

Division of Marketing
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1991 Grant Final Report

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Grant Title Project Continuation & Expansion: Angora Goats & Mohair in
Wisconsin; An Alternative Enterprise With Proven Economic Potential

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Name Susan Waterman

Organization Odyssey Farm
Brooklyn

E-Mail

WEB

Department Contact: DATCP - Marketing - ADD Grants
PO Box 8911 Madison, WI 53708-8911
Tel: (608)224-5136
<http://datcp.state.wi.us>

FINAL REPORT
PROJECT CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION: ANGORA GOATS
AND MOHAIR IN WISCONSIN
CONTRACT # 6027

I. PROJECT INTENT AND BENEFIT

The intent of this project was to continue the work described in the original Angora goat grant project. This work has been fully described in the final report for contract #4016. Specifically, the project expansion was to improve communication among the state's Angora goat producers, to provide preliminary assistance with the marketing of mohair and to improve the level of knowledge of the state's Angora goat producers.

II. SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. As a means to help expand the market for breeding stock raised in the state, the project is producing a directory of Angora goat producers in Wisconsin. More than 30 individuals who are members of the Angora Goat and Mohair Association of Wisconsin will have free listings in the directory, or paid display ads by individual choice. In addition, several goat shearers and veterinarians have requested to be listed in the directory. The directory will also include some listings of mohair cooperatives and warehouses and some tanners who are willing to work with goat skins. The directory will be ready for mailing by the end of the year. Copies will be issued to producers listed in it for their use and distribution, and the Angora Goat Association will also issue these upon request. Copies will be made available to as many extension agents as possible.

2. In order to improve the competitive position of Wisconsin producers in the commercial mohair market, the project sponsored a two-day Angora goat judging and mohair grading school. The information provided was geared to help producers select goats growing the most marketable type of hair and to maximize their production potential. The school was taught by Jack Groff of Kerrville, Texas, and Susan Drummond of Freeport, Michigan. Both have many years of expertise in the Angora goat business. The school was held in September, 1992, in conjunction with WOOLL Gathering, a fiber animal event, at the Waukesha Expo Center. It was attended by nearly 30 producers, many of whom made very favorable comments about the school.

3. The project also enhanced market competitiveness by beginning to organize mohair marketing in the State. The grant supported the start-up of the Angora Goat and Mohair Association of Wisconsin, which held its formative meeting in January, 1992, a Board meeting in the spring, the first annual membership meeting in September in conjunction with the goat school, and which will hold a board meeting in early December. The Association, which has filed its official by-laws, has been set up as a non-profit organization. Presently there are around 30 paid members. The project will support the initial activities of the Association in terms of continuing to disseminate information around the state by representation in appropriate agricultural conferences and marketing conferences, and by providing xeroxed information packets on request.

III. EXPECTATIONS

This grant project fully met my original expectations. One possible shortcoming is that it would have been useful to have more individuals wanting listings in the directory. However, as interest in the state grows, it will be easy to expand the directory. Otherwise, all objectives of the grant project were accomplished. I am particularly pleased with the leadership of the new Association. It should be noted that the President,

Michael Breard, is a new producer as well as a project kid recipient. He has had considerable experience as a group leader. The other officers include both new and experienced producers, and everyone is quite enthusiastic. It was my choice not to take an officer position on the Board, especially to encourage full participation by some new people in the industry. My role is to serve as member-at-large.

IV. FUTURE PROJECTIONS

It is anticipated that the Angora Goat Association will actively continue to provide information to new and needy producers, and will take an active role in organized marketing of Wisconsin mohair as quantities become adequate to attract buyers directly to the State. In addition, the Association has an official liaison with the directors of WOOLL Gathering, and will be planning some form of participation in next year's event. Last, the directory should serve to connect producers with buyers of both mohair and breeding stock, as well as with each other.

A FEW...
**REFERENCES &
RESOURCES**

BOOKS:

Angora Goats the Northern Way
Susan Black Drummond
1451 Sisson Road
Freeport, MI 49325
616-765-3056

The Complete Angora Goat
Jean Ebeling
Ebeling Angoras
Rt. 2, Box 43
Marble Falls, TX 78654

*The Angora Goat: Its History, Management
and Diseases*
Stephanie Mitcham Sexton and Allison
Mitcham
Lancelot Press Limited
PO Box 425
Hantsport, Nova Scotia, BOP 1PO

MAGAZINES:

Sheep! Magazine
Dave Tompson
W2997 Markert Road
Helenville, WI 53137

The Ranch Magazine
P.O. Box 2678
San Angelo, Texas 76902

The Black Sheep Newsletter
Peggy Lundquist
Rt. 1, Box 288
Scappoose, Oregon 97056

MARKETING

Texas, being the center of Angora goat production in the United States, is also the center of the commercial mohair market in the U.S. Mohair is sold out of the warehouses in Texas largely to European buyers. Mohair is a highly desirable fiber because of its strength, fire resistance, luster, acceptance of dyes and general durability. The fiber is processed in Europe into yarns, garments and fabrics. Many of the finished products return to consumers in the U.S. Fiber produced in the Midwest can be shipped to Texas via common carriers or through any of several midwest-based mohair cooperatives.

