

# MYOTONIC GOAT REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE MYOTONIC GOAT REGISTRY



**Summer 2020**

Volume 12 Issue 3

## Notes from the Pasture

I hope this newsletter finds all of you in good spirits and staying healthy and safe! 2020, wow what a year so far! I remember how eager I was for 2019 to come to an end and 2020 to start and here I am wishing 2020 could end right now and we could move onto 2021! Things have changed drastically since our last newsletter!

As I write this newsletter, schools are starting to get back in session and summer will soon be coming to an end, and many of us will be having a fall round of kids before long. If you did not have any kids last spring, hopefully the information in the last newsletter will help you have a successful kidding season this fall.

In this issue, we remember the life and legacy of two individuals who had a tremendous impact on the myotonic breed and our registry, Dian Naumann and Rick Geeslin. We will also take a look at the show results from the Neosho, Missouri and Lewisburg, Tennessee MGR shows. Congrats to all of the winners! We will also take a road trip to Minnesota where we will meet this issue's featured MGR Youth member, Taylor Oeltjenbruns. Have you ever considered Artificial Insemination on your does? Nikki Thummel will give us a first hand look at her experiences with AI. Sherry Siebenaler will give us a look at how to have our herd qualified with the Scrapie Program for exporting goats to other countries.

Thank you Nikki and Sherry for contacting me with ideas for newsletter topics and also for doing a great write-up on both topics!

As always, if you have any ideas for future newsletters or topics you would like to learn more about, please send them my way.

Until next time, happy goating!  
Drew DeRiemacker, editor  
info@fieldcrestfarms.com

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## From The MGR Office...



When I typed this column for our last newsletter, I had a great deal of hope 2020 would become a better year; the pandemic would pass, and life would return to normal. Instead this has become a year of unknowns, everchanging circumstances, and a lot of frustrations! I had begun to wonder if we would ever get to have an MGR Show in 2020. Luckily, we have managed a few shows and began on Summer-Fall on-line photo contest. I must admit, I am very impressed at the amazing photography by our breeders! Our photo contest series is open to all active MGR breeders on our Facebook Group; Myotonic Goat Registry



### Rosettes by Brassing Awards-Thank you Lisa!

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October 23rd and 24th MGR will offer two regular sanctioned shows along with our National Show at the James E Ward Ag Center in Lebanon, TN. TN Please be sure to read through the show rules if you plan on exhibiting or attending as there will be strict requirements for the health and safety of all. Classes and rules will be posted on the MGR website soon. If you have any questions, please e-mail MGR at [myotonicgoatregistry@yahoo.com](mailto:myotonicgoatregistry@yahoo.com)

May each of you have a blessed and safe Fall!

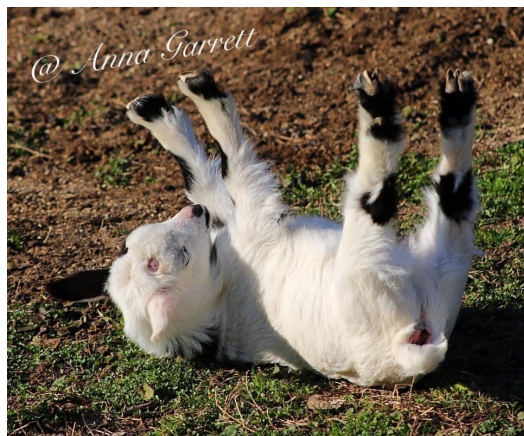
Our first category in the photo contest was "Best Myotonic Faint". Congratulations to our winners!



1st place: Echo Acres Finley, Renee Anderson



2nd place: Walkabout's Farm Little Grace,  
Emily Jewell Jorgenson



3rd place: Solis Occasus Villa Pete, Anna Garrett



4th place: Moonlight Farms Selena, Anna Garrett



5th place: Bucking Adoeable Madonna, Reanne Tristyn

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# *In Loving Memory of*

**Dian Naumann**

Shade Tree Acres

Dian Naumann was one of the Myotonic Goat Registries' founding members, proudly member #003. Her farm, Shade Tree Acres, in Garfield, Texas was home to some of the finest examples of myotonic goats you would ever find. With over 400 myotonics registered with MGR carrying the Shade Tree Acres name, the legacy of the herd she built is recognized in pedigrees of myotonics across the country! We thank her for her endless contributions to MGR and the myotonic breed.





## Dian Naumann

### Shade Tree Acres

Flora Dian Naumann was born in Austin, Texas on March 1, 1948 to Flora Hobbs and Robert Fritz Naumann. Because she shared her mother's name, Flora, she was always known to her family and friends as Dian. She was the youngest of the 3 children. Whether it was the difference in ages of 10 years between her brother, Damon and sister Ruby Nell, her parents taught her to be equally skilled – to make perfect round pie pastries as well as shoot straight and understand the mechanics under a car's hood.

Dian grew up in the area of Austin's Bailey Square. She was proud of the fact that her parents along with their neighbors pulled together for their children and assisted the City of Austin with the development of Bailey Park. It was those principles of setting goals, working hard and giving back to the community that shaped her life.

A talented artist, she attended Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogoches, but left to assist her mother. She started her own printing company and with funds from her business and other dealings, she purchased 20 acres in Garfield. She called her ranch, Shade Tree Acres. Under the limbs of large post oaks, she lived with her trail riding horses.

It wasn't until one fateful May, that her life changed. Dian purchased three Tennessee fainting goats and promptly named one doe, Cinco, the other, Mayo and the buck, she called Funny Face. She fell in love and was totally captivated by the caprine world. Soon, her goats would be winning prizes and accolades. But, if you visited her farm, Dian would point beyond all the ornate trophies to a simple, faded chartreuse ribbon, a 6th place winner. It was her proudest moment when her buck, Cambrick, was recognized for his outstanding conformation at the Texas State Fair, a feat when the competition weighed heavily with the newly touted Boer goats.

Dian was a person who held strong convictions. She loved Dr. Pepper but hated the taste of water which she called "cleaning solvent". She liked tarantulas but snakes on her property were quickly dispatched with a shot gun. She loved bottle babies, Vanilla Bean Blue Bell Ice Cream, cocker spaniels, the cartoon Tweety Bird, raw oysters, colorful socks, Whataburgers, the Great Outdoors and life. At goat shows, she was memorable – poking fun, laughing and enjoying the company of her fellow goat lovers. Dian was generous, kind and thoughtful to her friends. To her animals, she stood up against abuse and adopted rescues that no one else would take.

