

PROMOTE, PRESERVE & PROSPER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MYOTONIC GOAT REGISTRY



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Anna Garrett here, we met last issue so I won't bore you with the details yet again.

Update on life here are the Villa...

Kidding season has come and gone and most of the kids have departed for their new homes. Annual herd work up and biosecurity screening are both complete. Now that these things are done the Springtime evolves in to more relaxation and enjoyment as I sit back and watch my retained kids develop and watch the Does get their girly figures back as the lush forage presents itself here at the Villa.

A time for mowing the yard, spending time with my son, husband & family, baseball games, growing a few flowers in the garden and taking pictures of the beautiful goat herd I see out my window as I write this excerpt.

Y'all get out there and live the Goat Life!

Anna Garrett, editor    

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Don't miss out!

The annual online Spring fundraiser for the MGR will take place April 24th through the 27th, 2025. The event is open to MGR MEMBERS ONLY.

You must be a member in good standing, with paid annual dues, have an MGR breeder number and join the private Myotonic Goat Registry Group on facebook at [HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/MYOTONICGOATREGISTRY/](https://facebook.com/groups/myotonicgoatregistry/).

We are currently accepting donations for the event. Items do not have to be goat related. I know we have many talented members/breeders and as always your unique donations tend to make the event extra special. Donors will ship items direct to winners, but photos and descriptions are due to me by the end of the day 4-23-25. Message me on facebook or email me at MGRpromote@gmail.com if you have something to offer.

I hope to see y'all there!

MENTOR, MENTEE, MENTORSHIP: PAYING IT FORWARD TO PROSPER MUTUALLY

BY ANNA GARRETT

(APRIL 2025)

The MGR is here to preserve Myotonics, this fabulous breed of goat that we all, as breeders, love so dearly. The efforts to perform this task are vast and multi-directional and one of the best programs in place to preserve the breed is mentorship.

Mentorship is known to provide support, growth, encouragement, feedback, knowledge and information for free to mentees. It serves as a support system for the mentee in so many ways, from learning to navigate registration paperwork as well as other MGR documents in putting your work order packets together, to obtaining basic goat husbandry information to ensure a healthy herd and expanding on to biosecurity measures and learning what it means to cull within your herd and then going further into advertising how-tos for sales and promotion and advancing in knowledge for the show ring and for commercial herds. The MGR Mentorship Program is just limitless for growth and learning.

Did you know that this wonderful program serves as a benefit to the mentor as well? What does a mentor stand to gain you ask? A mentor strengthens their own knowledge, grows a network of connections, advances their leadership skills, helps gain a new perspective and provides a sense of fulfillment as they give back, just as those before them gave to them. It keeps you on your toes as a mentor so that you continue to grow in your knowledge as you network with other breeders about various subjects to ascertain answers to questions that you yourself may not have been met with during your experiences. Why are both of these pieces so important? They are so important because through mentorship we all grow, we all learn, and we all prosper, and when we as breeders prosper then the breed prospers.

Welcoming new members and breeders with kindness and open arms helps to empower them, educate them and get them off to a good strong start providing a solid foundation on which they can build and grow. This is crucial to the overall survival of the breed. It solidifies a relationship with both the mentor and mentee and through that connection growth for both parties.

A good mentor must be committed to the breed and inspire positive behavior through their own actions. A good mentor should be communicative and helpful. No one has all the answers and being able to point a mentee in the right direction is invaluable. Having a good understanding of the goals of the mentee helps immensely to steer them in the right direction making good communication key. Mutual respect is a huge factor for any relationship of this nature and for both parties.

One of the greatest compliments I see over and over about the MGR is that the group of people that make up this wonderful organization, and I mean from the owner, Tara Lawrence, right down to the newest of members, is that this group of individuals is primarily like minded in the fact that they love this breed of goat. The atmosphere amongst breeders, be they show, commercial market or pet breeders, that they all reserve a family like quality. I know of no other organization that I have ever been involved with that boasts such a quality and it is absolutely true.

