



Steve Harder, President

Charles Bodie, Secretary/Treasurer

Directors:

John Frett (3/3) Adrienne Hall Bodie (3/3)

Colleen Reed (3/3) Pat Harder (2/3)

Pat Kalitka (2/3) Greta Dise (1/1)

<http://www.angoragoats.com>

Vol 15

May 2008 Newsletter

No. 2

VAGMA was founded in 1987 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.

Mark your calendars!
17th Annual VAGMA Goat Show, Sale, and Fiber Fest
Lewisburg, WV, June 27-29, 2008
Dee Hadorn, judge
Margaret Radcliff, featured fiber artist
visit www.angoragoats.com for show information

President's Letter:

We were at Maryland Sheep and Wool two weekends ago. The crowds were bigger than ever and the customers were not very shy about spending - something we worried about as the price of gas climbs higher and higher. It was my first big fiber "outing" since I had both of my knees replaced in December and being able to participate in the show without the pain of previous years, makes me very thankful. I am grateful too for the calls and cards that I received from many of you as I recovered.

My optimism has grown as we get closer to our big show next month in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The board has planned for an event that should make the extra travel costs money well spent. Even if you decide not to bring animals, the once-a-year opportunity to get together and share stories, ideas, and friendship makes the show worth the trip. Here are some of the highlights:

- The guest vet is Dr. Kevin Pelzer a ruminant specialist from Virginia/Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine who was the featured vet at Maryland Sheep and Wool
- Our own John Frett will be running a series of goat management demonstrations
- Dee Hadorn, this years' judge, will be sharing her goat raising experiences
- Margaret Radcliffe, well-known fiber artist and author, will be teaching three knitting classes
- Cash premiums will be awarded for first, second, place and third place animals as well as for grand and reserve placements
- A new social opportunity (with light hors d'oeuvres) has been added this year on Friday evening for a chance to meet the judge and the fiber artist
- We have a new caterer this year with Saturday night's dinner including roasted chicken, pork loin, and vegetable lasagna served with homemade breads and baked goods

All the forms are online and a complete schedule is in this newsletter as well. Tell your friends and people to whom you have sold animals to in the past, of this great chance to learn a little more about Angora goats.

At the last several board meetings we have discussed the fact that the current name of our organization, Virginia Angora Goat and Mohair Association (VAGMA), is no longer accurate since the majority of members are not from Virginia. We are looking for a new name that reflects our more regional membership. Anyone who has ideas for a new name, please bring those with you to the show.

On another subject, there have been inquires about when the next mohair pick-up will be. We are working on it and have several possibilities. Please contact me with your quantities. Remember that Texas takes all grades of mohair including white adult and tags.

I hope everyone has had a good kidding season and I look forward to seeing you at the show.

March 8, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held in Ruckersville, VA. Board members present: Charles and Adrienne Bodie, John Frett, Pat and Steve Harder, Pat Kalitka, Colleen Reed, and Mindy Soucek.

Brochure corrected. Colleen will send out for final review. Member report: 54 members, one new member. Next meeting on May 10 at Pat Kalitka's. Treasurer's report: \$1,836 in deposit. Charles will send \$150 to Marlene Gruetter for sponsorship in the Ohio Show. We will pay the show judge, Dee Hadorn of Oklahoma \$600. Margaret Ratcliffe is owed \$50. The annual treasurer's report will be listed in the newsletter.

A few producers want to send mohair to Texas. The call will be publicized in newsletter. Mohair price is down. Board will explore a hair pool at the summer show. The next newsletter will be in mid-May following the next meeting and will include calendars of other shows.

There is prospect for a new web page person in Pennsylvania. Pat will contact. There could be a members section that will contain newsletters to save expenses. This person will be employed to gather materials for the show. Board voted to raise membership fee to \$30 in 2009. This will help to upgrade and improve web site. The discussion on organizational name change to reflect regional basis was concluded by opening it to the membership; perhaps a contest.

Steve and Pat are working on education classes. Margaret Ratcliffe to have a class. Discussed rates for classes and the different kinds of classes and rules. Adrienne reported on concerns of Janet Anderson in Lewisburg for advertising fiber fair. Colleen will help with posters. Steve has list of 30-40 names of WVa fiber network. New show sign to be made at cost up to \$200. Pat Harder suggested premiums rather than ribbons. We should consider new premiums.