As a graphic designer, Dian worked for the Texas Department of Transportation. Today, as we travel down the highways, we are surrounded by her creativity. From her toll road sign of a waving Texas flag to the different animal crossing markers, we are all touched by Dian Naumann.

Dian is survived by her nephew, Dewayne Naumann, his wife and sons Theresa, Travis and Matthew; and her niece, Rebecca Stacks, her husband and son, Daniel and Christopher.

In lieu of flowers, Dian Naumann would like people to send their appreciation to her favorite charity KLRU – TV, Austin's PBS station. To contribute either call on their secure line 512-475-9032 or send checks to Austin PBS, P.O. Box 7158, Austin, Texas 78713.

Flora Dian Naumann ended life's journey at Austin's Hospice, Christopher House on June 5, 2020.



A0626 Shade Tree Acres Traveler



A0636 Shade Tree Acres Nell

# Dian Naumann

## Shade Tree Acres



# *In Loving Memory of*

**Rick Geeslin**  
Wolf River Ranch

Since 2002, Rick & Nancy Geeslin, along with Nancy's son's Cody and Trey Baumeister, have been raising myotonics on their ranch outside of Bowie, Texas. Rick loved his goats, loved exhibiting them at MGR shows across the country, and enjoyed socializing with friends old and new. With over 460 registered myotonics proudly bearing the Wolf River name, there is no doubt Rick and his family created a legacy that will not be forgotten!







## Rick Geeslin

### Wolf River Ranch

Richard Wayne Geeslin, 66 of Bowie, TX, passed away Friday, July 17, 2020.

Family has chosen arrangements with cremation, arrangements entrusted to the White Family Funeral Home of Bowie.

Richard was born July 18, 1953 in Fort Worth, TX, to Alvie “Bill” and Joyce (Curry) Geeslin. As a young man he started out as a sack boy for Diamond Food Stores in Azle, TX. Later in life he owned and operated Pantry Food Store in Bowie, for 6 years. Richard also worked as a dairyman, and owned Dairy Land Farm in Decatur, TX. He enjoyed showing cattle, goats, and sheep with his kids.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Mac and Joyce Howard, daughter Amy Geeslin, and father Bill Geeslin.

Richard is survived by his wife Nancy Geeslin of Bowie; children Chris Phillips of Fort Worth, TX, Randy Geeslin of Roanoke, TX, Angie Lawler of Decatur, Cody Baumeister and Trey Baumeister, both of Bowie, Stacy Bounds of Brock, TX, and Shelly Renaud of Decatur; 14 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; brother Ronnie Geeslin and sister Brenda Geeslin, both of Chico, TX



# Southern Belles Classic - Neosho, Missouri

Ring A: Judge Lowell Walker Ring B: Judge Josh Lichlyter

Ring C: Judge Josh Stephans

\*Indicates verified MGR Point

Ring A, June 14th

**Junior Champion Doe**

Echo Acres Finley	Renee Anderson
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**Reserve Junior Champion Doe**

Cornstalk Creek Miss Rose	Bryan & Debbie Monts
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**Senior Champion Doe**

Shearogg Fainters Harper	Bryan & Debbie Monts
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**Reserve Senior Champion Doe**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Scarlett	Sarah Oeltjenbruns
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**Grand Champion Doe**

*Echo Acres Finley	Renee Anderson
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**Reserve Grand Champion Doe**

Cornstalk Creek Miss Rose	Bryan & Debbie Monts
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**Junior Champion Buck**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Radar	Sarah Oeltjenbruns
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**Reserve Junior Champion Buck**

Buck Creek Lawson	Bryan & Debbie Monts
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**Senior Champion Buck**

Wallace's Crazy Acres Oakley	Renee Anderson
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**Reserve Senior Champion Buck**

Buck Creek Moonshine	Brian & MacKenzie Treadwell
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**Grand Champion Buck**

*Wallace's Crazy Acres Oakley	Renee Anderson
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**Reserve Grand Champion Buck**

Buck Creek Moonshine	Brian & MacKenzie Treadwell
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**Junior Champion Platinum Wether**

BDF Hulk	Leonie Dysart
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**Reserve Junior Champion Platinum Wether**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Patron	Taylor Oeltjenbruns
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**Senior Champion Platinum Wether**

Riverside Fainters Locked & Loaded	Ali Thielen
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**Reserve Senior Champion Platinum Wether**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Jager	Danielle Frost
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**Grand Champion Platinum Wether**

*Riverside Fainters Locked & Loaded	Ali Thielen
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**Reserve Grand Champion Platinum Wether**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Jager	Danielle Frost
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Above: Judge Lowell Walker sorting through a fine group of Junior Does on Friday, June 14th.

## Southern Belles Classic - Neosho, Missouri

Ring B, June 15th

### Junior Champion Doe

Buck Creek Tallulah	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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### Reserve Junior Champion Doe

Bureau Creek Jivin' To The Jazz	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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### Senior Champion Doe

Buck Creek Tequila Rose	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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### Reserve Senior Champion Doe

Oeltjenbruns Farms Scarlett	Sarah Oeltjenbruns
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### Grand Champion Doe

*Buck Creek Tequila Rose	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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### Reserve Grand Champion Doe

Buck Creek Tallulah	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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### Junior Champion Buck

Buck Creek Hollywood Gold	Danielle Frost
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### Reserve Junior Champion Buck

Buck Creek Lawson	Bryan & Debbie Monts
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### Senior Champion Buck

Mar-Bob Shadow	Sarah Oeltjenbruns
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### Reserve Senior Champion Buck

Twin Creek Autoconnect	Colleen Reardon & Robert Lorenz
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### Grand Champion Buck

Buck Creek Hollywood Gold	Danielle Frost
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### Reserve Grand Champion Buck

*Mar-Bob Shadow	Sarah Oeltjenbruns
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### Junior Champion Platinum Wether

BDF Hulk	Leonie Dysart
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### Reserve Junior Champion Platinum Wether

Oeltjenbruns Farms Patron	Taylor Oeltjenbruns
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### Senior Champion Platinum Wether

Oeltjenbruns Farms Jager	Danielle Frost
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### Reserve Senior Champion Platinum Wether

