Northwest Cashmere Association

Dear Member,

OK, Fall is here. We at Caprette Cashmere have released the last of this years from the nursery and introduced them to the general herd. Always a lot of fun. They follow you everywhere which is fine when you want to lock them away from the rest to feed them grain.

With Fall officially here, it is time for some to plan or even start our breeding programs.

Fiber shows and festivals will soon memories of the pastas winter sets in..

The Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival (OFFF) was October 18-19. Results of the Cashmere Goat Show are below. Our annual meeting was at the OFFF. There were the elections of officers, who will remain in their respective posts. I wish to thank all of the officers for the great job they did this year and looking forward to more of the same great work in the coming year.

The NWCA/CGA Fleece competition will be NWCA's turn to host next year and it appears it may be at OFFF again. Keep an eye out for more details. This years was hosted by the Cashmere Goat Association at the Adirondack Wool and Art Festival in September.

If you, the membership, are interested in promoting your farms and educating people about cashmere, cashmere goats and products made from cashmere, by showing your animals, please let me know, yes or no, and please let me know about which way you would want to register your animals.

Also, I would be very interested in what other events you would like to see the Northwest Cashmere Association do. Please respond to this letter my sending your responses to me at rbfiorica@frontiernet.net,

Thank you,

Ron Fiorica

Ron Fiorica, President
Northwest Cashmere Association

2025 Cashmere Goat Show

1. Junior Wethers (under 12 months old)

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
4	2/10/25	BNB Umbreon	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell
3	2/10/25	BNB Espeon	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell
1	3/1/25	BNB Sparrow	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell
2	4/5/25	GK Newton	Goat Knoll	Linda Fox
5	4/9/25	GK Andrew	Goat Knoll	Linda Fox

2. Senior Wether—over 1 year

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
Na	N/A			

Champion Wether: BNB Sparrow — Lyn Powell

Reserve Champion Wether: GK Newton

3. Buck Kids—under 1 year

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
1	1/12/25	CPRC Terzo A.I.	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica

4. Yearling Bucks

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
NA	N/A			

Champion Junior Buck: CPRC Terzio A.I. — Barbara & Ron Fiorica

Reserve Champion Junior Buck: NA

5. Bucks, 2 years and older

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
NA	N/A			

Champion Senior Buck: NA

Reserve Champion Senior Buck: NA

Grand Champion Buck: CPRC Terzio A.I. — Barbara & Ron Fiorica

Reserve Grand Champion Buck: NA

6. Junior Doe Kid—6 months and younger

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
1	4/18/25	GK Sophia	Goat Knoll	Linda Fox

7. Senior Doe Kid—7-12 months old

	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
2	1/12/25	CPRC Tara A.I.	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
4	1/15/25	CPRC Trista A.I.	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
1	2/16/25	BNB Jet	Will-O'-Wisp Cashmere	Charlotte Braxton
3	3/9/25	BNB Pearl	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell
5	3/16/25	GK Alexa	Goat Knoll	Linda Fox

8. Yearling Does

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
1	1/23/24	CPRC Sandra	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
2	3/12/24	CPRC Sienna	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
5	1/19/24	BNB Indigo	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell
4	3/8/24	CPRC Willow	Will-O'-Wisp Cashmere	Charlotte Braxton
3	5/30/24	GK Selkie	Goat Knoll	Linda Fox

Champion Junior Doe:	CPRC Sandra	Barbara & Ron Fiorica Charlotte
Reserve Champion Junior Doe:	BNB Jet	Braxton

9. Does, 2 and 3 Year Old

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
1	2/25/23	CPRC Romaine	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
3	1/24/22	CPR Panna	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
2	12/30/22	BNB Sapphire	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell
5	12/30/22	BNB Ruby	Walker Forest and Farm	Diana Walker
4	12/30/22	BNB Eevee	Walker Forest and Farm	Diana Walker

10. Does, 4 and5 Year Old

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
1	3/15/20	CPRC Merla	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica

11. Aged Does, 6 Years and Older

Rank	Birthdate	Animal	Farm	Owner
2	3/2/18	CPRC Kayden	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
1	2/18/19	CPRC Lila	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
3	6/2/19	BNB Petunia Rose	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell

Champion Senior Doe:	CPRC Lila	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
Reserve Champion Senior Doe:	CPRC Merla	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
Grand Champion Doe:	CPRC Lila	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
Reserve Grand Champion Doe:	CPRC Merla	Barbara & Ron Fiorica

13. Judge's Choice Best of Fleece: Chosen from this year's fiber clippings provided*

Rank	Animal	Farm	Owner
	GK Selkie	Goat Knoll	Linda Fox

14. Dam and Daughter (looking for improvement)*

Rank	Animals	Farm	Owner
1	CPRC Panna, CPRC Romaine	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica
2	BNB Petunia Rose, BNB Indigo	Basalt & Bramble	Lyn Powell