Board adjourned after lunch at Blue Ridge Café.
Respectfully submitted

-- Charles Bodie, Secretary & Treasurer

May 10, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The board met at Edenwald, the home of Pat and Pete Kalitka, gathering for lunch before the meeting. Members present were Steve and Pat Harder, Pat Kalitka, Charles and Adrienne Bodie, Colleen Reed, and Mindy Soucek. Steve said that

the options for mohair pickup are either with Todd Eastin in November or Justin Siler after the 2009 show. This will be decided later, depending on the response. The treasurer's report showed \$1584 in the account. This includes a deduction for a check for \$600 sent to the upcoming judge, Dee Hadorn, that has not been deposited.

Most of the meeting concerned the upcoming show in Lewisburg in June. Margaret Radcliffe is interested in offering three fiber workshops. Steve will sign a contract with her. He is looking at a new local caterer for lunches and dinners. The show awards will amount to about \$800 from the treasury. The board will solicit \$50 sponsors for the awards. Show posters will be sent to volunteers in Lewisburg for distribution. Steve will acquire ribbons and an additional banner for the entrance. Pat Harder has printed out the old show forms, which board members examined and revised. They will be on our website. The show will be dedicated to the late SueAnn Nissen, a long-time active member of VAGMA.

Colleen is preparing the upcoming show newsletter. The board examined a proposal from Stonehaven Designs in Pennsylvania for a website redesign. The board approved the proposed measures, to cost up to \$600, pending review of the proceeds from the show. In the meantime, certain updates will be made on an hourly paid basis. The anticipated improvements to the site will be a valuable recruiting and informational tool for VAGMA. The meeting then adjourned.
Respectfully submitted

-- Charles Bodie, Secretary & Treasurer

Welcome New Members!

Becky Salinger & Edward Cigany
Gypsy Ridge Farm
Ashtabula, Ohio

Frank & Cathy Riotto
Holly Road Fiber Farm
Barnesville PA

2008 VAGMA Show Information

West Virginia Fairgrounds,
Lewisburg, WV
June 27-29, 2008

Rule changes

The July post-show board meeting agreed on some changes in the show rules for the 2008 show. The first is that animals that are being shown should be shorn on January 1 or later in the year of the show. Also, fleeces entered in the fleece competition **can** be skirted for tags, stain, and vegetable matter, and they must have been shorn within the year. (See the September 2007 newsletter for the first appearance of this notice.)

Calls for Class Sponsors

We are grateful to Sunflower Farm and Forge (Junior Buck Kid) and Hat Creek Company (Yearling Doe) for their class sponsorship at the 2007 show. Thank you! This year, we are looking for sponsors for all of the shows so that we can present all of the top-three winners with cash prizes as well as provide premiums for the Grand and Reserve Champion winners (see the next section). Class sponsorships are \$50, and include your "name in lights" in the program right at top of that class's listing as well as a business card advertisement in the regular advertising section. If you are interested in sponsoring a class, please contact Colleen Reed at 540-364-4728 or giantcricketfarm@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Show Premiums and Prizes

This year VAGMA is trying something new. The board voted in favor of offering up show premiums to the top-placing winners in all classes as well as for Grand and Reserve Champions.

For the 2008 show, the premiums are:

Grand Champion -- \$40
Reserve Champion -- \$ 20
First Place -- \$15
Second Place -- \$10

Third Place -- \$5

Menus at the Show

The show will be hosting dinner on Saturday night and lunch on Sunday. You can sign up for both meals on the show registration forms and include those payments in the total payment for your registration. The planned menus are:

Saturday Supper -- \$22 per person

Veggie lasagna
Pork tenderloin
Oven roasted chicken
Mashed potatoes
Oven roasted potatoes
Fresh steamed green beans
Green salad with croutons and assorted dressings
Rolls - whole wheat and white
Assorted pies, cakes and brownies
drinks

Sunday Lunch -- \$9 per person

Veggie quiche
Roast beef sandwiches with horseradish sauce
(lettuce and tomato on the side)
Caesar salad
Assorted cookies
drinks

NO KIDDING... Foot Care

by Pat Harder

The older I get, the more I appreciate good foot health. When my feet hurt, it puts a damper on everything else. The same is true with goats. Sore feet can affect their general health. It hurts to muscle into the feed and get a fair share of the grain, so they eat less. The trip to the water bucket might not worth the pain it takes to get there. Breeding can be affected too. Sore feet can make it hard for the buck to support his weight on two legs during mounting and does might choose to lie down and not give the buck access rather than stand up on feet that ache.