Wolf River Strip	Leonie Dysart
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### Grand Champion Platinum Wether

*Oeltjenbruns Farms Jager	Danielle Frost
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### Reserve Grand Champion Platinum Wether

BDF Hulk	Leonie Dysart
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# Southern Belles Classic - Neosho, Missouri

Ring C, June 15th

**Junior Champion Doe**

WP Amaretto	Danielle Frost
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**Reserve Junior Champion Doe**

Twin Creek Flare For The Dramatic	Sarah Oeltjenbruns
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**Senior Champion Doe**

Buck Creek Tequila Rose	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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**Reserve Senior Champion Doe**

Buck Creek Blue Moon	Danielle Frost
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**Grand Champion Doe**

*Buck Creek Tequila Rose	Benjamin & Sheena Schmidt
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**Reserve Grand Champion Doe**

Buck Creek Blue Moon	Danielle Frost
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**Junior Champion Buck**

Naughty Goat Acres Boomer	Colleen Reardon & Robert Lorenz
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**Reserve Junior Champion Buck**

BDF I'm Tober	Leonie Dysart
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**Senior Champion Buck**

Wallace's Crazy Acres Oakley	Renee Anderson
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**Reserve Senior Champion Buck**

WP Hammer	Philip & Mackenzie Jurek
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**Grand Champion Buck**

*Wallace's Crazy Acres Oakley	Renee Anderson
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**Reserve Grand Champion Buck**

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**Junior Champion Platinum Wether**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Patron	Taylor Oeltjenbruns
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**Reserve Junior Champion Platinum Wether**

Sunny Brooks Farms Never Tober Pipsqueak	Emma Dysart
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**Senior Champion Platinum Wether**

Stray Eight Dawson Bleu	Debra Dockendorf
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**Reserve Senior Champion Platinum Wether**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Jager	Danielle Frost
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**Grand Champion Platinum Wether**

*Stray Eight Dawson Bleu	Debra Dockendorf
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**Reserve Grand Champion Platinum Wether**

Oeltjenbruns Farms Jager	Danielle Frost
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## Southern Heritage Myotonic Goat Show A Down Home Country Myotonic Goat Show B

July 18, 2020 - Lewisburg, TN

Judges- Show A: Lowell Walker Show B: Debbie Mullins

\*Indicates verified MGR Point

Show A		Show B	
<b>Junior Champion Doe</b>			
Outlaw Farms Evandora	Tara & Joe Lawrence	Outlaw Farms Evandora	Tara & Joe Lawrence
<b>Reserve Junior Champion Doe</b>			
Brassring Daisy Duck	Elisabeth Bevels	One Goat Farm Fearless Surprise	Tracy Tumminello
<b>Senior Champion Doe</b>			
Amazing Grace Farm Ginger	Grace Lawrence	Amazing Grace Farm Ginger	Grace Lawrence
<b>Reserve Senior Champion Doe</b>			
Moenning Hill Farm Rain Dancer	Justin & Katie Bevels	Amazing Grace Farm Magnolia	Grace Lawrence
<b>Grand Champion Doe</b>			
*Amazing Grace Farms Ginger	Grace Lawrence	*Amazing Grace Farms Ginger	Grace Lawrence
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Doe</b>			
Outlaw Farms Evandora	Tara & Joe Lawrence	Amazing Grace Farm Magnolia	Grace Lawrence
<b>Junior Champion Buck</b>			
Buck Creek Aragon	Justin & Katie Bevels	Buck Creek Aragon	Justin & Katie Bevels
<b>Reserve Junior Champion Buck</b>			
Black Walnut Farm Sunny Delight	Brittany Roland Rooker	Sweet Magnolia Acres Over The Moon	Brittany Roland Rooker
<b>Senior Champion Buck</b>			
Domino Goats Fearless For Real	Tracy Tumminello	Muddy River Rebel	Justin & Katie Bevels
<b>Reserve Senior Champion Buck</b>			
Muddy River Rebel	Justin & Katie Bevels	Domino Goats Hot Tot	Ashley Hadley
<b>Grand Champion Buck</b>			
*Domino Goats Fearless For Real	Tracy Tumminello	*Muddy River Rebel	Justin & Katie Bevels
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Buck</b>			
Buck Creek Aragon	Justin & Katie Bevels	Domino Goats Hot Tot	Ashley Hadley
<b>Junior Champion Platinum Wether</b>			
Amazing Grace Farm Fruity Pebbles	Grace Lawrence	Rocky Ridge Chewbacca	Ellen Pittman
<b>Reserve Junior Champion Platinum Wether</b>			
Rocky Ridge Chewbacca	Ellen Pittman	Black Walnut Farm Oscar	Elisabeth Bevels
<b>Senior Champion Platinum Wether</b>			
Rocky Ridge Tattoo	Ellen Pittman	Rocky Ridge Tattoo	Ellen Pittman
<b>Reserve Senior Champion Platinum Wether</b>			
Rocky Ridge Rock n Roll Fever	Adeline Grace Brook	Domino Goats Hansen	Ashley Hadley
<b>Grand Champion Platinum Wether</b>			
*Rocky Ridge Tattoo	Ellen Pittman	*Rocky Ridge Tattoo	Ellen Pittman
<b>Reserve Grand Champion Platinum Wether</b>			
Rocky Ridge Rock n Roll Fever	Adeline Grace Brook	Domino Goats Hansen	Ashley Hadley



### Southern Heritage Myotonic Goat Show A Down Home Country Myotonic Goat Show B



Show B  
Gr. Ch. Doe: Amazing Grace Farm Ginger  
Reserve Gr. Ch. Doe: Amazing Grace Farm Magnolia

All eyes on the judge- the future of the breed, our  
MGR Youth



Show A & B  
Jr. Ch. Buck: Buck Creek Aragon



Show A  
Gr. Ch. Buck: Domino Goats Fearless For Real





## MGR Youth Spotlight



### Taylor Oeltjenbruns Oeltjenbruns Farms Myotonics

My name is Taylor Oeltjenbruns. I live on a farm in West Central Minnesota with my mom, dad, and my two brothers. I am 14 years old and will be a freshman this year at BBE High School. In my free time I like to hang out with my friends and play volleyball. I am also involved in our local 4H club, Busy Beavers.