Alternatives to the commercial marketing of mohair include direct marketing to fiber artists, handspinners, doll makers and other craft people. Any direct marketing requires considerable time and effort on the part of the producer.

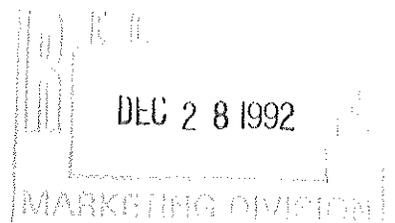
Livestock can be marketed as breeding stock and meat. Throughout Wisconsin, Angora goats are beginning to appear in county fairs. The year 1993 will mark the fifth year of the Angora goat show which is part of the open sheep show at the Dane County fair. Because of their docile temperaments, Angora goats are ideal as project animals for children. A 4H project manual can be obtained from the Association.

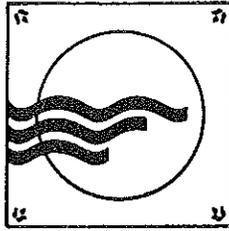
WISCONSIN
ANGORA GOAT
BREEDERS' DIRECTORY

1993



**Angora Goat and Mohair
Association of Wisconsin**





Odyssey Farm

CRITERIA FOR FARMER ENTRY INTO DATCP ANGORA GOAT PROJECT

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and Susan Waterman, Odyssey Farm, Brooklyn, WI 53521, are working together through the Agricultural Development and Diversification Grant Program to actively encourage farmer entry into the Angora goat and mohair industry. Angora goats can be very productive fiber producing animals under appropriate management conditions in Wisconsin. They can mobilize under-utilized farm resources such as unused buildings and marginal pastures. And, the existence of a commercial market for mohair expands the opportunity for many family farms to diversify with Angora goats. There are two major components of this project: 1) in spring/summer 1991 and 1992 offspring (does and billies) from a select group of registered Angora goat does will be available to eligible farmers "at cost" (approximately \$165 per goat). These goats are meant to provide outstanding foundation stock for farmers committed to the industry. In addition, the project goats will provide an excellent opportunity for eligible farmers to obtain outstanding billies for improvement of commercial flocks. Applications for participation in the project will be issued in September, 1990; 2) in Spring, 1991, probably in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep Industry Conference, a 2 1/2 day seminar will be taught by Texas experts in Wisconsin regarding goat management and mohair production and grading. Anyone may attend the workshop. Announcements will be issued in sheep industry publications and agricultural newspapers starting in the fall.

The purpose of the DATCP-sponsored Angora goat project is to expedite the diversification of family farms at an economically meaningful level, by encouraging farmer entry into the mohair industry. Thus, in most cases it will be expected that participants anticipate handling at least 50 goats. In some cases fewer might be appropriate, but "5 or 6" will not be considered adequate for profitability. Since commercial marketing is assumed, 100 or more would be most desirable for a mature operation (after 3-5 years). The farmer's plans for growth and expansion of the operation will be discussed.

The extent of past and present farm experience will be a consideration for eligibility from the standpoint of the likelihood for success of a given operation. Beginning farmers (minimal experience) will be requested to provide some evidence for a farm plan and to demonstrate an interest in goats. If the goats are to replace an existing livestock enterprise, because the enterprise is failing financially, an attempt will be made to determine if the same type of failure will be avoided with the goats (i.e. poor management, inability to provide feed, etc). If the goats are to become a supplementary enterprise, potential compatibility with the existing farm operation will be considered.

The capacity of the farm, in acreage and shelter, to accommodate 100 goats will be assessed, as Angora goats in Wisconsin do require shelter, forage and grain in winter. There must also be evidence that the existing fencing will provide adequate protection against dogs, coyotes and other predators. If new fencing is to be built, it must be evident that the means are available to accomplish this job.

Commitment to the project, and the industry in general, will be evaluated in part by how serious and how realistic the applicant is in terms of anticipated expenses and income, willingness to maintain records, proposed marketing approaches, interest in county fairs and youth projects, and general attitudes about raising animals.

Angora Goat and Mohair Association of Wisconsin

The **Angora Goat and Mohair Association of Wisconsin (AGMAW)** is a non-profit association incorporated in 1992, and was started by Angora goat producers for Angora goat producers. The purpose of the Association is to promote, support and offer education about the management of Angora goats and the mohair industry of Wisconsin. The Association is seeking members in order to establish a network of producers to share information. The organization will respond to inquiries for information regarding Angora goat management, offer general education about the use of mohair, and participate in public education forums around the state.

