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THE KIDDING PEN

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There are lots of great educational programs coming up and we hope you will attend as many of them as you can. You will earn back your investment of time and registration fees with invaluable knowledge and networking!

The Kidding Pen is available at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/KiddingPen/kiddingpen.php in English and Spanish. We welcome input from producers! Send your announcements, comments, suggestions, recipes and educational articles to:

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SAVE THESE DATES!

Feb. 20 Small Farm Winter School, Centralia College. For more info call 360-740-1212 or visit http://lewis.wsu.edu/4h/news.
Feb. 27 OSU Small Farm Conference, LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, OR. http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu.
March 17-18 Western Regional Grazing Conference, Chico State University, Chico, CA. Emphasis on organic dairy production. For more info, contact Cindy Daley at cdaley@csuchico.edu.
March 20-21 Cascade Boer Goat Association Show Weekend. See article.

March 26-28 OMGP Breeders’ Pen and Wether Sale/USBGA Judges Training and USBGA Show, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. Contact Sandi Lauer at blkcowldy@yahoo.com or http://omgp.org.
April 23-27 Homesteading Basics, Quillisascut Farm, Rice, WA. See article.
May 14-18 Introduction to Small Acreage Sustainable Farming, Quillisascut Farm, Rice, WA. See article.
June 18-20 Black Sheep Gathering, Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR. For more info contact Karen Murphy at 541-935-1744 or murphyk@efn.org or www.blacksheepgathering.org.
Sept. 12-15 National Goat Conference: “Strengthening the Goat Industry,” Tallahassee, FL. Contact Dr. Ray Mobley at 850-412- 5252 or ray.mobley@famu.edu or visit www.famu.edu/goats.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT QUILLISASCUT FARM

Both of the below programs will be held at Quillisascut Farm, 2409 Pleasant Valley Rd., Rice, WA. For more info, contact Lora Lea Misterly at 509-738-2011 or loralea@quillisascut.com or www.quillisascut.com. If you participate, please contact us and tell us about your experience.

• Homesteading Basics, April 23-27. Get started with growing and processing your own garden and raising small livestock with this workshop designed to give you hands on experience and the confidence to grow your own food and how to manage poultry and goats. Information for both urban and rural homesteads. More information at: http://quillisascut.com/homesteading-basics/

• Introduction to Small Acreage Sustainable Farming, May 14-18. The purpose of the course is to give participants actual hands-on farm experience while gaining awareness of the skills necessary for successful farming. Participants will leave with the skills to assess farm goals and personal strengths, soil and site assessment, and product marketing models. More information at: http://quillisascut.com/farm-school/intro-to-farming/
THE TOP 10 REASONS VACCINES FAIL
by Dr. Dale Moore, WSU Veterinary Extension Director, from an article originally appearing in the Washington Pork Producers Newsletter, Winter 2010

Veterinarians and ag animal Extension educators receive numerous inquiries from livestock owners about what diseases to vaccinate their animals against. Although the diseases being vaccinated against are important, the biggest reasons for disease breaks often have little to do with the vaccine itself, but more to do with how that vaccine is handled and given, when they are given, and to whom.

What you vaccinate for and when will depend on what the major problems are in your region and what your herd management plans are. Your herd veterinarian can help you set up a schedule for giving the different kinds of vaccines for the different phases of production, and help prevent you from spending money on vaccines you don’t need. Once you have the vaccines in hand and are ready to use them, what could possibly go wrong?

• “Lefty brought the vaccine to the barn but left it on the dashboard of his pick-up for a couple hours.” Vaccines are sensitive to heat and freezing and have special requirements for storage. Follow the label recommendations for refrigeration. Keep the vials of vaccine in a cooler until just before you use them.

• “I thought we cleaned that syringe gun!” A dirty vaccination syringe or one that still has disinfectant in it can contaminate or inactivate your vaccine. Never use disinfectants. Instead, use very hot tap water to clean your syringe gun. Take the gun apart as you are cleaning it and allow the parts to air dry and then lubricate the plunger. Store clean syringes in plastic bags and mark them for the kind of use they get – vaccines, etc.

• “What do you mean it’s supposed to go in the muscle?” Read the label for WHERE the vaccine is to be administered. Some vaccines are labeled to be given under the skin in the neck region, but some need to be given in the muscle. Read the label to be sure. Also – make sure whoever is vaccinating gets it in the right spot.

• “Dusty—are you giving TWO cc’s?” Read the label to make sure you know the proper dose of vaccine to be given to get proper immunity.

