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ADGA Research Foundation Year-End Report, 2002-2003

The American Dairy Goat Association Research Foundation Trustees for 2002-2003 are Dr. Joan Bowen, Daniel Considine, Dr. George Haenlein, Dr. Mary Smith and Dr. Phil Sponenberg. Dr. Bowen serves as President while Dr. Sponenberg serves as Treasurer.

The function of the American Dairy Goat Association Research Foundation serves to solicit and sponsor research in dairy goats that would benefit ADGA members. During the past year, Dr. Paul Martin from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University completed a research project on "Retrograde Ejaculation in Dairy Goats." The Foundation Trustees will forward the results of that project as soon as they are received. Dr. Martin requested further funding to continue this research through the end of 2003, and this proposal is currently under consideration by the Trustees.

Dr. Lisa Williamson from the University of Georgia recently published a paper in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association concerning nematode resistance in Georgia. She acknowledged ADGA's contributions toward her research. As reported last year, Dr. Williamson stressed that there are no new anthelmintics currently being developed and goat producers should use available pharmaceuticals wisely and sparingly while adopting sound management practices to prevent parasitism.

The Trustees have examined three proposals for funding during the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Dr. Elizabeth Manning from the University of Wisconsin has requested \$9700 for "Effective surveillance for *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* infection in goats." The Trustees have voted unanimously to fund this proposal and Dr. Manning has been notified. Dr. Manning seeks to compare milk ELISA and milk PCR tests for diagnosis of Johnes disease in goats. The second proposal is a request from Dr. Paul Martin for an additional \$7000 to continue his studies on retrograde ejaculation in goats. Due to circumstances beyond his control, his project was completed during the spring of 2003, and he would like to repeat the project during the September through January breeding season. The third proposal was submitted by Dr. Bob Glass from the Pan American Veterinary Laboratories and is entitled "A serological survey to determine the occurrence of antibodies to *Neospora caninum* in goats in the United States." Neosporosis is a significant cause of abortion in large commercial cattle dairies, and Dr. Glass would like to develop a commercial Neospora ELISA test to determine if this organism could be the cause of currently undiagnosed cases of abortion in goats. The Trustees are currently voting on the second and third proposals.

As of September 15, 2003, the ADGA Research Foundation has \$5,174.49 in checking and \$21,416.58 in a CD that matures on October 13, 2003. The Foundation will be sending \$9700 to the University of Wisconsin for Dr. Manning's work on Johnes disease after October 13, leaving \$16,891.07 available for future funding.

**Request for Board Action:**

The Trustees are aware that the economic situation in this country is currently distressed. However, the Trustees respectfully request that the ADGA Board of Directors contribute a minimum of \$10,000 per year toward dairy goat research, beginning with this October 2003 Board of Directors Meeting. The ADGA Research Foundation is receiving excellent research proposals that would benefit all ADGA members and must have a reliable source of funding.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan S. Bowen, DVM  
ADGA Research Foundation President