NAPgA's 2010 BOD Election

Another year has past, and so another NAPgA BOD election. Our bylaws require that 1/3 of the BOD be replaced every year, and so we are required to have an election at the end of the year or right at the beginning of the next.

This year, Kent Daniels (St. Anthony, ID), Shelly Borg (Redding, CA) and Sabine Martini-Hannske (Germany) were the three nominees. It was a fairly close election but Kent and Shelly came out on top in the voting.

So for the next three years, these individuals will be serving NAPgA in a decision-making position as a part of the NAPgA Board of Directors.

Rendezvous 2010

Is Blowing in the Wind(s)

The NAPgA 2010 Rendezvous committee has settled on Wyoming's Wind River Range as the location of the next Rendezvous. This location is in part because we want to have an impact of the land managers in that area as they are looking at an EIP (Environmental Impact Proposal) that will include the place of goats in their area.

The official date will be the weekend of July 22 through July 25th and it looks as if we will be camping at either the New Forks Lake CG or more likely Green River Lake CG, both near Pinedale, Wyoming. The reason that there are still two sites listed is because the decision on a location cannot be made until the snow goes, and folks can get in there to look them over. Both are in the same area so the final decision will not change much.

Right now exact information is sketchy, but as we firm up the data we will be posting to the various Yahoo! groups.

DUES!

Yes, it is that unpleasant time of year again where we are reminding our members of the need for our yearly cash influx. No organization can operate without funds, and we are no exception.

Sadly, those that don’t choose to become current will find that they can’t log in to the website.

But more importantly, we need all of our NAPgA voices to stand with us as we attempt to effect the course of goatpacking in this country. Government entities response to the squeakiest wheel, and each member adds one more squeak!

Sadly, 50 of our 120 members have yet to renew. That means another dues letter and more stamps. Renewing with the first letter would have saved us $22.00.

Editor Malingering in New Mexico

Right now the NL editor is vacationing in New Mexico, but since the NL must go out regardless of rain, sleet, snow or dead of night, we brought the computer and are slaving away.

Actually, the editor has experienced all of those vagaries of nature since arriving a few days ago. New Mexico is having an unusually cold and wet winter and so vacationing has been somewhat limited since I have an irrational aversion to frostbite!

But we’ll keep pluggin away.

Goatpacking Trivia

From Todd Corsetti, Idaho Falls, ID

Here is a bit of interesting Idaho goat packing trivia. I thought about mentioning it to NAPgA folks but never did. Anyway, the bull elk pictured on the 2006 and 2007 Idaho big game regulations was packed out by goats. It is the same bull each year (two different pictures). It was an elk my son got in 2005 when he was 13. Unfortunately the goats weren’t in the picture. We packed in the following day with the goats to get it out.

Todd
Cascade PG Club of Oregon -- Annual Meeting and Hike

The Cascade Packgoat Club of Oregon had our Annual Hike and Meeting on Saturday January 23rd. This year the hike was held at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park. L.L. Stub Stewart is located 31 miles West of Portland and is the first new park in Oregon in 30 years. The park covers 1,650 acres of lush rolling hills, forest and deep canyons.

Running through the park is the 21 mile Banks/Vernonia Linear trail. A part of the rails to trails project (converting no longer used train tracks into trails) it features a 6-foot wide paved path and is open to all non-motorized users...horses, bicycles, and walkers/hikers. If you would like to learn more about the state park or the linear trail the links are: http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_255.php & http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_145.php

After a 6-mile hike, most of us went to the nearby McMenamins Grand Lodge in Forest Grove for lunch...er, I mean our Annual meeting. All of the McMenamins are buildings with a whole lot of history and they are very interesting places to visit. The Grand Lodge used to be a Masonic Lodge. If you would like to learn more about the history of McMenamins the link is: http://www.mcmenamins.com/

In summary, the weather was good and the surroundings were beautiful, but the best part for me was visiting with all my "packgoat loving" friends that I hadn't seen since the annual campout in September.

Jan Privratsky

Didn't I just hear that NAIS was dead?

Apparentl my the report of its demise was greatly exaggerated!

Many of you know something about this, but this is as accurate and up to the minute as I can get right now. I want people to know about it so they are not taken by surprise after January the 1st. Feel free to forward this, and do whatever digging you can do on your own. We will get to the bottom of it and get documentation, but we don't have time to wait.

____________________________

--- NAIS is Contagious----
12/7/09, ©Doreen Hannes

Interestingly enough, it’s Pearl Harbor Day -- and so it is for cattle.

Last week I heard from someone who works at several sale barns in the area, that one was currently tagging all breeding cows with 840 NAIS tags if they did not have the metal brucellosis tag in their ears. As of January 1st, 2010, they would tag all breeding stock going through the chute with 840 tags regardless of metal bruce tags that were already in the cow’s ear.

