



John Frett, President Pro Tem
Colleen Reed, Secretary
Adrienne Hall Bodie, Treasurer
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Greta Dise (3/3) Pat Harder (1/3)
Steve Harder (2/3) Pat Kalitka (1/3)
Leslie Orndorff (2/3) Mindy Soucek (2/3)
Karen Schlossberg (2/3)

<http://www.angoragoats.com>

EAGMA was founded in 1987 as "VAGMA" (Virginia Angora Goat and Mohair Association) to foster and support, through education and marketing, small Angora goat farming, small mohair-based business, and the acceptance of a non-traditional farm animal. In 2008, in recognition of the growing diversity of the membership, VAGMA became the Eastern Angora Goat and Mohair Association.

President's Letter:

"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow..." and so it did. Many of us have seen the snowiest year on record and are likely tired of shoveling paths down to the barn; again and again and again. As I shoveled once again, I tried to see the up-side to all of the snow. The best I could think of - as I threw yet another shovel of snow against the side of the barn, clearing a path to the door - was about what great insulation this would be for the recently shorn animals inside. I know it was weak, but I needed a reason to keep going. And the timing - terrible! Just as I was shearing and kidding. I could not run my bucks from one barn to the other to be shorn, as they did not want to go out into the snow. So I shoveled some more. This time I shoveled to get through the seemingly insurmountable pile of snow across the entrance to my pastures which was left by the repeated passes of the municipal plows. Four wheel drive or not, I was not getting all the way down the lane. So, like it or not, the bucks were going to have to go through some snow. I dragged, pushed, pulled, and bribed to get them into the truck to take them around to be shorn. First one, then another, and yet another was forced to endure this torture (or so it seemed from their perspective) until finally the last buck actually came part of the way on his own. Being the last, he did not want to be alone. So I met him half way, or so I thought. As I approached, wouldn't you know it, he turned and ran back to the barn.

Now kidding is a different story. They do not care whether it is snowing. They just come when it is time. There's excitement when you hear that shrill little squeal from the newborn, and the nervous quick grunts from mom. First you see one, then a second in a corner of the barn. It is the second one for which you need to be on the lookout. One doe gave birth and when I came in, I saw her and her little buck standing together. I said, to myself (or maybe aloud, I do tend to talk to myself and goats at this time of year), *she always has twins - where is the other one?* As I looked around, there he was piled up in a ball with the other sleeping kids. He had made himself right at home with the other kids, all toasty warm. It was off to the kidding pen for the three of them.

This kidding season has been very unusual for me. I typically kid in mid January, yet by the end of the month, only one doe had kidded. Sporadic kidding in February found me checking the barn regularly and being disappointed regularly. I gave many a pep talk to the now blimp-like does, but to no avail. I still have six does waiting to deliver, and March is at the door. But all of this goes to validate a concept Dan Melamed and Sara Healy told me when I first started breeding: ... *President's Letter is continued on the next page*

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SAVE THE DATE!

The next EAGMA Show will be June 26-27, 2010
at the Frederick County Fairgrounds, Frederick, MD
featuring **Dee Hadorn** as our judge and the
Colored Angora Goat Breeders Association 2010 National Competition!

always keep your bucks as far away from your does as possible prior to breeding, out of sight and beyond their sense of smell. This will provide a synchronized, quick induction of the does when they are finally pastured together.

I have always followed this advice, until this year. This year was the year of the car wreck – four wrecks to be exact. Cars crashed through the fence in front pasture four times. Due to constant repairs, I was unable to separate the bucks and does with any distance and now I pay the price. But, like the endless snow, there was a benefit. For eight years, I have kidded 150 days from the introduction of the bucks; this year I did not. For eight years they were separated; this year they were not. It may only be empirical evidence, but it is enough for me.

-- John Frett

February Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Convened at noon as a teleconference due to the snow. **Board Members Present:** Greta D. John F., Pat K., Adrienne H.B., Leslie O., Colleen R. and Karen S. **Members Absent:** Pat H. Steve H, Mindy S.

Meeting called to order by John F:

Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting as published in the newsletter: Motion made by Adrienne, 2nd by Pat K. and passed unanimously.

Announcements: John announced to the board that Lisa C. has resigned from the EAGMA board. The ballot question of a shearing cutoff date was agreed and will be posted in the show program.

