



Newsletter of the San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association

NOTES FROM THE PASTURE

Update from the SCIGBA President

Greetings Herd!

If you are reading this newsletter, you have the opportunity to be an integral part of growing the San Clemente Island Goat population. Today's it is my honor to announce the start of a breeder owned registry. I would like to thank the International Dairy Goat Registry for their many years of service on behalf of the community, but our needs have evolved in a different direction.

With this new registry, breeders will have direct input into the rules and handling. Only rules approved by a vote of the membership will be utilized. No copyrighting. Breeders will own all of their own information including DNA. Creation of an online database to access pedigrees. We are in the process of completing an affiliation account with UC Davis and plan to seek USDA approval so breeders can continue to utilize tattoos if they wish.

Let me make a few things clear. You will not need to be a SCIGBA member to register your goats. You will not need to be a SCIGBA member to give input to registry policies. You will need to be a SCIGBA member to have a vote on the final policies.

Our hope is the formation of the SCIGBA Registry will also be an opportunity to strengthen our community in a common goal. Yes, the mission of the SCIGBA is to promote the breed, but that can only be accomplished with a strong, engaged, educated, and networked community. The San Clemente Island Goat community already exhibits these traits. Let's continue to build and prosper.

We understand starting a registry is a large undertaking. To assist in this, we have contracted with Associated Registry (<https://www.associatedregistry.com/>) AR is a division of the American Hampshire Sheep Association. They have a long history of service with small ruminant breeders

associations. Professional. Streamlined. Clear. Concise. User Friendly. All adjectives that jump to mind when describing AR. I encourage you to look at their website and the current registries they service.

Your input and help is essential to making this happen. Keep an eye on our social media feed and your inboxes for the latest information. With your assistance and the ability to meet the deadlines, the registry will be ready to start accepting new registrations the first week of April.

I look forward to this new direction for the community.
Onward & Upward. ~Sarah

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BLOODLINES & PRESERVATION

The strategy the SCIGBA has adopted to strengthen the limited genetic diversity within the population is preservation of bloodlines.

Spearheading this initiative are Laurel Sherrie, Herdbook Chair and Karina Rapp, Genetics Chair. Laurel and Karina are personally working with the New Hampshire Line, but they are now assisting breeders with the Tepper Line.

TEPPER BLOODLINE UPDATE,

Brief Tepper history: These were originally based out of NM with Sheri Tepper, then they went to SC. The current breeder with the most experience with this line said they are relatively dark, medium size with round spreading horns. One particular genetic line tends to have salt and pepper on the ears and by the tail, and some have white socks and stars. There is also white in the Tepper history.

It has been with concern that I have seen the number of high % Tepper goats decreasing. I know, from Dr. Sponenberg's book *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future*, that preserving bloodlines is important to the future of the breed.

Several breeders have gotten together to continue the earlier work on the Tepper line, and late last year we acquired high % Tepper goats from 3 different farms. We now have 4 new breeding set ups geared toward the Tepper line. Part of this effort was helping a former breeder to relocate most of her herd (9 goats), all considered high % Tepper, to dedicated Tepper breeding programs. It is a great step, but the Tepper bloodline needs more work.

BY THE BREEDERS. FOR THE BREEDERS. FOR OUR GOATS.

BE IN THE KNOW

- .A huge welcome to the new SCIGBA treasurer, Terry Sweitzer of Daring Heart Farm in Virginia. As per the bylaws, Terry was voted in at our Fall board meeting. Terry is helping to preserve the Tepper line.
- .Calling all Canadians: Last call for the 2022 Survey.
<https://forms.gle/9Tq9AM9Gns2GMqQC6>



Marshall with EB Ranch Signey.

Courtesy of Wildwood Farmstead

Most of us, as rare goat breeders, know that it takes extra expense and work to locate and obtain SCIGs, and a rare bloodline within the breed requires even more. The rewards lie in the future of the breed and providing resources of unique gene pools within the breed. Let us know if you want to work on this line!