I have been an MGR youth member since 2017. My mom and I attended our first MGR show in Iowa and I have been in love with the breed ever since. We have around 45 registered Myotonic goats on our farm along with Angus cattle, Mini Rex rabbits, chickens, horses, cats, and our Heeler dogs, Hank and Willow. My favorite goat right now is my wether, Patron. I like him because he is a good ambassador for the breed and he loves snacking on animal crackers.

What I like the most about being involved with MGR is that I get to represent one of my favorite animals and I get to make new friends and meet new people from all over the US. I hope to still be showing Myotonic goats long into my future and keep representing the breed.



## Know Your Market

Myotonics are a very versatile breed and fit nicely in several different markets:-breeding stock, show stock, pets, and meat production. Before you decide on a market, you need to know what your goals are as a myotonic owner/breeder. Keep in mind that not all of us breed our myotonics and that is completely ok!! Do you want to sell breeding stock?? What about growing your breeding program to produce show quality goats? Do you, your children, grandchildren, etc enjoy having goats as pets?? How about producing your own home-grown meat or selling goats for meat to people of the same or different ethnicities??

Many of us may have several different goals, while some of us will focus on only one. Your goal(s) will help you decide what market(s) you will target. Depending on where you live, you may or may not be able to target every market. Many of us are fortunate in that we are able to target each market at a given time depending on what we have to offer.

### Meat Production

We will start with this one because I think this market is often overlooked and not as heavily targeted as it could be. After all, myotonics are meat goats and great ones at that!! Myotonics boast an abundance of high quality muscle, good adaptation to low-input forage based feeding systems, no graining needed and great meat to bone ratio. All of this means that there is high quality meat in myotonics, perfect for this market. Goat meat is consumed widely throughout the world, especially in developing countries. Goat meat and sheep is the fourth most consumed meat, behind pork, poultry and beef. Goat meat is unique in flavor and palatability, is leaner than many other red meats and usually less tender. The leanness of goat meat has found a place in today's market for meat with less fat. Cabrito is roasted meat from kids from 4 to 8 weeks of age and is mainly used for barbecue and is highly sought out by certain ethnic groups. Chevron is meat from young goats 6 to 9 months of age. Cabrito is more tender than Chevron.

So, how can you market your myotonics for meat to consumers??

### *~Niche Markets~*

Several niche markets are available to you, including targeting consumers who are health conscious and are wanting low-fat diets. You may also be able to find restaurants who serve ethnic or gourmet foods. With appropriate licensing, you may be able to sell directly to grocery stores, farm product stands, etc. You could even become a vendor at local or area farmers markets, again selling directly to the consumer. Our local farmers markets usually have a couple vendors selling grass fed beef and lamb. With myotonics being well adapted to low-input forage based systems, using a grass fed only approach could land you in that niche market.

### *~Ethnic Holidays~*

You can also find a local auction barn that runs goat sales, many of which are close to large ethnic communities and have a lot of those buyers attending their sales. Some even hold special goat sales around Ethnic Holidays. The holidays vary in when they occur each year. The type (size, sex and condition) of the animal desired by particular people and particular holidays vary. Below is the ethnic Holiday Calendar for 2020 through 2022.

Holiday	Religion	2020	2021	2022
Eid ul-Adha, Festival of the Sacrifice	Muslim	Jul 31-Aug 3	July 20-23	July 9-10
Muharramm/Hajra, Islamic New Year	Muslim	Aug 20	Aug 10	July 31
Mawlid al-Nabi, Prophet's Birthday	Muslim	Oct 29	Oct 18	Oct 9
Beginning of Ramadan (month of fasting)	Muslim	Apr 24	Apr 13	Apr 3
Eid ul-Fitr, Festival of Fast Breaking	Muslim	May 24-26	May 14-16	May 2-3
Pesch (Passover)	Jewish	Apr 9-15	Mar 28-Apr8	Apr 16-23
Rosh Hashanah	Jewish	Sept 19-20	Sept 6-7	Oct 26-27
Chanukkah	Jewish	Dec 11-18	Nov 29-Dec 6	Dec 18-25
Western (Roman) Easter	Christian	Apr 12	Apr 4	Apr 17
Eastern Orthodox (Greek) Easter	Christian	Apr 19	May 2	Apr 24
Christmas (Western)	Christian	Dec 25	Dec 25	Dec 25
Epiphany, Feast of the Nativity	Christian	Jan 6	Jan 6	Jan 6
Chinese New Year	Confucion	Feb 5	Feb 12	Jan 21

## Christian Holidays

### Western or Roman Easter

The preferred size of goat for this holiday is a milk fed kid that weighs between 20 and 40 pounds: 30 pounds is considered optimum. These kids should carry some condition or fat to reach the prime price categories. Kids that weigh 40 to 50 pounds are often acceptable, but may have a price discount for their larger size. Kids that weigh less than 20 pounds are often thin and are not as acceptable to buyers.

### Eastern or Greek Orthodox Easter

The ideal size for goats is slightly heavier than the Western Easter at 25 to 50 pounds for kids and should also be milk fed.

### Christmas

Kids should be milk fed. At this time of year, milk fed kids are at a premium because does must breed outside of the typical breeding season. Ideal weights is under 50 pounds for kids.

## Islamic Holidays

### Eid ul Adha - The Festival of Sacrifice

Animals that are sacrificed for this celebration must be Halal. The sacrificed animal is often shared with extended family members and some may be given away to the needy. Many Muslims will look for an animal that is blemish free. In other words, the animal should not have been docked or castrated and if the animal has horns, the horns should not be broken. In addition, the animal should not have open wounds, torn ears, or be lame. Some Muslims find animals acceptable if they have been castrated with a burdizzo or if the castration wound has completely healed. Heavier goats are preferred for this holiday since the meat is shared. Yearling goats are preferred, but older goats are also acceptable. Weight of goats should be heavier than 60 pounds.



### **Islamic Holidays (continued)**

#### Muharram - Islamic New Year

There is no preferred weight for this holiday, although animals should appear healthy.

#### Mawlid al Nabi

There is no specific recommended size of goats for this holiday.

#### Ramadan

The ideal goat should be weaned and have all their milk teeth. Goats should have an ideal weight of 60 pounds, but weights of 45 to 120 pounds are acceptable. It does not matter if male goats have been castrated. Animals should not be too fat for this holiday. This holiday is also an excellent time to cull older animals. Older goats may bring very good prices at this time, but need to be unblemished.