1. **Proper hoof trimming is essential.** The goat can be positioned in several ways. I like to lie my smaller goats down on their sides with my leg draped over the shoulders so that she

can't wiggle away. From this position I can not only trim the hooves, but I can check the general condition of the animal. I can pull down the eyelids to see if the animal needs to be dewormed or I can part the hair and check for lice. I can also see if the goat is too thin and needs some extra attention at feeding time. For larger animals I like to do them standing up—either with their heads secured and my body pushing the animal up against a fence or wall for control or having the animal standing on the shearing stand with his head in the head chain. In this position, I can bring the hind legs straight back to trim feet in a standing position.

2. Begin by trimming the tips off of the dewclaws. They will bleed badly if trimmed too much so it is better to take less off on a regular basis. It is your goal in trimming the foot, then the slant of the foot should match the angle of the coronary band (where the hoof and the leg meet). When you first start off trimming feet, take off small amounts so that you don't trim too deeply. It is easy to injure that goat by cutting into her foot and that can result in excessive bleeding, lameness, and infection. So stop trimming before you see a significant amount of pink through the freshly trimmed sole. You should try to trim the inside part of the foot a little lower than the outside wall so that the animal can put her weight on the outer edges. Go to <http://fiascofarm.com/goats/hoof-trim-rt.htm> or <http://www.boergoats.com/clean/articleleads.php?art=80> for good images on trimming feet.
3. Frequent hoof trimming not only helps the animals walk with more comfort, but it also reduces the chances of excessive growth harboring serious bacteria found in the soil. These moist folds in the foot make it difficult to treat the hoof if you detect a problem. And you will notice an animal (and often quickly several more) because they will usually be the last ones to come into the barn—usually holding one foot up in the air.

If several feet are affected the animal might be grazing in the pasture on her front knees.

4. If you notice these symptoms, catch the animal and examine the foot. It is usually one of two problems. The first is foot scald and it will show up when there has been a lot of rain. The hoof itself will look ok, but the skin between the toes will be pink and moist and sometimes you will see puss. Foot rot is similar, however it is not just between the toes. The hoof itself is involved. Sometimes the wall of the hoof is almost gone and the sole is disintegrating. There is also a very foul smell. Foot scald is not passed from animal to animal even though it seems to be. The bacterial that causes it is in the soil and multiple animals pick it up there. Hoof rot is transferable from animal to animal. That is why it is important to disinfect your hoof trimmers between animals while you are trimming.
5. If you find that your animals have either foot scald or foot rot, it is important to aggressively treat the problem or it will go through most of the animals in your herd. As a matter of fact it is advisable to look at it as a herd problem and treatment should involve all of the animals.

The first action is to trim the hooves. Hooves with excessive growth will insulate the bacterial from the treatment. Trimming also allows healing oxygen to get to the bacteria.

Use an antibacterial solution like Dr. Naylor's Hoof n'Heel to saturate the affected area between the toes twice a day until the area has healed. I also use this as a preventative when you bring new animals into your herd or your animals have been at a show.

Try to keep high-traffic areas around the barn dry. You might pour concrete in places like the entrances to the barn that seem to be perpetually wet and muddy. Set up foot baths that all the animals have access to. When the ground is really wet and we have outbreaks of foot scald, we set up tubs (big black mixing pans that we can get pretty cheaply at Lowes) in an alleyway in the barn that every animal has to run through for a week at a time as they try to get to their grain. We fill the pans up with 6 inches of water in which we mix four cups of dry laundry

detergent and eight pounds of food grade Zinc sulfate (available from our local feed store). We set out three pans in a row so that the animals have to walk several feet through the solution. The first time through takes a lot of pushing and persuading to get them to go into the water, but by the second day most of them go through with only a minimal amount of encouragement. When the weather is wet and cold, we set up a tub inside the main access gate to the feeding area and partially fill it with hydrogenated lime mixed with about five pounds of zinc sulfate. This can be very irritating to dog's feet so if you try this, you may have to set it up in a goats only zone.