Treasurers Report by Adrienne:

Account balance is \$979.05. Owe John Frett \$250 for deposit to the Frederick Fairgrounds.

Membership Coordinators Report by Adrienne:

55 paid members; 2 new members. 18 memberships are up to date for 2010. EAGMA 2009 Show financial report submitted by e-mail for discussion and comparison for this year.

2010 Show Discussion

Vendors: Ten vendors have signed up for the show. Three vendors have paid their fees for the show, and so are listed on the web site. Vendor fees are due by March 15. All indoor spaces are claimed;

outdoor space may be available still – John will discuss further. Karen will talk with Sheepman Supply about interest in vending.

Sponsorships: Three people have signed up for show sponsorships so far. They will be listed on the web site.

Event Schedule: The membership meeting will be right after lunch on Saturday. The raffle will be during lunch on Sunday.

Event Contents: Spinning demo – Pat Harder (not on the call) was going to talk to someone. Greta will either follow up with Pat or pursue something else. Pat K. recommended talking to the Mannings. Unless we have a new presenter who requires specific dispensation, all of the fee-required educational programs will be \$30 each. (Susan Schoenian’s lecture will be free to all.)

Goat Show: Colleen will be doing the program again this year. She will be coordinating with the CAGBA representatives on classes.

Judge: We are still waiting on the judge’s biography to post to the web site.

This meeting was kept to the basics of the show due to the cost of the teleconference. All other business will be covered at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival on May 1st. We will meet at 6PM at the Tintagel Farm booth, and move from there to either the bleachers or a picnic area.

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Welcome New Members!

Carol Bratton
& Barbara Lambert
Madison, VA

Pam Welty
Silver Oak Farm
Ashby, MA

.....

BALLOT QUESTION

Online and hardcopy balloting was conducted in December regarding a shearing date cutoff for the show. The question asked on the ballot was: ***All goats entered in the EAGMA show must be sheared after January 1st of the year of that show.*** The voting choices were “agree” “disagree” and “abstain.” Of a possible 51 eligible members, 26

participated. The final tally was as follows:
Agree: 14; Disagree: 10; Abstain: 2

With this tally, the vote has PASSED.

**EAGMA 2010 Show
FREDERICK, MD
June 26-27, 2010**

The 2010 EAGMA show will be held in **Frederick, MD** at the Frederick County Fairgrounds. The goal of holding the show in Frederick is to increase participation in all aspects of the EAGMA show through improvement in location and coincidental activity. We aim to take advantage of the Frederick Fairground's regular farmer's market traffic as well as its better-known location among the east coast fiber network.

Sponsorships will be \$50 again this year. \$15 will be awarded for 1st place, \$10 will be awarded for 2nd place, \$5 will be awarded for 3rd place. We are in need of twenty sponsors to support the show; twenty five would be better (to include red card classes). Sponsors will receive a box acknowledgment at the top of the class page in the program as well as a business card advertisement.

If you are interested in sponsoring a class, please contact Colleen Reed or Karen Schlossberg.

Thank you!

There are open competitions this year for both shorn fleeces and handspun skeins. The fleece competition will be run the same as previous years – minimal skirting is requested as a courtesy to the judge. To prepare your project for competition, look for more information on the web site and in the May newsletter.

Classes this year are still being confirmed. Proposed titles currently on the table include Spinning Novelty Yarn, Ask the Experts Roundtable, Kool-Aide Dyeing, Pleasures of Plying, and Bloomin' Felting. (The final schedule will be posted in the May newsletter.) In addition, this year's show will be full of demonstrations for everyone to observe. There will be spinning from the bunny, making carded batts, and how to prepare and card fleece in general. We will have a goat-shearer on hand as well.