~Laurel Sherrie, SCIGBA Herdbook Chair

Join us Wednesday February 23 at 7pm Eastern for our monthly Happy Hour to talk about bloodlines and breeding. Connection details found on our Facebook page and website.

2022 TRANSPORT TRAIN

The San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association is starting a transport train to facilitate sales / purchases, distribute genetics, and bring new breeders into the community. Distance, time, and costs are all factors hampering breeders. The goal of the train is to reduce the effects of these factors by having various breeders drive smaller portions of the larger route. These transports are not meant to be profitable to the transporter but to break even / cover the costs of the transport.

If interested, please fill in the survey by March 15. Completion does not guarantee transportation. The committee will then start to look at potential routes, stops, and time frames.

Survey link:

<https://forms.gle/xt6Z8VhCqXVzR7dLA>



Transporting Davis Farmland does from Mass to Virginia. Destined for a local 4-Her.
Photo courtesy of Skara Brae Homestead

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Check out the newest update to the breed description! A definition and explanation of "miniature."
scigba.org/miniature Please forward your comments via messenger or email (scigbassoc@gmail.com) by March 1st before a final adoption of this definition is made.

CALENDAR

February

- ASAP Canadian Survey
- **Feb 21 - DEADLINE to enter the herdbook**
- Feb 23 7pm (ET) SCI Happy Hour

March

- Mar 10 7:30pm (ET) SCIGBA BoD Meeting
- Mar 15 Deadline to complete Transport Train survey
- Mar 23 7pm (ET) SCI Happy Hour
- Mar 24 Submission deadline for newsletter

April

- Apr 1 Next Edition of "The Island Goat"
- Apr 14 SCIGBA BoD Meeting

For details please visit: scigba.org/calendar

What your herd featured on our social media feed? Contact us!

MEMBER OWNED REGISTRIES

When raising a rare or heritage breed, there can be an extra level of commitment asked of breeders. One of these important commitments is registering. Registering helps to record and maintain important population data that when accessible to the whole breeder community benefits the breed. These records not only allow the tracking of population numbers, but the distribution of genetics and what if any portions need bolstering. They assist in the development of breeding programs, tracking of potential health concerns, and provide records for future research. Most importantly, a registry allows the tracking of purity in SCI Goats which is important due to their unique DNA.

How Goat Registries and Breeders Associations Are Organized. Any group of breeders can form a breeder association / club. From formally incorporated to a loose knit group. Some organized breeders don't have a registry, but rather take a census every year through their organization as a way to keep track of numbers. Though this seems to be more common in poultry than livestock.

In a majority of goat specific breeders associations and registries, the organization's members collectively "own" the information and the majority dictates the decision making. There are only a few cases where an individual or group of individuals privately own a registry or breeders association.

The democratic approach in breeders associations and registries allows for inclusiveness of all breeders and provides a platform for all voices to be heard. Many breeders associations also run the registry portion of the organization. Committees are formed of volunteers to work on projects or tackle issues regarding the breed. From communications, promotion, education to genetics, recovery of information and history. Using a democratic system allows for breeders to also be more involved with the breed. The best way to make change is to be proactive within your community.

A well run and managed BA and registry will help move an endangered breed out of the critical status and on the road to a sustainable population in perpetuity. Management of a BA and registry requires many skills from good communication, inclusiveness of breeders, to marketing, and engaging in extended communities.

Get To Know Your Fellow Breeders Breeder Associations can also provide platforms that allow fellow and would-be breeders to get to know each other. Creating trusting relationships, finding breeders with similar management or genetic interests, and just being able to talk and ask questions is crucially important. Especially with rare breeds, many breeders can sometimes feel isolated.

REGISTRY CONT.

pen and constructive dialogue are also needed to tackle hard and touchy subjects. We may not all agree on certain topics as breeders but having a democratic approach means that majority rules. It's often important to reflect on passions toward the breed we love, and understand other perspectives on issues we feel strongly about.