For animals who have more severe cases or in whom the infection reoccurs, several doses of a long-lasting antibiotic such as penicillin or LA-200 and then removal to a dry area for twenty-four hours can help them to recover. Sometimes applying LA-200 directly to the sore area has been found to help. There are some very persistent cases however, who seem to go through treatment and then come up lame again in a few weeks. Sometimes culling is the only reasonable solution for these animals. Vigilant foot care is time consuming, but your animals will be much more thrifty because of it.

While we are on the subject of toe-trimming, here is still more guidance and ideas...

Hoof Trimming **by Dr. tatiana Luisa Stanton** **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853**

Wild goats travel long distances looking for food and often play on rough rocks and hard ground. All this activity helps keep their hooves somewhat trimmed and cared for. If their hooves do get too long, the tips usually break off naturally. This makes the goat pretty lame for a few days. Too bad for the goat if it encounters a wolf during these lame days (Bye, bye goat!). Tame or domesticated goats count on you to trim their hooves regularly. Otherwise, their hooves will get too long and they may even become lame from the pain. This may cause them to go off feed and to stop exercising... One of your most important duties as your wether's

owner is to regularly trim his hooves. Be warned, the first time you trim his hooves, you will probably get exhausted and it may even seem a little scary. But the more practice you get, the easier it becomes. Plan on trimming your wether's hooves about every 6 weeks. Remember, the longer you let your goat's hooves get, the harder the job will be.

Most people use foot rot shears or hoof trimmers to trim goat hooves. You can buy them through livestock supply catalogs and at some feed stores. Pruning shears also work. Pocket knives are pretty dangerous to use since your goat may jump around and you can easily cut yourself. Some people like to use hoof nippers to cut off the tip of the hoof or rasps to file it down. It is generally best for the beginner to invest in shears or trimmers. Even these are very sharp and should be handled with care...

The first time you trim your wether's hooves either put him in a milk stand or position him next to a wall. If he is not locked in a milk stand, have a friend hold on to him or tie him up by a lead rope attached to his collar. Start out with the front leg that is farthest from the wall. This way you can brace him against the wall to hold him still if you need to. Facing your goat's tail, lean down and pick up his front leg at the pastern. Bend his knee so the bottom of his hoof is facing up at you. Try not to twist his leg way out to the side. This will push him off balance and he may squirm a lot trying to get comfortable. Instead, let his knee fold into its natural position. If you want, you can squat down and rest his hoof on your knee. Now,

- 1) with the point of your shears, clean out any dirt that has gotten stuck between his walls and soles;
- 2) carefully cut off the wall at the tip of his toe so that it is even with his sole;
- 3) cut away any bent over or excess wall until it is level to the sole all the way around;
- 4) trim away any rotted out areas between the sole and hoof wall;
- 5) trim the tissue on his heels until the floor of his hoof is level to his hairline (this also stimulates the heels to grow and helps prevent contracted heels);

Great, only three more hooves to go! Some people like to straddle their goat when they reach down to do the back legs. If you are doing a goat whose hooves have been allowed to get very overgrown, you may not be able to cut the wall at the tip of the hoof completely down to the sole without causing

the goat to bleed. Instead, trim off small amounts of the tip until you see pink. Stop at that point and don't cut the tip any further. Instead, work on the rest of wall going around the sole. Come back in a week and trim the toe some more. Do this weekly until the hoof looks normal...

This article was reprinted with permission from Dr. Stanton. For more information, visit the Cornell University 4-H web site at <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/goats>

CALENDAR of Shows and Events

This calendar is subject to change and addition of more detail, so please check for updates or send ones you know of to the newsletter editor as soon as you can.

