



August 20, 2008

Dear Supporters of the Small Ruminant Dairy Project:

The Small Ruminant Dairy Project (SRDP) at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture was initiated in June 1998 to support production, marketing and networking among dairy goat and sheep farmers. Carol Delaney has very ably pioneered and led this program through workshops, hands-on consultations with farms, the SRDP newsletter and calendar, research on dairy goat nutrition and the production of an annual dairy/meat goat and dairy sheep directory.

The program has been widely recognized as the premier provider of technical support to sheep and goat dairy farmers in Vermont and the region and has contributed to the successful diversification of farms in Vermont. As you may have heard, Carol has decided to take a new position where her years of experience will be used in a new way, managing a small grants program for farmers and communities for the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, covering 12 states and the District of Columbia.

The SRDP program has now completed ten years of funding through the generosity of an anonymous donor. Thanks to the donor's substantial commitment to support small ruminant dairying in Vermont, we have seen remarkable improvements and growth. The 40-50 existing goat and sheep dairies are better established and draw from a stronger base of experience and technical expertise than they did before the inception of this program.

Carol's departure brings the SRDP program to a point of transition and provides an opportunity for reflection about the best ways to serve Vermont's goat and sheep farmers and cheese makers. For the time being, some of the work now under Carol's leadership will be continued through other programs at the Center, including our Pasture, Alternative Farm Enterprise and Beginning Farmer and Land Access programs. Local food production, including cheese, is still an important area supported by UVM Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. We are excited about expanding our technical and business planning support to these and other farmers, processors and distributors. The Center is always interested in your suggestions. As we continue to explore the best ways of serving Vermont's farmers, we welcome your input at any time. A resource list prepared by Carol is attached to provide further guidance for those seeking technical support.

Please join us in thanking Carol Delaney for her ten years of dedication to Vermont's goat and sheep dairy farmers. We will miss her and wish her all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas O. Lantagne".

Douglas O. Lantagne
Dean and Director, UVM Extension

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lini Wollenberg".

Lini Wollenberg
Director, Center for Sustainable Agricultur

State Office

19 Roosevelt Highway, Suite 305, Colchester, VT 05446-5933
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Cultivating Healthy Communities

UVM Extension has offices throughout Vermont.
For more information, contact this office or visit www.uvm.edu/extension.



Goat and Sheep Dairy Resources

1. Programs/Resources at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture:

Documents from the SRDP will remain on the website:

www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture/smallrumi.htm

- Copies of the *Small Ruminant Dairy Newsletter* since 2004
- 2008 New England and New York Dairy/Meat Goat and Dairy Sheep Directory* which has a significant section for state, regional, national and international resource
- “*A Guide to Starting a Commercial Goat Dairy Farm*” will be available fall 2008

The Center’s Pasture Program provides grazing and browsing technical assistance, educational opportunities through workshops and the annual grazing conference, and engages all types of livestock farmers in farm-based research.

The Center’s Farm Enterprise Program serves as a connection for those interested in developing enterprise budgets or farm plans through Farm Viability.

The Center’s Beginning Farmer and Land Access program serves the needs of beginning farmers to access land, capital and technical information. See Resource Guide for Vermont’s New and Aspiring Farmers www.uvm.edu/landlinkvt/vtnewfarmerguide.pdf

2. UVM Extension Specialists and Agriculture Programs, www.uvm.edu/extension

Chet Parsons, Livestock (sheep) Specialist, St. Albans, Vermont

Women’s Agricultural Network – business planning, start up and re-assessment

3. UVM Programs

Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese, www.uvm.edu/viac

4. Private Businesses

- VT Butter and Cheese Company, LLC, www.vtbutterandcheeseco.com – award-winning cheesemaker and purchaser of fluid goat milk, has a full-time goat specialist and milk procurement person
- Peter Dixon, Dairy Foods Consulting, www.dairyfoodsconsulting.com
- Keith Kirchner, Dairy Processing Plant Design & Set-up, Business and Operational Consultation, 802-755-6349

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- Mike Ghia, Ewetopia Farm, Grazing, Soil, Crop, and Farm Business Consulting, Saxtons River, VT 05154, (802) 869-1214 (former sheep dairy farmer and farmstead cheesemaker),

5. Associations

- Southern Vermont Dairy Goat Association, www.vtgoats.org
- VT Sheep and Goat Association, www.vtsheepandgoat.org
- VT Grass Farmers Association, www.uvm.edu/~pasture/?Page=vgfa.html
- VT Cheese Council, www.vtcheese.com

Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets, www.vermontagriculture.com

- Laurel Junkins, Dairy Systems Coordinator (Milk Quality, milking systems)
- Dan Scruton, Ag. Development Specialist (Milk Quality, SCC, milking systems)
- Byron Moyer, Chief of Dairy Division, (Milking, milk handlers and processing licensing/regulation)

Specialists in the Region

- Dr. tatiana Stanton, Goat Specialist, Cornell University, www.ansci.cornell.edu/goats/index.html
- Dr. Mike Thonney, Sheep Specialist, Cornell University, www.sheep.cornell.edu
- John Porter, Dairy Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension, www.extension.unh.edu
- Tina Savage, Extension Educator, UNH Cooperative Extension

Resources in other regions

See websites for

- Spooner Agricultural Research Center in Wisconsin (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/sheep.htm>).
- E (Kika) de la Garza Institute for Goat Research <http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/index.htm> (esp. dairy goat nutrition)
- Florida A & M University (<http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?a=goats>)

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