President:	Michael Breard, Spring Valley
Vice-President:	Deb Jones, Black River Falls
Secretary:	Laurel Kieffer, Strum
Treasurer:	Ken Peissig, Kewaskum
Members -At- Large:	Jackie Michael, Eland Dan Lange, Cornell Mary Skog, D.V.M., Darlington Susan Waterman, Brooklyn

For Information contact: Laurel Kieffer, Secretary
AGMAW
Rt. 1, Box 240
Strum, WI 54770
715-695-3617

This directory was sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Agricultural Development and Diversification (ADD) Grant Program .

GUIDELINES: CARE OF ANGORA GOATS

Susan Waterman

Angora goats, when well cared-for, will be healthy, productive and enjoyable animals. Four very important aspects of routine maintenance, in addition to proper feeding and the availability of fresh, clean water are 1) management of internal parasites (worms and coccidia), 2) management of external parasites (lice), 3) foot care, and 4) timely shearing. A convenient reminder is to record your yearly breeding and management schedule on a calendar used only for that purpose, and to maintain written health records for each individual animal. These guidelines are intended to be very general; more detailed references should be consulted for further information.

1. Worms and Coccidia. Several wormers many producers use for Angora goats are Tramisol (levamisole, 11.5%), Panacur or Safe-Guard (fenbendazole, 10%), and Ivermectin (Ivomec). A veterinarian should be consulted for dosages. Worming 6 times a year may be adequate (or excessive) for a pasturing situation. Closer confinement may necessitate more frequent worming. For example, if does are wormed 6 times a year, they could be wormed 6 weeks prior to kidding and 2 weeks after (mid-February and mid-April) with a different wormer each time. Then, they are wormed 2 more times, 3 weeks apart in the spring, around the first and third weeks in June, before going on to fresh pasture. Next, they are wormed once in late August or early September and finally after a hard frost. Billies might be wormed 5 times: in April, 2 times in June, once in late summer and after a hard frost. Kids should first be wormed at two to three months of age. A veterinarian should be consulted regarding a program for your specific situation.

Coccidia are an internal intestinal protozoan parasite. They are most prevalent in kids around

weaning age. They may persist in adults at various levels, and their presence may not be apparent. Symptoms may include diarrhea, dehydration, anemia and loss of weight. Secondary infections may accompany coccidia infestations. Whole-herd treatment may be accomplished through the addition of coccidiostats to water and feed. However, some individuals may not consume adequate amounts of drug. In the case of apparent outbreaks, individual treatment in order to ensure adequate dosage is recommended. Stool samples should be tested to follow the course of treatment.

2. Lice. It is almost impossible to have completely lice-free goats. The presence of 1 or a few lice on a single goat can lead to infestation of the flock. The best approach is to control lice to prevent major outbreaks. (The lice are species-specific and will not infest sheep). Even moderate infestations can ruin a mohair fleece. Lice destroy the luster of the hair and create dander which contaminates the hair. Removal of eggs from the hair can be achieved only with very harsh treatments as used in commercial scouring processes. Serious infestations can weaken a goat, damage its skin and in general cause a goat great discomfort. Frequent scratching or wads of hair and dirt on the ends of the horns probably indicate the presence of lice.

It is convenient to coordinate a lice-control program with shearing time. In the spring, a powder insecticide can be dusted if shearing day is very cold. Each animal should be treated 2 or 3 times 14 days apart with powder or a pour-on such as Ectrin, Permethrin, Lys-off, or Ex-par. Texas producers often use a dilute solution of malathion, which is very toxic. (Malathion should be used only once). Injectable Ivermectin is sometimes used, but it is more effective on sucking lice than the more commonly occurring biting lice. Animals should be checked again in 3 or 4 weeks and treated as needed. For powders and pour-ons, usually three initial treatments are ample. Remember to treat ears, legs and tails. The same approach is followed after fall shearing. It may be convenient in warm weather to use a dip tank for treatment.

3. Feet. In most cases, feet will require four

trimmings a year. Feet should not be neglected; less trimming may be adequate, depending on the terrain your goats are wandering. And, during extended periods of wet and muddy conditions, be alert for the occurrence of foot rot. Consult a veterinarian if in doubt.

4. Shearing. Typically, Angora goats are shorn twice a year, about six months apart. If goats are not shorn, large clumps of hair will be shed and the fleeces become disorderly and matted. It is convenient to shear about 1 month prior to kidding and then 6 months later (March and September). In the spring, if the does are not shorn prior to kidding, they should be "crotched" (their back ends shorn) to provide for a clean delivery and to ensure that the kids can find the teats and do not waste time sucking on locks of hair. In the fall, allow ample time for hair growth before cold winter weather arrives. Angora goats are very susceptible to hypothermia when freshly shorn. If your shearer is not familiar with shearing Angora goats, inform him/her that 20-tooth combs for mohair are available and should be used.

This information is intended to be a very general guideline for the care of your Angora goats. It is not a complete health management guide. Consult an experienced producer, a veterinarian or a product manufacturer for appropriate procedures and protocols. Have fun designing a management program for your particular situation.

HALE TONE
DOE