommended. When there is no written contract between the parties, the Fair Trade Rules, (found on page 27 in the Members Handbook) will be used.

All contact information between the involved parties will be given to the arbitrator; as well as any and all written information needed to settle the dispute.

AGS is a small organization, run mainly by volunteers, so please do not inundate this committee with frivolous requests. We are here, when all avenues of communication have been utilized and

no resolution has been achieved.

All parties involved must agree in writing, prior to the committee beginning arbitration, that they will accept all decisions and awards of the committee. This agreement will also absolve AGS of

any legal responsibility.

There is a \$25 non refundable filing fee for this service.

POLL: Ballot 030207

Director Halligan has presented a motion which has been seconded by Director Karohl to accept the proposed revision of the complaint and arbitration procedures section for the members handbook. Shall we accept the revision and publish in the members handbook? Note: see post 6297 for exact wording

Yea 9 votes; Directors Florence-Milligan, Karohl, Chandler, Smith, Wilds, Kowalik, Walker, Whitehead, Hawkins Nay 2 votes; Directors Nelson, Fugate Abstain Director Flickinger **PASSED**

Herd Name Policy for multiple herd names: The office asked what policy applied to a member who has requested to register multiple herd names, in order to register additional herd names for each of their does. The office told them "no," but they wanted to know "where does it say I can't do that." William suggested establishing a policy of one herd name/tattoo per membership; Gayle

Nelson, functioning as our institutional memory, said that a past board had already voted in such a policy. After some discussion, the board members agreed they saw no reason to change the policy.

Policy on Lapsed and Unused Herd Names: At the present time our herd name policy states that "herd names registered with AGS are permanently owned by those individuals." William asked if we wanted to revisit the issue of old herd names. Currently the policy is that they can never be used by anyone else. There are herd names that have not been used in many years. Some herd names have not been used in 10, 15, or 20+ years and some were registered and never used. Again, the board reviewed the policy and decided not to make any changes.

Emeritus Directors: A question has been raised about persons who have been awarded director emeritus. Can

they run for director? The general consensus was that there was no reason not to let them run.

Commercial Use of AGS Records: The office manager asked about a request to send AGS DHI records to a member for use on a for-pay website. The board reviewed previous discussions against allowing members to use AGS records for profit, including the case of a member whose request for registry information for a paid pedigree service was turned down, and a commercial website that we informed that they could not use our name or logo to promote their product.

The board decided to uphold the precedent not allowing use of AGS records for pay.

POLL: Ballot 030107

We have a motion and a second to accept the 2007 budget as proposed by the budget committee. Shall we approve the budget as proposed? **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Communication between Directors and Members: The Board was concerned about misinformation that had been communicated by a director to some members of her district on multiple occasions. Currently, directors who send summaries of board actions to members are

expected to send the messages first to the Board to check facts and accuracy before presenting them, in order to prevent the possibility of members being misinformed. The Board Secretary follows this rule when preparing the board summaries for the announcements list and the Voice. Members of the Board objected to their words being paraphrased without having a chance to make sure that what they said was accurately summarized. This had been discussed several times with this director. In addition, the member forwarded the not-yet-final budget to some of her constituents even though she had been asked to wait until it was final. When the board asked to see her future communiqués before they were sent out, the director in question responded by resigning.

Resignation: Barb Halligan resigned as Director for District II, effective March 13.

Vacancy: Because the bylaws make the board responsible for appointing someone to fill vacancies until the next election, discussion ensued about who to appoint in District II. After many phone calls to sound out district opinions and determine who was willing to serve, William proposed Janet Shlanta. A poll was opened to vote on this but is not yet closed.

POLL: Ballot 032107A

We have a motion and a second to discontinue the position of Assistant DHI coordinator as a Board appointed and approved position. Shall we accept this change?

Yea 11 votes; Directors Smith, Hawkins, Walker, Karohl, Kowalik, Florence-Milligan, Wilds, Chandler, Whitehead, Fugate, Nelson Nay Director Flickinger **PASSED**

APRIL, 2007

POLL: Ballot 032207

We currently have a vacancy on the AGS Board for one of the director positions from District 2. Janet Shlanta has been recommended to fill this position. She meets all qualifications required for a member to serve in this position. If elected she will fulfill the remainder of the term which expires in 2008. Shall we accept this recommendation to fill the vacant directorship? **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Proposed logo for National Convention and Show: William posted the proposal, and Gayle Nelson objected that it didn't mention AGS or the National or the year. Other directors expressed similar concerns.

