

# TSU reseach back on track after flood

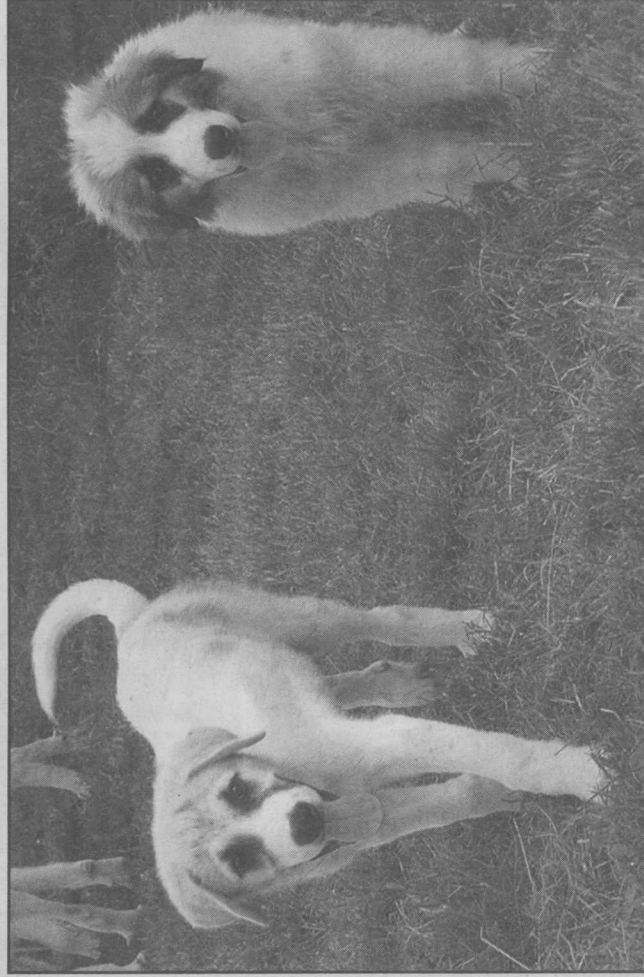
*Editor's note — On May 2, 14 inches of rain pushed the Cumberland River out of its banks, flooding much of middle Tennessee, including the Tennessee State University farm (Goat Rancher, June 2010). More than 100 goats perished and Dr. Richard Browning had to be rescued by boat. Here is Dr. Browning's update, five months later:*

I wanted to pass a quick note that the flood recovery effort is well under way in the TSU meat goat research herd with varied levels of progress.

Over the summer we weaned two groups of kids as data collection continued despite herd losses suffered last May. We just met one of our recovery milestones by having the TSU breeding herd rebuilt by the start of our production year in September. Other than about a dozen head of goats to be secured and transported to campus by the first of October, herd restocking is essentially complete. Over the summer, buck and doe purchases have exceeded 100 head.

I want to express my appreciation to the Boer, Kiko, Spanish, and Myotonic producers that have worked with us in providing breeding stock for the research herd. Those thirty-some producers represent several states.

Unlike herd rebuilding, facility



**These two guardian pups escaped the flood water by swimming to a round bale of hay. They were joined on the roll of hay by Dr. Browning, who also had to swim for his life during the flood.**

renovations and equipment replacement has been at a virtual standstill since May. Tractors still sit where they were submerged by river water, some pastures remain littered with flood debris from our field office and sources upstream, and the field office remains a shell with little more than wall studs on the inside after the com-

plete in the hay storage shed serves as our base of operations. At least the LDGs do not mind sharing their lounging space with us.

With the 100+ head of breeding stock that survived the epic Cumberland River flood of last May, we will be breeding our typical number of does this year. Our breed evaluation efforts continue this fall with a new infusion of genetic material representing the four major meat breeds.

The research staff and students have worked with renewed enthusiasm and determination all summer to overcome adversity as we strive to continue serving the meat goat industry by generating and disseminating research-based information.

We eagerly look forward to managing the first post-flood breeding pens in October. Our station farm gates remain open to anybody that may be passing through the Nashville area and would like to stop in for a visit.

Information on our research project can be found on our website at <http://faculty.tnstate.edu/rbrowning/>.

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pletion of flood clean-up. Field tools, office supplies and other things continue to be uncovered as the goats work to browse down the overgrown weeds that outpaced grazing pressures this summer.

Nevertheless, herd management continues on a daily basis as a makeshift of-



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