15. Breeder's Trio (all must be over a year in age and entered with fleece) *

	Animals	Farm	Owner
1	CPRC Sandra, CPRC Sienna, CPRC Romaine	Caprette Cashmere	Barbara & Ron Fiorica

*must have been shown in one of the age classes (classes 1-11)

NO YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP ENTRIES 2025

17. Junior Youth Showmanship (ages 8 to 11 years old)

18. Senior Youth Showmanship (ages 12 to 18 years old)

THE ESTRUS CYCLE IN GOATS

Days are getting shorter, and if you're lucky, the weather is getting cooler. For those of us who dwell in the Northern Hemisphere, that means the breeding season is upon us. Goats experience seasonal polyestrous, meaning they have multiple heat cycles induced by daylight changes. As the days become shorter, goats begin having their heat cycles. Understanding what controls the estrus cycles in goats helps increase fertility and manipulate the estrus cycle in more management-intensive breeding programs.

There are several key hormones associated with the estrus cycle in goats. Several of these are produced in the brain — GnRH, LH, and FSH. • GnRH, or gonadotropin releasing hormone, is produced by the hypothalamus. The release of this hormone is stimulated when longer nights cause an increase in melatonin from the pineal gland. GnRH, in turn, causes the release of LH and FSH from the anterior pituitary. • LH, luteinizing hormone, is responsible for forming the corpus luteum on the ovary and stimulating ovulation. • FSH, follicle-stimulating hormone, is, unsurprisingly, responsible for the production of ovarian follicles.

Not every follicle present ovulates during a heat cycle. The dominant follicle is the ovulatory follicle. Goats can have more than one dominant follicle, leading to multiple kids per pregnancy. There are three hormones produced by the reproductive tract itself: Estrogen, progesterone, and prostaglandin f2alpha. • Estrogen is produced by ovarian follicles, with the dominant follicle producing the most estrogen. Increases in estrogen result in goats exhibiting the outward signs of heat or receptivity to the male during estrus. • Progesterone is produced by the corpus luteum on the ovary. The corpus luteum is the structure formed on the ovary after ovulation of a dominant follicle. Progesterone suppresses the formation of GnRH, FSH, and LH in the brain. This suppression is what helps to maintain pregnancy. • Prostaglandin F2alpha is made by the uterus when there's no pregnancy. It causes the destruction of the ovarian corpus luteum, which in turn stimulates a return of the heat cycle.

The entire heat cycle averages around 21 days. However, younger does and does early in the breeding season tend to exhibit shorter and more frequent heat cycles. Standing heat, or estrus, typically lasts around 36 hours. Goats in tropical regions tend to exhibit less seasonality to estrus, as daylight remains more constant throughout the year. During times of decreased melatonin, such as in the spring, goats don't have regular heat cycles. This time is known as anestrus. Sexual maturity of does varies by age, breed, and body condition. It can also be influenced by geographic location. Some breeds, such as Pygmy goats, can reach sexual

maturity as early as 3 months of age. It's important to note that sexual maturity doesn't always mean that breeding is appropriate. Body condition, weight, and skeletal maturity are important factors to consider prior to breeding.

Manipulation of the estrus cycle can help shorten kidding seasons, improve conception rates, and even result in estrus outside of the normal season. And while hormones are required to manipulate the cycle, they don't always have to be artificial. The "Ram Effect" is commonly referred to in sheep but is also successful in goats. This involves introducing a ram (or buck) to animals transitioning into estrus. This can be used with mature animals at the beginning of the breeding cycle and for young animals to help bring on sexual maturity. A buck is introduced to does that have been isolated from males for 30 days. The pheromones released by the buck stimulate the doe to begin an estrus cycle.

Flushing is another method of affecting the estrus cycle of does. Flushing is the practice of increasing the energy intake in goats just prior to and during the first part of the breeding season. The increase in energy results in increased follicular development and can increase ovulation rates. It should be noted, however, that this practice isn't successful in every doe. Does that are slightly underweight or ideal weight will show an increase in ovulation.

Pharmaceutical hormones can also be used to manipulate the heat cycle. During breeding season, hormones can be used to synchronize estrus in a group of does. Having all does coming into heat at the same time can facilitate a short breeding and kidding season, and is also ideal for artificial insemination. Artificial insemination is a wonderful way to bring new genetics into your herd without hunting down the perfect buck. These hormones can also be used to facilitate breeding out of season.

Depending upon your herd goals, a summer or fall kidding may be desired. Commonly used protocols to induce estrus involve a progesterone implant (CIDR), the use of a luteolytic agent — such as PMSG or prostaglandin — and an ovulation-inducing agent containing GnRH. Choosing an estrus induction protocol depends upon the breeding goal. Goats undergoing artificial insemination will need to have a more precisely timed ovulation than goats destined for natural breeding. Utilizing methods of manipulating the goat estrus cycle can increase fertility and provide opportunities for breeding outside the normal season. As we enter this breeding season, consider how manipulating the estrus cycle can help you meet your production goals. Your herd veterinarian is

always a fantastic resource to consult when considering changes to your herd's reproductive plan.