• “We’ll just leave the needle in the bottle until we have more animals to vaccinate…” Use all the vaccine up or discard if you are not going to use it all. If you leave a needle in the bottle, you can contaminate the vaccine. Once it has been mixed, it needs to be used up.

• “Booster?” Many vaccines require a booster in 2 to 3 weeks to get the right level of immunity, particularly if it is the first time the animal is vaccinated. Read the label to see when you need to booster.

• “We can vaccinate them just as they’re offloading the trailer.” Stressed animals do not react with a full immune response to the vaccine. For the animal to respond to vaccination, we must allow time to recover from stress. Wait until the next day.

• “We stored it in the refrigerator, doc!” University of Arkansas researchers found that more than 76% of refrigerators storing animal-health products were unacceptable for proper storage. The recommended temperature for storing animal health products requiring refrigeration is 35° to 45°F. Check your refrigerator to make sure it’s at the right temperature.

• “We’re having a problem with respiratory disease – can I vaccinate now?” The vaccine must be given before exposure to the disease challenge and with enough time to allow the immune response to develop to a protective level, usually about 10-14 days following vaccination. If you have animals that have not yet been exposed and think you have time for them to develop an immune response, vaccinating may help, but don’t be surprised if exposure had already happened and some get sick. The labels say that you need to vaccinate healthy animals.

• “I know these animals are thin, but we have to get them vaccinated.” Animals on diets low in energy and/or protein may not respond with a good immune response. Also, a number of trace nutrient and vitamin deficiencies (copper, selenium, zinc, and vitamin E) can cause an animal’s immune system to be unable to respond to vaccines properly.

Vaccines are an AID to your other good management practices, like preventing disease transmission through biosecurity and providing good nutrition. Remember, if you are going to market these animals in the very near future, make sure you read the label for the withdrawal time for meat. Every vaccine has a period of withholding animals from slaughter. Make sure you read the label for every vaccine or product you use so that get the most for your money spent.
NEW TEST MAY HELP ADDRESS COSTLY PARASITE
adapted from an article in Science Daily, Jan. 26, 2010

Researchers at Oregon State University and the University of Georgia have developed a more efficient method to test for Haemonchus contortus, a serious parasitic worm of sheep and goats that causes millions of dollars in losses every year. This technology now available will allow a faster, easier and less expensive way to test for the presence and quantity of H. contortus. This will help producers deal with the problem more quickly and effectively, optimize their management practices, and perhaps avoid costly therapies.

Findings about the new test were just published in the journal Veterinary Parasitology. "This particular parasite is much more pathogenic in sheep than other worms, and previous methods to detect it were very labor intensive and often not commercially practical," said Michael Kent, an OSU professor of microbiology. "Now ranchers and veterinarians can test for this problem and target their management or treatment strategies much more effectively."

This parasite causes significant production losses, and in some cases it's the limiting factor to production on pasture lands. These nematodes can cause anemia, poor feed conversion and growth, low protein levels, reduced production and fiber yield, and in some cases death. Known as the barber pole worm, H. contortus is a blood-sucking parasite that pierces the lining of the stomach. It's a prolific egg producer, releasing up to 10,000 eggs per day, and often causes problems in warmer climates or during the summer. Once an infection is demonstrated, expensive treatments or complex management strategies are often needed to address it.

Most nematode eggs look alike so it is difficult to assess and diagnose H. contortus infestations through fecal exams alone. The new test binds a stain only to H. contortus eggs and can be easily visualized with a microscope using ultra-violet light. The relatively inexpensive test was developed by microbiologists and veterinary doctors at OSU and UGA, and is now available through those institutions. Its use should continue to expand and become more readily available around the world, Kent said.

The test may be of special value to ranchers interested in organic production, who try to avoid use of chemical treatments while maintaining the health of their animals.

"One of the current testing tools commonly used by sheep and goat farmers in dealing with H. contortus is the FAMACHA® method, in which the farmer compares the animal's eyelid color to swatches on a card to determine the animal's anemia status," said Bob Storey, a UGA researcher who co-developed the lectin staining test. "This method only works in situations where H. contortus is the primary parasite in a herd's worm population. The new lectin staining test allows for a faster and less expensive method of determining the predominance of H. contortus in a herd worm population, thereby making it easier for producers to determine if FAMACHA® can be a useful tool for them. Additionally, for the veterinarian dealing with an anemic animal and a heavy parasite burden, the lectin staining test provides quick feedback as to whether the anemia is parasite-based or may be due to another cause."

