

The Registrar's Ledger

Notes from the Heritage Silky Fainting Goat Registry

Building HSFGR with Purpose

I first want to take the time to thank all HSFGR members, supporters and subscribers. Your participation, no matter what form it comes in, is important to me. I am grateful to have you here.

I want to take a moment of your time to bring you behind the scenes, open the doors to a deeper insight behind the HSFGR website, into the heart and the bones of the barn. Walk with me, will you?

The idea behind the Heritage Silky Fainting Goat Registry has been with me for years. It blossomed from so many of my own frustrations, conversations, many observations, and many years of raising Mini Silky Fainting goats, breeding them, studying them, showing them and watching the direction of the breed community change over time.

Over those years, the messages were consistent, "Someone should do something," or "There needs to be clearer standards" or, "We need another option," or "The records could capture more."

Those conversations were real. Whether I was involved in the conversation or just quietly listening, they planted seeds.



I can't tell you how many times I had to step out of my quiet little world of piecing this together to answer people's venting and wanting to take action to, "I've already got a domain and I'm working on a new registry".

Over time, it became clear that if I wanted a registry built around these needs and more, I would need to build it from the ground up. But there is a very large difference between recognizing a need and building something capable of meeting that need.

That difference is where most of the work lives.

Building From The Ground Up

Building a registry from the ground up has been an experience for sure. It is not as simple as one may envision it to be, like choosing a name, making a logo and saying “here we are!” This was a heart build, its bones run deep, and a deep, thorough, thoughtful build takes time.

A registry must be able to hold records responsibly. It needs standards. It needs policies. It needs forms and fields that gather the right information. It needs a way to track animal identities, herd names, owner records, transfers, corrections, statuses, certificate numbers, historical references, and verification records. It needs to separate what belongs in the public view from what should remain private. It needs to think not only about today’s registrations, but about what someone may need to understand five, ten, and even twenty years from now. That all takes time and a lot of forethought. For me, it also took timing.

For many of those 6 years, I was working long days, more often than not, six days a week, with very little time left to do anything short of eat, sleep and get up again to do it all over again the next day. Literally I would get home, Glenn would have supper ready. I’d eat, and most nights fall asleep sitting up while spending “time” with him. Having extra to take on a project of this size, I just didn’t have it, but I didn’t forget it.

The cost of building a database or registry system was also a real barrier. HSFGR was not built from a ready-made, plug-and-play registry platform. I did not choose to rent a finished platform and simply pour records into it. I looked at them and some days I wish I had, but in all seriousness, the website and framework have been built piece by piece.

There were also times when I knew that stepping forward would not be simple. Any project that asks people to think carefully about records, standards, and long-term preservation can bring questions, uncertainty, and even resistance. That is why I waited until I felt I could move forward with structure, restraint, clear purpose, and the emotional capacity to withstand the challenges that can come with building something new.

Right now, much of the working structure is still being managed through Google Sheets. Print queues, verification records, and a lot of carefully connected spreadsheet logic, while the HSFGR database is being built. While it all may not sound fancy, it is allowing HSFGR to have a system built in a way that is tailored to our barn and purpose instead of forcing the purpose into someone else’s box. That has been incredibly important to me, to own the work and database rather than risk borrowing someone else’s platform.

Some of the work behind the scenes has included developing registration classifications, certificate verification, transfer processes, record correction procedures, historical reference handling, forms, member records, and public/private database planning.

Herd name certificates, animal certificates, and member badges I have designed myself. Talk about revision, revision, revision! Much of that work is not exciting to look at from the outside. It is forms, fields, formulas, decisions, revisions, and more revisions. But those details matter.

They matter because a registry’s value is not only in the paper it prints. The value is in whether the records behind that paper can be trusted, understood, and followed over time.

That is why HSFGR has taken time. It took time because I wanted to build it responsibly. It took time because I did not want to ask people to trust a system that had not been thought through. It took time because I wanted the records, certificates, standards, and policies to have structure behind them.

And yes, it is still being built.

HSFGR And The Future

There will be updates. There will be adjustments. There will be areas that improve as the registry grows as the database system continues to develop.

That is part of building from the ground up. But the purpose has remained steady: to document, preserve, and support the long-haired, Myotonic-rooted goats and their stewards HSFGR was created to serve.

Again, I will say, this registry was not and is not being built as a quick reaction, a contest, or a shortcut around careful record-keeping. It was built from years of collaboration and note taking, to provide a preservation-minded registry home for Silky Fainting Goats, with an emphasis on clear documentation that is not left to individual interpretation, responsible stewardship, pedigree continuity, and respect for the goats themselves, because it should be about the goats.

HSFGR is not creating a “new breed.” Why would we? The purpose is not to morph the Silky Fainting Goat any further, but to recognize, preserve, and strengthen the type that gave these goats their identity in the first place. *There was a point in their development where coat, character, Myotonic roots, balance, structure, and usefulness came together in a way that is worth protecting.*

HSFGR was built around preserving that foundation and to help breeders move forward with purpose, so those qualities remain visible, valued, and carried into the future.

However, this registry does not exist to control every breeder’s private breeding program. Breeders will always have their own goals, preferences, herds, and hard-earned experience. But we must have mutual respect and understand that every registry must be clear about the type, records, and standards it is built to preserve. HSFGR’s role is not to dictate every choice made in the barn, but to provide a clear preservation-minded framework for animals recorded within this registry.

Preservation does not mean ignoring faults or freezing every animal exactly as it is. It means knowing what traits are worth keeping, what needs to be strengthened, improved, and what should not be lost. That is why we are not built around further downsizing or dismissing otherwise correct animals because they do not meet a single height requirement.

Inclusiveness does not mean indiscriminate acceptance. A sound, balanced, useful goat should not have to be hidden, moved to a pet home, or excluded from serious consideration or competition because of size alone.

Coat matters, and many collective years of hard work have gone into developing them. We are not here to excuse unsoundness, ignore faults or promote on coat alone. In our eyes the whole goat matters.

The standards were written to guide this work clearly, Honor the Roots. Protect the Type. Correct What’s Been Overlooked. Support Thoughtful Improvement Without Losing the Goat Underneath it all.

Same Breed. Different Focus. and that’s okay!



Windy Winds it Down!

HSFGR was never meant to be built for one person alone.

A registry may begin with an idea, but it takes more than one set of hands to shape it into something useful and lasting. Members, breeders, owners, and supporters all bring experience that matters. Their questions, concerns, observations, and honest feedback help strengthen the structure as it grows.

At the same time, inclusiveness does not mean a lack of direction. HSFGR was created with a clear preservation-minded purpose. The goal is to welcome Silky Fainting Goats and the people who care about them, while still maintaining standards, documentation, and responsible record-keeping. The barn can be open without letting the walls fall down.

I am grateful to those who have joined, subscribed, asked questions, submitted records, offered feedback, or simply taken the time to understand what HSFGR is trying to do. This registry is young, but the work behind it is not careless. It has been years in the making, and it is being built one careful piece at a time.

Thank you for being here in these early foundation days.



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