19TH ANNUAL EASTERN ANGORA GOAT & MOHAIR ASSOC. SHOW & SALE

**COME
JOIN
THE
FUN!**



June 26-27, 2010
In the Dairy Goat Barn of
The Great Frederick Fairgrounds
797 East Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Colored Angora
Goat Breeders
Association
National Show

2010 CAGBA

Show Activities Include:

- ❖ Fiber Workshops
- ❖ Goat to Shawl Demonstration
- ❖ Fiber Related Vendor Booths
- ❖ Mohair Fleece Competition
- ❖ White & Colored Angora Goat Show
- ❖ Educational Seminars



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ANGORAGOATS.COM

Toe Dislocation vs. Lower Leg Break

- by Colleen Reed

Sometimes technology is a very good thing for us to use in diagnosis of goat problems. Back in August, while doing morning chores, I discovered a tripod goat out in the front yard. My redhead buck Loki was standing with one front foot completely off of the ground. I immediately called the local farm vet to come out for a visit. From the external evidence, the vet thought it was a spiral fracture that had Loki's leg sticking out sideways at what, from the outside, looks like his "wrist." However, there wasn't enough swelling or heat at the point that we thought was broken, and Loki didn't act like he was in much pain. We – the vet, my husband, and I – were sufficiently suspicious of Loki's behavior and

the lack of heat at the break that we took Loki down to the large animal hospital for x-rays. From those images, we found out that the problem was a dislocation at the toe rather than a broken leg bone.

Loki's behavior was our biggest clue that this was not a normal broken bone. Dislocations, if left undisturbed, do not usually cause pain on the magnitude of a broken bone. Loki was not putting any weight on his foot, so was not showing more than discomfort about his foot. He was only annoyed when we touched his foot and put pressure on the dislocation. Additionally, the area around the "break" was only slightly warmer than normal, and had very little swelling. In comparison, a spiral fracture or full break would have been highly swollen and comparatively hot to the touch.

The radiology report confirmed our suspicions. Look at the pictures below. The image on the left shows the dislocation. The image on the right is the other front foot, and was taken as a comparison to see what a normal foot should look like. Note how far out of alignment the left foot is just from the single toe pulled out of joint.



This was an expensive diagnosis, but it was the correct diagnosis. The vet sedated Loki and reset the joint before splinting it rather than made a field diagnosis and slapped a cast on something that wasn't broken. If the vet had gone with the first impression/diagnosis of a spiral fracture and put a cast on this dislocation, the leg would have taken many months to "heal." It either would have created a false socket or have fused improperly and Loki would likely have been permanently lame. With the proper diagnosis and care, he was walking well enough to stand stud within two months, and is completely recovered now.

National News

Texas: The 2010 Angora Goat Performance Texas is gearing up at the Texas A&M Research Station, 28 miles south of Sonora on U.S. Highway 55. Dan Waldron, geneticist at San Angelo and the test's coordinator, explained that the test allows breeders and prospective buyers to examine an individual animal's mohair quality, production and growth. There is a minimum number of animals and farms – 10 farms and 50 animals – which must register by Feb 4 for the test to take place.

The test itself will start with the delivery of animals to the station March 1-2. Bucks will be shorn March 9, then weighed March 10 to start the test. The goats again will be weighed May 5, then weighed a final time June 30 and sheared July 1.

The annual field day and potential sale, which is determined by the breeders with animals on the test, is set for July 29. For more information, contact Dan Waldron or Chris Lupton at 325-653-4576.

National History: "Angora Goats Tried in the West: Meat Tastes Something like Venison" – by the United Press, published in *The Pittsburgh Press*, July 8, 1939.

The Angora goat is an odd animal which likes to chew tobacco and whose meat tastes like venison. Raised chiefly for their long, fleecy hair, the Angora is not like his cousin, the ordinary, "tin-can-eating" American goat. The Angora simply doesn't like tin cans (or the labels) and the family wash holds no gustatory charms.

J.P. Clark, rancher who lives north of Cheyenne and who began experimental raising of the goats three years ago, said the only thing that worries him about the strange appetites of the beasts is that he has to rise early in the morning to get his newspaper. "I have to digest the news before the goats do," Clark explained. "I don't know what it is about newspapers – the ink or the paper or what – but the Angoras just eat them up"...

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=LHEbAAAAIBAJ&sjid=OkwEAAAAIBAJ&pg=896,1803630&dq=angora+goats>

International News

Australia: "Goats set to clip profits from woolgrowers" by Debra Jopson, January 26, 2010, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*

Farm business researchers have separated the sheep from the goats and have found that when it comes to making money, hairy goats rule.

A three-year study comparing the performance of sheep and Angora goat farms concludes mohair can get a better return than wool, a finding which offers goat farmers the opportunity to move from a fringe "hobby industry" into a mainstream commercial enterprise.