#### Eid al Fitr - The Breaking of the Ramadan Fast

Consistent with the month of Ramadan, goats should weigh 60 pounds ideally.

### **Jewish Holidays**

#### Pesach - Passover

Lamb is preferred for this holiday.

#### Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year

Lamb is preferred for this holiday.

#### Chanukkah

Young kids are preferred.

### **~Directly Off The Farm~**

This method of targeting the meat production side of things is the one I have personally used. Our neighbor has an on-farm produce stand where he sells fresh pork, beef, and chicken and also eggs, milk and vegetables. About 4 years ago, he called me to ask if we had any goats to sell for meat as he had an ethnic customer there who was looking for goat meat. I told him that we did not have anything available at the time. To be real honest, prior to that phone call, I had never given the meat production market a thought. I never gave it a thought because up until that point, there had not been any goats we couldnt sell to the other markets we target. I also let the language barrier between myself and the potential buyer steer me away. About a year later, I had a 2 year old buck that wasnt turning out like I wanted, so I called the neighbor and got the phone number for the man looking for the goat meat. Fast forward to 2020 and in total, I have sold two 2-3 year old bucks and two 4-6 month old bucks to the man. I get a current weight on the goat and then check a local sale barn to see what the going price is for bucks and kids to help me decide what price I want to sell them for. I try and shoot for \$1.00-1.25 per pound, knowing that if I were only taking 1 or 2 to the sale barn, I wouldnt be coming out very much ahead after paying the commission to the sale barn. The buyer loads up and goes directly to the person who will complete the slaughtering process. Some buyers may ask you if you would allow them to complete the process on site, and that would be up to you if you felt comfortable with that. I am happy that I stepped out of my comfort zone to try this market and will continue to use it if I need to.

**~From The Pasture To Your Table**

No matter if you are the home-steading type of family or not, having goats processed for your own consumption is a viable option. You could do the entire process yourself or find a local meat locker to do it for you. While the majority of them typically just process beef and pork, I would talk to several local meat lockers to see if they have ever processed goats before. I have had goat meat before from several fellow breeders and I did like the taste. On the MGRMGR facebook group, I polled the groups members to find out who have had their own goats processed before and to see at what age the goats were, what their live weight was, how much meat they received and also what the sex of the goats were.

Here are some of the responses:

- We usually do it ourselves so not sure of the weight. We have butchered animals from 1 year to 5+. We have recently purchased a commercial meat grinder to make hamburger meat. Previously we have canned a lot for stew meat and shredded meat for tacos fajitas etc.
  
- Ground meat, chops and roasts. Seems like an 80# wether gave about 45# of meat maybe a little more.
  
- We took two 6 month old bucklings to our locker for processing a couple years ago. They did cuts just like they would a beef. They were about 75 lbs live weight, about 34 lbs of meat each.
  
- I've processed my own. I watch Brandon Boyd on youtube and it works well for me. I have a thermostat to plug into a freezer that makes it a refrigerator that I keep the goat in while processing. I cut the goat up at night, it usually takes 3 nights to cut up and vacuum seal. We like the goat chops the best. Not sure on pounds of meat but I'd guess around 50%.
  
- We sent a few to our local locker, they will process it however I want it. The ones we sent in were older wethers, so they were a little tough yet or we still need to learn how to cook it. We are going to start making just hamburger out of older goats and make chops, ribs and roast out of young ones. Our last wether, who was 120#, we got 40 pounds of hamburger back but we did have one at 92# hanging weight. We got a lot of meat on that one, 11# of burger, 4 ribs, 4 leg roast and 10 chops.
  
- I have done ground, roasts, brats, summer sausage and salami. I loved the brats, summer sausage and salami.
  
- I have done 10 months to 3 or 4 yrs. Wethers only. The youngins definitely are more tender and faster cook time. Olders need low and slowwww. Aka a day in the crockpot. Then that meat just melts in your mouth. I do steaks and roasts with left over stew/ground. My littlest I recall was 60ish and got back 37lbs. Biggest (so far I have 2 ready for next month and they are 140+)140+) was just over 70 lbs back.
  
- Everything gets turned into roast or stew meat. I only process does or wethers. Our ideal weight is 95 lbs of which we typically yield 65% meat.

### **Breeding Stock**

Regardless of your herd size, if you own a buck, you are targeting this market by selling kids out of your annual kidding seasons). If you are using this market, you want to make sure that what you are selling meets the myotonic breed description, which can be found on the MGR website. After all, what we are selling to fellow myotonic breeders is a representation of the breed, our herd and farm. If we follow the breed description when evaluating what we produce for this market, the breed will continue to prosper and we will build ourselves a positive reputation. Every myotonic out there have faults--there is no perfect goat. Some of these faults may be minor and could be bred out by selecting a breeding partner that does not have the same fault. On the other hand, some faults may not be able to be bred out. You can also have major faults, ones that you would not want to let a goat that has those, go into someone else's breeding program. So while you are evaluating goats for meeting the breed description, you also want to evaluate their structure and conformation. This can be done with the help of the MGR score card which can also be found on the MGR website. Again, there is no perfect goat out there but you want to only sell your best to someone else as a breeding animal. You could sell a doe that may have some faults, but paired with the right buck, those faults could potentially be bred out, resulting in kids that do not have the same fault as their dam. When you sell a buck, that buck needs to be your best. If your buyer only uses 1 buck on all of their does, that buyer is banking on that buck to compliment their does and produce nice kids. You have probably heard the saying, a buck is half your herd." If you would keep a buck back for breeding in your own herd, then chances are it is the kind of buck you would want someone else to have.

