



# Across the Fence



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## New board members and officers elected for 2018

The Livestock Coalition is pleased to announce the election of board members at the annual meeting in October: Sabra Noyes, Elizabeth Pagan, and Brad Neumann who will serve three year terms. They join six other board members to manage the activities of the Coalition.

In November, the board met to elect officers who will serve for 2018.

Elected were Nick Cockrell, as President; Elizabeth Pagan as Vice-President; Kathy Fogle as Secretary and Sandy LeaVell as Treasurer.

The **Washington State Livestock Coalition** is fully recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)3 tax-exempt organization, and is registered as a non-profit corporation with the WA Secretary of State. Coalition membership is \$20 per year.

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## You can be all “a-buzz” about beekeeping this Spring

**B**ees are an important element in our agricultural landscape, according to local beekeeper Kevin Mills, who presented introductory information about apiaries during a seminar in November at Mills Diner in Rochester.

“Managing bees is a lot like raising livestock”, said Mills, who has been active in raising bees for more than twenty years in both Canada and the United States. “They require periodic attention and management to generate honey and productive hives”.

Mills agreed to share his enthusiasm and information about beekeeping in additional seminars that also open to the public.

**Elements of Beekeeping** is the topic for a seminar on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Old Gate School (10 a.m. to noon). He will describe types of bees that can be commonly raised in our climate, the normal hive activity of bees, and what you need to raise bees. A \$10 donation for the session would be appreciated.

Mills also will discuss how to order bees and supplies as there is still time to set up hives in 2018.

The Old Gate School is located at 16925 Moon Road in Rochester, north of Highway 12.

*Beekeeping offers an opportunity to produce honey for personal use or for profit, while increasing and supporting pollination of fruit trees, vegetables and ornamental plants.*



*In addition to producing honey, bees are very important in pollinating trees, flowers and other plants that support agriculture.*

**Setting up your hive** is the subject for a separate session on installing the hive, introducing bees and the equipment needed for successful beekeeping. This is a “hands-on” session, in which individuals are encouraged to set up a hive, installing ‘super’ frame boxes and wax foundations for comb production.

This session is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at Beeline Apiaries at 10 a.m., 19019 Moon Road in Rochester, south of Highway 12. A \$20 donation for the session would be appreciated.



## *Seminars offered to the public this Spring*

Seminars on several subjects of interest to the agricultural community are scheduled this Spring, as noted below:

**Thursday, March 8 – Trailer Safety**  
6:00 p.m., Kipert's Trailer Sales, 8439 Old Highway 99, Olympia. In addition to discussing rules for CDLs, will cover maintenance on trailer systems and servicing your trailer.

**Saturday, March 17 – Elements of Beekeeping**, 10:00 a.m., Old Gate School, 16925 Moon Road, Rochester. An introductory session to provide basic information about beekeeping, including types of bees you can raise, the kinds of equipment required, and how to successfully maintain a colony. There is still time this season to order bees, and the follow-up seminar will assist in getting your hives in place (see page one for more information).

**Saturday, April 21 – Setting Up Your Hive**, 10:00 a.m., Beeline Apiaries, 19019 Moon Road, Rochester. This is a "how to" instructional seminar to help you set up your apiary. Topics will include orienting the hive, setting 'super' frame boxes, introducing bees and new queens and combating diseases. (see page one for more information).

## *Coalition offers two scholarships for college education*

Applications are now being accepted for the Livestock Coalition's two scholarships that assist students in continuing education after high school, in support of a student's study in a field related to agriculture.

Applicants can be a high school senior, or college, technical /vocational school enrollee, with funds available for the 2018-2019 school year. A career choice from any field (such as agriculture, medicine, education, business, husbandry, law) that contributes to agriculture, will be considered during the evaluation of the application.

The scholarships are named for local individuals who have made significant contributions to agriculture in our community.

