

N.A.S.A. BLASTS OFF!  
THE FORMATION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SAVANNAH ASSOCIATION  
Brian Payne (Keri-Rose), Scandia, Alberta, March 5, 2006

In order to face the challenges of establishing a credible registry for Savannah goats in North America, the **N.A.S.A. was incorporated August 25, 2003 pursuant to Article 3.02 of Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act.** In the application for incorporation, Article 3 “Management” states that “the management of the affairs of the corporation is to be vested in its board of directors. The number of directors, which must be a minimum of three...serve as directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors are elected and qualified...” **The initial board of directors, named on the application for incorporation were; Dr. Frank Pinkerton, Elgin Pape and Brian Payne. Dr. Frank Pinkerton was the initial registered agent (corresponding secretary/treasurer) but was later replaced, at his request, with Nan Brock (1106 Woodland, Palestine, Texas, 75801; [nbrock1959@earthlink.net](mailto:nbrock1959@earthlink.net)).**

The decision to form the N.A.S.A. was motivated by the following concerns:

- a) Economics – **The registry services provided by Pedigree International were too expensive.** A \$25.00 registration fee would not allow for a planned association surcharge which would be needed to provide a future funding base for breed promotion and development. The cost of an anticipated D.N.A. recording system would be prohibitive if breeders were already paying \$25.00 for a single registration certificate. Furthermore, **most breeders were reluctant to continue to legitimize a registry which had been established without any association direction as to foundation stock identification and verification.**
- b) Democracy – Most breeders had been made aware of the World Wide Savanna Goat Association but no one had been invited to a public forum in order to discuss the rules for registration or the breed standard. **The overwhelming opinion of Savannah breeders was that the WWSGA placed far too much emphasis on physical appearance (phenotype) rather than on performance in their breed development strategy. Most importantly, the WWSGA was set up by a breeder with the registry office “in house”. The potential for a perceived conflict of interest was too great for the majority of Savannah breeders to support this early attempt at an association.**

A sincere effort to recognize the importance of Pedigree International and the WWSGA was attempted in El Reno, Oklahoma at Redlands College on the weekend of December 13-15, 2002. It was at this meeting that the issues above were discussed and the decision made to establish a new legal entity as an association with an independent registrar contracted to provide registry services. Shortly thereafter; **the three founding directors mentioned above, as well as the following individuals, paid a \$300 charter membership fee in order to pay for the creation of the N.A.S.A. and its anticipated computer programming needs: Pat O’Brien, Benalto, Alberta, Canada; John**

**Tarnowetzki, Tuffnell, Saskatchewan, Canada; Ron Stein, Lake, MS; Charles Barnes, Sims, NC; Erick and Derick Wilson, Timberlake, NC; Dale Coody, Lawton, OK; Lonnie Durbin, Central, SC; Dr. Lynn Harwell, Seneca, SC; Zelotes Shaver, Grapeland, TX.**

Brian Payne was instructed to address the following key issues:

- 1) Obtain a list of the original Savannahs imported by Jurgen Schulz and later dispersed through his Kifaru sales facility.** Given the highly heritable coloration of the breed, the exotic nature of very few authentic foundation animals, and the less than honorable tradition of early speculators in the Boer goat industry; the possibility of imposter Savannahs being put forward for registration concerned all of the charter members of the association. **We can't thank Jurgen enough for his help in accessing the Kifaru sales documents.**
- 2) Contract the services of an experienced, economical, un-biased (non-breeder) registrar** to provide the registration services for this exciting new breed in North America. **The American Dorper Sheep Breeders' Association (ADSBS) and their hard working registrar, Ronda Sparks (P.O.Box 796, Columbia, MO 65205-0796, ph 573-442-8257 or email [SavannahGoat@aol.com](mailto:SavannahGoat@aol.com))** were chosen to provide registration services with initial computer programming initiated in December of 2003.
- 3) Provide the registrar with a clear definition of fullblood foundation stock and specify the documentation which would qualify them for acceptance in the N.A.S.A. herdbook.** For registration purposes, initial **fullblood foundation stock was identified as: a) Savannahs imported by Jurgen Schulz** in 1995 and subsequently sold at his Kifaru Dispersal December 5, 1998. Breeders must provide original Kifaru Sales documentation, verify any subsequent sales or transfers of ownership and provide their private breeding records to register their animals; **b) Savannahs born from embryos imported by Keri-Rose or DNAfrica** (a South African genetics trading company managed by Johann Campher) must be accompanied by government importation documents, certificates of embryo transfer completed by both the exporting veterinary team and the domestic implant team as well as their private breeding records (ie recipients utilized) and any subsequent sales or transfers of ownership.

Now that the registry is functioning smoothly I sincerely encourage all Savannah enthusiasts to get their registrations up to date, re-new their memberships and participate in the further development of the association! **A Savannah Farm Tour is planned for Saturday, June 3 in Bethlehem, CT. Please contact Chris Glynos ([chris@bigboer.com](mailto:chris@bigboer.com)) or Brian Payne ([boersinc@yahoo.com](mailto:boersinc@yahoo.com)) for more details.**

In concluding this short history of the Savannah breed in North America and the formation of the North American Savannah Association, **I would be remiss if I did not mention the critical input of Stephanie Mitcham, Sumner, Iowa in the early, forma-**

**tive days of association establishment. Stephanie provided me with many valuable ideas and suggestions both as a Savannah breeder and as a key player in the formation of the American Dorper Sheep Breeders' Association.**