Shows

- May 24. Sedalia Spring Fiber Festival, VA – <http://www.sedaliafiberfestival.com>
- May 24-25. Great Lakes Fiber Show, OH - <http://www.GreatLakesFiberShow.com>
- May 24-25. Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair - <http://www.masheepwool.org/>
- June 7-8. Hooser Hills Fiber & Arts Festival, IN – <http://www.hhfiberfest.com>
- June 7-8. Maine Fiber Frolic - <http://www.fiberfrolic.com/>
- June 14 - Fiber Arts & Animals Festival, MI - <http://www.fiberartfest.com/>
- June 27-29. VAGMA annual Fiber Festival, WV – <http://www.angoragoats.com/>**
- Sept 6-7. Pennsylvania Endless Mountains Fiber Festival - <http://www.pafiberfestival.com/>
- Sept 6-7. Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival - <http://www.vermontsheep.org/festival.html>
- Oct 4-5. Fall Fiber Festival of Virginia - <http://www.fallfiberfestival.org/>
- Oct 18-19. New York Sheep & Wool Festival – <http://www.sheepandwool.com>
- Oct 24-26. Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair, NC - <http://www.saffsite.org/>
- Oct 25-26. Shenandoah Fiber Festival, VA - <http://shenandoahvalley.tripod.com/>

This year at the **Great Lakes Fiber Show**, there will be a junior showmanship clinic and show. This will be a unique opportunity for 4H'ers and other youngsters to learn more about angora goats and showing. The Youth Showmanship Workshop will be on Sunday May 25

from 10:00 am -12:00 noon, to be followed by the Youth Angora Goat Show at 1:00 pm. Instructor & Judge: Kathy MacKenzie For more information, contact Becky Salinger at salingerr@adelphia.net

The New York Sheep & Wool Festival has an important rule change. "The final rule for the proposed changes has been sent to the New York Register for publication in the March 5, 2008 edition. On that date, the following changes will be made to the New York State sheep and goat importation regulations:

1. Eliminates all testing requirements (brucellosis, tuberculosis, and bluetongue) for sheep and goats being imported
2. Allows for the issuing of a certificate of veterinary inspection **after** entry of certain sheep and goats to pre-approved livestock markets

... These animals may then be sold to farms in New York. If your vets have any questions regarding the rule change, please direct them specifically to Mr. Jeffry Huse at NYS Agriculture and Markets division. Jeffry.Huse@agmkt.state.ny.us

RESOURCES

Groups, clubs, etc.

Piedmont Spinning Group, Warrenton VA. Contact VAGMA member Diana Gulick for details. fairviewfarm@wildblue.net

River Cities Fiber Clan, South Point, OH. <http://www.goodnewsllamas.com/fiberguild/>

Shearers

Here is the URL for a web site that lists sheep shearers. Some shearers will shear both sheep and goats while others prefer not to shear goats, so be sure to ask. http://www.nebraskasheep.com/directory/Sheep_Shearers

Books

Angora Goats the Northern Way – Susan Drummond. Fourth edition published in 1993. ISBN B000NZ2W1W; Fifth edition published in 2005.

The Angora Goat, Its History, Management and Diseases by Stephanie Micham Sexton and Allison Micham. Second edition published 1999. ISBN 0966447603

Angora Goat and Mohair Production by Dr. Maurice Selton. 1993. ISBN 0943639182

Mohair Pick-Up Planning

Have you made plans for your raw mohair yet? If you want to participate in the mohair pool that is under discussion right now, contact Steve Harder and get your name on the list. Your participation could be the difference between going ahead with plans and canceling for lack of minimum weight. Call soon!

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: Mohair/Cormo, Mohair/CVM and Mohair, CVM and Cormo roving available. Mohair, Cormo, and CVM fleeces available. Please inquire quantity and color. Also some breeding stock available. Call Wallys Peltier at (540) 349-4496 or e-mail mtairyfarm@starpower.net. 5/08

FOR SALE: Registered white angora goat yearling and adult does are for sale from Pinxterbloom Farm in southeastern Pennsylvania. An excellent selection of strong bodied, fine fleeced animals is available. Please call (610) 274-1508, email john@pinxterbloom.com or visit [www.http://Pinxterbloom.com](http://Pinxterbloom.com) for more information.