The word was that this was ‘some sale barns’ and ‘some veterinarians’. I’ve spent several days trying to get information and documentation on this, and this morning, our Missouri State veterinarian, Dr. Taylor Woods, was kind enough to call me and explain what is happening in fair detail.

According to Dr. Woods, in March or April of 2009, he received a notice from the USDA stating that in two weeks all federal funding for Brucellosis was to be cut off. This was rather a shock to him and he called and went all the way up to Dr. John Clifford. Clifford told him that this was the first he had heard of it, and went on to ascertain that the reason for failure of notification was because Missouri has been 5 years brucellosis free. Dr. Clifford stated that he would allow funding to continue for Missouri until December 31st, 2009. At that time, all blood testing for brucellosis would cease and all breeding cattle would be identified at the market by the market veterinarian with the 840 tag. The 840 tags are currently provided by the USDA free to the state of Missouri, and will supplant testing and the metal Brucellosis tags at market.

Also, Doctor Woods said that as far as he is aware, this is what is going to happen in every single state. Also, that only Texas and Missouri have been collecting blood and actually testing for Brucellosis. He said that these 840 tags are NOT NAIS tags. Also, notably, that he is rather irritated to see a successful program of Brucellosis eradication going away and relying instead upon a tag that will not detect the disease. It is confirmed via a myriad of sources that there will be no more pulling of blood to check for brucellosis in
I had a good conversation yesterday with Lynette Otto of the Shoshone National Forest. Lynette is a biologist and has been given the assignment to write a forest plan revision for the East side of the Wind River Range in Wyoming. She informed me yesterday that the Winds, as they are called, have the largest herd of Big Horn Sheep in the country.

As a side note, she works closely with Kevin Hurley of the Wyoming Game and Fish, who, by the way, is also affiliated with the FNAWS group (Foundation for the North American Wild Sheep). Kevin is now responsible for the Bighorn Sheep for the entire state of Wyoming and is VERY passionate about them.

Anyway, I have been in touch with Lynette pretty much over the last year concerning this revision. A few months ago, she had asked for comments from anyone who uses packgoats, as to WHERE they would be used on the East side of the Continental Divide. Apparently she got quite a bit of feedback, and this is what I found interesting -- Instead of finding goat packers to be careless hikers who didn't care about the Bighorn Sheep, as far as getting close to the herds and spreading diseases to them, she found that we goatpackers were very concerned about the Bighorn Sheep and were just as interested in their survival as they are.

It seemed to score a lot of points with her, the fact that we were willing to cooperate, to avoid areas where the Bighorn Sheep might be at a certain time, to practice Leave No Trace Ethics, etc. This is the impression that she received from all of the responses, and this is also the message that I have tried to convey in our conversations.

This EIP in the Winds is a very delicate issue and can go either way. Either it can develop into a packgoat-friendly attitude, where we will be allowed to go into lots of areas in the Winds, which could help us on the WEST side as well, or it can develop into something VERY ugly where they could kick us out forever. I told her that NAPgA is interested in educating the packgoat community as far as ethics in goatpacking, highlining, keeping your distance from the Bighorn Sheep herds, etc.

It is and was my intention to keep the trails open for the Packgoat community as I represent NAPgA to these folks.

Any lost packgoats in the northern Winds right now could be fatal to our cause and could adversely affect goatpackers for generations to come, so I am hoping that goat owners will use their heads when they are in the backcountry and do their best to keep a clean camp, not let the goats destroy the bark on trees and highline them, at least for now, so that they do not risk losing any of them.

Your feedback is welcome

Charlie Jennings
mailto:vigilguy@gmail.com

Working with Wind River Game Management
By Charlie Jennings, NAPgA

I had a good conversation yesterday with Lynette Otto of the Shoshone National Forest.

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found, and the more this sort of thing happens the less likely our chances are that we’ll ever be able to pack in most national parks or in the Winds. Let’s get one of our old fashioned head-butting contests going on the lists! :-)

We are so good at this sort of thing!

I’m not sure what is going on with the lost goats, many were very bonded. I’m not pointing fingers nor naming names, the trend disturbs me greatly. I know I’d be just sick if one of mine disappeared, if the entire herd was gone I’d feel like shooting myself!

(Ed. Note: The goats lost in Idaho were definitely well-bonded, and their disappearance is world-class mystery. However, they are gone, and one of the individuals involved, a very long-time goatpacker, said he will never let his goats roam free at night again!)

So far, in my experience, I can’t sneak out of camp to pee without my goats wanting to come along. I’ve never once made it unless they were on their highline. I do know they will get confused if you go into a tent and they did not see you go in or you don’t talk to them from within, on occasion mine have done this. I’ve learned to speak to them, get their attention and then go inside my tent. They usually come up and stick their noses in the tent flap and see that I’m there, then they arrange themselves around the tent, presumably so I cannot sneak away in the night.