The Angora goat industry agrees and last week held an open day at Monteagle, near Young, where three shearers demonstrated how easy it was to add goats to a sheep enterprise. Jeff and Juliana Neve, members of Mohair Australia Ltd, the breed society for angora goats, watched a steady flow of possible converts at the display day.

Some shearers were prejudiced against goats, falsely considering them difficult, Mrs. Neve said. "Well, sheep are dumb," she said. "You might get a goat which will yell out, while sheep wouldn't make a noise, but there is no problem with shearing them. They don't fight as long as you lay them comfortably."

Fencing is another point of difference, according to the Mohair Australia president, Steve Roots.

"They are not like your dairy goat which will go over the fence," he said. "Your angora will go under the fence ... They go around the perimeter looking for a way out - the buggers. You could say sheep are easier to contain because they will not go under."

But the upside is that mohair grows about 25 centimeters a month and needs shearing twice a year. Belly wool on sheep is also worth less than wool from the rest of the animal, whereas top quality mohair can be taken from the belly of a goat.

Mr. Roots said the industry had transformed since the mohair madness of the 1990s when angora bucks imported to improve the bloodlines commanded up to \$20,000.

Australian mohair lacked the crucial feel of luxury, but farmers have overcome that by importing South African and Texan goats to breed with the locals.

"The old Australian goats had a lot of kemp which gives the fleece 'prickle factor'," Mr. Roots said. "In those days, you could expect to get one kilo from an adult animal. Now it is five."

Mohair producers average \$13 a kilogram for clean fibre compared with about \$8 for sheep wool, returning higher profits even though they grazed far fewer animals per hectare and used less phosphate, the report from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation says.

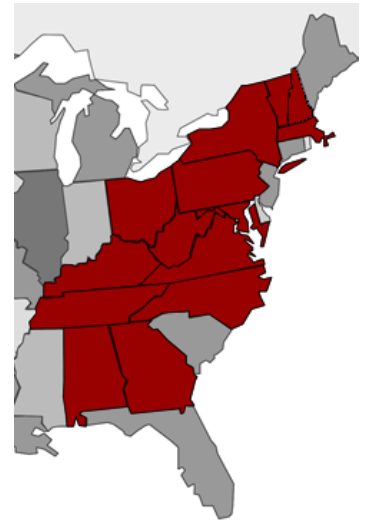
They achieved this without the subsidies given to the wool, pork and dairy industries. But the industry is still small, worth \$2.5 million in annual exports.

EAGMA Membership Report

Total members (farms) on the membership list: 55

Membership by State

Alabama: 1
Georgia: 1
Kentucky: 1
Maryland: 6
Massachusetts: 2
New Hampshire: 1
New York: 5
North Carolina: 2
Ohio: 2
Pennsylvania: 9
Tennessee: 2
Vermont: 1
Virginia: 19
West Virginia: 3



CALENDAR

This calendar is only as good as the news we get from other sources, so please send any updates that you hear about to Colleen as soon as you can. Thanks!

2010 Shows & Fiber Festivals

- April 24. Connecticut Sheep, Wool and Fiber Festival
<http://www.ctsheep.org/wool.htm>
- May 1-2. Maryland Sheep and Wool
<http://www.sheepandwool.org>
- May 8-9. New Hampshire Sheep & Wool
<http://www.nhswga.com>
- May 15. Sedalia Spring Fiber Festival (VA)
<http://www.sedaliafiber.com>
- May 15-16. Waynesburg Sheep and Fiber Festival (PA)
<http://www.sheepandfiber.com>
- May 28-30. Middle Tennessee Fiber Festival
<http://www.tnfiberfestival.com/>

May 29-30. Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Fair
<http://www.masheepwool.org>

May 29-30. Great Lakes Fiber Show (OH) -
<http://www.greatlakesfibershow.com/>

June 4-5. Hoosier Hills Fiberarts Fair (IN)
<http://hoosierhillsfiberartsfestival.com/>

June 5-6. Maine Fiber Frolic
<http://www.fiberfrolic.com>

June 12-13. Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival
<http://www.iowasheep.com>

June 26-27. EAGMA Annual Show (MD)
<http://www.angoragoats.com>

July 16-18. Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair (IL)
<http://www.fiberandfolk.com>