2/08

FOR SALE: Registered CAGBA solid black blue eyed yearling buck - \$350 - (dam from Persimmon Tree Farm; sire from Muddy Creek Lambscapes). Four bucklings are also available: two color-factored whites (one with blue eyes), and two reverse badgers \$300.00 each, or buy a pair for \$500.00. All will be weaned/available in June. All to be registered. Diverse bloodlines. Please contact Melissa Verill at (717)862-9777 or mlverill@aol.com 2/08

WANTED TO BUY: Black/dark gray angora buck with good fleece and size, not aggressive 2 to 4 years old. Call Wallys Peltier at (540) 349-4496 or e-mail mtairyfarm@starpower.net.

5/08

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PLEASE NOTE

Membership Dues

Annual \$20 dues are due in January and should be sent to: Charles Bodie, Treasurer, Solevento Farm, 1002 Still House Drive, Lexington, VA 24450.

To encourage timely payment, especially of applications for the show, the Board has decided henceforth to designate June 1 as the cutoff date for the \$20 fee. After that date, renewal dues will be \$25 and the newsletter will not be mailed unless and until dues are paid.

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2008 VAGMA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

If you see a mistake on this list, please return a copy of it with the correction to Adrienne Hall Bodie at the address on this list, or e-mail her the current listing and the correction. Names preceded by ((are listed as having paid 2008 dues and will be eligible to receive the next newsletter. If you are paid up but not shown to be, contact Charles Bodie, treasurer.

▲ Charles & Adrienne Hall Bodie
Solevento Farm
1002 Still House Drive
Lexington VA 24450
(540) 463-2808
bodie@rockbridge.net

▲ Carol Bratton & Barbara Lambert
PO Box 908
Madison VA 22727
(540) 923-4789
cabratton@earthlink.net

♥ Donna Burdine
D&T Acres
147 Overton Road
Victoria VA 23974
DandTAcres@hotmail.com
(434) 321-3346

▲ Ed & Maggie Carnahan
Mande Farm
16291 Mande Lane
Culpeper VA 22701
(540) 829-6461

♥ Connie Deatherage
Sunflower Farm & Forge
376 Seville Road
Rochelle VA 22738
(540) 948-3093
cadqueen@earthlink.net

♥ Gary & Joanne Earls √"
Cedar Run Farm
9532 Flatwood Lane, PO Box 313
Catlett VA 20119
(540) 788-9051
cralpacas@direcway.com

▲ Mark & Monika Gibson
2305 Split Rail Road
Shawsville VA 24162
(540) 381-2184
gibsonm@vt.edu

▲ Diana Gulick √
Fairview Farm
5152 Old Auburn Road
Warrenton VA 20187
(540) 347-0546
fairviewfarm@wildblue.net

♥ Pat & Steve Harder √

♥ = renewed for 2007
▲ = renewed for 2008
√ = has colored Angoras

♥ Charlie & Maggie Harris

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Union Camp Farm
PO Box 112
Orlean VA 20128
(540) 364-2111
candmharris@earthlink.net

▲ Pat Kalitka
Edenwald
Box 305
Waterford VA 20197-0305
(540) 882-3009 FAX 540-882-3532
edenwald@mediasoft.net

▲ Larry & Kristina Haas Lawwill
Peavine Hollow Farm, Box 86
Free Union VA 22940
(434) 973-2279
peavinehollow@aol.com
www.peavinehollow.com

♥ Laurie and Jim Lee √
Long Locks Ranch
5390 Piney Woods Rd
Riner, VA 24149
(540) 797-8601
longlocksrancho@gmail.com

♥ Lori E. Levy √
Locust Tree Farm
8399 Ore Bank Road
Port Republic VA 24471-2209

♥ Michele & Joel Mangham
Mangham Wool & Mohair Farm
901 Hammocks Gap Rd
Charlottesville VA 22911
(434) 973-2222 Fax (434) 973-2228
m@woolmohair.com

♥ Elizabeth Neff
Springfield Farm
PO Box 82
Free Union VA 22940
(434) 973-4428
Fax (434) 975-4427

♥ Frank & Wallys Trow-Peltier ' √
Mt. Airy Farm
7303 Dudie Road
Marshall VA 20115-2003
(540) 349-4496
mtairyfarm@starpower.net