Not everyone you sell breeding stock to will be buying for use in other myotonic herds. There are a lot of people that cross myotonics with other goat breeds for various reasons. A very popular option over the last few years has been crossing myotonics with boers and kikos for example. Why have myotonics become so popular with commercial breeders??The myotonic goat has gained positive exposure as a really good option because of their meat to bone ratio, muscling, docile temperament, great mothering abilities and tolerance of internal parasites. From what I have seen, these buyers are predominately adding a myotonic buck to breed to their does. I am sure there are those who are adding myotonic does as well. I would really caution in selling a myotonic doe for use with a boer buck for example. The sheer size difference in a boer buck vs a myotonic buck and the typical birth weights of boer goat kids wouldnt mesh well with a myotonic doe. I cant speak on the kiko breed in the same aspect because I do not know much about them. I have sold a couple bucks to commercial herds in the last few years. One went to a boer herd and the most recent one sold went to a kiko/savanna herd. When selling to a commercial herd, those buyers are probably not evaluating the goats faults and probably are not looking to see how closely they meet the breed description. These buyers are wanting to add a myotonic to their commercial herd for the reasons listed above. Production is their focus. They want something that is going to produce kids and get them on the ground for growing out to most likely target the meat market. An example of a myotonic that could be sold to this side of the breeding stock market is a buck with ear length and set that do not meet the breed description. If this is the case, he is not a buck you want to send out to service other myotonics, unless that herd is strictly commercial production driven. But he could fit nicely into a boer, kiko, etc production herd.



### **Show Stock**

While every myotonic out there can be shown if the owner wants to, not every myotonic is a show quality one. If you are targeting the show stock market, you again want to make sure the breed description is met and will want to focus more heavily on the MGR score cards. There are individual score cards for bucks, does, platinum wethers and market wethers. The score card for bucks and does, looks at the general appearance- consider breed character, basic structure- head & expression, neck, chest and shoulders, legs, pasterns and feet, barrel, back, loin and rump, mammary system and reproductive organs. For platinum wethers, the score card includes the same as bucks and does with the exception of the mammary system and reproductive organs. It also looks at their health & condition and tractable/showability. The score card for market wethers is the same as platinum wethers, but does not include tractable/showability.

If you are considering targeting this market, it would be time well spent to attend a few MGR shows as a spectator so you can see the myotonics being exhibited, watch the judges place the classes and focus on when they present their reasons on why they placed the class the way they did. You could even print out the MGR score cards, bring them with you, and be your own judge as the show is taking place. After attending a show or two, consider bringing a few of your own goats to the next show. This is a great way for your goats to be judged on their breed characteristics, etc so you can get a feel for what you may need to improve on in your herd for targeting the breeding stock market and potentially the show stock market if you choose.

Out of any given kid crop, you may have a show quality goat in there and not even realize it!! Even if you dont show, you can target this market!! If you target the breeding stock market and have a buck kid born with a scrotal split, but he meets the breed description you may have a good candidate for the platinum wether category. Have a buck that lacks breed character because of its ear length and placement, you have a candidate for the market wether category. Just like that, you have found a way to target the show stock market!

### **Pet**

This market is probably how the majority of us got into myotonics back in the day. There is no denying that people are drawn to myotonics because they "faint". Go to youtube and search fainting goats and you will be surprised at the number of videos posted there of them "fainting". Myotonics do well here because of their docile temperament, size, variety of color, etc. This market will land you buyers looking for a couple goats for their kids, and grandkids, wethers as companions for their bucks, horses, and other farm animals, and FFA and 4H members wanting a goat for their record books and projects. We target this market with wethers and have pretty good success moving bucks who do not make the cut, as wethers. This market is probably the easiest to target because no matter where you are, there are people looking for myotonics as pets.

## 2020 Myotonic Goat Registry



## Fall Finale & National Show

October 23-24, 2020  
James E Ward Agricultural Center  
945 E Baddour Parkway  
Lebanon, TN 37087

Fall Finale Show A: Friday evening, October 23  
Judge Debbie Mullins

Fall Finale Show B: Saturday morning, October 24  
Judge Jason Brashear

MGR National Show: October 24, following the conclusion of  
Show B

**My Experience with Artificial Insemination**  
**Nikki Thummel**  
**Nine Acres Farm, Adel Iowa**

I think most breeders that are trying to better their herd will tell you they spend a significant amount of time planning their upcoming breeding pairs. I personally study bloodlines, spend more time than I will admit sitting on a bucket in my pasture staring down my does. I watch them walk and watch how they stand; I know what traits I want to pass on and what I need to overcome. Some may say there is a science to it, I would say a better description would be an obsession about it.

A couple years ago when I was sitting on my bucket in the pasture, swatting flies, and staring at my does, I was hit with the realization that a couple of my does exceeded the quality of the bucks eating in my front pasture. So, what do you do in this situation? Well, first you phone a friend and borrow a buck for the year but borrowing a buck in my situation isn't a realistic thing to do year after year. Next, I started looking around for available bucks, and then a friend I know through horses asked if people A.I. goats and this got me thinking...

My research started with Google (because isn't that where all research starts?) and according to Google the success rate of goat A.I. is pretty low. I talked with a couple local veterinarians, and a local college with an amazing veterinarian program. The highest success rate I was given was 50%. That's not worth the cost in my opinion but I kept thinking that this is such a huge business with Boer goats, surely the breeders paying hundreds, and even thousands for straws are not spending that kind of money on a 50% success rate.

If you are interested in A.I. I've outlined the steps from my experience below. First, I'm going to assume you have looked at what buck straws are available and decided that one of those bucks would benefit your breeding program.

**Step #1:** Find someone in your area that does A.I.. My suggestion is to contact local Boer show breeders and ask if they A.I.. If they don't, chances are they know someone that does. I found a clinic about an hour from me that was going to A.I. through the LAP procedure (Laparoscopic Insemination). LAP has a better success rate because it bypasses the cervix; however, it is a more evasive procedure. More on this below.

**Step #2:** Purchase straws. There are very few Myotonic straws available. I purchased mine at B & D Genetics and had them shipped directly to my clinic location where they were stored for me. I was told by B & D Genetics they would ideally like at least a month notice for shipping so plan ahead.

A note about straws: It was recommended by the person hosting my clinic that I purchase two straws per doe. This is so that if they find an issue when they thaw the straw you have another available. I didn't need more than one straw per doe, but your doe is sedated and upside down, that's not a time when you want to be scrambling for straws to use. If I bred Boers there were plenty of extra straws available at my clinic, but that's not going to be the case with Myotonics.

**Step #3:** Follow protocol. My clinic host sent out the protocol about three weeks in advance.

These were my protocol instructions:

**Day 1 (anytime)** - Insert CIDRs - I've never inserted a CIDR but it's easy and painless, although the does were not crazy about it. You do need to purchase an applicator for this step, they aren't expensive and are reusable.