Last, what is the difference between a privately owned organization / registry vs a non-profit association? A private owned registry is owned by individuals as is their information. They are under no obligation to prioritize the breed and it's stewards.

In the simplest of terms, a non-profit association like the SCIGBA prioritizes the breed and their membership. Dues, registrations, and other monies collected are held by the association to be utilized for promotion and education. The SCIGBA is a volunteer run organization. Our progress and successes are directly due to our dedicated members. The San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association Inc is an incorporated non-profit with state and federal governments (tax exemption status pending) with an EIN. We answer directly to our members.

Bottom line, members of a the SCIGBA are in control with a direct stake in the future of our breed and the registry.

For more detailed insight on the importance of registrations, consider reading this short article written by Alison Martin, ED of The Livestock Conservancy.

<https://tinyurl.com/2nress5w>

Logistics

In order for the registry to open by the first week of April, we have tight deadlines with numerous of moving parts. If we are not able to transfer our data to Associated Registry by March 1, we run into the chance of delaying the opening as AR enters the busy season for registrations. Below is information on the logistics. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us (SCIGBAassoc@gmail.com) if you have any questions about these logistics or need help.

- Register your herd and enter your goats into the current herdbook by Feb 21. All goats entered in the herd book prior to transfer to AR will automatically be registered. [SCIGBA.org/herdbook](https://www.scigba.org/Herdbook) - scroll down the page for the forms.
- Join the conversation at our Google Group - San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Registry. We moved these important discussions off social media in order to be able to engage those breeders who do not use Facebook or Instagram. If you need assistance with Google Group, check out this link <https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en> or email us to be added manually.
- Next week - We need to raise \$1500-2000 (contingency fund included) in order to set up the registry with AR. Be on the lookout as we roll out our fundraising plan.
- Tentative Timeline (barring no issues)
 - Week of Feb 14 - Fundraiser Announcement
 - Feb 21 - Deadline for entry into Herdbook
 - Mar 1 - Transfer Database to AR
 - Week of Mar 1 - Rules of Registration sent to membership
 - Week of Apr 4 - Registry Open

CONTACT US

San Clemente Island Goat Breeders Association

- SCIGBA.org
- SCIGBAssoc@gmail.com
- Find us on Facebook, Instagram, & YouTube

Board of Directors

- Sarah Butcher Howell, President
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Committees

- Herdbook - Laurel Sherrie, chair
 - laurel@laurelsherrie.com
- Genetics - Karina Rapp, chair
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- Archives - Stephen Howell, chair
 - SkaraBraeHomestead@gmail.com
- Marketing - Sarah Butcher Howell, chair
 - SkaraBraeHomestead@gmail.com

**Wanted for
May / Mental Health Awareness Month:**

**Are you involved in the mental health field?
Use her SCIs for therapy?
Have a story to share?
Contact us.**



OUR MISSION

The mission of the SCIGBA is to promote the San Clemente Island Goat as a viable multipurpose goat while preserving the historical traits of the island goat and the unique genetic diversity. This includes but is not limited to:

- Guarding the purity of the San Clemente Goat breed
- Retaining pedigree records of all animals that qualify as San Clemente Island Goats under the Association's set of guidelines
- Providing technical support and opportunity for collaboration to San Clemente Island Goat growers and breeders to further the breed's purity, conservation, and attract new breeders
- Exhibiting livestock and educating the public in order to promote interest in the San Clemente Island Goat

"THE ISLAND GOAT"

The "The Island Goat" is the official quarterly newsletter of the SCIGBA. Articles, photographs, and business cards that relate to San Clemente Island Goats are welcome. Submit your contributions to SCIGBAssoc@gmail.com Attn: Newsletter. Publication of articles or advertisements does not necessarily constitute an endorsement by SCIGBA.

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