July 29???. TAGRA annual show & sale (TX)
contact Dale Naumann at 830-796-7429

Sep 11-12. Garden State Sheep & Fiber Festival (NJ)
<http://www.njsheep.org> **date change!**

Sep 11-12 Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber
Festival <http://www.pafiberfestival.com>

Sept. 18-19. Finger Lakes Fiber Arts Festival (NY)
<http://www.gvhg.org/fest.html>

Sept. 18-19. Midwest Festival of Fibers (OH)
<http://my.voyager.net/~nfisher/>

Sep 25-26. Shenandoah Fiber Festival **date change!**
<http://shenandoahvalley.tripod.com>

Oct 2-3. Fall Fiber Festival of Virginia
<http://www.fallfiberfestival.org>

Oct 2-3. Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival **date change!**
<http://www.vermontsheep.org/festival.html>

Oct 3-10. Fiber at Fryeburg Fair (ME)
<http://www.fryeburgfair.com>

Oct 15-16. Southern Indiana Fiber Arts Festival
<http://www.southernindianafiberarts.com>

Oct 16-17. New York Sheep & Wool Festival
<http://www.sheepandwool.com>

Oct 22-24. Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair (NC)
<http://www.saffsite.org>

Oct 23. Harvest Days Fiberfest (TN)
No reliable web site link is available at this time.

Classified

These ads are free to members. Send them via any method to the newsletter editor. You may advertise any incidental goat-, fiber-, or farm-related sales.

FOR SALE: We have 6 beautiful Maremma puppies (3 males and 3 females) that were born on Thanksgiving day and are ready to find new homes. They are purebred, MSCA registered and have all of their shots. They have excellent Italian bloodlines and pedigrees are available

upon request. The puppies have been raised in the field with goats and are showing great guarding potential. They are gentle and good with children too! They are \$600 each. For more information contact amy@watermarkfarm.org or call 304-434-2055. For pictures visit www.watermarkfarm.org 2/10

FOR SALE: SMALL FARM in MADISON, VA
****Perfect for small goat operation****



Private, peaceful 2 BR, 2 BA Timber Frame home on 32+ acres with mature hardwoods, gorgeous mountain views. 1+ acre fenced pasture, 2 paddocks, large stall, 2 secure storage buildings w/electric, tractor port, automatic waterer in place. 2 acre pristine pond for swimming/fishing, hiking and horseback riding trails. Large, secure, fenced pet area. Organic gardens! Low taxes - permanent conservation!

For more info: 1-540-948-5050 MLS #467872

<http://www.jefferson-land.com/> Choose: Residential 2/10

FOR SALE: Recessive Colored Angora Goats from Persimmon Tree Farm. These goats are show quality from champion bloodlines. Most breeding stock are from CSPN Sharon Chestnutt, Oregon. Doe kids, a few buck kids, yearlings, and adults for sale. Reverse badger, badger, and solid black. Contact Greta Dise 717-235-5140 or persimmon2@juno.com 2/10

FOR SALE: Colored Angora Goats, Border Leicester Sheep and Nubian Goats raised using sustainable farming practices. We also sell Mohair & wool yarn, socks, roving and locks, Angora hides & sheepskins produced from our own fiber. Additional products include hand-dyed yarn, knitting patterns and kits, books, dyes, and spinning & weaving equipment. Contact Steam Valley Fiber Farm at steamvalley@verizon.net or call Phylleri at 570-998-2221. Visit our website at www.steamvalleyfiber.com for more information. 2/10

Membership Dues

Annual \$25 dues are due in January and should be sent to: Adrienne Hall Bodie, Treasurer, Solevento Farm, 1002 Still House Drive, Lexington, VA 24450.

To encourage timely payment, July 1 is the cutoff date for the \$25 fee. After that date, renewal dues will be \$30 and the newsletter will not be mailed unless and until dues are paid.

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2010 EAGMA/VAGMA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

If you see a mistake on this list, please contact Adrienne Hall Bodie with the correction. Names preceded by ☼ are listed as having paid 2010 dues. 2009 memberships will expire with the May newsletter. If you are paid up but not shown to be, contact Adrienne Hall Bodie, treasurer.