**Day 9 (anytime)** - Inject with Lutalyse or Estrumate - I used Lutalyse



**Day 11 (11 a.m.)** - Remove CIDR (48 hours) and 50 hours prior to LAI (frozen), inject with PG 600, Expose to teaser buck, record results

A note about removing the CIDRs. Set your alarm, set a second alarm, and then don't be an hour away when they go off (...says the person speaking from experience). Take the removal of your CIDRs seriously.

**Day 12 (morning)** - remove Feed 18-24 hours pre-breeding, remove water 12 hours pre-breeding.

Pulling food/water reduces the risk of regurgitation and aspiration. It also helps during the actual procedure reducing the pressure around their abdomen and providing more room to work.

**Day 13** - LAI

The three does I took were in their prime, have always easily conceived; produced healthy, live kids, and were otherwise as healthy as I could get them. I talked with a couple breeders that A.I. every year and they both said they have not had luck breeding maiden does. No actual science behind this but I trust the people that have been doing A.I. for years to know what works and what doesn't.

#### **What to expect during A.I.**

I arrived at the clinic site about 8:30 a.m. and they were had already started on flushing does. I was able to watch that as well as embryo transfers before we got started on the A.I. procedures.

My clinic had people helping in what I would call stations. First, does were sedated by a veterinarian student from Iowa State. The doe was held there until the sedation started to work. When she was obviously going under, she was lifted onto a cradle and placed on her back with her back legs tied to the cradle. Then the doe was moved to the next area and her abdomen was shaved and vacuumed to get all hair and dirt removed. Next, their abdomen area was cleaned, and they were given a shot of antibiotic. Our does were moved into another room for the actual procedures. For A.I. the doe is actually sedated, on her back, and upside down.

After the procedure was done the two incisions were sprayed, stapled, or stitched if needed, and given a shot to help them wake up. The does were taken off the cradle and propped up in an area so we could keep an eye on them while we waited for them to come around. I think this was the most stressful part for me but all three of my girls were fine and we had no issues with any of the 50+ does done that day.

**IMPORTANT!** For those that want to register potential kids you need to make sure you have the correct paperwork, part of which the person doing the A.I. procedure needs to sign.

**Costs:** Obviously, costs will be different for everyone, but this will give you an idea. **Straws:** I purchased two straws per doe from two different bucks. Prices at B & D Genetics run from \$50 - \$100 per straw for Myotonics. **Shipping** was \$130 **Straw Storage:** I didn't pay storage from shipping to the time of the clinic, but since I only used one straw per goat, I paid \$30 for storage until next year. **Clinic:** I paid \$171 directly to the veterinarian, and \$45 to the person hosting the clinic for cleanup, supplies, lunch, and drinks. **Pre-clinic protocol:** I purchased everything from my veterinarian since I was only going to A.I. three does. My total was just under \$74 for everything.

**Thoughts on my experience**

There are negatives. You have your obvious negative that the “breeding” itself is a procedure so there isn’t a guarantee the doe is going to take, and you only get one chance for success. Also, it’s a surgical procedure so there is always the possibility of a problem arising with the sedative or with recovery.

Of the three ladies I took two had no issues. One had very minor swelling that was gone within 24 hours and the second didn’t have any swelling at all.

The third developed a pouch that was treated for infection under local veterinarian care. Because we thought she had an infection and I didn’t push for further investigation (three veterinarians said it was most likely an infection) I ended up losing the doe. As you can imagine, I have been devastated by this. During her post we found that a loop of small intestine was pulled through the abdominal wall lining and she had a bowel obstruction at the point of incision.

So, what are my feelings about A.I.? I don’t really know. I would love to see semen collection and A.I. benefit our breed the way it has benefitted other goat breeds. It changed the landscape of breeding Boers completely; but I also have firsthand knowledge of the worst that can happen. I’ve been told complications like I experienced are rare, it’s just very hard to look beyond losing a doe because of a choice I made. On the flip side, many of us also know how quickly a seemingly healthy pregnancy can turn into pregnancy toxemia, or how easily birth can take a bad turn; to breed a doe in general is also a choice we make for them. There are many risks, and also many rewards when it comes to breeding animals.

I also think there are things that could have been done to prevent my loss had I known more. First, let me be clear, I do not blame anyone for my loss. Any time you have a procedure done there is risk and I take full responsibility for that.

In the future I would make sure the doe is securely tied on the gurney - this doe slipped in the gurney during the procedure; or if something like that does happen, know to take the doe in immediately for an ultrasound. If a doe is acting off, push for an investigation instead of assuming infection; take them off food earlier – I put my girls in stalls a full 24 hours in advance but their rumens were still very full; the doe I lost was the smallest of the three and the veterinarian actually commented on how large her rumen was during the procedure. My goats were only on pasture and hay at the time so yes, their rumens were large, even after a 24 hour fast. I would also only take larger does. The doe I lost weight wise wasn’t far off the other two, but she did have a much more compact body style. Last, if something seems off, trust your gut, no one knows your goats the way you do.

Considering A.I. is not something to be taken lightly but even with my loss I can’t say with 100% certainty I would not try it again. I had the worst that could happen, actually happen, however, I also believe (ultrasounds have not been done yet) I have two pregnant does that should produce higher quality kids than I would be able to breed at home. And on a more personal note, to the person holding the pink stork, please send it to my farm in Iowa the end of December.

## The Road to Export

Our life with Myotonics began back in 2008 with what was a road trip to purchase a few Boer-cross meat goats. We arrived at that farm and yes, we did purchase 3 pregnant cross-bred does. The seller swore on a stack of bibles that their herd was clean and up to date on everything a goat needed. We bought it all, hook and sinker! On our way out, we were chatting about goats and the seller suddenly exclaimed that one of our "old horse buddies" just had some kids born. I should stop by and see them because they were a weird breed of goat that fainted. Well, I almost fainted (●) as I had wanted this breed since I was a kid! I had searched high & low but, none were to be found in the Northeastern part of the USA.

Needless to say, we stopped at Linda Gagnon's – Coffee Cup Farm - and low and behold, I was finally able to see a real Myotonic/fainting goat in person! Linda had purchased her goats from Driftwood Farms which had been located in Long Island NY. Driftwood Farms Jackie, had 3 newborns at her side, 2 doelings and 1 buckling. A deal was struck, and those two doelings were the start of Island Fainters! Two more doelings were purchased in PA and then a buck from the Tri-State area of NY. As things progressed and the kids were born, the decision was made to purchase an exceptional buck which would 'put some meat' on our growing herd. Off to TN we went and purchased the wonderful buck, Woody Creek Hotwire from his breeder. It was probably the best decision we ever made!