I don't know about you, but it makes me proud to be a member of the MGR and to call so many of these wonderful breeders friends, friends with a common goal to promote and preserve Myotonics in such a way that we all prosper as breeders and in that the breed benefits greatly. In the end it is about Myotonics!

Mentors are needed from the bottom up, for things as simple as helping mentees navigate paperwork, learn about proper goat husbandry and all the way to skill in the show ring. Mentors are required to have at least 5 years experience as a member and breeder of the MGR, maintain a herd of Myotonics with numbers no less than 25 head, and possess the basic skills required of a mentor as follows:

- Be able to Listen Actively
- Strive to Build Trust
- Be able to Instruct, Inspire & Encourage
- Help Identify Goals & Assess Current Reality
- Provide Feedback Respectfully & with Kindness
- Have a Willingness to seek Higher Knowledge

If you have a desire to join the mentorship program on any level, perhaps you desire to share your knowledge and to give back as a mentor or you genuinely have a desire to start out on the best foot possible in your Myotonic ventures or you are somewhat established as a breeder and want to advance to the next level and need a mentor's guidance send a message to **MGRmentorship@gmail.com** and we will gladly connect you with someone to help. There is no desire for assistance through mentorship that is too small, and no question asked that is stupid, it is how we learn. Only the unasked question is stupid. Let's work together to grow as we promote, preserve & prosper as a whole.



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

BY MADELYN & MALLORY EPPERSON

Let us introduce ourselves. We are Madelyn, 16 and Mallory, 14 of Moonshine Heritage Farm in Douglas, Georgia. We have been MGR youth breeders since 2019. We wanted goats on our small farm so we found a local breeder and purchased our first. This started our journey. We started to grow our herds based on breed characteristics and show quality. We have added select bucks and does along the way to grow our herds. We set our breeding program with the goal of producing show quality animals consistent with the breed standards. We love to show in several MGR shows from Tennessee to Indiana. We help our parents host our own show - the only one in Georgia! The show is in Covington, GA in late July and we welcome everyone to come participate. We love our MGR family! Our showmanship skills are improving as well as our knowledge of the breed. We see judging in the future!!

We are both involved in our local FFA chapters. We show market goats to promote the breed locally. I, Madelyn, participate in public speaking and use the opportunity to increase awareness and educate others on this amazing breed. We love to share our goats with the community with nursing home visits and church outreach events.

We would like to take this spotlight to thank MGR for providing the opportunity to support us as youth breeders. MGR is here to preserve this special breed and promote us as young breeders - the next generation. The MGR family is always there to offer assistance at any show, educate and share information over the phone or in person. The mentoring is so valuable. We have lifelong friends through MGR.



**MADELYN & MALLORY
OF**



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The Myotonic Goat Registry was formed in 2005 as a sole ownership registry by Gene McNutt with input from an initial Board of Advisors made up of Dr. Phil Sponenberg and Barbara Roberts. The current Board of Advisors includes Dr. Phil Sponenberg, Cindy Bene, Eve Williams and Anna Garrett. The owner and Board of Advisors will make decisions concerning the registry and its procedures. This method of governance is meant to provide Myotonic Goat breeders with a registry that will not have frequent changes, and will have the longevity and consistency needed to successfully promote the Myotonic Goat breed, while at the same time make it responsive to the needs and wishes of the breeders. In 2009, Gene retired and the registry was sold to Tara Lawrence. As the Myotonic Goat Registry grows, additional Board of Advisor members may be added in order to more broadly represent the breeders. The owner, along with the Board of Advisors, will be responsible for providing for its own replacements and/or expansions.

The Myotonic Goat Registry takes into consideration all breeders, from pet owners to commercial meat growers. Regardless of which aspect of this breed appeals to you, the Myotonic Goat Registry is the place for all breeders to register their Myotonic Goats.

The Registry will help breeders promote their goats through sales, shows, and advertising, and will educate the public about the Myotonic Goat and its usefulness in a variety of settings.