

The Indian Territory Field Day and Sale, 2014  
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The Pinkerton family burial plot near Covington, Texas seemed to be a perfect place for Frank and I to discuss the recent declines in American meat goat inventory. Travelling together, as we have, for over twenty years; I am always somewhat amazed that neither of us have lost our passion regarding this slow moving train called the American meat goat “industry”.

Our visit to the “final resting place of the cotton-picking Pinkerton clan” preceded the first ever public offering of full blood Savannah goats in North America, the Indian Territory Sale and Field Day, October 19, 2014. The following photos may give you some insight into the spirit of camaraderie



that Glen, Larry and Marjorie Edwards were able to create at this historic event.



California banker and Savannah enthusiast Pat Fields spoke on “Slaughter Goat Enterprise Analysis”

**“...the major obstacle to stopping the decline, and promoting an increase, of goat numbers nationwide is not feed, facilities, parasites, predators, fencing, etc., but rather it is the low to negative returns to owner’s labor, management, and capital. In short, enterprise profitability is insufficient to encourage staying in, much less expansion.”**

These words of wisdom come from “the Goat Man” himself. Those of you who do not have a copy of his book, “A Compilation of the Wit and Wisdom of ‘The Goat Man’” need to contact Frank



personally ([akathegoatman@icloud.com](mailto:akathegoatman@icloud.com) or 5461 Hilliard, San Marcos, TX, 78666-8478). At 86 he still puts the industry ahead of himself...even if it hurts to move!



“Since... (no existing organization)... nor individuals can have appreciable impact on prices received for commercial goats and since management costs are site-specific, **owners could rationally undertake improvements in genetic quality of their herds in order to increase gross and net income. Genetic**



**improvement requires first knowing the actual productivity level of individual herds via on-farm performance testing programs and, secondly, the use of proven sires to provide the necessary ‘reach’ in grading-up programs.”**

Frank’s “wisdom” regarding on-farm performance recording is often lost on start-up goat operations that are just looking for a way to capture pedigrees, births, deaths, breedings, sales and perhaps an occasional photo of a favourite breeding doe or herd sire thrown in for good measure. ITF had the good sense to invite Jean Harrison of Easy Keeper Herd Management to get to know the “Savannah crowd”. As can be seen below, Jean is not afraid





of work and immediately made herself useful spreading shavings. **If you missed the 2014 edition of the ITF Field Day and Sale mark your calendar for 2015. The Second Annual ITF Field Day and Sale (October 24, 2015) will feature Jean speaking on the subject of “Collecting, assessing, and applying herd management information”. [jean@easykeeper.com](mailto:jean@easykeeper.com) will introduce you to a computer records management program that simplifies your day to day goat herd business administration.** The photo below shows her receiving her “marching orders” from “The Goat Man” (all the while receiving the finer points of Savannah breed phenotype and holding Frank’s G&T).



Elgin Pape, founding director of the North American Savannah Association, described his experiences “Crossbreeding Savannah and Spanish Goats in the Texas Hill Country”. Elgin described the impact that his Savannah bucks had on his income as follows:



Straight Spanish Fredericksburg auction sales receipts:  
21 head of Spanish kids: ave wt 42.6 lb @ \$2.02/lb = \$86.02/hd

Savannah cross Spanish Fredericksburg sales receipts:  
36 hd Sav/Span F-1 kids: ave wt 49.4 lb @ \$2.33/lb = \$115.10/hd

**The F-1 Savannah cross advantage over straight Spanish was over 30% when the weight and grade advantage were added.**



Elgin has been using Savannah bucks on his Spanish does in the Harper and Menard areas of West Texas for over 10 years. He is a founding director of the North American Savannah Association and has been providing quality F-1 Savannah X Spanish doelings to commercial meat goat



producers across the continental United States. The Savannah breed is truly fortunate to have a pioneer producer like Elgin promoting our breed and proving its potential in West Texas, America's meat goat heartland





The impact of the Savannah breed on carcass composition was the grand finale of the ITF seminar program. Dr. Ken McMillin, Louisiana State University and grad student James Maynard demonstrated the “net worth” of a Savannah crossing



program as they pulled the hides off for all to see. Banker Pat Fields stays close “to the money” as he helps hang the carcass.





The venue for this First Annual ITF Sale and Field Day was as magnificent as the event was historic. **This was the first public offering of Savannah goats since Jurgen Schulz's Kifaru dispersal of the first live Savannah imports (1998).**









Chef Larry Edwards (above) teased the collective palate of an appreciative crowd with a goat meat loaf lunch. Some how he



still made time to visit with new Savannah enthusiasts Ron and Deb Durre (above left) and Glen and Mary Jane Phifer (above right).

There were big smiles all around (photo below) as Marjorie, Glen and Larry welcomed Linda Hughes-Hall to the Savannah family. Linda and her husband Greg have established Sandy Oaks Savannas in Eagle Lake, Florida with a volume purchase of 8 full blood Savannah does and a full blood Savannah buck at the sale which were added to an earlier private treaty purchase of 5 NASA registered full bloods ([sandyoakssavannas@gmail.com](mailto:sandyoakssavannas@gmail.com)).

The second volume buyer was George and Suzanne England of Midland, South Dakota ([englandfamilyranch@yahoo.com](mailto:englandfamilyranch@yahoo.com), or [susieq@gwtc.net](mailto:susieq@gwtc.net)) who purchased a full blood buck and 4 full blood does. The high selling animal in this historic sale was a five month old female who sold for \$2800 to Mr. Steve Lubbers of Waller, Texas ([slubbers27@gmail.com](mailto:slubbers27@gmail.com)).





The strong sales prices, quality venue and excited new breeders in the North American Savannah Association registry bode well for the future. You are all cordially invited to Duncan, Oklahoma for the Second Annual Indian Territory Savannah Field Day and Sale, October 24, 2015.