I had known Myotonics were special and hard to find (back then) and after a lot of thought, it was decided that this breed, which is USA based, really needed to be shared with the world but, how did one do that with all the health regulations?? Hence our introduction into the Federal Scrapie Program.

Our herd was entered into the normal Scrapie Program. After our 1<sup>st</sup> herd inspection, more knowledge was gained from the USDA vet doing the inspection. On that day, the seed of being part of the Export Program was planted. It took another year before all the scrapie regulations, both Regular & Export, were understood by all of us. Yes, this also included the USDA vets doing our yearly inspections. The final decision to become part of the Federal Scrapie Export was made at that time. With it, were some changes for our herd and many hurdles had to be crossed due to the change in many of the Scrapie laws.

After being in the regular scrapie program for almost 3 years, our herd's scrapie application was changed from Regular to Export. Before the Export was put into place, the decision to add a few more outside does was made. This was done because, per Scrapie law (no matter which program your herd is in) no doe, may enter into that herd unless they come from a scrapie herd with a higher scrapie status (years in the program) than yours. If you add does of lower status, your herd will revert to that herds lower status. Bucks are the except to this rule. Bucks may enter into a scrapie herd without having to belong to a herd that is entered into the program. Yes, scratch your head but, this is the rule! In our case, our herd was vested 2 ½+ years into the regular scrapie program and there were no other herds of



Myotonics entered into either Scrapie Program. In a nut shell, we could not add any new 'doe' genetics without losing the years we had vested. In the event that we could have purchased does from another herd that had a scrapie status equal or greater than ours, those 'vested' years could have been transferred over to the Export program. Bottomline, we gave up all our vested status, purchased a few outside doelings, signed on the dotted line and started our Export Program from scratch. The only thing that stayed with us was the knowledge of all the paperwork that goes hand in hand with being in the scrapie program – no matter which program the herd is entered into.

Now you're really scratching your head and asking yourself why would anyone want to even waste their time understanding and implementing all those rules?? The animal is only a goat! Well, we can't tell you how many times we've heard that! But, if you care about the breed's growth and really love your goats, you will get it!! So, in a nutshell, we'll give you a rough idea, and it may not be 100% accurate due to changes of the rules or the brain fade of writing this article, but you will have a real good idea of the mechanics of either program.

The big difference in the Scrapie Programs that are offered are, years in the program and what can be done with the goats per sales in country (USA) verses Export.

Regular Scrapie is a 5-year program. What this means is, your herd must meet all that programs requirements before it is handed its 5-year status. Your herd will have a yearly herd check by a USDA Vet for however long you stay in the program. It doesn't mean once your herd makes it's 5-year mark and has its status in place, that that's the end for you! You must maintain all your records as normal and stay in compliance with those rules. If you don't, you will lose your status.

Export Scrapie is a 7-year program. It has the same paperwork & record keeping requirements of the regular, but this program requires samples from any goat over 14 months of age that either dies or goes to slaughter. A USDA vet always takes the sample or, a local vet that they have trained. If a goat dies or goes to slaughter, you must notify the USDA vet service and arrangements will made at the farm or slaughterhouse for sample taking. There are year requirements for these samples. At 5 years, you must have a certain number of negative samples to qualify for your "Monitored Status". If you attain this status, your goats will qualify for export into Canada – Bucks & Does. At the 7-year mark and your negative sample amounts have been met (30), and all paperwork and records have been kept in order, your herd qualifies for its "Export Status". This status means your goats can be sold to any country in the world whose importation regulations will allow goats to be imported into their country. Bare in mind, even though your herd qualifies, some countries will not allow any importation of goats. Make sure you read all the rules of export & import if you have a buyer inquiring. If you are stuck, call the USDA, they are slow but, they will respond!

As of the writing of this article, our farm has exported into Canada at least five (5) times – bucks and does. The paperwork & testing of all the animals is not hard. It can be time consuming and has a 30-day window from the start to the time of crossing the border. If you are at day 31, everything has to be redone! Communication is your best friend and of the highest importance!

If you have read this article, please keep in mind, that this is only the icing on the cake! We personally wish more Myotonic breeders would step up to the plate and enter their herds into the program. It is not hard but, the paperwork if not kept up, can be daunting - if your herd numbers are large. Once in place, only the new goats such as kids need to be added. Sales need to be recorded and every goat that leaves your State, must have legal health papers in place. Copies should always be kept!

In the very near future, our herd will finally have its certification of "Export Qualified"! Our Myotonic herd, qualified over 2 years ago, but it is the first herd (including sheep herds) to qualify for this status in

New England. There was no paperwork in place through the USDA to actually finalize our journey! We have been notified that our application is now ¾ done and should be in place by November 2020. It's been a long road but, it's been worth it! We can't wait to share our first Myotonics', per the new world law, with the rest of the world!

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The Myotonic Goat Registry was formed in 2005 as a sole ownership registry by Gene McNutt with input from an initial Board of Advisors made up of Dr. Phil Sponenberg and Barbara Roberts. The current Board of Advisors includes Dr. Phil Sponenberg, Cindy Bene, Jason Duffy, Jan Likens and Dian Naumann. The owner and Board of Advisors will make decisions concerning the registry and its procedures. This method of governance is meant to provide Myotonic Goat breeders with a registry that will not have frequent changes, and will have the longevity and consistency needed to successfully promote the Myotonic Goat breed, while at the same time make it responsive to the needs and wishes of the breeders. In 2009, Gene retired and the registry was sold to Tara Lawrence. As the Myotonic Goat Registry grows, additional Board of Advisor members may be added in order to more broadly represent the breeders. The owner, along with the Board of Advisors, will be responsible for providing for its own replacements and/or expansions.

The Myotonic Goat Registry takes into consideration all breeders, from pet owners to commercial meat growers. Regardless of which aspect of this breed appeals to you, the Myotonic Goat Registry is the place for all breeders to register their Myotonic Goats.

The Registry will help breeders promote their goats through sales, shows, and advertising, and will educate the public about the Myotonic Goat and its usefulness in a variety of settings.