▲ Colleen Reed √
9424 Mountjoy Road
Marshall VA 20115
(540) 364-4728
reedrover@earthlink.net
giantcricketfarm.gaean.net

▲ Trudy G. Seiberlich

Seagate Farm
1510 Loudoun Drive
Haymarket VA 20169
(703) 754-8897 FAX 703-758-0299

▲ Mindy Soucek √
Puff (the Magic Rabbit)
PO Box 1591
Madison VA 22727
(540) 948-5697
puffthemagicrabbit@gmail.com

♥ Linda and Leanna Witt √
Misty Mountain Farm
& Blue Ridge Yarns
PO Box 133
Amisville, VA 20106
(540) 937-4707
info@mistymountainfarm.com

▲ Susan E. Long
Long Dream Ranch
17356 County Road 89
Opp AL 36467
susan545@centurytel.net

♥ Tammy Adams √
Zoolittle Farm
176 Leesburg Pike
Georgetown KY 40324
(502) 863-1552
girls@zoolittlefarm.com
www.zoolittlefarm.com

▲ Mary Anne & Earl Holmes
H&K Farms
26 Galbraith Road
Pleasureville KY 40057
(502) 845-2224
makholmes@aol.com
www.handkfarms.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) 848-8796
brianf@carr.org

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♥ Joyce L. Powers ✓
Spriggs Delight
6836 Tommytown Road
Sharpsburg MD 21782-1124
(301) 685-3874
JLOPY1@yahoo.com

▲ Karen J. Schlossberg ✓
Avalon Springs Farm
29100 Ridge Road
Mount Airy MD 21771
(301) 831-7333
schlossk@comcast.com

♥ Cynthia Herbert & Bob Ramirez
Moonshine Design at Keldaby
12 Heath Road
Colrain MA 01340
(413) 624-3090
keldaby@mtdata.com
www.keldaby.com

♥ Wayne & Edie Van Valkenburg ✓
Joy Farm
87 Eastlake Road
Pilesgrove NJ 08098
(856)769-1526
joyew@verizon.net

♥ Dan Melamed & Sara Healy ✓
111 Kozlowski Rd.
Elizaville, NY 12523
(518)537-4487
FAX 518-537-6099
slhdem@valstar.net

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

♥ Jacqueline Brooks
Justa Lit'l Farm
733 Sandy Run Church Road
Mooresboro NC 28114-8776
(704) 434-7305
JustaLitlFarm@aol.com

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(828) 894-5417

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(828) 689-9622
smelton@madison.main.nc.us

♥ Jene & SueAnn Nissen
Hat Creek Co
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Marshall NC 28753
(828) 649-2236
sueann@hatcreekcompany.net

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(336) 584-8102
larose2clg@bellsouth.net

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info@hillshepherd.com or
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trfohio@toast.net
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salinger@adelphia.net

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Trout Run PA 17771
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svmfiber@uplink.net

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(724) 484-7220
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<http://www.tredd.com/lavenderhill/>

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2633 Tract Road
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(717) 642-9444
roelans@comcast.net

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grcl@psu.edu

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Glen Rock PA 17327-8260
(717) 235-5140
persimmon2@juno.com

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Pinxterbloom Farm
155 Good Hope Road
Lundenberg PA 19350
(610) 274-1508
jfrett@udel.edu

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Kempton PA 19529-8905
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info@tintagelfarm.com

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Barnesville PA 18214
(570) 467-3132
hrrfiber@frontiernet.net

▲ Steven & Melissa Verill ✓
Feathers & Fleece Farm
1215 Bridgeton Road
Airville PA 17302
(717) 862-9777
mlverill@aol.com

▲ Janet Dale
Locust Mount Enterprises
912 Glendale Road
Jonesborough TN 37659
(423) 753-8662
cowman@usit.net
pudel1234@earthlink.net

♥ Todd V. Eastin
601 Johnson Hollow Rd
Shady Valley Tn 37688-5011
(423) 739-5077
eastin@preferred.com

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▲ Debbie Kirby
Kirby's Happy Hoofers
PO Box 224
Brandon VT 05733
(802) 247-3124
debbie.kirby@kirbyshappyhoofers.com

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