

**WESTERN NEBRASKA SHEEP AND GOAT ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

The Western Nebraska Sheep and Goat Association (WNSGA) met on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, NE. The meeting was called to order by President Clint Riesen. Members and visitors were welcomed by President Riesen.

There were no minutes from the July 19, 2009, WNSGA picnic, as there was not an official meeting with the picnic.

Patty Pitman gave the Treasurer's report with \$2,094.34 in the account. Clint Riesen had a refreshment bill for this meeting, which Hazen Stone made a motion to approve and Micheal Rudy seconded it.

New officers for the 2010-2011 term of WNSGA were nominated with the following results and member approval: President = Sheila Eastman, Vice President = Micheal Rudy, Secretary/Reporter = Vicki Greathouse-Stone, and Treasurer = Patty Pittman.

Hazen Stone, WNSGA Executive Board Chairman, thanked the past presidency, executive board, chair people, and committee members for all their hard work and efforts. Clint Riesen, past WNSGA President, spoke on rebuilding the association.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. A committee for the Club Lamb and Kid Sale was organized with the following members: Sheila Eastman, Ivan Rush, Clint Riesen, Patty Pitman, Hazen Stone, and Micheal Rudy, Chairman. Discussion then ensued concerning dates for the sale, cleaning the part of the fairgrounds that we would use before the sale, and possibly combining Mitchell Valley 4-H Club Pig Sale with our sale for a larger crowd. The committee will meet and present information at the next meeting.

2. A demonstration of spinning was given by Julie Becker, who has been spinning for 15-20 years, and owns cashmere goats. Julie stated that every fleece has its own specific strengths and weaknesses. If you want to spin/sell fleeces, they need to be put in individual bags with the tag number and information about the sheep/goat at shearing time. Hand spun is never perfect because of the different ratio for wheels to spin whatever you are spinning. To start the spinning, the fleece needs to be carded, skirted, washed, dyed (if you want another color than "natural"), and then dried. She also stated that market wool will probably lose 50 percent of its weight by the time you complete the previous process. If you want rovings done at a professional facility, you need to contact them as to how they want the fleece handled before they do the rovings.

Julie suggested that WNSGA have a booth at the next 2010 Fiber Fair to be held at the Mitchell Fairgrounds in October. If members want to sell fleeces, they need to put

the individual processed fleeces in big, clear plastic bags, which can be purchased from Ideal Linen, with information about the fleece and your business card. The WNSGA website would also be a great place to sell processed fleeces.

Questions were asked about processing hair sheep. Julie stated that the hair from hair sheep was used in felting, carpeting, insulation, mattresses, etc.

3. Sarah Pinet, owner of Victory Hill Farm, gave the members an update of her new goat milking facility. She will be making gourmet goat cheese, plus having a dining area where the public can see the goats being milked, and a store with natural/organic products for sale. Sarah also stated that when the facility is open, tours will also be given.

4. A report on the annual meeting of the Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers (NSGP) was given by Clint Riesen, NSGP Vice President; Julie Becker, NSGP Secretary; and, Hazen Stone NSGP Western District Representative. A sponsor from Pipestone Supplies spoke on vet information, plus you can call in for sheep/goat vet problems and talk to a vet free of charge (the phone call is not toll free). Micheal Rudy suggested that WNSGA put a link to Pipestone Supplies on our website. Also, discussed was flock ID numbers may disappear and new numbers given per animal.

Alex McClure from Midstates Wool stated at the NSGP meeting that he has a shearer that works for him and then Alex will buy the fleeces.

The Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island was discussed concerning the NSGP manning a booth to inform the public, especially the youth, to learn more about sheep and goats. When the 2010 NSGP Annual Meeting is held, there is a possibility that a mixed dairy goat meeting will be held at the same time. A suggestion was also made as to just receiving the NSGP newsletter and not the American Sheep Industry (ASI) one, too. NSGP dues for 2010 will go to the state fair.

5. Micheal Rudy also presented his and Ivan Rush's WNSGA Lamb and Kid Program, which allows youth to create flocks of their own through WNSGA members sponsoring them with animals from member's flocks. WNSGA members will also help with the production aspects. More information will be available at the February meeting.

6. Member dues will need to be paid at the next meeting.

There was no other old or new business discussed.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the Blue Stem Room of the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, NE. Hazen Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Micheal Rudy seconded it.

Vicki Greathouse-Stone  
Secretary/Reporter