I think highlining at least the most dominant goat might be a good idea, but in the Winds I’d definitely tie up the whole string.

Charlie Goggin
Lightfoot Packgoats

**What to Take On the Trail, What to take...?**

**There are some basic lists of backpacking gear available at REI, likely there are some on line at Backpacker magazine as well.**

One of the things that helps us pack (remember, I pack for four people, four or more goats. a dog or two and sometimes an extra person or more...) is to list categories on paper and fill in the list from there.

**What do we need to get to the trailhead?** (Gas in the car, car loaded with gear, any permits or other paperwork...)

**What do we need to hike?** (boots, socks, hiking poles, backpacks, hats, sunglasses...)

**What do we need for toiletries?** (meds, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sunscreen, bug stuff....)

**Sleep?** (sleeping pads, sleeping bags, stuff sacks, tent, ground cloth, rain fly, tent stakes, nets for our heads if we are sleeping out, etc...)

**Eat?** (how many meals? breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks, How much does it weigh? Cook stove? Fuel? Matches or lighter, pots, cooking utensils, eating utensils, soap to wash up, rag or sponge to wash up,)

**Drink?** (water filter, water bottles, kit to maintain filter, iodine tablets to treat water if filter is broken or fails...)

**For first aid?** (any medical problems? How many people and animals? How many days out? What is my level of expertise? How are my survival skills? Those of my party? Who can I count on most in an emergency? Who would hike out for help? Who would stay with the victim? etc...)

**To navigate?** (map skills are a must, do NOT rely on ANY electronic device, they can fail, break, be lost, batteries might die, etc... Know how to read a topo map, have a good one of the area you are going and make sure there is more than one person in your party with navigation skills)

**Communicate?** (walkie talkies can reach for several miles now, cell phones might work and they might not, see above, whistles...)

**Do we need anything special for;**

The goats?

Dogs?

Children? (clearly the children come first....)

**Clothing?** (It is always hotter/colder/wetter/dryer/sunnier/cloudier than you think, always) I get cold easily, Randy does not. His rule of thumb is, if the temps are getting low enough for him to need his down jacket, I’m going to die. He just uses a pile jacket and rain shell. If he needs more the temps are too cold for me. Know your own body.

This way we’ve thought of what we need and then we can, weigh it, make menus, whittle it down, etc.

I suppose for almost everything I think is essential, someone else thinks it is not necessary. I know a lightweight backpacking guru, who is just wonderful, but I cannot live on the trail as he does. I can NOT sleep in his little half of a sleeping pad, I’d be unable to sleep for the pain. Works for him.

Our tent is a pyramid shaped, silicon impregnated nylon rain fly, basically, no floor, no windows, no skeeter netting, no frills.

I know some folks who would consider our tent completely unacceptable. They would freak out if a spider or ant walked over them, or are worried about snakes or something else creepy crawling on them in the night. This doesn’t bother us, but for some it is totally out of the question.

However, it sleeps 4 people, two dogs and our packsaddles, it has a 10 by 10 footprint. It weights less than 5 pounds with its center pole stakes and the tent. :-)

Much of it depends on your budget, personal needs, wants, and experience.

The basics are always food, shelter, clothing, the ability to make fire and water.

Charlie Goggin
Lightfoot Packgoats
several states. The USDA Veterinary Services (VS) is doing away with the brucellosis program to bring in the OIE (World Animal Health Organization) standards for trade on Animal Identification, which at the very least, according to the Guidelines of the OIE, will identify an animal back to the farm of origin or ‘premise’. These are the first two prongs of NAIS: premises registration, and animal identification. You cannot have 840 identification without going back to the ‘premises’. Doctor Woods told me that they would be using the sale barns (markets) as the premises. This is NOT supported by any documentation that is available anywhere.

Now, I am completely unable to find any other designation for the 840 tags other than one which links the identified animal back to the NAIS premises of the owner selling the cattle. For cattle, all 840 tags are radio frequency identification, the USDA is allowing 840 non-RFID identification for hogs, otherwise all 840 is RFID and all 840 is linked back to the farm of origin or premises.

Again, this is to go into effect in all states beginning January the 1st, 2010. Doctor Woods was kind enough to assure me that he would be happy to give me whatever correspondence and documentation he could find regarding this. The issue as I see it is that there is not much time at all before January 1st, and I certainly cannot wait the six weeks it took for my last request from the Missouri Department of Agriculture to be fulfilled. The USDA never gives out any information unless you possess the capacity to actually sue them for the information… at least not to the likes of me.