2007 Member Roster: Should It Be Alphabetized by District or by State? William raised the question, as he has the roster ready to print but has heard complaints about the current organization (by district). Most board members said they preferred to have the listing broken down by state, rather than by district.

Postage Fee: Two board members asked if we should revisit adding the \$2 postage fee since the Post Office has reinstated its postal increase. William said that because the increase doesn't take effect until mid-May, we can address it at the national convention.

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Agenda for National Convention: William asked board members to submit requested agenda items for the annual meeting.

Judges' Training: Tim Flickinger reported that Keith Harrell is concerned that there may not be enough goats of the big dairy breeds available for the judges' training class before the National. William suggested that they post a request to the National Show Committee list asking for people to bring some goats early so they can be used in judges' training.

Wether Sanction Proposal Information

In 2006 at the AGS Convention Director Whitehead presented a request by some AGS members to have AGS create a wether show sanction. After discussion by the board:

“The motion was made by Director Karohl and seconded by Director Milligan to have director Whitehead create a proposal for introduction of a Wether sanction. This is an attempt to encourage youth to participate, but will not be limited to youth only. After a proposal has been brought to the board, AGS will put a statement out in the VOICE seeking comment on this issue before a final vote. Directors Whitehead, Chandler, Kowalik, Karohl, Milligan in favor. Director Flickinger opposed. Director Whitehead abstained. Motion passed.”

A special committee was created to research the issue and develop a proposal to be sent to the membership for input prior to any vote by the board.

In January the following ballot was approved by the board for presentation to the general membership:

“Ballot122306 It has been motioned by Director Karohl and seconded by Director Florence-Milligan that we vote whether to present the following proposal submitted by the Wether Sanction Special Committee to the general membership for a vote:

1. 23 1/2 inch maximum height, Nigerians and Pygmies
2. All faults the same as listed in general and breed specific
3. Scorecard to be worked out by judges committee where points need to be assigned etc. (No Pet Points conformation only.)
4. WCH as the Champion Title
5. Legs awarded on same basis for does and bucks, pertaining to how many in the show. Must meet the numbers assigned for legs to be won. Such as 10 animals, 2 classes and 2 exhibitors.
6. These animals should be dairy, as our does and bucks.
7. Three legs to be a Champion, two must be won after 1 yr of age
8. The animal must be registered as a wether, cannot be previously registered as a buck.
9. Database can easily track wins and will handle # 8 in the office, if a wethered buck should win.

Shall we present the wether sanction proposal to the general membership for a vote?”

At this point we are asking for member input so that the board can discuss the issue further at the upcoming convention. Please contact any director and let them know if this is something you would like for AGS to pursue or if you are opposed to such a plan. The judges committee has recommended that “if” there is a wether sanction that it be implemented on a one year experimental basis. Another important bit of information is that at this time AGS has a total of just over 750 wethers recorded in our database. Please take this opportunity to have your voice heard on the issue.

SUPPORT AGS * SUPPORT THE DAIRY GOAT INDUSTRY * BE ACTIVE



X

Is the recommended tattoo letter for 2007

We're on the web:

www.americangoatsociety.com

American Goat Society
735 Oakridge Lane
Pipe Creek, Texas 78063

Phone: (830) 535-4247

Fax: (830) 535-4561

Email agsoffice@earthlink.net

Announcements List

In order to further communication between AGS and it's members, a new AGS Announcements list has been created. This is an announcement only list, which will be used by the AGS Board and the AGS Office to distribute information in the most timely, concise manner possible to the membership. This list is available to every AGS member. We hope this will further the family atmosphere of AGS. Members of the AGS Board will still be on hand to discuss matters of importance to AGS members on the Discuss AGS list, and the new Announcements list will provide direct information from the Board to the membership. Those members who do not wish to read the numerous posts on Discuss AGS will now have a venue with which to receive information about the Society, and every member will benefit from timely updates.

You can subscribe to the new list at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AGSAnnouncements>