**Buster Smith** spent many years training horses with a passion for understanding animal behavior, and he continues to be involved with cutting horse activities as well as raising cattle in the Centralia area. The \$1,000 Buster Smith Scholarship will be awarded to a resident of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark or Skamania counties.

**Dr. Everett Macomber** graduated from Oakville High School in Grays Harbor County, and pursued a career in veterinary medicine. He partnered in a Centralia area veterinarian clinic for more than 40 years, focused on veterinarian medicine of large animals. He is a past president of the Washington State Veterinary Association and of the American Veterinary Association. Following retirement, he continues his veterinary profession as a consultant and educator. The \$1,000 Dr. Macomber Scholarship will be awarded to a resident of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, or Pacific counties.

Both of the \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June, 2018. Applications can be downloaded from the Coalition website: <http://www.waslico.com> and must be received by April 16, 2018 including requested supplemental information.

Payment can be made by the Coalition directly to the college or university to cover tuition or other costs in a field supporting livestock. While individuals may apply for both scholarships, only one scholarship will be awarded to any applicant.

## *2018 Annual Benefit Trail Ride Is Planned for June 16*



*Riders move along the trail at last year's Benefit Trail Ride in Capitol Forest.*

It's time to mark your calendars for the Coalition's Annual Benefit Trail Ride on Saturday, June 16, 2018. It will be hosted by the Evergreen Sportsmens Club, southwest of Littlerock for rider access in Capitol Forest. (site address: 12736 Marksman Road SW).

The event will offer both a 5 mile and 8 mile course with the first rider expected out at 8:00 a.m.; lunch served from 12 - 3 p.m. and is included in the ride fee.

The \$30 fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch, along with an opportunity to win a variety of prizes which will be awarded following lunch at the Sportsmens Club. Over \$5,000 in prizes were awarded in 2017.

A used tack sale will also be part of the Trail Ride activity, along with several vendors and displays. Donate your used tack (call us for pick-up or bring on Friday; tax deduction certificate provided).

Free dry camping for trail ride participants is available on both Friday and Saturday nights. A Discover Pass is not required for camping or parking at the facility.

The registration form can be downloaded from the Coalition website: [www.waslico.com](http://www.waslico.com) Pre-registration is encouraged by June 9, with additional Poker card and Raffle ticket given for early registration.

## Coalition Member recounts his role in promoting goat populations in the Northwest

By **Bill Moumau**, Coalition member

The raising of goats has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. As a FFA student with a goat project in the 1950's, two kinds of goats were popular - dairy goats and Angoras. The Angora dates back prior to early biblical history, roughly 3,500 years ago in Asia Minor.

Historically, Angoras have been raised for their hair ('mohair'). Angoras in the Northwest are very small in number as large numbers today are in Texas.

Dairy goats were raised but the numbers were modest. There were hardly any commercial goat dairies, as most dairy goats were raised for family use. Chehalis had a small cheese plant run by the Eggers family supported by a small number of goat dairies. They manufactured several common white cheeses and a brown cheese similar to Norwegian *gjetost*. However, most cheese was sold as a specialty item or health food.

The history of dairy goat breeds is similar to cattle. European breeds from Switzerland and France formed the base. *Saanens* (all white) and *Toggenburgs* (brown with white trim) were popular in the U.S. and productive milkers. They were joined by *French Alpines* that can be any color. Later came the Jersey of the goat world with higher butterfat but lower production which is a cross of the European breeds with African goats with the distinctive floppy ears and Roman nose. They can be any color.

An American breed, the *LaMancha*, was created by Eula Fay of Oregon, crossing European breeds with a sport of Spanish breeds that had tiny ears. The breed standard defines them as 'gopher ears' or 'elf ears'.

A new breed which has gained popularity is a miniature dairy goat called the *Nigerian*. Breeders and hobbyists exhibit their animals at official dairy goat shows.

With the trying times of the 1970's and 1980's many people moved to the countryside and had several goats for home milk and cheese. The hobby expanded and the number of goats grew.



