May 14, 2013

Dear Savannah Enthusiast and Breeders,

I am pleased to announce that Associated Registries will be our new registry office. The American Hampshire Sheep Association (AHSA) operates under this name and we have entered into a five (5) year contract with them. Under the spirited and professional management of Carrie Taylor-Kelly; our new Registrar and the Executive Secretary of AHSA, NASA is ready to re-new its commitment to the promotion and development of the Savannah breed. Associated Registries has promised to have your registration papers processed and returned within 10 days of receiving them in their office!

The American Dorper Sheep Breeders' Society served the early interests of NASA and we appreciate the contributions made by Ronda Sparks, however, our continued growth has necessitated this change and we look forward to our new relationship with Associated Registries. The NASA database created by ADSBS has been transferred to Associated Registries and will continue to remain the property of NASA. Carrie and her staff can be reached at:

North American Savannah Association
P.O. Box 51, 222 Main Street - Milo, Iowa 50166
Phone: 641-942-6402 - Fax: 641-942-6502 - Email: asregistry@yahoo.com

I invite and encourage all of you to become more active in our association. While registry documentation is an important and fundamental activity, it is also essential that NASA improves its communication and education outreach. *Your input is invited and important to the growth and promotion of our breed.*

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy stresses the importance of "Fostering the Development of Master Breeders" (Dr. Phillip Sponenberg and Marjorie Bender, ALBC News Vol.23, Issue 6) and suggests three important reasons why it is important to become involved in your breed association:

1) *Knowledgeable, committed breeders are essential if breeds are to survive.*
2) *New breeders are the only mechanism for providing continuity of a breed and therefore their recruitment is a critical activity of the association.*
3) *Welcoming and training new breeders is important to breed survival for breed education allows new breeders to make critical selection decisions that conserve breed type, heritage, and utility.*

In order to develop the next generation of breeders the authors stress the importance of "Valuing History" by conveying the cultural heritage of the breed. They also suggest that the fine points of selecting breeding stock need to be taught. "Sharing Skills" is essential. In other words, "What to keep and what to cull" are extremely important to convey to the next generation.

With these objectives in mind, you will find attached a description of our 2012 seminar/field day programs and an appeal to communicate your interests and thoughts on future NASA events. *Get involved today! You will be glad you did!*

"Breed associations can work only if breeders are truly engaged and involved in the best interests of their breed…
Breed conservation cannot reach full potential without the help of every breeder.
This means documenting breeding stock by registering your animals and supporting
your breed association with your membership and participation."

Please phone or email me directly with your suggestions…I want your ideas!

Brian Payne, Executive Director NASA (Phone: 306-560-0206 or Email: boersinc28@yahoo.ca)

P.S. …a little bit of history….please see the article included on the back of this letter – it was my first introduction to Savannah goats in 1996 while travelling in South Africa as president of the Canadian Boer Goat Association…YES….SAVANNAH with an "H"….and the reason why NASA honors the breed's heritage with this spelling. This is a short article by Dr. Quentin Campbell, Mr. Lubbe Cilliers friend and mentor and critical advisor on breed development. The small book was autographed for me while questioning "Quenty" on the breed's history.

Origin and Description of the
Well-Adapted Indigenous Fat-Tailed and Fat-Humped Sheep Breeds
And Indigenous Goat Breeds of South Africa

The Savannah White Goats of Olieriver

The indigenous white goat stud of Messrs D S U Cilliers and Sons was started in approximately 1957 from a mixture of coloured indigenous ewes and a white ram. Since its inception the nucleus flock of this stud consisting of approximately one hundred stud ewes was bred as a closed stud. Selection was aimed at breeding a white heat and parasite resistant functionally efficient meat producing goat. These white goats which are kept in a Savannah type camp close to the Vaal river had to survive under extremely unfavorable conditions. As a result of natural selection, nature's inexorable law, namely survival of the fittest, played a big role in the development of these fertile easy care heat and drought resistant animals. These goats have thick pliable skins with short white hair. Apart from reproduction, muscular development, good bone, and strong legs, hooves and pasterns, these goats are selected for totally black well pigmented skins. As a result of this and natural selection the skins of these goats as well as the horns, hooves and all bare skin areas which can be injured by strong ultra-violet rays, have totally black pigmentation

In the case of both rams and ewes overdeveloped or overshot lower Jaws do not occur. Despite the relatively high level of inbreeding in this closed stud no degeneration due to inbreeding has as yet been observed. This is probably due to the fact that as a result of natural selection weaker animals are quickly and efficiently eliminated during parturition or soon thereafter.

At a meeting held at Olierivier on 21.11.93 it was decided to form a breed society for these goats. Approximately twelve breeders of these white goats were present and it was decided to affiliate the Savannah White Goat Breeders' Society to the South African Stud Book Association.