There are several States with statutes constraining the implementation of NAIS and premises registration. Missouri is one of those States, and there appears to be a definite conflict here unless the documents can indeed support something other than premises registration under NAIS standards (you can call it what you like, NFAIP, USAIP, NAIS, NLIS, or whatever), this would indeed be construed as mandating or otherwise forcing participation in NAIS or any similar program by the State Veterinarian's office and a case of the USDA forcing a State Department to violate statute to continue to participate in interstate commerce. The USDA is in violation of the APA at the very least.

At any rate, I wanted to get this information out despite the lack of paperwork to support this as there are many sources confirming the generalities of this and no one saying that 840 tags will not be used on cattle going through the chutes in the state of Missouri after January 1st, 2010.

When I do get the actual documentation, I will be sending it on to all interested parties. This is trickle down and up NAIS in full effect. 2010 is the year for OIE compliance on animal identification for the USDA. And first they came for the cows... Here they come, folks.
DiMaggio carries a special-use permit with the Coronado National Forest, which includes carrying liability insurance. “I take every precaution possible, but you never know.”

All is Not Well in Montana for Goats!
From: Deborah Luzier
goingnutsmom@sbcglobal.net

Need Ideas & Help ASAP
I am in a fight to keep my goats. I need ideas and help on how to present to the city council that they are not a nuisance.

A little about my history and situation.
I have owned my place for 19 years. It is a little over 1 acre. We live at the end of a street and there is nothing but railroad property and hill to the north of us.

We asked 4 years ago before we got goats if we could have them. We were told that with our property we could have 25 chickens per half acre (no roosters) and two horses. Goats were not listed and the lady said we could have a few. No numbers were mentioned.

No problems until right before Christmas when someone turned me in for having animals. No complaint that they were noisy or smelly, just that I had animals in a residential area.

The animal control officer had no problems with the way the animals were kept or anything and said he was done with his part and it was up to the city and me now. And by the way, I am not zoned as R-1 like the animal control said, I am zoned as R-1-B-12, and I gave them the map the city gave me. This is why I can have chickens and horses.

We went back to the city and again we were told the same thing, 25 chickens, per 1/2 acre, 2 horses and we could have a few goats. When I asked why we were having this problem then, another lady came out of the office and basically screamed at us “NO GOATS ON MONTANA” (my street).

So here it is in a nutshell.
I was just paid a visit by a city councilman and he says he is on my side and is going to talk to other council members for me. But, he said the city is getting ready to re-do their zoning or something like that, and there is big changes underway.
He said to get signatures from my neighbors saying that my goats are not a problem and they don’t have a problem with them.

He also said to write down anything that will help my case. Like when I told him about brushing our neighbor’s yards, etc. Being a 4-H leader pack goats for 2 years now. Kids in 4-H showing and winning, etc.

So my plea is for any more info on how to write things up for my neighbors to sign and what all to say on my behalf on why I should be allowed to keep my goats.

Some of the things I can think of is Milk for lactose intolerant (mainly me, no problems since I have been on goats milk) I make cheese, butter and soap. Soap was started because of my 16 year old daughter’s allergy to soap. I even have it on her medical records that she is allergic to soap. She has had no skin problems since she has been on soap.

I was told I can turn a packet of info in to the city before the meeting for them to go over.

What should I include?
I was told that at the meeting I could not go over in length what was in my packet (that is the reason to turn it in early) and to keep my speech to the council meeting short and sweet.

What do I say at the meeting?
Ok, I have my goat numbers down to 9. This is where I would like to keep it. 6 pack goats and 3 milkers. We are a family of 5. I use the milk for drinking, cheese, butter and soap.

We go through about a gallon and a half a day on just everyone drinking it.

The guy that came out today noticed that one of my goats was pregnant and asked if she was, I said yes, we have to breed our dairy goats to keep them in milk. He asked if I had a problem selling the babies and I said, no, I usually have a waiting list for my babies and they sell really fast.

I am under the impression that this isn’t going very good for me.
Debbie
http://mountainviewpackgoats.webs.com/
www.freewebs.com/hillbillyfarm
www.freewebs.com/shastapackgoats
NorthernCaAllBreedsGoats@yahoogroups.com

And one response...
Most jurisdictions (mostly counties but some cities) that allow livestock refer to animal units in their code. You are allowed so many animal units per acre typically. It varies but for example, if allowed 2 units with a horse being one unit and a goat or sheep size animal might be .25 units so you could have 8 goats or two horses on a one acre parcel.

There was some discussion about this in the past on this group. Do a search for Animal Units and you will get some ideas about how other places handle the number of animals allowed. Present that information in your letter to the City Council and suggest that the code be changed and clarified to allow so many animal units. If the City is considering a zone change, definitely ask to be grandfathered in with the new code effective only if you sell the property.