The test requires only a small amount of feces and results are available in two days. Anyone wanting info on sampling, test results and fees can contact the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at OSU via http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed/diagnostic or 541-752-5501, or Bob Storey, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, 706-542-0195. Results should be reviewed with a veterinarian so that proper treatment programs can be put in place.

COUGAR YOUTH WEEKEND ADDS DAIRY GOATS TO PROGRAM

Greetings from Washington State University and the WSU Dairy Club! We are pleased to announce the 13th Annual Cougar Youth Weekend which will be held April 16-18 at the WSU Knott Dairy in Pullman, WA. The weekend event is designed for youth ages 9-18 to learn about care and handling of dairy animals through hands-on activities.

This year we are offering three tracks from which youth can choose to participate: one emphasizing fitting and showing of dairy cattle, another other focusing on dairy cow judging, and the new track focusing on dairy goats. Workshops taught by WSU faculty and volunteers will address key points of your 4-H dairy projects. There will be an opportunity for youth and families to tour the University of Idaho dairy, the WSU Creamery, and/or the WSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

The registration deadline is March 5. For more info contact Gabby Eddings at gabby_eddings@hotmail.com.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

To answer a question submitted by a reader, here is an option for those of you who are self-employed and have a farm: Farm Bureau insurance. Those covered need to include a group of at least three, which can include an owner, spouse and one employee; children can be added. For more info, contact Lesa Boxx, Financial Representative at COUNTRY® Financial, 400 Liberty St. Lynden, WA 360-354-2975 or lesa.boxx@countryfinancial.com.
FLORIDA A&M
MASTER GOAT PRODUCER PROGRAM

The Master Goat Producer’s Certification Program is a comprehensive training program, which offers classes in the following areas:

- The Goat Industry
- Establishing a facility (fencing, shelters, pens, etc.)
- Marketing
- Herd Health Management
- Dead Animal Disposal
- Nutrition and Pasture Management
- Silvo-Pasture Production Systems
- Predator Control
- Reproduction and Breeding Management
- Disaster Preparedness
- Bioterrorism Awareness
- Developing Enterprise Budgets
- Business Management and Development
- Risk management (financial, production, marketing)
- Selecting and Evaluating Breeding Stock
- Hands-on training (FAMACHA®, hoof trimming, fecal exams, etc.)

This program is for beginning and advanced goat producers. There is a non-certification track for producers, students or agricultural professionals who want to participate in the training activities but are not interested in becoming certified; these individuals will not be required to have an on-farm inspection.

To become certified as a Master Goat Producer you must attend every class, take the pre-test, pass the post-test and pass an on-farm inspection. To become eligible for certification as an Advanced Master Goat Producer (only available for goat producers), you must pass a second on-farm inspection and pass the web-based goat certification course hosted on Langston University’s website.

The Master Goat Certification program training dates are May 14-15 and May 28-29, 2010. The program will be held at Florida A&M University’s Research and Extension Center, 4252 Bainbridge Hwy., Quincy, FL, 32352. The program hotel is the Parkway Inn, 75 Spooner road Quincy, Florida, 1-850-627-4633.

To learn more or register, contact Joy Dixon at 1-850-875-8555 or joy1.dixon@famu.edu or visit www.famu.edu/index.cfm?goats&MasterGoatProgram.

NWODGA’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE!

What are you doing on Feb. 27? If you want to learn more about goats and are anywhere near Portland, OR, plan to attend the Northwest Oregon Dairy Goat Association’s 22nd Annual Conference; you’ll be glad you did! With a huge variety of workshops for adults and youth covering all aspects of the goat industry (dairy, meat, fiber, pack, cart, companion) for a low registration fee, it is well worth your time.

The conference will be held at Clackamas Community Collage, 19600 S. Molalla Ave., Oregon City, OR. Registration starts at 8AM and classes start at 8:30. For more info, contact Chris Strickland at 503-655-9874 or go to www.nwodga.org/2010_conference.htm.

CASCADE BOER GOAT ASSOCIATION’S SHOW WEEKEND

The April Fools Show Weekend has been moved to March 20-21. We will have 3 ABGA shows instead of two. Because the show weekend is a bit early in the year for wether picking, we have moved the market goat sale online at www.CascadeBGA.org. We will post pictures of the market goats along with breeder’s name, age, weight and other information needed to select a goat. We will augment this by having some of the prospects competing in the ring during the show weekend.

The seminars usually associated with the April Fool’s event will be scheduled as stand-alone events later in the season. As they will not be associated with a show, we will have greater flexibility in where they are held. We hope to hold them in locations around the NW. For more info about any of the above, contact Becki Crighton at (503) 631-3996 or becki@coppercreekboers.com.

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