

East Texas Goat Raisers Association, Inc

Not for profit organization promoting goats & supporting goat ranchers since 1996.

The association sponsors sales, shows, and educational programs on regular basis. Annually a "round robin" program features demonstrations of many of the facets of raising goats. The topics vary and may include some are all of the following: marketing, feeding, medications, worming, genetics, show prep, de-horning, castrating, bottle feeding, kidding, milking, preventative care, and general husbandry of goats. We invite all people in the goat industry to attend this event and our other quarterly meetings and programs. We hope these presentations will encourage you to join ETGRA. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or new to the practice of raising goats, ETGRA has a spot for you. There is a board meeting the first Tuesday of every month and a general membership meeting each quarter. Contact ETGRA for meeting times, location, and method (most board meetings are teleconferences).



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1 Totally organized and operated by volunteers like the three shown here.



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2 At our annual Round Robin program each January, we have volunteers do hands-on demonstrations. Above is Gwen VanderMartin dehorning a kid. Showing how to use the dehorning box was also part of the demo.



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3 The kid is being used to show how hooves should look if properly trimmed. Goat hooves were trimmed and then compared to the normal appearance of a healthy hoof.



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4 Diana Payne demonstrated several methods of medicating. Goats can be medicated just like people...intra muscular, intra venous, sub cutaneous, orally, rectally, and topically. Goat ranchers must keep a well-stocked first aid/medicine cabinet.



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5 Before the demonstrations started this past January, the audience enjoyed a presentation from guest speaker, Ashley Pellerin, Ag Ext Agent of Smith County. We hosted approximately 50 guests.

Our April 2013 program was really interesting. J D Stark of Cleveland brought angora goats and gave a great program. He spoke about the diet, shearing, breeding, etc. of the angoras. He then showed hair that had been cleaned, combed and dyed for making into yarn. There were finished wool products from his goats. There is definitely more to goats than milk and meat.



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6 During the April educational program Andrea Thompson assisted J D Stark with his angora goats.



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7 Finished hats & scarves were displayed and we could not resist touching the clean wool.

ETGRA presents several ABGA sanctioned shows each year and an ADGA show every spring. ETGRA used to work in some youth showmanship trials with the other shows and some jackpot shows but now our youth division holds multiple events and sanctioned shows in conjunction with ETGRA's sanctioned shows. Watch for our upcoming events at www.etgra.com.



1 Coni Ross was the judge here.



2 Judge Ray Bolinger congratulates a young winner



3 Goat folks brave all kinds of weather for their goats whether it's at the farm or at the shows.



4 Boer show Secretary Sharon Fitzwater

Sharon Fitzwater, left, has worked diligently as Boer Show Secretary for several years now with every event garnering more exhibitors, more sponsors and more pleas from participants for even more. This type of dedication is priceless and ETGRA tries, but cannot find a way to let her know that "thank you" is not enough, but sincerely meant many times over.



In April of 1996 a group of East Texans met in Lufkin Texas to address the growing interest in raising goats. From this meeting the East Texas Goat Raisers Association was born. With the guidance of Dr. Frank Pinkerton, PhD of Martindale, Texas pictured left, we got organized & grew from a goat club to a corporation. Known far and wide as "The Goat Man", he predicted we would have an average life span as an association for a mere 7 years. We're proud to honor him with a lifetime membership. At 88 years young, he attended our 20th anniversary celebration in April 2016 & presented an educational program for ETGRA members & guests July 9, 2016.



A renowned prominent goat rancher, James Kyle, served ETGRA for many years in office & on our board. He is pictured left with Gwen VanderMartin at one of our Round Robin programs. He still attends our board meetings and lends us his support. He avails himself to us for consultation and shares his experience and knowledge of the goat industry, much to our benefit.

From any angle, ETGRA Director Valre Leger takes her responsibility as our Youth Coordinator seriously. After Valre took on the task of organizing our junior members in 2012, our junior membership grew from 3 to over 40 and from 1 jackpot show a year to multiple events including shows, clinics, and more. Her involvement has also revived our scholarship program. ETGRA is so proud of her accomplishments.



See our calendar of events on our web site www.etgra.com and come visit us. Our events are all open to the public and there is a map posted on the web page so you can find us.