*Angora goats are raised for their hair. The US is one of the prime international producers of Angora mohair.*

As a director of the American Dairy Goat Association, I witnessed a membership of 20,000, a budget of \$1 million and one of America's most progressive computerized registration systems.

Some people have an allergy to cow's milk but can assimilate goat's milk. There is a slight difference in mineral composition and the fat globules of goat's milk are much smaller than cow's milk. While not totally accurate, you could say goat's milk is naturally homogenized. The popularity of health foods helped goat's milk enter the mainstream and Washington had dairies of 100-200 or more animals. Later goat cheese became "gourmet" and the market exploded. Dairy goats raised for milk must be fed an adequate diet to produce a profitable amount of milk. A 16% protein dairy ration and good quality hay are necessary.

At one time Pygmy goats were very popular and expensive -- like the

Llama craze during the last decade. They were imported from Africa as research animals and their small size made them popular as pets. They are regularly shown by children in 4-H classes.

A newer development is the popularity of meat goats. Spanish goats have been raised in Mexico and Texas as meat goats. Later the *Boer* breed was imported from South Africa and is truly a "beefy" blocky animal. They are uniformly either red and white or black and white with floppy ears.

There is also a breed developed in Australia that is taller and more 'rangy'. The ethnic population growth in the U.S. has fueled this market substantially, consuming goat meat during religious holidays.

Goats are easy to raise but difficult to contain. They are proficient jumpers and must be restricted with woven wire fences and a strand or two on top of that. They are an amazingly curious animal and the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, as are the neighbor's roses.

Goats are seasonal breeders. Like sheep and deer, they breed in the fall and give birth or 'kid' in the Spring. This poses a problem in maintaining an adequate year around supply of milk. Some goats can be milked through for two years. *Nubians* tend to breed over a longer period so you may be able to freshen them earlier than other breeds.

Goats are hardy animals and have few serious diseases or health. Here in the Northwest, foot rot or foot scald is one of the more common maladies.

Regular trimming of the feet helps avoid problems and application of a medicated foot bath can be beneficial. As goats are small animals, foot trimming is easy and requires only a hand shear or a sharp knife.

An adequate supply of salt and minerals helps keep your animals healthy. Selenium supplementation in this area is recommended as it appears to be deficient in this mineral.

By Jon Adams, WASLICO Assistance Committee

The longer your horse spends on the road, the greater the threat to its well-being. Trips less than 3 hours are unlikely to cause transport-related stresses. After twelve hours of transportation, risks increase dramatically. When your horse gets in the trailer, it responds by releasing stress hormones. This impacts your horse's immune system, leaving the animal less able to fight infections and is at a greater risk of shipping fever. As many as 6 percent of long hauls may result in your horse contracting shipping fever.

Spend time before your trip teaching him to load and unload comfortably in the trailer. Remember that your horse's muscles are working hard to maintain balance while riding in the trailer. Allowing enough length in the trailer tether for the horse to lower its head while traveling also helps. Your horse will lose weight due to a combination of dehydration and reduced feed intake, but will regain most of it within 24 hours.

Periodic stopping, such as a 15 to 20 minute rest every four or five hours during a long haul when the trailer is stopped and parked provides an opportunity for your horse to drink and eat. It is also a good time for a safety check as well as cleaning out manure and refreshing the bedding.

To get the most from your horse, plan on one day of rest for a 6 to 12 hour haul and two or three days that lasts longer than 12 hours. Bedding is a potential source of respiratory irritant that can increase the risk for shipping fever. If you can place bedding in your trailer, you should use the least dusty bedding material you can find, as well as having adequate trailer ventilation.

For trailer bedding I use old hay (but not moldy). I shake it out as I put it in the trailer to get as much dust out as possible. Others use shavings or sawdust. When I return home, I look for a spot in the pasture that needs a little help, and I clean the trailer there. It's then seeded and fertilized.



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