

# WHAT'S WITH THE SOARING POPULARITY OF GOATS?

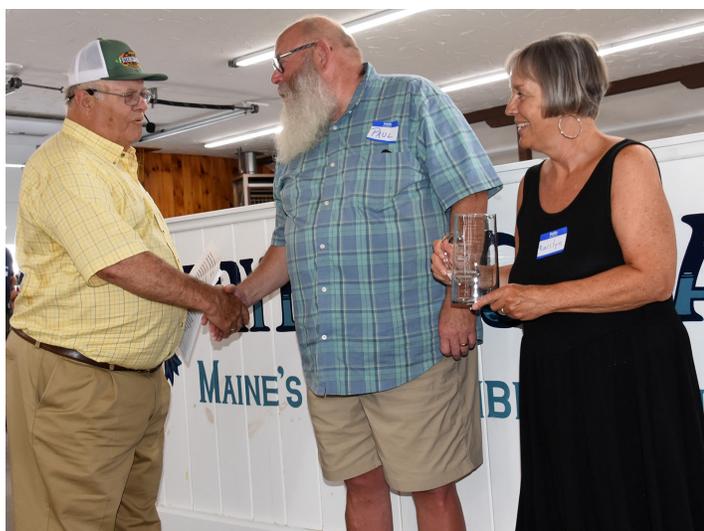
According to Fryeburg Fair's Goat Superintendent Paul Hopkins of West Baldwin, ME, "It's a combination of factors. Every goat has a unique personality and they're cute and entertaining. Interest in goat milk and dairy products is driving the current popularity of goats all across the country. They're responsible for yogurt, cream and the full range of cheeses, soft spreads to hard aged varieties as well as soaps and skin lotions. The list goes on. Add to this the emergence of goat yoga, goat videos on YouTube, and the success of Tom Brady, the ultimate G.O.A.T. and you have the juggernaut that is today's goat."



*Fryeburg Fair goats love to pose!*

Assistant Goat Superintendents to Paul Hopkins include his wife, Marilyn, and fellow goatherd Doug Blauvelt. "All three of us work on barn prep and setup prior to the fair. Marilyn is the official record keeper and takes care of all entries, about 250+. She also prepares the show program and helps out in the Livestock Office as needed during Fair week. Doug is an indispensable help to our exhibitors. He's a morning person, and I'm not, so that's part of our very successful working relationship."

The Hopkins have been running goat shows since the 70's. They own Wise Acres Farm and raised Nubian goats for many years. Their agricultural fair involvement has included Ossipee Valley Fair, Acton Fair and Oxford Fair. Their 36-year relationship with Fryeburg Fair started in 1983. They become the superintendents in 1998. "When I first started at Fryeburg my job was keeping an eye on the ani-



*Fryeburg Fair's Goat Superintendents Paul & Marilyn Hopkins were recently honored for their work by Fair President Roy Andrews*

mals, answering fairgoer questions and conducting milking demonstrations. Once we sold our farm in 1986, I became the show announcer for the open goat and swine shows. It's a much easier job if you don't also have your own animals to tend at the fair."

In his non-goat life, Paul Hopkins has been with Spurwink Services in Portland, ME since 1985, working with adults with autism and intellectual disabilities.

Marilyn Hopkins is retired from a career in banking. Her retirement life includes helping family members and neighbors and keeping up with her love of reading.



*Alpine milking does at Fryeburg Fair*



*Doug Blauvelt, Fryeburg Fair's Assistant Goat Superintendent, at the morning milking*

Goat Show on the first Sunday at the Livestock Show Arena beginning at 8 am (it lasts all day) and the 4-H Dairy Goat Show on Monday at the Woodward Pavilion at 10 am. Competition judges are licensed by the ADGA. This year's judge is Ed Cavanaugh of Toledo, Ontario, Canada. The ADGA uses a 100-point scorecard in their judging, similar to judging for dairy cattle. Hopkins says, "Winners have the strong feet and legs, body conformation with mammary attachment and capacity to support a long, productive life in the milking string."

In 2013, the Fair built their customized goat playground. "The playground was really the creation of David Andrews and he and his crew nailed it! The way that the structure encircles the old oak tree and incorporates ramps, slung bridge, arched bridge and platforms is ingenious. And a huge draw for fair-goers. We have our exhibitors to thank for supplying goats and supervision to bring it all together."

Hopkins boasts, "Many of our exhibitors return year after year. This is especially true of the core exhibitors who populate the exhibition barn for the week. These folks all do a terrific job providing educational and promotional displays at their pens, answering questions and providing animals for the playground. We appreciate them all!"

Don't miss our goats and everything else agricultural at Fryeburg Fair 2019 - September 29-October 6, [www.fryeburgfair.org](http://www.fryeburgfair.org).

When not on the fair circuit Major Doug Blauvelt is a jail administrator for Franklin County and owns Lapse of Reason Farm in Farmington, ME.

Fryeburg Fair's goat building houses 100-130 goats. On show day the number doubles at the Livestock Show Arena. Fairgoers can see goats of many breeds including the Alpine, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable and Toggenburg. In addition to these eight breeds registered by the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA), the goat building exhibits the Boer goat, a popular meat breed.

Hopkins says the public's favorite goat in recent years seems to be the Nigerian Dwarf. "They have surpassed the Nubian breed as the most registered goats by the ADGA. The maximum mature height for Nigerian Dwarfs is 22½ inches. Some produce a surprising amount of milk for their size."

Goat competitions at Fryeburg Fair include the Open Dairy Goat Show on the first Sunday at the Livestock Show Arena beginning at 8 am (it lasts all day) and the 4-H Dairy Goat Show on Monday at the Woodward Pavilion at 10 am. Competition judges are licensed by the ADGA. This year's judge is Ed Cavanaugh of Toledo, Ontario, Canada. The ADGA uses a 100-point scorecard in their judging, similar to judging for dairy cattle.



*Morgan Sturdivant from Maine's WMTW Channel 8 and her new best friend at Fryeburg Fair*