ALABAMA

☼ Susan E. Long
Long Dream Ranch
17356 County Road 89
Opp, AL 36467
(334) 493-1711
susanelong1@cox.net

GEORGIA

☼ Tina Evans ✓
Dry Creek Naturals
1600 Pine Bow Road
Taylorsville, GA 30178
(770) 324-4380
mohair@bellsouth.net

KENTUCKY

● Leesa and Annabel Moorman ✓
Bow Wood Farm
999 Boone Ridge Lane
Lexington, KY 40515
(859) 321-0295
aimlees@aol.com

MARYLAND

☼ Lisa and Bill Check ✓
Flying Goat Farm
5241 Bartonsville Road
Frederick, MD 21704
(443) 538-8303
goatherd@flyinggoatfarm.com

● Mary & Mark Henderson
Tree Stump Acres
3720 Danville Road
Brandywine, MD 20613
(301) 372-8614

● Peggy Keeney
Keen Valley Farm
3055 Mayberry Road
Westminster, MD 21158
(410) 346-7009
pdkeen@qis.net

● Dawn & Steve Richardson ✓
Grindstone Ridge Farm
Myersville, MD 21773
(301) 908-5985
GrindstoneRidgeFarm@yahoo.com

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29100 Ridge Road
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schlossk@comcast.com

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4100 Walnut Grove Road
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(410) 404-2106/ 756-4361 (eve)
ndweller@verizon.net

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● Cynthia Herbert & Bob Ramirez
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12 Heath Road
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www.keldaby.com

☼ Pam Welty
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1258 West Road
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pam@silveroakalpacas.com
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NEW HAMPSHIRE

☼ Bonny Collard ✓
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NEW YORK

● Lisa Ferguson ✓
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● Dan Melamed & Sara Healy ✓
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lcalpacas@alltel.net

● Ildiko Repasi
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Delhi, NY 13753
(917) 375-7029
ildiko_repasi@tailwaggerny.com

● Deborah J. Wagner ✓
Two Pennies Farm
43 Bauer Road
Averill Park NY 12018
dwags@earthlink.net

NORTH CAROLINA

● Elaina M. Kenyon ✓
Avillion Farm
4737 Shanklins Dead End Rd
Efland, NC 27243
(919) 563-0439
avillionfarm@avillionfarm.com
www.avillionfarm.com

● Sandy Melton
Nowhere Branch Angoras
555 Will Green Road
Marshall, NC 28753
(828) 689-9622
smelton@madison.main.nc.us

OHIO

● Carl & Marlene Gruetter ✓
Timber Ridge Farm
1116 Township Road 217
Scottown OH 45678
(740) 256-1866
info@trfohio.com
<http://www.trfohio.com>

● Becky Salinger & Edward Cigany ✓
Gypsy Ridge Farm
3800 South Ridge W
Ashtabula OH 44004
salinger@adelphia.net

● = renewed for 2009
☼ = renewed for 2010
✓ = has colored Angoras

PENNSYLVANIA

☼ Phylleri Ball ✓
Steam Valley Mt Fiber Farm
2304 Steam Valley Road
Trout Run, PA 17771
(570) 998-2221
steamvalley@verizon.net
www.steamvalleyfiber.com

● Stacy Bonus ✓
Lavender Hill Farm
36 Melisko Lane
West Alexander PA 15376-2296
(724) 484-7220
lavenderhill@tredd.com
<http://www.tredd.com/lavenderhill/>

☼ Glen Cauffman
Glen Cauffman Farm
545 Centerville Road
Millerstown, PA 17062
(717) 580-1416
grc1@psu.edu

☼ Greta Dise ✓
Persimmon Tree Farm
12901 Pleasant Valley Road
Glen Rock PA 17327-8260
(717) 235-5140
persimmon2@juno.com

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(610) 274-1508
john@pinxterbloom.com

☼ Mother Marija
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Byzantine Carmelite Nuns
403 West Country Road
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(570) 788-1205
www.byzantinediscalcedcarmelites.com

● Leslie & Ron Orndorff
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6512 Blooming Grove Road
Glenville PA 17329-9407
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☼ Frank & Cathy Riotto
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(570) 467-3132
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● Steven & Melissa Verill ✓
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TENNESSEE

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● Todd V. Eastin
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VERMONT

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VIRGINIA

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bodie@rockbridge.net

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Colleen Reed, editor
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TO: